



PRESS RELEASE

8 March 2019

SCOTTISH OPERA REVIVES SIR THOMAS ALLEN'S PRODUCTION OF MOZART'S *THE MAGIC FLUTE*

Sir Thomas Allen's five-star production of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Magic Flute* returns to Scottish Opera in May, set in a spectacular world inspired by the Victorian futurism of HG Wells and Jules Verne.

Mozart's most inventive opera, featuring a handsome prince, a damsel in distress, sorcerers, priests and a bumbling bird-catcher, opens at Theatre Royal Glasgow on Saturday 4 May, and tours to Inverness, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, London and Belfast. With set and costume design by **Simon Higlett**, this production takes inspiration from the city of Glasgow at the height of its industrial powers, drawing on the aesthetics and ideas of the Enlightenment, particularly the work of the Hunter family and the huge scientific collections of The Hunterian Museum.

Conductor **Tobias Ringborg** (*The Marriage of Figaro* 2016) is joined by **Peter Gijbetsen** (*La traviata* 2017) as Tamino and **Gemma Summerfield**, First Prize winner at the 2015 Kathleen Ferrier Awards, as Pamina. **Richard Burkhard** is Papageno, the role he created in the original production in 2012; **Julia Sitkovetsky** is Queen of the Night; **James Creswell** is

Sarastro and **Adrian Thompson** is Monostatos. Scottish Opera Emerging Artist, **Sofia Troncoso** (*Opera Highlights* 2018), sings the role of Papagena.

Sir Thomas Allen said: 'Our production of *The Magic Flute*, first created in 2012, makes its return to the stage and to theatres around Scotland. I'm looking forward with great anticipation to the rehearsal period and to the performances that follow. There are many changes from our original cast, but one welcome return will be that of Richard Burkhard in the role of Papageno. He brought to the part a really brilliant personal way of playing, just as one would hope for Papageno, and our collaboration was, apart from all else, a lot of fun.

'As for what you will see, well, if you are familiar with Glasgow and the richness of its constituent parts, then you will recognise all of the references in this show. It is a tribute by designer Simon Higlett and myself to a great Scottish city.'

There will be two Dementia Friendly performances of *The Magic Flute*, in Glasgow and Edinburgh. These specially abridged performances are carefully designed to make the theatrical experience more accessible to people living with dementia. Sound and lighting levels are adjusted for the comfort of the audience, and the cast is joined on stage by a narrator. Audiences will also be able to go in and out of the auditorium during the performance and see the show in the foyer areas on TV screens. Scottish Opera staged the UK's first Dementia Friendly opera performance in November 2016, with *The Marriage of Figaro* at Festival Theatre Edinburgh.

Those who wish to discover more about how the production was created can attend *The Magic Flute Unwrapped*, one-hour tasters delving further into the show, as well as Pre-show Talks. Audience members with visual impairments can enjoy the full opera experience at audio-described performances, which have a live commentary describing the action on stage without compromising the music.

Cast List

Tamino	Peter Gijsbertsen & William Morgan (14, 18 May, 13,15 June)
Pamina	Gemma Summerfield
Papageno	Richard Burkhard & James Cleverton (20, 22, 27, 29 June)

The Queen of the Night

Sarastro

Monostatos

Papagena

First Lady

Second Lady

Third Lady

Julia Sitkovetsky

**James Creswell & Dingle Yandell (1, 5, 20,
22, 27, 29 June)**

Adrian Thompson

Sofia Troncoso*

Jeni Bern

Bethan Langford*

Sioned Gwen Davies

*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

Creative Team

Conductors

Tobias Ringborg & Derek Clark (13,15 June)

Director

Sir Thomas Allen

Set and Costume Designer

Simon Higlett

Lighting Designer

Mark Jonathan

Movement Director

Kally Lloyd-Jones

Translation

Kit Hesketh-Harvey

Performance Diary

Theatre Royal Glasgow, 282 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 3QA

Sat 4 May, 7.15pm

Wed 8 May, 7.15pm

Fri 10 May, 7.15pm

Sun 12 May, 3pm

Tue 14 May, 7.15pm

Thu 16 May, 3pm (Dementia Friendly Performance)

Sat 18 May, 7.15pm

The Magic Flute Unwrapped

Thu 9 May, 6pm

The Magic Flute Pre-show talk

Sat 18 May, 6pm

The Magic Flute Touch Tour

Sun 12 May, 1.45pm

The Magic Flute Audio-described performance

Sun 12 May, 3pm

Eden Court, Inverness

Tue 21 May, 7.15pm

Thu 23 May, 7.15pm

Sat 25 May, 7.15pm

The Magic Flute Unwrapped

Fri 24 May, 6pm

The Magic Flute Pre-show talk

Sat 25 May, 6pm

The Magic Flute Touch Tour

Sat 25 May, 6pm

The Magic Flute Audio-described performance

Sat 25 May, 7.15pm

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen

Thu 30 May, 7.15pm

Sat 1 Jun, 7.15pm

The Magic Flute Unwrapped

Fri 31 May, 6pm

The Magic Flute Pre-show talk

Sat 1 Jun, 6pm

The Magic Flute Touch Tour

Sat 1 Jun, 6pm

The Magic Flute Audio-described performance

Sat 1 Jun, 7.15pm

Festival Theatre, 13–29 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9FT

Wed 5 Jun, 7.15pm

Fri 7 Jun, 3pm (Dementia Friendly Performance)

Sun 9 Jun, 3pm

Tue 11 Jun, 7.15pm

Thu 13 Jun, 7.15pm

Sat 15 Jun, 7.15pm

The Magic Flute Unwrapped

Thu 6 Jun, 6pm

The Magic Flute Pre-show talk

Sat 15 Jun, 6pm

The Magic Flute Touch Tour

Sun 9 Jun, 1.45pm

The Magic Flute Audio-described performance

Sun 9 Jun, 3pm

Hackney Empire, 291 Mare Street, London, E8 1EJ

Thu 20 Jun, 7.30pm

Sat 22 Jun, 7.30pm

The Magic Flute Pre-show talk

Sat 22 Jun, 6pm

Belfast Grand Opera House, 2-4 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7HR

Thu 27 Jun, 7.15pm

Sat 29 Jun, 7.15pm

The Magic Flute Unwrapped

Fri 28 Jun, 6pm

The Magic Flute Pre-show talk

Sat 29 Jun, 6pm

The Magic Flute is supported by The Scottish Opera Syndicate.

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

You can follow Scottish Opera on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @**ScottishOpera**

Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera is Scotland's national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. It was founded by Alexander Gibson in 1962 and was inaugurated with a production of *Madama Butterfly* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow.

Notable achievements include the world premiere of James MacMillan's *Inés de Castro* at the 1996 Edinburgh International Festival; complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production; and the Achievement in Opera Award at the 2017 UK Theatre Awards for Sir David McVicar's production of Debussy's *Pelléas and Mélisande*. Recent commissions include *Five:15 Operas Made in Scotland* (2008-10), *The Lady from the Sea*, *Clemency*, the double bill of *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* (winner of a South Bank Sky Arts Award) which premiered at the 2012 Edinburgh International Festival, 2016's *The Devil Inside* and 2019's *Anthropocene* by Stuart MacRae and Louise Welsh. In 2018, the Company made its US debut with *BambinO* at the Metropolitan Opera New York, and returned to the city's Brooklyn Academy of Music with *Greek*.

Scottish Opera is committed to bringing the widest possible range of opera, performed to the highest possible standards, to the maximum audience throughout Scotland and the UK. Each year it performs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness, as well as smaller theatres, village halls and community centres throughout the country.

Scottish Opera's Education and Outreach Department was the first of its kind of any opera company in Europe. It operates an extensive programme which involves over 9,000 primary school children every year as well as many other activities including adult learning and *Unwrapped* taster sessions.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.



For additional press details please contact:

Emily Henderson, Press Manager, 0141 242 0511, emily.henderson@scottishopera.org.uk

Emma Ainley-Walker, Press Officer, 0141 242 0552, emma.ainley-walker@scottishopera.org.uk