

14 May 2019

## SCOTTISH OPERA'S MUCH-LOVED POP-UP OPERA ON TOUR THIS SUMMER

Scottish Opera's Pop-up Opera is back on the road this summer, with three brilliant shows for all the family: *A Little Bit of Iolanthe*, *A Little Bit of The Magic Flute* and *Puffy McPuffer & The Crabbit Canals*, for kids aged five to eight.

Performed in Scottish Opera's fully accessible travelling opera house – a specially adapted trailer designed to look like a miniature Theatre Royal Glasgow – the 25-minute shows are brought to life by a storyteller, singers, instrumentalists and a series of colourful illustrations.

The first performances take place on May 24 at Perth Festival of the Arts, before the tour travels to Dumfries & Galloway, Old Kirkpatrick, Barrhead, Giffnock, Borders Book Festival, Archerfield Walled Garden, Callander, Cupar Arts EDEN, Banff Primary School, Aboyne & Deeside Festival, Haddington Show and the Scottish Canal Festival.

One of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular comic operas has been whittled down by Scottish Opera's Head of Music **Derek Clark** to create *A Little Bit of Iolanthe*. Iolanthe is banished by the Fairy Queen for marrying a mortal. Now, 25 years later, two worlds again collide when her son announces he's in love. Unfortunately, his beloved is a popular girl and he has some serious competition. Light-hearted satire at its best, *Iolanthe* is full of fun.

Complementing Scottish Opera's mainstage production of *The Magic Flute* which is on tour in Scotland, London and Belfast until the end of June is *A Little Bit of The Magic Flute*. Once again arranged by **Derek Clark**, it offers highlights from Mozart's classic opera, which tells the story of Tamino, who is in love with Pamina, the daughter of the mysterious Queen of the Night. When Pamina is abducted, Tamino is determined to rescue her, but soon realises all is not quite as it seems.

Created specifically for five to eight year olds, with music by **Marion Christie** and words by **Allan Dunn**, *Puffy McPuffer & The Crabbit Canals* is a tale of the five waterways that link Scotland from the North Sea to the Atlantic. Like most families, each one is different: Caledonian – the longest; Crinan – the most beautiful; hard-working Monklands; Union – the fastest; wise old Forth & Clyde. Each one thinks they're the best. Can an ordinary little puffer boat make them think again?

Scottish Opera's Director of Outreach and Education, **Jane Davidson** said: 'For 2019, audiences can come across Scottish Opera's hugely popular miniature opera tour in some of Scotland's loveliest parks and gardens including visits to Aboyne Green, Rouken Glen, Archerfield Walled Garden in North Berwick and in Dumfries & Galloway; Logan Botanic Garden and the Crawick Multiverse. In these beautiful settings, magical adventures with lots of fun for all ages abound. Join us for a trip along the Scottish Canal system with Puffy the Puffer; accompany Papageno and friends as they journey to enlightenment with the help of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, or see The Peer and the Peris from the fairy kingdom fall in love as the worlds of politics and the supernatural collide in Gilbert & Sullivan's *Iolanthe*.'

Pop-up Opera is supported by Scottish Opera's Education Angels, The Cross Trust and The Thomson Charitable Trust.

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**[www.scottishopera.org.uk](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk)**

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

### Cast and Creative Team

<b>Storyteller</b>	Ross Stenhouse
<b>Soprano</b>	Jessica Leary & Charlotte Hoather
<b>Baritone</b>	Aidan Edwards
<b>Accordion</b>	Lizy Stirrat
<b>Flute</b>	Laura Cioffi
<b>Harp</b>	Sharron Griffiths & Gwen Yorke Sinclair

### *A Little Bit of Iolanthe*

<b>Gilbert &amp; Sullivan arr.</b>	Derek Clark
<b>Illustrations</b>	Otto von Beach

Supported by the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

### *A Little Bit of The Magic Flute*

<b>Mozart arr.</b>	Derek Clark
<b>Translation</b>	Kit Hesketh-Harvey

**Illustrations** Otto von Beach

*Puffy McPuffer & The Crabbit Canals* (for kids aged 5 to 8)

**Music** Marion Christie

**Words** Allan Dunn

**Illustrations** Iain Piercy

Performance Information

For booking details and further information, please contact individual venues.

**Perth Festival of the Arts, Perth Concert Hall Plaza**

Fri 24 and Sat 25 May: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival, Logan Botanic Garden, Stranraer**

Fri 31 May: 11am, 1pm & 3pm

**Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival, Crawick Multiverse, Sanquhar**

Sat 1 Jun: 11am, 1pm & 3pm

**Gavinburn Primary School, Old Kirkpatrick, Glasgow**

Thu Jun 6: 11.30am & 2pm

**Cowan Park, Barrhead, Glasgow**

Fri 7 Jun: 4 & 6pm

**Rouken Glen Park, Giffnock, Glasgow**

Sat 8 Jun: 12, 2 & 4pm

**Borders Book Festival, Melrose**

Thu 13 & Fri 14 Jun: 5.45, 6.45 & 8pm

**Archerfield Walled Garden, Dirleton, North Berwick**

Sat 15 & Sun 16 Jun: 12, 2 & 4pm

**McLaren Leisure Centre, Callander**

Sat 22 Jun: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Cupar Arts EDEN, Fluthers Car Park, Cupar**

Sun 23 Jun: 2, 3.30 & 5.30pm

## **Banff Primary School, Aberdeenshire**

Tue 25 and Wed 26 Jun: 6.30pm

## **Aboyne & Deeside Festival**

Thu 27 Jun: 6 & 7.30pm

## **Haddington Show, East Lothian**

Sat 29 Jun: 11.30am, 1.30 & 3pm

## **Scottish Canal Festival, Glasgow**

Sat 20 Jul: 10.30am, 12.30 & 3pm

## 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.



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