



## PRESS RELEASE

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20 June 2019

# SCOTTISH OPERA RETURNS TO LAMMERMUIR FESTIVAL WITH DOUBLE BILL OF *ZANETTO* AND *SUSANNA'S SECRET*

Scottish Opera is once again performing at the award-winning Lammermuir Festival in East Lothian, with a double bill of Mascagni's *Zanetto* and Wolf-Ferrari's *Susanna's Secret*, on Friday 20 September at 7.30pm.

Curated by Scottish Opera Music Director **Stuart Stratford**, the first performance in the 2019/20 Opera in Concert series is conducted by **David Parry** (*La traviata* 2017). **Rosie Purdie** directs these semi-staged works, featuring four soloists and The Orchestra of Scottish Opera. They are performed in Haddington's mediaeval St Mary's Parish Church, where Scottish Opera staged Britten's *The Burning Fiery Furnace* last September.

In this Scottish Opera premiere of Mascagni's *Zanetto*, **Hanna Hipp** (*Katyá Kabanová* 2019) sings the title role and is joined by **Sinéad Campbell-Wallace** as Silvia, a lonely courtesan. *Zanetto* is set in the hills above Renaissance Florence, and tells how Silvia has lost her faith in love until she meets a wandering minstrel who re-awakens her heart.

It is performed alongside the sophisticated and charming *Susanna's Secret*, the perfect comedic contrast, in which a husband who smells smoke on his wife's clothes accuses her of cheating, but it isn't what he expects. **Clare Presland** is Countess Susanna and **Richard Burkhard** (*The Magic Flute* 2019) is Count Gil.

Scottish Opera General Director **Alex Reedijk** said: 'Following on from the success of *The Burning Fiery Furnace* in 2018, we are very proud to be sharing with Lammermuir Festival a double bill of two rare opera treats: Mascagni's *Zanetto* and the rarely performed *Susanna's Secret* by Wolf-Ferrari. This ongoing partnership between Scottish Opera and one of the UK's premiere classical music festivals in an amazing mediaeval church will see performances of a pair of sophisticated and charming operas that are sure to captivate the audience with some glorious singing and playing.'

**Hugh Macdonald** and **James Waters**, Artistic Directors of Lammermuir Festival added: ‘It is a delight to welcome Scottish Opera back to the Lammermuir Festival. This terrific collaboration enables the festival to offer operatic performances of the highest level both to East Lothian audiences and to the ever-increasing number of visitors to the festival from elsewhere in Scotland and much, much further afield.’

Lammermuir Festival, established in 2010 by Artistic Directors Hugh Macdonald and James Waters, runs from 13 to 22 September in beautiful venues around East Lothian. The festival won the 2017 Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Best Concert Series and Festival, and features several of Scotland's leading ensembles, internationally renowned musicians and exciting new talent. It has a close ongoing relationship with BBC Radio 3.

In December, the Opera in Concert series continues with the Scottish Opera premiere of Mascagni's *Iris* at City Halls, Glasgow. A gripping tale of innocence lost, **Stuart Stratford** conducts soloists including **Ric Furman** (*Kátya Kabanová* 2019), **Natalya Romaniw** (*Eugene Onegin* 2018) and **Roland Wood** (*Pelléas and Mélisande* 2017). **Roxana Haines** (*Edgar* 2018) directs.

The passionate and lyrical *Cavalleria rusticana* by Mascagni is performed in May 2020 at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh. Telling the tale of a young Sicilian villager who returns from war to find his fiancée has married someone else, conductor **Stuart Stratford** has chosen to pair it with Leoncavallo's lesser-known work *Zingari*, another Scottish Opera premiere. With a parallel narrative that sees another love triangle go disastrously wrong, *Zingari* is based on Pushkin's *The Gypsies*. **Orpha Phelan** directs soloists including **Evez Abdulla**, **Justina Gringyte** and **Julia Sporsén**.

The Opera in Concert series concludes with a semi-staged performance of *Utopia, Limited*. A new co-production with D'Oyly Carte Opera and State Opera South Australia, this Scottish Opera premiere has an updated libretto by director **Stuart Maunder**, and a revised musical version by Scottish Opera's Head of Music, **Derek Clark**, who also conducts. Wittily satirising the British Empire's politics, monarchy and press, Gilbert & Sullivan's penultimate opera is performed by the cast of *The Gondoliers*, and designed by **Dick Bird**. *Utopia, Limited* tours to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Hackney Empire in London.

Opera in Concert is supported by Scottish Endowment Trust & Friends of Scottish Opera.

#### Creative Team

Conductor	<b>David Parry</b>
Director	<b>Rosie Purdie</b>

#### Zanetto cast

Zanetto	<b>Hanna Hipp</b>
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Silvia

**Sinéad Campbell-Wallace**

Susanna's Secret cast

Countess Susanna

**Clare Presland**

Count Gil

**Richard Burkhard**

Performance Diary

Mascagni's *Zanetto* & Wolf-Ferrari's *Susanna's Secret*

20 September 2019, 7.30pm

St Mary's Parish Church, Haddington

More information and tickets are available at [www.lammermuirfestival.co.uk](http://www.lammermuirfestival.co.uk)

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

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, 2019's *Anthropocene* and 2016's *The Devil Inside* by Stuart MacRae and Louise Welsh.

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 program 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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The Lammermuir Festival was founded in 2010, based on a conviction that historic architecture and beautiful landscape are the ideal environment in which to experience great music and music-making. In 2017 it was the recipient of the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Festivals and Concert Series. 2019 marks the 10th festival. Artistic Directors are Hugh Macdonald and James Waters, and its patron is pianist, Steven Osborne. The 2018 Lammermuir Festival is supported by Creative Scotland, EventScotland and the Lamp of Lothian Trust.

**For additional press details please contact the Scottish Opera press office:**

Emily Henderson, Press Manager, 0141 242 0511, [emily.henderson@scottishopera.org.uk](mailto:emily.henderson@scottishopera.org.uk)

Emma Ainley-Walker, Press Officer, 0141 242 0552, [emily.ainley-walker@scottishopera.org.uk](mailto:emily.ainley-walker@scottishopera.org.uk)

**For the Lammermuir Festival please contact:**

Jane Nicolson, 078870500977, [jane@janenicolson.com](mailto:jane@janenicolson.com)