



PRESS RELEASE

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***OPERA HIGHLIGHTS* TOURS TO 17 VENUES ACROSS SCOTLAND THIS AUTUMN**

On September 12, Scottish Opera's hugely popular *Opera Highlights* tour kicks off with four singers and a pianist journeying to 17 venues the length and breadth of Scotland, from Kirkwall in the north to Stranraer in the south.

Travelling the highways and byways by land, sea and air, the Autumn tour begins in Motherwell before heading to Stirling, Stonehaven, Tain, Ullapool, Stornoway, Portree, Oban, Galashiels, Perth, Dunfermline, Thurso, Kirkwall, Ellon, Stranraer, Greenock and Musselburgh.

The setting for director **Roxana Haines'** production of *Opera Highlights* is a beautiful garden party, and features a playlist of operatic classics and must-hear rarities, curated by Scottish Opera's Head of Music **Derek Clark**. Highlights include Delibes' 'Flower Duet', Vaughan Williams' 'Blue larkspur in a garden' and many more from the likes of Mozart, Lehár and Scottish Opera Composer in Residence, **Samuel Bordoli**.

Pianist/Music Director **Ian Shaw** is joined by Scottish Opera Emerging Artist soprano **Charlie Drummond**; mezzo-soprano **Martha Jones**; tenor **Alex Bevan** and baritone **Mark Nathan**, who is also a Scottish Opera Emerging Artist this Season.

The same show returns in Spring 2020, with a different cast: soprano **Zoe Drummond**; mezzo-soprano **Jade Moffat**; tenor **Andrew Irwin** and baritone **Arthur Bruce**, The Robertson Trust Scottish Opera Emerging Artist who is a former member of Scottish Opera Young Company. It will tour another 17 venues around Scotland from February 4: Bathgate, Birnam, Markinch, Campbeltown, Bowmore, Arrochar, Bunessan, Arisaig, Beaully, Cumnock, Castle Douglas, Callander, Lerwick, Peebles, Fochabers, Alford and Rutherglen. In total, this Season's *Opera Highlights* is visiting 34 venues.

Roxana Haines, who is directing Scottish Opera's *Fox-tot!* at Edinburgh Festival Fringe this summer, said: 'This year's *Opera Highlights* cast cordially invite you to a party on your doorstep, set throughout luscious gardens and magical flora and fauna of Opera. The stage has been set, decorations unpacked and the guests have all arrived but, the only problem is, no one quite knows who or why we're celebrating...

'As the evening progresses, the connections between our characters unravel through music from the likes of Handel, Donizetti and Mozart, and lighter pieces from Gilbert & Sullivan and Vaughan Williams as well as a new work by Samuel Bordoli. Prepare for charm, magic and love in all its operatic forms.'

Scottish Opera's General Director, **Alex Reedijk**, said: 'I am delighted that Scottish Opera will be touring what promises to be another sensational *Opera Highlights* to 34 venues across Scotland in the Autumn and Spring. This longstanding and much acclaimed commitment by the Company to presenting work across Scotland is part of what makes us Scottish Opera, and is welcomed by our far-flung audiences as a lovely operatic tonic! *Opera Highlights* also serves to introduce young singers to our audiences, and greatly assists their development as artists alongside presenting the joys of opera and singing to our widely spread audience.'

This *Opera Highlights* tour is supported by The Friends of Scottish Opera, JTH Charitable Trust and The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust.

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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Opera Highlights Autumn Tour Cast and Creative Team

Soprano	Charlie Drummond*
Mezzo-soprano	Martha Jones
Tenor	Alex Bevan
Baritone	Mark Nathan*
Pianist/Music Director	Ian Shaw
Director	Roxana Haines
Composer in Residence	Samuel Bordoli*

*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

Performance Diary

Motherwell Theatre, Motherwell

Thu 12 Sep, 7.30pm

Albert Halls, Stirling

Sat 14 Sep, 7.30pm

Stonehaven Town Hall, Stonehaven

Tue 17 Sep, 7.30pm

Duthac Centre, Tain

Thu 19 Sep, 7.30pm

Macphail Centre, Ullapool

Sat 21 Sep, 7.30pm

An Lanntair, Stornoway

Tues 24 Sep, 7.30pm

Aros Centre, Portree

Thu 26 Sep, 7.30pm

Corran Halls, Oban

Sat 28 Sep, 7.30pm

Volunteer Hall, Galashiels

Tues 1 Oct, 7.30pm

Perth Theatre, Perth

Thu 3 Oct, 7.30pm

Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline

Sat 5 Oct, 7.30pm

Thurso High School, Thurso

Tue 8 Oct, 7.30pm

Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall

Thu 10 Oct, 7.30pm

Haddo House, Ellon

Sat 12 Oct, 7.30pm

Ryan Centre, Stranraer

Tues 15, 7.30pm

Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock

Thu 17 Oct, 7.30pm

The Brunton, Musselburgh

Sat 19 Oct, 7.30pm

Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera biography:

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.



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