

2 August 2019

SCOTTISH OPERA'S *AMADEUS & THE BARD* EXPLORES AND CELEBRATES THE WORK OF MOZART AND BURNS

Touring this Autumn is *Amadeus & The Bard: 18th Century Cosmic Brothers*, a brand new show from Scottish Opera created and directed by **Mary McCluskey**, former Artistic Director of Scottish Youth Theatre. *Amadeus & The Bard* celebrates the lives of two much-loved men, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Robert Burns, through storytelling and song, honouring the many and sometimes surprising similarities between them.

Opening on 9 September in Earlston High School, the production tours to schools in Kirkcudbright, Annan, Auchinleck, Ayr, Largs and Paisley, as well as the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and Scottish Opera Production Studios in Glasgow.

Karen MacIver is the Music Director and pianist on this dramatic and emotive show, which features a talented cast including soprano **Stephanie Stanway**, a Samling Young Artist and **Arthur Bruce**, The Robertson Trust Scottish Opera Emerging Artist, alongside actor **Andy Clark** and violinist **Shannon Stevenson**. They are joined by an ensemble of four singers from Scottish Opera Young Company: **Cara Blaikie, Ross Fettes, James McIntyre** and **Erin Spence**.

Set in Poesie Nansie's Inn, a favourite haunt of Burns, the cast blend traditional folk songs with some of Mozart's most popular work, from 'Tam O'Shanter' and *The Magic Flute*, to 'A Red, Red Rose' and *The Marriage of Figaro*. *Amadeus & The Bard* invites audiences to enjoy a night of entertainment in celebration of these two brothers of the Enlightenment.

Director **Mary McCluskey** said: 'It is our intention for our merry band of talented performers, singers, actors and musicians to give you an insight into the work of Mozart and Burns. We hope to entertain and inform you, in order that you will leave knowing more than you did when you came along to see the production, and that we will have whetted your appetite for the work of these two talented men.'

Jane Davidson, Scottish Opera's Director of Outreach and Education said: '*Amadeus & The Bard* affords us some fascinating glimpses into the (often parallel) lives of Robert Burns and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; cultural icons of the eighteenth century whose musical and literary 'voices' have inspired people through the generations down to the present day. So, the warmest of welcomes is extended to everyone to join our dynamic young company of performers around the fireside in Poesie Nansie's hostelry for an hour of songs, ensembles, arias and poetry.'

Amadeus & The Bard is supported by Barcapel Foundation, Edith Rudinger Gray Charitable Trust, The Hugh Fraser Foundation, The Holywood Trust, The WM Mann Foundation, Jean Armour Burns Trust and Scottish Opera's Education Angels.

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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

Cast and Creative Team

Director/Creator	Mary McCluskey
Music Director	Karen MacIver
Soprano	Stephanie Stanway
Baritone	Arthur Bruce*
Storyteller	Andy Clark
Ensemble	Cara Blaikie, Ross Fettes, James McIntyre & Erin Spence (Scottish Opera Young Company)
Violin	Shannon Stevenson
Piano	Karen MacIver

*The Robertson Trust Scottish Opera Emerging Artist 2019/20

Performance diary

Earlston High School

Mon 9 Sep, 7pm

Kirkcudbright Academy

Wed 11 Sep, 7pm

Annan Academy

Fri 13 Sep, 7pm

Auchinleck Academy

Mon 16 Sep, 7pm

Ayr Academy

Wed 18 Sep, 7pm

Largs Academy

Thu 19 Sep, 7pm

National Museum of Scotland

Sat 28 Sep, 12pm & 3pm

Paisley Grammar School

Fri 4 Oct, 7.30pm

Scottish Opera Production Studios

Fri 11 Oct, 7.30pm

Sat 12 Oct, 3pm & 7.30pm

Tickets are available online now for all venues at www.scottishopera.org.uk/amadeus

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, 2019's *Anthropocene* and 2016's *The Devil Inside* 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* in December.

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 8,000 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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