

30 August 2019

REVIVAL OF ANTHONY BESCH'S ACCLAIMED PRODUCTION OF PUCCINI'S *TOSCA* OPENS SCOTTISH OPERA'S 2019/20 SEASON

Scottish Opera's 2019/20 Season begins in October with Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*, a revival of the much-loved 1980 production by director **Anthony Besch** and designer **Peter Rice**.

Last performed by the Company in 2012, *Tosca* opens at Theatre Royal Glasgow on October 16, and tours to Aberdeen, Inverness and Edinburgh. Conducted by Scottish Opera Music Director **Stuart Stratford**, Besch's production is set in 1940s Rome, in the shadow of Mussolini's tyrannical rule. It tells the story of a passionate and ill-fated love, played out against a backdrop of political corruption and intrigue. Besch's production of *Tosca* has been a huge hit with Scottish Opera audiences, and has toured to London, Liverpool and Newcastle. It has also been taken up by companies in Boston, Lisbon, Murcia, New Zealand and Oviedo.

Revival Director **Jonathan Cocker** directs an internationally renowned cast including **Natalya Romaniw** (*Eugene Onegin* 2018) and **Sinéad Campbell-Wallace** (who is appearing in Scottish Opera's Lammermuir Festival double bill this September) as tragic opera diva Floria Tosca. Tenor **Gwyn Hughes Jones** (*Il trovatore* 2015) is Cavaradossi and baritone **Roland Wood** (*Pelléas and Mélisande* 2017) is Scarpia, the corrupt Chief of Police. They are joined by Scottish Opera favourites **Dingle Yandell** (*The Magic Flute* 2019) **Aled Hall** (*Rigoletto* 2018) **Paul Carey Jones** (*The Trial* 2017) and **Lancelot Nomura** (*Ariadne auf Naxos* 2018).

Stuart Stratford said: 'Puccini's *Tosca* really needs no introduction. It is one of the composer's finest masterpieces and greatest achievements in terms of musical drama and orchestration. We are delighted

that for the first time audiences in the UK have the chance to hear Natalya Romaniw in the title role, performing alongside Gwyn Hughes Jones and Roland Wood. Natalya was last on the Scottish Opera stage in our 2018 production of *Eugene Onegin* and has risen to prominence following her recent successes at English National Opera and Opera Holland Park, so we are thrilled to welcome her back.'

There are also three Dementia Friendly Performances of *Tosca* in Glasgow, Aberdeen (for the first time) and Edinburgh. With a running time of approximately one hour 45 minutes, 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.

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

Tosca is supported by The Scottish Opera Syndicate.

Cast List

Tosca	Natalya Romaniw & Sinéad Campbell-Wallace
Cavaradossi	Gwyn Hughes Jones
Scarpia	Roland Wood
Angelotti	Dingle Yandell
Spoletta	Aled Hall
Sacristan	Paul Carey Jones
Sciarrone	Lancelot Nomura

Creative Team

Conductor	Stuart Stratford & Derek Clark
Original Director	Anthony Besch
Revival Director	Jonathan Cocker
Designer	Peter Rice
Lighting	Robert B. Dickson

Performance Diary

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

Wed 16 Oct, 7.15pm

Fri 18 Oct, 7.15pm
Sun 20 Oct, 3pm
Tue 22 Oct, 7.15pm
Thu 24 Oct, 3pm (Dementia Friendly Performance)
Sat 26 Oct, 7.15pm

Tosca Unwrapped
Mon 21 Oct, 6pm
Tosca Pre-show Talk
Sat 26 Oct, 6pm
Tosca Touch Tour
Sat 26 Oct, 6pm
Tosca Audio-described performance
Sat 26 Oct, 7.15pm

His Majesty's Theatre, Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1GL

Thu 31 Oct, 7.15pm
Fri 1 Nov, 3pm (Dementia Friendly Performance)
Sat 2 Nov, 7.15pm

Tosca Pre-show Talk
Sat 2 Nov, 6pm
Tosca Touch Tour
Sat 2 Nov, 6pm
Tosca Audio-described performance
Sat 2 Nov, 7.15pm

Eden Court, Bishops Road, Inverness IV3 5SA

Tue 5 Nov, 7.15pm
Thu 7 Nov, 7.15pm
Sat 9 Nov, 7.15pm

Tosca Unwrapped
Fri 8 Nov, 6pm
Tosca Pre-show Talk
Sat 9 Nov, 6pm
Tosca Touch Tour
Sat 9 Nov, 6pm
Tosca Audio-described performance
Sat 9 Nov, 7.15pm

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

Thu 14 Nov, 7.15pm

Sun 17 Nov, 3pm

Tue 19 Nov, 3pm (Dementia Friendly Performance)

Thu 21 Nov, 7.15pm

Sat 23 Nov, 7.15pm

Tosca Unwrapped

Mon 18 Nov, 6pm

Tosca Pre-show Talk

Sat 23 Nov, 6pm

Tosca Touch Tour

Sun 17 Nov, 1.45pm

Tosca Audio-described performance

Sun 17 Nov, 3pm

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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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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