

1 October 2019

## **SCOTTISH OPERA'S EMERGING ARTIST PROGRAMME CELEBRATES ITS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AS SEVEN ARTISTS ARE WELCOMED FOR 2019/20 SEASON**

Scottish Opera has welcomed a talented group of Emerging Artists for the 2019/20 Season: **Samuel Bordoli, Arthur Bruce, Jasmine Clark, Charlie Drummond, Mark Nathan, Michael Papadopoulos and Lucy Walters.**

The Scottish Opera Emerging Artists programme was launched in 2009 and offers young artists a period of full-time work with the Company to help them launch their careers. Initially set up to nurture outstanding young singers, the programme now also includes positions for a répétiteur, costume trainee, a composer in residence, and, for the first time, an associate producer. Previous Emerging Artists include soprano Jennifer France, répétiteur Jonathon Swinard, baritone Ben McAteer and composers Gareth Williams and Liam Paterson.

**Alex Reedijk**, Scottish Opera General Director said: 'It's a great pleasure to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Emerging Artists programme, which has over 40 alumni, with many of those having gone on to perform all over the UK. The incredibly flexible programme helps a tremendous breadth of artists at the start of their careers through an immersive opera company experience where they can draw on all the resources available to strengthen their skills, preparing them for a life in the performing arts. I also have to acknowledge the generosity of our supporters who have from day one been genuinely delighted to help support the Emerging Artists, and how much that support has grown over 10 years.'

**Samuel Bordoli** ARAM returns for a third year as composer in residence. In the 2018/19 Season, he composed an Overture and *To Music* for the Autumn 2018 *Opera Highlights* tour, as well as *Le trésor des humbles* for soprano and orchestra, premiered in March at Aberdeen's Music Hall. During the Company's

2017/18 Season he composed *Wings* and three piano interludes for the *Opera Highlights* tour, and *Grace Notes* to complement the Company's production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

Samuel studied at Birmingham Conservatoire and London's Royal Academy of Music, where he was the Mendelssohn Scholar. He was mentored by Peter Maxwell Davies for nine years. His broad output has included a chamber opera, *Amerika*, performed at the Tête à Tête opera festival in London, and a choral anthem, *The Great Silence*, premiered at the Windsor Festival for the Queen's 90th Birthday. His music theatre piece *Belongings* was premiered on the Caledonian Sleeper between Aberdeen and London. He has also composed four Live Music Sculptures, site-specific compositions for London landmarks, including Tower Bridge, the Monument and St Paul's Cathedral, and last year he co-produced *Planets 2018*, a new 'Planets Suite' performed inside planetariums across the UK.

This Season, Samuel is working on an original short digital opera film and a prelude to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* entitled *Hermia's Nightmare*, and he composed a new piece for *Opera Highlights*. For his work at Scottish Opera, Samuel was nominated for the 'One to Watch' Award at the 2018 Sunday Herald Culture Awards.

Scottish baritone **Arthur Bruce** is The Robertson Trust Scottish Opera Emerging Artist 2019/20. A graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's Alexander Gibson Opera School, the Royal Northern College of Music and English National Opera's Opera Works programme, Arthur was a member of Scottish Opera Young Company (formerly Connect). He has performed roles with Bampton Classical Opera, Berlin Opera Academy, Saffron Opera Group, Opera Eos, Edinburgh Grand Opera, London Young Sinfonia, Edinburgh Players Opera Group and Bowdon Festival Opera. He is also a Britten-Pears Young Artist. This Season at Scottish Opera, Arthur is performing in *Amadeus & The Bard: 18<sup>th</sup> Century Cosmic Brothers*, a new production about the links between Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Robert Burns. He also goes on tour with *Opera Highlights* in the Spring, and performs in *Iris*, *Utopia, Limited* and *The Gondoliers* which tours to Glasgow, Aberdeen, Inverness, Edinburgh and London.

Elizabeth Salvesen Costume Trainee **Jasmine Clark** will work on Scottish Opera's Season 2019/20 productions in the Costume Department, headed by John Liddell. Graduating in 2017 with a 1<sup>st</sup> Class BA (Hons) Costume and Performance Design (Costume Interpretation) degree from Arts University Bournemouth with a particular interest in historical costume, Jasmine has worked on a number of operas, musicals, short films and television programmes. These include *La bohème* at the Royal Opera House, *The Pilgrim's Progress* at Royal Northern College of Music, *Les Misérables* at Birmingham Hippodrome and the BBC drama *Father Brown*. Former Student Head of Arts University Bournemouth Costume Archive, in her spare time Jasmine has volunteered as a Tattershall Tailor at National Trust Tattershall Castle, Lincolnshire, creating historically accurate medieval costumes for staff to wear at events.

Soprano **Charlie Drummond** is an alumna of King's College London (English Literature), the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's Alexander Gibson Opera School and the National Opera Studio. She is a

Samling Young Artist and the recipient of several awards including the Help Musicians UK Tutton Award, an Independent Opera Voice Scholarship, the Musicians' Company Silver Medal and the Bruce Millar Gulliver Prize. Charlie has performed with companies including Longborough Festival Opera, British Youth Opera and Raucous Rossini. She also has a keen interest in contemporary opera and has premiered the role of Serena Farage in the new opera *The Secretary Turned CEO* (Lucid Arts), and performed in the world premiere of *Simoon* by Erik Chisholm (Music Co-OPERative Scotland). This Season at Scottish Opera she will perform in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Iris*, *The Gondoliers*, *Utopia, Limited* and the Company's *Opera Highlights* Autumn tour.

Baritone **Mark Nathan** studied at the Alexander Gibson Opera School, having graduated with distinction from a Master's at London's Royal College of Music. He completed an undergraduate Music degree at Birmingham University. Mark has worked with opera companies including Welsh National Opera, Opera Loki, Hampstead Garden Opera and Winterbourne Opera, performing roles including Don Giovanni, Papageno, Marcello and Dr Falke. He has also appeared in musicals including *Guys and Dolls* and *Into the Woods*.

Mark is in demand as a recitalist and oratorio soloist, and is a keen lyricist, having written several musicals, and a collection of children's poems entitled 'Riddle Me This', which has been set to music by Ronald Corp for the New London Children's Choir. Mark plays the cello, piano, bass guitar, acoustic guitar, accordion, and the banjo. He plays in chamber ensembles, orchestras and pit bands. This season at Scottish Opera he will perform in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Gondoliers* and the *Opera Highlights* Autumn tour.

London-born répétiteur and conductor **Michael Papadopoulos** is the 2019/20 Emerging Artist répétiteur. He trained at the National Opera Studio and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, having previously read Music at Trinity College Oxford. As a répétiteur, he has worked at Opera Holland Park (*La traviata*, *Isabeau*, *Il segreto di Susanna*), where he was Young Artist Répétiteur for the 2018 season, and British Youth Opera (*Don Giovanni*), as well as working on Julian Phillips' *The Tale of Januarie* at GSMD. Recent conducting projects include a new opera by Edward Lambert for the 2019 Tête à Tête festival (*Apollo's Mission*), Bach's *St John Passion*, Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem*, and Handel's *Messiah* (with the choir and musicians of St Paul's Knightsbridge), and Daniel Saleeb's *Occo's Eternal Act* at the Victoria and Albert Museum. This Season at Scottish Opera, Michael will be working on *Susanna's Secret*, *Tosca*, *Nixon in China*, *The Gondoliers* and *Utopia, Limited*, as assistant conductor on *Iris* and as Music Director/Pianist on the *Opera Highlights* Spring tour.

**Lucy Walters** is the Emerging Artist associate producer. After studying music at the University of Bristol and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Lucy interned at Wigmore Hall where she assisted the Learning Team with their administration and events. She then joined the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra as the Chorus Projects Officer, primarily working with the CBSO's family of symphonic choruses on large-scale choral projects, performances with other orchestras, and chorus international touring. While at the CBSO, Lucy helped to co-ordinate the 2014 BBC Proms Youth Choir (Britten's *War Requiem* with the

CBSO and Andris Nelsons) before managing the project in 2015 (Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* with Vienna Philharmonic and Sir Simon Rattle). Since leaving the CBSO in 2016, Lucy has enjoyed refocusing on her passion for Opera in the Opera North Planning Team where she managed residencies for the National Opera Studio and Royal Northern College of Music. Jointly appointed by Opera Ventures and Scottish Opera, Lucy is primarily working on the future life of the Company's co-production of *Breaking the Waves* over the next year.

The Emerging Artist singers and repetiteur will perform in four recitals; at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh in October, University of St Andrews in November, and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the University of Glasgow in January.

The Emerging Artists are supported by The Robertson Trust, Elizabeth Salvesen, Idlewild Trust and Scottish Opera's Emerging Artist Benefactors.

### Performance Diary

#### **Fri 25 October, 6.30pm**

National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh

#### **Wed 20 November, 1pm**

University of St Andrews

#### **Fri 10 January, 1pm**

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow

#### **Thu 16 January, 1.10pm**

University of Glasgow

-ENDS-

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

**PHOTO:** The attached photo shows the 2019/20 Scottish Opera Emerging Artists (left to right) Lucy Walters, Mark Nathan, Arthur Bruce, Charlie Drummond, Jasmine Clark and Michael Papadopoulos. Photo credit: James Glossop.

### 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. In 1974 Scottish Opera purchased the Theatre Royal Glasgow, which reopened in 1975 as Scotland's first national opera house. The Orchestra of Scottish Opera was founded in 1980.

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*; and a Herald Angel for the European premiere of Missy Mazzoli's *Breaking the Waves* at the 2019 Edinburgh International Festival.

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* (premiered at the 2012 Edinburgh International Festival), 2016's *The Devil Inside*, with which Scottish Opera made its North American debut in Toronto, and 2019's *Anthropocene*. *Ghost Patrol* won a South Bank Sky Arts Award, and *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* were nominated for an Olivier Award. Last year the company made its US debut with *Bambino* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and returned to the city's Brooklyn Academy of Music with Mark-Anthony Turnage's *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 and dozens of other theatres, village halls and community centres. It also operates an extensive programme of outreach and education work 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 receives core funding from the Scottish Government, as well as income from box office, and private and commercial support.



**For additional press details please contact:**

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, [emma.ainley-walker@scottishopera.org.uk](mailto:emma.ainley-walker@scottishopera.org.uk)