



**PRESS RELEASE**

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5 December 2019

## ***OPERA HIGHLIGHTS* SPRING TOUR TRAVELS TO 17 VENUES ACROSS SCOTLAND**

*Opera Highlights* is back on the road on February 4, with four singers and a pianist journeying to 17 venues the length and breadth of Scotland, from Lerwick in the north to Castle Douglas in the south.

Following 17 performances in Autumn, the same *Opera Highlights* but with a new cast is travelling the highways and byways by land, sea and air. The Spring tour begins in Bathgate, then visits Birnam, Markinch, Campbeltown, Bowmore, Arrochar, Bunessan, Arisaig, Beaulieu, Cumnock, Castle Douglas, Callander, Lerwick, Peebles, Fochabers, Alford and Rutherglen.

Set in a beautiful garden, director **Roxana Haines'** production 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**.

Scottish Opera 2019/20 Emerging Artist repetiteur **Michael Papadopoulos** is the Pianist/Music Director, and is joined by soprano **Zoe Drummond**; mezzo-soprano **Jade Moffat**; tenor **Andrew Irwin** and baritone **Arthur Bruce**, The Robertson Trust Scottish Opera Emerging Artist this Season.

**Roxana Haines**, who directed Scottish Opera's hit Edinburgh Festival Fringe show *Fox-tot!* this summer, said: 'After a successful Autumn tour I am pleased to revive this *Opera Highlights* show, where the cast cordially invite you to a party on your doorstep. This Spring we have a brand new cast to guide you through our story which takes place in luscious gardens and magical flora and fauna of Opera. The stage has been set, decorations unpacked and the guests have all arrived, but the problem is we're still not sure whose party this is...

'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 an evening of charm, magic and love in all its operatic forms in a show that highlights the joy and absurdity of opera.'

This *Opera Highlights* tour is supported by The Friends of Scottish Opera, JTH Charitable Trust and The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust. Tickets are on sale from 11 December.

-ENDS-

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

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

**[Opera Highlights Spring Tour Cast and Creative Team](#)**

Director	<b>Roxana Haines</b>
Pianist/Music Director	<b>Michael Papadopoulos*</b>
Soprano	<b>Zoe Drummond</b>
Mezzo-soprano	<b>Jade Moffat</b>
Tenor	<b>Andrew Irwin</b>
Baritone	<b>Arthur Bruce**</b>

Composer in Residence      **Samuel Bordoli\***

\* Scottish Opera Emerging Artist 2019/20

\*\* The Robertson Trust Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

Performance Diary

**Regal Theatre, Bathgate**

Tue 4 Feb, 7.30pm

**Birnam Institute, Birnam**

Thu 6 Feb, 7.30pm

**Markinch Town Hall, Markinch**

Sat 8 Feb, 7.30pm

**Victoria Halls, Campbeltown**

Tue 11 Feb, 7.30pm

**Bowmore Hall, Islay**

Thu 13 Feb, 7.30pm

**The Three Villages Hall, Arrochar**

Sat 15 Feb, 7.30pm

**Bunessan Community Hall, Mull**

Tues 18 Feb, 7.30pm

**Astley Hall, Arisaig**

Thu 20 Feb, 7.30pm

**Phipps Institute, Beauly**

Sat 22 Feb, 7.30pm

**Cumnock Town Hall, Cumnock**

Tues 25 Feb, 7.30pm

**The Fullarton, Castle Douglas**

Thu 27 Feb, 7.30pm

**McLaren High School, Callander**

Saturday 29 Feb, 7.30pm

**The Mareel, Shetland**

Wed 4 Mar, 7.30pm

**The Eastgate Theatre, Peebles**

Sat 7 Mar, 7.30pm

**Fochabers Public Institute, Fochabers**

Tues 10 Mar, 7.30pm

**Alford Theatre, Alford**

Thu 12 Mar, 7.30pm

**Rutherglen Town Hall, Rutherglen**

Sat 14 Mar, 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. 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.



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