



PRESS RELEASE

16 December 2019

SCOTTISH OPERA'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS TOUR RETURNS WITH *WARRIORS! THE EMPEROR'S INCREDIBLE ARMY*

In Spring and Summer 2020, thousands of primary school children across Scotland will perform *Warriors! The Emperor's Incredible Army* as part of the Scottish Opera Primary Schools Tour. Pupils in primary 5, 6 and 7 will rehearse and perform this opera, which recounts the tale of the terracotta warriors of Xian.

It begins on Monday 13 January at Milngavie Primary School, and will visit over 50 schools around Scotland during the Spring term, including in Glasgow, Edinburgh, East and West Dunbartonshire, Clackmannanshire, North and South Lanarkshire, Angus, Aberdeen, Fife, Moray, Falkirk, East Lothian, the Highlands and Dumfries and Galloway. (Full list of participating schools below.)

The tour continues in the Summer term on Monday 20 April, visiting schools in Aberdeenshire, the Borders, East Dunbartonshire, Edinburgh, East Renfrewshire, Angus, South Lanarkshire, Fife, Argyll and Bute, Ayrshire, Glasgow, Moray, Dumfries and Galloway and Shetland.

Warriors! tells the true story of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China, who was determined to cheat death and rule over his country forever. Over many years, Qin Shi Huang assembled an army of 8000 soldiers, horses and chariots to watch over him in the afterlife. The warriors were all armed to the teeth, but made entirely of clay.

Composed by **Alan Penman** with lyrics by **Ross Stenhouse**, pupils learn the opera's words and songs in their own classrooms and are then helped by the Scottish Opera team to prepare for a performance in front of pupils, friends and family. It allows them to learn in an exciting, creative and challenging way, further developing their music education. Performing in front of an audience instils a confidence that will continue to help pupils in the future, whatever path they follow. Teachers from schools which have already taken part agreed that the Primary Schools Tour broadened the children's cultural experiences, improved team work

skills, increased cultural confidence as well as singing ability, and supported the aims of Curriculum for Excellence.

Between January and November 2019, 132 Scottish schools took part in the Primary Schools Tour, which was established by Scottish Opera 48 years ago. Teachers are provided with high quality teaching resources, including a support pack to help introduce the music and related activities, an advance visit from a specialist choral musician, and a day-long workshop with a team of experienced arts education specialists and performers.

Warriors! was originally commissioned in 2015 in partnership with the five Scottish Confucius Institutes based in the Universities of Edinburgh, Strathclyde, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt and Aberdeen. In 2016, around 200 pupils from the Fangcaodi International School, Beijing learnt the songs and performed the opera, which is mainly sung in English with some words in Mandarin. The 'pilot' visit was deemed such a success by the teachers that Scottish Opera was invited to return and work with a cast of pupils nearly four times larger.

In October 2019, three singers from Scottish Opera returned to China, and with around 200 pupils from the Kunming Fangcaodi International School learned and performed our second opera based on Chinese history, *The Dragon of the Western Seas*, which tells the story of Kunming's most famous citizen, Admiral Zheng He.

Scottish Opera's Director of Outreach and Education, Jane Davidson said: 'Our annual Primary Schools Tour is one of the longest established programmes at Scottish Opera – every year over 9,000 children across Scotland take part in these performances with many more thousands of friends and families coming to see them in action.

'We continue our work with the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS), bringing back *Warriors! The Emperor's Incredible Army*, which tells an important story from China's history. Pupils get to exercise their creative muscles and experience the added confidence and excitement that comes from performing for an audience of their peers, family and friends.'

In 2018 Scottish Opera was granted Confucius Classroom Hub status by Hanban, the headquarters of Confucius Institutes worldwide, making it the first opera company in the world to be selected for this accolade. It is one of four hubs based outwith a school setting; the others are the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the Scottish Schools Football Association and the Royal Zoological Society at Edinburgh Zoo. The 'classroom' at the Company's Edington Street production studios, holds resources on Chinese performance, arts and culture. It is used as a rehearsal space for Chinese-related programmes.

Confucius Classrooms are hubs usually based in schools and serving the local community. The concept promotes joint planning of cultural activities, sharing ideas and resources to stimulate the learning and teaching of Chinese language and culture.

Warriors! The Emperor's Incredible Army is supported by The Mickel Fund, The Cruden Foundation, The Stevenston Charitable Trust, Martin Connell Charitable Trust, David & June Gordon Memorial Trust, Harbinson Charitable Trust, The R J Larg Family Trust, Alma & Leslie Wolfson Charitable Trust and Scottish Opera's Education Angels.

More details about *Warriors!* are available from www.scottishopera.org.uk/join-in/opera-for-schools/

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www.scottishopera.org.uk

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

Creative Team

Music	Alan Penman
Words	Ross Stenhouse
Original Costume Design	Trish Kenny

Performance diary Spring 2020

Mon 13 Jan	Milngavie Primary School
Tues 14 Jan	Hutchesons' Grammar School, Edinburgh
Wed 15 Jan	St Mark's RC Primary School, Edinburgh
Thu 16 Jan	Leith Primary School
Fri 17 Jan	Orchard Primary School, Wishaw
Mon 20 Jan	Mosshead Primary School, Bearsden
Tues 21 Jan	Baljaffray Primary School, Bearsden
Wed 22 Jan	Queensferry Primary School, Edinburgh
Thu 23 Jan	Trinity Primary School, Edinburgh
Fri 24 Jan	Sunnyside Primary School, Alloa
Mon 27 Jan	Anstruther Primary School
Tue 28 Jan	Castlehill Primary School, Fife
Wed 29 Jan	Lochgelly Primary School
Thu 30 Jan	Dalgety Bay Primary School
Fri 31 Jan	Goldenhill Primary School, Clydebank
Mon 3 Feb	St Ronan's Primary School, Alexandria
Tue 4 Feb	West Coats Primary School, Cambuslang
Wed 5 Feb	Bruntsfield Primary School, Edinburgh

Thu 6 Feb	Prestonfield Primary School, Edinburgh
Fri 7 Feb	Northmuir Primary School, Kirriemuir
Mon 10 Feb	International School of Aberdeen
Tue 11 Feb	Middleton Primary School, Aberdeen
Wed 12 Feb	Seaton School, Aberdeen
Thu 13 Feb	Airyhall School, Aberdeen
Fri 14 Feb	Airyhall School, Aberdeen
Mon 17 Feb	Wormit School, Fife
Tue 18 Feb	Tayport Primary School, Fife
Wed 19 Feb	Jordanhill School, Glasgow
Thu 20 Feb	Jordanhill School, Glasgow
Fri 21 Feb	Robert Smillie Memorial Primary School, Larkhall
Mon 24 Feb	Cluny Primary School, Buckie
Tue 25 Feb	Keith Primary School
Wed 26 Feb	Mosstowie Primary School, Elgin
Thu 27 Feb	Hopeman Primary School, Moray
Fri 28 Feb	Rothies Primary School
Mon 2 Mar	Dalry Primary School, Edinburgh
Tue 3 Mar	Corstorphine Primary School, Edinburgh
Wed 4 Mar	Blackhall Primary School, Edinburgh
Thu 5 Mar	Comely Park Primary School, Falkirk
Fri 6 Mar	Bankhead Primary School, Rutherglen
Mon 9 Mar	South Morningside Primary School, Edinburgh
Tue 10 Mar	Dean Park Primary School, Edinburgh
Wed 11 Mar	The Compass School, Haddington
Thu 12 Mar	Langlees Primary School, Falkirk
Fri 13 Mar	Wallacestone Primary School, Falkirk
Mon 16 Mar	Newton Park Primary School, Wick
Tue 17 Mar	Lochardil Primary School, Inverness
Wed 18 Mar	Bishop Eden's Primary School, Inverness
Thu 19 Mar	Aviemore Primary School
Fri 20 Mar	Culter Primary School, Aberdeen
Mon 23 Mar	Noblehill School, Dumfries
Tue 24 Mar	Heathhall School, Dumfries
Wed 25 Mar	Georgetown Primary School, Dumfries
Thu 26 Mar	Calside Primary School, Dumfries
Fri 27 Mar	Cargenbridge Primary School, Dumfries

Performance diary Summer 2020

Mon 20 Apr	Drumoak Primary School, Aberdeenshire
Tue 21 Apr	Westhill Primary School, Aberdeenshire
Wed 22 Apr	Fyvie Primary School, Aberdeenshire
Thu 23 Apr	Turiff Primary School, Aberdeenshire
Fri 24 Apr	Fraserburgh South Park Primary School, Aberdeenshire
Mon 27 Apr	St Margaret's RC Primary School, Galashiels
Tue 28 Apr	Tweedbank Primary School, Galashiels
Wed 29 Apr	Holy Family Primary School, Kirkintilloch
Thu 30 Apr	Hermitage Park Primary School, Edinburgh
Fri 1 May	Loretto Junior School, Musselburgh
Mon 4 May	Mearns Primary School, Newton Mearns
Tue 5 May	Inverbrothock Primary School, Arbroath
Wed 6 May	Sciennes Primary School, Edinburgh
Mon 11 May	Fernhill Primary School, Rutherglen
Tue 12 May	Benarty Primary School, Lochgelly
Wed 13 May	Kettle Primary School, Fife
Thu 14 May	Dunnikier Primary School, Kirkcaldy
Fri 15 May	St Paul's Primary School, Glenrothes
Mon 18 May	Eaglesham Primary School, East Renfrewshire
Tue 19 May	Strachur Primary School, Argyll and Bute
Wed 20 May	Arinagour Primary School, Argyll and Bute
Thu 21 May	Dunbeg Primary School, Argyll and Bute
Mon 25 May	Lilliesleaf Primary School, Melrose
Wed 27 May	Towerbank Primary School, Edinburgh
Thu 28 May	Winton Primary School, Ardrossan
Fri 29 May	St Mary's Primary, Largs
Mon 1 – Fri 5 Jun	Shetland
Mon 8 Jun	The High School of Glasgow
Tue 9 Jun	Forthview Primary School, Edinburgh
Wed 10 Jun	Kirkcaldy West Primary School, Fife
Thu 11 Jun	St Margaret's Primary School, Dunfermline
Fri 12 Jun	Bridge of Weir Primary School, Renfrewshire
Mon 15 Jun	Flora Stevenson Primary School, Edinburgh
Tue 16 Jun	Kirktonholme Primary School, East Kilbride
Wed 17 Jun	Broomhill School, Aberdeen
Thu 18 Jun	Milne's ASG Group, Lhandbryde, Moray
Fri 19 Jun	Kinloss Primary School, Moray

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.



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