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##### Press Release

24 July 2025

**SCOTTISH OPERA’S *OPERA HIGHLIGHTS* TOUR UNITES FOUR SINGERS AND A PIANIST IN A ONE-OF-A-KIND SHOW THIS AUTUMN**

Tickets are now on sale for the new production of Scottish Opera’s *Opera Highlights*, which hits the road from 2 October to 22 November, bringing world-class opera to 17 communities across the country.

The audience will follow the story of four very different characters, watching how their personal relationships intertwine at the office party. With no shortage of messy romance and an unforgettable work soiree, this will be a night of opera to remember!

Performing in this one-of-a-kind show, created specifically for Scottish Opera each season, are 2025/26 Emerging Artists mezzo-soprano **Chloe Harris** and tenor **Luvo Maranti,** along with soprano **Ceferina Penny** and baritone **James Geidt**, both making their Company debuts. Accompanying the singers on piano is Music Director **Meghan Rhoades**, Emerging Artist Repetiteur.

Transforming smaller venues into a local opera house, the show travels to East Kilbride, Ayr, Gartmore, Brechin, Ellon, Crail, Castle Douglas, Melrose, Crawfordjohn, Birnam, Nairn, Lochinver, Glenuig, Castlebay (a return visit following the Company’s *Opera Highlights* performance in February being cancelled due to bad weather), Lochranza, Johnstone, and Edinburgh. Scottish Opera’s extensive touring programme is one of the largest of any European opera company, ensuring performances are within reach of as many of Scotland’s dispersed population as possible.

Over 4000 people of all ages attended the Spring *Opera Highlights* tour this year, with audience members commenting how it was ‘wonderful that Scottish Opera comes to some of the more remote and rural areas’, bringing the show ‘to our doorstep’.

The show’s Director is **Emma Doherty** who last worked with Scottish Opera on the Outreach & Education show, *The Giant’s Harp*, and was Assistant Director in 2024 on *Oedipus Rex* and *Marx in London!* Designs are by the award-winning **Kenneth MacLeod**, who worked on last Season’s *Opera Highlights.*

The playlist cleverly combines a fabulous collection of much-loved classics with a treasure trove of lesser-known pieces. These include music from Leoncavallo’s *Pagliacci*, Gounod’s *Romeo and Juliette*, Massenet’s *Werther*, Handel’s *Alcina*, Strauss II’s *Die Fledermaus* and Samuel Barber’s one-act opera, *A Hand of Bridge*.

These operatic snapshots are curated by **Fiona MacSherry**, Scottish Opera’s Head of Music. All are sung in English or an English translation, making the story immediate and accessible for the audience.

Director **Emma Doherty** said: 'I am delighted to be directing the next *Opera Highlights* tour, which showcases some beautiful music and deals with the themes of forbidden love and deception. In the show, designed by the brilliant Kenneth MacLeod, audiences can expect to see four colleagues with complicated love triangles who are gearing up for their office party!'

While on tour with *Opera Highlights,* Scottish Opera is running school and community workshops, with more details to be announced soon. At these free ‘How to stage an opera’ interactive sessions, those attending will learn about the process of powerful storytelling through opera, using scenes from the tour as inspiration.

The creative team will explore how music can illustrate dramatic context on stage, and the mechanics of staging and directing scenes from an opera. Participants learn how singers use their voices and stage techniques to generate atmosphere and create mood to develop character, and how basic props can support the time, location and even the weather in which the story is unfolding. These sessions, lasting approximately one hour, are open to all ages, and no previous experience is required.

*Opera Highlights* goes on the road again in Spring 2026, when Emerging Artist Repetiteur **Toby Stanford** accompanies singers including Emerging Artists **Daniel Barrett** and **Kira Kaplan** along with **Alexandria Moon** and **Connor James Smith**.

The tour runs from 3 February to 14 March, with performances in Glasgow, Tillicoultry, Helensburgh, Town Yetholm, Newton Stewart, Dunlop, Dalmally, Dornie, Stornoway, Gairloch, Newtonmore, Banchory, Fraserburgh, Cromarty, Orkney, Wick, Lairg, and Bathgate.

*Opera Highlights* is supported by **Friends of Scottish Opera** and **JTH Charitable Trust**.

 Tickets are on sale now at [Opera Highlights 2025/26 | Scottish Opera](https://www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/opera-highlights-202526/)

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

*Autumn Opera Highlights* cast andcreative team

Music Director/Pianist **Meghan Rhoades\***

Director **Emma Doherty**

Designer **Kenneth MacLeod**

Soprano  **Ceferina Penny**

Mezzo-soprano **Chloe Harris\***

Tenor  **Luvo Maranti\***

Baritone **James Geidt**

\*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist 2025/26

Performance Diary

Thursday 2 October, Village Theatre, East Kilbride, 7pm

Saturday 4 October, The Gaiety, Ayr, 7.30pm

Tuesday 7 October, Gartmore Village Hall, 7pm

Thursday 9 October, Brechin City Hall, 7pm

Saturday 11 October, Haddo House, Elon, 7.30pm

Tuesday 14 October, Crail Community Centre, 7pm

Saturday 25 October, The Fullarton Theatre, Castle Douglas, 7pm

Tuesday 28 October, Melrose Corn Exchange, 7pm

Thursday 30 October, Crawfordjohn Hall, 7pm

Saturday 1 November, Birnam Arts, 7pm

Tuesday 4 November, Nairn Community Centre, 7pm

Thursday 6 November, Lochinver Village Hall, 7pm

Saturday 8 November, Glenuig Hall, 7pm

Tuesday 11 November, Castlebay School Theatre, Isle of Barra, 6.30pm

Tuesday 18 November, Lochranza Village Hall, Isle of Arran, 7pm

Thursday 20 November, Johnstone Town Hall, 7pm

Saturday 22 November, Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, 7.30pm

-ENDS-

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

You can follow Scottish Opera on BlueSky, Facebook, Instagram, You Tube and Tik-Tok **@ScottishOpera**

Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera is Scotland’s national opera company and largest performing arts organisation. The Company was founded in 1962 by Sir Alexander Gibson ‘to lay the treasures of opera at the feet of the people of Scotland’. Repertoire ranges across five centuries, from the earliest operas to newly commissioned world premieres. For mainstage and concert productions, the Company collaborates with the world’s finest singers and creatives, The Orchestra of Scottish Opera, and choruses for each opera. It co-produces work with companies including The Metropolitan Opera (New York), Opéra-Comique (Paris), andAdelaide Festival (Australia). Recent accolades include a South Bank Sky Arts Award, Scottish Award for New Music, 2017 UK Theatre Award, 2020 RPS Award, 2023 International Opera Award nomination, and 2023 Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera.

Presenting world-class opera at every scale, Scottish Opera is a trailblazer in community arts including ‘community opera’ combining chorus members of all backgrounds with a professional chorus, soloists, and The Orchestra of Scottish Opera. Productions include *Pagliacci* in Paisley (2018), *Candide* in Glasgow (2022), and *Oedipus Rex* at the Edinburgh International Festival (2024). The extensive touring programme ensures performances of Pop-up Opera and *Opera Highlights* are within reach of as many of Scotland’s dispersed population as possible.

The Company’s Outreach & Education programme, the longest running in Europe, includes in-person and digital Primary Schools Tours, enabling children to perform their own specially commissioned piece. Around 120 schools and 12,000 pupils take part in the live tour each year. The Emerging Artist programme gives early-career professionals comprehensive training for today’s opera

industry. Breath Cycle, a pioneering initiative for those living with lung conditions, won the 2025 Classical:NEXT Innovation Award. Scottish Opera aims to be inclusive through the availability of free and subsidised tickets, audio-described performances, and Access performances with Dementia Friendly values at their core.

Worldwide audiences can experience Scottish Opera through recordings. Recent audio recordings featuring The Orchestra of Scottish Opera include *Utopia, Limited* (NAXOS 2025), *The Seal Woman* (Retrospect Opera 2025), and *Shamus O’Brien* (Retrospect Opera 2024). The Company’s 2021 production of *The Gondoliers* is available on BBC iPlayer, and the 2025 production of *Trial by Jury* / *A Matter of Misconduct!* is available on OperaVision worldwide (both productions filmed live at Edinburgh’s Festival Theatre). *Josefine*, by Samuel Bordoli and Antonia Bain, is the UK’s first newly commissioned opera for animation; it has won numerous awards at international film festivals since its July 2024 world premiere.

**Scottish Opera is core funded by The Scottish Government.**

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