

The year in numbers

116,960 people experienced Scottish Opera in 2019/20

56 mainstage opera performances

35 Opera Highlights productions across Scotland

4 opera in concert performances

75 Pop-up Opera performances

2,422 people at performances for under 3s

40,177 participants in school activities

1,123 participants in Dementia Friendly projects

32 of **32** local authority areas



The List
Tosca



Bachtrack
Tosca



The Reviews Hub
The Magic Flute



The Scotsman
Breaking the Waves



The Observer
Nixon in China



The Herald
Nixon in China



The List
Fox-tot!



Edinburgh Festivals for Kids
Fox-tot!



ScotsGay Arts
Amadeus & The Bard

'Restores faith in opera as an art form.'

Seen and Heard International
on *Breaking the Waves*

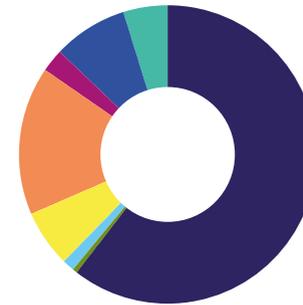
'Unstintingly powerful and imaginative.'

The Scotsman
on *Nixon in China*

Income

In the 2019/20 financial year, Scottish Opera's total income was made up as follows:

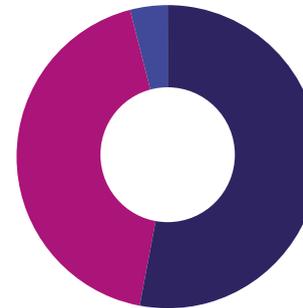
Scottish Government	60.5%
International Touring Fund	0.5%
Cross Border Touring Fund	1.3%
Theatre Tax Credit	6.2%
Box Office	16.1%
Education	2.5%
Fundraising	8.1%
Other	4.8%



Fundraising

The total amount raised through fundraising (shown above) is made up as follows:

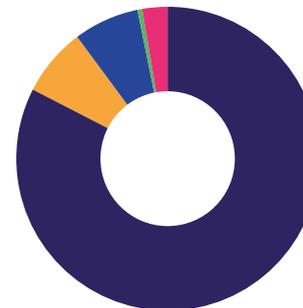
Individuals	53.8%
Trusts & Foundations	42.2%
Corporate (incl. in-kind)	4.0%



Expenditure

In the financial year 2019/20, Scottish Opera's total expenditure was made up as follows:

Productions	82.8%
Education	7.3%
Support Costs	7.0%
Governance	0.2%
Fundraising	2.7%



Front cover image: Eric Greene and Julia Sporsén in *Nixon in China*
Photos: James Glossop, Sally Jubb.

scottishopera.org.uk

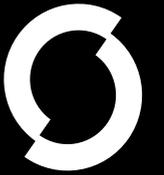
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Annual Report

April 2019 – March 2020



Scottish
Opera





The Magic Flute



Tosca



Nixon in China



Breaking the Waves



Amadeus and The Bard



Fox-tot!

In the 2019/20 financial year, Scottish Opera presented **56** mainstage performances of four operas: two revivals – Sir Thomas Allen’s *The Magic Flute*, which toured Scotland, then Belfast and London, and Anthony Besch’s *Tosca* – and two new productions – the Scottish Opera premiere of *Nixon in China* and the European premiere of *Breaking the Waves*. A fifth production, Britten’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, was rehearsed but postponed due to Covid-19. 2019/20 saw an exciting range of small-scale touring, festival and education activity, the Company reaching **116,960** people in total. This work is supported by The Scottish Government and many individuals, companies and trusts. Thanks are due to them all for their ongoing generosity.

Concert Performances

Music Director **Stuart Stratford** continued to curate The Sunday Series, returning to his exploration of works by Pietro Mascagni. The UK premiere of *Silvano* took place in Glasgow with a second performance in Edinburgh, followed by the Scottish premiere of *Iris*. Following a successful debut at the Lammermuir Festival in 2018, the 2019 festival featured Scottish Opera in semi-staged performances of Mascagni’s *Zanetto* and Wolf-Ferrari’s *Susanna’s Secret*.

Young Talent

Members of **Scottish Opera Young Company** continued to expand their repertoire, rehearsing a new production of Sondheim’s *The Frogs*, though performances were sadly cancelled due to Covid-19. New commission *Amadeus & The Bard* toured public venues and secondary schools, telling stories from the lives of WA Mozart and Robert Burns through extracts from their work. The performers included senior members of the Young Company, several in their first paid roles, performing alongside professional actors and musicians.

In the Community

Scottish Opera travelled to all **32** local authority areas in 2019/20, with performances of *Opera Highlights* and *Pop-up Opera*, and a variety of outreach work. The education team delivered workshops and performances in Scotland, Newcastle, Northampton, Oman and China, involving a total of **51,229** participants and audience members. The Primary Schools Tour, *Warriors! The Emperor’s Incredible Army*, visited **104** schools (with a further 9 cancelled due to Covid-19).

Scottish Opera became the first company in Scotland to collaborate with Disney on **‘Disney Musicals in Schools’**. Five schools with little previous performing arts provision produced their own Disney KIDS musical with help from the Scottish Opera team. Work with older audiences continued, with Spinning Songs, Memory Spinners and **Dementia Friendly Performances** (specially created versions of *The Magic Flute* and *Tosca*). The Scottish Opera **Community Choir** continued into a new term – and a new format – meeting in person at the beginning of the year before moving online after lockdown.

Making Waves at the Edinburgh Festivals

In Summer 2019, the European premiere of Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek’s *Breaking the Waves* was presented in collaboration with the **Edinburgh International Festival**, and co-produced with Opera Ventures, Adelaide Festival and Houston Grand Opera. The performances were a must-see, with critics and audiences alike praising this bold new opera. Singer Sydney Mancasola won a **Festival Herald Angel Award**. *Breaking the Waves* enjoyed huge success at the Adelaide Festival in Australia with support from the International Touring Fund, though further touring was postponed. Scottish Opera also made waves with younger audiences at the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe**, and *Fox-tot!*, a new opera for 12-24 month olds, premiered to sell-out crowds.

10 Years of Emerging Artists

The start of 2020 marked 10 years of Scottish Opera’s **Emerging Artists** programme. Our 2019/20 recruits included four singers, a costume trainee, a répétiteur, and a producer. The singers took part in a variety of projects including mainstage productions, *Opera Highlights* and *Amadeus & The Bard*. Samuel Bordoli (Composer in Residence) made a number of exciting contributions, including a new piece for *Opera Highlights*, *Hermia’s Nightmare* (a companion piece to *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, postponed due to Covid-19) and the Company’s first digital opera, *The Narcissistic Fish*.

Online Opera

Stuart Macrae and Louise Welsh’s 2019 production, *Anthropocene*, enjoyed a second lease of life on OperaVision. This was the first time a Scottish Opera production had been filmed specifically for online viewing, with **4971** viewers in 19/20. (*Anthropocene* won a Scottish Awards for New Music award in 2020 and has attracted a further **3504** viewers in the 20/21 financial year.) The Company’s digital ambitions continued to develop, with filming for a first made-for-digital opera, *The Narcissistic Fish*, ahead of the film’s premiere in June 2020. It has since had over **60,000** views on YouTube.

Championing 20th Century Opera

In March 2020, John Fulljames directed John Adams’ iconic work, *Nixon in China*, a new co-production with The Royal Danish Theatre and Teatro Real Madrid. A major new production for the Company, the sell-out shows attracted five star reviews with *The Herald* calling it “one of the most rewarding and thought-provoking evenings available in any theatre this year”. The production was shortlisted for a 2020 Royal Philharmonic Society Award in the Opera and Music Theatre category.