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##### Press Release

4 May 2022

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR SCOTTISH OPERA’S SUMMER POP-UP OPERA TOUR**

Scottish Opera’s hugely popular Pop-up Opera kicks off on 3 June at Glamis Castle before visiting iconic and surprising locations all over Scotland until 10 July including Mugdock Country Park, North Bragar on the Isle of Lewis, Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life and Perth Concert Hall.

Audiences can enjoy outdoor shows of *A Little Bit of Barber* and *A Little Bit of Figaro*, making it an ideal opportunity for anyone new to opera to try a taster of Rossini and Mozart’s classic comedies which have been cleverly re-scored by Scottish Opera’s Head of Music, **Derek Clark**. They are performed alongside Scottish Opera original, *Be A Sport, Spike!* withmusic by**Karen MacIver** and words by **Ross Stenhouse***.*

Aimed at children aged 4 to 8, *Be A Sport, Spike!* was originally commissioned for Festival 2018, the cultural programme for the Glasgow European Championships and tells the story of Mike ‘The Spike’ McTavish, the greatest sportsman the world has ever seen. There’s no-one who can run faster, jump higher or swim further than mega-fit Spike. But there is one thing that Spike can’t do – sing! Audiences will join Spike and his friends as he starts to exercise those vocal cords, and finds out that a little perseverance can go a long way.

The 30-minute shows are brought to life by storyteller **Allan Dunn**, along with singers **Sarah Power, Jessica Leary** and **Andrew McTaggart**, and cellist **Andrew Drummond Huggan** and guitarist **Sasha Savaloni**. A series of colourful illustrations help guide audiences through the plot.

Scottish Opera’sDirector of Education, **Jane Davidson**, said: ‘The last couple of years have proved beyond doubt that Scottish audiences are prepared to turn out to enjoy Pop-up Opera in all weathers – so once again we are taking to the road, visiting locations and venues across Scotland, with another trio of productions. We are delighted to present a double bill featuring one of the most famous characters in the entire operatic repertoire; *The Barber of Seville* and his subsequent adventures in *The Marriage of Figaro*, while for children and their families in particular, we tell the story of Mike ‘The Spike’ McTavish -  the world’s greatest all round sporting hero!  So why not book an appointment with the best barber in town, dance at Figaro’s wedding or learn to be a sport with Spike?’

During last year’s Pop-up Opera Roadshow there were 197 performances, which attracted an audience of over 11,000, condensing five fun-filled Gilbert & Sullivan classics and all their frivolity into 30 minute performances of *A Little Bit of… The Gondoliers, The Mikado, The Pirates of Penzance, HMS Pinafore* and *Iolanthe*. For many, it was the first time they had come to a live performance since lockdown, many braving wind and rain to attend. One audience member commented how it was ‘great to be back seeing and hearing gorgeous music again’, whilst others enjoyed being able to watch a show so close to home.

Pop-up Operais supported by Friends of Scottish Opera.

Tickets are on sale at [www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/pop-up-opera-2022/](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/pop-up-opera-2022/) from 4 May.

Dates and locations are listed below, with more to be announced.

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

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

**Cast**

**Storyteller** Allan Dunn

**Sopranos** Sarah Power / Jessica Leary

**Baritone** Andrew McTaggart

**Cello** Andrew Drummond Huggan

**Guitar** Sasha Savaloni

Tour dates

**Glamis Castle, Angus, DD8 1RJ**

Friday 3 June: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Slessor Gardens, Dundee, DD1 3AZ**

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 June: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Mugdock Country Park, Milngavie, Glasgow, G62 8EL**

Thursday 9 June: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Duthie Park, Polmuir Road, Aberdeen, AB11 7TH**

Friday 10 June: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Haddo House, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, AB41 7EQ**

Saturday 11 June: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Mackie Academy, Slug Rd, Stonehaven, AB39 3DF**

Sunday 12 June: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Eden Court, Bishops Road, Inverness, IV3 5SA**

Wednesday 15 June: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Strathpeffer Pavilion, The Square, Strathpeffer, IV14 9DW**

Thursday 16 June: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life, Heritage Way, Coatbridge, ML5 1QD**

Saturday 18 June: 11am, 1.30 & 3pm

**The Beacon, Custom House Quay, Greenock PA15 1HJ**

On sale soon

**Grinneabhat, North Bragar, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9DA**

Wednesday 22 June: 12, 2 and 3.30pm

**Carradale Village Hall, Carradale, PA28 6QG**

Saturday 25 June: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Mount Stuart, Rothesay, Isle of Bute, PA20 9LR**

Sunday 26 June: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Crichton Memorial Church, Dumfries, DG1 4ZE**

Wednesday 29 June: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Fisherrow Links, Musselburgh, EH21 7RE**

Thursday 30 June: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Kilmardinny House Arts Centre, Kilmardinny Avenue, Bearsden, Glasgow, G61 3NN**

Friday 1 July: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**Albert Halls, Dumbarton Rd, Stirling, FK8 2Q**

Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 July: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**St Roch's Primary School, 267 Royston Road, Glasgow, G21 2BS** (not public performances)

Wednesday 6 July

**Ruchill Park, Glasgow, G20 9LS** (not public performances)

Thursday 7 July

**Perth Concert Hall, Mill Street, Perth, PH1 5HZ**

Friday 8 July: 12, 2 & 3.30pm

**New Park Square, Airborne Place (off Lochside Avenue), Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9GR**

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 July: 12, 2, and 3.30pm

Notes to Editors

The Company’s Opera on Screen productions are available to watch at: [www.scottishopera.org.uk/what-s-on/opera-on-screen/](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk/what-s-on/opera-on-screen/).

The collection includes Donizetti’s *L’elisir d’amore*, Humperdinck’s *Hansel and Gretel*, Mozart’s *Così fan tutte*, *Opera Highlights*, Janáček’s *The Diary of One Who Disappeared*, Menotti’s *The Telephone* and Samuel Bordoli and Jenni Fagan’s *The Narcissistic Fish*.  
Scottish Opera is Scotland’s national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland.

The Company's performance repertoire ranges across five centuries, from the earliest operas to newly-commissioned world premieres, working in collaboration with the world's finest singers and creatives, alongside The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and choruses. Recent accolades include a South Bank Sky Arts Award, a Scottish Award for New Music, Sunday Herald Culture Awards and a Herald Angel, as well as a 2020 RPS Award. In 2021 the Company returned to live audiences with Sir David McVicar’s new production of Verdi’s *Falstaff* performed in Glasgow and at Edinburgh International Festival.

The Company tours extensively across Scotland, from the largest-scale theatres to the smallest of rural venues, to ensure we are within reach of as many of our country's very dispersed population as possible. Our specially-adapted 40-foot long trailer brings ‘Pop-up Opera’ performances to thousands of people each year in a range of inspiring and unexpected community locations. In the summer of 2021 the Company performed nearly 200 shows of its Pop-up Opera Roadshow, to socially distanced audiences of 11,014 people. This is one of the most extensive touring programmes of any European opera company and a much-valued contribution to Scotland’s cultural and artistic life, particularly in remote and island communities.

The Company’s Education and Outreach programme, which celebrated 50 years in 2021, includes an annual Primary Schools Tour, bringing upper primary-aged children the opportunity to perform their own specially-commissioned piece, alongside three professional singers. Around 120 schools and 9,000 pupils take part each year.

Scottish Opera aims to be inclusive and affordable through availability of free and cheap tickets, as well as performances offering audio description, and specially-devised shorter access performances.



**For additional press details please contact:**

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