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**Press Release**

24 January 2023

**SIR DAVID MCVICAR RETURNS TO SCOTTISH OPERA TO DIRECT PUCCINI’S**

***IL TRITTICO* FOR THE FIRST TIME**

On March 11, *Il trittico (*The Triptych) — a new production of Puccini’s *Il tabarro* (The Cloak), *Suor Angelica* (Sister Angelica) and *Gianni Schicchi* — opens at Theatre Royal Glasgow before touring to Festival Theatre Edinburgh. Directed by the world-renowned Scot Sir David McVicar, who last worked with the Company on its 2021 production of Verdi’s *Falstaff,* this is thefirst time he has directed the epic triple bill and the first time Scottish Opera has staged it. Only one complete performance of *Il trittico* has taken place in Scotland, at King’s Theatre, Glasgow, in 1957 by Sadler’s Wells Opera.

A new co-production with Welsh National Opera, this glorious trio of one-act operas tell the stories of people trapped by circumstances and unfulfilled desire. *Il tabarro* sees a wife stuck in a marriage she longs to escape, *Suor Angelica* isthe tale of an outsider forced into a life for which she has no vocation,and *Gianni Schicchi* focuses on a dysfunctional family caught in the snare of a shameless conman.

The set designs by **Charles Edwards** span the 1920s, 50s and 70s and take inspiration from the city of Glasgow and the work of French-Hungarian photographer Brassaï, as well as OscarMarzaroli, who was famous for capturing images of Glasgow from the 1950s to 1980s.

Scottish Opera Music Director **Stuart Stratford** conducts **Roland Wood** (*Don Giovanni* 2022), **Sunyoung Seo, Viktor Antipenko, Francesca Chiejina, Julian Close**(making their Scottish Opera debuts), **Jamie MacDougall**(*Candide* 2022), **Louise Winter** (*Falstaff* 2021), **Máire Flavin** (*Opera Highlights* 2018) andinternationally-acclaimed Scottish mezzo-soprano **Karen Cargill** (*Bluebeard’s Castle* 2017). They are joined by former Scottish Opera Emerging Artists **Elgan Llŷr Thomas** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* 2022) and **Sioned Gwen Davies** (*The Gondoliers* 2022).

*Il trittico* has an early start timeof 6pm,with a long second interval for dinner and drinks. Audiences are able to order food from the theatre in advance, and are advised to do so as early as possible as availability is limited.

Director **Sir David McVicar** said: ‘*Il trittico* is such a huge project, with a big and exceptional cast performing in three separate operas, a gripping evening in the theatre that takes us from the dark drama of *Il tabarro*, through the unbearable heartbreak of *Suor Angelica* to the acerbic and hilarious *Gianni Schicchi*, one of the greatest comic operas ever composed. It’s beautiful, tragic, hilarious, epic, and I couldn’t be prouder to be directing Scottish Opera’s first ever production of the three operas, so rarely seen, as Puccini intended, performed in one evening.’

Scottish Opera Music Director**, Stuart Stratford**, said: ‘*Il trittico* is the Mount Everest of the Puccini operas. These three, great one-act operas have a most concise structure which makes them so devastating to watch, and yet each is a perfect world in its own right, complete with a different way of delivery of musical material from the performers. Puccini has a special sound world for each, from the French impressionism and passion of *Il tabarro* to the unbearably sweet, yet poignant, outbursts of *Suor Angelica*, to the quick-fire stand-up comedy of *Gianni Schicchi*, leaving the listener after four hours having gone on an exhausting, challenging yet memorable climb to the summit.’

Scottish Opera General Director, **Alex Reedijk** said: ‘It’s something of a serendipitous confluence that this year sees our 60th Anniversary, Sir David McVicar’s return to Scottish Opera and the staging of Puccini’s triptych by the Company for the very first time. What a way to celebrate our Diamond Anniversary! We are so excited to bring these incredible operas to Glasgow and Edinburgh, where audiences can expect a truly memorable theatrical experience and the chance to hear all three glorious operas in one night.’

The Company recently launched new afternoon Access shows to allow audience members the flexibility and freedom to relax and move about as required during performances. This Season there will be Access performances (supported by **Scottish Opera's Education Angels**) of *Gianni Schicchi* in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

With Dementia Friendly values at their core, these shorter performances (under two hours including an interval) are open to all, whether you’re recovering from an operation, have breathing difficulties, are living with dementia, have a young baby or on the autism spectrum.

The Access performances, which include a presenter to help guide audiences through the story, are conducted by Head of Music **Derek Clark**, and performed by a cast of singers. Doors open 45 minutes before the start time so there is no need to rush, brighter lighting levels than usual in the auditorium and there are television screens around the theatre for those who prefer to watch in the lobby or sit in a quiet area.

Half-hour pre-show talks, delving into the detail of *Il trittico* are also available this season. Those who are visually impaired can take advantage of audio-described performances, where a live commentary is provided, describing the action on stage without compromising the music. As part of the experience, a recorded introduction to the operas is provided in advance, and there is a free Touch Tour of the set and a live audio introduction before the start of the performance.

*Il trittico* is supported by **Dunard Fund**, **The Alexander Gibson Circle, Scottish Opera’s ‘Play a Supporting Role’ Appeal**, and **The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust**.

-ENDS-

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

**Creatives**

Conductor **Stuart Stratford**

Director **Sir David McVicar**

Set designer **Charles Edwards**

Costume designer **Hannah Clark**

Lighting designer **Ben Pickersgill**

**Movement director Gareth Mole**

Associate director **Greg Eldridge**

**Cast**

***Il tabarro***

Michele **Roland Wood**

Giorgetta **Sunyoung Seo**

Luigi **Viktor Antipenko**

Talpa **Julian Close**

Tinca **Jamie MacDougall**

La Frugola **Louise Winter**

Young Lovers **Francesca Chiejina**& **Elgan Llŷr Thomas**

Venditore **Osian Wyn Bowen**

***Suor Angelica***

Suor Angelica **Sunyoung Seo**

The Princess **Karen Cargill**

The Abbess **Sioned Gwen Davies**

Suor Genovieffa **Francesca Chiejina**

Novice  **Zoe Drummond**

Suor Zelatrice **Lea Shaw**

Mistress of Novices **Karen Murray**

La sorella infermiera **Heather Ireson**

***Gianni Schicchi***

Gianni Schicchi **Roland Wood**

Lauretta **Francesca Chiejina**

Zita **Louise Winter**

Simone **Julian Close**

Rinuccio **Elgan Llŷr Thomas**

Gherardo **Jamie MacDougall**

Nella **Máire Flavin**

La Ciesca **Sioned Gwen Davies**

Doctor **Richard Suart**

Notary **Timothy Dickinson**

Performance diary

***Il trittico***

Theatre Royal Glasgow

11, 15, 18 March 2023, 6pm

Pre-show talk and Touch Tour, 18 March, 4.45pm

Audio-described performance, 18 March 6pm

Access *Gianni Schicchi*, 16 March, 3pm

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

22 & 25 March 2023, 6pm

Pre-show talk and Touch Tour, 25 March, 4.45pm

Audio-described performance, 25 March, 6pm

Access *Gianni Schicchi*, 23 March, 3pm

Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera is Scotland’s national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. The Company was founded in 1962 by Sir Alexander Gibson with the goal ‘to lay the treasures of opera at the feet of the people of Scotland’, opening with performances of Madama Butterfly and Pelléas et Mélisande. The 2022/23 season marks its 60th Anniversary.

Scottish Opera’s performance repertoire ranges across five centuries, from the earliest operas to newly-commissioned world premieres, balancing favourites with under-explored works. The Company collaborates with the world’s finest singers and creatives, together with The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and choruses for each opera. Recent accolades include a South Bank Sky Arts Award, a Scottish Award for New Music, Sunday Herald Culture Awards, a 2017 UK Theatre Award, and a 2020 RPS Award. The Company took operas to Brooklyn in 2017 and Adelaide in 2020, and the 2022/23 season sees productions first staged at Scottish Opera appearing in Santa Fe, Madrid, Toulouse, and Los Angeles. The 60th Anniversary Season includes the UK fully-staged premiere of Osvaldo Golijov’s Ainadamar and the Company premiere of Puccini’s Il trittico.

The Company tours extensively across Scotland to ensure performances are within reach of as many of the country’s dispersed population as possible – this year, 60 locations across the length and breadth of the country. Specially-adapted 40-foot long trailers bring Pop-up Opera performances to thousands of people each year. 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 & Outreach programme, the oldest in Europe, includes an annual in-person and digital Primary Schools Tour, bringing children the opportunity to perform their own specially commissioned piece alongside 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.

Scottish Opera is committed to making opera for all, presenting opera at the highest possible standards in theatres across the country, outdoors on tour, and digital audiences around the world. The Company’s 2021 production of The Gondoliers, filmed live at Festival Theatre Edinburgh, is available on BBC iPlayer. Scottish Opera’s 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, Menotti’s The Telephone, and Samuel Bordoli and Jenni Fagan’s The Narcissistic Fish. A new commission will be announced in 2023.

**For additional press details please contact:**

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