



THE NEXT ERA

Scottish Opera
Season 2026/27

Thank you to our incredible supporters who make it possible for Scottish Opera to create unforgettable performances across Scotland and beyond, nurture Emerging Artists, retain and develop the skills of opera artisans in Scotland, improve opera's accessibility, share the artform with school children, and enrich the lives of people living with health issues.

Find out more about supporting Scottish Opera at scottishopera.org.uk/support-us

We warmly thank Dunard Fund for their continued commitment to Scottish Opera, and welcome Laidlaw Opera Trust as a valued new partner.

Thank you to all our sponsors:



Welcome	3
The Galloping Cure	4
Britten: Music for Voice and Orchestra	6
Turandot	8
Alcina	10
Fidelio	12
Madama Butterfly	14
Così fan tutte	16
Gala concerts: Aberdeen & Inverness	18
Accessible performances	20
Opera On Your Doorstep:	22
Hansel & Gretel	
Pop-up Opera	24
20 years of Alex Reedijk	26
Across Scotland	28
Building for the next era	32
Community wellbeing	36
Opera in schools	38
On the world stage / exhibitions	40
Priority booking	43
Venue information	44
Performance diary	46

26
27

Welcome to the
2026/27 Season



Opera is alive every day at Scottish Opera. We believe in the power of music, drama, and great art to provoke thought and move people to their core. Bringing opera to everyone across Scotland remains central to our mission in this 20th year of Alex Reedijk's tenure as General Director. In our uncertain world, we marshal every available resource to bring the beauty and impact of this extraordinary art form to Scotland's stages.

Six new productions comprise the core of our 2026/27 Season. Our unwavering dedication to new work and opera's future continues with the world premiere of Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek's *The Galloping Cure*, a dazzlingly inventive opera exploring the human toll of the opioid crisis, at the Edinburgh International Festival. Our five subsequent mainstage productions – Puccini's *Turandot* and *Madama Butterfly*, Handel's *Alcina*, Beethoven's *Fidelio*, and Mozart's *Così fan tutte* in collaboration with the new Advanced Artist Diploma in Opera from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland – are no less vibrant and urgent for today's audiences.

These works are not museum pieces. They ask difficult questions about identity, freedom, and betrayal – questions that constantly re-emerge in our daily lives. Spanning almost 300 years of operatic innovation, these are tales of transformation and transcendence, love and loss, finding oneself, and standing up for truth and goodness in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Many of these operas centre on brilliant, complex, powerful women, and Scottish Opera is proud to champion the women shaping opera's future. This Season features the work of composers and directors including Missy Mazzoli, Olivia Fuchs, Ruth Knight, Daisy Evans, Rebecca Meltzer and Lucy Bradley. We hope you find something to treasure.

Taking opera out on the road across Scotland remains at the heart of our activity. Alongside our annual Pop-up Opera tour, with three miniaturised operas, we present *Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel*. Visiting 34 communities, this staging introduces audiences to some of our new Emerging Artists and features a children's chorus local to each venue, affirming our commitment to opera's next era. Our Outreach & Education programme continues and expands, proving the benefits of arts and music for personal development, wellbeing, and community.

We are immensely grateful to everyone who buys a ticket or generously supports the Company as a Patron or a Friend. As ever, we are thankful to the Scottish Government for ongoing core funding. We invite you to find yourself in our Season and look forward to welcoming you.

Alex Reedijk OBE FRC
General Director

Stuart Stratford
Music Director



THE GALLOPING CURE

MISSY
MAZZOLI

ROYCE
VAVREK

Local doctor Theresa Hart works tirelessly for her community in a fading, forgotten corner of the world. When the charismatic Lucky Mack comes to town, her daughter Noy is captivated. A ride on his carousel – the first one always free – promises miraculous relief from all aches and pains, and soon the whole town is swept up in euphoria. But getting off the ride gets harder with every turn.

This ambitious world premiere developed by **Opera Ventures Productions** and Scottish Opera together with co-producers across three continents reunites the creative forces of **Missy Mazzoli, Royce Vavrek, and Tom Morris** following their Edinburgh International Festival hit *Breaking the Waves* (2019). Mazzoli is a composer at the top of her game. In her most daring work yet, she weaves club beats into a richly textured score, brought to life by conductor **Stuart Stratford** and **The Orchestra of Scottish Opera** alongside a world-class cast including **Daniela Mack, Gabrielle Turgeon, Justin Austin, and Susan Bullock** (*Albert Herring* 2024).

The Galloping Cure is a haunting allegory for a crisis that has become a worldwide epidemic. Visually stunning and emotionally gripping, this contemporary fable evokes a darkly funny and devastating vision of a crumbling society.

A new co-production with **NorrlandsOperan, Canadian Opera Company, San Francisco Opera, and State Opera of South Australia**, co-presented with **Edinburgh International Festival**

Co-commissioned by **Opera Ventures Productions, Scottish Opera, NorrlandsOperan, Edinburgh International Festival, and San Francisco Opera**

Supported by **Scottish Opera's New Commissions Circle; The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust**; and a syndicate of donors including **Howard and Sarah D Solomon Foundation, Susie Thompson, Eli and Ashley Wald, Malcolm Herring, Sally Groves in memory of Dennis Marks, and Ann Orton**

August 2026

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

9 • 11 • 12 August 7pm

Post-show panel

11 August

Audio description / Touch Tour

12 August

Run time approximately

2 hours and 15 minutes

Interval 20 minutes

Sung in English with English supertitles

Contains stylised violence, addiction, and medical malpractice

Composer Missy Mazzoli

Librettist Royce Vavrek

Based on an original story by

Karen Russell

Conductor Stuart Stratford

Director & Dramaturg Tom Morris

Set & Props Designer Rebecca Ringst

Associate Director &

Movement Director Leah Hausman

Costume Designer

Christina Cunningham

Lighting Designer Lucy Carter

Projection Designer Will Duke

Theresa Hart Daniela Mack

Noy Gabrielle Turgeon

Lucky Mack Justin Austin

Ivona Kowalski Susan Bullock

Meg – Dog Catriona Hewitson

Sam – Dog Edward Jowle

Mayor Luvo Maranti

Zoe Rosie Lavery

Erin Lea Shaw

Shawna Donna Bateman

Duane Connor James Smith

Jackie Boy Francis Church

Warren Ross Cumming

The Orchestra of Scottish Opera
The Ensemble of The Galloping Cure



BRITTEN

Les Illuminations

Music for Voice and Orchestra



Revitalising British opera over his four-decade career, Benjamin Britten's lifelong fascination with the human voice yielded several outstanding works for solo voice and orchestra, rivalling anything he wrote for the stage with their drama, sophistication, and emotional impact. They explore everything from the pacifism that profoundly shaped his life to complex moral ambiguities that are as unsettling and captivating now as they were at their premieres.

On the day of Britten's death in 1976, Arvo Pärt was moved to write his *Cantus in memoriam Benjamin Britten* in mourning for his hero. There is no better way to begin this concert, marking 50 years since that day.

Britten's 'symphonic cycle' *Our Hunting Fathers* employs fiercely emotional poetry collated by W H Auden around the theme of hunting to condemn the horror of war and appeal for peace. It remains relevant and revelatory 90 years on.

At the end of his career, his health failing, Britten felt compelled to write his last major piece for solo voice, *Phaedra*, upon hearing Dame Janet Baker in recital. *Phaedra* puts a modern psychological spin on classic mythology and the tortured, tragic passions of Theseus' queen.

Les Illuminations is vivid, intense, and almost hallucinatory. Britten was 25 and in love, exploring passion through the ten contrasting movements and the poetry of Arthur Rimbaud. Here it is performed as originally intended by a soprano – 2026/27 Emerging Artist **Charlotte Jane Kennedy**. Charlotte is joined by two fellow Emerging Artists singers, **Avery Lafrentz** and **Charlotte Clapperton**, conducted by **Douglas Boyd** in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's Kirk, Haddington.

In partnership with **Lammermuir Festival**
Supported by **Friends of Scottish Opera**

September 2026

Lammermuir Festival

St Mary's Kirk, Haddington
11 September 7.30pm

Run time approximately
2 hours

Interval 20 minutes

Sung in French and English with
English supertitles

Arvo Pärt

Cantus in memoriam Benjamin Britten

Benjamin Britten

Les Illuminations

Phaedra

Our Hunting Fathers

On sale 29 May 2026

Conductor Douglas Boyd

Sopranos Charlotte Jane Kennedy
& Avery Lafrentz

Mezzo-soprano Charlotte Clapperton

The Orchestra of Scottish Opera



PUCCINI

Turandot

An Emperor's court decays around him; a princess, haunted by inherited trauma, plays a deadly game of riddles; a visiting prince takes one look and decides to risk his life for love. The stakes could not be higher.

World-renowned Scottish director **Sir David McVicar** brings his visionary storytelling to bear on Puccini's epic, final opera in this, its centenary year. Reuniting with the creative team behind 2023's award-winning *Il trittico*, McVicar confronts the darkness of the work head on, neither flinching from Turandot's trauma nor excusing Prince Calaf's recklessness. Instead, he uncovers a deeply moving tale of two lost souls trapped between fear and desire, until compassion and courage change everything.

Stuart Stratford conducts The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and a stellar cast, with **Trine Bastrup Møller**, **Victor Starsky**, **Insung Sim**, and **Hye-Youn Lee** (*La bohème* 2025), through some of opera's most stirring music – including 'Nessun dorma' and 'In questa reggia'. With opulent set and costume designs by **Charles Edwards** and **Doey Lüthi**, and spectacular lighting by **Ben Pickersgill**, *Turandot's* gothic splendour comes to life in what promises to be a production like no other.

Help bring *Turandot* to life: sponsor a prop, character, or piece of music at scottishopera.org.uk/support-us/play-a-supporting-role

A new co-production with **Irish National Opera**
Supported by **Dunard Fund** and **Scottish Opera's**
'Play A Supporting Role' Appeal

October – November 2026

Theatre Royal Glasgow

22 • 28 • 31 October 7.15pm
4 • 7 November 7.15pm
25 October 3pm

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

11 • 14 • 17 • 19 November 7.15pm
22 November 3pm

Pre-show talks

31 October, 14 November

Audio description / Touch Tours

25 October, 22 November

Run time approximately

2 hours and 50 minutes

First interval 20 minutes

Second interval 15 minutes

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Performed with the Alfano One ending

Contains nudity

Conductor Stuart Stratford

Director Sir David McVicar

Set & Props Designer

Charles Edwards

Costume Designer Doey Lüthi

Lighting Designer Ben Pickersgill

Sound Designer Andy Pink

Choreographer Gareth Mole

Turandot Trine Bastrup Møller

Calaf Victor Starsky

Liù Hye-Youn Lee

Timur Insung Sim / Graeme Broadbent

Emperor Altoum Jamie MacDougall

Ping Josef Jeongmeen Ahn

Pang Aled Hall

Pong Luvu Maranti

Mandarin Daniel Barrett

The Orchestra of Scottish Opera

The Chorus of Turandot

The Children's Chorus of Turandot



HANDEL
ALCINA

There are worse places to find yourself trapped than Club Amnesia. Here, Alcina – performance artist extraordinaire – captivates the men who swarm around her, bending their minds, and reality, to her will. But when she meets Ruggiero, her heart finally softens. Then Ruggiero’s fiancée – disguised as a man to rescue her lost lover – arrives, and a clash of head and heart threatens to shatter the magic, hedonism, and fantasy of Alcina’s illusions.

Olivia Fuchs, director of 2025’s five-star *The Makropulos Affair*, transports Handel’s romantic fantasy to the vibrant, flamboyant, all-intoxicating club scene, joyfully toying with opera’s power and gender dynamics. Colourful designs by **Yannis Thavoris** (*Marx in London!* 2024) and lighting by **Jake Wiltshire** (*Albert Herring* 2024) bring this story of love, imagination, transformation, and human frailty to life.

Alcina contains some of Handel’s finest arias, from the aching ‘Verdi prati’ to the scintillating ‘Tornami a vagheggiar’. Renowned conductor **Dmitri Jurowski** is on the podium, and the cast includes **Madeline Boreham**, making her hotly anticipated Company debut in the title role; 2026/27 Emerging Artists **Charlotte Clapperton**, **Charlotte Jane Kennedy**, and **Luvo Maranti**; and Emerging Artist alumni **Chloe Harris** and **Edward Jowle** (both *The Marriage of Figaro* 2026).

Supported by **The Scottish Opera Syndicate**

February 2027

Theatre Royal Glasgow

6 • 11 February 7.15pm
14 February 3pm

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

25 • 27 February 7.15pm

Pre-show talks

11 February, 27 February

Audio description / Touch Tours

14 February, 27 February

Run time approximately

2 hours and 30 minutes

Interval 20 minutes

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Contains drug misuse

Conductor Dmitri Jurowski

Director Olivia Fuchs

Designer Yannis Thavoris

Lighting Designer Jake Wiltshire

Alcina Madeline Boreham

Ruggiero Charlotte Clapperton

Morgana Charlotte Jane Kennedy

Bradamante Chloe Harris

Oronte Luvo Maranti

Melisso Edward Jowle

The Orchestra of Scottish Opera
The Chorus of Alcina



BEETHOVEN

FIDELIO

Beethoven



Leonore has been waiting for news of her husband for two long years. Rumour has it he is dead; she suspects that he has been secretly imprisoned by a corrupt nobleman. In despair and hope, she takes matters into her own hands, disguising herself as a man and taking a job with the kindly gaoler Rocco. As *Fidelio* – the faithful one – her hard work earns Rocco’s respect, not to mention the affections of his daughter. Risking everything, can she rescue her husband and reclaim their lost life?

Beethoven’s only opera – a remarkable outlier in his expansive body of works – is a triumphant tale of freedom of conscience in the face of oppression, affirming the power of the human spirit to overcome the worst of circumstances. With its timeless message and soaring score, including the stirring Prisoners’ Chorus, *Fidelio* continues to take on new and varied meanings.

This new staging by director **Ruth Knight** and designers **Yannis Thavoris** (*Marx in London!* 2024) and **Alisa Kalyanova** creates a rich period-inspired world within which the vivid characters take charge of their destinies. The cast includes **Julia Sporsén** (*Nixon in China* 2020) as Leonore / *Fidelio* and **Thorbjørn Gulbrandsøy** (*The Makropulos Affair* 2025) as Florestan.

Beethoven 200

To mark the 200th anniversary of Beethoven’s death, in 2027 Scotland’s orchestras and national opera company unite for an extraordinary exploration of the composer’s music. Look out for the Beethoven 200 logo and join in the celebrations.

Supported by **The Scottish Opera Syndicate**
and **The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust**

February 2027

Theatre Royal Glasgow

17 • 19 February 7.15pm

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

26 February 7.15pm

Pre-show talks

19 February, 26 February

Audio description / Touch Tours

19 February, 26 February

Run time approximately

2 hours and 25 minutes

Interval 20 minutes

Sung in German with English
dialogue and supertitles

Dialogue translation by Ruth Knight

Conductor Kensho Watanabe

Director Ruth Knight

Set & Props Designer

Yannis Thavoris

Costume Designer

Alisa Kalyanova

Lighting Designer Jake Wiltshire

Leonore Julia Sporsén

Florestan Thorbjørn Gulbrandsøy

Rocco Edward Hawkins

Don Pizarro Daniel Barrett

Marzelline Catriona Hewitson

Jaquino Trystan Llŷr Griffiths

Don Fernando Ossian Huskinson

The Orchestra of Scottish Opera
The Chorus of Fidelio

PUCCINI

MADAMA BUTTERFLY



When the young Cio-Cio-San marries the handsome US Navy Lieutenant Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton, she gives up everything – after all, he has promised her a new life, and the warnings of her nearest and dearest seem trivial in the face of true love. Years later, she waits eagerly for his return and to introduce him to his son, but his arrival leads only to tragedy.

Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* has moved audiences to tears for over a century, asking them to accept that Cio-Cio-San's suffering is beautiful; that Pinkerton's betrayal is inevitable; that a woman's destruction is the price of a meaningful story. But this 'Butterfly for the ages' (*The Arts Desk*) refuses this bargain. The opera is reimagined as a journey through memory and identity by director **Daisy Evans** and designer **Kat Heath** (both *Albert Herring* 2024), with 'stunning' lighting by **Jake Wiltshire** and costumes by **Catherine Fay**. In their hands, *Madama Butterfly* becomes urgent and human – a meditation on what we inherit, what we conceal, and what it costs when the truth is finally brought to light.

Coming to Scotland after a triumphant run in Dublin, this production's first-rate cast includes **Sunyoung Seo** (*Il trittico* 2023) as Cio-Cio-San, **Andrés Presno** as Pinkerton, **Lea Shaw** (*L'heure espagnole* 2025) as Suzuki, and **Phillip Rhodes** (*La traviata* 2024) as Sharpless.

A co-production with **Irish National Opera**
Supported by **The Alexander Gibson Circle**

May – June 2027

Theatre Royal Glasgow

1 • 11 • 15 • 19 • 22 May 7.15pm

9 May 3pm

Relaxed Access performance 20 May
3pm (see page 20)

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

27 May 7.15pm

1 • 3 • 5 June 7.15pm

30 May 3pm

Relaxed Access performance 4 June
3pm (see page 20)

Eden Court, Inverness

10 June 7.15pm

12 June 5pm

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen

17 June 7.15pm

19 June 5pm

Pre-show talks

15 May, 5 June, 12 June, 19 June

Audio description / Touch Tours

9 May, 30 May, 12 June, 19 June

Running time 2 hours and 35 minutes

Interval 20 minutes

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Conductors Stuart Stratford

& Toby Hession

Director Daisy Evans

Set & Props Designer Kat Heath

Costume Designer Catherine Fay

Lighting Designer Jake Wiltshire

Cio-Cio-San Sunyoung Seo

B F Pinkerton Andrés Presno

Suzuki Lea Shaw

Sharpless Phillip Rhodes

Goro Luvo Maranti

Kate Pinkerton Yvonne Howard

Prince Yamadori Daniel Barrett

The Orchestra of Scottish Opera
The Chorus of Madama Butterfly



MOZART

Così fan tutte

Presented in collaboration with the new Advanced Artist Diploma in Opera programme at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, this is a prime chance to experience the future of opera first-hand. A group of hand-picked, international singers in the final stages of their training take on Mozart and Da Ponte's sizzling social satire. Alongside **The Orchestra of Scottish Opera**, and conducted by celebrated period specialist **John Butt**, they bring fresh eyes and fresh voices to this finely honed story and score.

Two high society men engaged to two high society women should spell a straightforward happily ever after. But the men cannot resist a bet laid by their cynical friend, setting in motion one hectic day of disguises, hijinks, and mischief-making. As the couples' games of deception unfold upstairs, the servants downstairs find opportunities to puppeteer the rich and mighty, and this playful, privileged world soon reveals far headier truths of the heart.

Così fan tutte is a journey of discovery set to the most exquisite soundtrack. **Rebecca Meltzer** (*Opera Highlights* Spring 2025) directs this new production with designs by **Kat Heath**, creating a colourful, stylised, and stylish world where not all is as it seems...

May – June 2027

Theatre Royal Glasgow

18 • 21 May 7.15pm

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

29 May 7.15pm

2 June 7.15pm

Pre-show talks

21 May, 2 June

Audio description / Touch Tours

21 May, 2 June

Running time 2 hours and 55 minutes

Interval 20 minutes

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Conductor / Harpsichord John Butt
Conductor (29 May) Stefano Boccacci

Director Rebecca Meltzer

Designer Kat Heath

The Orchestra of Scottish Opera

Gala concerts



November 2026

**His Majesty's Theatre,
Aberdeen**

12 November 7.30pm

Running time 2 hours

Interval 20 minutes

On sale now

HMT 120 Opera Gala

Celebrating 120 years of His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, **The Orchestra of Scottish Opera** and soloists including **Jamie MacDougall** (*L'heure espagnole* 2025) unite for a one-off concert you will not want to miss. With a sense of ceremony befitting the milestone, the Opera Gala invites guests to be part of a moment that looks back with pride and forward with purpose.

This programme is a tour through the greatest popular opera, operetta, and the Great American Songbook, with recognisable melodies that have moved their listeners for generations. Experience the joys of song while supporting Aberdeen's historic theatre, celebrating classics of the art form in spectacular arrangements for full orchestra. It is an evening designed to honour the theatre's legacy, celebrate its place at the heart of Aberdeen, and recognise the cultural generosity that has sustained it for 120 years.



Eden Court: A Night at the Opera!

Fifty years ago, the curtain rose at Eden Court for the first time, with Mozart's *The Magic Flute* among the opening night music. Opera has never been far from its stage since. This special evening celebrates opera in all its colour, drama, and humanity, with a distinctly Scottish heart.

Presented by much-loved broadcaster and tenor **Jamie MacDougall** and with the full forces of **The Orchestra of Scottish Opera**, the evening brings together some of opera's most beloved moments alongside works by and for women that deserve far wider audiences. From the soaring power of Missy Mazzoli's *Breaking the Waves* to iconic arias from *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *The Magic Flute*, this is opera at its most vivid. As a special treat, Jamie also performs a collection of irresistible songs popularised by Harry Lauder.

November 2026

Eden Court, Inverness

20 November 7.30pm

Running time 2 hours

Interval 20 minutes

On sale May 2026

50 1976-2026 **Eden Court**

Accessing opera your way



Access Opera

If a full-length opera does not feel like the right fit, Access performances make coming to a favourite title as easy and stress-free as possible. Whether you are living with dementia or Long COVID, recovering from an operation, find it hard to get out in the evening, or would simply benefit from the relaxed atmosphere, you can enjoy everything opera has to offer.

Tickets £12.50. Free for carers. Groups welcome.

- Audio description available
- English supertitles above the stage
- Shortened running times
- Afternoon start times for easier travel
- A presenter to introduce the story and characters
- Additional front of house staff on hand to welcome you
- Wheelchair spaces and staff to help if you want to transfer
- Brighter lighting levels in the auditorium
- Lower capacity in the Stalls to allow everyone space
- Quiet areas available to take a break if needed

Access Opera – **Madama Butterfly**

Glasgow 20 May 2027, 3pm

Edinburgh 4 June, 3pm

Find out more at scottishopera.org.uk/access

Supported by **Scottish Opera's Education Angels**

Matinees

If you prefer a full-length performance, there are still ways to enjoy our operas with a little extra help if you need it. Our matinee performances of *Turandot*, *Alcina*, and *Madama Butterfly* are audio described (see details opposite), with English supertitles, and quiet areas are available. Matinees finish before 6pm, so you can enjoy the magic of the theatre and still be home in time for tea!

If you would like help booking, or deciding which seat would be best for you, call **0141 248 4567** to talk through the options.

Audio-described performances

For those who are living with sight loss, this service provides live commentary, describing the action on stage without compromising the music. As part of the experience, recorded information about the opera is available in advance online, and there is a live audio introduction before the performance. At full-length performances (listed on this page), audience members can also book a free Touch Tour – an opportunity to become more familiar with the set, scenery, props, and costumes before the performance starts.

Call your local box office to book.
Discounts available. Guide dogs welcome.

The Galloping Cure

Edinburgh 12 August 2026, 7pm

Turandot

Glasgow 25 October, 3pm

Edinburgh 22 November, 3pm

Alcina

Glasgow 14 February 2027, 3pm

Edinburgh 27 February, 7.15pm

Fidelio

Glasgow 19 February, 7.15pm

Edinburgh 26 February, 7.15pm

Madama Butterfly

Glasgow 9 May, 3pm

Edinburgh 30 May, 3pm

Inverness 12 June, 5pm

Aberdeen 19 June, 5pm

Così fan tutte

Glasgow 21 May, 7.15pm

Edinburgh 2 June, 7.15pm

Touch Tours start 1 hour and 15 minutes before the performance time and last for 30 minutes. If you have any questions about our access services please call **0141 248 4567** or email tickets@scottishopera.org.uk



HUMPERDINCK

Hansel & Gretel



Opera On Your Doorstep

There is something truly special about the opera arriving in town. This Season, Scottish Opera brings one of the most enchanting tales in the repertoire, and a family favourite, to 34 locations across Scotland.

Humperdinck's *Hansel & Gretel* is a story that speaks to all of us: two children, lost and hungry in a darkening forest, summoning every scrap of courage and wit to outsmart a very wicked witch indeed.

This beautifully crafted five-singer production, directed by **Lucy Bradley** and accompanied by an intimate piano arrangement, strips the opera back to its storytelling heart. An exciting cast including many current and previous Emerging Artists and, at select venues, a local children's chorus bring this fairy tale to life.

Whether you are a lifelong opera lover or coming along for the very first time, prepare to be enchanted.

Scottish Opera produces world-class work at every scale. The Company's extensive touring programme is one of the largest of any opera company, ensuring performances are within reach of as many of Scotland's dispersed population as possible.

Supported by **Friends of Scottish Opera, The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust, and Laidlaw Opera Trust**

2026 – 2027

Autumn 2026 Tour

8 October–14 November
Touring to Stirling, Peebles, Duns, Maybole, St Andrews, Glengarnock, Seil, Bowmore, Campbeltown, Strontian, Pitlochry, Ullapool, Linciate, Portree, Beauly, Lossiemouth, and Stranraer
On sale Summer 2026

Spring 2027 Tour

2 February–13 March
Touring to Greenock, Cumnock, Dumfries, Kelso, Langholm, Linlithgow, Mid Yell, Lerwick, Peterhead, Newtonmore, Arisaig, Gairloch, Kinlochbervie, Thurso, Tain, Aboyne, and Dundee
On sale Winter 2026

Run time approximately
2 hours
Interval 20 minutes
Sung in English
English translation by David Pountney

Music Director / Pianist

José Javier Ucendo & Alistair Burton

Director Lucy Bradley

Designer Janis Hart

Hansel Charlotte Clapperton

Gretel Charlotte Jane Kennedy
& Holly Teague

Gertrude (Mother) / Witch

Avery Lafrentz & Rosie Lavery

Peter (Father) Alexey Gusev
& Ross Cumming

Sandman / Dew Fairy Emily Wishart
& Audrey Tsang

Pop-up Opera

Scottish Opera's Pop-up Opera returns with two new 30-minute shows: A Little Bit of *Rigoletto* and A Little Bit of *The Elixir of Love*. These miniaturised classics are told with two singers, a narrator, instrumentalists, and beautiful illustrations. In the first, the Duke of Mantua's jester vows to take revenge on his boss, but his daughter pays the ultimate price. The second follows a country boy desperate to win his beloved's heart, but faced with stiff competition, his best hope might be an unscrupulous salesman's magic potion!

Ideal for children between 4 and 8 years and their families, *Be A Sport, Spike!* celebrates the Commonwealth Games and FIFA World Cup.

Supported by **Friends of Scottish Opera, The Aberbrothock Skea Trust, and JTH Charitable Trust**

A Little Bit of Rigoletto

Verdi, arranged by Derek Clark
Script by Allan Dunn
Illustrations by Agnes Xantippa Boman

A Little Bit of The Elixir of Love

Donizetti, arranged by Derek Clark
Script by Allan Dunn
Illustrations by Essi Kimpimäki

Be a Sport, Spike!

Music by Karen MacIver
Words by Ross Stenhouse
Illustrations by Iain Piercy

Director Darren Brownlie

Music Directors Derek Clark, Karen MacIver & Andrew Drummond Huggan

Storyteller Marc MacKinnon & Dani Heron

Soprano Holly Teague & Marie Claire Breen

Baritone Ross Cumming & Colin Murray

Cello Andrew Drummond Huggan

Guitar Sasha Savaloni

Summer 2026 Tour 29 May–5 July

Touring to Perth, Tayport, Wigtown, Peebles, Craignure, Connel, Fochabers, Stonehaven, New Stevenston, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Giffnock, Barrhead, Linlithgow, Glasgow, and Newtongrange

On sale now

Keep an eye on Scottish Opera's website and social media for an announcement of our Pop-up 2027 tour.



Celebrating 20 Years of Alex Reedijk



Sir Alexander Gibson, born 100 years ago in Motherwell, founded Scottish Opera in 1962 'to lay the treasures of opera at the feet of the people of Scotland'. Over 60 years later, this mission continues.

Alex Reedijk OBE FRC has led Scottish Opera for twenty years, always ensuring the legacy of founder Sir Alexander Gibson remains very much alive. This belief has guided the Company through profound challenges and extraordinary achievements, stewarding a beloved institution into a new era while never neglecting centuries of operatic artistry nor the audiences whose trust and feedback drives all activity.

Alex started out as a stagehand for New Zealand Opera in his native Wellington before working his way through many levels of operatic life. This grounding means he has never lost sight of opera's core purpose: the extraordinary, irreplaceable experience of live performance at its most powerful. This ethos translates into the team he has built at Scottish Opera over two decades who share this can-do approach and belief that no job is too small to bring about an unforgettable night.

That conviction underscores everything. Under his leadership, Scottish Opera has given dozens

of new works their world or European premieres, including the pioneering *Five:15* series, which from 2008 onwards paired composers and writers new to opera with professional performers, premiering fifteen short new works and collaborating with writers including Ian Rankin, Bernard MacLaverty, and Alexander McCall Smith. Recent noted world or UK premieres include Craig Armstrong's *The Lady from the Sea*; Stuart MacRae's *Ghost Patrol*, *The Devil Inside*, and *Anthropocene*; Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar*; Jonathan Dove's *Marx in London!*; Dai Fujikura's *The Great Wave*; and Missy Mazzoli's *Breaking the Waves* and *The Galloping Cure*. Many have gone from Scotland to stages across the globe.

Under Alex's leadership, Scottish Opera continues to reach as many people as possible the length and breadth of Scotland by bringing opera to communities far beyond the central belt. Small-scale touring, staging opera of the highest quality to villages and islands, is at the heart of the Company's creative activity. Alex inherited a well-established Education and Outreach programme that continues to flourish and has now reached over 500,000 children across Scotland. And in 2016, the Company presented the world's first Dementia-friendly opera performances: a quiet, profound act of belief in everything opera can do.

‘It is not unknown for an opera to have 1,500 people in the audience, 70 players in the pit, 50 technicians backstage, and just one singer on stage holding all of us in the palm of their hand. And not a microphone in sight.’

Alex Reedijk



Asked about opera’s future in the face of funding pressures, Alex has said: ‘The art form itself is still healthy. The trick is to continually think how to do things differently.’ This is a characteristically understated summary of his determination to keep improving the Company.

After two decades, that restless thinking shows no sign of slowing. The thirst for new opera among Scottish audiences continues to astonish, and this season delivers with the Company’s trademark ambition, from the world premiere of Missy Mazzoli’s *The Galloping Cure* at the Edinburgh International Festival to a season of mainstage productions that ask the biggest questions opera can ask. The return of Sir David McVicar – one of the world’s great opera directors and a proud Scot – speaks to the level of world-class artistry the Company continues to attract. And the commitment to taking opera into the heart of communities remains as alive as ever, finding new and unexpected ways to reach audiences across all of Scotland.

Perhaps what matters most, though, is Alex’s vision of Scottish Opera for the next era. This Season sees an exciting new collaboration with the RCS Advanced Artist Diploma in Opera, giving exceptional early-career performers the chance to be mentored and perform at the

highest level in a mainstage production. The Season also launches BUILD: a new initiative that takes Scottish Opera’s dedication to young people beyond the stage and into the world of work, helping the next generation find their place in Scotland’s creative industries. These programmes are living proof that investing in people is investing in the art form.

2026, the centenary of Sir Alexander Gibson’s birth and the twentieth year of Alex’s tenure, feels like a moment to reflect on what Scottish Opera continues to be: ambitious, outward-looking, socially committed, and artistically uncompromising. For his contribution to that evolution, Alex was awarded an OBE in the 2024 New Year’s Honours.

The Company he leads today, supported by a Board and stakeholders that believe in its values, stands on the shoulders of everything that came before. Alex ensures it holds its ground, its ambition, and its artistic integrity through everything the world has thrown at it. That is his legacy – and it is still being written.

Read on to discover some of the exciting work planned for the coming Season.

Across Scotland

Time and again, we see the positive impact the arts have on those who interact with Scottish Opera's work. Opera incorporates many art forms – music, choreography, stagecraft, acting, and scenic arts – into one experience, making it an especially empowering tool. Exposure to these arts is about more than entertainment; they are vital for connection with communities, wellbeing, creative expression, and understanding the world around us.

Connection with communities

Scottish Opera aims to reach all 32 Scottish local authorities at least once every two Seasons. This is achieved through *Opera On Your Doorstep* and Pop-up Opera performances, outreach programmes, school and community workshops, and our beloved Primary Schools Programme (see page 38). In the 2026/27 Financial Year, we have over 460 events planned.

'We are really thrilled about the Primary Schools Programme and our parents are still speaking about it! Over 130 members of our community attended the final performance!'

Rothesay Primary School

'It's fantastic that you come to the far north of Scotland. We would have to travel to Inverness or further to see opera, so thank you.'

Audience member in Wick

'I used to travel to Glasgow but, now that I am older and less able, having a performance close to where I live is a real treat.'

Audience member in Dunlop

Wellbeing

Numerous international studies show that engagement with the arts notably and measurably improves mental health by fighting loneliness, boosting confidence, building skills, encouraging creative problem solving, and providing healthy emotional outlets. Furthermore, Scottish Opera's programmes including Memory Spinners (for those living with Dementia, see page 37) and Breath Cycle (for those living with conditions affecting lung health, see page 37) engage people creatively and physically, using the same tools as do professional opera-makers, in ways that bolster mental, emotional, and physical health.

'Amazing, children who would normally completely disengage were enthusiastic and every single child participated.'

Teacher at Benton Park Primary School

'The impact on my wellbeing cannot be overemphasised. I look forward to the sessions and come away from them feeling energised and positive.'

Breath Cycle participant

'Memory Spinners is the one thing my mum is always up and out the door for. The way it lifts her – I'll be able to get her out the house tomorrow, and the next day, all on the back of that feeling.'

Family carer on Memory Spinners



Mainstage / concert



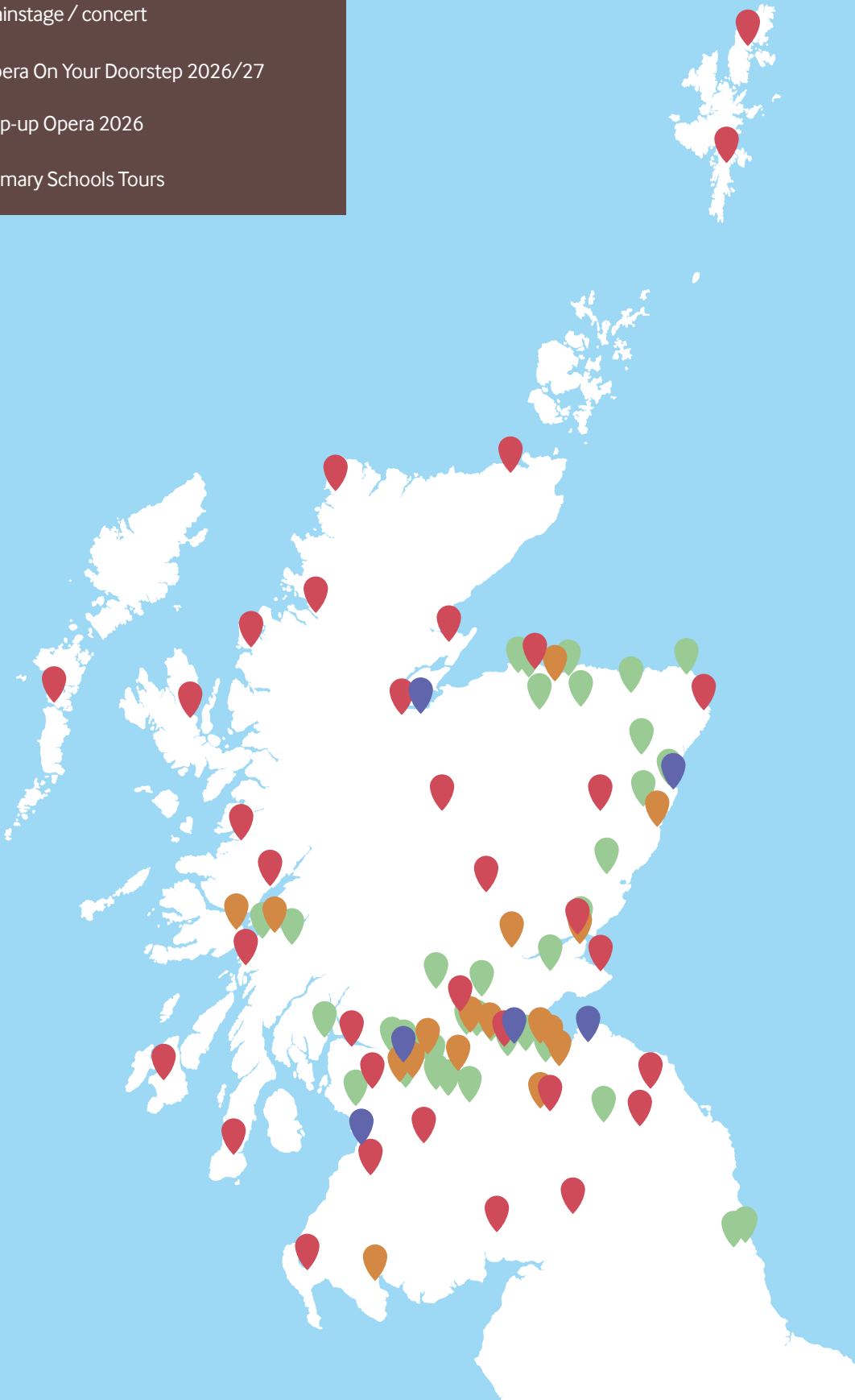
Opera On Your Doorstep 2026/27



Pop-up Opera 2026



Primary Schools Tours



Across Scotland



Creative expression

Whether involving pupils in a new Primary Schools opera, empowering those living with dementia to mount their own production as part of our Memory Spinners programme, or introducing people to the joys of singing in community choruses (see page 36), Scottish Opera knows every interaction with the arts gives people a new way to express themselves and understand their creativity, connecting them with likeminded people in the process.

‘This is an outstanding, high-quality, unforgettable learning experience for the children.’

Teacher at Jordanhill Primary, Glasgow

‘The impact this project has is huge. Children who you don’t expect to always really enjoy taking part and it does wonders for confidence.’

Teacher at Kirkpatrick Fleming and Springfield Primaries Partnership

‘Being given the opportunity to take part in something of this nature was fantastic. Cultural experiences like this are rare in our rural community so it was of immense value to our learners in broadening their horizons!’

Teacher at Eaglesfield Primary, Dumfries and Galloway

‘It would be great if every Scottish primary school child had this experience. To hear opera singers and perform alongside them is amazing and very inspiring.’

Teacher at Queensferry Primary School, Edinburgh

‘You held the attention of a 10-year-old for two hours, who loved the singing and acting and had a great night – and so did his parents. Please keep doing shows in local venues.’

Audience member in Tillilcoultry

Understanding the world around us

Communal, in-person experiences such as live performances foster a sense of belonging and compassion. Since 2022, Scottish Opera has given out over 2000 free tickets to refugees, asylum seekers, and new Scots. Adding to this, Scottish Opera's focus on training future arts industry professionals and bolstering Scotland's talent pipeline (see pages 32–33) contributes not only to the future of the nation's arts sector but to the lives of those who take advantage of these opportunities, helping them understand their place in a thriving, diverse ecosystem.

'Introducing children to the arts is the most powerful thing that can be done in education. This production exposed them to excellent music and lyrics and outstanding performers!'

Teacher at Carmyle Primary School, Glasgow

'It is such a privilege for the opera to come to us in our own village hall. It is great for people to enjoy opera who otherwise would not get the opportunity because we are rural.'

Audience member in Newtonmore

'Theatres all over the world share a common atmosphere. So when you are far from home and visit the theatre, it's like coming home.'

Fanzclub member

'He had escaped war in Sudan, with no English, and spent all day running around the school. In that first rehearsal, he sang every line with his peers – with a smile we had never seen before.'

Teacher at Royston Primary

'Culture is both what we inherit and what we create together to pass on to future generations – and to the world. On a daily basis, it provides us with our energy and our essence; our personality, our presence.'

John Swinney, First Minister of Scotland



Building for the next era

Nurturing the creative arts in Scotland and encouraging the professionals of tomorrow – on stage and behind the scenes – is core to Scottish Opera’s mission.

Opera is a uniquely collaborative art form created by a huge range of skilled professionals. Singers, instrumentalists, artists, artisans, construction specialists, teachers, and administrators come together to create a product so much greater than the sum of its parts. As an industry leader, Scottish Opera brings that treasure trove of knowledge and experience to the next generation with creativity, curiosity, and compassion.

New for 2026/27, BUILD brings together a range of initiatives for young people looking to further their knowledge of the arts industry. Through practical and transferrable experiences, we aim to equip budding artists and arts professionals for future employment and help them make informed and ambitious choices – to fulfil their potential and define opera’s next era with confidence, passion, and skill.

‘The performing arts is a house with many doors – and everyone has their own unique path to it. It isn’t our job to decide which doors people use, but to make sure we keep them all wide open so anyone who wants to can come in.’
Jane Davidson MBE, Director of Outreach & Education

Scottish Opera’s pre-professional career support is supported by **The William Syson Foundation**

Exploring careers

Scottish Opera offers work experience and skills development opportunities at various levels. Secondary school workshops and online resources aim to open young people’s eyes to opportunities in the arts, while a new work experience ‘carousel’ offers practical taster sessions across the Company to showcase the range of careers available. Developing partnerships with Further and Higher Education bodies including North East Scotland College, Glasgow University, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Edinburgh College of Art and City of Glasgow College further this work with tailored experiences and longer work placements specific to areas of study. Aligned to the Scottish Government’s Developing the Young Workforce strategy, these opportunities help ready the young people of Scotland to enter the workforce as confident, skilled contributors.

City of Glasgow College

Since 2024, Scottish Opera has been working with the college’s Creative Industries faculty, giving Photography, Broadcasting and Journalism students practical, real-life experiences, shadowing industry professionals to put their learnings into practice. So far over 85 students have had this invaluable experience, running live streams, recording and editing podcasts and photographing productions, and the partnership has been nominated for a 2026 Herald Education Award.



First steps on stage

For those taking their first steps into the world of performance, Scottish Opera's **Children's Chorus** for ages 8-11 teaches musicianship alongside vocal coaching, and explores stage craft, acting, and choreography. As confidence develops, the children experience a range of performance opportunities, from specially commissioned music theatre pieces to roles in mainstage productions including *Turandot* (see page 8).

Budding musicians

Scottish Opera partners with key specialist music schools across Scotland – Aberdeen City Music School, St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh, and Douglas Academy in Glasgow – to support and mentor **talented young singers** exploring opera as a career. In 2026/27, the Company expands this very successful programme to other schools, giving more students the chance to engage with opera and the professional arts.

This Season, The Orchestra of Scottish Opera leads an innovative **new project for young instrumentalists**. Incorporating peer-to-peer learning and mentoring of first- and second-year secondary pupils by professional players. This project encourages new ways of thinking about composition, collaboration, and creating new work. Additional support is delivered by award-winning composer **Karen MacLver** (*RED*, Scottish Opera Young Company 2024) and renowned playwright, poet and theatre-maker **Martin O'Connor**.

Building for the next era

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Advanced Artist Diploma in Opera

New for 2026, this intensive one-year programme, delivered in collaboration with Scottish Opera, gives pre-professional singers access to some of the world's finest coaches in vocal technique and stagecraft, in a high-level programme designed to prepare them for professional success. At the end of this doctoral level award validated by the University of St Andrews at SCQF level 12, the cohort performs in a Scottish Opera production – this year, *Così fan tutte* (see page 16).



RCS Conducting Collaborations and Leverhulme Fellowship

Scottish Opera's Music Director **Stuart Stratford** and several members of **The Orchestra of Scottish Opera** are regular visiting tutors at the RCS; their expertise helps train the next generation of classical musicians in Scotland. RCS MMus conductors enjoy concerto workshop sessions with The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and RCS student soloists, under Stuart's guidance.

The Company also supports the Conservatoire's Leverhulme Conducting Fellowship. This Season's Fellow, **Stefano Boccacci**, will receive training and performance opportunities with the RCS and Scottish Opera, including conducting the 29 May performance of *Così fan tutte*, as well as training and performing with other professional classical music organisations across Scotland.

National Opera Studio

As one of the National Opera Studio's partners, Scottish Opera is delighted to host the 2026/27 NOS cohort – a group of the brightest rising star singers and répétiteurs from around the world – for a one-week residency of coaching with the Company's Music Department, working with The Orchestra of Scottish Opera. The result is an exciting showcase performance of operatic scenes and extracts onstage at the Theatre Royal Glasgow.

20 February 2027, 3pm

Supported by **The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust**

Emerging Artists

Scottish Opera's Emerging Artists programme gives early career singers, répétiteurs, wig makers, casting officers, directors, and costume makers the opportunity of a lifetime: a period of full-time work with the Company to help them launch their careers. The programme continues to grow thanks to the support of our **Emerging Artist Benefactors** and Trust supporters, and in 2026/27 a cohort of ten – the largest yet – benefits from this world-class programme.

This year's Emerging Artists include sopranos Charlotte Jane Kennedy and Avery Lafrentz, mezzo-soprano Charlotte Clapperton, tenor Luvo Maranti, baritone Daniel Barrett, répétiteur Alistair Burton, and casting officer Joseph Hookway.

Emerging Artists are involved in productions throughout the Season and give a recital at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow.

27 November 2026, 1pm

Supported by **Scottish Opera's Emerging Artist Benefactors, Elizabeth Salvesen, The CMS Charitable Trust, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, The Garrick Charitable Trust, The H R Creswick Charitable Trust, The Hugh Fraser Foundation, Idlewild Trust, Laidlaw Opera Trust, and The Rowena Alison Goffin Charitable Trust**



Community wellbeing

Scottish Opera engages with people in every corner of Scotland and beyond, offering transformative, meaningful experiences no matter age, background, or ability. These inclusive programmes reimagine opera as a powerful tool for lifelong exploration, connection, and creation.

Scottish Opera & NHS Lothian Chorus

Scottish Opera’s Edinburgh-based Community Chorus for NHS Lothian staff, in partnership with Tonic Arts and NHS Lothian, enters its second season. The chorus sings a mix of opera, classical, and popular music and is open to all NHS Lothian staff regardless of previous experience. The Scottish Opera & NHS Lothian Chorus focuses not only on music-making but also acting, choreography, and other performance elements to develop participants’ confidence in performing.

Post-natal singing for health pilot

Expanding Scottish Opera’s partnership with NHS Lothian and Tonic Arts, the Company launches a new dual-strand pilot programme in West Lothian to offer extra support in the earliest days of new parenthood. The first, focusing on families of premature babies, uses gentle singing sessions to encourage bonds between parent and baby when the baby might still be in an incubator. The second, focusing on mothers facing challenges post-birth, incorporates yoga and gentle stretches alongside breath control and support to build physical strength and promote emotional wellbeing.



Glasgow Community Choir

Established in 2012, Scottish Opera’s Community Choir gives adults of all ages the opportunity to sing a wide variety of music – folk, world, classical, opera, popular, and more – in a supportive atmosphere, with sharings each term. Members do not need to be able to read music or have previous experience, just a collaborative mindset and desire to make music with others!

Conductor Katy Lavinia Cooper

Autumn 2026 7 October–2 December

Spring 2027 27 January–24 March

Summer 2027 21 April–23 June

From £40 per term. Free and pay-what-you-can places available. Visit scottishopera.org.uk/community-choir for registration details.

Memory Spinners

Memory Spinners uses music, storytelling, movement, and visual arts to help Glasgow-based people living with dementia relax, get creative, and form new support networks. Throughout each 8-week term, they share memories that are then incorporated into a relaxed performance for friends and family. All spaces are free – to find out how to join, contact **Douglas Templeton** on **0141 332 9559**

Supported by **The Cruden Foundation**, **The J & J R Wilson Trust**, **The Souter Charitable Trust**, and **Scottish Opera's Education Angels**

The Small Magician

A trauma-aware, inclusive, accessible vocal education resource, The Small Magician enables participants to challenge and build their vocal technique and knowledge healthily from the comfort of their own home or chosen space, helping them embrace their speaking and singing voice. Created by former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist and Education Artist-in-Residence **Lea Shaw**, the project offers guided practice sessions to help participants understand their voices, reduce the impacts of stress, and foster a growing sense of calm and wellbeing in daily life. The guidance draws on classic pedagogy, scientific research, and yoga and embodiment practices. Workbooks and resources can be accessed through **scottishopera.org.uk/the-small-magician**

'It's the happiest hour of my week.'

Breath Cycle participant 2026

Breath Cycle

Breathing techniques practised by opera singers can help those living with respiratory conditions. This free programme, formed with the Respiratory and Cystic Fibrosis Medicine team at NHS Glasgow, aims to strengthen mental health, wellbeing, and respiratory health. Now in its fifth consecutive year and winner of the **2025 Classical:NEXT Innovation Award**, Breath Cycle is a living resource that has demonstrably boosted participants' wellbeing. The response is overwhelmingly positive, citing improvements in breathing, energy levels, and mood.

Anyone looking for support can practice with free exercises on demand, sing along with the works written by past participants including the Covid Composers Songbook – written by participants about their experience living with Long COVID – or register to take part in free weekly online sessions that run throughout the Season.

Supported by **The Scottish Government** and **Scottish Opera's Education Angels**

This work would not be possible without the generous support of donors and trusts across the country, especially Scottish Opera's Education Angels. To become an Education Angel and support opera in communities and schools, go to **scottishopera.org.uk/education-angels** or call on **0141 242 0596**

Opera in schools



Scottish Opera has been a leader in engaging school-aged children for decades, using opera and the expressive arts to support the Curriculum for Excellence and encourage skills needed for academic and personal development.

‘You came to us and gave our children the best experience. They are still singing and reliving their Scottish Opera experience. Thank you for adding to the children’s memories.’

Teacher at **Iona Primary School** on the 2026 Primary Schools Programme

‘yet another wonderfully positive experience. Scottish Opera has truly become a highlight of our school year. The team were an absolute joy. Their warmth, encouragement and uplifting interactions with both pupils and staff made such a meaningful impact.’

Teacher at **Clyde Primary**, Glasgow, on the 2026 Primary Schools Programme

Primary Schools Programme

Scottish Opera's children's operas make learning hands-on, fun, and creative. Over the years, the Primary Schools Tour has inspired over 850,000 children across all 32 Local Authority areas. 2027's opera is *Vive La Révolution*, a new work with music by **Alan Penman**, words by **Natalie Arle-Toyne**, costume design by **Trish Kenny**, and art design by **Iain Piercy**. Through song and stagecraft, pupils will find out what really happened in 1789 when the people of Paris stormed the infamous Bastille!

The Live Tour

This is an incredibly popular choice for schools across Scotland, selling out almost every year. Using the digital resources, teachers prepare their pupils for a wonderful day with artists from Scottish Opera, who rehearse the production with the pupils before a fully costumed performance for family and friends.

Free On-Demand Digital Package

This self-guided pack for teachers provides the same resources (including ideas for making pupils' costumes), allowing them to access the material at any time and prepare a performance around existing curriculum demands.

Live tour booking opens June 2026 for dates from February – June 2027.

Digital tour available from January 2027.

Free access for schools; contact Madeleine Coxshott at **0141 332 9559** for information.

Digital secondary schools resources

The Elixir of Love: Three Ways to Stage an Opera is a free teaching resource for secondary schools. Exploring Donizetti's comedy through three different interpretive stagings, pupils learn about music, drama, and art and design – incorporating history, storytelling, and critical thinking.

Disney Musicals in Schools

Disney Musicals in Schools collaborates with local authorities to identify primary schools facing challenges in engaging with the arts. Teaching Artists guide pupils through rehearsals for special adaptations of Disney musicals and, crucially, provide training for teachers to build their pupils' skills and confidence through the performing arts, creating a sustainable legacy for the future. Scottish Opera is Disney Musicals in Schools' first Scottish partner, and this sixth successful year of the programme is the third year to engage with Additional Support Needs Schools. Through this collaboration, Scottish pupils have performed the UK 'premiere' of *Frozen* in schools.

Free tickets for school groups

Since 2022, Scottish Opera has given out **over 3700** free tickets to young people across Scotland, helping to make the magic of opera accessible. For information about free tickets for your school group, please email tickets@scottishopera.org.uk

To support a school resource pack, or to join as an Education Angel, visit scottishopera.org.uk/education-angels

Alternatively you can call **0141 332 9559** or email supportus@scottishopera.org.uk

Supported by **Scottish Opera's Education Angels**, **The Cookie Matheson Charitable Trust**, **The David and June Gordon Memorial Charitable Trust**, **Dr Guthrie's Association**, **The Harbinson Charitable Trust**, **The Pear Tree Fund for Music**, **The Springboard Charitable Trust** and **The Zich Trust**

On the world stage

Audiences around the world experience Scottish Opera's work through hires, co-productions, and recordings. Scottish Opera regularly collaborates with international opera companies to maximise resources and create world-class opera, most recently with KAJIMOTO on the world premiere of Dai Fujikura and Harry Ross' *The Great Wave* in February 2026. The 2026/27 Season sees new co-productions and/or co-commissions with Opera Ventures Productions, Irish National Opera, NorrlandsOperan, Canadian Opera Company, San Francisco Opera, State Opera of South Australia, and Edinburgh International Festival.

Scottish Opera's 2025 production of Lehár's *The Merry Widow*, co-produced with D'Oyly Carte Opera and Opera Holland Park, is performed in July 2026 at the Buxton International Festival. The three same companies also joined forces on Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*, performed at Scottish Opera and Opera Holland Park in summer 2025 and now receiving another outing at English National Opera in March 2027. *The Galloping Cure* (see page 4) is bound for



NorrlandsOperan in Umeå, Sweden, after performances in Edinburgh.

Recent recordings released by Scottish Opera include three full-length Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, plus a 2025 world premiere. *The Gondoliers* and *Trial by Jury / A Matter of Misconduct!* (the latter by Emma Jenkins and Toby Hession) are available on Blu-ray and DVD. *Utopia, Limited* is available to stream or purchase as a double album.

Art exhibitions in theatres

Following the success of a Hokusai exhibition alongside Dai Fujikura's *The Great Wave* in February 2026, Scottish Opera is delighted to pair with artist and curator Fraser Taylor of HAXTON Studio to present future exhibitions alongside our operas. The first is mounted at the Theatre Royal Glasgow alongside Puccini's *Turandot* in October, with details and future collaborations to be announced on Scottish Opera's social media and digital communications channels.



Make opera your legacy

By leaving a gift in your Will to Scottish Opera, you help ensure a Company at the heart of Scotland's cultural life continues long into the future – bringing world-class performances to audiences across the country, nurturing the next generation of talent, and inspiring communities through creativity and education. With your gift, that spirit can flourish for generations to come.

Those who choose to leave a gift in their Will can join our Dame Janet Baker Circle.



To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to Scottish Opera and the difference it can make, please visit scottishopera.org.uk/support-us or contact Carole Gallen on **0141 248 4567** or carole.gallen@scottishopera.org.uk

Love opera? Become our Friend

From just £5 a month join a community of people who share your passion for this extraordinary art form and help it thrive across Scotland.

As a Friend of Scottish Opera, you can take pride in supporting Scotland's national opera company while enjoying a closer connection to our work, from bold new productions to the creative innovation happening on and off the stage. Friends benefit from a priority booking period, early bird discount, and invitations to special behind-the-scenes events.

Be part of something inspiring.



Become a Friend of Scottish Opera
scottishopera.org.uk/support-us

Priority booking 2026

Friends and Patrons of Scottish Opera enjoy priority booking for certain titles throughout the 2026/27 Season: *Turandot, Alcina, Fidelio, Madama Butterfly*, and *Così fan tutte*.

14 May Priority booking opens for Friends and Patrons of Scottish Opera

22 May Last day to buy a Scottish Opera membership (at Friends level or above) and qualify for priority booking

28 May Public booking opens

Follow Scottish Opera and your local theatre on social media to keep up-to-date with all performance and booking information.

Keep up with Scottish Opera on the go

Follow The Scottish Opera Podcast to discover the world of opera. Join tenor and broadcaster **Jamie MacDougall** as he welcomes special guests including singers, directors, composers, designers, education animators, and more. Their insights celebrate the talent, dedication, humanity, diversity, and creativity of the art form.

Find The Scottish Opera Podcast on your preferred podcast platform.

This podcast is produced in partnership with **City of Glasgow College** and supported by students on Broadcasting courses at the college, with thanks to James Wilson, Curriculum Head of Broadcasting.



Venue information

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

13–29 Nicolson Street,
Edinburgh EH8 9FT
0131 529 6000
capitaltheatres.com

St Mary's Kirk

(Scottish Opera at
Lammermuir Festival)
Haddington EH41 3DS
0131 226 0004
lammermuirfestival.co.uk

***Opera On Your Doorstep*, Pop-up Opera, The Orchestra of Scottish Opera & Emerging Artist Recital**

Please visit scottishopera.org.uk for
booking details for the individual venues

Theatre Royal Glasgow

282 Hope Street,
Glasgow G2 3QA
0333 009 6690
atgtickets.com

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen

Rosemount Viaduct,
Aberdeen AB25 1GL
01224 641 122
aberdeenperformingarts.com

Eden Court, Inverness

Bishops Road,
Inverness IV3 5SA
01463 234 234
eden-court.co.uk





Performance diary 2026/27

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Friday 29 May 2026	2.30pm	Pop-up Opera	St Matthew's Church Hall (Perth Festival of the Arts)
Saturday 30 May	2&4pm	Pop-up Opera	St Matthew's Church Hall (Perth Festival of the Arts)
Sunday 31 May	12.30&2.30pm	Pop-up Opera	The Larick Centre, Tayport
Saturday 6 June	1&3pm	Pop-up Opera	Wigtown County Buildings (D&G Arts Festival)
Sunday 7 June	2pm	Pop-up Opera	Eastgate Theatre, Peebles
Saturday 13 June	2.30pm	Pop-up Opera	Craignure Village Hall, Isle of Mull
Sunday 14 June	2&4pm	Pop-up Opera	Connel Village Hall
Saturday 20 June	2&4pm	Pop-up Opera	Fochabers Public Institute
Sunday 21 June	1&3pm	Pop-up Opera	Dunnottar Castle, Stonehaven
Thursday 25 June	7pm	Pop-up Opera	New Stevenston Community Centre
Friday 26 June	7pm	Pop-up Opera	The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh
Saturday 27 June	7pm	Pop-up Opera	Portobello Town Hall
Sunday 28 June	2&4pm	Pop-up Opera	Callander House, Falkirk
Wednesday 1 July	3&7pm	Pop-up Opera	Eastwood House, Giffnock
Thursday 2 July	1&3pm	Pop-up Opera	Arthurlie House, Barrhead
Friday 3 July	1&3pm	Pop-up Opera	Linlithgow Burgh Halls
Saturday 4 July	1&3pm	Pop-up Opera	Stockingfield Bridge, Glasgow
Sunday 5 July	1&3pm	Pop-up Opera	National Mining Museum, Newtongrange
Sunday 9 August	7pm	The Galloping Cure	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Tuesday 11 August	7pm	The Galloping Cure (PSP)	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Wednesday 12 August	7pm	The Galloping Cure (AD, TT)	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Friday 11 September	7.30pm	Britten: Music for Voice and Orchestra	St Mary's Kirk, Haddington
Wednesday 7 October	TBA	Ayr Arts Guild (OSO)	Ayr Town Hall
Thursday 8 October	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling
Saturday 10 October	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Eastgate Theatre, Peebles
Tuesday 13 October	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Duns Volunteer Hall
Thursday 15 October	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Maybole Town Hall
Saturday 17 October	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	The Byre Theatre, St Andrews
Tuesday 20 October	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Garnock Community Campus
Thursday 22 October	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Seil Community Hall
Thursday 22 October	7.15pm	Turandot	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Saturday 24 October	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Bowmore High School
Sunday 25 October	3pm	Turandot (AD, TT)	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Tuesday 27 October	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Victoria Hall, Campbeltown
Wednesday 28 October	7.15pm	Turandot	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Thursday 29 October	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Sunart Centre, Strontian
Saturday 31 October	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Pitlochry Festival Theatre
Saturday 31 October	7.15pm	Turandot (PST)	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Tuesday 3 November	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Macphail Centre, Ullapool
Wednesday 4 November	7.15pm	Turandot	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Thursday 5 November	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Sgoil Lionacleit
Saturday 7 November	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Portree Community Centre
Saturday 7 November	7.15pm	Turandot	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Tuesday 10 November	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Phipps Hall, Beaulieu
Wednesday 11 November	7.15pm	Turandot	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Thursday 12 November	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Lossiemouth Town Hall
Thursday 12 November	7.30pm	HMT 120 Opera Gala	His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen
Saturday 14 November	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Ryan Centre, Stranraer
Saturday 14 November	7.15pm	Turandot (PST)	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Tuesday 17 November	7.15pm	Turandot	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Thursday 19 November	7.15pm	Turandot	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Friday 20 November	7.30pm	A Night at the Opera!	Eden Court, Inverness
Sunday 22 November	3pm	Turandot (AD, TT)	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Friday 27 November	1pm	Emerging Artists Recital	Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Tuesday 2 February 2027	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock
Thursday 4 February	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Cumnock Town Hall
Saturday 6 February	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Theatre Royal Dumfries
Saturday 6 February	7.15pm	Alcina	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Tuesday 9 February	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Tait Hall, Kelso
Thursday 11 February	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	The Buccleuch Centre, Langholm
Thursday 11 February	7.15pm	Alcina (PST)	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Saturday 13 February	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Linlithgow Academy
Sunday 14 February	3pm	Alcina (AD, TT)	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Wednesday 17 February	7.15pm	Fidelio	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Thursday 18 February	6.30pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Mid Yell Hall
Friday 19 February	7.15pm	Fidelio (AD, TT, PST)	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Saturday 20 February	3pm	National Opera Studio	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Saturday 20 February	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Mareel Theatre, Lerwick
Tuesday 23 February	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Peterhead Leisure Centre
Thursday 25 February	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Newtonmore Village Hall
Thursday 25 February	7.15pm	Alcina	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Friday 26 February	7.15pm	Fidelio (AD, TT, PST)	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Saturday 27 February	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Astley Hall, Arisaig
Saturday 27 February	7.15pm	Alcina (AD, TT, PST)	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Tuesday 2 March	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Gairloch Community Centre
Thursday 4 March	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Kinlochbervie Village Hall
Saturday 6 March	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Thurso High School
Tuesday 9 March	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Duthac Centre, Tain
Thursday 11 March	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Aboyne Theatre
Saturday 13 March	7pm	Opera On Your Doorstep: Hansel & Gretel	Dundee Rep
Saturday 1 May	7.15pm	Madama Butterfly	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Sunday 9 May	3pm	Madama Butterfly (AD, TT)	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Tuesday 11 May	7.15pm	Madama Butterfly	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Saturday 15 May	7.15pm	Madama Butterfly (PST)	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Tuesday 18 May	7.15pm	Così fan tutte	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Wednesday 19 May	7.15pm	Madama Butterfly	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Thursday 20 May	3pm	Access Madama Butterfly (AD)	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Friday 21 May	7.15pm	Così fan tutte (AD, TT, PST)	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Saturday 22 May	7.15pm	Madama Butterfly	Theatre Royal Glasgow
Thursday 27 May	7.15pm	Madama Butterfly	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Saturday 29 May	7.15pm	Così fan tutte	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Sunday 30 May	3pm	Madama Butterfly (AD, TT)	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Tuesday 1 June	7.15pm	Madama Butterfly	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Wednesday 2 June	7.15pm	Così fan tutte (AD, TT, PST)	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Thursday 3 June	7.15pm	Madama Butterfly	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Friday 4 June	3pm	Access Madama Butterfly (AD)	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Saturday 5 June	7.15pm	Madama Butterfly (PST)	Festival Theatre Edinburgh
Thursday 10 June	7.15pm	Madama Butterfly	Eden Court, Inverness
Saturday 12 June	5pm	Madama Butterfly (AD, TT, PST)	Eden Court, Inverness
Thursday 17 June	7.15pm	Madama Butterfly	His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen
Saturday 19 June	5pm	Madama Butterfly (AD, TT, PST)	His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen

AD: Audio-described performance **TT:** Touch Tour **PST:** Pre-show talk
OSO: The Orchestra of Scottish Opera **PSP:** Post-show panel



Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone involved in creating the 2026/27 Season campaign including Costume for bringing the characters to life, the Hair & Makeup team for their meticulous attention to detail, Props for their unique stock of the weird and the wonderful, Maintenance for transporting a variety of props and furniture around, Electrics for providing lighting, and the models for embodying each character. Special thanks to Bridgeman Images, Model Team, Colours Agency and the Britannia Panopticon.

Image credits

The Galloping Cure photography by Ruby Pluhar.

Turandot photography by James Glossop.

Madama Butterfly photography by Ros Kavanagh.

Other photography by Kirsty Anderson, Mihaela Bodlovic, Christopher Bowen, Julie Howden, Sally Jubb, Jazmine McClure, Taichi Nishimaki, and Peter Sandground.

Brochure

All contents © Scottish Opera 2026. Compiled by Scottish Opera. All details are printed in good faith and are correct at the time of going to press. Scottish Opera reserves the right to change programme and cast details at any time. Visual material contained within the brochure is illustrative and does not necessarily relate to stage productions.

Environment

This brochure has been printed by J Thomson Colour Printers using Carbon Balanced Print. As a result, this job has balanced 624kgs of CO₂e and helped World Land Trust protect and restore critically threatened land and habitats.

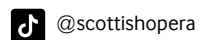
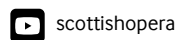
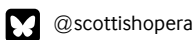


www.carbonbalancedprinter.com
CBP2296

Scottish Opera, 39 Elmbank Crescent, Glasgow G2 4PT

0141 248 4567

feedback@scottishopera.org.uk



Missy Mazzoli & Royce Vavrek

The Galloping Cure

Britten

Music for Voice and Orchestra

Puccini

Turandot

Handel

Alcina

Beethoven

Fidelio

Puccini

Madama Butterfly

Mozart

Così fan tutte

Humperdinck

Hansel & Gretel

and more...

Pop-up Opera

scottishopera.org.uk

Registered in Scotland Number SC037531 Scottish Charity Number SC019787

Core funded by

