



PRESS RELEASE

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***OPERA HIGHLIGHTS* TOURS TO 17 VENUES ACROSS SCOTLAND THIS AUTUMN**

This September, Scottish Opera's hugely popular *Opera Highlights* tour kicks off with four singers and a pianist journeying to 17 venues the length and breadth of Scotland, from Wick in the north to Dumfries in the south, as well as the Inner and Outer Hebrides.

The Autumn tour begins on 20 September in Giffnock before heading to Ayr, Drumnadrochit, Wick, Forres, Ullapool, Stornoway, Portree, Lanark, Helensburgh, Dundee, Inverurie, Laurencekirk, Perth, Dumfries, Musselburgh and St Andrews.

Director **Daisy Evans'** *Opera Highlights* features an operatic playlist from much-loved and lesser-known composers, curated by Scottish Opera's Head of Music **Derek Clark**. It includes favourites from Mozart and Donizetti linked by new compositions by Scottish Opera Composer in Residence **Samuel Bordoli**, who was recently nominated in the 'One to Watch' category at the Sunday Herald Culture Awards.

Music Director/Pianist **Jonathon Swinard** is joined by Scottish Opera Emerging Artist soprano **Sofia Troncoso**, who will sing the role of Papagena in the Company's production of *The Magic Flute* next year; mezzo soprano **Sarah Champion**; tenor **Richard Pinkstone** and baritone **Dawid Kimberg**.

Director **Daisy Evans** said: 'This evening of opera highlights conjures drama as the singers take us on a wild journey through betrayal, pain, misplaced love and home truths, revealing the intense world of opera piece by piece.'

Scottish Opera's General Director, **Alex Reedijk**, said: 'Touring Scotland has been at the heart of what we do for over 30 years and *Opera Highlights* is the perfect show to take to smaller and more remote communities around the country as it truly has something for everyone. This combination of wonderful music from across the world of opera, terrific voices and a creative staging by Daisy Evans will ensure that our audiences will have an enjoyable night out!'

This tour is supported by The Friends of Scottish Opera and JTH Charitable Trust.

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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

Cast and Creative Team

Soprano	Sofia Troncoso*
Mezzo-soprano	Sarah Champion
Tenor	Richard Pinkstone
Baritone	Dawid Kimberg
Music Director/Pianist	Jonathon Swinard
Director	Daisy Evans

Composer in Residence **Samuel Bordoli***

*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

Performance Diary

Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock

Thu 20 Sep, 7.30pm

Gaiety Theatre, Ayr

Sat 22 Sep, 7.30pm

Craigmonie Centre, Drumnadrochit

Tue 25 Sep, 7.30pm

Wick High School, Wick

Thu 27 Sep, 7.30pm

Forres Town Hall, Forres

Sun 30 Sep, 7.30pm

The Macphail Centre, Ullapool

Tue 2 Oct, 7.30pm

An Lantair, Stornoway

Thu 4 Oct, 7.30pm

Aros Centre, Portree

Sat 6 Oct, 7.30pm

Memorial Hall, Lanark

Tue 9 Oct, 7.30pm

Victoria Hall, Helensburgh

Thu 11 Oct, 7.30pm

Gardyne Theatre, Dundee

Sat 13 Oct, 7.30pm

Inverurie Town Hall, Inverurie

Tue 16 Oct, 7.30pm

Mearns Academy, Laurencekirk

Thu 18 Oct, 7.30pm

Joan Knight Studio, Perth Theatre, Perth

Sat 20 Oct, 7.45pm

Theatre Royal Dumfries, Dumfries

Tue 23 Oct, 7.30pm

The Brunton, Musselburgh

Thu 25 Oct, 7.30pm

The Byre Theatre, St Andrews

Sat 27 Oct, 3pm

Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera biography:

Scottish Opera is Scotland's national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. It was founded by Alexander Gibson in 1962 and was inaugurated with a production of *Madama Butterfly* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow.

Notable achievements include the world premiere of James MacMillan's *Inés de Castro* at the 1996 Edinburgh International Festival; complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International

Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production; and the Achievement in Opera Award at the 2017 UK Theatre Awards for Sir David McVicar's production of Debussy's *Pelléas and Mélisande*. Recent commissions include *Five:15 Operas Made in Scotland* (2008-10); *The Lady from the Sea*, *Clemency*, the double bill of *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* (winner of a South Bank Sky Arts Award) which premiered at the 2012 Edinburgh International Festival and 2016's *The Devil Inside* by Stuart MacRae and Louise Welsh.

Scottish Opera is committed to bringing the widest possible range of opera, performed to the highest possible standards, to the maximum audience throughout Scotland and the UK. Each year it performs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness, as well as smaller theatres, village halls and community centres throughout the country.

Scottish Opera's Education and Outreach Department was the first of its kind of any opera company in Europe. It operates an extensive programme which involves over 8,000 primary school children every year as well as many other activities including adult learning and *Unwrapped* taster sessions.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.



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