



PRESS RELEASE

7 December 2016

SCOTTISH OPERA'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS TOUR EXPLORES ROBERT BURNS' CLASSIC

Thousands of primary school pupils across Scotland will rehearse and perform an opera based on Robert Burns' iconic poem *Tam o' Shanter*.

Scottish Opera's annual Primary Schools Tour hits the road in January with *The Tale o' Tam o' Shanter*, a show created to re-introduce young people to the works of the celebrated Scottish poet.

Written especially for children in primaries 5, 6 and 7, the fast-paced adventure features original lyrics by **Ross Stenhouse** and music by **Karen MacIver**, who also wrote the music for Scottish Opera's popular family show, *The Little White Town of Never Weary* (2016), and *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari* (2016), a specially composed piece for Scottish Opera's youth company, Connect.

Schools are provided with high quality teaching resources, including a teachers' support pack, to help introduce the songs from *The Tale o' Tam o' Shanter* to pupils in advance. A team of Scottish Opera performers and arts education specialists then spend a day rehearsing and

preparing the pupils for a choreographed, fully-costumed performance of *The Tale o' Tam o' Shanter* for family and friends.

The show follows a farmer named Tam o' Shanter as he makes his way home from Market Day with his faithful horse Meg. As the night grows darker, the rain falls and the wind shrieks through the branches of the trees, he finds himself outside the church where he discovers a coven of witches dancing. Fascinated, Tam stops to watch, but suddenly one of them spots him, and he and Meg must run for their lives.

Scottish Opera's Director of Outreach and Education, **Jane Davidson** said:

'Our children's operas make learning both enjoyable and challenging, giving pupils the opportunity to participate in a high-quality, day-long music theatre workshop that ends with a performance for parents and guests. Originally commissioned in 2002, this vibrant interpretation of Burns' iconic poem enables a new generation to explore the culture, identity and language that remain key to the enduring appeal of Scotland's most famous poet.'

This year's Primary Schools Tour *The Tale o' Tam o' Shanter* is supported by many individuals and organisations including the Gannochy Trust and the Robertson Trust.

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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

Primary Schools Tour Team

Alan McKenzie

Greig Baxter / Ryan Ferrie

Lucy Hutchison / Lee Reynolds

Jamie Macdonald / Neil Fenwick

Advance vocal workshop **Roger Glass**

Music	Karen MacIver
Lyrics	Ross Stenhouse
Illustrations	Iain Piercy
Animation	Nick Roy
Teaching resources	Julie Brown

Performance Diary

Mon 16 Jan	Netherlee Primary School, East Renfrewshire
Tue 17 Jan	Hutchesons' Grammar School, Glasgow
Wed 18 Jan	The Compass School, Haddington, East Lothian
Thu 19 Jan	Leith Primary School, Edinburgh
Fri 20 Jan	St Columba's Primary School, Kilmacolm, Inverclyde
Mon 23 Jan	Springfield Primary School, Linlithgow, West Lothian
Tue 24 Jan	East Calder Primary School, East Calder, West Lothian
Wed 25 Jan	Wardie Primary School, Edinburgh
Thu 26 Jan	Victoria Primary School, Edinburgh
Fri 27 Jan	Jordanhill Primary School, Glasgow
Mon 30 Jan	Machanhill Primary School, Larkhall, South Lanarkshire
Tue 31 Jan	Carstairs Junction Primary School, Carstairs, South Lanarkshire
Wed 1 Feb	Silverwood Primary School, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire
Thu 2 Feb	New Farm Primary School, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire
Fri 3 Feb	Auchinleck Primary School, Auchinleck, East Ayrshire
Mon 6 Feb	Newmilns Primary School, Newmilns, East Ayrshire
Tue 7 Feb	Kilninver Primary School, near Oban, Argyll & Bute
Wed 8 Feb	Dunbeg Primary School, near Oban, Argyll & Bute
Thu 9 Feb	Oakbank Primary School, Perth

Fri 10 Feb	Orchard Primary School, Wishaw, North Lanarkshire
Mon 13 Feb	Wormit School, Wormit, Fife
Tue 14 Feb	Tayport Primary School, Tayport, Fife
Wed 15 Feb	Edzell, Stracathro & Maisondieu Primaries, Angus
Thu 16 Feb	Keith Primary School, Moray
Fri 17 Feb	Cluny Primary School, Buckie, Moray
Mon 20 Feb	Langlees Primary School, Falkirk
Tue 21 Feb	Airyhall Primary School, Aberdeen
Wed 22 Feb	Hazlehead Primary School, Aberdeen
Thu 23 Feb	Scotstown School, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen
Fri 24 Feb	Middleton Park Primary School, Aberdeen
Mon 27 Feb	Dulloch Primary School, Fife
Tue 28 Feb	Falkland Primary School, Fife
Wed 1 Mar	South Morningside Primary School, Edinburgh
Thu 2 Mar	Corstorphine Primary School, Edinburgh
Fri 3 Mar	Onthank Primary School, Kilmarnock
Mon 6 Mar	Durris, Drumoak & Crathes Schools, Aberdeenshire
Tue 7 Mar	Fraserburgh South Park Primary, Aberdeenshire
Wed 8 Mar	Fyvie School & Auchterless Primary School, Aberdeenshire
Thu 9 Mar	Markethill School, Aberdeenshire
Fri 10 Mar	Albyn School, Aberdeen
Mon 13 Mar	Coldstream Primary School, Coldstream, Borders
Tue 14 Mar	Halyrude Primary School, Peebles, Borders
Wed 15 Mar	Burnfoot Primary School, Hawick, Borders
Thu 16 Mar	Tollcross Primary School, Edinburgh
Fri 17 Mar	Bankhead Primary School, Rutherglen, South Lanarkshire

Mon 20 Mar	St Paul's Primary School, Fife
Tue 21 Mar	Markinch Primary School, Fife
Wed 22 Mar	Dunnikier Primary School, Fife
Thu 23 Mar	Lochgelly Primary School, Fife
Fri 24 Mar	Castlehill Primary School, Fife
Mon 27 Mar	Locharbriggs & Cargenbridge Primary Schools, Dumfries & Galloway
Tue 28 Mar	Lincluden Primary School, Dumfries & Galloway
Wed 29 Mar	Sanquhar & Kelloholm Primary Schools, Dumfries & Galloway
Thu 30 Mar	Noblehill Primary School, Dumfries & Galloway
Fri 31 Mar	Lochside, Holywood & Shawhead Primary Schools, Dumfries & Galloway

Summer performances yet to be announced

Notes to Editors

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 and complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production. 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 free *Unwrapped* taster sessions.

Scottish Opera's annual Primary Schools tour began in 1974 and is the longest running of any of Scottish Opera's Education and Outreach projects.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.



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