



PRESS RELEASE

4 May 2017

POP-UP OPERA 2017 TAKES TO THE WAVES ON SCOTLAND'S FIRST FLOATING OPERA HOUSE

Scottish Opera's much-loved Pop-up Opera is back on the road in 2017, and takes to the waves on Scotland's first floating opera house, the converted pilot cutter *Murray McDavid*, kindly provided by Murray McDavid Scotch Whisky.

Pop-up audiences can catch three 25-minute shows this year; *A Little Bit of La bohème*, *A Little Bit of Pirates of Penzance* and *A Little Bit of Bubble McBea*, which is for children aged four to seven. Each bite-sized production is brought to life by a narrator, singers, musicians and a series of colourful illustrations.

Scottish Opera's fully accessible travelling opera house – a specially adapted trailer designed to look like a miniature Theatre Royal Glasgow – is the venue for all three productions at festivals and events across Scotland.

This year, there will also be performances of *A Little Bit of Pirates of Penzance* and *A Little Bit of Bubble McBea* on the converted pilot cutter *Murray McDavid* – sailing into marinas 'doon the

watter' throughout Summer. The public performances on the *Murray McDavid* will be complemented with special shows for schools in marinas down the Clyde, enabling Scottish Opera to extend its reach into communities it has not previously visited.

Echoing Scottish Opera's main-stage production of *La bohème* (9 May – 17 June), *A Little Bit of La bohème* offers the best bits of Puccini's well-known and much-loved opera, which tells the hopelessly romantic story of Rodolfo and Mimi's ill-fated love.

One of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular comic operas, *The Pirates of Penzance*, has been trimmed down to create *A Little Bit of Pirates of Penzance*. Frederic has fallen for Mabel, but he is apprentice to a pirate king and his blundering band of rogues. Frederic struggles to find a way to escape his ties and live happily ever after.

A Little Bit of Bubble McBea is a story for children aged four to seven. Bubble lives happily on a Scottish island with her dad, Barnacle McBea. She is joined by friends Shonny the Pony, the Sole Sisters and Alex Salmon, as she explores life under the sea, and learns about how little mistakes can cause big problems.

From 26 May to 1 July 2017, Pop-up Opera tours on land and sea to destinations including Perth Arts Festival, Mount Stuart Isle of Bute, Prestwick, Girvan, Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival, Port Bannatyne Marina, Portavadie Marina, Troon Yacht Haven, Clyde Marina Ardrossan, Largs Yacht Haven, Theatre Mòdò Peterhead, Pollok House Glasgow, Haddington Show and on board The Tall Ship, Glasgow. There are also schools performances in Glasgow, Rhu, Greenock, Troon, Ardrossan, Perth, Rothesay and Peterhead.

Scottish Opera's Director of Outreach and Education, **Jane Davidson**, said: 'Once again, Scottish Opera is taking both high and low roads across Scotland to bring these miniature productions to festivals and events managed and run by local people. And this year we're adding water to the mix! We're delighted to be sailing into coastal resorts along the Clyde estuary aboard the *Murray McDavid* with operatic tales of pirates, pollution and preposterous puzzles! Our travelling opera houses are unique in the UK and we look forward very much to engaging with new audiences of all ages wherever they live and whatever their interests.'

Pop-up Opera 2017 is supported by Scottish Opera's Education Angels and Murray McDavid Scotch Whisky.

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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Cast and Creative Team

Narrator	Allan Dunn/Lissa Lorenzo
Soprano	Jessica Leary/Alison McNeill
Baritone	Aidan Edwards
Violin	Ysla Robertson
Cello	Andrew Drummond Huggan/Laura Sergeant
Harp	Sharron Griffiths
Guitar	Sasha Savaloni/Ian Watt

A Little Bit of La bohème

Music arrangement	Derek Clark
Illustrations	Jamie MacDonald

A Little Bit of Pirates of Penzance

Music arrangement	Derek Clark
Illustrations	Otto Von Beach

A Little Bit of Bubble McBea (for children aged four to seven)

Music	Alan Penman
Words	Allan Dunn
Illustrations	Iain Piercy

Performance Information

Boat Tour

The Tall Ship, Glasgow	13 & 14 Jun: 1.30pm
Port Bannatyne Marina	17 Jun: 12, 2, 4pm
Portavadie Marina	18 Jun: 12, 2, 4pm
Troon Yacht Haven	21 Jun: 1.30pm
Clyde Marina, Ardrossan	23 Jun: 6, 7pm
Largs Yacht Haven	24 & 25 Jun: 12, 2, 4pm

Trailer Tour

Perth Arts Festival	26 & 27 May: 12, 2, 3pm
Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute	29 May: 1.30, 3pm
Girvan, The Quay Zone, Knockcushan Street	31 May: 1.30, 3.30, 5.30pm
Prestwick Seafront, Links Road	1 Jun: 1.30, 3.30, 5.30pm
Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival	3 & 4 Jun: 11am, 1, 3pm
Theatre Modo, Peterhead	27 Jun: 7pm
Pollok House, Glasgow	29 & 30 Jun: 12, 2.30, 3.30pm
Haddington Show	1 Jul: 11.30am, 1, 2.30pm

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 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 is supported by the Scottish Government.



Murray McDavid biography:

The Murray McDavid, originally named the Newcraig, began life in 1954 as a pilot boat transporting mariners to and from ships in the open sea. The pilot's job was to guide and manoeuvre larger ships through the shallow waters of the busy harbour of Dundee.

The Newcraig's working life came to an end in the 1990s. It was then bought by James Heron of Seasonic Limited who used it as a diving support vessel. Seasonic Ltd sold it to Aceo Ltd, the owner of Murray McDavid Scotch Whisky, in 2010. The boat's name was officially changed in 2015.

Since then, the boat has been fully renovated and is now used to promote the Murray McDavid whisky brand. The Murray McDavid now has a permanent mooring in the heart of Glasgow, close to Glasgow's tall ship 'The Glenlee' and the Riverside Museum.

Murray McDavid is an independent scotch whisky bottler with whisky warehouses in the Highlands of Scotland where their large range of cask whisky is matured using traditional methods.

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