

27 February 2018

OLIVER MEARS DIRECTS NEW PRODUCTION OF TCHAIKOVSKY'S *EUGENE ONEGIN*

Oliver Mears, Director of Opera at The Royal Opera, directs a new production of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* to close Scottish Opera's 2017/18 season.

This sweeping tale of unfulfilled love opens in Glasgow on April 27 before touring to Aberdeen, Inverness, Edinburgh and Belfast.

Not heard on Scottish Opera's main stage since 1993, Tchaikovsky's soaring score is the most radiant of Russian lyric operas. Adapted from Pushkin's classic verse novel, *Eugene Onegin* is a deeply moving tale of unrequited love and high society life. When Tatyana, a young country girl, is introduced to the arrogant Eugene Onegin, she is besotted and confesses her love, only to be rejected and humiliated. Onegin flirts with Tatyana's older sister Olga, who's engaged to Vladimir Lensky, Onegin's only friend, setting off a series of tragic events.

Scottish Opera's Music Director, **Stuart Stratford** conducts a cast of international talent. Award-winning Welsh soprano **Natalya Romaniw** (*Rusalka* 2016) sings Tatyana, and former Jette Parker Young Artist **Samuel Dale Johnson** (*The Marriage of Figaro* 2016) is Eugene Onegin. **Peter Auty** (*Flight* 2018) is Vladimir Lensky and former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Sioned Gwen Davies** (*Flight* 2018) is Olga. Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Alexey Gusev** (*Iolanta* 2017) sings the role of Captain.

Joining Oliver Mears' team is award-winning set and costume designer **Annemarie Woods**, lighting designer **Fabiana Piccioli** and former Scottish Ballet Artistic Director, choreographer **Ashley Page**. **Eve Mutso**, former Principal Dancer with Scottish Ballet, is the Dancer.

Also appearing in the production is **George**, a 7-year-old cob, who makes his stage debut as Onegin's horse.

Oliver Mears said: '*Onegin* has everything: breathtaking music, heart-rending poetry, and the drama of passionate characters who live and breathe as we do. With its richly poetic atmospheres and endlessly inspired melodic invention, the opera is one of the greatest Russia has to offer – and, like an apparition from the past, once heard this beautiful opera haunts our dreams. We are lucky to be making this production with an outstanding cast of mainly young singers who will bring all of their energy and commitment to Tchaikovsky's great score.'

Stuart Stratford added: '*Onegin* is the most iconic of Russian operas and is the one held in highest affection by all Russians. It has a unique blend of the lyric and dramatic and features one of the greatest scenes ever written for soprano. Tatyana is a complex and vulnerable character and we are fortunate to have rising star, Natalya Romaniw, giving her interpretation to a role with which she is already closely associated. *Onegin* is a piece I know really well, having studied it as a student in St. Petersburg. Every time I return to it, the music still feels fresh and I am always in awe of the emotional depth that it provides.'

Those who wish to discover more about how the production was created can attend *Eugene Onegin* Unwrapped, one-hour tasters delving further into the show, as well as Pre-show Talks. Audience members with visual impairments can enjoy the full opera experience at audio-described performances, which have a live commentary describing the action on stage without compromising the music.

This production is supported by The Alexander Gibson Circle and Scottish Opera's 'Play a Supporting Role' appeal. The 'Play a Supporting Role' campaign allows opera fans to support a character, scene, aria or prop to bring this new production to the stage.

Cast List

Eugene Onegin	Samuel Dale Johnson
Tatyana	Natalya Romaniw
Vladimir Lensky	Peter Auty
Olga	Sioned Gwen Davies
Madame Larina	Alison Kettlewell
Filipyevna	Anne-Marie Owens
Prince Gremin	Graeme Broadbent
Monsieur Triquet	Christopher Gillett
Captain (Company Commander)	Alexey Gusev*
Zaretsky	James Platt
Old Tatyana	Rosy Sanders
Dancer	Eve Mutso & Polina Guseva (29 April only)

*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

Creative Team

Conductor	Stuart Stratford
Director	Oliver Mears
Set and Costume Designer	Annemarie Woods
Lighting Designer	Fabiana Piccioli
Choreographer	Ashley Page

Performance Diary

Theatre Royal Glasgow, 282 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 3QA

Fri 27 Apr, 7.15pm

Sun 29 Apr, 3pm

Thu 3 May, 7.15pm

Sat 5 May, 7.15pm

Eugene Onegin Unwrapped

Wed 2 May, 6pm

Eugene Onegin Pre-show Talk

Sat 5 May, 6pm

Eugene Onegin Touch Tour

Sat 5 May, 6pm

Eugene Onegin Audio-described performance

Sat 5 May, 7.15pm

His Majesty's Theatre, Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1GL

Thu 10 May, 7.15pm

Sat 12 May, 7.15pm

Eugene Onegin Unwrapped

Fri 11 May, 6pm

Eugene Onegin Pre-show Talk

Sat 12 May, 6pm

Eugene Onegin Touch Tour

Sat 12 May, 6pm

Eugene Onegin Audio-described performance

Sat 12 May, 7.15pm

Eden Court, Bishops Road, Inverness IV3 5SA

Tue 15 May, 7.15pm

Thu 17 May, 7.15pm

Sat 19 May, 7.15pm

Eugene Onegin Unwrapped

Fri 18 May, 6pm

Eugene Onegin Pre-show Talk

Sat 19 May, 6pm

Eugene Onegin Touch Tour

Sat 19 May, 6pm

Eugene Onegin Audio-described performance

Sat 19 May, 7.15pm

Festival Theatre, 13–29 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9FT

Wed 23 May, 7.15pm

Sat 26 May, 7.15pm

Tue 29 May, 7.15pm

Thu 31 May, 7.15pm

Eugene Onegin Unwrapped

Thu 24 May, 6pm

Eugene Onegin Pre-show Talk

Sat 26 May, 6pm

Eugene Onegin Touch Tour

Thu 31 May, 6pm

Eugene Onegin Audio-described performance

Thu 31 May, 7.15pm

Grand Opera House, 2-4 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7HR

Thu 28 June, 7.15pm

Sat 30 June, 7.15pm

Eugene Onegin Unwrapped

Fri 29 June, 6pm

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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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; 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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