

30 April 2018

## **SCOTTISH OPERA'S MUCH-LOVED POP-UP OPERA ON TOUR THIS SUMMER**

Scottish Opera's Pop-up Opera is back on the road from May 2018, with three brilliant shows for audiences of all ages: *A Little Bit of HMS Pinafore*, *A Little Bit of Eugene Onegin* and *Be A Sport, Spike!*, which has been commissioned by Festival 2018, the cultural programme of the Glasgow 2018 European Championships.

Performed in Scottish Opera's fully accessible travelling opera house – a specially adapted trailer designed to look like a miniature Theatre Royal Glasgow – the 25-minute shows are brought to life by a storyteller, singers, instrumentalists and a series of colourful illustrations.

The first performances take place on May 25 at Perth Festival of the Arts, before the tour travels to the Outer and Inner Hebrides visiting Barra, South Uist, Benbecula, North Uist, Isle of Lewis, Isle of Harris, Ullapool and Isle of Skye as well as Perth's Solas Festival, Haddington Show and Callander Summerfest. This year, there will be extra performances in Glasgow and other areas hosting sport across Scotland as part of the cultural festival taking place alongside the Glasgow 2018 European Championships. There are also schools performances throughout the Hebrides.

One of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular comic operas, *HMS Pinafore*, has been whittled down by Scottish Opera's Head of Music **Derek Clark** to create *A Little Bit of HMS Pinafore*. Aboard the ship HMS Pinafore, Josephine, the captain's daughter, is in love with one of the crew and her father doesn't approve. Overturning social order and parental wishes, the couple plans to elope, but a surprise confession soon leaves everything in doubt.

Complementing Scottish Opera's mainstage production of *Eugene Onegin* which is on tour in Scotland and Belfast until the end of June is *A Little Bit of Eugene Onegin*. Once again arranged by **Derek Clark**, it offers

highlights from Tchaikovsky's classic opera, a sweeping tale of unrequited love between an arrogant young man and a lovesick girl, based on Pushkin's literary masterpiece.

With music by **Karen MacIver** and words by **Ross Stenhouse**, *Be A Sport, Spike!* is for children aged four to seven. Mike 'The Spike' McTavish is the greatest sportsman the world has ever seen. There's no-one who can run faster, jump higher or swim further than mega-fit Spike. But there is one thing that Spike can't do – sing! Audiences will join Spike and his friends as he starts to exercise those vocal cords, and finds out that a little perseverance can go a long way. *Be A Sport, Spike!* was commissioned for Festival 2018, the cultural programme surrounding the city's hosting of the first ever European Championships in August.

Scottish Opera's Director of Outreach and Education, **Jane Davidson** said: 'In 2018, Scottish Opera continues to bring its unique brand of miniature opera to audiences across Scotland, this year focusing on island communities both large and small – from the Isle of Barra in the south to Stornoway, Isle of Lewis in the north. There's something for everyone in the shows on offer which are, as ever, a mixture of comedy and drama; from pinafores to pistols at dawn and a brand new piece for children aged four to seven years and their families – *Be A Sport Spike!*'

Pop-up Opera is supported by Festival 2018.

-ENDS-

**[www.scottishopera.org.uk](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk)**

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

### Cast and Creative Team

<b>Narrator</b>	Flora Munro/Steven Wren
<b>Soprano</b>	Jessica Leary
<b>Baritone</b>	Oscar Castellino/Andrew McTaggart
<b>Cello</b>	Andrew Drummond Huggan/Laura Sergeant
<b>Guitar</b>	Sasha Savaloni/Ian Watt

#### *A Little Bit of HMS Pinafore*

<b>Music arrangement</b>	Derek Clark
<b>Illustrations</b>	Otto Von Beach

#### *A Little Bit of Eugene Onegin*

<b>Music arrangement</b>	Derek Clark
<b>Illustrations</b>	Essi Kimpimäki

*Be A Sport, Spike!*

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

Performance Information

For booking details and further information, please contact individual venues.

**Perth Festival of the Arts, Perth Concert Hall**

Fri 25 May: 12, 2 & 3pm

Sat 26 May: 12, 2 & 3pm

**Castlebay School, Isle of Barra**

Wed 30 & Thu 31 May: 7pm

**Daliburgh Primary, South Uist**

Fri 1 Jun: 7pm

**lochdar Hall, South Uist**

Sat 2 Jun: 2, 3 & 5pm

**Balivanich Primary, Benbecula**

Mon 4 Jun: 7pm

**North Uist Primary School, North Uist**

Tue 5 Jun: 7pm

**Tolsta Primary, Isle of Lewis**

Thu 7 Jun: 4pm

**Uig Primary, Isle of Lewis**

Fri 8 Jun: 4pm

**Tong Community Centre, Isle of Lewis**

Sat 9 Jun: 10am

**Museum nan Eilean, Lews Castle, Isle of Lewis**

Sat 9 Jun: 2pm

**North Lochs Community Centre, Isle of Lewis**

Sat 9 Jun: 6pm

**Leverhulme Memorial School, Isle of Lewis**

Wed 13 Jun: 4pm

**Macphail Centre, Ullapool**

Fri 15 Jun, 6pm

**Armadale Castle, Isle of Skye**

Mon 18 Jun: 2, 5 & 7.30pm

**Sligachan Hotel, Isle of Skye**

Tue 19 Jun: 2, 5 & 7.30pm

**Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye**

Wed 20 Jun: 1 & 4pm

**Solas Festival, Perth**

Sat 23 & Sun 24 Jun: 11am, 1 & 4pm

**Haddington Show, East Fortune**

Sat 30 Jun: 11.30am, 1 & 2.30pm

**Callander SummerFest**

Sat 28 Jul 12, 1.30, 2.30pm

**Festival 2018**

Thu 2 – Sun 19 Aug (ex. 6, 13 & 14 Aug) - Glasgow

Wed 15 – Sun 26 Aug – areas across Scotland hosting sport

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.



Festival 2018 is the world-class arts and culture programme that will complement the 11 days of sporting events at the 2018 European Championships. Further information is available at [www.glasgow2018.com/festival](http://www.glasgow2018.com/festival)

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