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##### Press Release

22 January 2025

**national opera studio RETURNS TO SCOTTISH OPERA THIS FEBRUARY for a showcase FEATURING THE brightest rising star singers and repetiteurs from around the world**

Scottish Opera is delighted to welcome 15 rising stars from the National Opera Studio for a week long residency, culminating in *Lust & Laughter* at Theatre Royal Glasgow on 21 February.

Building on a 45 year-strong partnership, 11 singers and four repetiteurs work intensively for a week with Scottish Opera music staff to rehearse their repertoire, before taking to the stage with **The Orchestra of Scottish Opera**, conducted by Music Director, **Stuart Stratford**.

The director of the showcase is **Emma Jenkins**, who has previously directed for Scottish Opera the National Opera Studio’s *Anarchy at the Opera* performance in 2022, *Opera Highlights* 2022/23, and the critically acclaimed Scottish premiere of Strauss’ *Daphne* in 2023.

This international cohort consists of artists from all over the world, including South Africa, Russia and the UK, as well as Scottish soprano **Rachel McLean**, who graduated in 2023 with a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Audience members can look forward to afun and energetic show with a programme that includesexcerpts from *Hansel & Gretel* by Humperdinck, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* by Nicolai, *Cendrillon* by Massenet and *Così fan tutte* by Mozart.

Director **Emma Jenkins** said: ‘This showcase performance is a rollercoaster ride through fairy tale romances, vengeful encounters, love triangles and mistaken identity, all taking place on one crazy night.  We invite you to jump down the rabbit-hole of human emotion, and celebrate with us as conflict becomes harmony and love finally conquers all.’

**Eric Melear**, Artistic Director of National Opera Studio said: ‘The National Opera Studio's partnership with Scottish Opera is one of our most valued relationships. Working with their team provides our Young Artists with an immersive, professional experience that's essential to their development. The unique mentorship and practical skills they gain here are invaluable to their careers. We share a commitment to nurturing emerging talent, and our artists consistently find Scottish audiences to be wonderfully welcoming and supportive.’

The National Opera Studio offers intensive and bespoke professional training for the next generation of opera stars. Alumni include Gerald Finley, Alfie Boe, Lesley Garrett, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Nicky Spence, who was the Patron of Scottish Opera Young Company.

Scottish Opera audiences will be familiar with NOS alumni including current Emerging Artist soprano **Kira Kaplan,** and tenor **Robert Forrest**. They are both cast members in the *Opera Highlights* tour this year. Kira has already appeared in the Company’s production of *Albert Herring*, and will perform in *Trial by Jury* and *A Matter of Misconduct!* in May.

Tickets are on sale now at [www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/national-opera-studio-showcase/](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/national-opera-studio-showcase/)

-ENDS-

Creative Team

Conductor **Stuart Stratford**

Director **Emma Jenkins**

National Opera Studio Young Artists

Singers

**Ana-Carmen Balestra** (soprano)

**Moloko Letsoalo** (soprano)

**Rachel McLean** (soprano)

**Ceferina Penny** (soprano)

**Olivia Rose Tringham** (soprano

**Nancy Holt** (mezzo-soprano)

**Sarah Winn** (mezzo-soprano)

**Emyr Lloyd Jones** (tenor)

**Luvo Maranti** (tenor)

**Aleksander Kaczuk-Jagielnik** **(**baritone)

**Egor Sergeev** (baritone)

Repetiteurs

**Alistair Burton**

**Su Choung**

**Adam McDonagh**

**Aya Robertson**

Performance Diary

NOS at Scottish Opera: *Lust & Laughter*

Friday 21 February, 6pm, Theatre Royal Glasgow

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

You can follow Scottish Opera on BlueSky, Facebook, You Tube, Tik-Tok and Instagram **@ScottishOpera**

Notes to Editors

**National Opera Studio**

The National Opera Studio (NOS) exists to train talented young musicians to become the leading artists of their generation. It aims to make a significant contribution to the opera ecology and the wider creative and cultural life of the UK through the provision of top-quality professional training, and by our engagement and position in the sector.

At its core, the National Opera Studio provides intensive and bespoke professional training at the highest level for a small number of singers and repetiteurs each year, and prepares them for life on an international operatic stage. It works in partnership with not one, but six of the leading opera companies in the UK: English National Opera, Glyndebourne, Opera North, the Royal Opera House, Scottish Opera and Welsh National Opera. Young Artists are with NOS for nine months and undergo a rigorous programme that is individually designed around their particular vocal and developmental needs.

In addition to the tailored coaching programme, Young Artists work closely with leading directors, conductors and opera orchestras to prepare opera scenes for public performance, as well as working with other artists who are leaders in their field. The intensity of the training programme is designed to create a working environment that reflects the professional opera world.

[www.nationaloperastudio.org.uk/](http://www.nationaloperastudio.org.uk/)

**Scottish Opera**

Scottish Opera is Scotland’s national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. The Company was founded in 1962 by Sir Alexander Gibson with the goal ‘to lay the treasures of opera at the feet of the people of Scotland’, opening with performances of *Madama Butterfly* and *Pelléas et Mélisande*. The 2022/23 season marked its 60th Anniversary.

Scottish Opera’s performance repertoire ranges across five centuries, from the earliest operas to newly commissioned world premieres, balancing favourites with under-explored works. The Company collaborates with the world’s finest singers and creatives, together with The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and choruses for each opera. Recent accolades include an International Opera Award 2023 Nomination for *Il trittico*, a South Bank Sky Arts Award, a Scottish Award for New Music, Sunday Herald Culture Awards, a 2017 UK Theatre Award, and a 2020 RPS Award. The Company took operas to Brooklyn in 2017 and Adelaide in 2020, and the 2022/23 season saw productions first staged at Scottish Opera appearing in Santa Fe, Madrid, Toulouse, and Los Angeles. The 60th Anniversary Season included the UK fully staged premiere of Osvaldo Golijov’s *Ainadamar* and the Company premiere of Puccini’s *Il trittico*.

The Company tours extensively across Scotland to ensure performances are within reach of as many of the country’s dispersed population as possible. This is one of the most extensive touring programmes of any European opera company and a much-valued contribution to Scotland’s cultural and artistic life, particularly in remote and island communities.

The Company’s Education & Outreach programme, the oldest in Europe, includes an annual in-person and digital Primary Schools Tour, bringing children the opportunity to perform their own specially commissioned piece alongside professional singers. Around 120 schools and 9,000 pupils take part each year. Scottish Opera aims to be inclusive and affordable through availability of free and cheap tickets, as well as performances offering audio description and specially-devised shorter Access performances.

Scottish Opera is committed to making opera for all, presenting opera at the highest possible standards in theatres across the country, outdoors on tour, and digital audiences around the world. The Company’s 2021 production of *The Gondoliers*, filmed live at Festival Theatre Edinburgh, is available on BBC iPlayer and OperaVision. Scottish Opera’s on Screen productions are available to watch at [www.scottishopera.org.uk/what-s-on/opera-on-screen](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk/what-s-on/opera-on-screen). The collection includes Donizetti’s *L’elisir d’amore*, Humperdinck’s *Hansel and Gretel*, Mozart’s *Così fan tutte*, Menotti’s *The Telephone*, *The Diary of One Who Disappeared*, *Mister MacNeep Has Lost His Sheep*, and Samuel Bordoli and Jenni Fagan’s *The Narcissistic Fish*.

Renowned for their flexibility and craftsmanship, Scottish Opera productions are frequently presented by opera houses across the globe. Two of our 60th Anniversary productions have been presented by co-producer Welsh National Opera: Osvaldo Golijov’s *Ainadamar* was in Cardiff, Llandudno, Bristol, Plymouth, Birmingham, Milton Keynes and Southampton from September to November 2023. Puccini’s *Il trittico* was performed in Cardiff in October 2024.

Following on from a run at the Opera Comique in Paris, Detroit Opera performed our 2019 production of Missy Mazzoli’s *Breaking the Waves* in April 2024. It just performed *Ainadamar,* which was also presented by The Metropolitan Opera in New York last autumn. In spring 2025, *Breaking the Waves* opens at Houston Grand Opera in a co-production of Houston Grand Opera, Opera Ventures, Scottish Opera, Théâtre National de l’Opéra Comique, and Adelaide Festival that began life in Scotland.

In addition, our 2014 production of Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale* was performed twice in Canada: at Vancouver Opera in February 2024, and at Canadian Opera Company in Toronto in April and May 2024.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.

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