

ROYAL
DERNGATE &
NORTHAMPTON



PRESS RELEASE

March 21 2019

***FOX-TOT!* HAS WORLD PREMIERE AT EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE THIS AUGUST**

Fox-tot!, a new opera for children aged 12 to 24 months, has its world premiere at Edinburgh Festival Fringe this August.

This Scottish Opera co-commission with Royal & Derngate, Northampton, is composed by former Scottish Opera Composer in Residence, **Liam Paterson**. Last year, his acclaimed 'opera for babies', *BambinO*, had sell-out performances at the Fringe, in Paris and at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Fox-tot! will be performed at Edinburgh Academy from 2 to 16 August. It then goes to Royal & Derngate, Northampton, from 27 August to 1 September, and tours around Scotland in Spring 2020.

Directed by **Roxana Haines** (*Edgar* 2018) and designed by **Giuseppe Belli** and **Emma Belli** (*BambinO* 2017), the 45-minute show for toddlers is an engaging mix of music and puppetry, performed by mezzo-soprano and former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Katie Grosset** (*The Opera Factory* 2018), and countertenor **Daniel Keating-Roberts** (*The 8th Door* 2017). They are joined by cellist **Laura Sergeant** and percussionist **Michael D Clark**, who both performed in *BambinO*.

Sung in English, Liam's new work takes inspiration from French baroque dances and contemporary opera. It tells the story of a little fox sent on an adventure to explore the world and learn to see through the eyes of other creatures, including a cat, a butterfly and a frog. But, as Mother Vixen guides her cub's journey, will the little one discover what it takes to become an excellent fox?

Scottish Opera's Director of Education and Outreach, **Jane Davidson**, said: '*Fox-tot!* is Scottish Opera's most recent foray into creating opera for children.

'Building on their *BambinO* experiences, our babies are now toddlers; discovering a delicately coloured sound world rooted in French baroque, complete with a trio of creatures ready to flit, paddle and scamper through the forest with them.

'Through the music and narrative, *Fox-tot!* aims to stimulate the little ones' physical and intellectual curiosity in their surroundings as well as instilling the beginnings of empathy, a critical skill which is arguably the most defining of all human qualities.'

Director **Roxana Haines** said 'You are invited to join Fox on a journey of transformation, play, and discovery. In this magical world, who Fox will be is up to Fox, and Mother Vixen's unconditional love is there no matter what. '

Composer **Liam Paterson**, continued: 'A little fox sets out on a magical journey, guided by Mother Vixen. *Fox-tot!* follows our furry hero on an operatic quest, tailor-made for miniature audiences and their carers! '

Fox-tot! is supported by Scottish Opera's Education Angels & New Commissions Circle. This project is also part of a Royal & Derngate-led consortium inspiring and supporting the creation of new musicals and operas.

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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

Creative Team

Composer	Liam Paterson
Director	Roxana Haines
Designers	Giuseppe Belli & Emma Belli
Puppet designers	Mervyn Millar for Significant Object

Cast

Mezzo-soprano	Katie Grosset
Countertenor	Daniel Keating-Roberts
Cello	Laura Sergeant
Percussion	Michael D Clark

Performance Diary

Edinburgh Academy

Part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

2 to 16 Aug (excl. Mondays)

10am & 11.30am

Tickets on sale now from <https://tickets.edfringe.com>

Royal & Derngate, Northampton

27 Aug, 2pm

28 Aug to 1 Sep, 11am & 2pm

Spring 2020

Touring Scotland (more information coming soon)

Notes to Editors

Liam Paterson, former Composer in Residence at Scottish Opera, is from Aberdeenshire. He trained at the University of Cambridge and as a répétiteur and accompanist at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He studied composition privately with Judith Weir, Errollyn Wallen, David Sawer and Nicola LeFanu.

Liam won the 2017 Sunday Herald Culture Award for 'Best Musical Artist' for his work with Scottish Opera, including the opera *The 8th Door*, conducted by Sian Edwards, and *BambinO*, an opera for babies directed by Phelim McDermott. *BambinO* was nominated for a Royal Philharmonic Society Award in 2018. It toured to Paris in association with the Théâtre du Châtelet and to the Metropolitan Opera, New York in 2018.

Liam recently completed his first film score - 'A Symphony in Stone' - in collaboration with Production Attic, and was commissioned by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra to write a brass quintet for the opening of the V&A Dundee.

Scottish Opera

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, 2016's *The Devil Inside* and 2019's *Anthropocene* 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 9,000 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.



Royal & Derngate, Northampton

Royal & Derngate is the main venue for arts and entertainment in Northamptonshire, with audience members for live shows and films numbering 378,000 last year, and an additional 115,000 seeing its work on tour at over 85 venues. Named Regional Theatre of the Year in The Stage Awards in 2011 (and nominated again in 2016), the theatre won the UK Theatre Award for Best Presentation of Touring Theatre in 2015 and Best Touring Production in 2016 for *The Herbal Bed*, and The Stage Ensemble Award and a Fringe First for *Education, Education, Education* in 2017.

Alongside touring nationally and internationally Royal & Derngate's *Made in Northampton* productions have transferred to the West End and Broadway as well as Shakespeare's Globe, the National Theatre, Hackney Empire and the Lyric Hammersmith. The venue also presents a

diverse range of visiting productions on both the Derngate and Royal stages, featuring musicals, dance, comedy and music, including a residency from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Royal & Derngate's award-winning, nationally recognised *Get Involved* programme engages with over 21,000 participants each year, including schools, families and communities in Northamptonshire and beyond, and its two-screen cinema welcomed over 82,000 audience members to the best in world, independent, British and mainstream film. Meanwhile, the theatre's *Generate* artistic development programme supports hundreds of local and emerging artists and practitioners each year.

Royal and Derngate, Northampton is supported by:



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