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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **SCOTTISH OPERA'S EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE SELL-OUT SHOW *FOX-TOT!* RETURNS FOR SCOTTISH TOUR IN SPRING**

Scottish Opera's hit show *Fox-tot!*, a new opera for children aged 12 to 24 months, returns this Spring for a tour around Scotland, following a five star run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2019.

*Fox-tot!* will be performed at: Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock; Perth Theatre, Perth; Cowdray Hall, Aberdeen; Bonar Hall, Dundee and Eden Court Theatre, Inverness from Friday 20 March to Saturday 4 April.

Composed by **Liam Paterson**, in 2018, his acclaimed 'opera for babies', *BambinO*, had sell-out performances at the Fringe, the Metropolitan Opera in New York, in Paris and The Royal Opera House Muscat in Oman. Scottish Opera Staff Director **Roxana Haines** (*Opera Highlights 2019*) directs *Fox-tot!*, a Scottish Opera co-commission with Royal & Derngate, Northampton.

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 **Bethan Langford** (*The Magic Flute* 2019), and countertenor **Daniel Keating-Roberts** (*Orfeo & Euridice* 2019). They are joined by cellist **Laura Sergeant** and percussionists **Michael D Clark** and **Darren Gallacher**.

Sung in English, *Fox-tot!* tells the story of a little fox sent on an adventure to explore the world and step into the footsteps 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?

The show stimulates the curiosity of Scottish Opera's littlest audience members with an interactive set they are encouraged to explore and play in. It inspires joy in listening to music, and instils the beginnings of empathy as Fox learns to see through the eyes of others.

Scottish Opera's Director of Outreach and Education, **Jane Davidson**, said: 'Once again, *Fox-Tot!* is up on its paws visiting venues across Scotland; this is a real treat for small eyes and ears as toddlers are welcomed into the magical, autumnal world of Fox and his friends. As much fun for the adults as for the little ones, this is one of those rare occasions when everyone can enjoy a shared musical experience that works equally well as a miniature one-act opera as it does a leafy playground full of tactile toys and intriguing sounds.'

*Fox-tot!* director **Roxana Haines** said: 'Come and join Little Fox on a journey of transformation, play, and discovery. You're free to roam in this magical world, as Fox tries out being a cat, a frog and a butterfly. No matter who Fox becomes, Mother Vixen's unconditional love is always there.'

*Fox-tot!* is supported by Scottish Opera's Education Angels, New Commissions Circle, Forteviot Charitable Trust, Jimmie Cairncross Charitable Trust and Thomson Charitable Trust. 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](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk)

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

Creative Team

Composer	<b>Liam Paterson</b>
Director	<b>Roxana Haines</b>
Designers	<b>Giuseppe Belli &amp; Emma Belli</b>
Puppet designer	<b>Mervyn Millar for Significant Object</b>

Cast

Mezzo-soprano	<b>Bethan Langford</b>
Countertenor	<b>Daniel Keating-Roberts</b>
Cello	<b>Laura Sergeant</b>
Percussion	<b>Michael D Clark &amp; Darren Gallacher</b>

Performance Diary

**Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock**

Fri 20 Mar, 10am & 11.30am

Sat 21 Mar, 10am

**Joan Knight Studio, Perth Theatre**

Tue 24 Mar, 11.30am

Wed 25 Mar, 10am & 11.30am

**Cowdray Hall, Aberdeen**

Fri 27 Mar, 10.30am & 12pm

Sat 28 Mar, 10.30am & 12pm

## **Bonar Hall, Dundee**

Tue 31 Mar, 10am & 11.30am

Wed 1 Apr, 10am & 11.30am

## **Eden Court, Inverness**

Fri 3 Apr, 10am & 11.30am

Sat 4 Apr, 10am & 11.30am

-ENDS-

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### 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. In 1974 Scottish Opera purchased the Theatre Royal Glasgow, which reopened in 1975 as Scotland's first national opera house. The Orchestra of Scottish Opera was founded in 1980.

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*; and a Herald Angel for the European premiere of Missy Mazzoli's *Breaking the Waves* at the 2019 Edinburgh International Festival.

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* (premiered at the 2012 Edinburgh International Festival), 2016's *The Devil Inside*, with which Scottish Opera made its North American debut in Toronto, and 2019's *Anthropocene*. *Ghost Patrol* won a South Bank Sky Arts Award, and *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* were nominated for an Olivier Award. In 2018 the company made its US debut with *Bambino* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and returned later that year to the city's Brooklyn Academy of Music with Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Greek*.

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 and dozens of other theatres, village halls and community centres. It also operates an extensive programme of outreach and education work 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 receives core funding from the Scottish Government, as well as income from box office, and private and commercial support.

## Royal & Derngate, Northampton

Royal & Derngate n is the main venue for arts and entertainment in Northamptonshire, with attendances for live events and films numbering 358,000 last year, and an additional 119,000 seeing its work on tour at over 100 venues. Named Regional Theatre of the Year in The Stage Awards in 2011 (and nominated again in 2016), the theatre won the UK Theatre Awards 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. This year Royal & Derngate was been nominated for the UK Theatre 'Excellence in Inclusivity' Award.

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, The Southbank Centre and the Lyric Hammersmith. Productions transferring to London this year include *Education, Education, Education*, *The Worst Witch*, *Our Lady of Kibeho*, *The\_Singing Mermaid* and *Touching the Void*. 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. In 2019 the venue hosted the UK Musical Theatre Conference, Devoted & Disgruntled 13 and the International Teach First conference.

Royal & Derngate's award-winning, nationally recognised *Get Involved* programme engages with over 20,000 participants each year, including schools, families and communities in Northamptonshire and beyond, and its two-screen cinema welcomed over 78,000 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 & Derngate, Northampton is supported by:



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**For additional press details please contact:**

Emily Henderson, Press Manager, 0141 242 0511, [emily.henderson@scottishopera.org.uk](mailto:emily.henderson@scottishopera.org.uk)

Julie McLaughlin, Press Officer, 0141 242 0552, [julie.mclaughlin@scottishopera.org.uk](mailto:julie.mclaughlin@scottishopera.org.uk)