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##### **Press Release**

1 September 2021

**FINAL LEG OF SCOTTISH OPERA’S POP-UP OPERA TOUR TRAVELS TO GLASGOW, FIFE AND DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND INCLUDES PRIMARY SCHOOL PERFORMANCES FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE LOCKDOWN**

The third tour of Scottish Opera’s popular 2021 Pop-up Opera tour kicks off this month, visiting venues in Glasgow, Fife and Dumfries and Galloway. The final leg also includes performances for children in primary schools, for the first time since before the pandemic.

The 30-minute performances of *A Little Bit of The Pirates of Penzance* and *A Little Bit of Bubble McBea* are al fresco with a covered stage and audiences out front in the open air.

Beginning on Monday 13 September with an evening performance at The Buttery Restaurant car park in Glasgow, the tour then goes to New Rotterdam Wharf as part of Glasgow Canal Festival on Saturday 18 September, Kirkcudbright Primary School on Thursday 23 September, and Wigtown Book Festival on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 September. On the Saturday in Wigtown, there is an-hour long drawing and illustration workshop for parents and children aged four to nine, led by artist and *Bubble McBea* illustrator **Iain Piercy**.

School pupils will also be able to enjoy the fun-filled shows with free performances throughout September in Kilmacolm Primary, Riverbank Primary, St Saviour’s Primary (both in Glasgow), Lawhead Primary, Canongate Primary (both in St Andrews), Gatehouse of Fleet Primary in Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright Primary and Wigtown Primary (at the Wigtown Showground).

Featuring some of Gilbert & Sullivan’s wittiest lyrics and best-known tunes, *A Little Bit of The Pirates of Penzance* has been cleverly re-scored by Scottish Opera’s Head of Music, **Derek Clark,** with story text by **Allan Dunn.** *A Little Bit of Bubble McBea* (score by **Alan Penman** and lyrics by **Allan Dunn**) is aimed at children in Primary 1 to 3, anddeals with environmental issues in the coasts around Scotland, raising awareness of sea pollution in the run up to COP26 in Glasgow.

The shows are brought to life by storytellers **Allan Dunn** and **Chris Alexander**, along with singers **Charlotte Hoather** and **Aidan Edwards,** accompanied byinstrumentalists **Andrew Drummond Huggan, Sasha Savaloni** and **Ian Watt**,with a series of colourful illustrations by **Otto von Beach** and **Iain Piercy.**

Scottish Opera’sDirector of Education, **Jane Davidson**, said: ‘Our Pop-up Opera tour has been a tremendous success this summer, and we are delighted to be able to round it off in style with these final dates in Glasgow, Fife and Dumfries & Galloway. It is especially thrilling to be able to perform for primary schools for the first time since last year. Our wonderful cast has performed 166 shows in the past few months, attracting a socially distanced audience of around 8,500! Audiences on this last leg of the tour will be transported in to the wonderfully weird world of Gilbert & Sullivan with *A Little Bit of The Pirates* *of Penzance*, with colourful illustrations, glorious music, wit and heartfelt sentiment. Climate change is at the forefront of many people’s minds, especially with COP26 coming to Glasgow in October, so we hope that younger audiences watching *Bubble McBea* will be encouraged, through the medium of music and storytelling, to consider the impact continued change will have on their own communities and the world as a whole.’

Pop-up Opera is supported by Garfield Weston Foundation (Weston Culture Fund), Backstage Trust, The Cross Trust, The Thistle Trust, Scottish Opera Endowment Trust and Scottish Opera’s Education Angels.

Tickets and more details about the performances are available at Scottish Opera’s website at www.scottishopera.org.uk

More information about the *Bubble McBea* illustration workshop at Wigtown is available at [www.wigtownbookfestival.com/programme/event/428397135/](http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com/programme/event/428397135/)

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

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

Cast and Creative Team

**Music**  Alan Penman (*A Little Bit of Bubble McBea*)

**Lyrics** Allan Dunn (*A Little Bit of Bubble McBea*)

**Soprano**  Charlotte Hoather

**Baritone** Aidan Edwards

**Storyteller** Allan Dunn/Chris Alexander

**Cello** Andrew Drummond Huggan

**Guitar**  Ian Watt/Sasha Savaloni

**Director** Allan Dunn

**Musical Director** Derek Clark

**Illustrations**  Otto von Beach/Iain Piercy

Notes to Editors

All performances are being produced in line with Scottish Government guidelines. Live outdoor events are subject to social distancing measures and guidelines at the time of performance.

Tour Dates (public performances)

**The Buttery Restaurant,** 652-654 Argyle Street, Glasgow, G3 8UF

Monday 13 September, 6pm, *A Little Bit of The Pirates* *of Penzance*

**Glasgow Canal Festival, New Rotterdam Wharf** (behind Scottish Opera Production Studios), Edington Street, Glasgow ,G4 9RD

Saturday 18 September, 11am *A Little Bit of Bubble McBea,* 1pm *A Little Bit of The Pirates of* *Penzance*, 3pm *A Little Bit of The Pirates of Penzance.*

**Kirkcudbright Primary School**, St Mary’s Wynd, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4JT

Thursday 23 September, 6pm, *A Little Bit of The Pirates of Penzance*

**Wigtown Book Festival,** Wigtown Show Field, Bladnoch Park, Newton Stewart, DG8 9AB

Saturday 25 September,12pm *A Little Bit of Bubble McBea*, 2pm *A Little Bit of The Pirates* *of Penzance*, 4pm *A Little Bit of The Pirates of Penzance*

Sunday 26 September, 12pm *A Little Bit of Bubble McBea*, 2pm *A Little Bit of The Pirates* *of Penzance*, 4pm *A Little Bit of The Pirates of Penzance*

The Company’s Opera 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*, *Opera Highlights*, Janáček’s *The Diary of One Who Disappeared*, Menotti’s *The Telephone* and Samuel Bordoli and Jenni Fagan’s *The Narcissistic Fish*.

Scottish Opera is Scotland’s national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland.

The Company's performance repertoire ranges across five centuries, from the earliest operas to newly-commissioned world premieres, working in collaboration with the world's finest singers and creatives, alongside The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and choruses. Recent accolades include a South Bank Sky Arts Award, a Scottish Award for New Music, Sunday Herald Culture Awards and a Herald Angel, as well as a 2020 RPS Award nomination.

Scottish Opera's work caters for audiences of all ages – ranging from babies to people living with dementia – and our Young Company and Emerging Artist programme support the talent of the future.

The Company tours extensively across Scotland, from the largest-scale theatres to rural venues with a capacity as low as 22, to ensure we are within reach of as many of our country's very dispersed population as possible. A miniature mobile opera house – literally, opera performed inside a converted 40-foot-long trailer on the back of a lorry – brings ‘Pop-up Opera’ performances to thousands of people each year in a range of inspiring and unexpected community locations. This represents the most extensive touring programme of any opera company in Europe and is a much-valued contribution to Scotland’s cultural and artistic life, particularly in remote and island communities.

The Company’s Education and Outreach programme, which celebrates 50 years in 2021, includes an annual Primary Schools Tour, bringing upper primary-aged children the opportunity to perform their own specially-commissioned piece, alongside three 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 access performances including audio description, and performances which cater to those living with Dementia.

In the year to 31 March 2020, 116,960 people experienced Scottish Opera as audience members or as participants, across all of Scotland’s 32 Local Authority areas:

• 56 mainstage opera performances in Scotland plus tours to Belfast, London and Australia

• 8% of ticket buyers for mainstage opera performances in Scotland aged under 26

• 2,422 people watched specially-created opera productions for babies or toddlers

• 40,177 people participated in school’s workshops and performances

• 1,123 people living with Dementia participated in projects.

Scottish Opera is core funded by The Scottish Government

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