

**Press Release**

7 March 2022

**Scottish opera presents revival of sir thomas allen’s acclaimed production of *don giovanni***

This May, Scottish Opera brings a revival of its dark and atmospheric 2013 production of *Don Giovanni* to Theatre Royal Glasgow, Eden Court Inverness and Festival Theatre Edinburgh. Possible for the first time since the end of 2019, the tour also visits His Majesty’s Theatre, in Aberdeen. The 5 June performance in Edinburgh marks the 60th anniversary of Scottish Opera’s founding, which will spark a year of celebration for the Company.

Mozart’s tale of dangerous seduction and deception is once again directed by British baritone **Sir Thomas Allen**, who made Don Giovanni his signature role on stage, having performed the part around 300 times. He has previously directed four acclaimed productions for Scottish Opera: *The Barber of Seville*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Magic Flute*.

**Sir** **Thomas Allen** said: ‘I might well have said at any time that I’m looking forward to returning to work with Scottish Opera in this exciting season. After all we’ve been through, the checks, the worries, the distancing and the hardships endured by so many, making such a statement seems trivial in the extreme.

‘Now, more than ever, as far as any of us can remember, it becomes vital to re-engage with the arts and culture that has been denied us for so long a barren period. We have assembled a fine cast for *Don Giovanni* led by the very experienced **Roland Wood**, with further performances featuring **Jonathan McGovern** in the role. It won’t be the same as already seen. Each individual artist brings their own energy to this extraordinary work, and for me it will be a challenge once again to channel the chemistry that evolves. Live theatre is back and there’s nothing in the canon more alive than Mozart’s great opera *Don Giovanni*. To quote the man himself, “Viva la Liberta”.’

Music Director **Stuart Stratford** conducts an exciting cast including **Roland Wood** (*Falstaff*, 2021) and **Jonathan McGovern** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, 2022), sharing the role of the anti-hero, Don Giovanni. They are joined by **Hye-Youn Lee** (*Nixon in China*, 2020) and **Kitty Whately** (*Hansel and Gretel,* 2021), along with **Keel Watson**, **Zachery Altman, Pablo Bemsch** and **Emyr Wyn Jones**, who are making their Company debuts.Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Lea Shaw** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*,2022) also joins the cast.

Designed by the award-winning **Simon Higlett,** the productionis set in the backstreets of 17th century Venice. Full of corruption, lust and darkness, it’s the perfect hunting ground of the amorous, Don Giovanni. It is here that the Don meets and sets his sights on Donna Anna, but when her father intervenes, it costs him his life at the hands of the Don Giovanni ‘s brute violence. As the shadows close in and the mistakes of his past begin to catch up with him, the Don’s tangled web of lies and betrayal begin to unravel.

Scottish Opera Music Director, **Stuart Stratford** said: ‘*Don Giovanni* is always uncomfortable and satisfying, reassuring and full of terror. Mozart holds up a mirror to human society and examines the ecstasy and dark failings of us all. The music is Mozart at his most acerbic, transcendental, violent and timeless. Thomas Allen’s classic production is not to be missed.’

Running alongside the full-length performances are Access Opera shows, which are specially created for those who enjoy a more relaxed opera experience. With Dementia Friendly values at their core, these shorter, narrated performances (under 2 hours with an interval) are open to all, whether you are recovering from an operation, have breathing difficulties, living with dementia, have a young baby, or are on the autism spectrum.

Designed to make coming to opera as easy and stress-free as possible, wheelchair spaces and extra staff are on hand to help, and there are brighter lighting levels than usual in the auditorium, in which you can move around freely during the performance. Groups, including schools, are also welcome to attend.

*Don Giovanni* is supported by The Scottish Opera Syndicate.

-ENDS-

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

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

**Cast**

Don Giovanni **Roland Wood and Jonathan McGovern** (15 May-7 June,

 9- 25 June respectively)

Leporello **Zachary Altman**

Donna Anna **Hye-Youn Lee**

Commendatore **Keel Watson**

Don Ottavio **Pablo Bemsch**

Donna Elvira **Kitty Whately**

Zerlina **Lea Shaw\***

Masetto **Emyr Wyn Jones**

\*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist 2021/22

Creatives

Conductors **Stuart Stratford** & **Derek Clark** (16 & 17 June, and

 Access *Don Giovanni* performances)

Director **Sir Thomas Allen**

Set & Costume Designer **Simon Higlett**

Lighting Designer **Mark Jonathan**

Choreographer **Kally Lloyd-Jones**

Performance Diary

**Theatre Royal, Glasgow**

Sunday 15 May, 3pm

Wednesday 18 May, 7.15pm

Saturday 21 May, 7.15pm

Thursday 23 June, 7.15pm

Friday 24 June, 3pm (Access *Don Giovanni*)

Saturday 25 June, 7.15pm

**Eden Court, Inverness**

Tuesday 24 May, 7.15pm

Thursday 26 May, 7.15pm

Friday 27 May, 3pm (Access *Don Giovanni*)

Saturday 28 May, 7.15pm

**Festival Theatre**, **Edinburgh**

Sunday 5 June, 3pm

Tuesday 7 June, 7.15pm

Thursday 9 June, 7.15pm

Friday 10 June, 3pm (Access *Don Giovanni*)

Saturday 11 June, 7.15pm

**His Majesty’s Theatre, Aberdeen**

Thursday 16 June, 7.15pm

Friday 17 June, 3pm (Access *Don Giovanni*)

Saturday 18 June, 7.15pm

Notes to Editors

All productions are created and performed in line with Scottish Government guidelines.

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*, Mozart’s *Così fan tutte*, *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. In 2021 the Company returned to live audiences with Sir David McVicar’s new production of Verdi’s *Falstaff* performed in Glasgow and at Edinburgh International Festival.

The Company tours extensively across Scotland, from the largest-scale theatres to the smallest of rural venues, to ensure we are within reach of as many of our country's very dispersed population as possible. Our specially-adapted 40-foot long trailer brings ‘Pop-up Opera’ performances to thousands of people each year in a range of inspiring and unexpected community locations. In the summer of 2021 the Company performed nearly 200 shows of its Pop-up Opera Roadshow, to socially distanced audiences of 11,014 people. 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 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 performances offering audio description, and specially-devised shorter access performances.



**For additional press details please contact:**

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