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##### Press Release

21 June 2022

**SCOTTISH OPERA PRESENTS CONCERT**

**PERFORMANCES OF MASSENET’S *THÉRÈSE*** **AT LAMMERMUIR FESTIVAL AND PERTH CONCERT HALL THIS SEPTEMBER**

On 8 September, Scottish Opera returns to Lammermuir Festival in East Lothian with Jules Massenet’s *Thérèse*, at St Mary’s Parish Church Parish in Haddington. This heart-wrenching work of French Romanticism then travels to Perth Concert Hall for a performance on 10 September.

Curated by Scottish Opera Music Director **Stuart Stratford**, these performances of *Thérèse* with **Justina Gringyte** (*Edgar* 2018) in the title role, and concert staging by **Roxana Haines**, are conducted by **Anu Tali**, making her Scottish Opera debut. Co-founder of the Estonian-Finnish Symphony Orchestra and former Music Director of the Sarasota Orchestra in Florida, Tali appears regularly with orchestras worldwide including the New Japan and Tokyo Philharmonic orchestras, Orchestre National de France, Houston Symphony Orchestra, Mozarteumorchester Salzburg and the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra. She makes her debut with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in 2023 and was a previous jury member for BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Main Prize.

Also in the cast are **Shengzhi Ren** (*Don Giovanni* 2022), **Dingle Yandell** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* 2022), **Dan Shelvey** (*The Gondoliers* 2022) and Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Colin Murray**.

Telling the story of a woman who finds herself at a crossroad, caught between her husband, a revolutionary representative, and her former lover, who is a deposed nobleman and her husband’s close friend, this sumptuous opera by Massenet, who also composed *Manon* and *Werther*, sits against the backdrop of the French Revolution and Robespierre’s infamous Reign of Terror.

Scottish Opera General Director **Alex Reedijk** said: ‘This is our fourth visit to Lammermuir, and we are delighted to be back at the festival, and in such a special venue as St Mary’s Parish Church which promises audiences a really visceral music experience. We then take *Thérèse* to Perth Concert Hall, which is particularly known for its stunning acoustics, so there are two unique chances to experience Jules Massenet’s lush orchestration and dramatic love triangle.’

**Hugh Macdonald** and **James Waters**, Artistic Directors of Lammermuir Festival added: ‘We treasure our relationship with Scottish Opera, and it is a real delight to be able to include them in our festival. Every appearance at Lammermuir has been a highlight, and this year offers something really special with brilliant mezzo Justina Gringyte starring in a performance of Massenet’s gorgeous and rarely performed *Thérèse,*which is full of passion and drama. Congratulations to Scottish Opera for their 60 years, and here’s to many more.’

Lammermuir Festival, established in 2010 by Hugh Macdonald and James Waters, runs from 8 to 19 September in beautiful venues around East Lothian. The festival won the 2017 Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Best Concert Series and Festival, and features several of Scotland's leading ensembles, internationally renowned musicians and exciting new talent. It has a close ongoing relationship with BBC Radio 3.

In November, Scottish Opera’s Opera in Concert series continues with The Verdi Collection. Touring to Aberdeen, Inverness, Glasgow and Edinburgh in November and February, these concerts, conducted by **Stuart Stratford** with The Orchestra of Scottish Opera, will feature the romance of *La traviata*, the intrigue of *Un ballo in maschera*, the passion of *La forza del destino*, the domestic tragedy of *Otello*, and *Don Carlo*.

*Thérèse* and The Verdi Collection are supported by **Friends of Scottish Opera** and **The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust**.

Priority booking for Friends of Lammermuir Festival starts on Tuesday 14 June, with public booking from Friday 17 June. Tickets for the Perth Concert Hall performance are on sale now from [www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/therese/](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/therese/)

*Thérèse* creative team

Conductor **Anu Tali**

Director **Roxana Haines**

*Thérèse* cast

Thérèse **Justina Gringyte**

Armand de Clerval **Shengzhi Ren**

André Thorel **Dingle Yandell**

Morel **Dan Shelvey**

City Official & Officer **Colin Murray\***

Officer **Andrew Henley**

\*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist 2022/23

Performance Diary

St Mary’s Parish Church, Haddington (part of Lammermuir Festival)

More information is available at [www.lammermuirfestival.co.uk](http://www.lammermuirfestival.co.uk)

Thursday 8 September, 7.30pm

Perth Concert Hall

Saturday 10 September, 7.30pm

*The Verdi Collection*

His Majesty’s Theatre, Aberdeen

19 November, 7.30pm

Eden Court, Inverness

26 November, 7.30pm

City Halls, Glasgow

10 February 2023, 7.30pm

Usher Hall, Edinburgh

11 February 2023, 7.30pm

-ENDS-

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

Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera is Scotland’s national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. The 2022/23 season marks its 60th Anniversary.

The Company’s performance repertoire ranges across five centuries, from the earliest operas to newly-commissioned world premieres. Scottish Opera collaborates with the world’s finest singers and creatives, together with The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and choruses for each opera. Recent accolades include a South Bank Sky Arts Award, a Scottish Award for New Music, Sunday Herald Culture Awards, a Herald Angel, and 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 the Edinburgh International Festival.

The Company tours extensively across Scotland to ensure performances are within reach of as many of the country’s very dispersed population as possible. Specially-adapted 40-foot long trailers bring Pop-up Opera performances to thousands of people each year. In 2021 the Company performed nearly 200 performances 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 & Outreach programme, which celebrated 50 years in 2021, includes an annual 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.

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*, Menotti’s *The Telephone*, and Samuel Bordoli and Jenni Fagan’s *The Narcissistic Fish*. The Company’s 2021 production of *The Gondoliers*, filmed live at Festival Theatre Edinburgh, is available on BBC iPlayer.

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The Lammermuir Festivalwas founded in 2010, based on a conviction that historic architecture and beautiful landscape are the ideal environment in which to experience great music and music-making. In 2017 it was the recipient of the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Festivals and Concert Series. 2022 marks the 13th festival. Artistic Directors are Hugh Macdonald and James Waters, and its patron is pianist, Steven Osborne. The 2022 Lammermuir Festival is supported by Creative Scotland, Event Scotland and East Lothian Council.

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