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##### Press Release

5 February, 2025

**THE ORCHESTRA OF SCOTTISH OPERA PERFORM WAGNER AND BRUCKER THIS**

**VALENTINE’S DAY IN AYR TOWN HALL**

This Valentine’s Day, young British conductor **Gabriella Teychenné** and **The Orchestra of Scottish Opera** unite two influential Romantic masters: Wagner and Bruckner.

In this concert on February 14 at Ayr Town Hall, which forms part of the 36th Ayr Concert Series arranged by volunteers from Ayr Arts Guild, are three excerpts from Wagner’s opera *Die Meistersinger von*

*Nürnberg*, showcasing The Orchestra at its most dramatic and inventive.

This is performed alongside the intimate *Siegfried Idyll*, originally a birthday gift for Wagner’s wife. This contrasts beautifully with Bruckner’s majestic Fourth Symphony, the ‘Romantic’. While Wagner weaves a personal narrative, Bruckner channels the otherworldliness of Wagner with his magical horn calls and shimmering evocation of the German forest.

With the lullaby qualities of the Idyll, energy and joy of Die Meistersinger and the drama of the Symphony, this is an appealing programme for audiences of all ages and accessible as there will be 100 free tickets for young musicians, parents, and carers distributed during this year’s Concert Series through the South Ayrshire Council Instrumental Music Service.

Conductor **Gabriella Teychenné** said: ‘The majestic music of Wagner and Bruckner is in many ways larger than life. The opera *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*,by Wagner is all about bravery, integrity, love, and sacrifice, while Bruckner's Fourth Symphony takes the listener on a musical journey that surpasses basic emotion, and looks deep into the heart of what it means to relish life, nature and its magic, and the wonder of human experience. When joined together in this concert, we hope to look forward to an evening of romance, grandeur and rich symphonic sound.’

To book your tickets, visit [www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/ayr-concert-series-wagner-and-bruckner/](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/ayr-concert-series-wagner-and-bruckner/)

The Orchestra of Scottish Opera has performed at Ayr Arts Guild Concert Series for many years, and regularly performs for other professional musical ensembles across the west of Scotland, supporting their work and the country’s wider ecology of live music and performing arts. Its Brass Ensemble has visited schools in South Ayrshire in preparation for the concert which Ayr Arts Guild have generously provided tickets for children and their parents and carers.

The Ayr Concert Series is supported by South Ayrshire Council, Ayr Arts Guild and Ayr Gaiety Theatre. It is subsidised this season by Destination South Ayrshire, Ayr Arts Guild and The Scottish Children’s Lottery Trust.

-ENDS-

Performance diary

**Ayr Town Hall**

14 February 2025, 7.30pm

Ayr Arts Guild Concert

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

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Notes to Editors

**Gabriella Teychenné**

British conductor Gabriella Teychenné is described as creating “a sound of astonishing abundance and warmth, transparency and depth”. In the UK she has worked with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Concert Orchestra and Singers, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Britten Sinfonia, Scottish Opera Orchestra and Ulster Orchestra. In Europe she has guest conducted the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Geneve, Orchestre des Champs-Elysees, Orchestre de Chambre du Luxembourg, Orchestre National de Montpellier, Residentie Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, Jönköpings Sinfonietta, Kuopio Symphony Orchestra and Oulu Symphony Orchestra.

In the theatre she has conducted full productions of Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Luzerner Theater, Eötvös’s *Der Goldene Drache* with Nouvel Opera Fribourg and Grand Theatre de Geneve, and *Napoli* with the Royal Danish Ballet. She has also worked as assistant conductor at the Bayerische Staatsoper, Staatsoper Hamburg, and Opera Holland Park.

She has become a frequent collaborator of Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, ensemble contrechamps, and ensemble unitedberlin, and has made award-nominated recordings with them and toured extensively including concerts in Hamburg, Dusseldorf, Moscow, and Bologna.

She studied at the University of Cambridge, Royal College of Music and St Petersburg State Conservatory, and directly following this her career began as assistant conductor to the LPO and Vladimir Jurowski.

She is a strong advocate of musical education, and has taught repertoire to students at the Royal conservatoires in London and Copenhagen, the Southbank Sinfonia, and also given masterclasses.

**Scottish Opera**

Scottish Opera is Scotland’s national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. The Company was founded in 1962 by Sir Alexander Gibson with the goal ‘to lay the treasures of opera at the feet of the people of Scotland’, opening with performances of *Madama Butterfly* and *Pelléas et Mélisande*. The 2022/23 season marked its 60th Anniversary.

Scottish Opera’s performance repertoire ranges across five centuries, from the earliest operas to newly commissioned world premieres, balancing favourites with under-explored works. The Company collaborates with the world’s finest singers and creatives, together with The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and choruses for each opera.

Recent accolades include an International Opera Award 2023 Nomination for *Il trittico*, a South Bank Sky Arts Award, a Scottish Award for New Music, Sunday Herald Culture Awards, a 2017 UK Theatre Award, and a 2020 RPS Award. The Company also won Outstanding achievement in Opera at the Critics’ Circle Awards 2023, for its production of Il trittico.

The Company took operas to Brooklyn in 2017 and Adelaide in 2020, and the 2022/23 season saw productions first staged at Scottish Opera appearing in Santa Fe, Madrid, Toulouse, and Los Angeles. The 60th Anniversary Season included the UK fully staged premiere of Osvaldo Golijov’s *Ainadamar* and the Company premiere of Puccini’s *Il trittico*.

The Company tours extensively across Scotland to ensure performances are within reach of as many of the country’s dispersed population as possible. 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, the oldest in Europe, includes an annual in-person and digital 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.

Scottish Opera is committed to making opera for all, presenting opera at the highest possible standards in theatres across the country, outdoors on tour, and digital audiences around the world. The Company’s 2021 production of *The Gondoliers*, filmed live at Festival Theatre Edinburgh, is available on BBC iPlayer and OperaVision. Scottish Opera’s 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*, Menotti’s *The Telephone*, *The Diary of One Who Disappeared*, *Mister MacNeep Has Lost His Sheep*, and Samuel Bordoli and Jenni Fagan’s *The Narcissistic Fish*.

Renowned for their flexibility and craftsmanship, Scottish Opera productions are frequently presented by opera houses across the globe. Two of our 60th Anniversary productions have been presented by co-producer Welsh National Opera: Osvaldo Golijov’s *Ainadamar* was in Cardiff, Llandudno, Bristol, Plymouth, Birmingham, Milton Keynes and Southampton from September to November 2023. Puccini’s *Il trittico* was performed in Cardiff in October 2024.

Following on from a run at the Opera Comique in Paris, Detroit Opera performed our 2019 production of Missy Mazzoli’s *Breaking the Waves* in April 2024. It just performed *Ainadamar,* which was also presented by The Metropolitan Opera in New York last autumn. In spring 2025, *Breaking the Waves* opens at Houston Grand Opera in a co-production of Houston Grand Opera, Opera Ventures, Scottish Opera, Théâtre National de l’Opéra Comique, and Adelaide Festival that began life in Scotland.

In addition, our 2014 production of Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale* was performed twice in Canada: at Vancouver Opera in February 2024, and at Canadian Opera Company in Toronto in April and May 2024.

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