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##### Press Release

25 February 2025

**SCOTTISH OPERA PRESENTS**

***THE STRAUSS COLLECTION* IN GLASGOW AND**

**EDINBURGH THIS MARCH**

Scottish Opera presents highlights from three Richard Strauss operas at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall (6 March) and Edinburgh’s Usher Hall (8 March) in *The Strauss Collection*.

Following the success of the Scottish premiere of *Daphne* in 2023, Scottish Opera is delighted to stage a concert spanning some of the finest music Strauss ever wrote. The German composer’s early 20th-century output shows the heights of his harmonic and dramatic daring, exemplified by the three operas in this concert – *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Arabella*, and *Der Rosenkavalier* – works he wrote in a superbly well-matched pairing with librettist Hugo von Hofmannsthal.

*The Strauss Collection* forms part of this Season’s Opera in Concert series, which introduces audiences to a range of favourite and under-explored repertoire.

Curated by Scottish Opera Music Director, **Stuart Stratford**, and Head of Music, **Fiona MacSherry**, the first half moves between a clash of artistically opposed theatre troupes in *Ariadne* to a nostalgic Viennese romance complete with disguises and mistaken identities in *Arabella*, which has never been performed in Scotland. The second half captures the highlights of *Der Rosenkavalier*’s three acts, following two colliding love stories with all the complications and grandeur of human relationships.

**Stuart Stratford** conducts **The Orchestra of Scottish Opera** through these lush sound worlds. The all-star cast includes **Helena Dix,** one of today’s premiere dramatic sopranos; and soprano **Rhian Lois** (*La bohème* 2020); mezzo-soprano **Hanna Hipp** (*Kátya Kabanová*2019); and baritone **Roland Wood** (currently performing in the Company’s five-star production of *The Makropulos Affair),* all making the most of Strauss’ astounding understanding of the human voice.

**Stuart Stratford** said: ‘It is no surprise that Richard Strauss is surely one of the 20th century’s greatest operatic composers. His genius lies in the sublime use of orchestral colour and texture which give his music a Viennese sheen and allure, and together with creamy, connected vocal writing, make his operas some of the most satisfying to perform. The three operas we have chosen – *Ariadne*, *Arabella* and *Rosenkavalier*, are prime examples of this winning combination and are packed with some of the most iconic arias and ensembles from the operatic repertoire. This is a collection not to be missed.’

*The Strauss Collection* rounds off Scottish Opera’s Opera in Concert programme for the 2024/25 Season. Last November, to mark 100 years since the death of Giacomo Puccini, one of opera’s most popular composers, audiences at Usher Hall in Edinburgh and Glasgow Royal Concert Hall were treated to a magnificent journey through beloved arias and ensembles from his works with *The Puccini Collection*.

To book your tickets, visit [www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/the-strauss-collection/](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/the-strauss-collection/)

*The Strauss Collection* is supported by **Friends of Scottish Opera** and **The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust**.

*The Strauss Collection* cast and creative team

Conductor **Stuart Stratford**

Soprano **Helena Dix**

Soprano **Rhian Lois**

Mezzo-soprano **Hanna Hipp**

Baritone **Roland Wood**

*The Strauss Collection* performance diary

**Glasgow Royal Concert Hall**

6 March 2025, 7.30pm

**Usher Hall, Edinburgh**

8 March,7.30pm

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

You can follow Scottish Opera on BlueSky, Facebook, Instagram, You Tube and Tik-Tok @ScottishOpera

Notes to Editors

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* can be seen 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.



**For additional press details please contact the Scottish Opera press office:**

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