

**Press Release**

2 December 2024

**SCOTTISH OPERA PRESENTS NEW**

**PRODUCTION OF JanÁČek’s**

***the makropulos affair* THIS FEBRUARY**

For the first time since 1993, Scottish Opera is presenting a full staging of *The Makropulos Affair* by Leoš Janáček, in a co-production with Welsh National Opera.

Opening on February 15 at Theatre Royal Glasgow before transferring to Festival Theatre Edinburgh, *The Makropulos Affair* tells the story of Emilia Marty, Elina Makropulos, E.M.; the stylish, enigmatic diva who has lived many lives, and for over three centuries has been on a quest to become a great opera singer. Captivating minds and hearts along her journey through time and across Europe, her existence throws up questions of science and nature, reality and fantasy, and life and death. When the elixir she was given begins to lose its power, and when secrets of her lives and loves come to light, she can no longer outrun these essential human tensions.

Making his Company debut**, Martyn Brabbins** conducts The Orchestra of Scottish Opera, with **Orla Boylan** (*Marx in London!* 2024) leading the cast as Emilia Marty, **Ryan Capozzo** as Albert Gregor, **Henry Waddington** (*Greek* 2018) as Doctor Kolenatý and **Mark Le Brocq** (*Nixon in China* 2020) as Vitek.

Joining them are former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Catriona Hewitson** (*Hansel & Gretel* 2023) as Kristina, **Roland Wood** (*Oedipus Rex* 2024) as Baron Jaroslav Prus, **Michael Lafferty** as Janek Prus (making his Company debut), **Alasdair Elliot** (*Marx in London!* 2024) as Count Hauk-Šendorf, and current Emerging Artist **Edward Jowle** (*Albert Herring* 2024) as Stage Technician.

This production, directed by **Olivia Fuchs** with poetic designs by **Nicola Turner**, was nominated for a Southbank Sky Arts Award when presented by Welsh National Opera in 2022. An English translation by **David Pountney** makes this psychologically astute story even more immediate.

**Olivia Fuchs** said: ‘The production reflects the elegance and texture of the 1920s combining elements of detailed realism with a lyrical surrealism. Poetic, visually surprising and multi-layered, it moves fluidly from scene to scene exploring how we experience history through the layering of our individual and collective memories.

‘Emilia Marty is compelling both as a character and as a symbol of our times. She embodies the metaphysical question of how we collectively deal with the reality and fear of aging and death, and the tension between fact and fairy-tale, truth and falsehood, style and essence. It is almost 100 years since *The Makropulos Affair* was first performed and it still remains as life-affirming and relevant today.’

Those who wish to discover more about how *The Makropulos Affair* was created can attendPre-show Talks in Glasgow and Edinburgh, which delve into the detail of the opera. Tickets are free but should be booked in advance. Audience members with a visual impairment can enjoy the full opera experience at Audio-described performances, which have a live commentary describing the action on stage without compromising the music. At these performances, there are also free Touch Tours of the set, and a live audio introduction before the start of the performance.

*The Makropulos Affair* is supported by **The Alexander Gibson Circle.**

Tickets for *The Makropulos Affair* are on sale now at [www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/the-makropulos-affair/](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/the-makropulos-affair/)

*The Makropulos Affair* creative team

Conductor **Martyn Brabbins**

Director **Olivia Fuchs**

Designer **Nicola Turner**

Lighting Designer **Robbie Butler**

Video Designer **Sam Sharples**

*The Makropulos Affair* cast

Emilia Marty **Orla Boylan**

Albert Gregor **Ryan Capozzo**

Doctor Kolenatý **Henry Waddington**

Vitek **Marc Le Brocq**

Kristina **Catriona Hewitson**

Baron Jaroslav Prus **Roland Wood**

Janek Prus **Michael Lafferty**

Count Hauk-Šendorf **Alasdair Elliot**

Stage Technician **Edward Jowle\***

\*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist 2024/25

Performance Diary

**Theatre Royal Glasgow**

15 • 19 • 22 February 2025, 7.15pm (Audio-described performance with Touch Tour at 6pm)

Pre-show talk 19 February, 6pm

**Festival Theatre Edinburgh**

27 February & 1 March, 7.15pm (Audio-described performance with Touch Tour at 6pm)

Pre-show talk 1 March, 6pm

-ENDS-

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

You can follow Scottish Opera on 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 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 this 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.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.

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

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