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##### Press Release

6 September 2024

**SCOTTISH OPERA’S REVIVAL OF DONIZETTI’S**

***DON PASQUALE* OPENS THIS**

**OCTOBER AT THEATRE ROYAL GLASGOW BEFORE TOURING TO INVERNESS, EDINBURGH**

**AND ABERDEEN**

This autumn, Scottish Opera presents arevival of the much-loved 2014 production of Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale*, which opens at Theatre Royal Glasgow on 12 October and tours to Inverness, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. It is performed alongside the Company’s specially created staging of Britten’s *Albert Herring*, which is at Lammermuir Festival, Theatre Royal Glasgow and Festival Theatre Edinburgh, bringing even more opera to Scottish audiences.

Conducted by Scottish Opera Music Director **Stuart Stratford**, Director-Designer duo **Renaud Doucet** and **André Barbe** (*La bohème* 2017) and Lighting Designer **Guy Simard** bring this quick-witted comedy to life with typically colourful and quirky style. Set in Rome at the cusp of the Swinging Sixties, the eccentric characters are given life in a world that is the perfect setting for a titanic clash of generations. This highly successful production of *Don Pasquale*, which began life at Scottish Opera, was recently seen in Miami, Genoa, Vancouver, and Toronto.

**David Stout**, who delighted audiences in *The Barber of Seville* in Autumn 2023, returns to Scottish Opera as Don Pasquale, with three up-and-coming singers making their Scottish Opera debuts in the main roles. Opera Australia principal soprano **Stacey Alleaume** is Norina, **Filipe Manu** (Jette Parker Young Artist 2019/20) is Pasquale’s son Ernesto, and **Josef Jeongmeen Ahn** (a member of the Jette Parker Artists Company of 2023/24) is Doctor Malatesta.

Don Pasquale runs a crumbling boarding house in Rome, and determined to keep his fortune to himself, he decides to marry, spiting his nephew Ernesto. But, when he finds a bride, he discovers that married life is not as simple as he expected...

**Renaud Doucet** and **André Barbe** said: **‘**We are delighted to be returning to Scottish Opera with *Don Pasquale*. After studying the score, we thought that the creative vitality and energy of Rome in the mid 1960’s was an ideal setting for Donizetti’s generation clash opera. We imagined that Don Pasquale owns a small, run-down *pensione*. Old and something of a hermit, he leaves the running of the hotel to his nephew Ernesto and to his staff – a rum bunch including a chain-smoking chambermaid, a greasy cook and a past-it porter, so old that he has shrunk inside his uniform. A chorus of tourists come and go.

‘The dramaturgy of the opera is illustrated during the overture by the video projection of a typically Italian 1960s ‘fotoromanzo’ — sequential storytelling using photographs, text and speech bubbles — starring the principal characters, enabling the audience to immediately jump into the action of this ‘dramma giocoso’ (drama with jokes).’

**Stuart Stratford** said: ‘Donizetti was at the absolute height of his powers in terms of melodic gifts and spectacular writing for voices in *Don Pasquale*. This production by Renaud DoucetandAndré Barbe is amazing, and it sits alongside Britten’s quintessential British comedy, *Albert Herring*. Both are very different ways of approaching laughs in the theatre, and they were written just about 100 years apart.’

Those who wish to discover more about how *Don Pasquale* was created can attendPre-show Talks 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. There are also free Touch Tours of the set, and a live audio introduction before the start of the performance.

Specially created Access performances of *Don Pasquale* run alongside the mainstage productions in Glasgow and Edinburgh. With Dementia Friendly values at their core, afternoon Access performances are for those who enjoy a more relaxed opera experience. With a shorter running time (under two hours including an interval) and tickets at just £12.50, these performances are open to all, including those who may be living with dementia or Long COVID, more comfortable at a shorter show, struggling to get to

evening performances, or would simply benefit from the more relaxed atmosphere.

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

Tickets for *Don Pasquale* are on sale now at [www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/don-pasquale/](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/don-pasquale/)

*Don Pasquale* creative team

Conductor **Stuart Stratford** & **Susannah Wapshott** (21 November)

Director & Choreographer **Renaud Doucet**

Designer **André Barbe**

Lighting Designer **Guy Simard**

*Don Pasquale* cast

Don Pasquale **David Stout**

Norina  **Stacey Alleaume**

Ernesto **Filipe Manu**

Doctor Malatesta **Josef Jeongmeen Ahn**

A Notary  **Jonathan Forbes Kennedy**

Performance Diary

**Theatre Royal Glasgow**

12 • 17 • 26 October 2024, 7.15pm

20 October, 3pm (Audio-described performance with Touch Tour at 1.45pm)

Pre-show talk, 17 October, 6pm

Relaxed Access performance, 25 October, 3pm (Audio-described performance)

**Eden Court Inverness**

31 October, 7.15pm

2 November, 7.15pm (Audio-described performance with Pre-show talk and Touch Tour at 6pm)

**Festival Theatre Edinburgh**

8 • 16 November, 7.15pm

Pre-show talk, 16 November, 6pm

10 November, 3pm (Audio-described performance with Touch Tour at 1.45pm)

Relaxed Access performance,15 November, 3pm (Audio-described performance)

**His Majesty’s Theatre, Aberdeen**

21 November, 7.15pm (Audio-described performance with Pre-show talk and Touch Tour at 6pm)

-ENDS-

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

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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 is also being 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.



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

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