



PRESS RELEASE

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20 December 2016

## **SCOTTISH OPERA TRAVELS SCOTLAND WITH *OPERA HIGHLIGHTS* 2017**

Scottish Opera's annual *Opera Highlights* tour to smaller, more remote venues the length and breadth of Scotland kicks off in February.

This 15-date tour visits Easterhouse, Maybole, Dumfries, Banchory, Gairloch, Nairn, Durness, Ardross, Fraserburgh, Lanark, Strathmiglo, Brodick, Killin, Bathgate and Strontian.

Touring from Tuesday 14 February to Saturday 18 March 2017, *Opera Highlights* promises an evening of fun for all the family with a programme of works by opera's greatest composers, colourful costumes and props, larger than life characters, and plenty of humour.

Perfect for both seasoned fans and those new to opera, the varied programme features music by Mozart, Handel, Puccini, and Gilbert & Sullivan, and has been curated by Scottish Opera's Head of Music, **Derek Clark**.

*Opera Highlights* will also feature the world premiere of a short innovative new parody of Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* called 'Bluebeard's Cake', created especially for the tour by Scottish Opera's Composer in Residence **Liam Paterson**.

This year's cast is full of fresh new talent, including two Scottish Opera Emerging Artists, mezzo-soprano **Emma Kerr** and tenor **Elgan Llyr Thomas**, and two recent graduates of the National Opera Studio, soprano **Roisín Walsh** and baritone **Adam Gilbert**. Former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist Repetiteur **Jonathon Swinard** returns to accompany the four young singers on piano, and current Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Jim Manganello** directs.

**Jim Manganello** said, 'I've been blessed to haunt the Scottish Opera corridors for the past year, collaborating with our extraordinary and colourful team on stage and behind-the-scenes. This year's *Opera Highlights* is a celebration of what we all love about opera – the outsized characters, the towering dreams, the deep despairs – but translated into an intimate, up-close format that I hope is as captivating to the first-time operagoer as it is to the aficionado. I relish working with these funny, sassy, generous singers, and I can't wait for audiences around Scotland to fall in love with them as I have.'

-ENDS-

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

You can follow Scottish Opera on Twitter and Instagram @**ScottishOpera**

#### Cast and Creative Team

Soprano	<b>Roisín Walsh</b>
Mezzo-soprano	<b>Emma Kerr #</b>
Tenor	<b>Elgan Llyr Thomas*</b>
Baritone	<b>Adam Gilbert</b>
Music Director/Pianist	<b>Jonathon Swinard</b>
Director	<b>Jim Manganello*</b>
Composer in Residence	<b>Liam Paterson*</b>

\* Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

# The Robertson Trust Scholarship Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

Performance Diary

**Platform, Easterhouse**

Tue 14 Feb 7.30pm

**Maybole Town Hall**

Thu 16 Feb 7.30pm

**Dumfries Theatre Royal**

Sat 18 Feb 7.30pm

**The Barn, Banchory**

Tue 21 Feb 7.30pm

**Gairloch Community Hall**

Thu 23 Feb 7.30pm

**Nairn Community & Arts Centre**

Sat 25 Feb 7.30pm

**Durness Village Hall**

Tue 28 Feb 7.30pm

**Ardross Community Hall**

Thu 2 Mar 7.30pm

**Dalrymple Hall, Fraserburgh**

Sat 4 Mar 7.30pm

**Lanark Memorial Hall**

Tue 7 Mar 7.30pm

**Strathmiglo Village Hall**

Thu 9 Mar 7.30pm

**Brodick Hall, Isle of Arran**

Sat 11 Mar 7.30pm

**McLaren Hall, Killin**

Tue 14 Mar 7.30pm

**Regal Community Theatre, Bathgate**

Thu 16 Mar 7.30pm

## Sunart Centre, Strontian

Sat 18 Mar 7.30pm

### Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera is Scotland's national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. It was founded by Alexander Gibson in 1962 and was inaugurated with a production of *Madama Butterfly* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow.

Notable achievements include the world premiere of James MacMillan's *Inés de Castro* at the 1996 Edinburgh International Festival and complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production. Recent commissions include *Five:15 Operas Made in Scotland* (2008-10); *The Lady from the Sea*, *Clemency*, the double bill of *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* (winner of a South Bank Sky Arts Award) which premiered at the 2012 Edinburgh International Festival and 2016's *The Devil Inside* by Stuart MacRae and Louise Welsh.

Scottish Opera is committed to bringing the widest possible range of opera, performed to the highest possible standards, to the maximum audience throughout Scotland and the UK. Each year it performs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness, as well as smaller theatres, village halls and community centres throughout the country.

Scottish Opera's Education and Outreach Department was the first of its kind of any opera company in Europe. It operates an extensive programme which involves over 8,000 primary school children every year, as well as many other activities including adult learning and free *Unwrapped* taster sessions.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.



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