

Annual Report

April 2017-March 2018



Scottish
Opera





APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2018

A year in the life of Scottish Opera

Stuart Stratford, Music Director

The impact of Stuart Stratford's musical leadership of the Company received much positive comment as evidenced by his work on Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Greek*, Jonathan Dove's *Flight* and Puccini's *La bohème*, in a new co-production with Theater St Gallen. He also received plaudits for his programming of the hugely successful Opera in Concert series which, in Season 2017/18, focussed on lesser known Russian repertoire including Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* and Prokofiev's *The Fiery Angel*, presented in collaboration with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Festival Premieres

Summer 2017 saw two significant premieres. *Bambino*, an opera for 6 to 18 month olds written by Liam Paterson and directed by Phelim McDermott, opened at Manchester International Festival before sell-out runs at Edinburgh Festival Fringe and in Glasgow that led to invitations to Paris and New York. In August 2017, a new co-production with Opera Ventures of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Greek* was premiered at the Edinburgh International Festival, and was subsequently invited to the Brooklyn Academy of Music in December 2018.



In schools and communities

The *Memory Spinners* programme, for those living with dementia, added a group in Airdrie to those in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Two Dementia Friendly productions – *La bohème* and *La traviata* – were presented in both Edinburgh and Glasgow. The Primary Schools Tour took *The Tale o’ Tam o’ Shanter* and *The Dragon of the Western Sea* to 108 schools, with over 9,000 participants and audiences of nearly 21,000. The team also made return visits to China and Scottish Opera was the first opera company in the world to be awarded Confucius Classroom status by Hanban, the headquarters of Confucius Institutes worldwide.

150 years young

A performance of Sir David McVicar’s production of *La traviata* in the presence of TRH The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester marked the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the Theatre Royal Glasgow on 28 November 2017. The Duchess, Scottish Opera’s Patron, unveiled a plaque commemorating the event and met staff from both Theatre Royal and Scottish Opera.

New initiatives

Scottish Opera was delighted to join the BBC and the other national opera companies for *Opera Passion Day* on 19 October 2017 – a one-day digital celebration of all things operatic that featured a live broadcast from Islay by the *Opera Highlights* cast. The spiral staircase at the Theatre Royal Glasgow provided the backdrop for *Grace Notes*, a new work by Composer in Residence Samuel Bardoli and author Bernard MacLaverty, presented before performances of *Ariadne auf Naxos*.



By road...and sea

The Company maintained its commitment to performing across Scotland with *Opera Highlights*, the Pop-up Opera trailer tour and the launch of Scotland's first floating opera house. The converted pilot cutter *Murray McDavid* took *A Little Bit* performances to audiences at marinas down the Clyde. In total, Scottish Opera gave public performances in over 50 communities across Scotland during the year.

New Talent

The Emerging Artists each contributed significantly to the Company's work over the period. Youth company, Connect, presented Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* at The Beacon in Greenock and, once again, Scottish Opera hosted a week-long residence for singers and répétiteurs from the National Opera Studio.

Award-winning

Pelléas and Mélisande, directed by Sir David McVicar, won the UK Theatre Award for Achievement in Opera 2017. It was also a finalist in The South Bank Sky Arts Award for Opera and, along with *Bambino* and *Memory Spinners*, was shortlisted for a Royal Philharmonic Society Award. *Memory Spinners* was also in the running for Best Community Support Initiative at Scotland's Dementia Awards. Composer in Residence Liam Paterson won Best Music Artist and Scenic Artist Kelvin Guy won the Technical Award at the Sunday Herald Culture Awards.

The year in numbers

246 public performances...

...in **52** towns, cities and villages

63,431 tickets issued

43,028 involved in Education projects

150 years of Theatre Royal Glasgow

3,362 under 26 tickets

30 of 32 Local Authorities visited



The Herald
Le Villi



The Times
Greek



Scottish Daily Express
La traviata



The Times
Flight



Edinburgh Evening News
Ariadne auf Naxos



The Observer
BambinO



The Herald
Opera Sparks



The Wee Review
Opera Highlights



The Guardian
La bohème

'The musicians were fabulous at engaging the little ones and my daughter was completely spellbound.'

Audience Member, *BambinO*

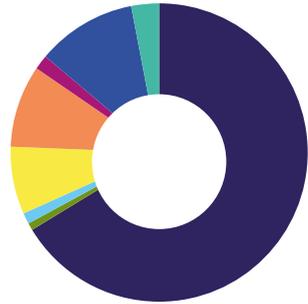
'Wonderful performance to a capacity hall. Brilliant to have opera in this remote part of the Highlands.'

Audience Member, *Opera Highlights*

Income

In the financial year 2017/18, Scottish Opera's total income was made up as follows:

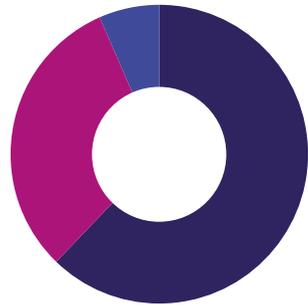
Scottish Government	67.8%
International Touring Fund	0.9%
Cross Border Touring Fund	1.2%
Theatre Tax Credit	6%
Box Office	8.7%
Education	1.3%
Fundraising	10.3%
Other	3.8%



Fundraising

The total amount raised through fundraising (shown above) is made up as follows:

Individuals	60.7%
Trusts & Foundations	33.3%
Corporate (incl. in-kind)	6%



Expenditure

In the financial year 2017/18, Scottish Opera's total expenditure was made up as follows:

Productions	83.3%
Education	7%
Support Costs (incl. Governance)	7%
Fundraising	2.7%

