



**PRESS RELEASE**

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7 January 2019

**SCOTTISH OPERA PRESENTS NEW  
PRODUCTION OF JANÁČEK'S  
*KÁTYA KABANOVÁ***

In March, Scottish Opera presents Leos Janáček's intense drama *Kátya Kabanová* in a new co-production with Theater Magdeburg, directed by the renowned British director **Stephen Lawless** and conducted by **Stuart Stratford**.

Following the recent success of Czech operas on the Scottish Opera stage with Janáček's *Jenůfa* (2015) and Dvořák's *Rusalka* (2016), *Kátya Kabanová* opens in Glasgow on March 12 and transfers to Festival Theatre Edinburgh.

Set in a small, industrial community in Russia, *Kátya Kabanová* is torn between her duties as a wife, and her dreams of a man who truly loves her. Trapped within an oppressive community, neglected by her husband and tormented by her mother-in-law, she is drawn towards escape, to nature and to the ever-present Volga river.

Soprano **Laura Wilde** makes her Scottish Opera debut in the title role, following her critically acclaimed European debut as *Jenůfa* in 2016 with English National Opera. **Ric Furman** also makes his Company debut as Boris Grigoyevich alongside **Samuel Sakker** as Tikhon Kabanov. **Patricia Bardon** returns to Scottish Opera for the first time in almost 20 years to

sing Kabanicha. **Paul Whelan** sings Dikoy. Former Jette Parker Young Artist **Hanna Hipp** (*The Marriage of Figaro* 2016) joins the cast as Varvara and **Trystan Llŷr Griffiths** (*Così fan tutte* 2015) sings the role of Kudrjash. Scottish Opera Emerging Artists **Alexey Gusev** (*Rigoletto* 2018) and **Bethan Langford** (*Rigoletto* 2018) join the cast as Kuligin and Glasha.

Joining **Stuart Stratford** and **Stephen Lawless** on the creative team are award-winning Set and Costume Designer **Leslie Travers** and Tony award-winning Lighting Designer **Christopher Akerlind**.

**Stephen Lawless** said: '*Kátya Kabanová* is one of the greatest twentieth century operas. Janáček writes consummate parts for women and the role of Kátya is arguably his best. Our compassion for her predicament draws from music of soaring intensity and heart-stopping lyricism. Scottish Opera has assembled a world class cast that will bring all their expertise to this tale of love, guilt, retribution and transcendence.'

**Stuart Stratford** said: 'Janáček is one of the most concentrated of composers. Not a phrase or line is ever unnecessary. He has immense lyricism, which is always fighting for breath with a rigid and often brutal rhythmic underlay. This gives the music a real sense of dynamic tension which suits the subject matter perfectly.'

Those who wish to discover more about how the production was created can attend *Kátya Kabanová* Unwrapped, one-hour tasters delving further into the show, as well as Pre-show Talks. Audience members with visual impairments can enjoy the full opera experience at audio-described performances, which have a live commentary describing the action on stage without compromising the music.

### Cast List

Kátya Kabanová	<b>Laura Wilde</b>
Kabanicha	<b>Patricia Bardon</b>
Boris Grigoyevich	<b>Ric Furman</b>
Tikhon Kabanov	<b>Samuel Sakker</b>
Dikoy	<b>Paul Whelan</b>
Varvara	<b>Hanna Hipp</b>
Vanya Kudrjash	<b>Tristan Llŷr Griffiths</b>
Kuligin	<b>Alexey Gusev*</b>
Glasha	<b>Bethan Langford*</b>

Feklusha

**Christine Sjolander**

\*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

Creative Team

Conductor

**Stuart Stratford**

Director

**Stephen Lawless**

Set and Costume Designer

**Leslie Travers**

Lighting Designer

**Christopher Akerlind**

Movement Director

**Lynne Hockney**

Performance Diary

**Theatre Royal Glasgow, 282 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 3QA**

Tue 12 Mar, 7.15pm

Thu 14 Mar, 7.15pm

Sat 16 Mar, 7.15pm

*Kátya Kabanová* Unwrapped

Wed 13 Mar, 6pm

*Kátya Kabanová* Pre-show talk

Sat 16 Mar, 6pm

*Kátya Kabanová* Touch Tour

Sat 16 Mar, 6pm

*Kátya Kabanová* Audio-described performance

Sat 16 Mar, 7.15pm

**Festival Theatre, 13–29 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9FT**

Thur 21 Mar, 7.15pm

Sat 23 Mar, 7.15pm

*Kátya Kabanová* Unwrapped

Fri 22 Mar, 6pm

*Kátya Kabanová* Pre-show talk

Sat 23 Mar, 6pm

*Kátya Kabanová* Touch Tour

Sat 23 Mar, 6pm

*Kátya Kabanová* Audio-described performance

Sat 23 Mar, 7.15pm

*Kátya Kabanová* is supported by The Alexander Gibson Circle.

-ENDS-

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

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

### 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; complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production; and the Achievement in Opera Award at the 2017 UK Theatre Awards for Sir David McVicar's production of Debussy's *Pelléas and Mélisande*. 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. In 2018, the Company made its US debut with *Bambino* at the Metropolitan Opera New York, and returned to the city's Brooklyn Academy of Music with *Greek*.

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 *Unwrapped* taster sessions.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.



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