

Annual Report

April 2018 – March 2019



Scottish
Opera





Eugene
Onegin

Pagliacci

APRIL 2018 – MARCH 2019

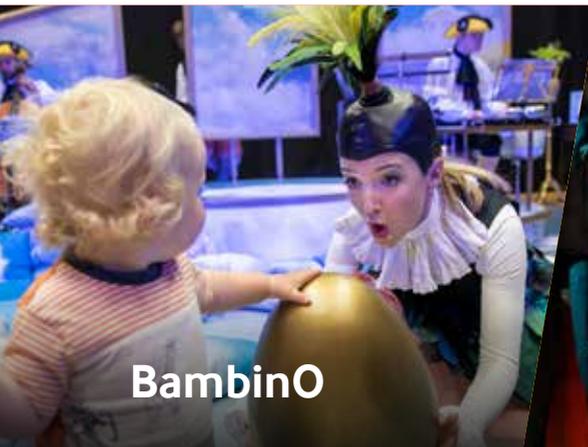
A year in the life of Scottish Opera

Stuart Stratford, Music Director

Stuart Stratford completed his third season with Scottish Opera, conducting the bittersweet *Eugene Onegin*, which was also broadcast on BBC Radio 3's Opera on 3 programme. He conducted the award-winning *Pagliacci*, as well as *Kátya Kabanová* and *Anthropocene*, alongside programming our hugely successful Opera in Concert series, which included a Scottish Opera debut at the Lammermuir Festival and the first ever performance of Rachmaninov's double bill of *Aleko* and *Francesco da Rimini* on the Scottish Opera stage. His passion for unearthing musical treasures continues to spark curiosity in players and audiences alike.

New ways to see new opera

In February 2019, the Company toured to London's Hackney Empire for the first time with Scottish Opera commission and world premiere *Anthropocene* by composer Stuart MacRae and librettist Louise Welsh. With fantastic audience feedback, we hope to build on this success and take more performances to Hackney Empire. *Anthropocene* was also performed in Glasgow and Edinburgh to excellent reviews, and seen worldwide as Scottish Opera's first streamed production on the website OperaVision.



BambinO



Rigoletto

Opera for all...

The Company's commitment to bringing opera to Scotland's communities expanded with sold-out performances in 'Paisley Opera House' of Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* which included a Community Chorus of over 70 people and has since won a 2019 Herald Culture Award for Tim Meacock's immersive design. There were also *Opera Highlights* tours in the Spring and Autumn. The *Pop-up Opera* trailer once again toured the country and made special appearances at the European Championships in Glasgow. In addition, over 1,700 Primary 3 pupils from Paisley to Aberdeen received an introduction to opera with *The Opera Factory*.

New talent

Investing in and developing new talent remains at the heart of Scottish Opera's vision. The 2018/19 Emerging Artists included three singers, who appeared in, amongst others, *Rigoletto* and *Kátya Kabanová*, a répétiteur, a costume trainee and composer in residence Samuel Bordoli. Scottish Opera Young Company also focussed on new talent, performing three new commissions in April 2018 as part of Visit Scotland's Year of Young People. This was the culmination of *Opera Sparks*, a competition launched in 2016 to find Scotland's most talented young composers and writers.

On the international stage

Scottish Opera's cultural ambassador role expanded through the presentation of *Greek* in New York in December 2018; *Eugene Onegin* toured to Belfast, supported by the Cross Border Touring Fund; and production hires to opera companies in Genoa, Vancouver and Oslo. *BambinO* toured to Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris in April 2018 before going to New York's The Metropolitan Opera and then returned for sell-out shows at Edinburgh's Festival Fringe and across Scotland.



Anthropocene

Kátya Kabanová



Award-winning talent

Scottish Opera won two awards, having been nominated for five, at 2018's Herald Culture Awards. Former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist Catherine Backhouse won Best Musical Artist and John Liddell, Head of Costume, was presented with the Behind the Scenes Award. Our production of Debussy's *Pelléas and Mélisande*, directed by Sir David McVicar, was nominated for the prestigious South Bank Sky Arts Award for Opera. Christopher Akerlind has also been nominated for The Robert Juliat Award for Opera at the 2019 Knight of Illumination awards for his evocative lighting design for *Kátya Kabanová*.

Scottish Opera Education

The education team engaged 17,944 participants in performances and events, attended by 41,456 audience members, right across Scotland. Our bond with China strengthened through a series of Continuing Professional Development workshops for teachers in the cities of Beijing and, for the first time, in Kunming, with the Fancaodi International School there becoming our partner school under the auspices of the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools.

Participants aged from 6 to 103 years old contributed to a series of creative workshops celebrating the Centenary of the founding of the Royal Air Force. Our intergenerational project for pre-school, primary and elderly citizens – *Spinning Songs* – delivered pilot programmes in Aberdeen and East Kilbride, with the Aberdeen group performing at the reopening of Aberdeen's Music Hall in December. Our annual Primary Schools Tour involved over 10,000 P5-7 children.

The year in numbers

331 public performances in
55 cities, towns and villages

3,112 people attended *Pop-up Opera* performances

3,124 participants in a fully inclusive,
community experience in Paisley

4,778 babies and their adults enthralled by
BambinO in Scotland, New York and Paris

2,693 participants in dementia projects

31 of **32** Scottish Local Authorities visited

107,000 people overall engaged with Scottish Opera



The Arts Desk
Eugene Onegin



ScotsGay Arts
National Opera Studio



The Times
Rigoletto



The Telegraph
Anthropocene



The Stage
Katyá Kabanová



The National
Katyá Kabanová



The Herald
Pagliacci



ScotsGay Fringe
BambinO



The Wee Review
Edgar

**'Whoever dreamed up the
idea of staging Leoncavallo's
Pagliacci in a tent in a Paisley
sports field...struck pure gold.'**

The Scotsman, *Pagliacci*

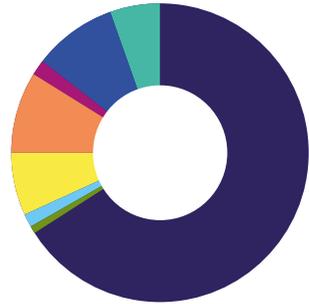
**'The whole cast is admirable...
in a show that has
philosophical depth as well
as surface thrills.'**

The Times, *Anthropocene*

Income

In the 2018/19 financial year, Scottish Opera's total income was made up as follows:

Scottish Government	66.4%
International Touring Fund	0.4%
Cross Border Touring Fund	1.2%
Theatre Tax Credit	6.8%
Box Office	9.1%
Education	2.0%
Fundraising	9.1%
Other	5.0%



Fundraising

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

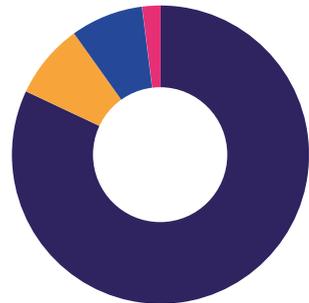
Individuals	44.1%
Major Gifts	14.1%
Trusts & Foundations	37.5%
Corporate (incl. in-kind)	4.3%



Expenditure

In the financial year 2018/19, Scottish Opera's total expenditure was made up as follows:

Productions	82.5%
Education	8.2%
Support Costs	6.8%
Fundraising	2.5%



Front cover image: Ronald Samm in *Pagliacci* Photos: James Glossop, Julie Howden.