

**TICCIATI POISED FOR DECEMBER
DEBUT WITH
SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**



“Look at the innate classicism in this orchestra. Look at the experience they have. Look at all the people they work with, from Mackerras to Manze. And look at their strength. There's an awareness within them all. I sense it's an intellectual orchestra. There are thinkers here. You can sense it when they're playing: they are thinking and they are listening; and that's something very interesting that a conductor can tap into and work with.”

Ticciati talking about SCO to Michael Tumelty/The Herald 29 July 2009.



Following a Highlands summer tour in 2008 with the young London-born conductor Robin Ticciati, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra was in no doubt about the choice of its next Principal Conductor. Ticciati repeated the Highlands experience this summer and is now poised to make his formal debut in the top job in early December 2009 (11th and 12th at Glasgow City Halls and Edinburgh's Usher Hall respectively).

Ticciati is hugely passionate about programming and keen to exploit the SCO's wide ranging repertoire. It is therefore characteristic of both conductor and orchestra that the programme for his opening season is challenging and varied, spanning Henze, Mahler and Brahms to Fauré, Poulenc, Berlioz and Haydn. Star soloists include mezzo-sopranos **Magdalena Kozená** and **Karen Cargill**. Later in the season, in February 2010, he conducts Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ* with the SCO Chorus and soloists including Karen Cargill, Yann Beuron,, Ronan Collett and Matthew Rose.

Concert details (all at 19.30hrs)

Fri 11 Dec GLASGOW City Halls (www.glasgowconcerthalls.com T. 0141 353 8000)

Sat 12 Dec EDINBURGH Usher Hall (www.usherhall.co.uk T. 0131 228 1155)

HENZE Chamber Symphony

MAHLER Songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*

BRAHMS Symphony No 2

Magdalena Kozená, mezzo soprano

Pre-concert talk (Glasgow): 6:30pm – free to ticket holders. Introducing Robin Ticciati

Wed 16 Dec ST ANDREWS Younger Hall (Byre Theatre Box Office T.01334 475000)

FAURÉ Pelléas et Melisande

POULENC orch BERKELEY Flute Sonata

FAURÉ Pavane

HAYDN Symphony No 101 'The Clock'

Alison Mitchell, flute

Pre-concert talk: 6:30pm – free to ticket holders. Introducing Robin Ticciati

Thu 17 Dec EDINBURGH Queen's Hall (www.thequeenshall.net T 0131 668 2019)

Fri 18 Dec GLASGOW City Halls (www.glasgowconcerthalls.com T. 0141 353 8000)

Sat 19 Dec ABERDEEN Music Hall (www.boxofficeaberdeen.com T.01224 641122)

FAURÉ Pelléas et Melisande

BERLIOZ Le Mort de Cléopâtre (Karen Cargill mezzo soprano)

BERLIOZ Overture, The Flight into Egypt (*L'Enfance du Christ*)

HAYDN Symphony No 101 'The Clock'

Karen Cargill, mezzo soprano

Pre-concert talk (Edinburgh and Aberdeen): 6:30pm – free to ticket holders.

Notes to Editors:

Robin Ticciati

"The overall sparkle of the performance was ignited by the inspirational conducting of the latest boy-wonder of the podium, Robin Ticciati, making his Royal Opera debut...he made the music laugh, he made it dance: he clearly loves its every last semiquaver to bits, and his passion carried the orchestra with him all the way." _ Daily Telegraph Dec 12 2008

*"Ticciati stirred the players to tenderness and a beautiful, liquid mobility in perfect harmony..."*The Times, Jan 26, 2009

With the opening of the 2009/10 season, Robin Ticciati begins his tenure as Principal Conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and continues as Music Director of Glyndebourne on Tour (GOT), a position he assumed in January, 2007.

His career has progressed rapidly and he now returns for regular engagements with select orchestras including the Bamberg Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and the Rotterdam

Philharmonic Orchestra. The 2009/10 season will see his debut engagements with the London Symphony Orchestra, his US debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and guest engagements with the Toronto Symphony, Danish National and Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestras, among others.

Ticciati balances orchestral engagements with extensive work in the opera house. His past operatic projects have included Verdi's "Macbeth" and "Hänsel & Gretel" at Glyndebourne, Britten's "Rape of Lucretia" with Ian Bostridge and Angelika Kirschlager on European tour and the Salzburg production of "The Marriage of Figaro" with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment on tour in Japan. He has made his debut at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden with "Hänsel & Gretel" and will return to Glyndebourne and the Royal Opera House in future seasons, most notably with "Jenufa" and a reprise of "Hänsel & Gretel".

With his Filarmonica della Scala debut in June 2005, Ticciati became the youngest conductor to conduct at La Scala, Milan and has multiple reinventions for the future. He conducted Mozart's "Il sogno di Scipione" in Salzburg in the summer of 2006, becoming the youngest debut conductor in the history of this famed Austrian festival. The performance was later released by Deutsche Grammophon (0734249) worldwide.

A violinist, pianist and percussionist by training, London-born Ticciati turned to conducting at the age of 15 under the guidance of Sir Colin Davis and Sir Simon Rattle, while still a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. During his studies at St Paul's School he conducted the John Colet Singers in a number of works culminating in a performance of Mozart's Mass in D minor.

In 2002, as a member of the National Youth Orchestra, Ticciati won the Arthur Belgin Medal for Most Outstanding Musician of the Year. In 2005 he was the recipient of a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship.

www.askonasholt.co.uk

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra is one of Scotland's five National Performing Arts Companies, and is internationally recognised for its innovative approach to music-making and programme planning. Formed in 1974 with a commitment to serve the Scottish community, it is also one of Scotland's foremost cultural ambassadors. The Orchestra performs throughout Scotland, including annual tours of the Scottish Highlands and Islands and South of Scotland, and appears regularly at the Edinburgh, St Magnus and Aldeburgh Festivals and the BBC Proms. Its busy international touring schedule has recently included Poland, Hungary, Turkey, India, Germany, Austria, Spain, Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland and the USA. The Orchestra's international touring receives support from the Scottish Government.

The Orchestra has recently appointed young British conductor Robin Ticciati to the post of Principal Conductor. He will take up the position from September 2009, conducting five concerts in the 2009/10 Season.

The SCO's long-standing relationship with Conductor Laureate Sir Charles Mackerras has resulted in many exceptional performances and recordings, particularly at the Edinburgh International Festival where they established an enviable reputation for concert performances of opera. Their recordings together include seven Mozart operas, a Grammy-nominated set of Brahms' Symphonies, the full cycle of Beethoven Symphonies (with the Philharmonia Orchestra), four CDs of Mozart Piano Concertos with Alfred Brendel, Mozart's Requiem and a disc of Kodály and Bartók for Linn Records. The Orchestra's recording with Sir Charles of Mozart's last four symphonies was released to international acclaim on Linn Records in February 2008. The disc won the Symphonic Works Award at the Midem Classical Awards in January 2009, and in April 2009 was voted Disc of the Year by the critics at BBC

Music Magazine, as well as winning the Orchestral category of the BBC Music Awards 2009, voted for by the public. In May, it won the Critics' Choice Award at the 2009 Classical BRIT Awards. Sir Charles and the SCO have most recently released a CD of Beethoven's last three piano concertos with soloist Artur Pizarro, and recorded a second volume of Mozart Symphonies with Mackerras in July this year.

Following nine successful years as Principal Conductor, Joseph Swensen became the Orchestra's Conductor Emeritus in 2005. Swensen has developed a unique relationship with the SCO as soloist as well as conductor and he and the SCO have released five CDs together through the Orchestra's partnership with Linn Records.

Other conductors who appear regularly with the SCO include Principal Guest Conductor Olari Elts, Andrew Manze, Frans Brüggen, John Storgårds, Thierry Fischer, Louis Langrée, Andrew Litton and Nicholas McGegan; regular soloist/directors include Christian Zacharias and Piotr Anderszewski.

The Orchestra enjoys close relationships with many leading composers and has commissioned more than a hundred new works, including pieces by Composer Laureate Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Judith Weir, Sally Beamish, Karin Rehnqvist, Lyell Cresswell, Edward Harper, James MacMillan, Hafli_i Hallgrímsson, Einojuhani Rautavaara and Stuart MacRae.

The Orchestra plays a prominent role in the Edinburgh International Festival. In 2005, it was awarded a Bank of Scotland Archangel by *The Herald* in recognition of its sustained high quality contribution to the Festival.

The SCO has led the way in music education with a unique programme of projects. SCO Education provides workshops for children and adults across Scotland and has attracted interest and invitations from overseas.

The Orchestra broadcasts regularly and has a discography now exceeding 150 recordings available by calling 0845 270 1812 or online at theshop.sco.org.uk.

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