

EIF – opera encore

Opera and musicals always form a big part of the Edinburgh International Festival offering. This year while it is a stripped back programme there are some real highlights, with *Ariadne auf Naxos* in a concert staging and some laughter in an outdoor version of *Falstaff*.

The musical revue, *A Grand Night for Singing*, which premiered on Broadway in 1993, will have you singing along (if you're allowed by then!) or tapping your feet to songs from *Carousel*, *South Pacific* and *The Sound of Music*.

Under conductor Sir Andrew Davis, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra returns to the International Festival in Richard Strauss' sumptuous comedy *Ariadne auf Naxos*. This brand-new concert staging by Louisa Muller features German soprano Dorothea Röschmann as the opera's wronged heroine, David Butt Philip as Bacchus, Thomas Quasthoff as the house's major-domo and prize-winning Scottish singer Catriona Morison as The Composer.

Belize-born British composer Errollyn Wallen reimagines and expands the story of Dido and Aeneas in *Dido's Ghost*, accompanied by the Dunedin Consort under the directorship of John Butt and starring South African soprano Golda Schultz as Dido. The piece was co-commissioned by the International

Festival, Dunedin Consort, Mahogany Opera, the Barbican Centre, Buxton International Festival and the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale.

Scottish Opera returns to the International Festival with a new production of *Falstaff* by Glasgow-born director and designer Sir David McVicar. This new staging, adapted from the outdoor version, gets to the bones of Falstaff, balancing laugh-out-loud moments with a poignant tale of a childlike man who has outlived his own time.

The iconic songs of classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals shine in *A Grand Night for Singing* – a musical revue staged by musical theatre performer Kim Criswell and conducted by Wayne Marshall. The handpicked cast features Criswell alongside Danielle de Niese, Anna-Jane Casey, Damian Humbley and Richard Morrison.



Damian Humbley PHOTO Merrily

Shona the Musical Choir is a Scottish/African choir based in Edinburgh, presenting original songs from *Shona the Musical*, a cross-cultural love story that transcends racial barriers. The

story and music are inspired by historical events and the socio-political turmoil of Robert Mugabe's rule of Zimbabwe.

See www.eif.co.uk/opera for information on individual performances.



Dorothea Röschmann © Harald Hoffmann Sony Entertainment
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