

PRESS RELEASE
18 September 2012

Tenor Nicky Spence announces his plans for 2012-13

Highlights include:

- Nicky Spence sings the Sailor in a concert performance of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra
- Role debut as Tamino in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* in a new production at Scottish Opera directed by Sir Thomas Allen
- Spence joins the BBC Concert Orchestra and BBC Singers on 19 December for a concert of Christmas music conducted by David Hill
- New Year celebrations for Scotland's Hogmanay Gala on 31 December at the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow.
- Spence's debut solo recital disc with Malcolm Martineau released on Resonus Classics in January 2013
- Debut as the Steersman with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Andris Nelsons in a concert performance of *The Flying Dutchman* in March 2013
- Spence returns to Scottish Opera to sing the role of the Steersman in a new production of *The Flying Dutchman* marking the 200th anniversary of Wagner's birth.
- Grange Park Opera debut in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites* in May 2013
- Role debut as Don Ottavio in a new production of *Don Giovanni* for New Zealand Opera.

Nicky Spence's plans for the 2012/13 season include two new productions at **Scottish Opera** and his debut at **Grange Park Opera**. In 2011 he made his debut at English National Opera as Brian in Nico Muhly's *Two Boys*. Earlier this year he became one of ENO's inaugural Harewood Artists and had a major success this year when he played The Novice in their new Production of Britten's *Billy Budd*, which will be broadcast for BBC Radio 3 in January as part of the Britten 100 Celebrations.

On **27 & 30 September 2012** Spence joins the **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** and its Chief Conductor **Donald Runnicles** for the opening of its season in two concert performances of Act I of Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* in both Glasgow (City Halls) and Edinburgh (Usher Hall). Making his **debut** in the role of the Sailor, Spence is joined by **Nina Stemme** and **Ian Storey** as the two doomed lovers.

Following the success of *The Barber of Seville* and *The Marriage of Figaro*, Nicky heads the cast in **Scottish Opera's** new production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* conducted by **Ekhart Wycik**, directed by **Sir Thomas Allen** and designed by Simon Higlett, which opens on **17 October 2012** for 6 performances in Glasgow's Theatre Royal; followed by a tour to Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness and Belfast.

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Spence enters in to the festive spirit with four Christmas concerts in December. On **6 December** he joins newsreader Penny Smith and David Walliams for a celebrity carol concert in St Pancras Church, Euston for **Age UK** to celebrate the festive season and the charity's work over the past year. The concert is supported by Age UK's Stage for Age committee, chaired by Christopher Biggins. On **8 December** Spence takes part in a star-studded performance of Handel's Messiah at Blackburn Cathedral as part of this year's Kathleen Ferrier centenary. He joins Chamber Domaine and Thomas Kemp for a Christmas Serenade on **15 December**, singing music by Britten and Mozart by candlelight in St Mary's Church, West Malling for Music @ Malling. On **19 December** the **BBC Singers** and **BBC Concert Orchestra** present a concert of Christmas music in the beautiful surroundings of Christopher Wren's Old Royal Naval College Chapel in Greenwich. Spence performs Finzi's Christmas cantata Dies Natalis conducted by David Hill.

To celebrate the New Year Nicky Spence joins **Raymond Gubbay's Hogmanay Gala** at the **Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow on 31 December**. Presented by BBC Radio Scotland's **Jamie MacDougall** the programme includes timeless classics such as Strauss's Die Fledermaus Overture and Bizet's The Pearlfishers Duet as well as Scottish Hogmanay favourites. **Nicky Spence** is joined by baritone **Simon Thorpe**, piper **Steven Blake** and **The Orchestra of Scottish Opera** conducted by **Fraser Goulding**.

In January 2013, Spence releases his debut recital disc with pianist **Malcolm Martineau** on **Resonus Classics**. The disc includes Shakespeare settings by Purcell, Wolf, Quilter and Tippett and a world-premiere collection of songs by Alex Woolfe.

Spence makes his debut as the Steersman in a concert performance of Wagner's The Flying Dutchman in Birmingham's Symphony Hall with the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** on 16 March 2013, conducted by Andris Nelsons. He joins **James Rutherford** (the Dutchman) and **Jennifer Wilson** (Senta), along with the CBSO Chorus.

Spence returns to **Scottish Opera** and the role of the Steersman in a new production of The Flying Dutchman which opens on 4 April 2013 for six performances and celebrates the 200th anniversary of Wagner's birth. It also marks the Company's return to Wagner for the first time since 2003. **Harry Fehr** directs a cast that also includes **Julian Gavin**, **Sarah Pring** and **Peteris Eglitis** as the Dutchman. Scottish Opera's Music Director **Francesco Corti** conducts.

In June 2013 Nicky Spence makes his debut at **Grange Park Opera** in Poulenc's Les Dialogues des Carmélites playing Chevalier de la Force for the first time. The opera is based on events that took place during the French Revolution and a screen play by Georges Bernanos. This new production is directed by **John Doyle** with design by **Liz Ascroft**, movement by **Nikki Woollaston** and lighting design from **Paul Keogan**. Nicky Spence is joined by a cast that includes **Anne Sophie Duprels** conducted by **Stephen Barlow**.

Other highlights of Spence's season include a performance with the **Orchestra of Scottish Opera** for Vaughan Williams' Songs of Travel, conducted by **Francesco Corti** at Ayr Town Hall

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(17 November). On 2 December Spence joins the **Prince Consort** for a recital which includes Brahms' Liebeslieder at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. Later in December he sings tenor in Mozart's Mass in C Minor with the **London Chamber Orchestra** conducted by **Christopher Warren-Green** on 12 December at Cadogan Hall.

Following his creation of the role of Thomas Mason in **NBR New Zealand Opera's** Hohepa, Spence returns to the company in August 2013 to play Don Ottavio in a new production of Don Giovanni.

Biography

Leading Scottish tenor Nicky Spence is an ENO Harwood Artist who trained at the Guildhall School and the National Opera Studio. Following significant success in the British Opera houses including his acclaimed portrayal in the lead role of Brian in Nico Muhly's Two Boys at the London Coliseum in 2011, he will make his Metropolitan Opera debut in the same production in 2013. Nicky is recognised as one of the UK's finest young singers and is increasingly in demand internationally. He is an ambassador for Age UK and the Musician's Benevolent Fund.

Listings

Tristan and Isolde

Young Seaman

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra/Donald Runnicles

27 & 30 September 2012

http://www.bbc.co.uk/orchestras/events/series/tristan_isolde

The Magic Flute

Tamino

Scottish Opera

Director/Sir Tom Allen

Conductor/ Ekhart Wycik

17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 October 2012

Theatre Royal, Glasgow

1, 3 November 2012

Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen

8, 10 November 2012

Eden Court, Inverness

16, 18, 20, 22, 24 November 2012

Festival Theatre, Edinburgh

29 November & 1 December

Grand Opera House, Belfast

www.scottishopera.org.uk

Ayr Concert Series**Vaughan Williams Songs of Travel**

Orchestra of Scottish Opera/Francesco Corti
17 November 2012
Ayr Town Hall

Brahms' Love Songs

Concert with Prince Consort
2 December 2012
Concertgebouw, Netherlands

A Star for Christmas

Age UK charity concert
6 December 2012
St Pancreas Church, Euston

Handel's *Messiah*

Blackburn Music Society/Lancashire Chamber Orchestra/Hudson
8 December 2012
Blackburn Cathedral

Christmas Serenade**Britten Serenade****Mozart Serenade Notturmo**

Chamber Domaine/Kemp
15 December 2012
St Mary's Church, West Malling

Christmas at Greenwich**Finzi Dies Natalis**

BBC Singers and BBC Concert Orchestra/David Hill
19 December 2012
The Chapel at the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich
<http://www.barbican.org.uk/music/event-detail.asp?ID=13734>

Raymond Gubbay's Hogmanay Gala

31 December 2012
Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow
www.glasgowconcerthalls.com

The Flying Dutchman**Steersman**

CBSO/Nelsons
16 March 2013
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

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**The Flying Dutchman
Steersman**

Scottish Opera/Corti
4, 6, 9 April 2013

13, 16, 19 April 2013

www.scottishopera.org.uk

**Dialogues des Carmélites
Chevalier de la Force**

Grange Park Opera/Barlow
11, 14, 22, 30 June 2013
6, 12 July 2013

Don Giovanni

Don Ottavio

NBR New Zealand Opera
17, 21, 23, 25, 27 August 2013

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