



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 8 July 2019

JOANNA BAKER TO JOIN THE BOARD OF THE SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) is delighted to announce the appointment of Joanna Baker to its Board of Directors. Ms Baker will join the organisation in July.

A creative and entrepreneurial cultural leader with over thirty years of experience of organisational leadership, cultural policy and international working, Joanna Baker stepped down as Managing Director of the Edinburgh International Festival at the end of 2018.

Joanna Baker has an extensive network of relationships with artists, senior politicians, officials, funders, donors, sponsors and media at Scotland, UK and international level. She has made a significant contribution to Scottish public life as a Trustee/Board member of a number of major institutions including the National Youth Choir of Scotland (current Chair) and the Edinburgh International Culture Summit Foundation (Trustee).

Colin Buchan, SCO Chair said

'Joanna Baker is a hugely knowledgeable and respected figure in the cultural sector, so naturally I'm thrilled that she is joining the Board of the SCO. She joins at a very exciting time as we prepare to welcome Maxim Emelyanychev as our new Principal Conductor this September.'

Joanna Baker said

'I am delighted to be joining the board of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, which is an organisation I have long admired. It is a wonderful orchestra which performs at an international level of excellence to audiences across Scotland as well as overseas. I look forward to working with fellow Trustees to support its continuing success.'

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

For further information, please contact:

Gareth Beedie on 0131 478 8337 or email gareth.beedie@sco.org.uk

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA - BIOGRAPHY

Formed in 1974, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra is one of Scotland's five National Performing Arts Companies and one of the country's foremost cultural ambassadors. In addition to performances throughout Scotland, the SCO appears regularly at the Edinburgh, St Magnus and Aldeburgh Festivals and the BBC Proms, and has toured throughout Europe, USA, the Far East and India. The Orchestra makes a significant contribution to Scottish life beyond the concert platform, working in schools, universities, hospitals, care homes, places of work and community centres through its creative learning programme.

The SCO's successful relationship with Principal Conductor Robin Ticciati since 2009 gives way to dynamic young conductor Maxim Emelyanychev appointed as their next Principal Conductor, from September 2019.

The Orchestra enjoys close relationships with many leading composers and has commissioned more than 150 new works, including pieces by Peter Maxwell Davies, Sir James MacMillan, Martin Suckling and Associate Composer Anna Clyne.

The SCO has strong relationships with many eminent guest conductors including Principal Guest Conductor Emmanuel Krivine, Conductor Emeritus Joseph Swensen, Richard Egarr, Andrew Manze, John Storgårds and François Leleux.

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra receives funding from the Scottish Government.

Joanna Baker – BIOGRAPHY

A creative and entrepreneurial cultural leader with over thirty years of experience of organisational leadership, cultural policy and international working, Joanna Baker stepped down as Managing Director of the Edinburgh International Festival at the end of 2018. She joined the International Festival in 1992 as Marketing and Public Affairs Director and led the growth and development of the organisation across communications, programming, finance, governance and general management. Earlier career experience includes small, medium and large-scale UK and international touring with Welsh National Opera and Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet.

Joanna is currently the Chair of the National Youth Choir of Scotland and a Trustee of the Edinburgh International Culture Summit Foundation. Previous board positions include the Creative Industries Federation, Capital City Theatres, Queen Margaret University and Scottish Arts Council (now Creative Scotland).