

## **Jean-Claude Picard to join Scottish Ballet as Chief Conductor of Scottish Ballet Orchestra**

Scottish Ballet is delighted to announce that Jean-Claude Picard will be joining the Company as Chief Conductor of Scottish Ballet Orchestra, kickstarting his role in May 2019 ahead of the world premiere of Helen Pickett's *The Crucible* at Edinburgh International Festival this August.

Jean-Claude has formed a close relationship with Scottish Ballet over the years having recently joined the company for Christopher Hampson's *Cinderella* in 2018, and following the success of the Stravinsky double bill of Hampson's *The Rite of Spring* and MacMillan's *Le Baiser de la fée* in 2017.

In line with Scottish Ballet's ethos, Jean-Claude is a collaborative and engaging artist whose performances are carefully crafted, elegant and dynamic.

Alongside Scottish Ballet, Jean-Claude has had a relationship with Scotland through his work with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. A first for the company, 2015 saw him be promoted to the position of Associate Conductor reflecting the detailed quality of his work and the meaningful relationship built with the members of the orchestra during his tenure as Assistant Conductor.

In his native Canada, he is Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Orchestre Symphonique de Trois-Rivières and has conducted some of the finest Canadian orchestras including Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre symphonique de Québec, Symphony Nova Scotia.

Composers closest to Jean-Claude's heart include Nielsen, Stravinsky, Sibelius, Prokofiev, Ravel, Beethoven and Debussy. Equally at ease with contemporary music, he has premiered and recorded works by Canadian and British composers such as Dinuk Wijeratne, Kelly-Marie Murphy, Ned Bigham, Rory Boyle and Oliver Searle, and collaborated closely with Brett Dean during the first edition of the RSNO's *Composers' Hub*.

### **Talking about the appointment, CEO/Artistic Director Christopher Hampson said:**

'We are excited to welcome Jean-Claude back to Scottish Ballet, as Chief Conductor of SBO. His collaborative and dynamic approach is a perfect fit for Scottish Ballet, and we are delighted to be strengthening our relationship with him over the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and beyond.'

### **Jean-Claude Picard said:**

'I'm thrilled to join the Scottish Ballet family; a vibrant, complex and highly creative organisation with whom I have experienced some of the finest artistic experiences of my career so far. To now be a part of Scotland's national dance company means so much to me as I very much look forward to deepening my relationship with this stunning institution and to share many more great projects with my colleagues in the coming years.'

**Notes to Editors:**

[Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#)  
[scottishballet.co.uk](http://scottishballet.co.uk)

Biography, headshots and photographs available for [download here](#).

**About Scottish Ballet**

- Scottish Ballet, founded in 1969, is Scotland's national dance company. Based in Glasgow, the company performs regularly across Scotland, and increasingly throughout the UK and internationally – promoting Scotland's pioneering spirit far and wide.
- Under CEO/Artistic Director Christopher Hampson, Scottish Ballet presents bold, adventurous performances rooted in strong classical technique, accompanied by the Scottish Ballet Orchestra. The company's broad repertoire includes new versions of the classics and ground-breaking commissions, as well as an innovative digital season every two year
- Scottish Ballet runs an extensive engagement programme, tailored to the needs of diverse communities, promotes confidence, fosters well-being and encourages creativity through dance.
- In 2019, Scottish Ballet celebrates 50 years of inspiring audiences on stage and beyond, with a creative vision crafted by Scotland. For more information about the anniversary season, visit: [scottishballet.co.uk/50](http://scottishballet.co.uk/50)
- Scottish Ballet is funded by the Scottish Government.

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