

01387 810 057

Morven Bank,
Lochmaben,
Lockerbie,
DG11 1RJ
21.10.04

James Boyle,
Chair, Cultural Commission,
Broughton High School,
Carrington Road,
Edinburgh, EH4 1EG

27 OCT 2004

210

Dear Mr Boyle,

Consultation process on Scottish cultural provision

An important step the commission can take is to remove the threat to, and demoralisation of, Scottish Opera, posed by the severe cutbacks signalled by the Scottish Executive

As a member of Friends of Scottish Opera and a lover of opera, I have written previously to Mr McAveety and our M.S.P.s in support of Scottish Opera.

The following is an extract of my letter of February 2004. This company is a very important part of Scottish cultural life and an ambassador for the country abroad.

"Any suggestion that Scottish Opera is elitist, neglects education or fails to support Scottish artists is quite erroneous. In the current season alone, Essential Scottish Opera (four singers and a pianist) is taking opera excerpts to 20 small venues the length and breadth of Scotland, including Orkney. Scottish Opera On Tour is taking a staged version of Eugene Onegin, accompanied by members of the orchestra, to 7 venues in the country. Each has a performance in Dumfries and Galloway. In the current Glasgow Theatre Royal syllabus there is information on an opera for children aged 8 to 14, the Minotaur, to be performed in the theatre and touring throughout Scotland. It will involve 10,000 children and young people.

Without the involvement and expertise of singers and musicians from the parent company these could not happen.

Scottish Opera is a world class opera company forming an essential part of Scotland's musical life and an ambassador for Scotland abroad. It also gives tremendous and essential support to up and coming young singers.

Please do not allow Scottish Opera to be starved of funding and virtually wiped out. The public library service, also a vital provision, and other facilities eg swimming pools etc are not universally used, yet are publicly funded without question, rightly."

Yours sincerely,



Eleanor J. More (Dr)