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Gaetano Donizetti's tragic opera *Maria Stuarda* depicts the merciless rivalry between Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots, who is seen as a martyr facing up to the illegitimate Queen of England. The opera was a victim of censorship at its premiere and was beset by problems during rehearsals but is now seen as one of Donizetti's great operatic masterpieces. From the flamboyantly lyrical royal confrontations to the poignant final execution scene, this widely acclaimed production by David McVicar features monumental sets and sumptuous Elizabethan costumes bringing the majesty and stark brutality of Elizabeth I's reign vividly to life.

**GAETANO DONIZETTI (1797–1848)**

# MARIA STUARDA

*Tragedia lirica in two acts (1835)*

Libretto by Giuseppe Bardari after Andrea Maffei's translation of Friedrich von Schiller's play *Maria Stuart*

Elisabetta **AIGUL AKHMETSHINA**

Maria Stuarda **LISETTE OROPESA**

Roberto Leicester **ISMAEL JORDI**

Giorgio Talbot **ROBERTO TAGLIAVINI**

Lord Guglielmo Cecil **ANDRZEJ FILOŃCZYK**

Anna Kennedy **ELISSA PFAENDER**

**Coro y Orquesta Titulares del Teatro Real**

Chorus Master **JOSÉ LUIS BASSO**

Conductor **JOSÉ MIGUEL PÉREZ-SIERRA**

Stage Director

and Additional Costumes **DAVID McVICAR**

Set Designer **HANNAH POSTLETHWAITE**

Costume Designer **BRIGITTE REIFFENSTUEL**

Lighting Designer **LIZZIE POWELL**

Director of Movement **GARETH MOLE**

Film Director **FRANÇOIS ROUSSILLON**

A stage production by Teatro Real, Madrid; in co-production with Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona; Donizetti Opera Festival, Bergamo; La Monnaie / De Munt, Brussels; National Finnish Opera and Ballet, Helsinki

A co-production between ARTE France, Teatro Real and François Roussillon et Associés, with the participation of RTVE, and with the support of Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée

Filmed on 20 and 23 December 2024 at Teatro Real, Madrid, Spain

**arte rtve**

Total playing time: 142 minutes

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