



miRacle theAtRE CoMpany

[Release date: Wednesday 14th December 2012](#)

Miracle Theatre's 'Blaze of Glory' A New Cornish Carol.

Miracle Theatre Director Bill Scott has joined forces with Cornish Composer Russell Pascoe and written a new Carol, in the tradition of Thomas Merritt, for Miracle's next large scale production TIN.

Cornwall's Miracle Theatre is currently working in collaboration with English Touring Opera (ETO) on an extensive community choir project across the county funded by Youth Music. Male voice and community choirs are coming together with students from Pool, Redruth, Richard Lander, Cape Cornwall, Humphry Davy, Brannel, The Roseland and Liskeard schools and community colleges to perform in the production in spring 2012.

Miracle Director Bill Scott explained how the new Carol came about:

"As part of their involvement in our 'Tin' project, English Touring Opera suggested that Russell Pascoe and I should write a new Cornish carol for our community choirs to learn. Given that the story of 'Tin' is set at the end of the 19th century, it seemed like an interesting challenge to try and write something with a Victorian feel. For the lyrics, I started with the idea of keeping hope alive, even in the deepest winter and used the image of a single candle dispelling 'the darkest gloom from cavern deep' (our story is set in a tin mine, after all) to represent the birth of Jesus. Russell's music is wonderfully authentic and could almost have been composed by the great Cornish composer, Thomas Merritt himself. The title 'Blaze of Glory' refers to gorse blossom lit up by the winter sun."

Russell Pascoe continued:

“As a follower and admirer of both Miracle Theatre and English Touring Opera, I was delighted when they commissioned me to write some music for TIN. The brief was to compose music that might have been sung by male voices at the turn of the Twentieth century. The new Carol, in particular, was great fun to write. Bill Scott gave me some superbly crafted words which I set in a style similar to our great Cornish carol composer, Thomas Merritt. I then tried it out on one of my male voice choirs, Changing Voices, at Richard Lander School. Children are an excellent barometer. They learned it very quickly and I’ve heard it sung in the school corridors: That makes me think I’ve got it right!”

‘Blaze of Glory’ was performed by Changing Voices at the Richard Lander Carol Concert in Truro Cathedral earlier this week, and may even become part of their future repertoire.

Bill and Russell will be on Radio Cornwall on Monday 19th December at 3:30pm – do tune in and hear the Carol or you can go to www.miracletheatre.co.uk and click on the listen button to hear ‘Blaze of Glory’ at any time.

TIN, commissioned by the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site will open at Heartlands in March 2012. It is ‘A heady mix of epic theatre, multi-media magic and top notch singing. It will include a community chorus filled with voices from around Cornwall.

Ends

Notes to editors:

- For further information or images please contact:

Miracle Theatre’s Communications Manager: Emma Gibson

Email: emma@miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01209 216762 / 07962 922 545

Miracle Theatre in collaboration with English Touring Opera present ‘Tin’ a melodrama about love and money, opera and mining! Touring in March and April 2012 across Cornwall and Devon. For more information and booking details go to www.miracletheatre.co.uk

Miracle Theatre is Cornwall’s foremost rural travelling company who has been touring innovative comic theatre across the UK for 30 years.

English Touring Opera is the leading touring opera company in the UK. Their aim is to offer opera to everyone. TIN is part of ETO’s ambitious outreach & education programme.

Miracle Theatre gratefully acknowledges it’s **‘Tin’** funders and partners:

Cornish Mining World Heritage:

‘Tin’ has been commissioned by the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Cultural programme. The WHS programme aims to increase awareness and appreciation of Cornish Mining culture and bring its stories to new audiences, and has reached thousands of people across the UK. See www.cornish-mining.org.uk for more information about Cornwall’s internationally important cultural heritage.

Miracle Theatre Company is funded by Arts Council England and Cornwall Council.