

- Press Release February 2019, **begins** -

Mary's Hand



"A modest gem of a show" The Independent

Mary's Hand is a new music drama about the life and reign of Queen Mary I.

It's a little-known fact that Queen Mary loved games of chance, such as dice and cards. In *Mary's Hand*, the Queen shares a game of cards with the audience who get to choose the next card to be turned. Their choices prompt Mary's reflection upon the influences and events in her life: her father Henry VIII, her mother Katherine of Aragon, her Catholic faith, her half-sister Elizabeth I, and her desperate desire for a child.

Above all, Mary was driven by the wish to be a good monarch and her deep conviction that she needed to restore England to the Church of Rome. Her marriage to the Catholic Philip of Spain promised to resolve many of these issues, but Mary had played her cards badly and paid a high public & personal price.

Mary's Hand is a dramatic, involving re-telling of Mary's story.

Creative team

Words and direction – Di Sherlock
Music – Martin Bussey
Costume design – Andie Scott and Sophie Meyer
Set design – Andie Scott
Lighting design, *Spring Tour 2019* – Antony Hateley

Cast & instrumental ensemble

Queen Mary I – Clare McCaldin, mezzo-soprano
Heidi Bennett, trumpet
Clare Hoskins, oboe & cor anglais
Gabiella Swallow, cello

"Well-conceived operatic take on the life of Mary I" The Stage

"The songs and spoken text are impressively detailed... It seems that Di Sherlock has a wealth of knowledge on the Tudor family" TrendFEM

"Martin Bussey's elegant, expressive score makes maximum use of seemingly minimal resources."
Specs Blog

"with the stunning Tudor replica costume skilfully made by Andie Scott and Sophie Meyer, aesthetically, Mary's Hand cannot be faulted" Spy in the Stalls

[cont...]

Mary's Hand will be performed in 2019 on

- 15 February (6pm, in excerpts) at The Society of Antiquaries, in front of the Hans Eworth portrait of Mary on which the Mary's Hand costume is based, with an accompanying talk from historian Dr John Cooper.
- 19 February (7.30pm) at St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, London
- 22 February (7.30pm) Queen's Hall, Hexham
- 23 February (7.30pm) Lancaster Priory, Lancaster
- 27 April (7.30pm) in the Music in Pinner series
- 30 July 2019 (10pm) Three Choirs Festival, Gloucester
- 14 November 2019 (7.30pm) Landmark Arts, Teddington
- April 2020 (tbc) New Paths Music Festival, Beverley

- Ends -

More information and media via mccaldinarts.com/MarysHand
or contact McCaldin Arts directly on mccaldinarts@gmail.com
social media points to Mary's Hand via the hashtag [#MarysHand](https://twitter.com/MarysHand)