



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE THURROCK COMMUNITY CHORUS TAKES THE STAGE AT CELEBRATION OF OPERA IN COVENT GARDEN

The Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus was once again flying the flag for Thurrock on Sunday 10 September when it took part in Out Loud, the Royal Opera House's celebration of opera.

The ROH Thurrock Community Chorus performed alongside professional singers and non-professional groups from both the Royal Opera House and beyond. The dedication and quality of the ROH Thurrock Community Chorus performance was again recognised as it joined an unparalleled programme of performances by The Royal Opera Chorus, Jette Parker Young Artists and took part in a short scene on stage directed by **Head Staff Director, Amy Lane**. Amy said :’ *“The ROH Thurrock Community Chorus performed live in the Piazza at Covent Garden on Sunday, and the sunshine and passion they radiated is likely to keep me warm right through the winter! This group is the ultimate tribute to showing how singing can bind people together: all sung from memory, in four part harmony, in several different languages, and every word sparkling and alive with drama. If you thought singing wasn’t for you, then this is the group to change your mind.”*

The performances gave visitors to the famous Covent Garden piazza the chance to experience for free the magic of opera up-close. ROH Reimagined performances – short

reworked extracts from major ROH productions – were also included in the day’s programme. These were first seen at High House Production Park in July’s week of celebrations for the Royal Opera House’s tenth anniversary of working with communities across Thurrock.

Taster sessions for those wanting to find out more about joining the ROH Thurrock Community Chorus take place on Monday 18 and Monday 25 September at 7.15pm at Palmers College. To find out more about the Chorus or to sign up for a taster session, please go to www.roh.org.uk/communitychorus or email getinvolved@roh.org.uk or call 01708 891200.

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Notes for Editors

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock has been offering innovative and creative projects and programmes in schools, colleges and across communities in the Thames Gateway since 2006.

Since then, more than 60,000 people have participated in activities ranging from schools’ projects to teacher training, from work-based learning to fully-staged community operas. People in Thurrock have both been able to watch special performances at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and gain a very special insight into the behind-the-scenes process.

The Learning and Participation team runs the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus which currently has over 140 members of all ages and regularly performs across Thurrock and at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. For further information, please go to: www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/community-chorus. Details of future performances and taster session for the Community Chorus can be obtained by emailing getinvolved@roh.org.uk or calling 01708 891200.

Regular public tours of the state-of-the-art Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop where the sets and scenery for the Royal Opera House stage in Covent Garden are built, and the Bob and Tamar Manoukian Costume Centre, which opened in October 2015, are now available. Please go to www.roh.org.uk/visit/tours/thurrock-tours for further details.

In April 2012, the Royal Opera House agreed to become a [Bridge](#) organisation, working to connect children and young people to great art and culture across Essex, North Kent, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

The Learning and Participation team is based at the High House Production Park in Purfleet which is supported by a unique partnership including Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills, the Royal Opera House and Thurrock Council: www.hhpp.org.uk