



ROYAL
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HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

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Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus perform at Southbank Centre

On Friday 19th May, **Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus** performed *New Life* at the **Southbank Centre**, shortly before the performance of **Ravi Shankar's** opera *Sukanya* to which their piece was a creative response.

Blending Indian and western classical styles and accompanied by piano and tabla, the piece was written and directed by **Ranjana Ghatak**, and developed in collaboration with its performers: Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus, children from Avanti House School in Pinner and members of the BBC Singers.

The piece drew rapturous applause from a packed Clore Ballroom after which the Community Chorus went to watch 'Sukanya' en masse; a thrilling experience to end an unforgettable day.

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Notes for Editors

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock

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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