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PRESS RELEASE

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Responding to Shankar

Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus rehearse at BBC Maida Vale Studios

On Sunday 19 March, members of the **Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus** travelled to the BBC studios in Maida Vale to rehearse for their forthcoming performance at the **Southbank Centre** as part of the **Alchemy Festival**.

The Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus will be taking part in **New Life: Inspired by *Sukanya***, a performance of musical responses to Ravi Shankar's opera *Sukanya*. The performance takes place on **Friday 19 May at 6.45pm** in the **Clore Ballroom** at the **Royal Festival Hall**. The performance is free.

Directed by **Ranjana Ghatak**, the British Indian classical singer and composer, *New Life* draws on the motifs and narratives of Shankar's opera. Blending Indian and western classical styles, the piece has been developed in collaboration with its performers: members of the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus, children from Avanti Schools Trust in Croydon and members of BBC Singers.

To find out more about the performance and the Alchemy Festival, please go to www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on

To find out more about the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus, please go to www.roh.org.uk/community-chorus

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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