



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

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Getting a Taste for Opera

Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer school, Woodside Academy visit Covent Garden

Students from Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer school, Woodside Academy, visited Covent Garden recently to see an opera for the first time.

The 30 students, all with a special interest in music, attended a Schools Matinee of Puccini's beautiful opera *Madama Butterfly*. Immediately before the performance, the students took part in a music workshop in the auditorium, discovering for themselves how it feels to sing in a space for an audience of more than 2000.

Janet Dada, Cultural Champion at Woodside Academy said: "It was a great day and the children really enjoyed the performance. It was amazing to see them follow the story through and the conversation amongst them on the way back to school regarding the opera was really interesting."

Trailblazer is an innovative programme that boost creative learning in schools and accelerate pupils' development. To find out more about Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer, please go to www.roh.org.uk/trailblazer.

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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