



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

15 JANUARY 2018

Thurrock Singers celebrate triumphant Royal Opera House production

THE RETURN OF ULYSSES

Wednesday 10 – Sunday 21 January 2018

The Roundhouse, Chalk Farm Road, London, NW1 8EH

Members of the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus are appearing alongside professionals from The Royal Opera in a new production of Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses* at the Roundhouse in London. The show, which opened on Wednesday 10 January, has received warm reviews.

18 members of the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus were chosen by audition to take part in the new production. The Royal Opera collaborated with the Roundhouse on another of Monteverdi's operas, *Orfeo* three years ago. The members of the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus joined singers from the Roundhouse community choir to play refugees seeking safety in Ithaca. Alongside them were students of the Vocal Studies programme at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

The Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus has performed on stage at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden several times but the performance as part of the Chorus in *The Return of Ulysses* at the Roundhouse was a new challenge.

'It has been such a privilege to be on the stage with such wonderful professional singers. We are so close to them when we are acting and singing - I have to pinch myself to make sure it is really happening!' said **Lorna Jones, Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus member** from Tilbury.

The Return of Ulysses is at the Roundhouse until Sunday 21 January. Tickets can be purchased from the Royal Opera House Box Office on 020 7304 4000 or go to www.roh.org.uk/ulysses for more information and to book tickets.

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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