



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

Tuesday 27 April 2021

#ThankYouNHS

Royal Opera House to thank NHS workers with programme of live, world-class ballet and opera

As the country emerges from lockdown restrictions, the Royal Opera House is delighted to announce a suite of performances, partnerships and events, as well as a special performance by the Royal Opera Chorus for hospital radios up and down the UK, to say thank you to the amazing staff of the NHS.

On June 27 the Royal Opera House will present a special performance of **Puccini's** opera of passion, friendship and heartbreak: *La bohème*. One of the best-loved operas worldwide, this beautiful production by Richard Jones will be presented to an auditorium of specially-invited NHS staff, including nurses and healthcare support workers from the Royal Opera House's nearest hospitals: Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, and University College Hospital London.

There will also be a special Family Sunday event at the Royal Opera House in September dedicated to NHS workers and their families, with activities including dance, singing and craft workshops and performance, inspired by the repertory of The Royal Ballet and The Royal Opera. NHS workers and their families will be invited to explore the iconic Royal Opera House building to go behind the scenes.

In the run up to Christmas, on 4 December, the Royal Opera House will invite NHS workers and their families to see **The Royal Ballet's** sumptuous production of **Tchaikovsky's** *The Nutcracker* as part of our annual Paul Hamlyn Christmas Treat. The surrounding events, activities and pop-up performances promise to make this a truly memorable and magical Christmas experience.

Thank You NHS will continue on March 19 2022 with a performance of The Royal Ballet's magnificent *Swan Lake*, a favourite of the ballet repertory and arguably the best-known and most-loved classical ballet.

Tickets for all three performances will be heavily discounted, with thanks to support from The Laidlaw Foundation and the Helen Hamlyn Trust.

Jillian Barker, Director of Learning and Participation at the Royal Opera House, said:

“After the incredible challenges of the last 12 months, the dedicated and tireless work of NHS staff has been monumental. Their work has helped to save countless lives during this challenging year, and I am delighted that we have the chance to give hundreds of nurses, porters and healthcare support workers from our nearest hospitals, as well as their families, the opportunity to enjoy these wonderful ballet and opera experiences. I am also delighted that the wonderful sound of the Royal Opera Chorus, beamed across Hospital Radio networks up and down the country, will give more people the chance to experience opera in all its glory”.

Lord Laidlaw, Chair of the Laidlaw Foundation, said: “The thrill of live opera, with its ability to capture the most intense emotions and help us understand each other and life’s biggest themes: love, loss, joy and hope, should be part of everyone’s cultural capital. We are delighted therefore to sponsor this performance of *La bohème*, as a very big thank you to all the NHS and keyworkers from the Laidlaw Foundation and Royal Opera House.”

Lady Hamlyn, CBE, of the Helen Hamlyn Trust, said: “How can we ever adequately thank all the wonderful people in the NHS and all the key workers for risking their own lives to protect and care for all of ‘us’. I very much hope that the Paul Hamlyn Christmas Treat will give much pleasure to those able to attend.”

In a first for the ROH, the **Royal Opera Chorus** has also partnered with more than 30 hospital radio stations around the country, from Cornwall to the Isle of Man, to share highlights of the opera and song repertory with thousands of patients, doctors and hospital workers.

With almost an hour of specially recorded highlights, including the famous *Habanera* from **Bizet’s *Carmen***; extracts from **Mozart’s *La clemenza de Tito***, ***Così fan tutte***, and **Verdi’s *Rigoletto***, and favourites from **Gilbert and Sullivan**, the hospital radio broadcast will explore and celebrate the full spectrum of human emotion from Friday 7 May.

The *Thank you NHS* performance of *La bohème* has been made possible thanks to generous philanthropic support from the Laidlaw Foundation.

The Paul Hamlyn Christmas Treat of *The Nutcracker* is generously supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust in memory of Paul Hamlyn.

ENDS

Please find images [here](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS

For all enquiries, please contact Ben Oliver | ben.oliver@roh.org.uk

Follow the Royal Opera House on social media:

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#)

About The Royal Ballet

Under the directorship of Kevin O’Hare, The Royal Ballet unites tradition and innovation in world-class performances and is a driving force in the development of ballet as an art form. Based at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, it brings together today’s most dynamic and versatile dancers with a world-class orchestra and leading choreographers, composers, conductors, directors and creative teams to share awe-inspiring theatrical experiences with diverse audiences worldwide. The Company’s extensive repertory embraces 19th-century classics, the singular legacy of works by Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton and Principal Choreographer Kenneth MacMillan, as well as a compelling new canon of work by some of the world’s leading choreographers of today including Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon. Guest choreographers Cathy Marston, Crystal Pite, Twyla Tharp, Pam Tanowitz, Hofesh Shechter and Sid Larbi Cherkaoui have also created work for the Company.

About The Royal Opera

The Royal Opera, under the artistic direction of Antonio Pappano, Music Director, and Oliver Mears, Director of Opera, is one of the world’s leading opera companies. Based in the iconic Covent Garden theatre, it is renowned both for its outstanding performances of traditional opera and for commissioning new works by today’s leading opera composers.

About the Royal Opera House

Home to The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House our vision is to give everyone access to exceptional ballet and opera.

Since closing our doors due to the global pandemic in March 2020, the Royal Opera House has continued to bring together the world’s most extraordinary artists and curated the #OurHouseToYourHouse programme of 19 streams, 4 socially distanced live concerts and a suite of online content that has been viewed over 315 million times in 183 countries.

The Royal Opera House continues its #OurHouseToYourHouse programme, bringing audiences the best of the ROH through a new series of live performances, cinema screenings, Friday Premieres and cultural highlights in partnership with the BBC and Sky Arts.

The Royal Opera House is committed to widening participation and deepening learning for all ages. Last summer we launched Create and Learn, offering free online home-learning opportunities for children and young people. In addition, The Royal Ballet partnered with Cast and Doncaster Council to support Doncaster residents with online resources and remote direction to create a unique community dance film, Doncaster Dances.

Royal Opera House Recovery Campaign

Live performance is a shared experience, and our audiences are at the heart of what we do on our stages, backstage, online, in cinemas and in our communities. The global pandemic has affected all arts organisations across the world. We have lost £3 in every £5 of our income, and our Government loan will take us only part of the way. We need your help with our Recovery Campaign to bring artists back to our stages. roh.org.uk/donate