



24 MARCH 2014

**Royal Opera House and European Partners present
Verdi's Requiem at High House Production Park**

Thursday 3 and Friday 4 July at 8pm

Backstage Centre, High House Production Park, Purfleet, RM19 1RJ

Tickets £15, concessions £12

Box Office 020 7304 4000

The **Royal Opera House** and its European partners celebrate the next stage of their three year programme of joint cultural activities with two performances of **Verdi's *Requiem*** at The Backstage Centre, High House Production Park.

International soloists from the **Royal Opera House Jette Parker Young Artists Programme**, the **Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus** and **Brighton Festival Chorus** join with the combined forces of two outstanding French orchestras, **L'Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne** and **Orchestre de Picardie**, for these unique performances under the baton of Dutch conductor **Arie van Beek** on **Thursday 3** and **Friday 4 July at 8pm**.

Sumptuous and vivid, **Verdi's *Requiem*** merges religious music with the excitement and radiance of opera in a lament for lost souls. This Italian masterpiece is shamelessly dramatic, combining high drama with moments of heart wrenching tenderness.

The performance takes place as part of the Royal Opera House's involvement in **ACT – A Common Territory**, a European partnership between 13 different

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organizations on both sides of the English Channel. The partnership supports live performance and culture through the development of projects fostering and developing creative skills in local people and promoting wider access to art and cultural events.

Under the ACT programme, the Royal Opera House has already worked with partners to produce three live performances in 2013. Young people from Southend's YMCA and the Gateway Academy worked with dancers practitioners from **the Royal Opera House** to join with French dance company **Eco** and choreographer **Emilio Calcagno** in an evening of contemporary dance at the Gateway Academy in Thurrock. Young musicians from Thurrock played alongside jazz master **Chris Brubeck** (son of the world famous Dave Brubeck) and **L'Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne** in a concert of classical and jazz music at the Civic Hall in Grays. RM19, the Royal Opera House Youth Vocal Group in Thurrock, made their debut in this concert. In November 2013, Royal Opera House Jette Parker Young Artists joined the French orchestras and Brighton Festival Chorus to perform Verdi's *Requiem* on tour in Amiens, Compiègne and Rennes to sell-out audiences of over 3500 people.

Tickets for **Verdi's Requiem** are on sale at the Royal Opera House Box Office. Please call 020 7304 4000 to book or go to www.roh.org.uk to book online. Tickets are £15, concessions £12. Take advantage of an Early Bird Offer until Friday 2 May. Early Bird tickets are £10, concessions £8.

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CONTACTS

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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 for the past six years. In 2010, more than 1000 people from Thurrock, young and old, took part in creating and performing the spectacular Purfleet Opera: *Ludd and Isis*, the third large scale ROH performance created with communities in Thurrock. As a result of this work the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus was created with over 140 members of all ages. For further information, please go to

www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/community-chorus. RM19, a new Youth Chorus for 11-25 year olds was started in 2012:

www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/rm19-youth-singing-group.

Public and educational 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 are now available. Please go to www.roh.org.uk/visit/tours/thurrock-tours for further details.

The High House Production Park is supported by a unique partnership including Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills, the Royal Opera House and Thurrock Council: www.highhouseproductionpark.co.uk

ACT – A Common Territory

The ACT network has been selected under the European cross-border Co-operation Programme INTERREG IV. This is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund. Its objectives are to share cultural activities and build an attractive region in which to live.

INTERREG IV

INTERREG IV provides funding for interregional cooperation across Europe. It is implemented under the European Community's territorial co-operation objective and financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) This press release highlights the European dimension of these



performances and workshops. Their particular appeal lies in their cross-border nature, which is made possible by financial support from the European Union.

The performances and the France (Channel) – England programme share an important objective: to provide a better understanding of how the European Union actively encourages co-operation between the territories of different Member States separated by a border.