



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

**PRESS RELEASE**

09 APRIL 2015

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE ANNOUNCES TWO MORE  
ROH LINKS ORGANISATIONS**

Following a thorough search process in collaboration with Arts Council England, the Royal Opera House is delighted to announce that it will partner a further two companies in the third year of the ROH Links scheme. **Dance Woking**, a dance organisation delivering community engagement projects in Surrey, and **Revelation St Mary's**, a music and arts centre in Ashford, join Farnham's **Stopgap Dance Company**, **Mid Wales Opera**, based in Newtown Powys, and **The Garage Trust**, a performing arts centre in Norwich.

**Alex Beard**, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House, said:

“I am delighted that we are entering into a relationship with two very different organisations in the third year of this scheme. We have gained enormously from our association with the six companies we have partnered with in the first two years of the programme. We now have a clearer idea how we can best assist the companies and we are always hungry to learn from their experiences too. It also demonstrates in another way how we are contributing more widely as a resource for the nation.”

The Royal Opera House currently shares skills and best practice with other organizations through our Associate programmes, and through participation in industry bodies and arts consortia. This programme aims to build on the relationships we already hold with performing arts organizations, and allows us to work with some Arts Council National Portfolio and Grants for the Arts

organizations to build their sustainability and impact by sharing our expertise in a variety of disciplines.

-ENDS-

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **ROH Links**

This programme connects small and medium-sized performing arts organizations with expertise within the Royal Opera House over a two-year period. This expertise is based around arts management and/or technical areas, and allows the ROH to share more widely and formally the skills and expertise of staff.

### **Dance Woking**

Established in 1995, Dance Woking is an innovative dance organisation which provides high quality opportunities to watch perform and take part in dance, providing new experiences that inspire artists, audiences, participants and communities.

Dance Woking's Vision is 'to champion and celebrate dance as a socially and culturally relevant force through an annual programme of events that resonate with its audiences. Aiming to be an outstanding contributor to the arts, culture and sport in Woking and the South East of England, with a regional and national reputation in its support and development of dance'.

Dance Woking has three key priorities: To engage more people in meaningful dance experiences; to create a sustainable local dance community and to create a sustainable business model for Dance Woking. As a way of achieving its aims Dance Woking presents 3 seasons of dance every year featuring national, regional and local artists, bespoke commissions and premieres of new dance in Spring, Summer and Winter. Lucy Field, Chair of Dance Woking, said: 'Dance Woking is absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to be part of this fantastic programme. It

will contribute significantly to strengthening our offer as an organisation; resulting in increased benefit to the people of Woking'

### **Revelation St Mary's**

Revelation St Mary's is a music and arts venue programming high quality arts activity in Ashford's awe-inspiring St Mary's church – a modernised accessible venue with exceptional facilities, following a £1.7 million refurbishment in 2011. Revelation St Mary's delivers year-round development for artists and volunteers and integrated outreach through learning and participatory projects to connect more deeply with the community and young people. Revelation St Mary's is delivered by St Mary's Arts Trust, an independent charity, supported by its dedicated volunteers and with financial support from Ashford Borough Council, Arts Council England and Kent County Council.

Further information about the venue, upcoming and past shows can be found at [www.revelationstmarys.co.uk](http://www.revelationstmarys.co.uk).

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