



10 MARCH 2015

Jette Parker Young Artists Join Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus to perform in the Brandenburg Choral Festival at St James's Church in London

Sunday 26 April at 7.30pm
St James's Sussex Gardens, London, W2 3UD
Box Office 020 7766 1100
Unreserved seating
www.roh.org.uk/community-chorus

The Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus will be joined by soloists from the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme when they perform in the Brandenburg Choral Festival on Sunday 26 April in a concert entitled Opera Choruses and Folksongs at St James's Church in London.

After a tremendous year for the **Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus** in 2014, during which it performed Verdi's Requiem to sell-out audiences at the High House Production Park, it returns to the prestigious Brandenburg Choral Festival to perform a variety of opera choruses. Joining the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus in the concert will be international soloists **Luis Gomes, Anush Hovhannisyan, Rachel Kelly** and **Yuriy Yurchuk** from **The Royal Opera's Jette Parker Young Artists Programme**.

Anush Hovhannisyan said: 'Having shared the stage with members of the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus at the Jette Parker Young Artists Summer Performance last year, I am thrilled to join this great group of

music lovers again, now for the Brandenburg Choral Festival. I am looking forward to all the fun and joy that we are going to have on this project.'

The programme for the concert includes 'Brindisi' from Verdi's *La traviata*, 'Habanera' from Bizet's *Carmen*, the Humming Chorus from *Madama Butterfly* and other works by Copeland and Wagner. The Tapestry Female Voice Choir will also be performing in the concert and will sing Vaughan Williams *Folksongs of the Four Seasons*.

Chorus member **Mike Ostler** said: "This is the second time that Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus has appeared at the Brandenburg Choral Festival. It is inspiring to be part of a concert comprising two contrasting and complimentary styles of singing. The support of a London audience, for the most part new to us, is greatly appreciated."

The Brandenburg Choral Festival is London's biggest and broadest annual choral celebration for amateur choirs. The festival opens in December and runs through until May.

2015 looks set to be another busy year for the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus. In July, the **FUSED** festival returns for its fourth year and the Chorus will perform a joint concert with RM19, the Royal Opera House Thurrock Youth Vocal group.

Tickets for Opera Choruses and Folksongs are available from the Brandenburg Choral Festival Box Office on 020 7766 1100. Tickets £18 adults, children £5. Please go to www.brandenburg.org.uk for more information. Watch out for more information about the FUSED festival coming soon.

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Notes for Editors

Jette Parker Young Artists Programme

The Jette Parker Young Artists Programme is designed to support the artistic development of young professional singers, conductors, directors and répétiteurs. The Young Artists are salaried company members who work at the opera house on a full-time basis over a two-year period. They receive coaching in all opera disciplines, including music, languages, movement and acting, as well as guidance in related issues and career development. Each artist is given the opportunity to work on productions for The Royal Opera. The Young Artists give an annual performance on the main stage. Other performance opportunities include recitals in the Linbury and the Crush Room. The Programme is run by Artistic Director David Gowland and Administrator Siri Fischer Hansen, assisted by Abigail Ellison. There are currently ten singers, two music staff and a stage director on the Programme. If you would like more information, please visit the JPYAP pages on the ROH website: www.roh.org.uk/about/jette-parker-young-artists-programme

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 a Thurrock Community Chorus has been 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