



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

29 FEBRUARY 2016

## **Royal Opera House Big Sing comes to Thurrock**

### **A morning of music making for 8-25 year olds**

**Thurrock Big Sing**  
**Saturday 19 March**  
**9.45am – 12.30pm**  
**South Essex College, High Street, Grays RM17 6TF**  
**FREE**

**The Royal Opera House Big Sing is coming to Thurrock. On Saturday 19 March, young people from across Thurrock aged between 8-25 years can join the fantastic acapella group The Sons of Pitches for a morning of singing and creating performance.**

Famed for their unique and experimental methods of using a range of musical genres, **The Sons of Pitches** will be working with **Royal Opera House** to produce a unique piece with a *West Side Story* theme, to be performed to friends and family at the end of the morning.

**Royal Opera House** vocal leaders **Jeremy Haneman** and **Stuart Overington**, known for their energetic and inspiring approach to singing, will also be on hand to help with performance skills and to offer expert advice on using the voice and developing a singing style.

'We're really excited to be returning to Thurrock for the Big Sing weekend in March. We can't wait to continue working with the young community there!' said **Josh Mallett** from **The Sons of Pitches**.

Big Sings are an opportunity to get together with others, regardless of experience and share the joy of making music together. There will be further opportunities to join in with a Big Sing in Thurrock in the future.

**The Big Sing morning is free but booking is essential. To register for a place in March or to find out future Big Sing dates, please email [getinvolved@roh.org.uk](mailto:getinvolved@roh.org.uk), or call 01708 891 200 to find out more.**

ENDS

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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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.roh.org.uk/visit/tours/thurrock-tours) for further details. Inspiration Days offer a more in-depth look at the work of the Production Workshop. More information can be found at [www.roh.org.uk/inspiration](http://www.roh.org.uk/inspiration)

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](http://www.hhpp.org.uk)