

**Press Release** 

Wednesday 3 September 2025

# Jakub Hrůša leads special concert to mark the start of his tenure as Music Director of The Royal Opera

- Special concert welcoming new Music Director Jakub Hrůša sees Orchestra of the Royal Opera House and Royal Opera Chorus perform centre stage
- Concert showcases the Orchestra's credentials with programme of Bartók's Suite from The Miraculous Mandarin and The Spectre's Bride by Dvořák
- Kateřina Kněžíková, Pavol Kubáň make their Royal Opera debuts, alongside Pavel Černoch
- Tickets from £5 at rbo.org.uk

Marking the start of his tenure as Music Director of The Royal Opera, **Jakub Hrůša**, conducts the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House** and **Royal Opera Chorus** in a one-off concert on **Saturday 20 September**. The evening will put the storytelling mastery of the Orchestra and Chorus, the backbone of any full-scale opera company, centre stage and, for the Orchestra, marks a rare moment to perform on the Main Stage itself.

Hrůša's choice of repertoire will showcase the Orchestra's strengths in both ballet and opera works, with Bartók's Suite from *The Miraculous Mandarin* and *The Spectre's Bride by* Dvořák on the programme. Bartók's work was first performed as a ballet in 1926 and is a masterclass in orchestral writing whilst three soloists, Kateřina Kněžíková, Pavel Černoch and Pavol Kubáň bring Dvořák's macabre tale to life. Kněžíková and Kubáň both make their Royal Opera debuts

Hrůša, the Orchestra, Chorus and soloists will take the same programme to Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie on **Monday 22 September**.

## Jakub Hrůša, Music Director of The Royal Opera said:

'I am so happy that the Orchestra and Chorus have their own dedicated concert this Season to highlight their artistry, flexibility and hard work; where would we be without them performing to such a high standard night after night? Both these pieces of music are full of theatrical elements, drama, lyrical beauty and intricacy, perfect for our Orchestra and Chorus who bring out these elements of our operas and ballets during every performance. I am looking forward to sharing music from Central Europe with our audiences who I know

enjoy the breadth of repertoire we perform here, and also introducing them to our three fantastic soloists two of whom make their Royal Opera debuts that evening.'

#### **ENDS**

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Images can be downloaded here

### **PRESS CONTACT**

Ruth Haines: Ruth.Haines@roh.org.uk | Head of Opera Press

The Royal Opera

# JAKUB HRŮŠA AND FRIENDS IN CONCERT

Main Stage

20 September 2025

#### Guidance

Suitable for ages 5+

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 5 minutes, including one interval.

Sung in Czech with English surtitles, which are displayed on screens above the stage and around the auditorium.

## Tickets £5 - £125

For more information and to book, visit rbo.org.uk

#### CAST

Conductor **Jakub Hrůša**Soprano **Kateřina Kněžíková**Tenor **Pavel Černoch**Baritone **Pavol Kubáň** 

# **Royal Opera Chorus**

Chorus Director William Spaulding
Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

## **About The Royal Opera**

Under the artistic direction of Music Director Jakub Hrůša, Director of Opera, Oliver Mears and Associate Director, Netia Jones, The Royal Opera is one of the world's leading opera companies. Based at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, it brings together the greatest singers of our time alongside the most exciting voices of the future; the Royal Opera Chorus, a world-class

orchestra and leading conductors (including Principal Guest Conductor Speranza Scappucci), directors and creative teams to share inspiring theatrical experiences with diverse audiences worldwide. Across the Main Stage and the Linbury Theatre, the Company is renowned for both its award-winning performances of repertory works and for commissioning new works by the world's leading opera composers, such as George Benjamin, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Thomas Adès and the late Kaija Saariaho.

# About the Royal Ballet and Opera

The Royal Ballet and Opera is the home of world-class opera and ballet. We are a cultural powerhouse, bringing together two world-class performing companies in one of the UK's leading arts institutions, supported by a cast of more than 3,000 employees including technical staff, creatives, and freelancers. Based primarily at the Royal Opera House in the heart of London's Covent Garden, with production and logistics sites in Thurrock and Aberdare, our work is enjoyed by audiences in our two theatres and globally through our streaming platform, cinema Season and company tours. Our work in schools and communities up and down the country is driven by our curriculum linked programmes, specially designed to inspire creativity, widen access to the arts and diversify the future of opera and ballet. These sit alongside industry-leading talent development projects, regional partnerships, our Young RBO scheme, and a raft of daytime events, family activities, tours, exhibitions, and concerts in our Covent Garden home. We are committed to reducing our impact on the environment and aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2035.