



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

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Images can be downloaded [here](#)

PRESS CONTACT

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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 Hruša**

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 Hruša, 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

