



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

Press Release

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Royal Opera House Songs for Ukraine Chorus meets Ukraine's First Lady, Olena Zelenska, at No.10 Downing Street

The **Royal Opera House Songs for Ukraine Chorus** were delighted to meet the **First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska**, and **Akshata Murty**, during a visit to **No.10 Downing Street**.

In a special reception hosted by Mrs. Murty and Mrs. Zelenska, 30 representatives from the Songs for Ukraine Chorus performed the Ukrainian national anthem and the hymn, *Prayer for Ukraine*.

Established in spring 2023 in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Chorus is made up of 130 Ukrainian people, a majority of whom have been displaced by the war. Created as part of the Royal Opera House's Creative Exchange programme, the Chorus brings together Ukrainian singers to demonstrate the power of music to inspire hope and solidarity.

Solomiia Gavrilova, Songs for Ukraine Chorus Member, said:

'Leaving Ukraine, I never could have imagined that I would be singing at Number 10 Downing Street, before meeting our First Lady. At such a poignant time, this has been a day I will never forget.'

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

'We were absolutely delighted that Mrs. Zelenska and Mrs. Murty met with our wonderful Songs for Ukraine Chorus. Beginning as part of our Creative Exchange programme in 2022, the Chorus is a continuing example of the power of music to bring people together, and we were thrilled that Mrs. Zelenska and Ms. Murty were able to experience that firsthand.'

Having performed a series of successful concerts in London and Bradford this year, the Chorus are working towards a major performance this summer and are welcoming applications for new members. Further information can be found [here](#).

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

[Images can be downloaded here.](#)

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About the Royal Opera House

Home to The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, the Royal Opera House brings together world-class performers and trailblazing creative teams to share unforgettable performances with audiences near and far. Our theatres are in the heart of London's Covent Garden, but our work is accessed and experienced across the UK and globally through ROH Stream, tours, cinema programme, radio broadcasts and TV output. Our work in schools and communities up and down the country is driven by our curriculum linked Create & Learn programmes, specially designed to inspire creativity, broaden participation and diversify the future of opera and ballet. These sit alongside industry-leading talent development projects, regional partnerships, and a raft of daytime events, family activities, tours, exhibitions and free concerts here in our iconic Covent Garden home. We are also expanding our audience through our flagship Young ROH scheme and are committed to reducing our impact on the environment and aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2035.