

St Pancras International hosts live operatic-spectacular with the V&A and the Royal Opera House

- *Live performance from Royal Opera House entertained visitors to the station tonight*
- *Visitors had the chance to sing-along in celebration of the V&A's major exhibition Opera: Passion, Power and Politics*
- *Part of BBC Arts Digital's #OperaPassion Day - part of the BBC's Opera Season in collaboration with the V&A and the Royal Opera House*

19th October 2017: St Pancras International played host to the V&A and world-class singers from the Royal Opera Chorus tonight, as they performed opera classics live in the station for the enjoyment of Londoners, commuters and tourists alike.

Forming part of the station's ongoing calendar of new and exciting art and music experiences, the live spectacle celebrated the V&A's landmark exhibition Opera: Passion, Power and Politics and marked the finale to BBC Arts Digital's #OperaPassion Day – an unprecedented day of live streaming from eight leading UK opera companies, in conjunction with the BBC's Opera Season.



Inspired by the V&A's critically acclaimed exhibition, visitors enjoyed the fabulous might of the **Anvil Chorus from Verdi's *Il trovatore***, and the beautiful **Easter Hymn from Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana***, sung by soprano soloist Sarah-Jane Lewis and members of the Royal Opera Chorus, led by Chorus Director William Spaulding.

What's more, the chorus invited members of the public to **sing-along** with them beside the station's iconic statue of Sir John Betjeman.

Wendy Spinks, Commercial Director, HS1 Ltd (owners of St Pancras International): "St Pancras International has become synonymous with offering visitors new and exciting arts and music experiences, which we're very proud of. Having the V&A and the Royal Opera House perform under our iconic roof tonight was a spectacular addition to our calendar of cultural events."

For more information on the music, arts, culture and retail events happening in the station, visit <http://stpancras.com> and follow @StPancrasInt.

Offering convenient shopping and quality bars and restaurants, St Pancras International is a destination in its own right. The station welcomes reviews from visitors on their experience at St Pancras International - click here to visit the TripAdvisor page: https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g186338-d214631-Reviews-St_Pancras_International_Station-London_England.html.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

For further information about St Pancras International contact Clarion Communications on 020 7479 0910 or email HS1@clarioncomms.co.uk

Event details:

18.20 – Introduction from Kate Bailey, V&A curator of ‘Opera: Passion, Power and Politics’

18.30 – BBC Radio 3 ‘In Tune’ introduces the Royal Opera House performance

18.30 – Royal Opera House performance:

- Anvil Chorus from *Il trovatore*: William Spaulding, Royal Opera Chorus Director conducting 16 chorus members, a pianist and percussionist
- The Easter Hymn from *Cavalleria Rusticana*: William Spaulding, Royal Opera Chorus Director conducting 16 chorus members, a pianist and soloist
- Va, pensiero from Verdi’s *Nabucco*: William Spaulding, Royal Opera Chorus Director conducting and leading a public singalong with more than 16 chorus members

Location: Upper Level, St Pancras International

The list of contributors:

William Spaulding – Royal Opera Chorus Director

Sarah-Jane Lewis – Soprano soloist

Nigel Charman – Percussionist, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

Edward Batting – Pianist

Royal Opera Chorus

Those who were not able to get down to St Pancras International on the day could watch live on the V&A and Royal Opera House facebook pages and on the BBC’s #OperaPassion Day live page.

About St Pancras International Station:

St Pancras International station is a unique Grade I listed building owned by HS1 Ltd. Offering a wealth of stylish and premium shops, bars and restaurants all under one iconic roof, the venue is a destination in its own right, as well as a world-class station.

Known for its calendar of new and exciting arts and music experiences, there's always something new to discover. From now until December 2017, visitors can appreciate the Terrace Wires public art installation – an impressive 16m wide mechanical work by RA artist, Conrad Shawcross.

Visitors can also experience St Pancras International's free-to-play jukebox and station pianos, played by world famous stars including Elton John and John Legend, as well as the public day to day.

For more information about the station and its premium retailers, including Fortnum & Mason, Searcys, Whistles, kikki.K, plus recently launched Ted Baker, Chanel and Calvin Klein, visit <http://stpancras.com>.

About HS1 Ltd:

HS1 Ltd has the 30-year concession to own and operate High Speed 1, the UK's first section of high speed rail, as well as the stations along the route: St Pancras International, Stratford International, Ebbsfleet International and Ashford International.

About the V&A's 'Opera: Passion, Power and Politics exhibition':

A spectacular and vivid journey through 400 years of operatic and European history, the V&A's major exhibition Opera: Passion, Power and Politics runs from 30 September 2017 – 25 February 2018.

From the Victoria and Albert Museum in collaboration with the Royal Opera House, this is the only exhibition to ever explore opera on a grand scale. Led by an exquisite sound experience, the exhibition immerses you in key moments in the history of opera from its roots in Renaissance Italy to today's premieres.

Working with opera specialists and theatre, lighting and sound designers, the V&A presents a unique, theatrical experience that will bring visitors to the heart of opera in the Museum's stunning new Sainsbury Gallery. This autumn the V&A will also bring live opera to the Museum with a series of free performances, concerts and events in celebration of the power of opera.

vam.ac.uk/opera / @V_and_A

About the BBC's Opera Season and #OperaPassion Day

BBC Arts Digital is working with eight leading UK opera companies and major cultural institutions on an unprecedented day of live streaming. Partners include the Royal Opera House, English National Opera, English Touring Opera, Opera North, Glyndebourne, Welsh National Opera, Scottish Opera and Northern Ireland Opera as well as the V&A, BBC Radio 3, Tomorrow's World and Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry, supported by the British Council.

The online live streams will transport audiences to every corner of the UK with insights from inside the company's theatres and tour. Through interview, archive, innovative technology and exclusive performances, the companies and cultural institutions will take you behind the

scenes to explore and demystify opera in a celebration of its raw emotive power and engaging an ever-wider audience for opera.

#OperaPassion Day will conclude on BBC Radio 3, where there will be the chance for listeners to vote for the opera of their choice to be broadcast in full that evening from four Royal Opera House production recordings.

The day is part of the wider BBC Opera Season which features new films, documentaries, performances and special projects across BBC Two, BBC Four, Radio 3 and BBC Arts Digital.

About the Royal Opera Chorus

The Royal Opera Chorus was created in 1946 for the re-opening of the Royal Opera House after World War II. Known then as the Covent Garden Opera Chorus, it first appeared during December the same year in Purcell's *The Faery Queene*, staged together with Sadler's Wells Ballet (now The Royal Ballet). Its first full-scale opera production was *Carmen* in January 1947.

Since then, the chorus has been the backbone of The Royal Opera, performing in an average of 20 productions each season, in a wide repertory ranging from Baroque through to newly commissioned works.

<http://www.roh.org.uk>