

A workshop on the Art of the Opera with Mark Troop, Accompanist to celebrated Indian Soprano **Patricia Rozario**

### **For Immediate Release**

**The Royal Opera House, Mumbai** in association with Avid Learning is ready to raise the curtain on its first music genre workshop- a rare glimpse into the world of Opera with pianist and Opera accompanist Mark Troop.

### **The description of the Workshop is as below:**

**Opera 101: Appreciating** the Art Form will explain why opera is essential, why it is like Bollywood and why you should listen to it! So if you were ever intimidated by Opera here is your chance to demystify this fascinating and hauntingly beautiful musical genre. This workshop will give you a chance to investigate who the opera composers were and why they wrote opera as they did. Where did it come from? What did it replace and why it quickly became popular? What makes opera essential?

Mark will trace a history of Opera as well as elucidate its basic structural elements. Under his expert guidance listen to famous compositions, composers and singers, learn how to arrange an Operatic scene, learn to identify and classify an operatic voice, and learn about the culture of Opera from Opera Houses to the cult of its brightest stars- Luciano Pavarotti, Maria Callas, Andrea Bocelli, Enrico Caruso, Placido Domingo and many more. Mark will also touch upon the trajectory of Opera and how it differed in varying countries, including in India, as well as draw parallels between Opera and Bollywood values while discussing the art form's future.

Do not miss this opportunity to tune your ear and be on your way to becoming a true Opera connoisseur!

**Where:** The Royal Opera House, Mumbai, Mama Parmanand Marg, Mumbai - 400 004

**When:** Saturday, 17th February 2018; 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**RSVP:** [www.avidlearning.in/](http://www.avidlearning.in/) [avidlearning@essarservices.co.in](mailto:avidlearning@essarservices.co.in) / +919769937710; prior registration required

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### **About the Instructor:**

**Mark Troop**, pianist, broadcaster and writer, is the founder of The Chamber Music Company, a creative performance group. As a solo pianist, he recorded Beethoven for BBC Radio 3, but soon branched into chamber music and song, founding the Chamber Music Company (CMC) with his wife, soprano Patricia Rozario, in the 1990s. The first of their festivals was the CMC Summer Solstice, which fused classical, new music and jazz and became the Ronnie Scott's of Classical Music (The Guardian). The Latin American Roadshow was the live version of a ground-breaking series of BBC recordings exploring Spain, Portugal and Latin America through music, literature, mime, dance, performance poetry and art. The CMC Rare Music Series restores unjustly neglected masterworks to public view, and works by Volkmann, Fibich, Rozycki, Jadassohn and even Mozart have been rediscovered. Second Glance Festival – a festival of second performances – was another ground-breaking festival, bringing new music more generally to public attention. It ran twice and toured British new music in South Africa, and is awaiting its own third glance. Mark Troop's excursion into European culture continued with I'm A Stranger Here Myself, a theatre piece featuring German Jewish cabaret between the wars. Following the China Now Festival in 2008, Mark Troop formed Yin Yang Collective, a collaborative East-west band featuring Chinese, Korean and Japanese instruments, traditions and musicians. Mark Troop's work in India, with his wife, has been to encourage interest in western music. Their foundation, Giving Voice Society, trains Indian vocalists of the future and provides opportunities for them both abroad and in India. The group has produces operas with entire

Indian casts, a first in the sub-continent, and generates real excitement about western arts. In 2012 Mark Troop was invited to become a guest lecturer at Goa University, renewed in 2017, lecturing on music; and in 2015, with Indian pianist Parvesh Java, founded In Good Form, a high-level piano course training the next generation of Indian pianists and teachers.

**About Partners:**

**Avid Learning**, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 800 programs and connected with more than 95,000 individuals since its inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID's multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation.

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**The Royal Opera House, Mumbai** is widely touted as Mumbai's Cultural Crown Jewel and India's only surviving Opera House. The original idea for the space was conceived of in 1908, inaugurated in 1911 by King George V, and eventually completed in 1916. The design incorporated a blend of European and Indian detailing. The space became a cinema in later years before falling into disrepair and shutting by the 1990s. Fittingly, the space has been owned by the Royal Family of Gondal since 1952 and was eventually restored by conservation architect, Abha Narain Lambah under the leadership of the current Maharaja of Gondal, Shri Jyotendrasinhji. The Royal Opera House Mumbai, now one of the last remaining Baroque structures in the city, reopened after 23 years in October 2016. The building was included on the 2012 World Monuments Watch to raise awareness about its history and significance, and support preservation efforts. The building has since been recognized with an Award of Merit in the 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The restored facilities feature a 574-seater 3-level auditorium with an orchestra pit and state of the art technological upgradations, including acoustics, stagecraft, lighting and air-conditioning, alongside retaining the old world charm of the proscenium stage, the royal boxes and the magnificent regal chandeliers. Some more enhancements to the venue include a motorized screen, co-axial ceiling speaker system, Four-zone volume control and all round wifi access. Today, it stands as a key performance and creative hub in the city's cultural landscape, while being a premier heritage landmark.

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