

ENO is a founding member of a new UK opera trade body

English National Opera (UK) is proud to be a founding member of the [UK Opera Association \(UKOA\)](#). The newly launched trade body will bring together an initial group of 20 opera companies to help strengthen the future of opera in the UK and ensure the art form continues to thrive.

Representing the full range, diversity and geographical scope of the sector, the founding member-organisations are: Birmingham Opera Company, British Youth Opera, Buxton International Festival, English National Opera, English Touring Opera, Garsington Opera, The Grange Festival, Glyndebourne, Longborough Festival Opera, National Opera Studio, Opera Europa, Opera North, Opera Rara, OperaUpClose, Pegasus Opera Company, Royal Ballet & Opera, Scottish Opera, Streetwise Opera, Tête à Tête and Welsh National Opera.

The UKOA will act as the collective voice for opera in the UK, advocating for the sector, championing artistic excellence and innovation, and promoting opera's significant contribution to national life – from enriching communities and cultural identity to supporting economic growth and developing creative and technical skills.

Former shadow culture secretary (and trained classical musician) **Thangam Debbonaire** has been named as the organisation's inaugural Chief Executive (CEO). She commented:

'It's an honour to be asked to serve the UK's wonderful opera sector as the CEO of the newly launched UK Opera Association. Opera as an art form is at such an exciting time and there is such strength in the diversity of work, approaches, settings and people involved – we have a great story to tell. This story is one which needs to be heard more widely if we are to make sure opera sustains and develops into the future.'