

Embassy of India
The Hague

Press Release

September 27, 2017

Opera inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent resistance

'Satyagraha' to be performed in The Hague

**Excerpt to be performed as part of the Follow the Mahatma campaign to mark
the International Day of Non-Violence**

An excerpt of the Opera 'Satyagraha' inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent resistance to be performed to mark the International Day of Non-Violence in The Hague. The performance forms a part of the 'Follow the Mahatma' campaign being launched by organisations, institutions and individuals advocating non-violence along with the Indian community in the Netherlands and the Embassy of India on October 1 and 2, 2017.

'Satyagraha' composed by renowned American composer Philip Glass forms a part of his 'Portrait Trilogy' of operas about men who changed the world. The opera was commissioned by the city of Rotterdam, Netherlands in 1980.

Described as a 'Mesmeric masterpiece' by Philip Glass, Satyagraha is known as an icon of contemporary opera. The title meaning 'truth force', Satyagraha looks at Mahatma Gandhi's early years in South Africa and his development of non-violent protests as a political tool. The text, sung by the principals and excellent chorus, is

entirely in Sanskrit, adapted from the Bhagavad Gita. It's broad philosophical message is more profound in these times, than before.

An excerpt of 'Satyagraha' will be performed at the Grote Kerk by the Korzo Theatre and Kwekers in de Kunst. Philip Glass has personally allowed Korzo Theatre and Kwekers in de Kunst to perform his opera in a new staging with modern Indian dance.

Celebrating Glass's 80th birthday, both the parts of Satyagraha will be performed with 60 choir singers, opera singers, Indian and contemporary dancers and musicians by the Korzo theatre as a part of the Holland India festival.

Marking the eve of the International Day of Non-Violence, Follow the Mahatma campaign will start with the Gandhi March to be held from the Peace Palace to the Grote Kerk in The Hague. A bicycle personally used by Mahatma Gandhi will be displayed at the Grote Kerk for the public to view at the end of the march. Also, a new book in Dutch titled "Gandhi -An illustrated biography" published by Lannoo of Belgium and authored by Indian author Pramod Kapoor will be released on the occasion.

October 2 is the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and has been declared by the UN General Assembly as the International Day of Non-Violence. Ambassador of India to the Netherlands Mr Venu Rajamony, Deputy Mayors of The Hague Mr Rabin Baldewsingh and Mr Karsten Klein, Ambassador of the United Kingdom Mr Peter

Wilson CMG and the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa Mr Bruce Vusi Koloane will be joining the march.

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