

BLACKHEATH HALLS

TRANSFORMED



A CELEBRATION

Wednesday 17 April 2024

In the presence of
HRH Duke of Kent KG

Blackheath Halls Transformed

Blackheath Halls has been undergoing a multi-million pound refurbishment and redevelopment programme to reinvigorate and modernise the interior and exterior spaces. This has transformed the building into a versatile and welcoming performance venue to serve and inspire our local communities.

2018 saw the Great Hall stage levelled, retractable raked seating bank installed, acoustics improved and overall décor modernised whilst retaining the original barrel-vaulted ceiling. The Bar, Box Office and communal areas were also modernised, creating light and airy spaces.

During summer 2023, the exterior was revitalised with new paving, stone benches and planting, providing an inviting spacious and open area for the local community as well as audiences visiting the venue. The outdated signage was replaced with a backlit pillar and digital totem display.

To improve accessibility a lift to The Hearn Recital Room has

been fitted, the entry ramp to the building resurfaced, and a bespoke stage lift installed for performers, community participants and students with access requirements. This also means we can move pianos on and off the Great Hall stage.

The Hearn Recital Room, refurbished in 2013, now has a new wiring system, fixtures and energy saving LED lights.

We are – in every sense – a community venue. Funded by our local community, this transformation has only been made possible by a major donation from The Hearn Foundation as well as the support of our Friends and Patrons, Arts Council England, Viridor Credits and others.

Tonight is a celebration of these transformations. We very much hope you enjoy the evening and please do continue to spread the word about our wonderful venue to all your family and friends.



The Board of Directors of Blackheath Halls

Professor Anthony Bowne
(Chair)

Francesca Robinson
(Deputy Chair)

Peter Hearn

Dr Ji Liu

Jonathan Peel MBE

Dr Aleksander Szram

Ailish Tynan

(Blackheath Halls Opera Patron)



HRH Duke of Kent KG
Patron of Trinity Laban
Conservatoire of Music and Dance
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History

Blackheath Halls is part of the oldest surviving purpose-built cultural complex in London. Built in 1895 and funded by public subscription, Blackheath Halls was rescued from demolition in the 1980s by the local community. After many years of financial challenges, Blackheath Halls became part of Trinity College of Music's estate in 2004. Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance is our parent company.

Now a registered charity without any core funding, Blackheath Halls operates thanks to the generosity of local individuals including Friends and Patrons, fundraising from Trusts and Foundations for specific projects, and earned income from performance ticket sales, hires and bar sales.

Over the years, Blackheath Halls' spaces have provided a platform for a range of outstanding artists including Cecil Chaminade, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Myra Hess, Romesh Ranganathan, Kate Rusby, The Wihan Quartet, Sir Willard White, Michael McIntyre and Kerry Godliman.

Annually we run around a thousand events, attended by 50,000 people. The current programme includes classical music, folk, comedy, talks and literary events, and children's theatre.

Our renowned community engagement programme includes the annual Blackheath Halls Opera, Musical Theatre courses, an orchestra, gospel and classical choirs, and Blackheath Halls Youth Choir, with gifted young people from our local boroughs.

We regularly welcome groups such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, English National Opera, and the London International Festival of Early Music who hire our spaces due to the incredible acoustics. Greenwich and Lewisham Music Hubs run events at Blackheath Halls, and it is also the home for rehearsals and performances by music students from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.



“If heart, soul and
inspirational music
making are your thing,
this is the place.”
Fiona Maddocks,
The Guardian

Opening Address

Professor Anthony Bowne

Chair of Blackheath Halls and
Principal of Trinity Laban

Performances

Sir Bryn Terfel CBE

Blackheath Halls Youth Choir

Trinity Laban Jazz Ensemble

Ailish Tynan

Blackheath Halls Opera Patron

“World class performances and community projects have a wonderful home here in this transformed historic building and we as a community look forward to being able to enjoy them all right here on our doorstep!”



Gemma Okell

Director, Blackheath Halls

g.okell@blackheathhalls.com

“The refurbishment work inside and outside at Blackheath Halls has completely revitalised the building and organisation.”



Sir Bryn Terfel CBE

Bass-Baritone

Welsh bass-baritone Sir Bryn Terfel has established an extraordinary career, performing regularly on the prestigious concert stages and opera houses of the World, including the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; the Metropolitan Opera, New York; Opéra National de Paris; Teatro Alla Scala and Zürich Opera.

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Roles for which he is most noted include **Falstaff**, **Dulcamara**, **Wotan** and **Holländer**. Recent additions to his repertoire include **Reb Tevye**, **Boris Godunov**, **Sweeney Todd** and **Don Pasquale**.

A Grammy, Classical Brit and Gramophone Award winner, Sir Bryn was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for his services to Opera in 2003, was awarded the Queen's Medal for Music in 2006, received a knighthood for his services to music in 2017, was honoured with the title of Austrian Kammersänger for his services to the Wiener Staatsoper and awarded an European Cultural Award at the Tonhalle, Zurich, in recognition of his extraordinary music career in 2022. He was the last recipient of the Shakespeare Prize by the Alfred Toepfer Foundation and in 2015, he was given The Freedom of the City of London.

Blackheath Halls Youth Choir

Choir leaders: Helen Brookes and Jessica Norton

We believe that children from all backgrounds with a gift for singing should have access to music opportunities. This has been proven to have a huge and lasting impact on young people's lives, making a real difference to them as they grow.

Comprised of 60 young people aged 8 to 18 from across our local area the choir have previously teamed up with English Touring Opera and the London Philharmonic Orchestra for performances, as well as regularly performing at Blackheath Halls and other venues across London. Musical opportunities are also provided outside of choir sessions; recently choir members enjoyed workshops about songwriting and musical theatre. The choir is completely free of charge to all members.

Trinity Laban Jazz Ensemble

The jazz department at Trinity Laban is one of the world's foremost centres for jazz training, and in recent years has been a springboard for a generation of outstanding British jazz artists. Our graduates have recently won two BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year Awards, a Southbank Sky Arts Award, multiple Jazz FM Awards, Parliamentary Jazz Awards and MOBO Awards, four Mercury Prize nominations – and, brilliantly, just in September 2023, a Mercury Prize win for the Ezra Collective, the first jazz group ever to win.

Join our mailing list

Sign up to our emails and be the first to hear about all the latest news and events

blackheathhalls.com



Grateful Thanks

Blackheath Halls is immensely grateful to the following people and organisations who, through their generous support, made the capital transformation possible.

Lead Donors

The Hearn Foundation
Arts Council England

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The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
Friends of Blackheath Halls
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Ian and Emma Smillie

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Mary E Spencer
Kathleen A Storm
Simon Standage
Paola Tich
Rossana Tich
Yvonne Horsfall Turner
Valerie Gordon-Walker
Professor Julius Weinberg
Woods Bagot

And to all those who prefer to remain Anonymous, thank you.

Blackheath Halls would also like to give heartfelt thanks to our current Friends and Patrons for their continued loyal support of all our community work throughout the year.

We would also like to acknowledge and pay tribute to the following members of the Blackheath Halls community who have passed away recently: Sir Stephen Oliver, Neil Rhind MBE and Desmond and Janet Churcher. We will be forever grateful for their support during their lifetime.

Corporate Support

Put your Business Centre Stage

Blackheath Halls runs over 1,000 events per year bringing a footfall of 50,000 and sits at the heart of our two local boroughs Lewisham and Greenwich.

We can tailor corporate partnerships and sponsorship packages to suit each individual business' needs.

Benefits can include:

- Marketing and PR Opportunities
- Access to tickets
- Invitations to exclusive events
- Corporate entertainment
- Acknowledgement of support

For further information, please contact Development Manager, Clare Phelan, at c.phelan@blackheathhalls.com or 020 8305 3893





Help support music projects for your local community

BECOME A FRIEND OF BLACKHEATH HALLS

We provide high quality community projects each year involving over 1,000 local people of all ages, including our Youth Choir who you have heard performing tonight.

It is only thanks to our Friends and Patrons that we are able to continue offering these opportunities.

- **Blackheath Halls Opera** ● **Youth Choir** ● **Orchestra**
- **Choir** ● **Blackheath Goes Gospel** ● **Musical Theatre**

Memberships start from **£5 per month**.

To join or find out more visit: **blackheathhalls.com**
call: **020 8463 0100** or scan: **QR code**

For further information about supporting Blackheath Halls, please contact:

Clare Phelan, Development Manager

 **020 8305 3893**

 **c.phelan@blackheathhalls.com**

BLACKHEATH HALLS

Registered Charity No.287589

