

BLACKHEATH HALLS OPERA 2024

Cavalleria rusticana

A disaster at Easter

MUSIC BY PIETRO MASCAGNI, TRANSLATION BY EDMUND TRACEY

MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

EVALUATION REPORT



#CAVBH





PRODUCTION TEAM

Director **Harry Fehr**

Musical Director **Christopher Stark**

Set Designer **Elliott Squire**

Costume Designer **Alice McNicholas**

Lighting Designer **Chuma Emembolu**

Repetiteur **Satoshi Kubo**

BSL Interpreter **Wendy Ebsworth**

CAST

Santuzza **Katherine Broderick**

Turiddu **Oliver Johnston**

Lucia (Turiddu's mother) **Janis Kelly**

Alfio **Michel de Souza**

Lola (Alfio's wife) **Idunnu Münch**

Performing alongside our professional cast were:

- an adult chorus of 46 local people aged 18 – 80+
- 4 Trinity Laban vocal students
- a youth company of 32 local young people aged 9 – 16
- 6 students from local specialist schools Charlton Park Academy and Greenvale School
- Blackheath Halls Orchestra – a group of 56 players aged 30 – 80+

Making a grand total of 144 community participants of all ages, backgrounds and levels of experience who performed Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* six times at Blackheath Halls between Monday 23 September and Sunday 29 September 2024. Rehearsals began in July with sessions for the adult chorus and orchestra. Our Youth Company started in August with their own week of rehearsals and learning about the opera. All groups began working together as we moved into September, and our professional cast joined us a month prior to the first performance.

YOUTH COMPANY

One completely FREE place in our Youth Company for 8-18 year olds provides a young person with



- The Summer Youth Company Week before rehearsals begin - to have fun, get to know each other and learn about the opera before joining the main rehearsals with the adult company (this year the YC Week included not only singing and acting but also making their own Easter bonnets with the costume designer and learning about set design)
- 27 rehearsal sessions with our professional team before the shows to make sure they are feeling confident in their roles and ready to go

- The opportunity to perform in a fully-staged opera three times (six shows over 2 Youth Company groups), with professional opera singers, full orchestra and on a professionally made set
- Friendly chaperones for every session to make sure all our YC are happy and safe
- Many many biscuits in breaks!



STATISTICS



6

Performances

224

Hours of
Rehearsal

3

Taster
Sessions



1

BSL signed
performance



144

Participants
engaged

4

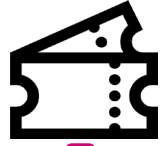
Trinity Laban
student chorus
leaders

38

under 18s

27

Sessions 100%
FREE for Youth
Opera Company
and Specialist
School Students



6

Surtitled
performances



1

amazing Easter
Bunny costume
made by our
costume designer
Alice

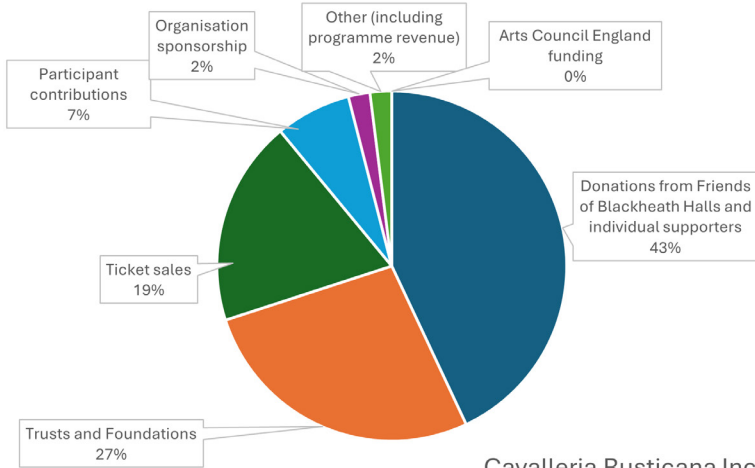


1380

Tickets
Sold

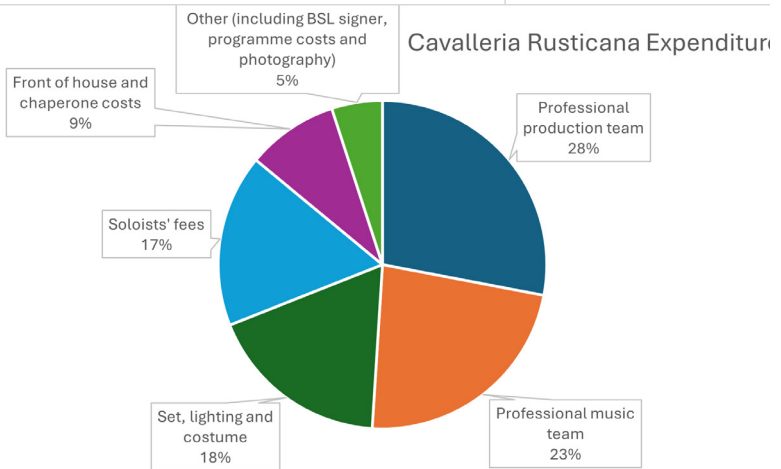


PROJECT FUNDS RAISED & SPENT



Cavalleria Rusticana Income

Income Total : £124,924



Cavalleria Rusticana Expenditure

Expenditure Total: £124,900



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

“It gives me a great sense of achievement and belonging.”

“A most impressive and life-affirming community music collaboration.”



London can feel quite absent of community and I think initiatives like this can have a massive impact on people.





AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

“This is Accessible
Opera at its best.”

“Blackheath
community operas
are such a delight
- the quality of
the productions
in every detail,
married to the sheer
exuberance of the
cast.”



Get rid of preconceptions about amateur performances! These operas are the combined effort of both professionals and the local community and are a joy.



PRESS REVIEWS

“ it is Blackheath Halls Opera Chorus' diversity as well as their musical input that makes their big numbers so impressive... This was congregational singing at its most heartfelt, and incredibly moving.

Culture Whisper [👉 read the full review](#)

“ I defy anyone not to get a lump in their throat when they launch with such fervour into the central Easter Hymn.

The Observer



“ Professionals and non-professionals come together to create a real sense of community in a production that had real clarity to the story telling and strong performances from all concerned.

Planet Hugill [👉 read the full review](#)



Patron
Ailish Tynan

GRATEFUL THANKS

Blackheath Halls is immensely grateful to the following people and organisations who, through their generous support, have made the 2024 Blackheath Halls Opera, *Cavalleria rusticana*, possible:

Organisations

The Hearn Foundation

in support of the youth company and students from Charlton Park Academy and Greenvale School.

The Smillie Family

The Peter Harris Trust

The Childhood Trust

and all individuals who donated during our Big Give Christmas Challenge 2023 campaign to raise funds towards all our youth work.

The Audience Club

Judge and Priestley Solicitors

for kindly sponsoring Blackheath Halls Opera VIP Drinks Reception

Major Supporters

The Reverend Dr Adam Scott
and Oona Scott

Alasdair Neil and Penny Aldred

Alex Coupe and William Phillips,
in loving memory of Jenny Phillips

Alison Palmer

Anne Burton

David Bowers and Georgina Bowers

Professor Dawn Oliver

Francesca Robinson

Ian Rosenblatt OBE and

Emma Rosenblatt

Mark Rowntree and Cate Rowntree

Phil Fortey

Dr Philip Smith and Jean Smith

Supporters

Andrew Campbell and Elizabeth Allen

Bruce Mauleverer

Dr David Quarmby

Harriett Baldwin

Helma Zebregs

Jagruti Hassan and Emil Hassan

Jane Burton and Paul Franklin

Jo Keogh

Jonathan Ouvry and Marjorie Ouvry

John Baldwin and Barbara Kolator

John Hine and Maggie Hine

Kath Moser

Lorna Lloyd

Maria-Luisa Lawrence

Mary Harman and John Harman

Richard Dinkeldein and Meg Dinkeldein

Richard Morris

Sue Moser

Tim Newling

The Fischer Fund



All the members of the Blackheath Halls Opera Chorus and Orchestra who have generously donated to the project, and to all of those who prefer to remain anonymous, thank you.

We would also like to give heartfelt thanks to the Friends and Patrons of Blackheath Halls who support all our community work throughout the year, including Blackheath Halls Opera. Special thanks to our Platinum Patrons and Patrons for their continued generous support.

Platinum Patrons

The Reverend Dr Adam Scott and Oona Scott
Alasdair Neil and Penny Aldred
Alex Coupe and William Phillips,
in loving memory of Jenny Phillips
Anne Burton
David Bowers and Georgina Bowers
Professor Dawn Oliver
Professor Derek Gardiner and Fiona Gardiner
Ian Rosenblatt OBE and Emma Rosenblatt
Francesca Robinson
Jane Burton and Paul Franklin
Jonathan Ouvry and Marjorie Ouvry
Peter Hearn

Phil Fortey
The Smillie Family
Tim Newling
Virginia Khoo

Patrons

Alastair Ballantyne and Rose Ballantyne
Andrew McDonnell
Anne McFarlane
Andrew Campbell and Elizabeth Allen
Professor Anthony Bowne
Elizabeth Glasser
George Myers Lusty
Sir Graham Hart and Margaret Hart
Iain Langland
The Lee/Ramsey Family
Dr Lia Cristofoli
Jagruti Hassan and Emil Hassan
Dame Joan Ruddock
Kate Olver and Jeremy Young
Dr Mary-Clare Parker DL and Steven Parker
Dr Michael Clark and Dr Isabel Moreton
Michael Cowan and Pamela Cowan
Michael Fletcher
Dr Miranda Godfrey
Paul Meins and Lorna Meins
Paul Watts
Philip and Caroline Cooper
Phillippa Keogh and Kevin Kirk
Richard Dinkeldein and Meg Dinkeldein





Dr Robert Jones
Roseland Kiwanuka
Simon Standage and Jennifer Standage
Professor Stephen Challacombe and Dr
Tina Challacombe
Susan Colvin and Peter Colvin
Stephanie Mizzi
Susan Taylor and Roger Taylor
Suzanne Flowers
Valerie Gordon-Walker
Yvonne Horsfall Turner
The Fischer Fund

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

We would like to recognise and thank
the following people, who have recently
remembered Blackheath Halls with a gift
in their will:

Legacy Supporters
Janet and Desmond
Mrs Julie North
Esta Finlay

We are enormously grateful to our **Development Committee** for their guidance and
support on fundraising for Blackheath Halls:

Francesca Robinson (chair)
Jane Burton
Melanie Geelan
Jagruti Hassan
Jennifer Ramsey
Ailish Tynan (Blackheath Halls Opera patron)

★ SAVE THE DATE ★

OPERA GALA
NIGHT 2025
Sunday 4 May 6.30pm

BLACKHEATH HALLS





BLACKHEATH HALLS OPERA

September 2025

Look out for further details of
our next production
later in the year.