

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

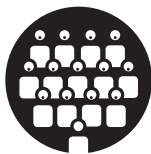
3

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



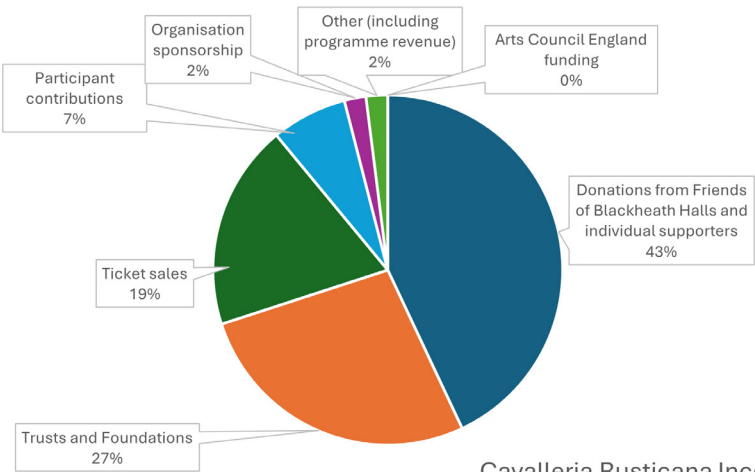
1380

Tickets  
Sold



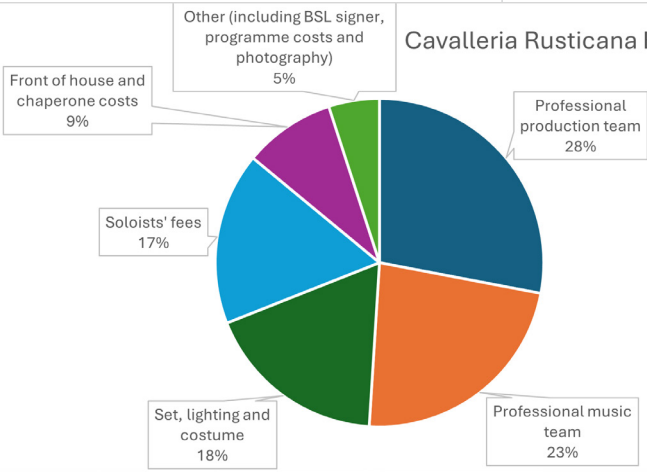


# PROJECT FUNDS RAISED & SPENT



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  
Jagruiti 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  
Jagruhi 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.