

BLACKHEATH HALLS OPERA 2025

IPHIGENIA INTAURIS



A FORGOTTEN PRIESTESS
A TORMENTED BROTHER
A DIVINE RECKONING

FOUR PERFORMANCES:
TUESDAY 23 - SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Evaluation
Report 2025



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



PRODUCTION TEAM

Director **Laura Attridge**

Musical Director **Christopher Stark**

Designer **Peiyao Wang**

Costume Supervisor **Sophie Andrews**

Lighting Designer **Charly Dunford**

Movement Director **Corina Würsch**

Répétiteur **Satoshi Kubo**

BSL Interpreter **Wendy Ebsworth MBE**

CAST

Iphigenia **Francesca Chiejina**

Orestes **Danny Shelvey**

Pylades **Michael Lafferty**

Thoas **Dan D'Souza**

First Priestess **Emily Williams***

Second Priestess **Ava Reineke***

Third Priestess **Eva Hutchins***

First Scythian **Byron Davis-Hughes***

Second Scythian **Zac Conibear***

(* = Trinity Laban student)

Performing alongside our professional cast were:

- An adult chorus of 49 local people aged 18 – 80+
- A youth company of 30 young people aged 10 – 17
- 9 students from specialist schools Charlton Park Academy and Greenvale School
- Blackheath Halls Orchestra – a group of 45 players

These 133 participants are from hugely mixed backgrounds, circumstances and levels of experience.

Over the course of July, August and September we held 66 rehearsals and performed the opera 4 times.

We also held 4 taster sessions to introduce new people to the project which were well attended and resulted in 7 new adult participants and 7 new youth participants.

YOUTH COMPANY & SPECIALIST SCHOOLS

The opportunity to take part in Blackheath Halls Opera for our Youth Company members and our specialist schools students is **FREE**.

Our Youth Company launched the project with a 3 day summer school in August to get to know each other and the opera. They were then integrated into a series of rehearsals with the other groups leading to their four performances.

So much feedback from the Youth Company was about the importance of making new friends through the project.

65% of the Youth Company said it helped their confidence and 92% said that they learnt new skills.

“ My favourite part of the project was performing and being with friends. **Youth Company member**

We visited our specialist schools for their first series of rehearsals and then the schools came and had their own on-stage rehearsal with the full team before being integrated into the rest of the company for the performance.

We offer to buy costumes and offer free tickets for the specialist schools students and those Youth Company members whose families are experiencing financial hardship.

“ I believe the project is exemplary in terms of inclusion.”
Charlton Park Academy teacher



STATISTICS



4
Performances

1
Bespoke
Arrangement and
Translation

205
Hours of
Rehearsal

4
Taster
Sessions



1
BSL signed
performance



133
Participants
engaged

5
Trinity Laban
student chorus
leaders and small
solo roles

39
under 18s

31
Sessions 100%
FREE for Youth
Opera Company
and Specialist
School Students



1
Mentoring Session
for Trinity Laban
Students



£1513

Raised through
cake and lunch
sales



4
Surtitled
Performances

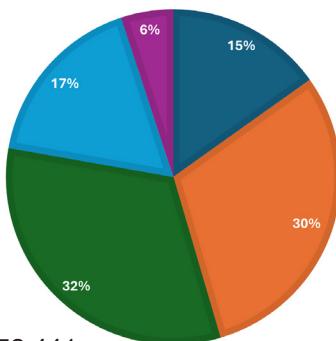
1190
Tickets
Sold



PROJECT FUNDS RAISED & SPENT

INCOME

- Ticket Sales
- Trusts and foundations
- Donations from Friends of Blackheath Halls and individual donations
- Arts Council England
- Participant donations



Income Total : £152,441

Expenditure

- Production team fees
- Music team fees
- Soloist fees
- Music arrangement, hire and translation
- Set, costume, props and lighting
- Accessibility costs (BSL signer, surtitles, chaperones, photography, rehearsal resources)
- Blackheath Halls core costs
- Other

Expenditure Total: £152,620



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

“It is an amazing experience and it is just a lovely community of people and amazing opportunities”

“The opera was so well organised. The halls' staff were lovely, always friendly and helpful.”

What's especially lovely is how the opera involves such a huge age range, and what the specialist school pupils bring to it. The project itself has inspired many of us to get involved in even more music, to learn new skills, and to support the arts more generally.





AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

“I loved the decision to choose a really challenging and unusual work. And I loved even more the artistry and vision that brought it to life.”

“We felt incredibly proud and moved by the whole experience.....and introducing us to a Gluck we didn’t know.”

“All of it was a triumph. The singing of professional principals and amateur chorus alike. The orchestral conducting and playing. The music, the story, the dramaturgy, the choreography, the stage design.

“This was my favourite of the community operas I've seen here.”



PRESS REVIEWS



These larger forces all earn their keep, carrying off with spirit and conviction Corina Würsch's eloquent movement – invariably simple, yet beautiful – and voicing the choruses with impressive dramatic understanding. **The Stage** [☞ read the review](#)



...Blackheath Halls Opera Chorus sang with dignity and conviction. They managed to make the sense of community believable and created a fine backdrop for the soloists...

Planet Hugill [☞ read the review](#)



This Iphigenia triumphed largely thanks to the community chorus. Whatever it lacked in polish, it more than compensated with spirit, sincerity and theatrical commitment. **Hugh Canning** [☞ read the 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 2025 Blackheath Halls Opera, *Iphigenia In Tauris*, possible:

Organisations

Arts Council England
Lucille Graham Trust
The Hearn Foundation
The Radcliffe Trust
The Smillie Family

Sponsors

Judge and Priestley Solicitors
for kindly sponsoring Blackheath Halls Opera VIP
Drinks Reception

Major Opera Donors

David and Georgina Bowers
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in loving memory of Jenny Phillips
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Reverend Dr Adam and Oona Scott
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Richard Dinkeldein

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The Sakkas Family
Karthika Sivananthan
Susan and Roger Taylor

Jackie and Alan Thompson
Lydsay Thwaites
Janet and John Willis
Andrew Wright
Dorothy Wright-Tomi

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.

Supporters

We would also like to give heartfelt thanks to the Friends, Patrons and Platinum Patrons of Blackheath Halls who support all our community work.

Platinum Patrons

David and Georgina Bowers
Anne Burton
Alex Coupe and William Philips
in loving memory of Jenny Philips
Phil Fortey
Paul Franklin and Jane Burton
Professor Derek and Fiona Gardiner
Peter Hearn
Virginia Khoo
Alasdair Neil and Penny Aldred
Tim Newling
Professor Dawn Oliver
Jonathan and Marjorie Ouvry
Francesa Robinson





Ian Rosenblatt OBE and
Emma Rosenblatt
The Reverend Dr Adam and Oona Scott
The Smillie Family

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Jagruti and Emil Hassan
Yvonne Horsfall Turner

We would also like to remember and thank two long-standing Friends of Blackheath Halls for their incredible contribution over many years, Tom Butler and Richard Dinkeldein.

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

Dr Robert Jones
Philippa Keogh and Kevin Kirk
Roseland Kiwanuka
Iain Langlands
Andrew McDonnell
Anne McFarlane
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Simon and Jennifer Standage
Susan and Roger Taylor
Darren Wallbank
Paul Watts

Legacy Supporters

Janet and Desmond
Mrs Julie North
Esta Finlay



BLACKHEATH HALLS OPERA

20 - 27 September 2026

CARMEN

Look out for further details of
our 20th Anniversary production
later in the year.