

BLACKHEATH HALLS

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Blackheath Halls Opera: Assistant Musical Director Recruitment Pack



Blackheath Halls Opera: Assistant Musical Director

Blackheath Halls is looking for an enthusiastic Assistant Musical Director to join our friendly and committed team, assisting Musical Director Christopher Stark on our 2025 opera.

If you would like to apply, please complete the application form ([available here](#)) and equality and diversity monitoring form ([available here](#)). The deadline for applications is **Monday 13 January 2025 at midday**. Interviews will be held on **Wednesday 22 January 2025** at Blackheath Halls

We positively encourage applications from interested and qualified applicants regardless of sex, race, disability, age, sexual orientation. Whilst we are very aware this is not the case at the moment, our ambition is for our staff team to reflect the diversity of our local boroughs of Greenwich and Lewisham.

If you require this document in a different format, or have any access requirements in order to be able to apply or interview for this role, please contact our team using the details below.

Please also use the same contact details if you have any questions or would like to have an informal conversation about the role before submitting an application.

Thank you for your interest in this position, and we very much hope you will consider joining our opera team.

Kate Howden

Community & Engagement Producer

k.howden@blackheathhalls.com

020 8305 3894



Great Hall: Blackheath Halls Opera Candide 2022

© Lidia Crisafulli

The Hearn Recital Room: Wihan Quartet 2022

© Ernie Savarese



Blackheath Halls

Blackheath Halls is an outstanding centre for music and the performing arts in south east London, presenting a year-round programme of events including music, 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.

Blackheath Halls is a wholly owned subsidiary of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, and provides the Music Faculty with its regular base for large-scale rehearsals and performances. We also offer a popular venue for recordings and rehearsals by major London orchestras and ensembles, as well as for a range of commercial hires and social events in our two performance spaces, the Great Hall and The Hearn Recital Room.

Over the past year Blackheath Halls' programme consisted of 1,036 different performances, rehearsals and other activities, attended by 48,765 people. A further 33,651 people engaged with online activities and resources.

A registered charity, we are able to offer this range of activity through income from tickets, hires and our in-house bar, along with support from various Trusts and Foundations, and over 300 generous members of our newly-revitalised Friends and Patrons scheme.



Christopher Stark and Blackheath Halls Orchestra: Candide 2022

© Lidia Crisafulli

The Smartest Giant In Town 2022 © Ernie Savarese

Blackheath Halls Youth Choir Christmas 2021 © Lidia Crisafulli

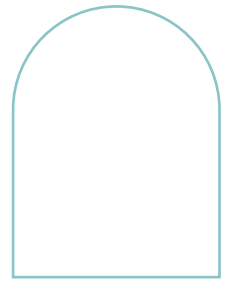
Blackheath Halls is the main concert and rehearsal venue for
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance students.

Big Smoke Brass UK © James Keates jk-photography

Trinity Laban Symphony Orchestra © Trinity Laban



Job Description



Post	Blackheath Halls Opera: Assistant Musical Director
Reports to	Musical Director (Christopher Stark) and Community Engagement Team (Rose Ballantyne and Kate Howden)
Responsible for	n/a
Contract & Key	As needed during music rehearsals from 12 July 2025, and full time equivalent from 25 August until performances in late September 2025. Please note that community rehearsals with the chorus and orchestra are often in the evenings and at weekends. The prospective Assistant Musical Director must be available and prepared to conduct dress rehearsals and performances in the period from Saturday 20th to Sunday 29th September 2025 (inclusive) in the event of the Musical Director's absence (e.g. due to illness).
Fee	£3,000 (inclusive, on a self-employed basis)

Overall Purpose of the Job

Blackheath Halls is looking for an enthusiastic Assistant Musical Director to work on our 2025 opera alongside Musical Director Christopher Stark. Repertoire is to be confirmed.

Duties may include but are not limited to:

- Leading warm-ups for the community chorus
- Leading music sessions with the Youth Company of young people aged 8-18
- Leading music sessions in our partner specialist schools for students with special educational needs
- Leading breakout music sessions with professional principal singers
- Leading orchestra sectional rehearsals as well as rehearsals with the full orchestra
- Communicating music notes from the Musical Director to the chorus/Youth Company/orchestra/principals
- Conducting dress rehearsals and performances in the unlikely event of the Musical Director's absence (e.g. due to illness)

Applicants must be eligible to work legally in the UK. If you do not have the necessary permissions to do so, unfortunately, we are unable to consider your application.

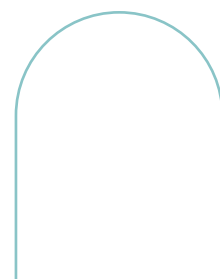
Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills		
Strong knowledge of opera	✓	
Assistant conducting and/or conducting experience working with professional opera singers and/or community/amateur opera groups	✓	
Experience conducting an orchestra	✓	
Excellent keyboard skills, including the ability to play to support rehearsals in the absence of the repetiteur		✓
Experience in working with community groups of all ages and backgrounds		✓
Excellent verbal communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to communicate musical ideas and notes effectively with people of varied ages, abilities and backgrounds	✓	
Knowledge of healthy vocal technique and how to efficiently help community groups to achieve this		✓

Blackheath Halls Opera

The annual Blackheath Halls Opera is a successful project that has been running since 2007. Blackheath Halls Opera is proud of its programme of ambitious and creative opera projects offering people of all ages from across the London Boroughs of Greenwich, Lewisham and beyond a unique opportunity to take part in high-quality, live music making alongside a professional cast of soloists and production teams.

Our 2024 opera was Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana*, with cast including Katherine Broderick, Oliver Johnston and Janis Kelly alongside our community chorus of 50 adults, 30 children from mainstream schools and children from local SEN schools.

For more information please visit [Blackheath Halls Opera](#)



Blackheath Presents with SongEasel

Winterreise: Francesca Chiejina & Jocelyn Freeman © Nick Rutter



Equality and Diversity

Blackheath Halls is working hard to meet the aims and commitments set out in its Equality and Diversity Policy, including trying to ensure that everyone who applies to work with us receives fair treatment.

In order to help us achieve this aim, we kindly request that you complete a monitoring form.

We understand that some applicants will be hesitant to provide the details requested. Please be aware that any information you provide will not form part of the recruitment process. The information will be treated as strictly confidential and only used to monitor the fairness of our recruitment and selection procedures.

Although you do not have to complete the form, by completing as much of the information as you feel able to, you will be helping us to ensure that all applicants receive fair treatment when applying for jobs with us.

Equality and Diversity monitoring form [available here](#)



Blackheath Halls Opera
2021: Venus and Adonis
© Lidia Crisafulli
2018: Dido and Aeneas
© Robert Workman
2017: Der Freischutz
© Robert Workman

Taiko Meantime: Resonance Tour 2018

© Adam Kang Photography



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