

Minerva scientifica

Innovation Case Study

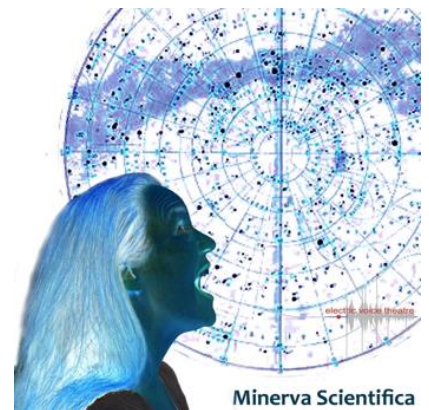
Curation and Programming for the 21st Century

What was the question?

How can scientists and musicians collaborate to make the work of women scientists more visible?

Who were the collaborators?

Frances Lynch, Electric Voice Theatre; composers Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Lynne Plowman, Shirley Thompson and Kate Whitley; and King's academics Professor Elizabeth Kuipers, Department of Psychology; Professor Mairi Sakellariadou, Department of Physics; Dr Claire Sharpe, Department of Renal Sciences and Professor Ellen Solomon, Department of Genetics.



What did we do?

Four women composers collaborated with four women scientists, from four different scientific disciplines at King's, to develop a new opera inspired by the research of Rosalind Franklin, undertaken while she was at King's working on the structure of DNA. Open and closed workshops were held across King's to explore how ideas evolve into unexpected discoveries and what this means for women in science today.

What was the outcome?

An opera for vocal quartet, *The Franklin Effect*, was created and first performed by Electric Voice Theatre at the Opera Festival 2015, supported by external sponsors including Arts Council England. The project has been featured in King's activities for International Women's Day 2015, in the 2015 Arts & Humanities Festival and in the university's Athena SWAN programme. The opera continues to develop as a work in progress for Electric Voice Theatre.

