

# SPLENDOUR & DEVOTION

LONDON  
HANDEL  
FESTIVAL 20  
26

St George's, Hanover Square  
25 February 2026

## INFORMATION SHEET

World-renowned for their performances of Handel's music, The English Concert returns to the LHF under the direction of Kristian Bezuidenhout, the ensemble's Principal Guest Director, with a rich and wide-ranging programme that brings together two Baroque giants.

**My Song Shall Be Always** HWV 252 G. F. Handel  
**Brandenburg Concerto No. 2** BWV 1047 J. S. Bach  
**As Pants the Hart** HWV 251b G. F. Handel  
- Interval -  
**Brandenburg Concerto No. 5** BWV 1050 J. S. Bach  
**Chandos Jubilate** HWV 246 G. F. Handel

### Soloists

**Hilary Cronin** Soprano  
**Nathan Mercieca** Countertenor  
**Hugo Hymas** Tenor  
**Matthew Brook** Bass

### The English Concert

**Kristian Bezuidenhout**  
Director / Harpsichord\*

**Violin**  
Nadja Zwiener\*  
Annie Gard  
Henry Tong

**Viola**  
Alfonso Leal del Ojo

**Violoncello**  
Joseph Crouch

**Double Bass**  
Alexander Jones

**Theorbo**  
Sergio Bucheli

**Flute**  
Georgia Browne\*

**Oboe**  
Clara Espinosa Encinas\*

**Bassoon**  
Catriona McDermid

**Recorder**  
Tabea Debus\*

**Trumpet**  
Mark Bennett\*

**Organ**  
Tom Foster

\*Soloist in Brandenburg Concerto

# London Handel Festival 2026

## *From Heavenly Harmony*

The 2026 London Handel Festival, From Heavenly Harmony, is a five-week celebration of Handel's music guided by the Festival's purpose to enrich lives through Handel's music, the programme channels heavenly harmony, revealing the composer's gift for touching every human emotion while lifting listeners toward the sublime.

Highlights include Rachel Podger, Jonathan Cohen and Hilary Cronin performing ***Neun Deutsche Arien*** alongside iconic works for solo Baroque violin, the Arcangelo New Ensemblists at the Foundling Museum, and the return of The English Concert with a programme pairing Handel's ***Chandos Anthems*** with Bach's ***Brandenburg Concertos***. Opera Settecento present a Handelian World Premiere ***Titus L'Empereur***, while the ***International Handel Singing Competition*** continues with its Semi-Final and Gala Final in early March.

Later in the Festival, Paul McCreesh and the Gabrieli Consort make their debut with ***Acis and Galatea*** and the ***Ode for St Cecilia's Day***, and the Handel Opera Studio presents its first fully staged production of Handel's ***Tamerlano*** at Shoreditch Town Hall. Events unfold across historic London venues closely tied to Handel's life, including St George's, Hanover Square, and Handel Hendrix House.

Alongside the performances, more ways than ever to get involved including the ever-popular annual ***Come and Sing!***, an expanded Creative Learning & Participation programme offers relaxed and family events, youth singing projects with Westminster schools, and a series of intimate ***Lunchtime at The Charterhouse*** concerts featuring rising stars and leading young ensembles.

## The London Handel Festival *enriching lives through Handel's music*

We rely on the generosity of donors, grants and gifts to achieve our ambitions as we receive no regular public subsidy. If you enjoyed this evening's performance why not join our growing community of supporters by becoming a member of the London Handel Festival.

Annual membership options start from as little as £50 per year.

**To book tickets or find out more about becoming a member  
of the London Handel Festival, visit  
[www.london-handel-festival.com](http://www.london-handel-festival.com) or email [membership@londonhandelfestival.org.uk](mailto:membership@londonhandelfestival.org.uk)**