

FEBRUARY 18 - APRIL 18

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2027

**PASSION
DRAMA &
DIVINITY**

ABOUT US

Founded in 1975 by Denys Darlow, the London Handel Society is recognised as one of the UK's most cherished arts organisations and is widely regarded as the home of Handel's music in London.

Central to the Society's work is the annual London Handel Festival. Taking place each year around Handel's birthday, the flagship Festival features a programme of Handel-inspired performances and events from internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles in venues across London, Handel's adopted home. In 2024, leading period-instrument ensemble Arcangelo was appointed the Festival's Principal Ensemble in Residence, and its Artistic Director, Jonathan Cohen, joined the Festival as Artistic Adviser. Prior to this, leading Handelian Laurence Cummings was the Festival's Musical Director for 25 years.

In addition to its concert programme, the London Handel Festival has long had a reputation for presenting staged productions of Handel's works. For many years, the Festival enjoyed a partnership with the Royal College of Music, presenting more than 30 productions together.

In 2023, the Society launched the Handel Opera Studio, an in-house producing wing of the Society, which has rapidly gained an international reputation for its bold stagings of Handel's lesser-known dramatic works in non-traditional spaces. Recent productions include *In the Realms of Sorrow* (2023), directed by Adele Thomas; *Tales of Apollo & Hercules* (2025), directed by Thomas Guthrie; and *Tamerlano* (2026), directed by Orpha Phelan.

As part of the 2027 London Handel Festival, the Studio will revive its acclaimed 2024 production of *Aci, by the River*, directed by Jack Furness.

Supporting emerging talent remains one of the Festival's core principles, and it promotes recitals by students from London's music colleges, including the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music. The International Handel Singing Competition, founded in 2002 by former Musical Director Laurence Cummings, is regarded by many as the jewel in the Festival's crown. It has been the launchpad for some of the world's most recognised soloists.

Alongside its performance programme, the Society runs a year-round Creative Learning and Participation programme, which aims to ensure that everyone has access to the power of Handel's music. Highlights have included a partnership with Coram, regular youth *Come and Sing!* events, relaxed performances, and a growing number of smaller events as part of expanding Summer and Autumn Seasons.

THE TEAM

Gregory Batsleer
Festival Director & CEO

Val Hawkin
Finance Director

Andrea Lee
Head of Development

Harry Palmer
Head of Audiences & Engagement

Tegan Eldridge
Festival Producer

Bethan White
Company Administrator & Executive Assistant

Terri-Jayne Griffin
Handel Opera Studio Producer

WELCOME



Gregory Batsleer

Festival Director & CEO (pictured)

Arcangelo

Principal Ensemble in Residence

Jonathan Cohen

Artistic Adviser

Trustees

Tanya Joseph Chair

James Olley Deputy Chair

Michael Holley

Panny Loucas

Andrew Packman

Sabrina Rodriguez

Melissa Scott

Aaron Watkins

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WELCOME TO OUR **2027** FESTIVAL PASSION, DRAMA & DIVINITY

It gives me great pleasure and delight to introduce to you the 2027 London Handel Festival: Passion, Drama and Divinity.

Featuring some of Handel's most evocative and visceral works, performed by a number of the world's leading baroque ensembles and interpreters of Handel's music, 2027 promises to be another incredibly special year.

At the heart of the programme, our Principal Ensemble in Residence, Arcangelo, and our Artistic Advisor, Jonathan Cohen, return with three distinct programmes. Their opening night performance has become one of the most anticipated evenings at each Festival, so book early to avoid disappointment. Other notable highlights of the 2027 programme include LHF favourites The English Concert, who return with a rare concert performance of the 1727 opera *Admeto, re di Tessaglia*. I am also particularly excited that baroque superstars Il Pomo d'Oro and the world-famous Monteverdi Choir will be making their London Handel Festival debuts.

Part of our mission is to celebrate Handel as one of the great Londoners. This year I am thrilled that we will be taking Handel's music into two fantastic new venues for the Festival. For the first time, we will feature performances in the newly renovated Barts Great Hall and the iconic Stationers' Hall, one of the City of London's oldest spaces.

It remains important to us to offer opportunities to engage with our audiences outside of the traditional concert setting. In 2027, I am delighted that we will again be running our very popular Come and Sing! event with our own London Handel Orchestra, and this year we are partnering with Sinfonia Smith Square for a very special family concert. After the success of last year's event, we are delighted to once again offer an exclusive members' evening at Fidelio Café and present a programme of online seminars, all designed to bring you closer to Handel's world.

Closing our 2027 Festival is a revival of the Handel Opera Studio's critically acclaimed production of *Acì, Galatea e Polifemo*. Described by The Telegraph as "exactly what opera needs," this original Handelian experience offers audiences the opportunity to sail down the River Thames by boat to this production at Trinity Buoy Wharf. Tickets for all our staged works are expected to sell out quickly. Early booking is advised to avoid disappointment.

The London Handel Society is built on core values of excellence, innovation and inclusion. I am proud that the London Handel Festival of 2027 is a true representation of these values, and I have no doubt that whether you have been coming to the Festival for many years or are joining us for the very first time, you will find something here to move, inspire and enrich you.

Beyond the 2027 Festival, we will shortly be announcing plans for a new summer series, and our autumn season in 2027 will focus on the 300th anniversary of the Handel Naturalisation Act. Looking even further ahead, we are beginning to put plans in place for our 50th anniversary year in 2028. Keep your eyes peeled across 2027 for exciting announcements about how we plan to celebrate and honour this significant moment in our history.

On behalf of everyone associated with the London Handel Society, I want to take this opportunity to thank all our members and supporters who continue to ensure this cherished organisation can thrive. Our purpose at the London Handel Society is to enrich lives through Handel's music, and we are in no doubt that without the generosity of our family of supporters, delivering on our purpose would be impossible. For more information about how to become part of our family of supporters, please do get in touch with us or visit our website.

Lastly, I hope you enjoy what our 2027 Festival programme has to offer, and we all look forward to welcoming you to our performances next year.

Gregory Batsleer

ARCANGELO

Arcangelo is the London Handel Festival's Principal Ensemble in Residence.

"Period music powerhouse" (*The Guardian*), Arcangelo is an award-winning, internationally-acclaimed period performance ensemble led by its founder and artistic director Jonathan Cohen. Its ethos is ruled by a determination to apply the deep listening skills and artistry of chamber music making to every piece in its repertoire. The ensemble's collective energy and spirit continue to generate a flood of critical awards and five-star reviews, spark audience ovations, and prompt invitations to the foremost international venues and festivals.

Its four appearances at the BBC Proms include the Proms premiere of Handel's *Theodora* and a televised performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion*; Promming tickets for its 2026 performance of Bach's *Mass in B Minor* sold out in 12 minutes. In the past 18 months Arcangelo has appeared at Palau de la Musica Catalana, Teatro de la Maestranza Seville, Barbican Centre, DESINGEL Antwerp, Konzerthaus Dortmund, Sala São Paulo, the Rheingau Festival, the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, and launched its new series at Wigmore Hall, 'An English Baroque Journey'.

Arcangelo's debut London Handel Festival presentation, *L'Allegro, Il Penseroso ed il Moderato* HWV 55, was hailed as a "dazzling opening" characterised by "crisp, spirited playing...lighting up Handel's own parish church" (*The Guardian*). The Times declared that "you could light a bonfire and more with the gusto of Cohen's musicians", while the Daily Telegraph opined: "To make Moderation seem thrilling might seem impossible, but these wonderful musicians managed it."

Arcangelo's critically-lauded discography now comprises a total of 30 releases led by the 2026 BBC Music Magazine Award nominee: *Handel: Chandos Anthems*. Further highlights include Buxtehude's Trio Sonatas Op.1 on Alpha, nominated for a 2018 GRAMMY Award; two Gramophone Award-winning albums with Iestyn Davies on Hyperion; a BBC Music Magazine Award-winning survey of cello concerti by C.P.E. Bach with soloist Nicolas Altstaedt; a 2021 studio recording of Handel's *Brookes Passion* on Alpha, named Album of the Week by BBC Radio 3 and The Sunday Times; and a multiply-nominated concept recording with mezzo-soprano Kate Lindsey, *Tiranno*.

In 2020, Arcangelo launched its New Ensemblists programme to develop the next generation of ensemble musicians specialised in period performance. The scheme provides a two-year programme of bespoke training and opportunities to outstandingly promising young musicians and is now in its fourth edition.

Jonathan Cohen – Artistic Adviser

Jonathan Cohen is the Artistic Adviser to the London Handel Festival. Jonathan has forged a remarkable career as a conductor, cellist and keyboardist. Well known for his passion and commitment to chamber music, Jonathan is equally at home in such diverse activities as baroque opera and the classical symphonic repertoire. He is the new Artistic Director of the Handel and Haydn Society, in addition to continuing as Artistic Director of Arcangelo, Music Director of Les Violons du Roy, and Artistic Director of Tetbury Festival.



EVENTS

OPENING CONCERT: ISRAEL IN EGYPT

Arcangelo

7pm, 18 February - Smith Square Hall

IL POMO D'ORO & EMELYANYCHEV PERFORM HANDEL

Il Pomo D'Oro, Maxim Emelyanychev & Ivan Podyomov

7pm, 20 February - St Bartholemew's Great Hall

ADMETO, RE DI TESSAGLIA

The English Concert

7pm, 25 February - St George's, Hanover Square

A HANDELIAN LOVE STORY

Arcangelo

7pm, 4 March - St George's, Hanover Square

ARCANGELO NEW ENSEMBLISTS

Arcangelo New Ensemblists

7pm, 7 March - Stationers' Hall

INTERNATIONAL HANDEL SINGING COMPETITION

Semi-Final & Final

6pm, 2 March - Grosvenor Chapel | 7.30pm, 10 March - St George's, Hanover Square

ROMAN VESPERS

Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Soloists

7pm, 13 March - Smith Square Hall

ACI, BY THE RIVER

Aci, Galatea e Polifemo - presented by Handel Opera Studio

Thursday 15 April, 7pm

Saturday 17 April, 2pm

Saturday 17 April, 7pm

Sunday 18 April, 2pm

LUNCHTIME AT THE CHARTERHOUSE

1pm - The Charterhouse

23 February

2 March

9 March

COME & SING: CORONATION ANTHEMS

12.30pm, 6 March - Smith Square Hall

EARTH, WIND FIRE AND WATER MUSIC - FAMILY CONCERT

2pm, 6 March - Smith Square Hall

ST MATTHEW PASSION

4pm, 26 March - St George's, Hanover Square

Please note that information in this brochure is subject to change



ISRAEL IN EGYPT HWV 54

7PM, 18 FEBRUARY
SMITH SQUARE HALL

EVENT INFORMATION

Conductor

Jonathan Cohen

Countertenor

Christopher Lowry

Repertoire

Israel in Egypt HWV 54

Ensemble

Arcangelo

Tenor

Guy Cutting

Soprano

Daisy Livesey

Bass

Ashley Riches

Soprano

Emma Walshe

Bass

Alexander Bower-Brown

London Handel Festival's Principal Ensemble in Residence, Arcangelo, and their Artistic Director Jonathan Cohen open the 2027 Festival and their 2027 residency with a performance of *Israel in Egypt*.

Performed in an adaptation of the rarely heard 1756 version of *Israel in Egypt*, this Old Testament choral blockbuster contains some of Handel's most thrilling and visceral music. With monumental choruses, dramatic arias and some of Handel's most electrifying orchestral writing, *Israel in Egypt* is a work of extraordinary scale and unrivalled theatrical power.

Renowned for their captivating performances and world-class artistry, Arcangelo and Cohen have developed a global reputation for their performances of Handel's great dramatic works.

VENUE
SMITH SQUARE HALL

LENGTH
2 HOURS 30 MINS
(Including one interval)

TICKETS
FROM £25 - £85



IL POMO d'ORO & EMELYANYCHEV Perform Handel

7PM, 20 FEBRUARY
GREAT HALL, ST BARTHOLOMEW'S
HOSPITAL

EVENT INFORMATION

Ensemble

Il Pomo d'Oro

Director/Keyboard

Maxim Emelyanychev

Oboe

Ivan Podyomov

Programme to include

Organ Concerto in G minor, Op. 4 No. 1, HWV 289

Oboe Concerto No. 3 in G minor, HWV 287

Sonata in G major, Op. 5 No. 4, HWV 399

Organ Concerto in B-flat major, Op. 4 No. 2, HWV 290

Concerto Grosso in F major, Op. 6 No. 2, HWV 320

Internationally acclaimed ensemble Il Pomo d'Oro, music director Maxim Emelyanychev and special oboist guest oboist Ivan Podyomov make their London Handel Festival debut with a brand-new programme celebrating the remarkable breadth and virtuosity of Handel's instrumental writing. With a peerless reputation for vivid, thrilling performances, Il Pomo d'Oro and Emelyanychev are true superstars of the baroque world.

This special performance takes place in the recently reopened, atmospheric Great Hall of Bart's North Wing. Adorned with murals by Handel's great friend William Hogarth, this standout venue promises to make for one of the unmissable events of the 2027 Festival.

Prior to the performance, CEO of Bart's Heritage, Will Palin, offers audiences a unique pre-concert tour of the space, sharing its history and its surprising connections to Handel himself.

With limited capacity, early booking is recommended.

VENUE
GREAT HALL
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL

LENGTH
1 HOUR 45 MINS
(Including one interval)

TICKETS
£65, £55, £45

A BIRTHDAY PARTY For Mr Handel

7PM, 23 FEBRUARY
FIDELIO CAFÉ

EVENT INFORMATION

After the success of 2026's inaugural event, the London Handel Festival is delighted to present its second annual Birthday Party for Mr Handel. Festival Director and CEO Gregory Batsleer is joined by well-known artists from the Festival for an exclusive evening of music and Handel-inspired conversation at the iconic Fidelio Café.

This event offers LHF members and their guests the opportunity to enjoy up-close performances by artists closely associated with the Festival, alongside a panel discussion on the wonder and importance of Handel's music in today's rapidly evolving world.

This event is exclusively available to members and their guests. Tickets are for the performance and talk only; dining options are also available separately. Full details will be available online.

VENUE
FIDELIO CAFÉ

LENGTH
90 MINS

TICKETS
£25



ADMETO, RE DI TESSAGLIA HWV 22

7PM, 25 FEBRUARY
ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

EVENT INFORMATION

Conductor
Harry Bickett

Repertoire
Admeto, re di Tessaglia HWV 22

Ensemble
The English Concert

Cast
To be announced shortly

Leading Handel specialists, The English Concert and Musical Director Harry Bickett, return to the London Handel Festival with an exceptional line-up of soloists for a rare concert performance of the 1727 opera *Admeto, re di Tessaglia*.

Set in ancient Thessaly, *Admeto* is a tale of sacrifice, desire, and love twisted into a triangle. A king saved from certain death. A queen who pays for it with her life. A rival who seizes her chance to take her place.

Premiered almost 300 years ago, and fuelled by the notorious rivalry between Handel's two reigning sopranos, Cuzzoni and Bordoni, *Admeto* became an overnight hit.

Featuring some of Handel's most ravishing arias, this rarely heard operatic gem brings to life one of baroque opera's great entangled love stories, performed by some of the world's finest interpreters of Handel's music.

VENUE
ST GEORGE'S
HANOVER SQUARE

LENGTH
2 HOURS 45 MINS
(Including one interval)

TICKETS
£75, £65, £55, £45 £35
£25 (partially restricted)
£15 (heavily restricted)

A HANDELIAN LOVE STORY

EVENT INFORMATION

Director / Harpsichord
Jonathan Cohen

Ensemble
Arcangelo

Soprano
Soraya Mafi

Countertenor
Christopher Lowry

Programme to include

Duets from *Theodora*, *Alexander's Feast*,
Belshazzar, *Alexander Balus*, *Saul*, *Poros*, *Serse*,
Rinaldo, *Agrippina*, *Rodelinda*, *Orlando*, *Esther*
and *Jephtha*, interwoven with movements from
Handel's *Concerti Grossi*.

For their second performance of their 2027 residency, LHF Principal Ensemble in Residence Arcangelo and Jonathan Cohen are joined by acclaimed soloists Christopher Lowry and Soraya Mafi for *A Handelian Love Story*, an originally conceived programme which explores Handel's remarkable catalogue of love duets.

Handel's duets are well loved by audiences. They represent some of the great composer's most intimate and emotionally charged music. Drawing together duets from across his operas and oratorios, including *Theodora*, *Alexander's Feast*, *Belshazzar* and *Alexander Balus*, this programme traces the arc of a love story in miniature, one aria at a time, capturing love in all its forms.

Interwoven with instrumental interludes from Handel's concerti grossi, it is a programme built entirely around two voices in dialogue. It promises an evening of intimacy and exploration of the rawest of all human emotions: love.

7PM, 4 MARCH
ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

VENUE
ST GEORGE'S
HANOVER SQUARE

LENGTH
2 HOURS
(Including one interval)

TICKETS
£65, £55, £45, £35
£25 (partially restricted)

An abstract graphic on the left side of the page. It features a dark teal background with flowing, ethereal lines in shades of yellow and light teal. These lines swirl and curve, resembling smoke or energy. In the background, faint outlines of musical instruments are visible: a violin on the left, a flute or recorder in the center, and a cello on the right. Small golden dots and thin lines are scattered throughout the composition, adding a sense of movement and depth.

ARCANGELO NEW ENSEMBLISTS

4PM, 7 MARCH
STATIONERS' HALL

EVENT INFORMATION

Harpsichord
Jonathan Cohen

Arcangelo New Ensemblists

Violin
Chloe Kim

Violin
Miriam Hontana

Cello
Joe Pritchard

Recorder
Felix Gutschi

The Arcangelo New Ensemblists scheme brings together some of the world's most exciting emerging period-instrument talent. Their annual recital has rapidly become one of the Festival's most eagerly anticipated performances.

This third and final performance of the 2027 Arcangelo Residency marks the first public outing for the latest cohort of New Ensemblists. Taking place in Stationers' Hall, one of the City of London's oldest surviving livery halls, this intimate recital offers a rare chance to hear music-making in a space steeped in history, its wood panelling and stained glass largely unchanged since the seventeenth century.

The full programme will be announced later this year, and will showcase the remarkable talents of the New Ensemblists as they bring fresh energy and insight to Handel's world.

VENUE
STATIONERS' HALL

LENGTH
90 MINUTES

TICKETS
£45, £40, £35

INTERNATIONAL HANDEL SINGING COMPETITION

SEMI-FINAL
6PM, 2 MARCH
GROSVENOR CHAPEL

FINAL
7.30PM, 10 MARCH
ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

EVENT INFORMATION

Presenter

Petroc Trelawny

Director / Harpsichord

Steven Devine

Ensemble

Academy of Ancient Music

The International Handel Singing Competition is widely regarded as the jewel in the crown of the London Handel Festival. Attracting over 150 applicants each year, it has launched the careers of some of the world's finest and most well-known Handelian singers.

Join well-known Radio 3 and classical music broadcaster Petroc Trelawny, the Academy of Ancient Music, and Steven Devine for this year's Final, live from Handel's very own church, St George's Hanover Square.

The Final of the Singing Competition is a thrilling evening of exceptional music-making, and offers a rare chance to see some of the true stars of the future before the rest of the world catches on.

VENUE
GROSVENOR CHAPEL
ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

LENGTH
SEMI-FINAL: 3 HOURS

FINAL: 3 HOURS
(INCLUDING ONE INTERVAL)

TICKETS
SEMI-FINAL: £15

FINAL: £85, £55, £45, £35
£25 (partially restricted)
£15 (heavily restricted)

ROMAN VESPERS

7PM, 13 MARCH
SMITH SQUARE HALL

EVENT INFORMATION

Monteverdi Choir

English Baroque Soloists

Conductor

Jane Glover

Soprano

Hilary Cronin

Programme

Nisi dominus, HWV 238 G. F. Handel

Jesu, corona virginum A. Scarlatti

Salve regina, HWV 241 G. F. Handel

Magnificat A. Scarlatti

Lauda Jerusalem A. Scarlatti

Haec est Regina virginum, HWV 235 G. F. Handel

Dixit dominus, HWV 232 G. F. Handel

The world-renowned Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Soloists, together with internationally acclaimed Handelian Jane Glover, make their long-awaited London Handel Festival debut with a programme exploring some of Handel's most exquisite sacred music from his years in Rome.

Bringing together music of the highly evocative traditional Vespers service, this unique programme pairs some of Handel's thrilling early sacred works with pieces from the Cecilian Vespers by his great Roman contemporary, Alessandro Scarlatti.

Famed for their precision, immediacy and drama, the Monteverdi Choir along with the English Baroque Soloists have changed the way the world hears music of the Baroque period. Taking place in the iconic Baroque surroundings of Smith Square Hall, this concert closes the 2027 concert series and promises audiences an original evening of great Handelian beauty.

VENUE
SMITH SQUARE HALL

LENGTH
2 HOURS
(Including one interval)

TICKETS
FROM £25 - £85



"This voyage up the Thames
is exactly what opera needs."
★★★★★ The Telegraph

"Wit, passion and elegance"
★★★★★ The Times

"Riveting"
★★★★★ The Guardian

THE HANDEL OPERA STUDIO PRESENTS

ACI BY THE RIVER 2027

EVENT INFORMATION

Aci, Galatea e Polifemo HWV 72

The Handel Opera Studio is delighted to present a revival of *Aci, by the River*, an original and critically acclaimed Handel experience centred around a groundbreaking production of the early dramatic work *Aci, Galatea e Polifemo*.

Aci, by the River takes place on the banks of the Thames, in the visually stunning Trinity Buoy Wharf Lighthouse and Chainstore. LHF favourites La Nuova Musica and their charismatic Musical Director David Bates take the musical lead for this revival and will join a brand-new cast of some of the hottest singing stars in the world today. Together they will breathe new life into this breathtaking production.

Aci, Galatea e Polifemo is one of Handel's most emotive and daring works: an ancient Greek tale portraying the intensity of young love and how it collides with a world that seeks to control and destroy it, leading to tragic and heartbreaking consequences.

Audiences are given the opportunity to be transported from Central London by boat along the Thames, with the journey itself featuring intimate live performances. Booking for this will open in early January. For those who wish to make their own way, the closest tube station is Canning Town (Jubilee Line), from where you will be guided to the venue via a small trail of pop-up performances.

Performance Dates

Thursday 15 April – 7:00pm

Saturday 17 April – Matinee, 2:00pm

Saturday 17 April – Evening, 7:00pm

Sunday 18 April – Matinee, 2:00pm

Ensemble

La Nuova Musica

Musical Director

David Bates

Director

Jack Furness

Designer

Francis O'Connor

Lighting Designer

Emma Chapman

Aci

Elisabeth Boudreault

Galatea

Angharad Lyddon

Polifemo

Sam Carl

VENUE
TRINITY BUOY WHARF

LENGTH
3 HOURS
(Including one interval)

TICKETS

£75, £55, £35

£25 FOR BOAT TRIP (TICKETS RELEASED
JAN 2027)

The background of the left page features a stylized, ethereal illustration of a woman in flowing, translucent robes. She is depicted in profile, facing right, with her arms raised in a gesture of praise or song. The colors are soft and blended, ranging from warm pinks and oranges to cooler blues and purples, creating a dreamlike atmosphere.

COME & SING! CORONATION ANTHEMS

12.30PM, 6 MARCH
SMITH SQUARE HALL

EVENT INFORMATION

Conductor

Richard Gowers

Ensemble

London Handel Orchestra

Timings

Singers only: 12:30pm – 2:30pm

Orchestral rehearsal: 3:30pm – 6:00pm

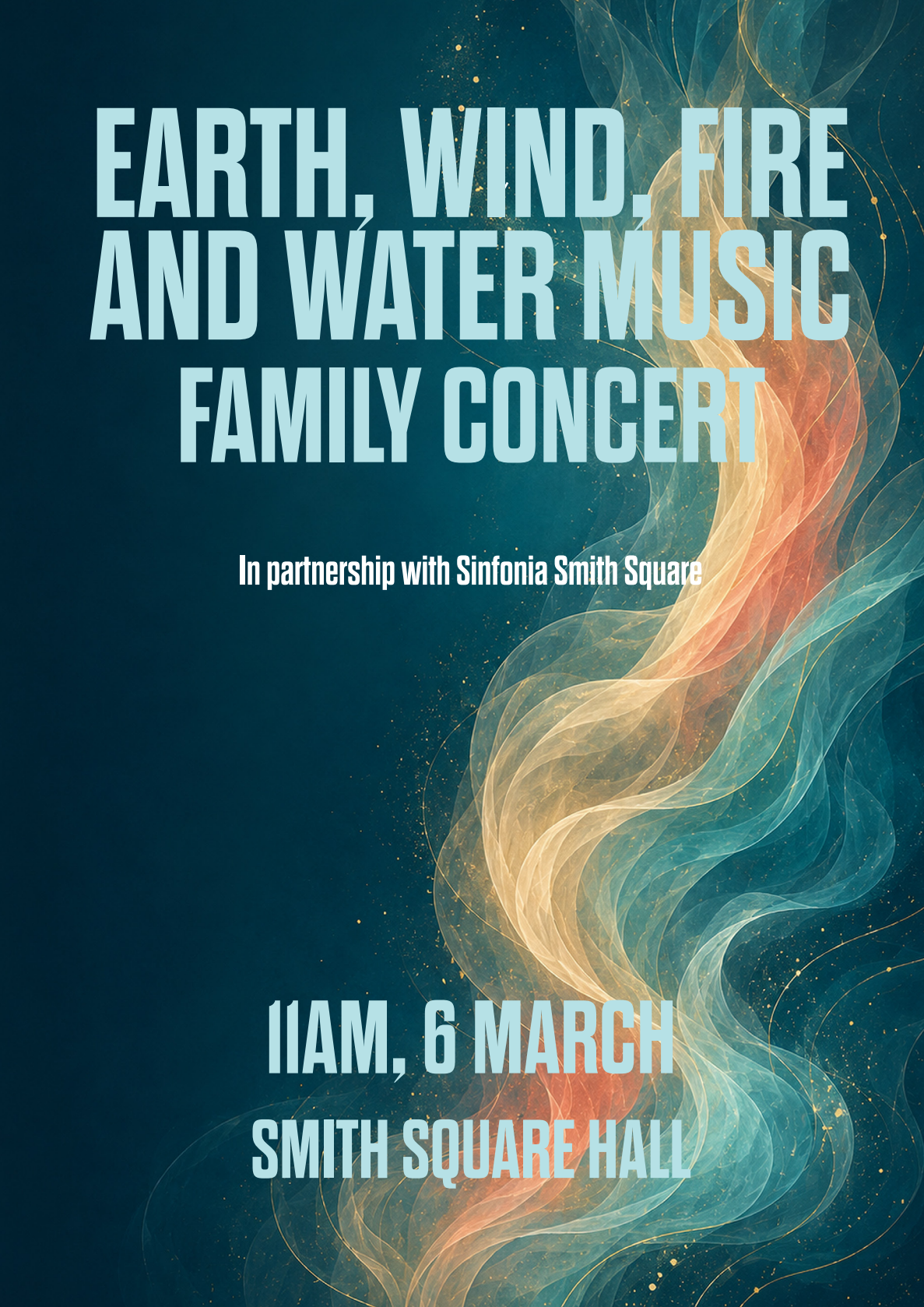
Public performance: 6:30pm

The 2027 annual Come and Sing! offers singers the thrill of performing with a live baroque orchestra. Celebrating 300 years since their first performance, this year's Come and Sing! will focus on Handel's iconic *Coronation Anthems*.

VENUE
SMITH SQUARE HALL

LENGTH
12.30PM - 6PM REHEARSAL
6.30 - 7.30PM PERFORMANCE

TICKETS
£40 FOR WORKSHOP
(INCLUDES MUSIC)
£10 FOR EVENING
PERFORMANCE



EARTH, WIND, FIRE AND WATER MUSIC FAMILY CONCERT

In partnership with Sinfonia Smith Square

11AM, 6 MARCH
SMITH SQUARE HALL

EVENT INFORMATION

Sinfonia Smith Square

Presenter

Aga Serugo-Lugo

Join Sinfonia Smith Square and Aga Serugo-Lugo for an exploration of the great elements of the world through Handel's music.

This interactive family performance brings to life the magic of some of Handel's best-loved orchestral repertoire, including *Music for the Royal Fireworks* and *Water Music*.

Perfect for young explorers aged 7 to 11 (though younger and older siblings are very welcome too), this lively introduction to Handel invites children to discover how his music conjures earth, wind, fire and water—no orchestral experience required, just curious ears and open imaginations.

VENUE
SMITH SQUARE HALL

LENGTH
45 MINUTE

TICKETS
£6

LUNCHTIME AT THE CHARTERHOUSE

1PM, 23 FEBRUARY,
2 & 9 MARCH MARCH
CHARTERHOUSE
Tickets £25

EVENT INFORMATION

Monday 23 February

The Portrait Players Mirroring Sappho:

This programme highlights the prominent role of women in 17th and 18th century salon settings. From the salons of Paris to the venetian Accademia degli Unisoni and the roman Accademia dell'Arcadia of Handel's time we'll explore the influence and opportunities each of these presented to female artists.

Music by Strozzi, Lambert, Bocquet, Le Camus and Handel

Tuesday 2 March

Finalists of the 2026 Handel Singing Competition

Finalists from the 2026 Handel Singing Competition return to the Festival for this special recital.

Tuesday 9 March

Florilegium perform Handel Among Friends

Closing the 2027 lunchtime recital series, much-admired ensemble Florilegium present a special programme that explores chamber treasures by Handel and his contemporaries.

Flute

Ashley Solomon

Violin

Magda Loth-Hill

Viola da gamba

Reiko Ichise

Harpsichord

James Johnstone

Programme

G.F. Handel: Trio Sonata in B minor, HWV 386b
Andante, Allegro ma non troppo, Largo, Allegro
J.S. Bach: Trio Sonata in G major, BWV 525 (arr. Florilegium)
Allegro moderato, Adagio, Allegro
G.P. Telemann: Paris Quartet, TWV 43 in B minor
Prelude, Coulant, Gai, Vite, Triste, Menuet
G.F. Handel: Trio Sonata in E minor, HWV 398
Andante larghetto, Allegro, Sarabande,
Allemande, Rondeau, Gavotte

ST MATTHEW PASSION BWV 244

4PM, 26 MARCH
ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

EVENT INFORMATION

Ensemble

London Handel Orchestra

Repertoire

St Matthew Passion BWV 244
J.S. Bach

Choir

Choir of St George's Church

Soloists to be announced

The London Handel Festival's celebrated annual liturgical presentation of J.S. Bach's *St Matthew Passion* returns in 2027.

This unique presentation recreates the work in the way it was originally intended to be heard: sung in German and presented as part of the Good Friday Vespers service, complete with a sermon and congregational hymns. It is a rare opportunity to experience this monumental work in its original liturgical context.

VENUE

ST GEORGE'S
HANOVER SQUARE

LENGTH

2 HOURS 45 MINS
(Including one interval)

TICKETS

£75, £65, £55, £45, £35,
£25 (partially restricted)
£15 (heavily restricted)

HANDEL OPERA STUDIO

In 2023, the London Handel Festival launched the Handel Opera Studio, an exciting initiative which aims to place Handel's dramatic works at the heart of the Festival's programme.

The Handel Opera Studio is rapidly gaining a reputation for presenting Handel's lesser-known dramatic works in bold and innovative ways in non-traditional spaces.

In 2023, the Studio presented *In the Realms of Sorrow* at Stone Nest, directed by Adele Thomas; in 2024, *Acì by the River*, a daring new production of *Acì, Galatea e Polifemo*, directed by Jack Furness at Trinity Buoy Wharf; in 2025, *Tales of Apollo and Hercules*, a Handelian double bill of *The Choice of Hercules* and *Apollo e Dafne*, and in 2026, a staging of Handel's *Tamerlano*. In 2027, *Acì by the River* will return in a revival by the Studio, bringing this distinctive production back to audiences following its original 2024 performances.

Handel's operas are some of the most widely produced compositions in the UK, and in order to differentiate itself from other companies and opera houses, the Handel Opera Studio places innovation and collaboration at the core of each production. Unable to match the resources of large houses such as the Royal Opera House, Opera North, English National Opera or Glyndebourne, the Studio's ambition is to be a leading light in new interpretations of rarely performed works, focusing on engaging and intimate performances in unique venues.

Image: Cast of *Acì, by the River* 2024 © Craig Fuller



VENUES



SMITH SQUARE HALL

Smith Square, London
SW1P 3HA

— Westminster



TRINITY BUOY WHARF

64 Orchard Pl, London
E14 0JW

— Canning Town



THE CHARTERHOUSE

Charterhouse Square, Barbican,
London EC1M 6AN

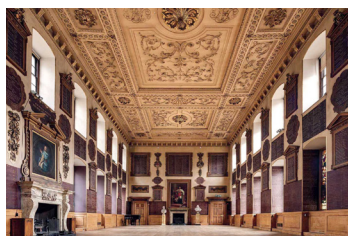
— Farringdon / Barbican



ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

St George Street,
London W1S 1FX

— Oxford Circus / Bond Street



GREAT HALL, ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL

St Bartholomew's Hospital, West
Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE

— Barbican / St Paul's



STATIONERS HALL

Ave Maria Lane, London
EC4M 7DD

— St Paul's

PRIORITY BOOKING DATES

FROM 10AM:

Director's Circle	7 October
Gold Patrons	9 October
Patrons' Circle	10 October
Benefactors	12 October
Associate Benefactors	14 October
Friends	16 October
General Booking	19 October

HOW TO BOOK

Tickets can be purchased via the LHF website:

www.london-handel-festival.com

or by emailing

boxoffice@londonhandelfestival.org.uk

CONCESSION RATES

£10 tickets for students (when presenting a valid student ID, subject to availability).

£10 for first-time bookers to the London Handel Festival (for specific events, subject to availability).

Complimentary tickets for carers. Please contact the Box Office for bookings and queries.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SUPPORT US

Join and support us

"A way of supporting the music and artists I love." Current member

If you want to enrich lives through Handel's incredible musical legacy, now is the time to join us in our mission and become a member of the London Handel Festival.

Be part of something special

- We are the only UK organisation that focuses on Handel's life and music in London.
- We celebrate Handel with an annual Festival of 30+ concerts and an International Singing Competition, the launchpad for the careers of young artists.
- Our Opera Studio produces refreshing interpretations of rarely performed Handel works.
- We're not just a spring festival—we also offer a summer and autumn season and year-round events for members.
- You will be supporting our Creative Learning Programme for all.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

If you wish to join or renew your membership, please email membership@londonhandelfestival.org.uk

We are committed to keeping ticket prices accessible and bringing Handel's music to the widest possible audience. But as a charity, we do all this without regular public subsidy. Our members provide incredible support and are at the very heart of the London Handel Festival community.

"The time after the last note has faded away feels more like the drawing to a close of a private party than a concert."

- Current member

Ready to join?

We have a range of membership options, all offering priority booking and invitations to members-only events. If you choose to join us at one of our higher tiers, you will enjoy opportunities to meet musicians, tour backstage, attend rehearsals, and regularly meet with the Festival Director.

Annual membership starts from as little as £50 per year, with higher levels available from £300 upwards for supporters who wish to donate more and become more involved in our innovative work. If you are eligible for Gift Aid, please let us know, as we can claim a further 25p for every £1 of your donation. Higher-rate taxpayers may also claim a tax credit on their donations through their tax return.

MEMBERSHIP TIERES

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

£5,000 PER YEAR (£417 PER MONTH)

Become part of the LHF family and enjoy a personalised relationship based on your interests, with the opportunity to mould the artistic ambitions of LHF, and attend exclusive VIP performances and regular meetings with the Festival Director to discuss programming, alongside all the benefits of the other membership tiers.

GOLD PATRON

£3,000 PER YEAR (£250 PER MONTH)

Help shape the development of the Festival with the opportunity to meet artists and creatives, attend rehearsals, and tour backstage at our opera productions, plus regular contact with the Director and LHF team.

PATRONS' CIRCLE

£1,500 PER YEAR (£125 PER MONTH)

Have the opportunity to attend private events and performances, tour the opera production and attend rehearsals, alongside complimentary drinks, interval receptions and festival programmes at London Handel Festival events, and personal communications with the Festival Director and LHF team.

BENEFACTOR

£600 PER YEAR (£50 PER MONTH)

Forge a close relationship with the company and enjoy exclusive invitations, behind the scenes tours, personal communication, and complimentary Festival programmes and interval receptions.

ASSOCIATE BENEFACTOR

£300 PER YEAR (£25 PER MONTH)

Enjoy invitations to all our pre-concert talks, complimentary Festival programmes, interval receptions, an invitation to members-only events, regular updates, and priority booking.

FRIEND

£50 PER YEAR (C.£4 PER MONTH)

Friends are invited to pre-concert talks and members-only events, discounts on the Festival programme, regular updates, and priority booking before the general public.



1!f 2027

www.london-handel-festival.com
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