

SAUL HWV 53

LONDON
HANDEL
FESTIVAL 20
26

Smith Square Hall
18 February 2026

INFORMATION SHEET

The London Handel Festival's Principal Ensemble in Residence, Arcangelo, open the 2026 Festival From Heavenly Harmony in style with an unmissable concert performance of one of Handel's greatest oratorios. Last performed at LHF over 30 years ago, *Saul* is without question one of Handel's most dramatic and moving works. With themes of jealousy, love, loss, and betrayal, this oratorio represents Handel at his most emotionally engaging and musically thrilling.

This performance is kindly supported by The Golsoncott Foundation.

SOLOISTS

Saul
Christopher Purves

David
Hugh Cutting

Jonathan
Linard Vrielink

Merab
Emóke Baráth

Michal
Jessica Cale

Samuel
Neal Davies

High Priest
Liam Bonthrone

Witch of Endor
Matthew Long

Abner
Hugo Herman-Wilson

Doeg
Malachy Frame

Amalekite
Archie Inns

CHOIR

Soprano
Daisy Walford
Angharad Gruffydd Jones
Isabelle Palmer
Olivia Carrell
Charlotte Trepess
Daisy Livesey
Sam Cobb
Elspeth Piggott
Amy Wood

Alto
Stephanie Franklin
Jennifer Bourke
Hannah Cooke
Joy Sutcliffe
David Clegg
Daniel Collins
Christopher Field

Tenor
Matthew Long
Archie Inns
Benedict Munden
John Bowen
Christopher Bowen
Samuel Jenkins
Simon Wall

Bass
Hugo Herman-Wilson
Malachy Frame
Richard Bannan
Jerome Knox
Christopher Webb
Tom Lowen
Andrew Tipple

ORCHESTRA

Violin I
Michael Gurevich (leader)
Agata Daraskaite
Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux
Iona Davies
Emma Williams
Carmen Lavada Johnson-Pájaro*

Violin II
Sophia Prodanova (principal)
James Toll
Jane Gordon
Beatrice Philips
Leo Appel*

Viola
Jasper Snow (principal)
Oliver Wilson
Thomas Kettle
Jaume Pueyo Solà*

Cello
Jonathan Byers (principal)
Andrew Skidmore
Martin Egidi*

Double Bass
Tim Amherst (principal)
Christine Sticher

Flute
Georgia Browne (principal)
Rosie Bowker

Oboe
Clara Blessing (principal)
Sarah Humphrys

Bassoon
Inga Maria Klaucke (principal)
Javier Sanchez*

Recorders
Sarah Humphrys (principal)
Inga Maria Klaucke

Trumpet
Paul Sharp (principal)
Simon Munday

Trombone
Claire McIntyre
Tom Lees
Adam Crighton
Timpani
Adrian Bending

Lute
Thomas Dunford

Harp
Oliver Wass

Harpsichord / Organ (solo)
Tom Foster

Carillion / Organ (chorus)
Stephen Farr

Harpsichord / Direction
Jonathan Cohen

*Arcangelo New Ensemblist

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 or email membership@londonhandelfestival.org.uk**