

FEBRUARY 18TH - MARCH 28TH

LONDON 20
HANDEL
FESTIVAL 26

from
**HEAVENLY
HARMONY**

ABOUT LHF

The London Handel Festival is the UK's only full-time organisation dedicated to the performance and celebration of music by George Frideric Handel.

The London Handel Society was formed in 1975 by Denys Darlow, and the first London Handel Festival took place in the summer of 1978. It is without doubt that the London Handel Festival has continued to play a pivotal role in the performance of Handel's music and is now regarded as the home of Handel's music in London.

Originally based at St George's Church, Hanover Square – Handel's own parish church – the London Handel Festival now presents an annual programme of Handel-inspired performances and events from internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles in venues across London throughout the year.

In addition to its performances at St George's Church, the Festival regularly presents performances in a range of exciting venues, including the Linbury Theatre at the Royal Opera House, Wigmore Hall, Smith Square Hall, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Stone Nest, Village Underground, Middle Temple Hall, Trinity Buoy Wharf, Shoreditch Town Hall, The Charterhouse, and more.

The London Handel Festival has long had a reputation for presenting staged productions of Handel's works. For many years, the Festival had a longstanding partnership with the Royal College of Music and presented over 30 different productions in collaboration with them. In

2023, the Festival launched the Handel Opera Studio, which is rapidly gaining an international reputation for bold stagings of Handel's lesser-known dramatic works in non-traditional spaces. Recent productions include *Aci by the River* (2024), directed by Jack Furness, and *In the Realms of Sorrow* (2023), directed by Adele Thomas. In 2025, it staged *Tales of Apollo and Hercules*, a brand-new Handelian double bill in collaboration with New English Ballet Theatre.

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

As well as its performance programme, the London Handel Festival has launched a year-round Creative Learning and Participation programme, which ensures that everyone has access to the power of Handel's music. Highlights of the programme have included a partnership with Coram, regular youth "Come and Sing" events, relaxed performances, and the introduction of a number of small events as part of an expanding Autumn Series.

THE TEAM

Gregory Batsleer
Festival Director

Val Hawkin
Finance Director

Andrea Lee
Head of Development

Harry Palmer
Head of Marketing & Box Office

Tegan Eldridge
Festival Producer

Terri-Jayne Griffin
Handel Opera Studio Producer

Yard Creative
2026 Artwork & Design

WELCOME



Gregory Batsleer
Festival Director (pictured)

Jonathan Cohen
Artistic Adviser

Arcangelo
Principal Ensemble in Residence

Richard Hopkin
Chairman London Handel Society

Promoted by the London Handel Society Ltd. Charity number 269184

WELCOME TO OUR 2026 FESTIVAL

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the London Handel Festival 2026: *From Heavenly Harmony*. This year we are proud to present five weeks of thrilling Handel-inspired performances in venues across London, from a dazzling array of artists and ensembles in programmes guaranteed to captivate, inspire, and move. Our purpose at the London Handel Festival is to enrich lives through Handel's music. We take great pride in our commitment to celebrating the transcendent and life-affirming power of Handel's music.

Arcangelo and their Artistic Director, Jonathan Cohen, open the 2026 Festival in style with their second residency as our Principal Ensemble in Residence and Artistic Adviser. Together, they present three unique programmes that showcase the ensemble's remarkable versatility and unrivalled ability to bring Handel's music to life in fresh and exciting ways. In addition, Opera Settecento and The English Concert make welcome returns to the Festival, and I am particularly delighted that Paul McCreesh and the Gabrieli Consort will make their long-awaited debut at the Festival.

Since its inauguration in 2023, the Handel Opera Studio has rapidly developed a critically acclaimed reputation for inventive and boundary-pushing performances of Handel's lesser-known dramatic works. This year, we return to the grandeur of Shoreditch Town Hall with a brand-new production of *Tamerlano*, the Handel Opera Studio's first fully staged opera. I am especially pleased that Laurence Cummings, the much-loved and inspirational former Musical Director of the London Handel Festival, returns to conduct this new production with his ensemble, the Academy of Ancient Music. *Tamerlano* is one of Handel's most thrilling orchestral scores, and I have no doubt that Laurence and his musicians will bring it vividly to life.

From traditional large-scale concerts to our new family events and a major youth Singing Project, the London Handel Festival continues to embody the spirit by which Handel himself lived, ensuring that everyone has access to his life-enriching music. I am especially proud that we are strengthening our commitment to inclusivity through the continuation of our relaxed performances, as well as a major Handel singing project with young people from schools across Westminster.

Our 2026 Festival sounds the starting clarion for our 50th-anniversary celebrations, culminating in 2028. An integral part of these celebrations will be the inauguration of our Future Fund Campaign, alongside a number of major new initiatives to be announced over the next 24 months, all of which will cement the London Handel Festival as the year-round home of Handel's music in London.

Handel's music is famed for its profound exploration of the human condition and for its celebration of our shared stories. The performance and experience of Handel's music have never been more vital than they are today. In a fast-paced and ever-changing world, this great Londoner's music gives us all the opportunity to pause, reflect, and have our lives enriched.

Gregory Batsleer

ARCANGELO

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

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.

Arcangelo was also the first-ever named Baroque Ensemble in Residence at Wigmore Hall, where it maintains a close artistic relationship. Its three appearances at the BBC Proms include the Proms premiere of Handel's *Theodora* and a televised performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion*. In the past five years, Arcangelo has appeared at the Vienna Konzerthaus, Liszt Academy Budapest, the Barbican Centre, Usher Hall, De Singel Antwerp, De Bijloke Ghent, Santander International Festival, Zentrum Paul Klee Bern, Teatro Colon Buenos Aires, Teatro Municipal Rio de Janeiro, Sala São Paulo, and at a second season residency at Wigmore Hall, with soloists including Louise Alder, Nicolas Altstaedt, Avi Avital, Iestyn Davies, Miloš Karadaglić, Barnabás Kelemen, Katharina Konradi, and Carolyn Sampson.

Arcangelo's debut London Handel Festival presentation, *L'Allegro, Il Penseroso ed il Moderato* HWV 55, was 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, including the launch of the first new British studio recording in almost 25 years of Handel's *Theodora*. 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*. Arcangelo's latest release, featuring four of Handel's *Chandos Anthems*, is a BBC Music Magazine Choral Choice and a Limelight Magazine Editor's Choice.

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 third 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: SAUL HWV 53

Arcangelo

7pm, February 18th - Smith Square Hall

NEUN DEUTSCHE ARIEN

Rachel Podger, Hilary Cronin & Jonathan Cohen

5pm, February 21st - St George's, Hanover Square

MR HANDEL & HIS MERRY MUSICIANS!

Arcangelo New Ensemblists

5.30pm, February 22nd - The Foundling Museum

SPLENDOUR & DEVOTION: MUSIC FOR COURT & CHAPEL

The English Concert

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

TITUS L'EMPEREUR HWV A5: A HANDELIAN PREMIERE

Opera Settecento

7pm, March 5th - St George's, Hanover Square

INTERNATIONAL HANDEL SINGING COMPETITION

Semi-Final - 2pm, March 7th

Gala Final - 7.30pm, March 11th, St George's, Hanover Square

FROM HEAVENLY HARMONY: ACIS & AN ODE!

Gabrieli Consort

4.30pm, March 14th - Smith Square Hall

TAMERLANO HWV 18

Presented by the Handel Opera Studio

7pm, March 26th, 27th

5pm, March 28th

Shoreditch Town Hall

LUNCHTIME AT THE CHARTERHOUSE

2025 HSC Finalists - 1pm, February 24th

Ensemble Augelletti - 1pm, March 3rd

Ensemble Théodora - 1pm, March 10th

MR HANDEL'S BIRTHDAY PARTY (MEMBERS ONLY)

6.30pm, February 23rd - Fidelio Café

COME AND SING!

11am, February 28th - Grosvenor Chapel

O COME, LET US SING! WITH THE LONDON HANDEL ORCHESTRA

5.30pm, February 28th - Grosvenor Chapel

FAMILY CONCERT AT HANDEL'S HOUSE

11am & 1pm, March 1st - Handel Hendrix House

HANDEL BIG SING!

6.30pm, March 18th - St George's, Hanover Square

re:invention - A RELAXED PERFORMANCE

1pm, March 21st - Shoreditch Town Hall Council Chamber

ST JOHN PASSION

4pm, April 3rd - St George's, Hanover Square

HANDEL THE EUROPEAN: A Festival Upbeat with Sinfonia Smith Square

7pm, February 5th - Smith Square Hall

Opening Concert SAUL



7PM | FEBRUARY 18TH

EVENT INFORMATION

Christopher Purves
Saul

Hugh Cutting
David

Jonathan Cohen
Director / Harpsichord

Linard Vrielink
Jonathan

Emőke Baráth
Merab

Arcangelo
Orchestra & Choir

Jessica Cale
Michal

Neal Davies
Samuel

Repertoire
Saul HWV 53
G. F. Handel

Liam Bonthrone
High Priest

Matthew Long
Witch of Endor

Hugo Herman-Wilson
Abner

Archie Inns
Amalekite

Malachy Frame
Doeg

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.

Conductor and LHF Artistic Adviser Jonathan Cohen is joined on stage by over 70 performers, including a line-up of world-class soloists, in one of London's great Baroque spaces for an opening night to remember.

VENUE
SMITH SQUARE HALL

LENGTH
3 HOURS
(Including one interval)

TICKETS
£75, £60, £55, £40
£35, £25 (UNRESERVED, RESTRICTED)

Online Preview: 6pm, February 16th

NEUN DEUTSCHE ARIEN



5PM | FEBRUARY 21ST

EVENT INFORMATION

Rachel Podger
Violin

Hilary Cronin
Soprano

Jonathan Cohen
Director / Harpsichord

Jonathan Manson
Cello

Thomas Dunford
Lute

Programme

Sonata No. 1 in G minor TWV 41:g1
G. P. Telemann

Partita No. 2 in D minor Chaconne BWV 1004
J. S. Bach

Sonata in A major HWV 361
G. F. Handel

Neun Deutsche Arien HWV 202-210
G. F. Handel

Internationally acclaimed violinist Rachel Podger joins Arcangelo's Artistic Director Jonathan Cohen and winner of the 2021 Singing Competition, Hilary Cronin, for this special recital at St George's Hanover Square, Handel's very own church and home of the London Handel Festival.

The magical and moving *Neun Deutsche Arien* represents Handel at his most reflective and introspective. Their uniqueness offers audiences personal insights into the great composer's faith and religious beliefs.

In the first half, Cohen and Podger perform some of the most intimate and moving works for solo violin of the Baroque era.

VENUE
ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

LENGTH
1 HOUR 30 MINS
(INCLUDING ONE INTERVAL)

TICKETS
£65, £55, £45, £35
£25, £15 (RESTRICTED VIEW)

MR HANDEL & HIS MERRY MUSICIANS!



5.30PM | FEBRUARY 22ND

EVENT INFORMATION

Tom Foster
Director / Harpsichord

Leo Appel
Carmen Lavada Johnson-Pájaro
Violin

Jaume Pueyo Solà
Viola

Martin Egidi
Cello

Francisco Javier Sánchez Castillo
Bassoon

Repertoire
Works by G. F. Handel, Vastrucci, J. C. Smith,
Corbett, Sammartini and Haym

Arcangelo's New Ensemblists return to the London Handel Festival with a new programme exploring music composed by Handel and his contemporaries for the illustrious musicians of Handel's orchestra at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket.

This concert highlights the dazzling range of repertoire composed for, and performed by, these young virtuoso musicians.

VENUE
THE FOUNDLING MUSEUM

LENGTH
1 HOUR 30 MINS
(INCLUDING ONE INTERVAL)

TICKETS
£45* / £35

* includes entry to the museum and guided tour of 'the Grand Chorus' exhibition. Tour begins at 4.30pm, performance begins at 5.30pm

SPLENDOUR & DEVOTION



Music for Court & Chapel
7PM | FEBRUARY 25TH

EVENT INFORMATION

Hilary Cronin
Soprano

Hugo Hymas
Tenor

Matthew Brook
Bass

Kristian Bezuidenhout
Conductor

The English Concert
Orchestra

Programme

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

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.

Handel's devotional *Chandos Anthems*, written in his first years in England for the Duke of Chandos in the 1710s, reveal the composer at some of his most inventive and expressive.

Bach's dazzling *Brandenburg Concertos*, presented to the Margrave of Brandenburg in 1721, stand as timeless masterpieces of instrumental brilliance. Heard together, these works capture the splendour, virtuosity, and imagination at the heart of the early eighteenth century.

With its combination of vocal splendour and instrumental brilliance, this concert promises an unforgettable evening of music-making from unrivalled specialists of the era.

VENUE
ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

LENGTH
2 HOURS
(INCLUDING ONE INTERVAL)

TICKETS
£65, £55, £45, £35
£25, £15 (RESTRICTED VIEW)

TITUS L'EMPEREUR

A Handelian Premiere



7PM | MARCH 5TH

EVENT INFORMATION

Steffen Jespersen
Titus

Rachel Redmond
Berenice

Ciara Hendrick
Antioco

Hugo Hymas
Paolino

Lucija Varsic
Dalinda

Edward Grint
Oldauro

Leo Duarte
Conductor

Opera Settecento
Ensemble

Repertoire
Titus L'Empéreur HWV A5
G. F. Handel

Opera Settecento and their director, Leo Duarte, return to the London Handel Festival for a modern-day London premiere of Handel's abandoned opera *Titus L'Empéreur*. The incomplete libretto, modelled on Racine's tragedy *Berenice*, has been adapted to the conventions of opera seria to produce a text that Handel himself would no doubt have been eager to set.

For this performance, the recitatives have been newly composed in a style that adheres as closely as possible to Handel's own, while the arias are drawn from his works written before 1732, the date of Handel's incomplete manuscript. Opera Settecento is joined by an outstanding line-up of soloists, including two recent winners of the International Handel Singing Competition, for what will no doubt be one of the most distinctive events presented at the London Handel Festival.

VENUE
ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

LENGTH
2 HOURS 30 MINS
(INCLUDING ONE INTERVAL)

TICKETS
£65, £55, £45, £35
£25, £15 (RESTRICTED VIEW)

Online Preview: 6pm, March 2nd

INTERNATIONAL HANDEL SINGING COMPETITION



SEMI-FINAL: 2PM | MARCH 7TH
GALA FINAL: 7.30PM | MARCH 11TH

EVENT INFORMATION

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
Ensemble for the Gala Final

Steven Devine
Conductor

Petroc Trelawny
Presenter for the Gala Final

The International Handel Singing Competition is widely regarded as the jewel in the crown of the London Handel Festival. Attracting over 125 applicants each year, it has launched the careers of some of the world's finest and most well-known Handelian singers.

This year's Final will again be presented by well-known classical music broadcaster Petroc Trelawny, with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment joining as the guest ensemble. As always, the Competition promises a thrilling evening, showcasing some of the most exciting emerging talent from around the globe.

VENUE
GROSVENOR CHAPEL (SEMI-FINAL)
ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE (FINAL)

LENGTH
Semi-Final: 3 HOURS
(INCLUDING ONE INTERVAL)

Gala Final: 2 HOURS 30 MINS
(ONE INTERVAL FOR ADJUDICATION)

TICKETS
Semi-Final: £20
Gala Final: £65, £55, £45, £35
£25, £15 (RESTRICTED VIEW)

From Heavenly Harmony ACIS & AN ODE!



4.30PM | MARCH 14TH

EVENT INFORMATION

Part I: *Acis & Galatea* HWV 49

Paul McCreesh
Conductor

Carolyn Sampson
Galatea

Laurence Kilsby
Acis

Will Thomas
Polyphemus

Hugo Brady
Damon

Jonathan Hanley
Coridon

Paul McCreesh and the Gabrieli Consort make their LHF debut in a major two-part performance featuring two of Handel's most celebrated masterpieces.

Part one features a performance of Handel's timeless classic *Acis and Galatea*. Loved for its lyrical beauty and rustic charm, *Acis and Galatea* is one of Handel's most enduringly popular works.

Part two is a performance of the rarely heard *Ode for St Cecilia's Day*. First performed at Lincoln's Inn Theatre in 1739, this joyful work celebrates the divine power of music itself. With some of Handel's most sublime solo writing, rousing choruses, and dazzling instrumental colours, *Ode for St Cecilia's Day* stands as one of his most engaging and life-affirming musical creations.

Part II: *Ode for St Cecilia's Day* HWV 76

Gabrieli Consort & Players
Orchestra

Carolyn Sampson
Soprano

Laurence Kilsby
Tenor

VENUE
SMITH SQUARE HALL

LENGTH
3 HOURS
(Including one interval)

TICKETS
£75, £60, £55, £40
£35, £25 (UNRESERVED, RESTRICTED)

Online Preview: 6pm, March 12th

Venue partners: Smith Square Hall

HANDEL OPERA STUDIO PRESENTS



TAMERLANO

7PM | MARCH 26TH & 27TH
5PM | MARCH 28TH

EVENT INFORMATION

James Laing
Tamerlano

Benjamin Hulett
Bajazet

Nardus Williams
Asteria

Jake Ingbar
Andronico

Kitty Whately
Irene

Jonathan Brown
Leone

Orpha Phelan
Director

Laurence Cummings
Musical Director

Academy of Ancient Music
Ensemble

Madeleine Boyd
Designer

Matt Haskins
Lighting Designer

Repertoire
Tamerlano HWV 18 - G. F. Handel
(Sung in English)

Critically acclaimed for its daring and bold productions of Handel's dramatic works, the Handel Opera Studio returns to the grandeur of Shoreditch Town Hall with a brand-new staging of *Tamerlano*.

Featuring some of the composer's most ravishing and astonishing music, *Tamerlano* is one of Handel's most powerful psychological dramas that explores the extremes of human nature which remain as power today. This gripping opera recounts the story of the defeated Ottoman sultan Bajazet and his daughter Asteria, ensnared in a web of love, loyalty, and power struggles with the ruthless conqueror Tamerlano.

Award-winning director Orpha Phelan makes her Baroque opera directorial debut, leading an exceptional cast. Musical Director and world-leading Handelian Laurence Cummings makes his hotly anticipated return to the LHF, joined in the pit by his ensemble, the Academy of Ancient Music.

VENUE
SHOREDITCH TOWN HALL

LENGTH
3 HOURS
(Including one interval)

TICKETS
£85, £65, £55, £45, £35

LUNCHTIME AT THE CHARTERHOUSE



1PM | FEBRUARY 24TH

EVENT INFORMATION

Performers

**Finalists from the 2025
International Handel Singing
Competition**

Repertoire

Full programme announced in January

Join the finalists of our 2025 International Handel Singing Competition for a special recital of music by Handel and his contemporaries. This recital is an opportunity to catch up with the stars of last year's Final and hear some of the finest young singing talent in Europe.

Full programme announced in January.

VENUE
THE CHARTERHOUSE

LENGTH
1 HOUR

TICKETS
£25

LUNCHTIME AT THE CHARTERHOUSE



"AND WE WERE ENCHANTED"

IPM | MARCH 3RD

EVENT INFORMATION

Ensemble Augelletti Ensemble

Olwen Foulkes Artistic Director

Repertoire

Trio Sonata in D major Op.5 no.2 G. F. Handel
Musette-Allegro-Musette

Trio Sonata in E minor Op.5 no.3 G. F. Handel
*Andante larghetto - Allegro - Sarabande -
Allemande - Rondeau - Gavotte*

Dances from *The Fairy-Queen* (Z.629) and *King Arthur* (Z.628)
Henry Purcell

Concerto in A major. op.2 no.1 Giuseppe Sammartini
Spiritoso - Allegro Assai - Andante - Allegro

Duo in F major Felice Giardini
Andante

Trio in C major. CWYB47 Johann Christian Bach
Allegro

Trio sonata no.3 in A major William Boyce
Tempo di minuetto

Trio sonata in G major, Op. 5 No. 4 G. F. Handel
*Allegro - Tempo ordinario - Passacaille
Gigue - Minuet*

Ensemble Augelletti returns to the London Handel Festival with a programme that explores the music of Courtney's world, including works by Boyce, Sammartini, and Courtney's ultimate favourite - Handel.

The title of the recital is taken from a page of John Courtney's well-thumbed diary, written in rapture after attending a concert. Courtney was a gentleman with a deep love of music, and he recounted his musical experiences in a journal as he visited London's plays, concerts, theatres, and balls.

VENUE
THE CHARTERHOUSE

LENGTH
1 HOUR

TICKETS
£25

LUNCHTIME AT THE CHARTERHOUSE



1PM | MARCH 10TH

EVENT INFORMATION

Ensemble Théodora
Ensemble

Mariamielle Lamagat
Soprano

Alice Trocellier
Viol

Lucie Chabard
Harpsichord

Repertoire

Troisième Leçon de Ténèbres du Vendredi
Michel-Richard De Lalande

Prélude No. 2 from *L'art de toucher le Clavecin*
François Couperin

Sonata in G minor Op. 1 No. 6
Larghetto

'Sünder, schaut mit Furcht und Zagen' from *Brockes' Passion*
Sonata in G minor Op. 1 No. 6

Allegro
'Brich, mein Herz, zerfließ in Tränen' from *Brockes' Passion*

Sonata in G minor Op. 1 No. 6
Adagio, Allegro
G. F. Handel

'Durch dein Gefängnis, Gottes Sohn'
(Through your imprisonment, Son of God)
Extract from *Passion nach dem Evangelisten Johannes*
att. Georg Böhm (1661-1733)

Choral Prelude 'Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten'
(He who allows dear God to guide him)
J. S. Bach

Variations on choral *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten*
Georg Böhm

Ensemble Théodora is one of the most exciting early music groups to have emerged in recent years. They make their London Handel Festival debut with *Brich mein Hertz*, an intimate and reflective programme that explores the musical landscape of Lent through composers from across Europe. Some of the period's most emotive sacred arias are interwoven with a selection of remarkable instrumental works.

VENUE
THE CHARTERHOUSE

LENGTH
1 HOUR

TICKETS
£25

MR HANDEL'S BIRTHDAY PARTY



6.30PM | FEBRUARY 23RD

EVENT INFORMATION

Member only event

Join Festival Director Gregory Batsleer and well-known artists from the London Handel Festival for an exclusive evening of music and Handel-inspired conversation at the iconic Fidelio Café.

This special 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 exploring the growing relevance 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.

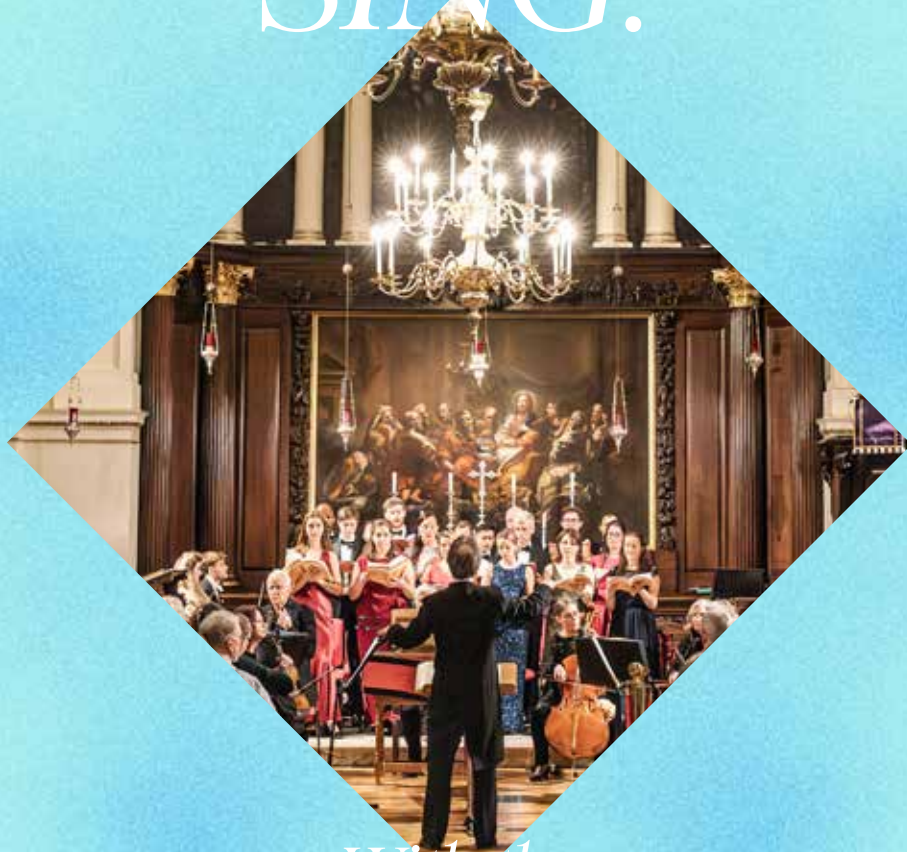
Full details are available to members.

VENUE
FIDELIO CAFE

LENGTH
90 MINS
(Performance only)

TICKETS
£15
Dining options are also available

COME AND SING!



With the
London Handel Orchestra

11AM | FEBRUARY 28TH

EVENT INFORMATION

Richard Gowers
Conductor

London Handel Orchestra
Ensemble

Vocal Coach
To be announced

Repertoire
Laudate pueri Dominum HWV 237
O come, let us sing HWV 253

**Plus choruses from *Saul*
and *Ode for St Cecilia's Day***

The 2026 *Come and Sing!* offers enthusiastic singers a rare opportunity to experience the exhilaration of performing Handel's music with a live professional baroque orchestra in one of London's finest Baroque churches. Members of the London Handel Orchestra, along with its Principal Conductor, Richard Gowers, will guide singers through two of Handel's most radiant choral works and choruses from works performed across the Festival. Our *Come and Sing!* days offer unique insights into performance style, vocal technique, and historical context.

This inspiring day of music-making will culminate in an early evening performance of the repertoire learned during the day.

VENUE
GROSVENOR CHAPEL

LENGTH
11AM - 4.30PM

TICKETS
£35

O COME, LET US SING!



5.30PM | FEBRUARY 28TH

EVENT INFORMATION

Richard Gowers
Conductor

London Handel Orchestra
Ensemble

LHF Come and Sing! Chorus
Choir

Repertoire

Laudate pueri Dominum HWV 237
O come, let us sing HWV 253
Concerto Grosso in D major HWV 323

The London Handel Orchestra, directed by its principal conductor Richard Gowers, is joined by members of the Choir of St George's Church and the LHF 'Come and Sing Chorus' for this special evening performance of Handel masterpieces.

Featuring *Laudate pueri Dominum*, *O come, let us sing*, and the *Concerto Grosso in D major*, this uplifting recital crowns a full day of rehearsals and music-making at the London Handel Festival's Come and Sing! event.

VENUE
GROSVENOR CHAPEL

LENGTH
1 HOUR

TICKETS
£15

FAMILY CONCERT



At Handel Hendrix House
11AM & 1PM | MARCH 1ST

EVENT INFORMATION

The Portrait Players
Ensemble

Claire Ward
Soprano

Kristiina Watt
Theorbo / Lute

Miriam Nohl
Cello / Viola da Gamba

Join the Portrait Players for two very special Family Concerts in Handel's own living room.

These concerts offer interactive and engaging experiences for young children and their families. Throughout the performance, the Portrait Players will present a selection of wonderful pieces, share stories about Handel's life in London, and explore the music he composed there. There will even be an opportunity to learn about the instruments being played.

The London Handel Festival's Family Concerts are recommended for families of all ages.

Recommended for Children 7+ and families

VENUE
HANDEL HENDRIX HOUSE

LENGTH
50 MINS

TICKETS
£15*

*Tickets include admission for one adult and two children for the concert and to the house.

HANDEL BIG SING!



6.30PM | MARCH 18TH

EVENT INFORMATION

**London Handel Orchestra
Ensemble**

**Richard Quesnel
Conductor**

Children from schools around Westminster

Following the success of The City Family of Schools Big Sing in 2025, LHF now welcomes children from schools across Westminster to the historic St George's Church, Hanover Square, Handel's own parish church.

Alongside the London Handel Orchestra, young voices will come together in a vibrant celebration of Handel's music. Through arias, choruses, and their own newly written texts, the students will explore Handel's life as an immigrant, philanthropist, and visionary composer, connecting his story to themes of diversity, inclusion, and community in London today.

VENUE
ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

LENGTH
1 HOUR

TICKETS
FREE (Limited to two per booking)

re:invention

A RELAXED PERFORMANCE



1PM | MARCH 21ST

EVENT INFORMATION

Apollo's Cabinet Ensemble

Lauren Lodge-Campbell Soprano

Repertoire

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, from: *Solomon* - G. F. Handel

Tafelmusik: Concerto in F major -- G. P. Telemann

Affettuoso, from his *Trisonate* in C Dur, QV 2. 3 - J. J. Quantz

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 - J. S. Bach

Ricercar a 4 "Re fa mi don" - Giovanni Gabrieli

Reinhard Keiser Wallet nicht zu laut, from: *Octavia* - Paul Simon

Tafelmusik: I. Overture-Suite in D major 2. Air. Tempo giusto, TWV55

Organ Concerto Op.7 No.4 HWV 309 - G. F. Handel

Water Music Suite No.1 in F Major, Air – Bourrée, HWV 348 - G. F. Handel

Where You Lead I Will Follow - Carole King

Goldberg Variations: Aria, Variation 1, BWV 988 - J. S. Bach

Recent prizewinners at the prestigious York International Young Artists Competition, Apollo's Cabinet returns to the London Handel Festival with a special relaxed performance of their much-loved re:invention programme. re:invention is an exciting and inventive project, showcasing remarkable music from the Baroque era - deconstructing it, reinterpreting it, and reassembling it with other works to create something new.

LHF relaxed performances are intended for anyone who needs a more informal setting to enjoy our events, primarily people with disabilities, health conditions, and other access needs. LHF welcomes audiences to come as they are, encouraging everyone to relax and respond to the performance in their own way, which may include making noise and moving freely.

VENUE
SHOREDITCH TOWN HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBER

LENGTH
1 HOUR

TICKETS
£15

ST JOHN PASSION



4PM | APRIL 3RD

EVENT INFORMATION

Richard Gowers
Conductor

Nardus Williams
Soprano

Jake Ingbar
Countertenor

Nathan Vale
Tenor

To be announced
Bass

London Handel Orchestra

Choir of St George's

Repertoire
St John Passion BWV 245
J. S. Bach

The London Handel Festival's liturgical presentation of Bach's *Passions* is one of the great musical highlights of Easter in London. The London Handel Orchestra, under its Principal Conductor Richard Gowers, together with the Choir of St George's and a line-up of exceptional soloists, offers this unique opportunity to hear this profoundly moving and devotional work on Good Friday.

VENUE
ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

LENGTH
2 HOURS 30 MINS
(INCLUDING ONE INTERVAL)

TICKETS
£65, £55, £45, £35
£25, £15 (RESTRICTED VIEW)

THE 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 *Aci by the River*, a daring new production of *Aci, Galatea e Polifemo*, directed by Jack Furness at Trinity Buoy Wharf; and in 2025 *Tales of Apollo and Hercules*, directed by Thomas Guthrie in collaboration with New English Ballet Theatre at Shoreditch Town Hall. For the 2026 London Handel Festival, the studio will present a staging of *Tamerlano*.

Handel's operas are some of the most widely produced compositions in the UK, and in order to differentiate from other companies and opera houses, HOS will put 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 Handel Opera Studio's ambition is to be the leading light in new interpretations of rarely performed works, focusing on engaging and intimate performances in unique venues.

Image: Claire Booth in *In the Realms of Sorrow* 2023
© Camilla Greenwell



Opportunities to experience the joy of Handel's music at any stage in life

Our Creative Learning Programme aims to increase access to Handel-inspired experiences for all ages. We have introduced Handel to young people through creative workshops and performance opportunities, many of whom would not otherwise have access to the performing arts. The programme also includes special performances for families, choral and instrumental workshops, masterclasses, and talks for students and adults.

Our projects

- Handel Big Sing
- Special performances for families
- Relaxed performances
- Come and Sing!
- Coram Days
- The Handel Songwriter Academy
- LHF Schools Showcase



VENUES



SMITH SQUARE HALL

Smith Square, London
SW1P 3HA

Westminster



ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

St George Street,
London W1S 1FX

Oxford Circus / Bond Street



SHOREDITCH TOWN HALL

380 Old St, London
EC1V 9LT

Shoreditch High Street / Old Street



HANDEL HENDRIX HOUSE

25 Brook St, London
W1K 4HB

Bond Street



THE CHARTERHOUSE

Charterhouse Square, Barbican,
London EC1M 6AN

Farringdon



THE FOUNDLING MUSEUM

40 Brunswick Square, London
WC1N 1AZ

Russell Square

PRIORITY BOOKING DATES

FROM 10AM:

Director's Circle	16 October
Gold Patrons	17 October
Patrons' Circle	20 October
Benefactors	22 October
Associate Benefactors	24 October
Friends	27 October
General Booking	29 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, where your support will truly make a difference.

Be part of something special

- We are the only 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, often 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 have an autumn series of concerts.
- 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, and all our members benefit from 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 TIERS

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 and 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 discounts at Festival bars.

ASSOCIATE BENEFACTOR

£300 PER YEAR (£25 PER MONTH)

Enjoy invitations to all our pre-concert talks, complimentary Festival programmes, discounts on our Festival bars, 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.

AUTUMN SERIES



LONDON HANDEL PLAYER'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The London Handel Players return to LHF's Autumn Series with a special 25th Anniversary Concert. This celebratory programme includes a number of musical gems that this revered ensemble has enjoyed performing over the last quarter of a century.

When: 7pm, Wed 19 November

Where: St George's, Hanover Square

Tickets: Available now from £15



MESSIAH

The London Handel Festival's annual performance of *Messiah* is a truly unique opportunity to hear Handel's timeless masterpiece in the very church where the composer himself worshipped.

When: 7pm, Thurs 4 December

Where: St George's, Hanover Square

Tickets: Available now from £15 (*FINAL TICKETS REMAINING*)

To book: visit www.london-handel-festival.com or email boxoffice@londonhandelfestival.org.uk

HANDEL THE EUROPEAN

A Festival Upbeat with Sinfonia Smith Square

Renowned for its "sensational, spine-tingling" performances (The Telegraph, 2025), Sinfonia Smith Square brings together the brightest new generation musicians from across the world.

Who better than this international orchestra to shine a light on the European outlook of Handel's music? Featuring works by George Frideric himself, alongside his contemporaries from France, Germany and Italy, this concert will bring to life the vibrant cosmopolitan flavours of the Baroque.

When: 7pm, Thurs 5 February

Where: Smith Square Hall

Artists: Bojan Čičić Director / Violin & Sinfonia Smith Square



www.sinfoniasmithsq.org.uk



LONDON HANDEL FESTIVAL 20 26

www.london-handel-festival.com
boxoffice@londonhandelfestival.org.uk
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