



“Handel has never had it so good in his adopted city.” Hugh Canning, Sunday Times, 2018

The London Handel Festival is an annual celebration of the life and work of composer George Frideric Handel, who made his home in London and wrote most of his major works here. The Festival was established in the 1970s, and in the past few years has embarked upon an exciting period of renewal, with a visionary, open minded and contemporary approach which has seen us taking music to new venues and collaborating with new partners. The Festival has a firm place in London’s cultural calendar, with loyal audiences, critical acclaim and international recognition and reach. Our base is St. George’s, Hanover Square in the heart of London’s Mayfair, where Handel was a parishioner, and we also present concerts across the capital at a wide range of venues, from the Wigmore Hall to the Bussey Building in Peckham.

The Festival is emerging from Covid-19 stronger than ever. We have used this period to strengthen our financial position, leadership and staff and to modernise our approach including using digital technology to reach new audiences. We are now poised to enter the most exciting period of our history as we implement our new strategy.

Each year we reach over 5,000 people with our packed calendar of nearly 50 events (<http://www.london-handel-festival.com/>) traditionally held across London in March and April, but increasingly extending into other parts of the year. Our events range from fully-staged operas and oratorios to intimate chamber music recitals. We have pioneered the participation of digital choirs from across the world through hybrid concerts combining live orchestra and soloists with pre-recorded choruses. Our musical events are supplemented by a range of insight talks, guided walks, and participation activities, such as our popular ‘Come and Sing’ event.

Our highlight performances are performed with the London Handel Orchestra directed by our Musical Director, Laurence Cummings and led by Associate Director, Adrian Butterfield. We also work with the finest baroque groups from the UK and internationally, including Early Opera Company, Opera Settecento and La Nuova Musica. Nurturing talent is a key part of our work; our longstanding and well-regarded international Handel Singing Competition and our partnerships with the London conservatoires provide platforms to talented students and young singers.

In 2019 we made our début at the Linbury Theatre at the Royal Opera House, with 8 sold-out performances of *Berenice* - the first performance since Handel conducted it in there in 1737. The production received 4 and 5-star reviews in the national press.

“I challenge anyone to see this show and fail to come out enchanted by the beauty and inventiveness of the score. The London Handel Orchestra under Cummings’ direction plays with quintessential Baroque grace and verve.”

Michael Church, Independent (5-stars), 2019

We have succeeded in maintaining an active presence through the Covid-19 pandemic, by presenting events to an ‘in person’ socially-distanced audience as well as enhancing our online outreach through our innovative and award-winning *Messiah Reimagined* project (available on our YouTube channel [here](#)).

London Handel Society Limited (the “Society”) is the registered charity which promotes the London Handel Festival. Our core artistic and charitable objectives are:

- to provide opportunities for all members of the community to enjoy Handel's music and take part in workshops and education work
- to nurture emerging talent and provide meaningful support for exceptional young musicians, through the Handel Singing Competition and work with conservatoires; and
- to play a major role in the revival of interest in Handel's music, including his rarely-performed operas and oratorios

"one of the special merits of the London Handel Festival... we hear corners of the composer's huge output that 'regular' promoters are reluctant to explore."

Andrew Clark, Financial Times, 2014

Around 40% of our income comes from ticket sales, with the remainder from donations, membership, grants and sponsorship. The Festival is supported by a team of over 50 volunteers, including students on arts management courses, mainly to provide front of house support for events but also general administration and social media outreach.

The annual Handel Singing Competition was founded in 2002 to support outstanding young singers (aged 23 – 34) with a focus on Handelian repertoire. In 2020 we had a record number of 187 applications from 32 countries worldwide. It is an integral and popular annual event within the Festival and has become one of the world's leading singing competitions. The calibre of applicant is demonstrated by past winners and finalists who have gone on to become leading soloists at the world's major opera houses, including Iestyn Davies, Lucy Crowe, Tim Mead, Sophie Junker and Christopher Ainslie.

As well as cash prizes and the chance to work Laurence Cummings, one of the key benefits of reaching the semi-finals and finals is the increased profile, through significant press and promoter interest, which leads to further engagements. Finalists are also invited back to participate as soloists in subsequent Festival performances. The 2019 Festival featured no fewer than 20 Competition alumni.

"Competitions are a real asset to young singers, and act as a wonderful seal of approval as we continue to apply for the next project, course or audition. It is wonderful to be able to have the recognition of such a well-known festival and competition, to recommend me further in the competitive world of singing."

Helen Charlston, Winner 2018

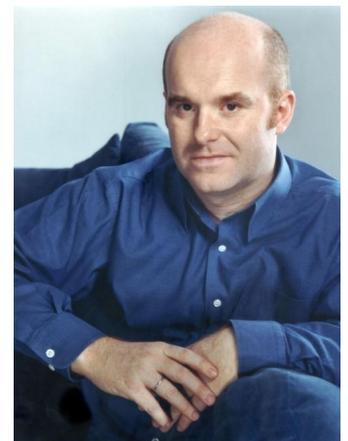
"The Competition was the perfect platform from which I was able to demonstrate what I thought I could do. For me it was absolutely the turning point. I secured an agent from my performance which opened a new chapter in my career at the time."

Iestyn Davies, Finalist 2004

Our Musical Director is Laurence Cummings, who is one of the world's most exciting exponents of historical performance, as both conductor and harpsichordist.

He has conducted for English National Opera, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Opera de Lyon, Opernhaus Zurich, English Touring Opera and the Linbury Theatre, Covent Garden. He is Artistic Director of the Internationale Händel-Festspiele Göttingen and has recently taken up the role of Music Director of the Academy of Ancient Music. He is Professor of Historical Performance and the Royal Academy of Music.

"Cummings's pacing of Handel's ear-tickling tunes is impeccable."



Richard Morrison, The Times, 2019

Key terms of employment

Job title:	Festival Director
Employer:	London Handel Society Limited
Salary:	£45,000 per annum for 5 days a week; the role is eligible for a pension contribution from the employer
Reporting to:	Chairman and other trustees
Standard Hours:	35 hours per week on average, although hours required to be worked will vary considerably during the year. Please note that the position entails weekend and evening work, for which time off in lieu is provided
Annual Leave:	20 days (plus allowance for normal public holidays)

This role is home-based, and we can accommodate flexible working hours. The successful candidate does not need to be based in London, but would be required to attend London Handel Festival events which are held in venues across the capital.

Primary duties and responsibilities

Strategy, Leadership & Governance

- Plan, programme and deliver the annual Festival, out-of-season events and all other related activity in collaboration with the Musical Director, within the Society's overall strategy, to an agreed timescale and budget
- Work with the Society's board of trustees (the "Board") to deliver its objects and mission
- Participate in strategic reviews and risk analysis in partnership with the Board; maintain ongoing dialogue with Board regarding key strategic and operational issues; support the Board and its sub-committees effectively and efficiently
- Support the Chair in the recruitment and induction of new trustees
- Manage, develop and mentor Festival Assistant and other staff, interns and volunteers
- Act as an ambassador and public face for the London Handel Festival

Festival Management

- Consult with Musical Director and Associate Director on all musical decisions
- Liaise with existing/new artistic partners to develop events and projects
- Liaise with all artists and partners performing in the Festival, issuing contracts, collating information for biographies, and confirming logistics
- Liaise with all existing venue partners, and develop links to new venues
- Work with Treasurer to compile and agree detailed budgets for each event
- Manage budget and costs in an optimal way under supervision of the Treasurer

Fundraising & Marketing

- Manage all fundraising, including bid-writing to grant-making bodies and major donor cultivation and stewardship, working with relevant trustees and Chair
- Oversee smooth delivery of acknowledgement and stewardship of all donations, and ensure effective running of individual membership programmes
- Develop and implement an effective marketing strategy, with particular focus on digital media and distribution

- Oversee and manage all key marketing activities, including, website, social media and e-newsletters to promote all Festival activity and develop ongoing engagement
- Liaise with relevant suppliers as required, including the Festival's press agency; write self-authored press articles as required
- Oversee use of Spektrix, our Box Office system, including selling tickets, running regular sales reports, and setting up events for sale

Handel Singing Competition

- Manage, promote and develop the international Handel Singing Competition
- Oversee smooth delivery of all aspects, including application process and planning of different rounds, booking judges and competitor feedback
- Create opportunities for alumni to perform in the Festival and elsewhere

Education

- Liaise with educational partners to deliver learning activities
- Develop partnerships and initiatives with new organisations as required

Other

- Oversee management of all volunteers and interns; recruit new volunteers and interns as required
- Undertake special projects as necessary and other tasks which may from time to time reasonably be required

Person Specification

The ideal candidate will have a lively interest in the arts with a passion and talent for reaching younger and more diverse audiences. We are looking for someone who not only has a track record of delivery of complex creative projects but who also has an open minded and contemporary outlook, with an enthusiasm for collaboration with other art forms and venues. The successful candidate will be able to connect with and relate to people from all walks of life. A confident ambassador with flair and conviction, with demonstrable management experience, the Festival Director will be an inspirational leader able to motivate staff, performers, volunteers and trustees.

Essential Qualities

- A clear strategic thinker with sound judgement and the ability to take decisions
- Demonstrable leadership experience, preferably in a creative context
- Self-starter with positive, flexible and resourceful attitude; ability to work under own initiative and under pressure; accurate and efficient
- Demonstrable ability to manage multiple tasks, deliver complex projects, and to solve problems creatively; well-developed event management skills
- Experience of fundraising and membership programmes
- Excellent written and oral communication, and good networking skills
- A strong people manager, able to lead staff and volunteers effectively
- A knowledge and understanding of classical music and, more broadly, the arts
- Willingness to tackle 'hands on' administrative and operational tasks as part of a small team
- Collaborative style; able to work productively through creative partnerships
- Proven ability to plan and keep to detailed budgets

Desirable Qualities

- Experience of working in a festival or a strong understanding of how a festival is run, including varying needs of performers, staff, venues and audiences
- Experience of working with trustees and other senior volunteers
- An appreciation of digital media, both in marketing and performance

- Experience of working with a box office database
- Ability to demonstrate knowledge and experience of bringing the arts to wider audiences

How to apply

To apply or find out more, please send your CV with a succinct covering statement of no more than two pages, outlining your suitability for the role, by email to recruitment@londonhandelfestival.org.uk.

A short list of candidates will be selected for first interview. The closing date for applications is 5pm, Monday 19 July 2021, and interviews will take place in August.

We are committed to increasing diversity among our staff, volunteers and all our stakeholders to reflect our society and the communities we both currently serve and wish to reach.