

LHF 2025

Tales of Apollo & Hercules

March 27th-29th

Shoreditch Town Hall

**LHF** London  
Handel  
Festival

2hrs 15mins (including one interval)

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**A double bill of Apollo e Dafne (HWV122) & The Choice of Hercules (HWV69)**

*“The lover of myth is in a sense a philosopher; for myth is composed of wonders” Aristotle*

*“Myth is much more than a story. It is a way of understanding the universe” Joseph Cambell*

I'm on my way to a site visit at Shoreditch Town Hall. I take a train and on the opposite platform is a dancer. She's not dancing. She's pushing a buggy. I can tell she's a dancer because of the way she moves, the way she holds herself, her feet. *Apollo e Dafne*, Handel's early Italian cantata explores the wonderful transformation myth in which Daphne is pursued and rescued from capture by being turned into a tree. As I stand on the platform, I realise I'm looking at a modern day Daphne. A mover, turned static. A body and life transformed, if only temporarily. I'm a self-confessed lover of myth. I love how they aren't instructional; rather, they're complex, shape-shifting stories that invite personal interpretation, ideas that can change over time. As we watch Daphne's transformation, themes of flight and attachment, movement and stasis, fear and growth resonate in a different way to each of us.

*The Choice of Hercules* meanwhile, is about a boy. A special boy, certainly – but then every child is special, and every child has the potential to affect the world. How do we bring up our children to make the best choices to face the challenges and the tasks that life throws at them? How do we help them become good people, as we so desperately hope, for themselves and those around them? The ideas of virtue and pleasure are, on the face of it, simple. Should you live for your own pleasure or do you live for the good of the world? In ancient Greek times, as now, there are nuances and subtleties, as there were clearly for Handel too.

With both myths, Handel embodies and personifies a mystery in a way that allows us to see ourselves, to project, to think, to imagine, perhaps to celebrate. What does it mean to you?

**Thomas Guthrie**, director

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**CAST**

***Apollo e Dafne***

Apollo - Dan D'Souza  
Dafne - Lauren Lodge-Campbell

***The Choice of Hercules***

Hercules - James Hall  
Pleasure - Madison Nonoa  
Virtue - Bethany Horak Hallet  
Tabitha Bingham - Puppeteer  
Ellie Peacock - Puppeteer

**New English Ballet Theatre**

Jose Alves  
Louis De Felice  
Paul Meneu  
Jessica Templeton  
Maidie Widmer  
Leila Wright

## **LA NUOVA MUSICA**

### **Violin 1**

Jane Gordon (leader)  
Kirra Thomas  
Jorge Jimenez

### **Violin II**

Davina Clarke  
Chloe Prendergast  
Andrej Kapor

### **Viola**

Elista Bogdanova (27-28th)  
Tom Kettle  
Heather Birt (29th)

### **Cello**

Alex Rolton  
Kinga Gáborjáni

### **Double Bass**

Judith Evans

### **Flute**

Eva Caballero  
Rachel Helliwell

### **Oboe**

Leo Duarte  
Sarah Humphrys

### **Bassoon**

Chris Rawley  
Zoe Shevlin  
Sally Jackson

### **Horn**

Anneke Scott  
Joe Walters

### **Trumpet**

Paul Sharp  
Matthew Wells

### **Theorbo**

Jonatan Bougt

### **Organ/Harpsichord**

David Gerrard

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## **CHORUS**

### **Soprano**

Sofia Kirwan-Baez  
Daisy Livesey  
Kirsty O'Neill  
Amy Wood

### **Mezzo-soprano**

Jennifer Statham  
Sophie Timms

### **Counter Tenor**

Hamish McLaren

### **Tenor**

William Anderson  
Monty Charles  
Sebastian Maclaine

### **Bass**

Peter Edge  
Philip Tebb  
William Townend

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## **CREATIVES**

Music Director - David Bates  
Director and puppetry direction - Thomas Guthrie  
Choreographer - Valentino Zucchetti  
Designer - Francisco Rodriguez-Weil  
Lighting Director - Emma Chapman  
Hair and Make-up - Tess Bevan  
Assistant Director – Oscar Simms  
Hercules puppet designed and made by Mandarave  
Masks designed and made by Ruth Paton

## **COMPANY**

Stage Manager - Adam Tripp  
Deputy Stage Manager - Emily Danby  
Repetiteurs - Bensen Lau and Oliver John Ruthven

## **TECHNICAL/PRODUCTION**

Production Manager for LHF - Davin Patrick (The Production Family)  
Lighting Programmer - Stuart Glover  
Costume Supervisor - Lisa James  
Costume Assistant - Yuet Sze Jasmin Lai  
Wardrobe Mistress – Alexia Tonkin

### **For New English Ballet Theatre**

Artistic & Executive Director - Karen Pilkington-Miksa  
Company & General Manager - Emily Bridge  
Arts Administrator - Katie Tucker  
NEBT Rehearsal Directors - Jordan James Bridge and  
Christopher Wright

### **For La Nuova Musica**

Producer - Megan Russell  
Orchestra Manager - Deborah Cohen

### **For London Handel Festival**

Festival Director - Gregory Batsleer  
Finance Director - Val Hawkin  
Head of Development - Andrea Lee  
Marketing & Box Office Manager - Harry Palmer  
Festival Producer - Oskar McCarthy  
Creative Learning & Participation Producer - Anita Datta  
Front of House Manager - Loraine Smythers  
Music preparation and libretto translations - Peter Jones  
Keyboard provision - Andrew Wooderson

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

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[membership@londonhandelfestival.org.uk](mailto:membership@londonhandelfestival.org.uk).

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