

LONDON HANDEL PLAYERS



BIOGRAPHY

For twenty-five years, since making their debut at Handel's parish church, St. George's Hanover Square, as part of the London Handel Festival in 2000, the London Handel Players have thrilled audiences across the world with their performances and recordings. Praised by the New York Times for their "soulful depth" and their "consummate skill and musicianship", the ensemble appears regularly at major venues and festivals both around the UK and internationally, specialising in baroque chamber music and concertos and collaborating with some of the world's leading singers.

The ensemble has performed across North America, making their New York debut at the Frick Museum in 2012 and returning to perform at Carnegie Hall in 2014. Concerts have also included performances at Wigmore Hall, Internationale Händel-Festspiele Göttingen, Halle International Handel Festival and in France, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Serbia and Croatia. Committed educators at every level and holding professorships in Historical Performance at London's Conservatoires, The London Handel Players give numerous masterclasses and workshops.

Recent tours have taken them to Portugal, Germany and Turkey. In the 26-27 season they will return to Wigmore Hall to perform Locke and Purcell and to take part in the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Handel House Museum at St. George's Church, Hanover Square. Their two most recent recordings are of Telemann's Quadri and the first volume of Leclair Violin Concertos, both on the Somm label.

Their highly acclaimed discography also includes four discs of Handel chamber music; his two sets of trio sonatas Op.2 and Op.5, his complete works for solo violin and a disc entitled 'Handel at Home', which comprise chamber arrangements of arias. Other recent releases include Bach Sonatas for keyboard and violin and a second disc of Handel aria arrangements, 'Total Eclipse', also on the Somm label. Telemann's Nouveaux Quatuors are due for release in October 2026.

The Artistic Director is violinist Adrian Butterfield.

SAMPLE PROGRAMMES

TO PLAY BEFORE THE KING 4 PERFORMERS

Experience a regal musical journey across 18th-century Europe, with exquisite baroque chamber works inspired by, or performed in the presence of Europe's most famous monarchs and royal courts — from Louis XIV and George I to Frederick the Great and the King of Spain.

Couperin Concerts Royaux, Deuxième Concert in D major for flute, violin and continuo (Louis XIV)

Hellendaal Cello Sonata in G major (Dutch King)

Geminiani Violin Sonata Op.1 No.4 in D major (George I)

Handel arias from Giulio Cesare (Emperor)

CPE Bach Flute Sonata in E minor (Frederick the Great)

Scarlatti harpsichord sonatas (King of Spain)

Quantz Trio Sonata in G minor (Elector of Dresden/King of Poland)

TO PLAY BEFORE THE KING 5 PERFORMERS

A 5 player-variation, presenting a glittering selection of chamber music crafted for European courts and nobility. The London Handel Players bring to life the lush, expressive music that entertained 18th-century royalty.

Telemann G major quartet for flute, 2 vlns and continuo TWV 43:G12

Quantz Flute Concerto in A major No.14

Handel Trio Sonata Op.5 No.2 in D major HWV 397 for 2 violins and continuo

Couperin Concerts Royaux, Premier Concert in G major for flute and continuo

Handel arias (arr. Brown): "What tho' I trace", "Beneath the Vine", "Will the sun forget to streak" from Solomon



HANDEL'S GERMAN ARIAS

with Julia Doyle, soprano

5 PERFORMERS

Blending sacred contemplation with joyful lyricism, these exquisite songs showcase the soprano voice in delicate dialogue with solo instruments and continuo.

Handel German arias HWV 202-210

with solo and trio sonatas

FOUNDLING FATHERS

6 PERFORMERS

Both Handel and Vivaldi were closely associated with foundlings, very young children who had been abandoned by their parents and who were looked after by special charitable institutions. Handel was an important patron of the Foundling Hospital in London which was founded by Sir Thomas Coram in 1739 and Vivaldi was Musical Director at the Ospedale della Pietà in Venice an institution which dates back as far as the 14th century.

This programme features music by these two 18th-century musical giants and it also celebrates the 350th anniversary of Vivaldi's birth in 2028.

HANDEL AT HOME

6 PERFORMERS

A selection of some of Handel's most beautiful arias, including Cara sposa and Lascia ch'io pianga from Rinaldo, "Total Eclipse" and "Thus when the sun" from Samson and the absolutely heartrending Se pietà from Giulio Cesare, arranged for flute and strings.

BARBARIC BEAUTY

6 PERFORMERS

From the exotic allure of the orient, the wild rituals of the Moors and Native Americans to the rugged hornpipes of the English and the captivating melancholy of Scottish ballads, folk songs and dances have long held a fascination to the ears of the European musicians. The London Handel Players bring together a wide selection of this rarely-heard music by composers such as Telemann, Vivaldi, Schmelzer, Purcell, Matteis and Rameau.

France and the fascination for lands afar

Lully Marche pour la Cérémonie des Turcs from Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme

Rameau Contredanse en Rondeau from Les Boréades

Corrette Les Sauvages from Concerto Comique No.25 in G minor

Rameau Entrée de Polymnie from Les Boréades

Polish bagpipes and Barbaric Beauty

Telemann Concerto for Flute and strings in D major TWV 51:D2

Moderato; Allegro vivace; Largo; Vivace

Schmelzer Trio Sonata Der Polnische Sackpfeifer

Telemann Hanasky

Interval

Spices of the Orient, Spanish folly and curiosities from the Canaries

Vivaldi Flute Concerto in D minor Il Gran Mogol RV 431a

Corelli Violin Sonata Op.5 No.12 in D minor La Follia

Scarlatti Keyboard Sonata in A major K.24, *Presto, Murcia and Sanz Canarios*

From the far-flung corners of the Earth - the British Isles

Matteis Ground after the Scotch Humour

Purcell Hornpipes from Ayres for the Theatre, 'The Married Beau'

Scottish tunes medley in A minor/major

My Time! O ye muses

Miss Mary Gordon of Braid

Lochail's away to France

Hon'ble Mrs Maules Reel

A FEAST OF BAROQUE CONCERTOS

8 PERFORMERS

Adrian Butterfield directs the London Handel Players in a rarely heard baroque feast which features virtuoso masterpieces for violin and flute by Leclair and CPE Bach, and concludes with the work that first gave the harpsichord the limelight in a concerto, JS Bach's deservedly popular Brandenburg Concerto No.5.

Telemann Concerto for Flute and Violin in E minor

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

CPE Bach Flute Concerto in D minor

Interval

Leclair Violin Concerto Op.7 No.4 in F major

JS Bach Brandenburg Concerto No.5 in D major BWV 1050

VIRTUOSO BAROQUE

9 PERFORMERS

A thrilling celebration of 18th-century instrumental mastery.

J.S. Bach Brandenburg Concerto No.5 in D major BWV 1050

Telemann Concerto for Flute and Recorder in E minor TWV 52:e1

J.S. Bach Concerto for Two Violins in D minor BWV 1043

Interval

Handel Trio Sonata Op.5 No.4 in G major HWV 399

Vivaldi Sopranino Recorder Concerto in C major RV 443

J.S. Bach Brandenburg Concerto No.4 in G major BWV 1049

BACH MASS IN B MINOR BWV 232

8 SINGERS AND 18 PLAYERS

The London Handel Players deliver a magnificent, intimate rendering of this timeless masterpiece.



VIVALDI IN GOOD COMPANY

with Alon Sariel, mandolin

9 PERFORMERS

On the occasion of Antonio Vivaldi's 350th anniversary, Alon Sariel and the London Handel Players celebrate the Venetian master in the company of some of his greatest contemporaries. Vivaldi's dazzling concertos and irresistible rhythmic energy meet the music of Telemann, Hasse and Handel, bringing together the rich and diverse musical world of the early 18th century. At the centre of the programme is the mandolin, heard in both Vivaldi's own concertos and works by Hasse and Handel.

Vivaldi Concerto per archi

Telemann Double Concerto for Violin & Flute, TWV 52:e3

Vivaldi Chamber Concerto in D Major, RV 93

Hasse Mandolin Concerto Op. 3 No. 11

Vivaldi Flute Concerto "Il Gardellino"

Handel Mandolin Concerto (after harp concerto) Op, 4, No. 6

Vivaldi Mandolin Concerto in C Major, RV 425

Vivaldi Double Concerto for Violin & Mandolin, RV 548



THE FAIRY QUEEN choreographed by Mary Collins

16 INSTRUMENTALISTS, 8 SINGERS, 4 DANCERS

With love, enchantment, a drunken poet, fairies, night, mystery, and the seasons, Purcell's delightful scenes inspired by Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream have some of his finest and most tuneful music. This unique new production features a cast of outstanding singers with baroque dancers, and a full period orchestra.

Dance workshops are also available.

A CELEBRATION OF FRENCH BAROQUE DANCE

4 INSTRUMENTALISTS AND 2 DANCERS

Louis XIV of France had a passion for dance which inspired many of Europe's baroque composers to write exquisite dance music. Having spent much of his reign at war with the rest of Europe perhaps Louis' real victory lay in the gradual spread of the French style of 'La Belle Danse', which he had espoused, both through his own dancing and through the foundation of the Academie Royale de Musique et de Danse. He reigned for so long and became so powerful across the Continent that by the end of his life the royal maître à danseur, Pierre Rameau, could boast that 'there is not a single court in Europe where the dancing-master is not French.' Re-discovering the dances has led to a renewed understanding of its music and, in turn, a fresh perspective on the great composers of this period.

Programme to include:

Anon La Bourgogne (choreography by Pécour)

Lully Atys LWV 53

Overture

Sarabande (Air pour les nymphes de Flore); Gavotte (Air pour les memes)

Lully Les jeux pythiens LWV 42

Entrée pour un homme (Sarabande)

Lully Persée LWV 60

Passacaille

François Couperin La Piémontoise

Gravement-Vivement-Gravement-Vivement et marqué

Campra L'Europe Galante

Prologue: Overture

Seconde Entrée, L'Espagne: Premier Air pour les Espagnols (Loure)

Troisième Entrée, L'Italie: Prelude; La Forlana

Marais Suite in D major from Pièces en Trio pour les flutes, violon et dessus de viole

Prelude; Sarabande Grave; Bransle de village; Symphonie

Rebel Les Caractères de La Dance

Prélude; Courante; Menuet; Bourée; Chaconne; Sarabande; Gigue; Rigaudon; Passepied; Gavotte;

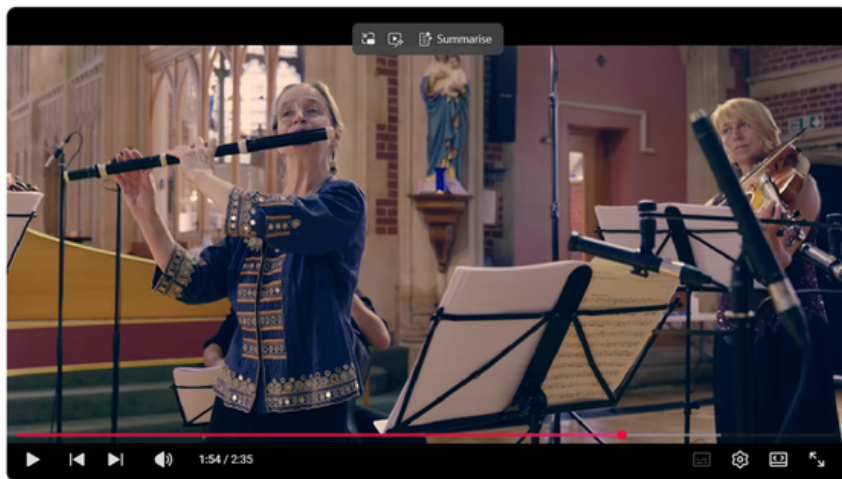
Sonate; Loure; Musette; Sonate



VIDEOS



Telemann: "Paris Quartet No. 6": I. Prélude. Gaiement | The London Handel Players



The London Handel Players perform Vivaldi



London Handel Players / Purcell's The Fairy Queen

"All in all, an end-to-end pleasure."

Gramophone



ARTIST MANAGER

Ellie Lister +44(0)20 7354 9199 eloise@ikonarts.com

Ikon Arts Management Limited
2-6 Baches Street
London
N1 6DN
www.ikonarts.com

ikon|arts
management