Handel Society Choir

Soprano

Szu-Wen Wang (Lead), June Ainsworth, Kristi Gerevas,
Kim Hye-Seonn, Margaret Martin, Jennifer Uwland

Alto

Martina Govednik (Lead) Carolyn Labun, Evelyn McKelvie, Patricia Mathieson,
Janet McIntosh, Helen Premia, Marilyn Griffin, Maryse Ridley

Tenor

Brent MacKenzie (Lead) Jacq Ainsworth, Henry Jansen,
Rick Ruta, Kevin Harnkowski

Bass

Charles Labun, Jonathan Leung, Paul Griffin, Phil Struik, Ross Rowledge

Handel Society Baroque Orchestra

Violin I: Monica Niedzielko (Concert Master)
Donald Kelly

Violin II: Elena Percival
Ouwen Huang

Viola: Haley Leach,

Cello: Shin-Jung Nam
Martin Brosnan

Bass: Peter Koyander

Oboe: Zofia Stefanicki

Clarinet: Gene Ramsbottom

Trumpet: Kikolaj Hansen **Bassoon:** Rebecca Norman

Harpsichord, Organ and Piano Accompanist: Connor Page

Handel Society of Music

Society Board of Directors: Paul Griffin, Phil Struik, Margaret Martin, Marilyn Griffin,
Carolyn Labun, Charles Labun

Please: all electronic devices "off" or on "silent"

REMEMBRANCE DAY



LEST
WE
FORGET

November 7th, 2026 - Peninsula United Church



The Handel Society Chorus and Orchestra

Conductor

Ethan Liang, M.Mus, B.Mus, B.Ed

We sincerely thank our generous sponsors







Werner and Helga Hoing

Vantil & Vantil
Chartered Professional Accountants



Thoughts and Prayers

Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go to the family and friends of those soldiers involved in the CFB Wainwright fire. 4 soldiers were killed and 39 injured. 13 remain in critical condition in hospital, many with life-altering injuries. We open our program with "The Last Post" in memory of all those who have sacrificed.

Program

The Last Post – Trumpet: Nikolaj Hansen

A solemn bugle call, long used at military funerals. A quiet tribute to those who served and those who did not return.

In Flanders Fields – Arranged by Stephen Rew

Soloist Brent MacKenzie performs this musical setting of a poem by Canadian medical officer, John McCrae, at Ypres (1915) which gave us the poppy as the symbol of Remembrance. Its call to "keep faith" with the fallen remains central.

J.S. Bach – Selections from the St. Matthew Passion

Four chorales (Herzliebster Jesu, Ich bin's, Erkenne mich, Bin ich gleich) and the final chorus (Wir setzen uns mit Tränen nieder). Bach's great Passion offers moments of personal reflection on suffering, devotion, and shared grief. The closing chorus is a quiet, profound lament.

W.A. Mozart – From the Requiem (Introitus/Kyrie and Lacrymosa)

Left unfinished at Mozart's death, these movements plead for eternal rest and express universal sorrow. The Lacrymosa is among the most moving pages in all sacred music.

Intermission

G.F. Handel – Concerto Grosso in B-flat, Op. 3 No. 2

This concerto, filled with virtuoso solo passages by wind instruments and strings, serves as a metaphor for the journey of remembrance. The heart of the piece—the tragic G-minor Largo, based on an earlier passion written by Handel—provides a somber space for us to mourn and remember the fallen. Yet, it is framed by movements of vibrant dance and community, reminding us that the ultimate goal of sacrifice is the preservation of life, light, and the enduring peace we enjoy today.

Gustav Holst – I Vow to Thee, My Country

Holst's adaptation of the great melody from Jupiter (The Planets) sets Cecil Spring Rice's text of costly love and dual loyalty—to country and to a higher calling. A staple of Remembrance services.

Charles Gounod – St. Cecilia Mass (Kyrie, Sanctus, Benedictus)

Radiant and lyrical, these movements frame the whole in litergical language: a cry for mercy, the holiness of God, and the blessing that follows sacrifice. The music affirms the enduring human spirit even amid loss.

Closing – O Canada The audience is invited to stand and join the Choir

Artistic Director - Conductor



Ethan Liang

A conductor, pianist, fortepianist, and harpsichordist, Ethan's musical journey began in his pre-teens in Taiwan focusing on violin and piano. Upon moving to Canada, he studied with the renowned pianist Jane Hays, while attending Kwantlen University. There, he experimented with jazz, music improvisation, harmony, and counterpoint. With a Masters degree in Early Music from McGill, he has a wide range of experience with chamber ensembles and baroque orchestras. Ethan enters his third season with the Society.

Soloists



Brent MacKenzie

Tenor: This is Brent's first appearnce with the Handel Society. Described by ReviewVancouver as a "mellifluous tenor", Brent is a graduate of the UBC, holding a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music. Brent has sung with City Opera Vancouver, Opera Pro Cantanti, Nebula Performances, and City Opera Toronto. Since 2023, Brent has sung in the Vancouver Opera chorus, first appearing in The Flying Dutchman, and has enjoyed chorus parts such as The Dragon in The Magic Flute and the plum seller in La Boheme.



Szu-Wen Wang

Soprano: Praised for her "incandescent intonation and carefully crafted phrasing" by Opera Canada magazine, Szu-Wen has performed with Vancouver Opera, Vancouver City OperaVancouver Island Opera, North Shore Light Opera, DragonDiva Operatic Theatre, Opera Appassionata, Vancouver Pro Musica, PCMA, and Postmodern Camerata. A versatile musician, Szu-Wen has appeared in many oratorio performances, chamber music concerts, and song recitals. Szu-Wen holds a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Taipei National University of the Arts, a Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Vocal Performance from the University of Texas.



Martina Govednik

Mezzo Soprano: Praised as 'the asset of the show both vocally and histrionically' and 'surely, Ms Govednik dominated the stage' (The Gazette of Montreal, Le Devoir), Serbian-born Martina obtained a Master's degree in Solo Voice from the McGill Schulich School of Music and has since been a dynamic presence on stages in Canada and Europe. Her European debut was as Carmen in a Franco-German production touring France, Germany and Poland. Other operatic highlights include Zita (Gianni Schicchi) and Old Lady (Candide) with opera McGill, Métella (La vie Parisienne) with Opera du Royaume, Mercédès (Carmen) with Opera Kelowna to name a few. She also enjoys singing jazz and traditional Serbian music. She is a dedicated music teacher and coach. **www.martinagovednik.com**