

Our History

The Handel Society of Music was founded in 1966 by Karel ten Hoope, in preparation for Canada's Centennial year, and was directed by Maestro ten Hoope for 29 years until his retirement in 1995. He was succeeded by Maestro Johan Louwersheimer who continued to serve as our Artistic Director until, due to illness in his family, he stepped aside. Ms. Paula DeWitt stepped in to conduct for the 2019/20 season. Our choir, along with most others, struggled during the covid pandemic. In 2021 Maestro Louwersheimer returned, eventually retiring in 2023. Our new Artistic Director for the 2024/25 season is the highly accomplished musician and choir director, Ethan Liang.

The Handel Society takes great pride in its long history of nurturing the musical arts in the Fraser Valley. Local high school and college students are encouraged to sing with the choir, and performances often have included student orchestras and young musicians. Other performances have been joint productions with the Abbotsford Symphony Orchestra, many members of which also are involved with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the CBC Symphony Orchestra, or the Vancouver Opera Orchestra.

The choir supports local musicians, both professional and amateur, to perform in their home community. Many very talented musicians have sung with the Handel Society Choir and continued on with successful professional careers. Some perform with the Vancouver Opera, the Pacific Opera, or other opera companies in Canada and the U.S. Others have performed in popular musicals. Some have gone abroad to continue their studies and sing. Still others are respected music educators.

A Friendly Reminder:

**Please ensure all electronic devices
are set on "Silence" mode
before the performance begins.**

No Flash Photographs permitted

George F. Handel's
Messiah




*Handel Society
of Music*
Ethan Liang
Artistic Director

With Soloists:

Szu-Wen Wang	Soprano
Lauren Soloman	Mezzo Soprano
Adam Schmidt	Tenor
Willy Miles-Grenzberg	Baritone

and
The Handel Society Choir

*, Saturday, November 30th, 2024, 7:30 PM
Peninsula United Church
2756-127 Street, Surrey, BC*

Artistic Director



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

Ethan is an accomplished conductor, pianist, fortepianist and harpsichordist. He is beginning his inaugural season as the Handel Society's Music Director.

His musical journey began in his pre-teens in his native Taiwan focusing primarily on violin and piano. In high school his interest switched almost exclusively to piano. The range of the instrument, with its inherent ability to express orchestral pieces greatly appealed to him. He began playing everything from Bach to Chinese Pop.

Ethan's Canadian studies began with the renowned pianist Jane Hays while also attending Kwantlen University in Langley, BC. He also began playing jazz on weekends with a local group and became particularly fascinated with musical counterpoint. He pursued his undergraduate and graduate degrees in music at McGill University in Montreal. During this time he began studying the fortepiano with Tom Begin and Harpsichord with Hank Knox. Ethan has a wide range of experience with chamber ensembles and choral groups as well as baroque orchestras on both piano and harpsichord.

His conducting experience includes choirs in Montreal and he has taught music and directed bands at several private schools including Bodewell High School and Cascade Christian School. In addition to his new role of Music Director with the Handel Society he is a music and classroom teacher in the Langley School District.

Soloists



Szu-Wen Wang
Soprano

Praised for her "incandescent intonation and carefully crafted phrasing" by Opera Canada magazine, soprano Szu-Wen Wang has performed with Vancouver Opera, Vancouver City Opera, Vancouver 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 at Austin. She has been both an apprentice artist and Artist in Residence with Amarillo Opera in Texas. Currently a member of The Postmodern Camerata Society and the Canadian Actors' Equity Association, Szu-Wen is also a passionate educator as she enjoys helping students achieve their goals.

Join Us

We extend a warm invitation to those who would consider joining the choir. A knowledge of music and good singing voice is important. But a love of singing is essential. If you would like more information about becoming a member, please contact our Artistic Director, Ethan Liang through our website.

www.handelsociety.ca

Thank You

We thank the following donors for their generous assistance and support:

Joanna Vanderpol

Vern and Helga Hoing



Vantil & Vantil

Chartered Professional Accountants

*Special Thanks to
City of Surrey Cultural Grants Program*



Handel Society Choir

Soprano:

Anna Meyer, Belinda Dykstra, Cory VanDop
Julia Xiang, June Ainsworth, Kristi Gerevas
Margaret Martin, Mary Kostashuk, Nadina Vanderleest
Patricia Mathieson, Yanyan Ge

Alto:

Bernice Wubs, Carol Vandeburgt, Carolyn Labun
Cherry Dumlalan, Evelyn McKelvie, Helen Premia
Janet McIntosh, Joanna Vanderpol, Julia Hoogstra
Liz Vandergriendt, Marilyn Griffin, Maryse Ridley, Sui Ryu

Tenor:

Craig Johnson, Henry Jansen, Leslie Koole
Paul Koole, Rick Ruta

Bass:

Bill Meyer, Bruno Collischonn, Charles Labun
Geoff Ainsworth, Paul Griffin, Phil Struik
Richard Hobson, Ross Rowledge

Rehearsal Pianist:

Len VandeBurgt

Handel Society Orchestra

Violin I:	Erin Dorfer, concertmaster Angela Luchkow Ji In Kim Julia Lim
Violin II:	Rick Dorfer, principal Evelyn Creaser Julia Lattimer
Viola:	Marie-Claude Brunet, principal Joshua Gomberoff
Cello:	Jake Klinkenborg, principal Shin Jung Nam
Bass:	Leanna Wong, principal
Oboe:	Teresa Lin, principal Peter Gal
Trumpet:	Paul Dubnik, principal
Harpsichord:	Stephen van de Burgt, principal

Society Board of Directors

Joanna Vanderpol, Phil Struik, Paul Griffin,
Margaret Martin, Marilyn Griffin



Lauren Soloman

Mezzo-Soprano

Character Mezzo-soprano, Lauren Solomon, is a graduate of the UBC Opera Program where she performed roles such as: 'Mme. De la Haltière' in Cendrillon and 'Mrs. Herring' in Albert Herring. Lauren has gone on to perform the roles of 'Sister Mathilde' in Dialogue of the Carmilites (Opera

Nuova). In 2017, Lauren made her debut with Vancouver Opera in Turandot (chorus) and sang the role of 'Berta' in Burnaby Lyric Opera's Il Barbiere di Siviglia. In 2019 she sang the role of Zita in Gianni Schicci with Opera Mariposa. Most recently Lauren performed with Gallery 7 in the Sound of Music as 'Sister Berthe' (March 2019). When not performing, Lauren is an elementary music and voice teacher and is passionate about spreading the joy of music to children. Lauren is thrilled to be singing the role of Alto soloist in the Messiah this winter with the Handel Society

Adam Schmidt

Tenor

Adam Schmidt is a tenor based in Surrey, BC. His repertoire spans from the early renaissance to modern music still in development, and he is particularly known for his English and German Oratorio. Recent notable performances include St. John Passions with Victoria Baroque, and the Aura Chamber Choir and Messiahs



with Rosa Barocca and the Malaspina Choir. He began his academic career as a software engineer, but after performing in his first opera with Pacific Opera Victoria (Otello, 2015) he realized that if he was going to be paid to sing, the least he could do was get some professional training! He began studying at the Victoria Conservatory of Music and has been working in the arts ever since. Adam holds a BMus in Voice Performance from McGill, where he studied with John Mac Master and twin diplomas in Voice Performance and in Vocal Pedagogy from the Victoria Conservatory, where he studied with Nancy Argenta and Ingrid Attrot. Adam maintains a small studio of students and has given masterclasses in both the United States and Canada.

Willy Miles-Grenzberg

Baritone

Willy Miles-Grenzberg has performed with the top opera companies, orchestras and choirs across Canada, as well as in churches, cafes, etc. as singer/song-writer/guitarist. He appears regularly with Vancouver Opera in both chorus and solo roles. He has performed as soloist in many of the great oratorios



with Vancouver Bach Choir, The Handel Society, The Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra and The New Westminster Symphony. He has also performed with the Canadian Opera Co., Tapestry New Opera Works, The Elmer Iseler Singers, The Hamilton Bach-Elgar Choir, The Scarborough Symphony and the Amadeus Choir, among others.

In 1741, Georg Frideric Handel's career had hit a low point. After 30 years of success in writing Italian operas and oratorios for the British public, he saw the English losing interest in this style. His 1740-41 operatic season had failed miserably, and he was being hounded by creditors. Handel seriously considered returning to Germany. But that summer he received two letters which changed his mind.

One of the letters was from Oxford literary scholar Charles Jennens, who had provided the librettos to a number of Handel's previous works, inviting him to write an oratorio based on Scripture. Handel began work on the oratorio, writing the entire oratorio in about three weeks. It was titled "Messiah."

On April 13, 1742, with Handel at the harpsichord, the work opened in Dublin and moved its audience to tears.



Programme

Part I

Sinfonia.....(Overture)
 Recitative.....Comfort ye my people
 Aria.....Every valley shall be exalted
 Chorus.....And the glory of the Lord
 Recitative.....Thus saith the Lord
 Aria.....But who may abide the day of His coming
 Chorus.....And he shall purify
 Recitative.....Behold, a virgin shall conceive
 Aria and Chorus.....O thou that tellest good tidings
 Recitative.....For behold darkness shall cover
 Aria.....The people that walked in darkness
 Chorus.....For unto us a child is born
 Pifa.....(Pastoral Symphony)
 Recitative.....There were shepherds abiding
 Chorus.....Glory to God
 Aria.....Rejoice greatly
 Recitative.....Then shall the eyes of the blind
 Aria.....He shall feed his flock like a shepherd
 Chorus.....His yoke is easy

INTERMISSION

15 Minutes

Part II

Chorus.....Behold the Lamb of God
 Aria.....He was despised
 Chorus.....Surely he hath borne our grief
 Chorus.....And with his stripes we are healed
 Chorus.....All we like sheep have gone astray
 Recitative.....All they that see him laugh
 Chorus.....He trusted in God
 Recitative.....Thy rebuke has broken His heart
 Aria.....Behold and see if there be any sorrow
 Recitative.....He was cut off out of the land
 Aria.....But thou didst not leave his soul in hell
 Recitative.....Unto which of the angels
 Chorus.....Let all the angels of God worship Him
 Chorus.....Their Sound is Gone Out
 Aria.....Why do the nations so furiously rage
 Recitative.....He that dwelleth in heaven
 Aria.....Thou shalt break them
 Chorus.....Hallelujah

Part III

Aria.....I know that my redeemer liveth
 Chorus.....Since by man came death
 Recitative.....Behold, I tell you a mystery
 Aria.....The trumpet shall sound
 Chorus.....Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
 Chorus.....Amen

