

LONDON HANDEL PLAYERS

For over twenty 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.

Recent tours have taken the London Handel Players to Northern Ireland, Spain, Turkey, Canada and the USA. The ensemble is particularly active in North America, where they have performed at venues including the Frick Museum, Carnegie Hall and the Bourgie Hall in Montreal. In the 2023-24 season they will return to Wigmore Hall, London.

Two new recordings, one of Bach Sonatas for keyboard and violin and one of Handel aria arrangements called '*Total Eclipse*', were released by Somm Recordings in 2023. The group's highly acclaimed discography also includes four editions 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*'. Additionally, they have recorded the complete Op.1 sonatas of Francesco Geminiani, and a two-disc set of J.S. Bach's flute sonatas interspersed with some flute arias from his cantatas, sung by Elizabeth Cragg, Charles Daniels and Peter Harvey. Future releases will include a recording of Vivaldi flute and recorder concertos.

The members of the group pursue busy solo, directing and conducting careers, work with many of the major early-instrument ensembles in the UK and abroad, and are professors at the conservatoires in London. Committed educators at every level, the London Handel Players also give numerous masterclasses and workshops for students, keen amateurs and children.

londonhandelplayers.co.uk
adrianbutterfield.com

ADRIAN BUTTERFIELD

Adrian Butterfield has appeared on numerous stages across the world as a violinist, director and conductor who specialises in performing a wide range of music on period instruments. He is Musical Director of the Tilford Bach Festival and Associate Director of the London Handel Festival and regularly directs the London Handel Orchestra and London Handel Players as well as working as a guest soloist and director in Europe and North America. He has also led the gut-string quartet, The Revolutionary Drawing Room, for over 25 years and is Professor of Baroque Violin at the Royal College of Music.

ALEXANDER CHANCE *countertenor*

Recent concert appearances include a tour of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with Freiburger Barockorchester; a recital in Paris's Salle Cortot of Vivaldi's *Stabat Mater* and other baroque works, with Les Accents and Thibault Noally; Britten's *Canticles* with Ian Bostridge and Julius Drake at the Ravenna Festival; Bach's *St John Passion* with John Eliot Gardiner and the English Baroque Soloists (recorded for Deutsche Grammophon); Bach's *B Minor Mass* with Masaaki Suzuki and Bach Collegium Japan; works by Purcell and Handel with Kristian Bezuidenhout and Freiburger Barockorchester; Handel's *Messiah* with orchestras such as the Academy of Ancient Music, the London Handel Players and the Instruments of Time and Truth; regular solo recitals throughout Europe with lutenist Toby Carr.

In 2021 Alexander made his stage debut as Oberon in The Grange Festival's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; in 2022 he featured in several roles at the Vache Baroque Festival; and in 2023 he performed Tolomeo in Handel's *Giulio Cesare* (English Touring Opera). In 2022, he became the first countertenor to win the International Handel Singing Competition, also winning the Audience Prize.

'...Chance stakes serious claim to the title of his generation's most exciting British countertenor'
Gramophone

alexanderchance.co.uk



HANDEL

Sonata a 5 (Violin Concerto) in B flat major (HWV 288) for violin and strings

HANDEL

aria *Sussurrate, onde vezzose* from *Amadigi di Gaula* (HWV 11)

VIVALDI

Sopranino Recorder Concerto in C major (RV 443)

HANDEL

aria *Cara sposa* from *Rinaldo* (HWV 7a)

INTERVAL

HANDEL

Flute Concerto in G minor (HWV 287)

VIVALDI

Trio Sonata Op.1 No.12 in D minor (RV 63)
'*La Follia*'

VIVALDI

Nisi Dominus (RV 608)

