

**THE LONDON HANDEL FESTIVAL PRESENTS *MESSIAH*:
REIMAGINED FROM HANDEL'S CHURCH WITH LUCY CROWE,
IESTYN DAVIES, NATHAN VALE AND EDWARD GRINT ALONGSIDE
FIFTEEN VIRTUAL CHOIRS FEATURING SINGERS FROM 16 COUNTRIES**



**5 April 2021 | St George's, Hanover Square | 7:00pm
Streamed live on Facebook and YouTube for global audiences**

Following the success of its first award-winning *Messiah: Reimagined* performance last year which was viewed by a quarter of a million people worldwide, the London Handel Festival returns on Easter Monday [5 April] with another live-streamed performance of Handel's most famous work blending live and virtual together.

Laurence Cummings, the Festival's Musical Director, leads Lucy Crowe, Iestyn Davies, Nathan Vale and Edward Grint in a performance of Handel's *Messiah* accompanied by the London Handel Orchestra live from Handel's own church, St George's, Hanover Square in London. All four soloists are alumni of the prestigious international Handel Singing Competition, organised annually by the Festival.

The choruses will be sung by fifteen virtual choirs which will be integrated digitally into the performance. The whole event will be livestreamed on the Festival's Facebook page and YouTube channel for global audiences to enjoy for free. Due to ongoing restrictions in the UK, no audiences will be permitted in St George's, Hanover Square for the performance.

The choirs feature singers from 16 countries across five continents and includes the Festival's own 'Sing at Home' chorus of 200 singers. Other choirs include Harvard University Choir, Music in Offices, North German Radio Choir (NDR), National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, Old Royal Naval College Trinity Laban Chapel Choir and more (full list below). The leader of each choir has had the opportunity to connect with Laurence Cummings remotely and make use of the pre-prepared resources including a recording of the *Messiah* by the London Handel Orchestra for the choirs to sing along to.

Samir Savant, Festival Director of the London Handel Festival, said, "*Messiah Reimagined is the London Handel Festival's creative response to Covid-19. At a time when we cannot meet together to enjoy or make music, we bring together a global community digitally to celebrate Handel's masterpiece in a pioneering way the composer would no doubt have relished.*"

Samir Savant (Festival Director) and Laurence Cummings (Musical Director) are recording some roundtable discussions with choir leaders in the run up to the event, which are shared on the Festival's YouTube channel. [The first session](#) featured Samir and Laurence speaking to Susan Hollingworth (Scunthorpe Choral Society), Ben Parry (National Youth Choirs of Great Britain) and Ralph Allwood (Old Royal Naval Trinity Laban Chapel Choir) about their experiences conducting Handel's *Messiah* and how to deal with nervousness when recording.

The Festival's performance of *Messiah: Reimagined* in December was streamed by Classic FM and the Festival, reaching a quarter of a million people from across the world.

www.london-handel-festival.com

-ENDS-

For more information and press tickets please contact Premier

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Messiah: Reimagined from December 2020

[Watch on Facebook here](#) (237,000 views)

[Watch on YouTube here](#) (21,000 views)

About London Handel Festival

Founded by Denys Darlow in 1978 the London Handel Festival has contributed to a Handel revival in the UK. The Festival runs for around a month each year, with many events held at Handel's parish church – St. George's, Hanover Square. Laurence Cummings took over as Musical Director in 2002.

The London Handel Orchestra, which is made up of some of London's finest professional baroque players led by Adrian Butterfield, now has an excellent reputation for historically informed performance. The annual Handel Singing Competition was inaugurated in 2002 to give young singers the opportunity to concentrate on the wealth of Handel repertoire.

Laurence Cummings, Musical Director

Laurence Cummings is one of Britain's most exciting and versatile exponents of historical performance both as a conductor and a harpsichord player. In 2012 he became Artistic Director of the Internationale Händel-Festspiele Göttingen. He is also a regular guest at Casa da Musica in Porto where he is Music Director of the Orquestra Barroca Casa da Música.

Cummings makes regular appearances at English National Opera, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Gothenburg Opera, Opernhaus Zurich, Opera de Lyon, Garsington Opera and English Touring Opera. He made his US debut conducting Orfeo with the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston.

His numerous recordings include the first recording of Handel's newly discovered Gloria with Emma Kirkby and the Royal Academy of Music and recital discs of solo harpsichord music.

Samir Savant, Festival Director

Samir Savant has 20 years' experience as a senior manager in the arts, including at Shakespeare's Globe, English National Opera, Handel House and Royal College of Music. He started his role with the London Handel Festival in 2016 and has presented two highly successful festivals in 2017 and 2018, already attracting critical acclaim: "Under the direction of Samir Savant, London Handel Festival has expanded exponentially" (Sunday Times, April 2018). He is committed to developing new audiences and partnerships for Handel, as is demonstrated by the Festival's collaboration with The Royal Opera on *Berenice* in 2019.

He is an experienced mentor and public speaker and has chaired the Institute of Fundraising's Cultural

Sector Network national conference on several occasions. He sings with Pegasus, the chamber choir he co-founded, and is a trustee of Shobana Jeyasingh Dance.

Choral Partners (A-Z)

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Finchley Children's Music Group

Guildhall School Junior Department Chamber Choir

Harvard University Choir

London Handel Festival – Sing at Home Chorus

Music in Offices

NDR Choir (North German Radio Choir)

National Youth Choirs of Great Britain

Old Royal Naval College Trinity Laban Chapel Choir

Ottawa Bach Choir

Scunthorpe & District Choral Society

Scunthorpe Cooperative Junior Choir

St. George's Hanover Square

Texas State Chorale (Texas State University)

York University Chamber Choir