



Visionary new-style classical music experience to launch with starry performance of Handel's 'Messiah'

Classical Everywhere presents Handel's Messiah: The Live Experience

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London

Tuesday 6 December 2022



- A new vision for live classical music with a star-studded and spectacular performance of Handel's *Messiah* from Classical Everywhere, a new venture from Immersive Everywhere the multi-award-winning creators of extraordinary theatrical events
- The new approach to performing classical music is designed to augment the spirit and narrative of the work with enhancements including dance, lighting, visual effects and more
- Internationally renowned soloists include Danielle de Niese and Nicky Spence, alongside English Chamber Orchestra and London Symphony Chorus

Handel's Messiah: The Live Experience at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, on 6 Dec 2022 will launch a new style classical music concert experience centred on the most famous works ever written.

With world-class musicians and innovative and imaginative lighting design, visual effects, choreography and staging, the event promises to immerse audiences in a powerful and theatrical

new setting for Handel's much-loved musical telling of the story of Christ – with its universal human themes of birth, hope, joy, suffering, sacrifice and redemption.

Handel's Messiah: The Live Experience will be the first event from **Classical Everywhere**, a new venture from **Immersive Everywhere**, the multi-award-winning creators of extraordinary events *Peaky Blinders: The Rise*, *Doctor Who: Time Fracture* and *The Great Gatsby*.

Classical Everywhere's vision is to bring together the world's greatest classical musicians and music with outstanding venues and creative and imaginative staging. The aim is to enhance the narrative and emotional power of the music to create an evocative, exhilarating and entertaining classical experience for wide audiences.

Under the baton of conductor **Gregory Batsleer**, Artistic Director and founding member of Classical Everywhere, the impressive line up for *Handel's Messiah* includes internationally acclaimed soloists **Danielle de Niese**, **Nicky Spence**, **Iddunu Münch** and **Cody Quattlebaum**, alongside the **English Chamber Orchestra** and **London Symphony Chorus**.

They will perform an edited version of Handel's enduring masterpiece, loved primarily for the sheer beauty and power of its music with its famous choruses and well-known melodies.

The creative team includes Director, **Neil Connolly** (*Tomb Raider Live Experience*, *The Crystal Maze Live Experience*, *Lamplighters*, *Heist: live*); Co-Concept & Multimedia Creation by international design studio **flora&faunavisions GmbH** (*Genius Immersive Experience*, Berlin & Tokyo; Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, Australia; Solomun Coachella Tour); Choreography by **Tom Jackson Greaves** (*Whistle Down the Wind*, Watermill), Lighting Design by **Terry Cook** for Woodroffe-Bassett Design (*Peaky Blinders: The Rise*; Rolling Stones Tour; Elton John Tour and Expo 2020, Dubai); and Sound Design by **Andy Graham** (*The Book Thief*, Bolton Octagon).

Conventions of a typical classical concert will be put aside, and audiences encouraged to ignore their pre-conceptions, relax and enjoy the aural and visual spectacle.

The original Theatre Royal, Drury Lane – one of London's oldest and most prominent theatres – was well known to Handel in the 1700s and his music remained popular there right up to the 1900s, with almost annual performances of *Messiah*. These would have been as popular with audiences then as the big West End productions playing there are now. By choosing this stunning setting, recently lovingly restored by LW Theatres, Classical Everywhere brings Handel's great work back to its roots, reclaiming it from the classical concert hall for a wider public once again.

The production will be designed for touring so it can easily be adapted to travel in future to stunning venues globally.

Pioneering conductor Gregory Batsleer, the Artistic Director of Classical Everywhere, says:

Classical Everywhere will bring something transformative and original to the classical music world, providing new and engaging ways to experience some of the greatest music ever written. We will actively challenge preconceptions about what a concert should be. We are taking classical music back to the masses and ensuring that everyone who loves music can come and have an extraordinary night out with the best-quality music making. Audiences who might think classical concerts are dull or stuffy will have these ideas changed forever. I am so excited to be working with the exceptional

creative teams at Immersive Everywhere. We dare people to be curious and try out something exciting, new and different.

Soprano Danielle de Niese says:

I am thrilled to be taking part in this visionary performance of Handel's Messiah that will break new ground with its imaginative approach. I have always endeavoured to take classical music to new and unusual venues as well as newer and younger audiences. It will be hugely exhilarating to work with Greg and this superlative creative team to give one of our most loved works (which has been performed continuously ever since it was written) a fresh look. Using all of our artistic and theatrical skills it will make a truly powerful and exhilarating experience that will bring added depth to this work. I feel Mr Handel would definitely approve.

Louis Hartshorn, Joint CEO of Immersive Everywhere, says:

We are thrilled to bring our theatrical expertise to the great works of classical music. We're looking forward to breaking boundaries with our vision for Handel's Messiah, whilst maintaining a focus on world class musical talent. This is a timeless piece of music that deserves to be performed with energy and intensity. When it was written it was thought of as new and ground-breaking - a far cry from the tired conventions of today. We believe classical music should be relevant, dynamic and engaging!

ENDS

Listings:

6 December 2022, Theatre Royal Drury Lane, 7.30pm

Classical Everywhere presents Handel's Messiah: The Live Experience

Running time: Approximately 2 hours (including 20-minute interval)

Tickets: £25-£75

Further information and booking at

immersivehandelsmessiah.com

For further press information, please contact Victoria.Bevan@premiercomms.com 07917 764 318

Publicity images of the soloists, conductor and venue can be downloaded from [HERE](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About Classical Everywhere

[Classical Everywhere](#) presents timeless music with the world's greatest musicians and composers, through spectacular live concert experiences. Evoking the spirit of the music, awakening the senses and enhancing the storytelling through choreography, lighting and visual effects, we are committed to bringing together the

world's leading classical musicians and production teams, presenting evocative and ambitious classical experiences in spectacular concert halls and venues.

Classical Everywhere is a new venture from [Immersive Everywhere](#) which has worked with world-famous titles to create live theatrical experiences such as *Doctor Who: Time Fracture*, with BBC Studios, and *Peaky Blinders: The Rise*, co-created with Steven Knight and Caryn Mandabach Productions. It produces and manages one of the world's most successful immersive productions: *The Great Gatsby*, which has played in London since 2015, as well as Cardiff, Dublin, Brussels and Seoul.

About Gregory Batsleer (Conductor and Artistic Director)

Gregory Batsleer is Artistic Director of Classical Everywhere. He is also Director the London Handel Festival and from 2012 to 2017 was Artistic Director of the National Portrait Gallery's Choir in Residence programme, the first ever in-house music programme of any gallery or museum. As a creative consultant and programmer, Gregory has curated and devised performances for the Southbank Centre, the Wilderness Festival and Latitude. He has collaborated with leading cultural figures including Elbow, Simon Armitage, Hollie McNish, Damon Albarn and Simon Russell-Beale. In 2017, he co-founded Future Stages, a charity dedicated to providing pathways into the performing arts for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Gregory is also co-founder and Artistic Director of Festival Voices, a versatile ensemble dedicated to cross-art collaboration.

As a performer, Gregory has conducted leading ensembles throughout the UK including the Hallé, the Royal Northern Sinfonia, the Academy of Ancient Music, the Orchestra of Opera North, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. He is Chorus Director with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Principal Conductor of the Huddersfield Choral Society. He was awarded an Arts Foundation Fellowship for his approach to innovative programming at the National Portrait Gallery.

About Neil Connolly (Director)

A creative leader of design and production teams focused on development, production and installation of live theatre, entertainment, multi-media and attractions for the themed entertainment industry worldwide. Neil began his career as writer, producer & artist in London's alternative theatre and art scene. It was during this time Neil developed a love and passion for story telling through the platform of interactive-playable-immersive theatre.

Having been at the vanguard of playable & immersive theatre since 2007, Neil had a career defining opportunity in 2019 when he devised, wrote & directed an immersive experience as part of Sainsbury's 150th Celebrations. Making him the only immersive theatre maker in the world to have HRH Elizabeth Regina attend one of their experiences.

In a distinguished career spanning 18 years, Neil has brought that passion to every facet of themed entertainment in the creative development and production of attractions such as The Crystal Maze LIVE Experience, Tomb Raider The Live Experience & Chaos Karts, an AR GoKart real life battle.

About Louis Hartshorn (Producer)

Louis is an entrepreneur and live entertainment producer, CEO of Hartshorn - Hook Enterprises, joint CEO of Immersive Everywhere and Executive Director of the Arts Theatre in the West End.

With business partner Brian Hook, Louis has produced theatrical productions such as the Olivier Award and LADCC Award-winning *Rotterdam*, the Grammy and Olivier-award nominated *Amelie the Musical*, *Dolly Parton's 9 to 5*, *Doctor Who: Time Fracture*, *Woody Sez* and of the Immersive productions *Peaky Blinders: The Rise* and *The Great Gatsby* - the UK's longest running immersive production.

In 2019 they founded Immersive|LDN a specialist immersive theatre and event venue in central London.

He programs the Arts Theatre in London, where global phenomenon *Six the Musical* started its professional life. The Arts is now home to Choir of Man, also produced by Immersive Everywhere.

Please click through for further information about other cast and creatives

MUSICIANS:

Soprano - [Danielle de Niese](#)

Tenor - [Nicky Spence](#)

Mezzo - [Iddunu Münch](#)

Bass - [Cody Quattlebaum](#)

Orchestra - [English Chamber Orchestra](#)

Chorus - [London Symphony Chorus](#)

CREATIVES:

Multimedia creation - [flora&faunavisions GmbH](#)

Choreography - [Tom Jackson Greaves](#)

Lighting Design - Terry Cook for [Woodroffe-Bassett Design](#)

Sound Design – [Andy Graham](#)

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