



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2013

Contact: Ernest Clark

seltzer@princeton.edu

Phone: 609-258-4237

Artist bios, music, photos and interviews available upon request.

**PRINCETON UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
TO HOST THE BIENNIAL AMERICAN HANDEL SOCIETY
CONFERENCE AND FESTIVAL**

PRINCETON, NJ — Princeton University will be the site of the biennial American Handel Society Conference February 21-24, 2013, hosted by the American Handel Society and the Princeton University Department of Music. In addition to academic presentations from dozens of Handel scholars from around the globe, 5 events will be open to the public, including 3 concerts and 2 conference events, as well as an exhibit in the Eighteenth-Century Room of the Firestone Library, featuring the library's newly acquired scribal copy of Handel's *Berenice* (1737). This announcement covers information on the events open to the public but complete information about the conference can be found at <http://music2.princeton.edu/AHS>.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES – THE AMERICAN HANDEL SOCIETY FESTIVAL

CONCERT #1: The English Concert, Harry Bicket, Director

Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 8PM

Pre-concert Talk by Professor Steven Zohn at 7PM, free to ticketholders

Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall

Presented by Princeton University Concerts

HARRY BICKET, Director/Harpsichord

NADJA ZWIENER, Violin

ALFONSO LEAL DEL OJO, Viola

PROGRAM:

PURCELL Suite from *King Arthur*, Z 628.

HANDEL Concerto Grosso Op. 3 No. 2 in B-flat Major, HWV 313

TELEMANN Concerto for Viola in G Major, TWV 51:G9

BACH Concerto for Violin No. 1 in A Minor, BWV 1041

HANDEL *Watermusic Suite* (selections from Suites No 1, 2 and 3)

ABOUT THE ENGLISH CONCERT

The English Concert was founded by Trevor Pinnock in 1973. The orchestra chose **Harry Bicket** to be its Artistic Director in 2007, and he has since led the orchestra in tours to Europe, the USA and the Middle East. Bicket is renowned internationally for his work in opera with the finest singers of the age. The ensemble is acclaimed for its Handel interpretations, and its appearance on the Princeton University Concerts series anchors the American Handel Festival. This concert will be preceded by a pre-concert talk given by Professor Steven Zohn, the Laura H. Carnell Professor of Music History at Temple University. His research on eighteenth-century music has been published widely in journals, essay collections, and reference works. This concert is part of the Princeton University Concerts Series. Ticket prices range from \$40 to \$5 and can be bought by calling 609-258-9220 or online at princeton.edu/utickets.

CONCERT #2: Princeton University Chamber Choir, Gabriel Crouch, Director
with guest choir Kantorei, from Westminster Choir College, Amanda Quist, Director
Friday, February 22, 2013 at 7:30PM
Taplin Auditorium in Fine Hall

PROGRAM:

SCARLATTI *Stabat Mater*

HANDEL *Let God Arise* (sung by Kantorei, Amanda Quist, Conductor)

HANDEL *Dixit Dominus*

CONCERT #3: Princeton University Glee Club, Gabriel Crouch, Director
Sunday, March 3, 2013 at 3PM
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall
PROGRAM: Handel's *Israel in Egypt*

George Frideric Handel was 22 in 1707 when, during a three-year visit to Rome, he was commissioned by a Cardinal to write what proved to be the irresistible *Dixit Dominus*. In 1739, living in London, Handel introduced his oratorio *Israel in Egypt*; although not instantly embraced by the public, it has since achieved popularity second only to *Messiah* in his canon. The Princeton Chamber Choir and Glee Club will perform both of these works as part of the American Handel Society Festival. Tickets for these concerts are \$15 general and \$5 students and can be bought by calling 609-258-9220 or online at princeton.edu/utickets.

PUBLIC EVENTS – THE AMERICAN HANDEL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Both events are free

"Handel: Opera and Ritual"

Keynote lecture given by Professor Reinhard Strohm (Oxford University), winner of the 2012 International Balzan Prize

Friday, February 22, 2013 at 4:30PM

McCormick Hall, 101

The Baroque Pasticcio in the 21st Century: The Metropolitan Opera's *Enchanted Island* (2012)

Panel Discussion

Saturday, February 23, 2013, 4:10-5:45 PM

McCormick Hall, 101

Panelists include:

Paul Cremo, Dramaturg at The Metropolitan Opera and Dramaturg for *Enchanted Island*

Anthony Roth Costanzo '04, Countertenor, Ferdinand and Prospero in *Enchanted Island*

Ellen Rosand, Yale University and Musical Advisor for *Enchanted Island*

Bradley Brookshire, Purchase/CUNY and Continuo for *Enchanted Island*

Lawrence Manley, Department of English, Yale University

Wendy Heller, Panel Chair, Princeton University

Handel's music was heard in an entirely new light on New Year's Eve 2012 when the Metropolitan Opera embarked on a highly original encounter with Baroque opera with *Enchanted Island*. Set to an English libretto by Jeremy Sams, which combined plots elements from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Tempest*, this *pasticcio* (literally, a pastry in Italian) presented music by such composers as Rameau, Vivaldi, and above all Handel. Our panelists will discuss the creation and ultimate realization

of this remarkable project, the relationship of *Enchanted Island* to the musical and literary sources on which it was based, and the implications of this enterprise for the future Baroque opera performance.

This is the second time that Princeton University has hosted the American Handel Society Conference. Graydon Beeks is President of the American Handel Society. Robert Ketterer is Program Chair for the Conference. Princeton Professor Wendy Heller is Director of Local Arrangements and Nicholas Lockey is the Conference Coordinator. For more information on the conference, including conference registration and a complete schedule, please visit <http://music2.princeton.edu/AHS>. For the public events call the Concert Office at 609-258-2800.

###