

NEWSLETTER

of

The American Handel Society

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LONDON HANDEL FESTIVAL 2018 AND CAMBRIDGE HANDEL OPERA REVIVED

Ellen T. Harris

Spring may have been slow to arrive this year in much of the Northern Hemisphere, but the London Handel Festival (LHF) sprang to life right on schedule (March 17–April 16). Concurrently, the Cambridge Handel Opera (CHO) had a resurrection. During my little more than a week in London, I was able to take in LHF performances of Handel's *Amadigi* and *Esther* (as well as the LHF annual performance of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* in St. George's Hanover Square as part of a Good Friday Vespers service) and, in Cambridge, the final dress rehearsal of *Rodelinda* by the revived CHO. Here I will report on the three large works by Handel.

Under the aegis of Festival Director Samir Savant the 2018 Festival chose "Handel in London" as its theme with the specific purpose of "finding" Handel all around the London he would have known. For example, two performances of the Foundling

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Graydon Beeks

As spring finally arrives and much of the country attempts to thaw out after a very hard winter, it is time to plan for Handelian activities in the coming year. The annual festivals in Göttingen and Halle lead off the summer, followed over Thanksgiving weekend by the triennial conference hosted by The London Institute, focusing this year on Handel's music for his patrons. This will be followed next February by the biennial AHS Conference to be held at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Please see the announcement of the conference elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter, as well as the Call for Papers.

Also in this issue of the Newsletter you will find an announcement of the recipient of the 2018 J. Merrill Knapp Fellowship. The ability of the AHS to support research by means of this Fellowship is dependent on the generosity of the members of the Society, and this will serve as a reminder to those of you who have not yet paid your membership dues for 2018. Please remember that there are always opportunities for additional giving, either by way of elevated membership categories or through donations either earmarked for specific projects or left unspecified to be used for the ongoing expenses of the Society.

The Secretary/Treasurer has asked me to stress that she needs to receive payments in dollars for membership in our affiliated societies by June 1, 2018 in order to make it possible to settle accounts efficiently. Please be aware of the new arrangement by which AHS members who are members of the G.F. Händel Gesellschaft, may also become members of the Göttingen and/or Karlsruhe Handel Societies by paying membership fees reduced by 50% either to the other societies directly or to the AHS in dollars. These new possibilities of dual and triple memberships are contained on the Membership Form as well as on the new AHS Website.

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2018 J. Merrill Knapp Research Fellowship Recipient