2021 American Handel Society Conference

The 2021 American Handel Society Conference will be held March 11 through March 14, 2021. The event will be entirely virtual and will be hosted by Indiana University Bloomington. Dr. Berta Joncus will deliver the Howard Serwer Memorial Lecture on Thursday, March 11, and the conference will include eleven papers and a harpsichord lecture/recital. This year’s program will feature a performance of Handel’s opera Serse on Friday, March 12, and a Baroque Orchestra Concert by IU’s Historical Performance Institute on Saturday, March 13. Detailed information about registration and access to the event will soon be available on the AHS website, https://americanhandelsociety.org/events and the IU conference website, https://music.indiana.edu/news-events/events/index.html.

Preliminary Schedule

The schedule is in EST. Daylight saving time in the US starts on March 14, 2021, and in Europe two weeks later.

Thursday, March 11, 2021
3:00 pm Opening Remarks and Howard Serwer Memorial Lecture:
Berta Joncus, “Posterity vs Celebrity: Handel Studies and the 21st Century”

Friday, March 12, 2021
12:00 pm–1:30 pm Panel 1: Performance Histories, Performance Practices
- Beverly Jerold, “The Musician’s Art and Oratory”
- Joseph Lockwood, “Handel’s Messiah in New York City, 1770”

Coffee break

2:00 pm–2:45 pm Harpsichord Lecture/Recital:
Jonathan Salamon, “Handel’s ‘Vo’ far guerra’: Schematic Simplicity, Dextrous Complexity”

5:00 pm Serse (on demand streaming; details TBA)
Saturday, March 13, 2021
12:00 pm–1:30 pm  Panel 2: Intellectual and Cultural Contexts of Handelian Operas and Oratorios

- Miguel Arango Calle, “Landscape and Colonialism in Handel’s and Haym’s Giulio Cesare in Egitto”
- Mark Risinger, “Messengers and Musicians: The Literary Tradition, Dramatic Function, and Musical Treatment of Handel’s Angels”

Coffee break

1:45 pm–2:30 pm  Roundtable: Handel Studies in the Age of Covid-19

2:45 pm–3:30 pm  Bruce Brown, “The gargarismi of Lazzaro Paoli: Singing, Pharmacology, and Castration in Eighteenth-Century Tuscany”

4:15 pm  Board Meeting

8:00 pm  IU, Historical Performance Institute, Baroque Orchestra Concert (repertory TBA, livestream)

Sunday, March 14, 2021
12:00 pm–1:00 pm  Panel 3: Representing Women on the Operatic Stage

- Regina Compton, “Experiencing Motherhood: The Significance of the Replacement Aria ‘Ah perché’ in the First Revival of Rodelinda (December 1725)”
- Paula Maust, “The Italian Elephants and Pigs in Handel’s London Operas”

Coffee break

1:15 pm–2:15 pm  Panel 4: Off the Record: Recovering the Traces of Music Makers and Music Making

- Alison C. DeSimone, “‘Not Found upon the Record’: Female Musical Entrepreneurship in the Eighteenth Century”
- Graydon Beeks, “Some overtures to be plaied before the first lesson”

2:30 pm  Business Meeting