

NEWSLETTER of The American Handel Society

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HASHTAGS AND HANDEL: A REVIEW OF *ACIS AND GALATEA* BY THE HAYMARKET OPERA COMPANY

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Tenor Michael St. Peter as Acis. Photo: Anna Cillan

The Haymarket Opera Company in Chicago celebrated the opening of their tenth season on October 30, 2020 with a production of *Acis and Galatea* (1718). Haymarket presented the production at a “Streaming Premiere and Virtual Party” hosted on their website via an embedded YouTube video.¹ It is not easy to appreciate Handel (or most art music) from the glow of a screen. Alex Ross recently bemoaned streamed concerts as “lack[ing] the psychic imprint of the real, the aura of shared experience: the moment they are done, they tend to evaporate from memory.”² Happily, *Acis and Galatea* felt “real”; the production brought together listeners for a memorable event that makes clear the possibility of online performance.

¹ <https://www.haymarketopera.org/acis-live>. Haymarket advertises that only ticket holders can access the performance for ten days after the premiere. At the time of this review, however, the public-facing website continues to display the YouTube video without access restrictions; anyone can enjoy it on demand for the time being.

² Alex Ross, “What does it mean to ‘reimagine’ an orchestra season?,” *The New Yorker*, November 30, 2020, <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/12/07/what-does-it-mean-to-reimagine-an-orchestra-season>.

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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”

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