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

Regina Compton

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. 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.” 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.

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”

continued on p. 4

IN THIS ISSUE

*Hashtags and Handel* – Regina Compton
2021 American Handel Society Conference
*From The President’s Desk* – Graydon Beeks
Upcoming Events, Recent Publications & In Memoriam
Call for Papers: 2021 Handel Institute Conference