



Messiah by Candlelight

9th & 10th December at Waterperry House





Conductor's Notes

George Friderick Handel (1685–1759), Messiah

In 1711 Handel introduced Italian opera to Britain with *Rinaldo*, scoring a triumphant hit and eclipsing his English competitors. After settling permanently in London in 1712 he went on to compose and produce more than 40 Italian operas, increasing his already considerable reputation and earning substantial sums of money.

But by the 1730s public appetite for Italian opera was fading, and despite his continued enthusiasm for opera, Handel began composing oratorios in English. His first attempts (*Esther*, *Deborah*, and *Athalia*) were commercially and critically successful, and after just three performances of his opera *Deidamia* (1741) Handel finally abandoned Italian opera.

The libretto for *Messiah* is by Charles Jennens. Though he had also written the text for *Saul* (1738) and was a longtime patron of Handel's, Jennens was rather scornful of the music of *Messiah*, writing that Handel 'has made a fine Entertainment of it, though not near so good as he might & ought to have done. I have with great difficulty made him correct some of the grosser faults in the composition...'. Audiences in Dublin (where the work was premiered in 1742) disagreed, receiving it warmly. Though its initial reception in London was cooler, it steadily became more established in Britain through Handel's life, and after his death rapidly became more popular abroad. Today, its memorability, infectious charm, drama, and joyfulness mean that it is by far the world's most performed large-scale choral work.

Bertie Baigent, Waterperry Opera Festival Music Director



WATERPERRY
OPERA FESTIVAL



Messiah by Candlelight

George Frideric Handel

Running Order – First Half

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| 1. Overture | Orchestral |
| 2. Comfort ye | Recit |
| 3. Ev'ry valley | Aria |
| 4. And the glory of the Lord | Chorus |
| 5. Thus saith the Lord | Recit |
| 6. But who may abide? | Aria |
| 7. And he shall purify | Chorus |
| 8. Behold, a virgin shall conceive | Recit |
| 9. O thou that tallest good tidings to Zion | Aria |
| 10. For behold, darkness shall cover the Earth | Recit |
| 11. The people that walked in darkness | Aria |
| 12. For unto us a child is born | Chorus |
| 13. Pifa (Pastoral sym.) | Orchestral |
| 14. There were shepherds abiding in the field | Recit |
| 15. And lo, the angel of the Lord | Recit |
| 16. And the angel said unto them | Recit |
| 17. And suddenly there was with the angel | Recit |
| 18. Glory to God | Chorus |
| 19. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion | Aria |
| 20. Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened | Recit |
| 21. And he shall feed his flock | Duet |
| 22. His yoke is easy, his burthen is light | Chorus |

The interval will be 30 minutes, during which drinks will be served downstairs.



Running Order – Second Half

1. Surely, he hath borne our griefs	Chorus
2. And with his stripes	Chorus
3. All we like sheep	Chorus
4. All they that see him laugh him to scorn	Recit
5. He trusted in God	Chorus
6. Thy rebuke hath broken his heart	Recit
7. Behold and see if there be any sorrow	Aria
8. He was cut off out of the living	Recit
9. But thou didst not leave his soul in hell	Aria
10. Lift up your heads	Chorus
11. How beautiful are the feet of them	Aria
12. He that dwelleth in heaven	Recit
13. Hallelujah	Chorus
14. I know my redeemer liveth	Aria
15. Since by man came death	Chorus
16. Behold, I tell you a mystery	Recit
17. The trumpet shall sound	Aria
18. If God be for us	Aria
19. Worthy is the lamb	Chorus

Waterperry Opera Festival Musicians

Bertie Baigent	Conductor	Nivedita Sarnath	Violin
Jessica Cale	Soprano (Friday)	Charlotte Amherst	Violin
Ana Beard	Soprano (Saturday)	Otoha Tabata	Viola
Anna Cavaliero	Soprano	Alistair Baumann	Cello
Beth Moxon	Mezzo	Alexander Verster	Double Bass
Guy Withers	Tenor	Hannah Blumsohn	Oboe
Jerome Knox	Baritone	Matthew Frost	Trumpet (Friday)
		Tamsin Cowell	Trumpet (Saturday)



Biographies

Jessica Cale (Friday)

Welsh Soprano, Jessica Cale, is the 2020 First Prize winner of the Kathleen Ferrier Awards and Joint Audience prize winner at the London Handel Festival International Singing Competition. Jessica is a graduate of the Royal College of Music International Opera Studio with an Artist Diploma in Opera and a Master of Performance with distinction. In 2022, Jessica made her European and house debut at Teatro La Fenice playing 2nd Niece in Britten's *Peter Grimes* in addition to making her role debut as Susanna in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* for Waterperry Opera Festival. On the concert platform, Jessica has performed under the batons of Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Paul McCreesh, Harry Christophers, Jonathan Cohen, Christian Curnyn, Ian Page and Brian Kay. Recent notable concert highlights have included: Britten's *Les Illuminations* in Lithuania for the British Ambassador; debuts at the Wigmore Hall and Cadogan Hall with *The Mozartists*; *Porpora* and *Handel* at Bilbao's *Musika Música Festival* with *Arcangelo*; *Handel's Apollo e Dafne* at the London Handel Festival, *Handel's Messiah* at the Royal Albert Hall and *Mendelssohn's Elijah* at the Berlin Philharmoniker.

Ana Beard (Saturday)

Spanish-Mancunian soprano Ana Beard Fernández grew up in Manchester and was a chorister at Manchester Cathedral. She went to York University to study music, and graduated from the Royal College of Music with a Master of Performance with Distinction in 2020. Equally at home with opera, oratorio, and contemporary music, she enjoys taking on wacky roles and has recently performed Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* dressed as a morose clown, Ondřej Adámek's *Karakuri: Poupée Mécanique* as a ticking mechanical Japanese puppet, was a glamorous 'Witch' in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, a Samoan goddess 'Gerhilde' in Wagner's *Die Walküre*, and chavvy 'First Niece' in Britten's *Peter Grimes*. This year's highlights have included performing with *Le Concert d'Astrée* and *Emmanuelle Haïm* at *Opéra de Lille* in *Handel's Semele*, *Monteverdi Vespers* at Cadogan Hall, *Faure Requiem* at the Tower of London, *Orff Carmina Burana* at Fairfield Halls, *Dvorak Stabat Mater* at York Minster, and recitals of opera and song, including *Lili Boulanger's cycle Clairières dans le Ciel* at St. Anne's Kew. Earlier this summer she jumped in to sing 'Micaëla' for Longborough Opera Festival's new production of Bizet's *Carmen*.



Anna Cavaliero

British-Hungarian soprano Anna Cavaliero is a member of Opera Fuoco's Atelier Lyrique. She trained in the opera studio of the Opéra de Lyon, and completed artist schemes with City Music Foundation, Samling, Handel House, Opera Prelude, Alvarez, and Britten Pears. Roles in 2022 included Grace (Samantha Fernando/Glass Human) for Glyndebourne Tour; Ninfa (Monteverdi/Orfeo) at Garsington Opera; Atalanta (Handel/Serse) at Opera Holland Park; and Musetta (Puccini/La Bohème) at the Festival de la Grange aux Pianos. Anna has also performed roles for Opéra de Lyon, Philharmonie de Luxembourg, Théâtre Blossac, Waterperry Opera Festival, Longborough Festival Opera, and Snape Maltings, amongst others. 2023 engagements include Susanna/ Le Nozze di Figaro at the Festival Saint-Germain-en-Laye and the Festival Septembre Musical de l'Orne. Anna performs frequently in recital with Sholto Kynoch, and was awarded with Sebastian Issler the Jean Meikle Duo Prize in the Wigmore Hall International Song Competition 2022. Recent chamber music highlights also include concerts with The Brook Street Band, Fuoco Obligato, The London Mozart Players, and The Echéa Quartet.

Beth Moxon

Born and raised in Leeds, Beth studied at the Royal College of Music, National Opera Studio, and the Britten Pears Programme with Sir Antonio Pappano. Since then she has sung roles in the UK and abroad including Penelope *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria* at Opéra de Vichy and Opéra de Lyon, *L'enfant L'enfant et les sortilèges* at Opéra de Lyon and the Royal Opera House Muscat and the premiere of Hannah Kendall's *Knife of Dawn* at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. Beth has previously sung the roles of Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Mother & Sandman in *Hansel and Gretel* and 2nd Lady in *The Magic Flute* in Waterperry Opera's Summer Festivals. Oratorio performances have included Bach's *St Matthew Passion* in Southwark and Coventry Cathedrals, Elgar's *The Music Makers* in Guildford and Sheffield Cathedrals, Handel's *Messiah* in Lincoln Cathedral, Mozart's *Requiem* at King's College Cambridge and Colston Hall and Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music* in the Throne Room of Buckingham Palace and Verdi's *Requiem* in Gloucester Cathedral. Upcoming engagements include Mezzo soloist in Mozart's *Requiem* for the Derbyshire Singers, Jervaulx Singers Concert, Mrs Plumpster/Fred/Ferdinand in a touring production of Heppelwhite & Yealland's *Borka and Olga* in Lehar's *The Merry Widow* at the NCPA in Mumbai.



Guy Withers

Guy Withers trained at Royal Academy of Music under Mark Wilde, where he was the recipient of the Norman McCann Prize, the Major van Someren-Godfrey English Song Prize, and supported by Josephine Baker Trust. A Cardiff University Music Graduate, he was awarded The University's Vocal Scholarship, The Cardiff University David Lloyd Prize for Singing and The Elizabeth Griffiths Prize, and was a finalist in the 2017 Dean & Chadlington Singing Competition. Roles for Opera Holland Park include Basilio & Don Curzio The Marriage of Figaro, Un Cenciaioulo Iris, and Tenore Da Lontana Isabeau. Roles for other companies include Ferrando Così fan tutte (London Young Sinfonia), Albert Herring Albert Herring (Aylesbury Opera Group), Candide (cover) Candide (Iford Arts), Quint (cover), The Turn of the Screw (Bury Court Opera). He is an experienced deviser and theatre-maker and has developed new work with Mahogany Opera Group, English Touring Opera, The Helios Collective, The Theatre Royal Bath, Complicite, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, and Glyndebourne Education. Guy is also Artistic Director & CEO of the Waterperry Opera Festival.

Jerome Knox

Winner of the London Handel Singing competition 2020, British baritone Jerome Knox was born in London and is a graduate of the Alexander Gibson Opera School at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where he was the inaugural Gleneagles scholar. He previously trained at the Royal College of Music, London, and read Classical Studies at Edinburgh University. In competition, Jerome was a finalist in the Grange Festival International Singing Competition 2019. Jerome's solo concert highlights include Handel's Messiah at the Royal Albert Hall. He recently performed recitals at the London Handel Festival and Händel-Festspiele in Halle, Germany. On the operatic stage, Jerome performed the title role of Don Giovanni and Count Almaviva Le Nozze di Figaro for Waterperry Opera. He has also sung roles for Garsington Opera and Glyndebourne on Tour. In 2022, he performed with English Touring Opera in their staged version of Bach's St John Passion, as well as singing the roles of Afron in Rimsky-Korsakov's The Golden Cockerel Marcello in La bohème. He just performed roles in their Handelfest autumn tour and returns to sing with ETO in Spring 2023 with roles in Lucrezia Borgia by Donizetti and Il Viaggio a Reims by Rossini.



Bertie Baigent

Bertie has been Music Director of Waterperry Opera Festival since 2017, where he has led a range of performances including: main-stage operas, children's shows, and multi-disciplinary, late-night collaborations. Described as 'a force to be reckoned with' (Opera Magazine), he is committed to realising the expressive power of music to make opera a genre for the twenty-first century. Beyond Waterperry, recent and forthcoming engagements include the St Louis Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Shadwell Opera, Teatro Regio Torino, Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini Parma, New Japan Philharmonic, and NHK Symphony Orchestra. As winner designate of the International Conducting Competition Rotterdam, in 2022 Bertie will conduct the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, and Doelen Ensemble. After studying at the University of Cambridge and Royal Academy of Music, Bertie worked with the Colorado Symphony between 2018 and 2020. In his spare time, Bertie enjoys cricket and cultivating his houseplants.

About Waterperry Opera Festival

Founded in 2017, Waterperry Opera Festival was developed to create innovative productions and engaging participatory events around the beautiful grounds at Waterperry House & Gardens. We strive to make performances more accessible and inclusive. Our vision is for more people to try opera, to be enriched by it, and to think it is for them. We seek to create innovative operatic experiences, pushing the limitations of the art form and what you might expect at performances. We are honoured to have such a talented and committed group of artists creating fantastic work. Waterperry Opera Festival's 2023 Summer Festival will be taking place 11th - 20th August, with our box office opening to the general public in April 2023.

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Thank You's

Waterperry Opera Festival would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible team of supporters who volunteer their time to make events, such as Messiah by Candlelight, happen. We are truly grateful for their generosity. We would also like to thank the staff at Waterperry House and Gardens for their continued support.

