

For Immediate Release: October 11, 2023

[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Images of The English Concert are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#).
A video of soprano Lucy Crowe singing the aria “Ritorna, oh Caro” from Handel’s *Rodelinda* is on [YouTube](#).

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS

THE ENGLISH CONCERT, HARRY BICKET, CONDUCTOR, IN A CONCERT PERFORMANCE OF HANDEL’S *RODELINDA* FEATURING SOPRANO LUCY CROWE IN THE TITLE ROLE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 3PM AT ZELLERBACH HALL

Berkeley, October 11, 2023—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents the return of The English Concert for the orchestra’s annual engagement on Sunday, November 19 at 3pm for a concert performance of Handel’s *Rodelinda* brought to life by an all-star cast and featuring soprano **Lucy Crowe** in the title role. *Rodelinda* tells the story of an enduring marital love that remains steadfast through every adversity. In this concert, Crowe, who last performed in Berkeley in The English Concert’s 2021 performance of *Alcina*, sings beloved arias including “Ombre, piante” and “Ho perduto il caro sposo.” Crowe has performed in major concert halls the world over and in 2023 was made an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) as part of the King’s Birthday Honours for her contributions to the arts. She recently debuted with the Dutch National Opera in the role of *Rodelinda* as well and received a 2021 Grammy nomination for her performance in Janáček’s *The Cunning Little Vixen* with the London Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Sir Simon Rattle. A Gramophone and Grammy Award winner, countertenor **Iestyn Davies** fills the shoes of Handel’s star Senesino as the exiled husband Bertarido, with **Eric Ferring**, a Handel and Mozart specialist, cast as the lustful and vicious usurper Grimoaldo, and countertenor **Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen** as Unulfo.

The English Concert, under the artistic direction of **Harry Bicket**, has been the leading interpreter of Handel's music for almost 50 years, celebrating and sharing the work of one of England's most renowned composers and making it relevant to contemporary audiences. Handel's prodigious output includes more than 600 works that range from full-scale operas to introductory works for children. He wrote nearly 70 operas and oratorios, including *Messiah* and *Giulio Cesare*; more than 150 additional vocal works, including *Dixit Dominus* and *Acis and Galatea*; more than 40 instrumental works, including *Water Music*, *Royal Fireworks Music*, and organ concertos; and over 120 chamber music pieces. The English Concert's annual visits to Berkeley continue to be centered around providing direct interaction with Handel's works. The group's [*Handel for All*](#) project, launched in February 2023, is The English Concert's ambitious undertaking to film performances of every piece of Handel's music, creating an online resource that is free and accessible to the public. This season, *Solomon* (which was performed at Cal Performances during the 2022–23 season) with Ann Hallenberg, *Amadigi*, *Italian duets and trios*, *Chandos Anthems Part 1*, *Organ Concertos*, *Foundling Anthem*, and *Music for the Royal Fireworks* will be added to the group's online library of Handel's works.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Sunday, November 19, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Early Music

The English Concert

Harry Bicket, *conductor*

Cast to include:

Lucy Crowe (Rodelinda), *soprano*

Iestyn Davies (Bertarido), *countertenor*

Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen (Unulfo), *countertenor*

Eric Ferring (Grimoaldo), *tenor*

Christine Rice (Eduige), *mezzo-soprano*

Brandon Cedel (Garibaldo), *bass-baritone*

Program:

Handel/*Rodelinda*

The English Concert returns to Cal Performances for the ensemble's annual engagement in a concert performance of Handel's *Rodelinda*, featuring soprano Lucy Crowe in the title role. *Rodelinda* weaves a compelling narrative of love, truth, power, and resilience. In the face of dishonor and the loss of her loved ones, Rodelinda's dignified resistance and exemplary spirit ultimately elevate her among her rivals. Crowe lends her voice to beloved arias including "Ombre, piante" and "Ho

perduto il caro sposo,” and countertenor Iestyn Davies fills the shoes of Handel’s star Senesino as the exiled husband Bertarido, with Eric Ferring cast as the lustful and vicious usurper Grimoaldo, and countertenor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen as Unulfo.

Tickets: \$44–\$132 (prices subject to change). Half-price for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available at calperformances.org, by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, 12–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. More information about student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students. For information about other discounts, visit calperformances.org/discounts.

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PRESS CONTACT:

Louisa Spier

Cal Performances

Media Relations Manager

(510) 643-6714

lspier@calperformances.org