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[Press Room](#)



Images of The English Concert, music director Harry Bicket, the Clarion Choir, Ann Hallenberg, and Miah Persson are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
THE ENGLISH CONCERT
IN HANDEL'S ORATORIO, *SOLOMON*
FEATURING THE CLARION CHOIR AND
MEZZO-SOPRANO ANN HALLENBERG IN THE TITLE ROLE
AT ZELLERBACH HALL, SUNDAY, MARCH 5

**The English Concert announces the launch of
an ambitious new project, *Handel for All*,
to offer filmed recordings of all of Handel's music online for free**

Berkeley, CA, February 15, 2023—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents Britain's eminent early-music ensemble **The English Concert**, conducted by music director **Harry Bicket**, in a concert presentation of Handel's grand oratorio *Solomon* on Sunday, March 5 at 3pm at Zellerbach Hall. The instrumentalists of the ensemble are joined by the celebrated **Clarion Choir**, directed by **Steven Fox**, and a cast of international soloists. The London-based orchestra's return to Berkeley continues a multi-season project launched with Handel's *Alcina* during the 2021–22 season, with each annual visit offering Cal Performances audiences the opportunity to deepen their engagement with The English Concert as well as this Baroque art form by experiencing a concert performance of a complete Baroque oratorio or opera, usually by Handel. The English Concert performance of *Solomon* features several acclaimed international soloists in their Cal Performances debuts, including renowned interpreter of Baroque music, mezzo-soprano **Ann Hallenberg** in the title role. Soprano

Miah Persson performs as Solomon's Queen. (Persson also returns to Cal Performances later this spring in Michel van der Aa's *Blank Out*, April 28–29.)

Composed in 1748, Handel's *Solomon* is based on Biblical stories of the great king Solomon's wisdom and justice, and celebrates the ushering-in of a golden age of peace, piety, and prosperity under his reign. *Solomon* stands out as an especially jubilant and sumptuous composition among Handel's celebrated English oratorios. The work is composed for large forces, including a double chorus, and is known for memorable arias such as "Will the sun forget to streak" and inventive orchestrations such as "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba." In addition to Hallenberg and Persson, the cast includes an international cadre of impressive vocal talents: soprano **Elena Villalón** as Nicaule and the Queen of Sheba; bass-baritone **Brandon Cedel** as a Levite, tenor **James Way** as Zadok, and mezzo-soprano **Niamh O'Sullivan** as the Second Harlot.

The English Concert has been the leading interpreter of Handel's music for almost 50 years, celebrating and sharing the work of one of England's most famous composers and making it relevant to contemporary audiences. The group's March 2023 visit follows soon after the launch of *Handel for All*, an ambitious undertaking to film performances of every piece of Handel's music, creating an online resource that is free and made with the intent of radically expanding access to the public. In addition to the recordings, *Handel for All* will include educational materials for use in schools and at home, as well as interactive digital learning materials, and will provide resources for academic institutions and cultural researchers.

Handel's prodigious output includes over 600 works that range from full-scale ambitious operas to works for children learning how to play. 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 will continue to be centered around providing direct interaction with Handel's works. The body of recordings to be compiled over time through *Handel for All* will only serve to deepen that connection. More about the plans for this project, including the first recordings and a timeline for the expected future recordings, can be found at englishconcert.co.uk.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, March 5, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Early Music

The English Concert

Harry Bicket, *conductor*

The Clarion Choir

Steven Fox, *artistic director*

Ann Hallenberg (Solomon), *mezzo-soprano*

Miah Persson (Solomon's Queen and First Harlot), *soprano*

Elena Villalón (Nicaule, Queen of Sheba), *soprano*

Brandon Cedel (A Levite), *bass-baritone*

James Way (Zadok), *tenor*

Niamh O'Sullivan (Second Harlot), *mezzo-soprano*

Program:

Handel/*Solomon*, HWV 67 (complete oratorio, performed in concert)

Britain's premier early-music ensemble, the leading interpreter of Handel's music for almost 50 years, returns to Berkeley for a concert performance of the composer's *Solomon* (1748), based on Biblical stories of the great king Solomon's wisdom and justice, and celebrates the ushering-in of a golden age of peace, piety, and prosperity. Among the composer's many English oratorios, *Solomon* features a double chorus, arias such as "Will the sun forget to streak," and orchestrations like the oboe-and-strings feature, "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba." The Swedish mezzo-soprano Ann Hallenberg, an renowned interpreter of Baroque music, makes her Cal Performances debut in the title role; soprano Miah Persson performs as Solomon's Queen.

Tickets: \$42–\$125 (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.

COVID-19: The latest information on Cal Performances' COVID-19 safety policies is available at calperformances.org/safety.

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