

PRESS KIT

for the presentation of the 2020 Handel Festival programme,

**a music festival in authentic venues
in the city of George Frideric Handel's birth,
Halle an der Saale**

Press Conference

**11am on 26 November 2019, in the Chamber Music Hall of Handel
House, Grosse Nikolaistrasse 5, 06108 Halle an der Saale**

With: **Dr. Bernd Wiegand**, Mayor of Halle an der Saale and President
of the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees

Dr. Jürgen Fox, Chairman of the Saalesparkasse Executive Board
and member of the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees

Florian Lutz, Artistic Director of Halle Opera and member of the
Handel House Foundation Advisory Council

Clemens Birnbaum, Director of the Handel House Foundation
and Executive Director of Handel Festival Halle

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Press release by Stadtwerke Halle GmbH

Handel Festival 2020: Musical Paintings

Advance ticket sales start on 28 November 2019

Handel Festival Halle is the largest music festival in the state of Saxony-Anhalt and one of the oldest and most famous Baroque music festivals in Europe. Nowhere else in the world do lovers of Baroque music have the opportunity to experience so many stage and concert productions of Baroque opera in the space of just 17 days. Naturally, the focus is on the operas of George Frideric Handel. Exactly 100 years ago in Halle, Oskar Hagen, who did a doctorate at the university here, nurtured the idea of staging a Handel opera for the first time in more than 170 years. He was inspired by the then professor of the musicology seminar of Halle University, Hermann Abert. The first performance took place in Göttingen in 1920, where Oskar Hagen had taken up an appointment with the university. In Göttingen, he found the support of another native of Halle: Paul Thiersch, then director of the Halle School of Trades (*Handwerkerschule*), who took charge of the scenography for the Handel operas in Göttingen. Born in Halle and emanating from Göttingen, the Handel opera renaissance thus began 100 years ago – an important anniversary that will be celebrated jointly this year by the Handel festivals of Göttingen and Halle.

Next year, the Handel Festival in Halle will take place from 29 May to 14 June 2020. In more than 100 different events over 17 days, visitors will have the opportunity to hear and see the very best of Baroque music on the festival theme of “Musical Paintings”. One special feature of the Handel Festival in Halle is that a number of different events take place in authentic Handel venues. Altogether, five stage productions, five oratorios and a multitude of gala concerts will be presented. At Halle Opera, we can look forward to a new production of the Handel opera *Teseo*, HWV 9, directed by Martin G. Berger. Performances of the Handel operas *Ottone*, *Ré di Germania*, HWV 15, and *Alessandro Severo*, HWV A¹³ will be held in the historic Goethe Theatre in Bad Lauchstädt. In the Carl Maria von Weber Theatre in Bernburg, a very special event is scheduled in the shape of next year’s stage production, *Moving Seasons*: a combination of Baroque music, including the famous *Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi, and modern ballet with Lautten Compagny Berlin and Plauen-Zwickau Theatre Ballet. International stars such as countertenors Valer Sabadus and Iestyn Davies, tenor Daniel Behle and the celebrated young soprano Sophie Junker will be taking the stage at the 2020 Handel Festival. Visitors will be able to hear orchestras of worldwide repute, including the Gabrieli Consort & Players from the UK with Paul McCreech, Accademia Bizantina from Italy led by Ottavio Dantone, the French ensemble Le Concert de l’Hostel Dieu with Franck-Emmanuel Comte, the Pera Ensemble Istanbul with Mehmet C. Yeşilçay, the Capella Cracoviensis choir and orchestra from Poland under musical director Jan Tomasz Adamus, and the MDR Symphony Orchestra and MDR Radio Choir with Howard Arman. *Messiah*, HWV 56, Handel’s best-known oratorio, will be performed twice: in Ulrichskirche Concert Hall, the 1751 version will be performed by Stadsingechor zu Halle and Batzdorfer Hofkapelle, while in Halle Cathedral, *Der Messias* HWV 56 (KV 572), arranged by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart can be heard performed by the Gulbenkian Choir and Divino Sospiero from Portugal. Further events awaiting visitors include the world premiere of the

Handel opera fragment *Fernando, Ré di Castiglia*, HWV 30, based on the Halle Handel Edition in cooperation with London Handel Festival, the oratorios *La bellezza ravveduta nel trionfo del tempo e del disinganno* HWV 46^a, *Israel in Egypt*, HWV 54, and *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, HWV 55, as well as a variety of Baroque Lounge concerts and children's and youth projects, the international academic conference and the traditional open-air concerts in the Galgenberg Gorge.

Clemens Birnbaum, director of the Handel House Foundation and the Festival's executive director, explains: "With the festival theme of "Musical Paintings", we want to pay homage this year to Oskar Hagen, the man behind the Handel opera renaissance 100 years ago. Oskar Hagen was an art historian and musicologist who repeatedly brought these two art forms together in his books. Moreover, even Handel's contemporaries noticed his penchant for tone painting in his music. In doing so, Handel was picking up on a debate of his time on the aesthetics of music, which demanded that music imitate Nature. At the same time, with this choice of theme we again want to call into question a social phenomenon of modern times: today's habit of unthinkingly sharing content, the 'copy and paste' habit, is the absolute opposite of the creative process and consequently of any debate on the question of imitation aesthetics. One thing worthy of imitation, however, is the generous commitment of public donors like the City of Halle, the State of Saxony-Anhalt and the federal government, as well as our partners and sponsors, of whom on behalf of all I shall just name Lotto Sachsen-Anhalt, Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung and Saalesparkasse. Without their support, it would not be possible to celebrate such a magnificent festival."

Opera Performances

- *Teseo* HWV 9 (directed by Martin G. Berger, staged performance)
- *Ottone, Ré di Germania* HWV 15 (staged performance)
- *Julius Cäsar in Ägypten* HWV 17 (staged performance)
- *Fernando, Ré di Castiglia* HWV 30 (opera fragment; world premiere based on the Halle Handel Edition; concert performance)
- *Alessandro* HWV A¹³ (staged performance)

Opening the 2020 Handel Festival is the opera ***Teseo***, HWV 9, in a stage production by Martin G. Berger in Italian with German surtitles at Halle Opera. The Handel Festival Orchestra Halle will perform on historical instruments under the baton of the internationally sought-after conductor Attilio Cremonesi. After any number of awards and a nomination for the German theatre prize *Der Faust*, this will be the first time that Martin G. Berger has worked at Halle Opera. The opera, with the soprano castrato Valeriano in the title role, was first performed on 10 January 1713 before a London audience in the Queen's Theatre. Charles Burney, the best-known music historian of Handel's time, considered *Teseo* to be an outstanding example of Handel's work by virtue of the musical "genius" shown in it. Particularly noteworthy in his view are the *accompagnati* recitatives, in which the wild and savage fury of the enraged sorceress and her incantations are "admirably painted", as he writes, by the instruments. In Halle, a select ensemble of soloists will join Handel Prize winner Romelia Lichtenstein on the stage. Among them will be male soprano Samuel Mariño, who thrilled the press and audiences two years ago in a new production of *Berenice*.

In the historic Goethe Theatre in Bad Lauchstädt, the Handel opera ***Ottone, Ré di Germania***, HWV 15, will be performed in a stage production on 12, 13 and 14 June by the young musicians of Accademia La Chimera and selected soloists, including finalists of the renowned Cesti Competition of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music. *Ottone* was one of Handel's most successful and most frequently performed operas during his lifetime. It was premiered on 12 January 1723 in the King's Theatre in London. The role of Ottone was played by the celebrated star castrato Senesino. The soprano Francesca Cuzzoni, newly engaged by Handel, made her London debut in *Ottone*. That Cuzzoni was not an easy person to work with became evident to Handel even during the rehearsals for *Ottone*, when the soprano refused to sing the aria *Falsa immagine*, which was only 28 bars long and very simple. An anecdote recounts that Handel then grabbed her by the waist and threatened to throw her out of the window, upon which she relented. And it was with precisely this aria that she subsequently unleashed storms of applause from the audience. The opera production will be in Italian with German surtitles. It is a coproduction with the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music and the Göttingen International Handel Festival and is kindly sponsored by Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung and Saalesparkasse. The critic writing in the daily newspaper *Die Welt* gave an enthusiastic report, calling the performance of *Ottone* a highlight of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music: "Today, early music is made by young people – even tattooed and with hipster beards. (...) You can see their keen concentration, their graceful movements even at racing tempi, how they pay atten-

tion to one another, cast glances at one another, and how a quick smile lights up between two. More beautiful than they, doing what they do, does not exist. And suddenly, physically present as they are on the stage, they portray the action jointly, as one with the singers. You comprehend the role of the music in what is going on better because you can see the people who are making it. And you are all the happier for seeing them.”

“We are delighted that together with Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung, Saalesparkasse is lending its support to the Handel Festival again in 2020. The Handel Festival indisputably marks a highpoint on the events agenda and every year brings pleasure to an ever-growing audience. Our aim is to reinforce culture, which is why our main funding is going to the opera production Ottone, Ré di Germania in the Goethe Theatre in Bad Lauchstädt, with which we have longstanding ties, as we do with the Handel House Foundation. (Dr. Jürgen Fox, Chairman of the Saalesparkasse Executive Board / member of the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees).

The successful production of the opera **Julius Cäsar in Ägypten**, HWV 17, will once again figure on the programme of Halle Opera, where audiences can see it for the last time. In this performance in German with German surtitles, Michael Hofstetter will conduct the Handel Festival Orchestra Halle. The director is Peter Konwitschny and the scenery was designed by Helmut Brade.

One sensational world premiere set to take place at the Handel Festival is the concert production of the opera fragment **Fernando, Ré di Castiglia**, HWV 30. This rarely performed piece will be presented in the original Italian in the Franckesche Stiftungen in Halle on 5 June 2020. The young musicians of the English early music orchestra, Opera Settecento, led by Leo Duarte, who made their much-acclaimed debut at the Handel Festival in 2017, captivate audiences with their performances on period instruments. They will be supported on the one hand by established soloists, such as this year by countertenor Owen Willetts, who has previously performed numerous Handel roles in renowned opera houses in Europe, Australia and the USA; but young singers, winners of the well-known Handel Singing Competition in London, will also be taking part, including Helen Charlston who made her successful debut in Halle last year. The London singing competition has long been a springboard for international singing careers. *Fernando, Ré di Castiglia* is produced in collaboration with the London Handel Festival and is generously sponsored by Mitteldeutsche Barockmusik e. V.

Also to be premiered is the opera pasticcio **Alessandro Severo**, HWV A¹³, on 30 and 31 May and 1 June in the Goethe Theatre in Bad Lauchstädt. The musicians will be the dynamic Czech ensemble Collegium Marianum, conducted by Jana Semerádová and supported vocally by internationally celebrated soloists including Raffaele Pé and Hana Blažíková. Countertenor Raffaele Pé delighted audiences at the 2019 Handel Festival in the performance of *Arbace*, together with the ensemble Auser Musici and Carlo Ipata. He is also the first countertenor ever to be invited to sing at the Verona Opera Festival in the Arena di Verona. Hana Blažíková, who has been captivating international audiences for many years with her interpretations of music from the Middle Ages through to the Baroque, performed at the 2019 Handel Festi-

val in her own gala concert. This rarely performed Handel opera is directed by Deda Cristina Colonna, an expert in historical gesture who has already staged numerous Baroque operas – at the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music, for example – with great sureness of style.

Oratorios

- *La bellezza ravveduta nel trionfo del tempo e del disinganno* HWV 46^a (new production based on the Halle Handel Edition)
- *Israel in Egypt* HWV 54
- *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* HWV 55
- *Messiah* HWV 56 (1751 version)
- *Der Messias* HWV 56 (arrangement by W. A. Mozart KV 572)

In May 1707, Handel presented his first-ever oratorio in Rome, HWV 46^a. In his music for ***La bellezza ravveduta nel trionfo del tempo e del disinganno***, HWV 46^a, he presents an impressive range of affects and paints wonderfully atmospheric images. He also played the organ at the performance himself, surprising the audience with innovative interludes. On 7 June 2020, we can look forward to seeing how the renowned Accademia Bizantina under the proven direction of Ottavio Dantone will present this magisterial oratorio in a new production based on the Halle Handel Edition in Halle Cathedral. The soloists are the famous singers Emmanuelle de Negri, Monica Piccinini, Carlos Mena and Martin Vanberg.

Many years later – between 1 October and 1 November 1738 – Handel composed his oratorio ***Israel in Egypt***, HWV 54. It consists of three sections: The Lamentation of the Israelites for the Death of Joseph, Exodus und Moses' Song. The original performance was held on 4 April 1739 in the King's Theatre in London. Today, it is one of the best-known and most popular oratorios of the Halle-born composer, G. F. Handel. In vividly dramatic, lively and energetic tones, it recounts the Old Testament story of the Exodus: the richly contrasting spectrum of expression ranges from heartfelt lament to dramatic, vivid depictions of the plagues right through to the festive and triumphant rejoicing of the freed Israelites. On 13 June 2020, this work can be heard in Halle Cathedral, performed by the Capella Cracoviensis choir and orchestra and conducted by Jan Thomasz Adamus. This Polish ensemble delighted audiences at the 2014 Handel Festival with their interpretation of the *Messiah* and in 2017 with their performance of *Deborah*.

On 27 February 1740, Handel premiered the oratorio ***L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato***, HWV 55, in the Lincolns Inn Fields Theatre. Despite the Italian title, the libretto is by the English poet, John Milton. It portrays the traits of character Mirth (*L'Allegro*), Melancholy (*Il Penseroso*) and Moderation (*Il Moderato*). Strictly speaking it is not an oratorio, because it is not based on any biblical text, but rather an allegory. This impressive choral work will be performed by the Gabrieli Consort & Players directed by Paul McCreesh, who has thrilled audiences on repeated occasions in the past with his interpretations of Baroque choral music and oratorios. Their CD of Handel's *L'Allegro*, featuring some of the internationally acclaimed vocal soloists

who will also be appearing in Halle, received outstanding reviews. For example, The Gramophone wrote: "Handel lovers can hardly fail to enjoy the mingled finesse and hedonistic delight of this new recording." And The Times wrote: "Paul McCreech's superb Gabrieli Consort and Players present this (...) with flair, a pristine sense of style and infectious energy." No wonder that this recording was nominated for a Grammy award in 2016. They will be performing at the Handel Festival in George Frideric Handel Hall on 6 June 2020. We can expect a reference performance.

Some concerts have already become an established tradition with audiences and no programme would be complete without them. First and foremost among them is the performance of **Messiah**, HWV 56. Its refined pastorales, the rousing *Hallelujah Chorus* and the powerful melodies of the arias and choruses make it an unforgettable experience for every visitor. On Sunday 31 May 2020, the 1751 version can be heard, performed by Batzdorfer Hofkapelle and Stadtsingechor zu Halle, conducted by Clemens Flämig in Ulrichskirche Concert Hall. The concert is held in cooperation with Stadtsingechor zu Halle.

You can also hear an arrangement of the *Messiah* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: **Der Messias**, HWV 56 / KV 572. Surprisingly enough, this Handel/Mozart version of the *Messiah*, arranged in 1789, on which two outstanding composers worked is rarely performed. Not only did Mozart base his arrangement on a German text, he also made some changes to the instrumentation. Internationally celebrated soloists, such as Ruth Ziesak, Kristina Hammarström and Tilman Lichdi, will perform the work on 5 June 2020 in Halle Cathedral, accompanied by the Portuguese early music orchestra Divino Sospiro and the illustrious Gulbenkian Choir, also from Portugal, conducted by Massimo Mazzeo. The concert is generously presented by LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt.

"The Handel Festival has grown into one of the most renowned festivals of Baroque music in Europe. This and other internationally respected music festivals – also sponsored by LOTTO – are placing the state of Saxony-Anhalt on the international stage as a tradition-steeped region of art and culture," says Lotto's managing director Maren Sieb. "LOTTO is delighted to be taking part in this development and supports this broad-ranging commitment to enrich our lives."

The Highlights of the Festival: Gala Concerts

The 2020 Handel Festival includes five gala concerts featuring internationally renowned stars in which we can look forward to Baroque music of the very highest standard. **Valer Sabadus, Iestyn Davies, Sophie Junker, Sophie Harmsen** and **Andreas Wolf** as well as **Daniel Behle** will be appearing in their own gala concerts.

The countertenor **Valer Sabadus** is one of world's most successful and celebrated singers of the Baroque music scene. On 30 May 2020, he will be appearing with the respected Venice Baroque Orchestra under the musical direction of Andrea Marcon at 7.30pm in George Frideric Handel Hall. Since his 2009 debut at the Salzburg Whitsun Festival in Jommelli's *Demofonte* conducted by Riccardo Muti, he has enjoyed a truly storybook career. By way of example, let us cite his interpretation of Semira in Leonardo Vinci's opera *Artaserse*, a production with a total of five countertenors which was hugely successful all over Europe, his great success as Menelao in Francesco Cavalli's rediscovered opera *Elena* at the Festival of Aix-en-Provence, his brilliant debut in Handel's *Serse* in a production by Stefan Herheim in Düsseldorf, and his performance as Teseo in Handel's eponymous opera at the Handel Festival in Karlsruhe. In a concert entitled "London 1735 – The rivalry between Handel and Porpora", works by both composers will be performed with compelling and magisterial skill by the celebrated and award-winning Sabadus.

On Whit Monday, 1 June 2020, the British countertenor **Iestyn Davies** will present his gala concert entitled "Handel's Orchestral Word Painting", accompanied by the London ensemble La Nuova Musica under the musical direction of David Bates. This multi-award-winning countertenor completed his singing studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London. His performances are always highly acclaimed by the press. Davies has been a guest singer at renowned opera houses, including the English National Opera, the Metropolitan Opera New York, the Teatro alla Scala in Milan and the Teatro Real in Madrid. La Nuova Musica is one of the most exciting young Baroque ensembles in the UK.

The Belgian soprano **Sophie Junker** made her international breakthrough when she won the London Handel Singing Competition. Her victory in the Cesti Competition at the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music further aided her meteoric rise to fame. She has also delighted audiences at the Handel Festival in Halle in opera productions at the Goethe Theatre in Bad Lauchstädt: as Galatea in *Acis and Galatea* in 2017, and as the divine nymph Amarilli in *Il Pastor fido* in 2019. Now she is returning to Halle with her own gala concert on 8 June 2020, which she is devoting to one of Handel's last muses, the *Francesina* ("little Frenchwoman"). She will be accompanied by the French ensemble Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu and Franck-Emmanuel Comte who, together with mezzo-soprano Giuseppina Bridelli, were rapturously received at the last Handel Festival in 2019. This concert is funded by TOTAL Raffinerie Mitteldeutschland GmbH.

We can enjoy the art of singing at its best on 11 June 2020 in Ulrichskirche Concert Hall, when the mezzo-soprano **Sophie Harmsen** and bass baritone **Andreas Wolf** will perform arias and duets by Sammartini and Handel. They will be accompanied and complemented in virtuoso fashion by the celebrated Concerto Köln. For more

than 30 years, this orchestra with its unmistakable sound has been one of the leading ensembles in the field of historically informed performance practice. The duo consisting of the mezzo-soprano Sophie Harmsen and bass baritone Andreas Wolf promises to be a top-notch vocal fireworks display. Both are regular guest singers at major concert venues around the world, whether in Wigmore Hall or at the Barbican Centre in London, the Philharmonie de Paris or Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, or the Lincoln Center in New York.

On the last festival weekend, the versatile tenor **Daniel Behle** will give his gala concert entitled “Enjoy the Sweet Elysian Grove” with Lautten Compagnie Berlin and Wolfgang Katschner. Daniel Behle is equally successful in the concert, Lied and opera genres and has enjoyed major successes in international venues all over the world – such as in his debut appearance at the Bayreuth Festival in 2017. *“Letting yourself be taken along on this excursion by Behle’s wonderfully luminous, elegantly agile tenor is like a journey through lush greenery and light-suffused summer freshness”* (BR-Klassik, July 2017)

A Stroll Through the Festival Programme

The Handel Festival has enjoyed success for many years and guarantees not only first-class Baroque music but also exciting cross-genre projects. This success is due to a combination of factors: it features top, internationally renowned artists; the broad selection of works provides a panoramic view of Handel’s work within the space of just a few days; and numerous venues offer appealing authenticity and special atmosphere. Next year, its highly varied programme can be enjoyed in more than 22 different venues: ranging from the historically authentic to modern, there is something to suit every taste.

In a **three-part cantata series**, Raffaella Milanese and the G.A.P. Ensemble, made up of excellent musicians occupying leading positions in the most important Baroque orchestras in Europe, will be setting diverse musical accents. The Rome-born soprano is one of the most sought-after soloists in Baroque music. She has appeared in renowned opera houses including Berlin, Amsterdam, Bordeaux, Brussels, Geneva, Lausanne, Madrid, Paris and Vienna, and at festivals such as Ambronay, Beaune, Innsbruck, Montpellier and Schwetzingen. She has performed in the two Monteverdi operas *L’Orfeo* and *Il ritorno d’Ulisse in patria* at La Scala in Milan. The first concert on 30 May in the Leopoldina, **Cantatas I: La Tempesta d’amore**, is all about love. Handel’s years of education and travel in Italy from 1706 to 1710 had a significant influence on his compositional style. The 80-plus cantatas that he wrote during this period are small masterpieces of colour, the texts filled with Arcadian metaphor. The second concert, **Cantatas II: Conversazione Arcadiche**, will take place on 31 May in a new venue for the Handel Festival: the refurbished Kursaal in Bad Lauchstädt. The *Accademia degli Arcadi*, or “Academy of the Arcadians”, was an association of artists and nobles whose aim was to present Italian poetry in all its simplicity and natural style. For the regular Sunday *conversazioni* in the *palazzo* of the Marchese Ruspoli and for hunting parties which the Arcadians held in the summer months at the country seat of the later Principe di Cerveteri, Handel supplied secular cantatas, most of which were written for solo voice and basso continuo. In

the Kursaal concert hall in Bad Lauchstädt, which is idyllically set in a park complete with a pond, pavilions and avenues of clipped trees, Raffaella Milanesi brings the Italian countryside of the young Handel to life. The final cantata concert on 2 June in the Chamber Music Hall in Handel House is devoted to **Handel in Florence (Cantatas III)**.

SPECIAL TIP: In line with the concert programme, there will be a guided tour of the museum in Handel House in which the Florentine treasures from the Handel House Foundation collections will be presented.

Music from settings of *Tamerlano* by G. F. Handel and contemporaries, as well as music from the Ottoman Empire can be enjoyed on Whit Monday, 31 May 2020, in the Leopoldina. Mehmet C. Yeşilçay will be conducting the Pera Ensemble, ECHO Klassik award winners who have already made several acclaimed appearances in Halle (for example, in the rapturously received, ecumenical One God concert in 2017) in a new, concert production of **Timur und Bayezid**.

On 6 and 7 June 2020, you can enjoy a combination of Baroque music and modern dance theatre in the Carl Maria von Weber Theatre in Bernburg with Lautten Compagny Berlin and the Plauen-Zwickau Theatre Ballet in a production entitled **Moving Seasons**. With its catchy melodies and tone-painting effects, Antonio Vivaldi's cycle *The Four Seasons* communicates with arias by George Frideric Handel. From peasant dances to dancing nymphs, from tottering drinkers to ice-skaters, from melancholy to heroic opera figures, this cornucopia of images and emotions flows directly into movement. The choreographer Annett Göhre takes her inspiration from the human life cycle. The annual seasons become life in dance form. The soloist is the internationally acclaimed countertenor Nicholas Tamagna, whose unusual timbre rapidly made him an established figure in opera venues all over the world.

SPECIAL TIP for 7 June 2020: By boat to the concert venue. Shipping company Halle - Saale - Schifffahrt Rüdiger Ruwolt e.K. invites you aboard the MS Händel II for an atmospheric boat trip. The boat departs from Riveufer in Halle and moors below the castle in Bernburg. From there, visitors walk to the Carl Maria von Weber Theatre. The return journey to Halle is by bus.

On 12 June 2020 in George Frideric Handel Hall, we can enjoy the historical gala concert of 20 June 1883: **Handel in Crystal Palace**. Crystal Palace, a gigantic concert and exhibition building, was built in 1851 for the first Great Exhibition in London's Hyde Park, then dismantled and rebuilt in an extended form in Upper Norwood. This massive building then developed into one of the most legendary festival concert venues in London of the nineteenth century. On special occasions, such as the 1883 Handel Festival, up to 4,000 singers and 500 instrumentalists took part in performances, while tens of thousands of listeners, some sitting, some walking up and down in the spacious halls, enjoyed the music. The Crystal Palace Company, founded in 1852, had set itself the task of "building a universal temple for the education of the masses and refining their recreational pleasures", and from 1859 gigantic Handel festivals took place in it. On 12 June 2020, Howard Arman will be conducting the MDR Radio Choir and the MDR Symphony Orchestra. Also on stage will be soloists Julia Doyle, Nicholas Mulroy, Matthias Winckler and Christopher Stokes. This reconstruction of a historical concert programme is a cooperative project with Mitteldeutsche Rundfunk.

On 3 June 2020, the concert "**Birds**" featuring the South African recorder player and ECHO Klassik award winner Stefan Temmingh, with his Gentleman's Band and soprano Dorothee Miels, who is often referred to as the German prima donna of early music, will fill the superb auditorium of Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg with birdsong. From Handel's *Sweet Bird* to Vivaldi's *Il Gardellino*, you will hear chirping and jubilation, sometimes magnificent and virtuosic, sometimes witty and all a-flutter, but at other times intimate and moving. The concert is kindly sponsored by Kathi Rainer Thiele GmbH.

The well-known author and self-confessed Handel fan **Donna Leon** is coming to Halle: Handel's operas are filled with arias which make reference to animals; richly symbolic, his works resonate with the perceived virtues and vices of the lion, the bee, the nightingale, the snake, the elephant and many other beasts. In her book ***Händels Bestiarium*** ("Handel's Bestiary"), Donna Leon has selected the arias in which animals feature the most and, with her original and entertaining texts, follows the animals' "footprints" from the mediaeval bestiaries to our own time. With actor Annett Renneberg, who is familiar to a wide TV audience as Signorina Elettra Zorzi in the film adaptations of Donna Leon's Commissario Brunetti novels, she will read the texts before Handel's arias are performed, on 7 June 2020 in Ulrichskirche Concert Hall. These will be sung by Latvian Inga Kalna and Spanish-born Maite Beaumont. The Italian Baroque orchestra Il Pomo d'Oro will be supporting these two exceptional singers. The concert is organised in cooperation with the Dresden Music Festival with the kind support of GP Günter Papenburg AG.

In the concert "**Sweet Birds**", the focus is on arias by Handel and Vivaldi which feature the chirruping of all sorts of birds. The filigree lightness of the soprano arias, often accompanied by flutes by way of stylised birdsong, is conveyed to best effect by the soprano Nuria Rial, who is a familiar figure in Halle. The Baroque trumpeter Reinhold Friedrich, who performs in all major venues worldwide, adds further lustre to the programme. He also teaches trumpet as a professor at the University of Music in Halle's twin town of Karlsruhe and the Royal Academy of Music in London. They will be accompanied by the Handel Festival Orchestra Halle performing on historical instruments under the direction of Birgit Schnurpfeil. The concert on 10 June 2020 in the Löwengebäude is organised in cooperation with the Handel Festival Orchestra Halle and sponsored by Orbis Real Estate GmbH.

The Handel Festival Classics

The **closing concert** has taken place regularly in the grandiose setting of the romantic Galgenberg Gorge since 1952. Visitors can expect a spectacular evening which will once again bring the power of the elements to the stage: in Beethoven's *Meeresstille und glückliche Fahrt* or Wagner's overture to *The Flying Dutchman*, the elements of fire, water, earth and air are echoed in the music. At the 2020 Handel Festival, the Robert Franz Singakademie will be taking the stage on 14 June with Staatskapelle Halle under the proven direction of Jan Michael Horstmann. Also appearing in the concert is the impressive, virtuoso countertenor Dmitry Egorov, who has enjoyed great international success with his extraordinary skill in the highest male register. The concert, which next year is sponsored by Hallesche Wohnungsgesellschaft mbH, traditionally ends with Handel's *Fireworks Music* and a fireworks display attuned to the music.

SPECIAL TIP: Family tickets for the closing concert: one child under 14 accompanied by one adult paying the full ticket price pays only ten euros.

But there are also classics on a smaller scale. For the past couple of years, these have included the **Water Music** concerts on the MS Händel II. In 2020, Sachsen-Anhalt-Brass – the self-styled "Central German Brass Soloists" – will be accompanying guests on the grand trip down the Saale Valley on 3 and 10 June. But the programme would not be complete without the **promenade concerts** in the Botanical Garden on 2 and 8 June, with their picnics on the lawn and special guided tour, or the **Family Festival**, on Saturday, 13 June 2020. In the courtyard of Handel House, a colourful afternoon programme is scheduled in which children can do activities such as making their own small musical instruments or decorating delicious biscuits provided by KATHI. The Family Festival is sponsored by KATHI Rainer Thiele GmbH. Before this, at 2pm, the **children's concert *Der Raupe wundersame Wandlung*** ("The Wondrous Transformation of Caterpillars") for adults and children age five and over, will be staged in the Chamber Music Hall of Handel House by Theaterimkerei SanneWeber theatre group. This is a fairytale-like homage to the life of Maria Sibylla Merian. Singing and dancing caterpillars and butterflies tell us all about what they are and what they will become.

International Academic Conference

In line with the festival theme, the International Academic Conference will be dealing with "Handel images". This subject can be interpreted in different ways: on the one hand there is the topic of the paintings in Handel's collection and the visual worlds that surrounded him at his various places of work; on the other hand, however, the subject will also explore the visual imagination that he generated in his artistic work. The question of which images of Handel were created to classify the figure and the works of the composer in different cultural, aesthetic or political value systems will also be addressed. Renowned researchers from several countries of Europe and overseas have confirmed their participation. The International Academic Conference entitled "Handel Images – Iconography, Aesthetics, Compositional Practice" will be held from 8 to 9 June 2020 in Handel House. Admission is free.

Free Events

The traditional opening of the festival will take place on 29 May 2020, at 4pm, with the **official ceremony** at the Handel Memorial. That evening, or rather night, the festival will continue with the admission-free **18th Organ Night**. In addition to this, three **festival church services** will be held, in Halle Cathedral on 31 May and 14 June, and in Halle's Marktkirche on 7 June 2020. You will be able to hear the winners of the London Handel Singing Competition in a free **lunchtime concert** on Whit Sunday, 31 May, at 12 noon in Handel House. This year, the winner of the 2019 singing competition, Eszter Balogh, will be appearing in Halle. This Hungarian mezzo-soprano has already numerous appearances in Budapest, Pécs, London and Herne to her credit. She is accompanied by Japan-born Asako Ogawa, who gave a harpsichord concert in Halle last year. The harpsichordist and composer Andrey Pracht, a specialist of historically informed performance practice and historical keyboard instruments, will be performing in Halle for the first time, and in the second free lunchtime concert on 6 June will be bringing some of the most beautiful Handel works to life. From 12 noon to 5pm on 6 June, the theatre group Incanto Erlebenskunst will be appearing on Marktplatz with their programme, **Baroque & Rococo**. Also on 6 June, the free concert series **Am Händel um 8** ("By Handel at 8") will open on Marktplatz: In a collaboration between Stadtmarketing Halle GmbH and the Handel Festival, the brass quintet Harmonic Brass will give a concert entitled "Handel for Brass". Further concerts in the *Am Händel um 8* series will subsequently be held every day at 8pm until 13 June.

Anyone who makes the journey to Eisleben on 6 June 2020 can attend a free **organ concert including a guided tour in the church of St. Bartholomew in Aseleben**. This 900-year-old town lies on lake Süßer See, between Halle an der Saale and the Luther City of Eisleben. Handel's great-great-grandfather Christoph Ziebogen (1524-1598) lived and worked in Aseleben. He was a wealthy farmer there, and a regional magistrate in Seeburg.

On 11 June, Stadtsingechor zu Halle invites you to a **choral concert** in Halle Cathedral organised in cooperation with the Stuttgarter Hymnus-Chorknaben boys' choir. This concert focuses on the psalm setting *As pants the hart*. In the admission-free **Family Festival** on 13 June 2020 in the courtyard of Handel House, there will be painting, handicrafts, baking and much more besides. The Family Festival is kindly sponsored by KATHI Rainer Thiele GmbH. There will also be free admission once again to the **introductory talks** on numerous concerts by Dr. Erik Dremel in the Glass Hall of Handel House. Many other free events and much more besides await visitors in the secondary programme. These can be found in the programme starting on page 54.

Cross-genre Projects

There is always something new to discover at the Handel Festival. The programme is open to numerous, different music genres and music cultures. That means that we and our guests always have exciting voyages of musical discovery to look forward to.

On 1 June 2020, Whit Monday, Burak Özdemir and his ensemble Musica Sequenza, accompanied by live electronic artist Carlo Grippa and singer Margret Bahr, will present his project **Morphine** in the first of the **Baroque Lounge** concerts in St. George's Church. This performance in Halle is the work's premiere. It focuses on eleven compositions by G. F. Handel, designed as a collage of sound and fused together into an artistic whole. The Istanbul-born bassoonist, composer, choreographer and producer has already performed in Halle at the 2015 festival.

Also in St. George's Church, on 5 June 2020, you can hear the Austrian musician Lia Pale with her ensemble. She is devoting herself to a project close to her heart and for this special evening has added a "**Handel Songbook**" to her repertoire. Our collaboration with Women in Jazz will build another exciting bridge between Baroque and jazz music.

The Handel Festival organised its first **Poetry Slam** in 2018. After the success of the recent years, a small community of motivated artists will be contributing to the theme of Musical Paintings with texts and performances of the highest standard. This event on 4 June 2020 in Handel House is organised in cooperation with HALternativ e. V.

For the first time, the Handel Festival will be stopping off in WuK Theater Quartier. Musicians Candida Guida, Marcello Nisinman, Alberto Mersica and Winfried Holzenkamp will be building bridges to new musical shores. The Argentine all-round artist Marcello Nisinman re-arranges the grooviest hits in the history of music and brings them into the here and now in his programme **Stigie larve – Geister der Hölle (Stigie larve – Spectres from Hell)**. Following on from the **Baroque Lounge** on 7 June 2020 – also in WuK Theater Quartier for the first time – there will be a club night entitled End of Line, with the WÜST collective from Halle.

On Saturday 13 June, the highly popular **Bridges to Classics** will be presenting a top-notch symphonic rock concert against the breathtakingly beautiful, natural backdrop of the Galgenberg Gorge. The concert, which ends with a spectacular fireworks display, attracts thousands of visitors every year. In 2020 the concert, directed by Bernd Ruf, will once again be presented by MDR Sachsen-Anhalt and sponsored by Stadtwerke Halle GmbH and EVH GmbH.

Reflections on the Festival Theme of “Musical Paintings” – 100th Anniversary of the Handel Opera Renaissance

This year, we are celebrating a special anniversary: 100 years ago, the first performance of a Baroque opera – and at the same time, of a Handel opera – in over 150 years took place in Göttingen. The man of the moment in 1920 was Oskar Hagen. He had studied art history and musicology, and in 1913 attended the university in Halle an der Saale, where he did a doctorate. Here, he met Hermann Abert, the professor of the musicology seminar founded by the latter in 1913. And it was here that the idea of reviving stage performances of Handel’s operas was born. This was finally realised in 1920 with the performance of Handel’s *Rodelinda* in Göttingen, to which city Oskar Hagen had moved in 1918 after being offered a position by the university. He was supported in this endeavour by another native of Halle: the architect and interior designer Paul Thiersch, who since 1915 had been the director and reformer of the Halle School of Trades (*Hallesche Handwerkerschule*), which in 1922 became the “City of Halle Workshops, Burg Giebichenstein State and Municipal Arts and Crafts School”. The success of the performance of *Rodelinda* in Göttingen was an enduring one: in the following years, further Handel operas were performed – and not only in that university town of Lower Saxony: all over Germany, including in Halle in 1922, Handel’s operatic oeuvre was rediscovered, which is why 1920 is referred to as the year in which the Handel opera renaissance began.

By choosing “Musical Paintings” as the festival title, we want to pay homage to the art historian and musicologist Oskar Hagen, who repeatedly brought these two art forms together in his studies. One evident approach was to take a close look in particular at Handel’s oratorios, which contain a multitude of examples of tone painting. *Israel in Egypt* is one famous example. Not only the words tell of hailstones, frogs, flies and darkness: Handel also evokes them forcefully in the music. Even contemporaries noticed Handel’s particular penchant for tone painting. For example, Karl Friedrich Zelter referred to it in a letter dated 14 November 1828 to Goethe: “The ear becomes the eye, one wants to distinguish colours, shapes, genders.”

It is therefore not to be wondered at that if you also look for tone painting in Handel’s operas too, you find it. It occurs especially when in the libretti natural phenomena are used as metaphors. Countless thunderstorms and tempests at sea are found in the aria texts, reflecting the feelings at any given time of the protagonist in question – and Handel makes use of this to unleash veritable storms of music. He creates haunting nocturnal images, depicts Arcadian and pastoral images in music; one hears the sounds of animals – Handel makes frequent use of birdsong – and many other sounds. The writer Donna Leon has devoted a whole book to Handel’s bestiary. The orchestra plays an important role in Handel’s musical onomatopoeia. Charles Burney noticed as much back in the late eighteenth century, when he wrote of the accompaniment to an *accompagnato* recitative in the opera *Teseo* that “the wild and savage fury of the enraged sorceress Medea and her incantations are admirably painted by the instruments”.

Clemens Birnbaum

Handel Prize Winner 2020

Valer Sabadus

The 2020 City of Halle Handel Prize awarded by the Handel House Foundation is to go to the countertenor **Valer Sabadus** for his special services to the interpretation of Handel's music, which he has proven in various concerts on several occasions at the Handel Festival in Halle, Dr. Bernd Wiegand, Mayor of the City of Halle an der Saale and President of the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees, has announced.

Announcement by the Mayor, Dr. Bernd Wiegand: "For his special services to the interpretation of Handel's music, the 2020 City of Halle Handel Prize awarded by the Handel House Foundation goes to the countertenor Valer Sabadus. Sabadus' triumphal march through the international opera houses began with his glittering performance in the title role of the Handel opera Rinaldo at the 2011 Handel Festival. Since then, this much sought-after countertenor has toured the world. Now things have come full circle: Valer Sabadus will be demonstrating his exceptional musical skill together with the Venice Baroque Orchestra in the laureate concert on 30 May 2020 in George Frideric Handel Hall."

Valer Sabadus was born in Arad (Romania), but moved to Germany at the age of five. His earliest musical education was in violin and piano. At the age of 17, he began his studies as countertenor at Munich University of Music and the Performing Arts. In 2009 he became a member of the August Everding Bavarian Theatre Academy, where he completed the Music Theatre master class in 2013. He made his debut at the Salzburg Whitsun Festival in 2009 aged just 23 in the role of Adrasto in Niccolò Jommelli's *Demofonte* under Riccardo Muti. At the 2011 Handel Festival Halle, he shone in the title role of *Rinaldo* with Lautten Compagny Berlin, performing the part a short time later in a concert performance at the Rheingau Music Festival. In 2013, he made his debut at the *Festival d'Aix-en-Provence* as Menelao in the Cavalli opera *Elena*. Since then, he has appeared in major roles in all the world's most renowned venues. In 2014, he signed a contract with the major label Sony Classical. His diverse repertoire is reflected in numerous recordings, which among other distinctions have won the German Record Critics' Prize and ECHO Klassik and been nominated for a Grammy award. In the 2018-29 season, several tours with different programmes took him right through Europe: with L'Arpeggiata and the programme *Handel Goes Wild*, he appeared in the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, the Kölner Philharmonie, the Utrecht Oude Music Festival, KKL Lucerne and the Lyon Auditorium – and not least at the Handel Festival in Halle. After the release of the CD *Caro Gemello*, he undertook a tour with that programme with the ensemble Concerto Köln, which took him to Ambronay, Neuss, Cologne and Kassel, as well as Duisburg and Versailles. This was followed by a tour of Japan with the same programme. With Accademia Bizantina and the programme *Marc Antonio e Cleopatra*, he has performed in Cologne, Hamburg and Barcelona. In 2019, he presented the programme *Sensitivity – Arias for Carestini and Salimbeni* with the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, which he also performed at the Handel Festival in Halle.

More information and photos are available at: <https://www.valer-sabadus.de/>.

Handel House and Wilhelm Friedemann Bach House during the Handel Festival

1. HANDEL HOUSE

Grosse Nikolaistrasse 5, 06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone+49 (0) 345 / 500 90 221

stiftung@haendelhaus.de / www.haendelhaus.de

Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 6pm

Special opening times during the 2020 Handel Festival:

Daily from 10am to 7pm

Permanent exhibitions in Handel House:

“Handel – the European”

“Historical Musical Instruments”

Annual exhibition in Handel House:

Meine Seele sieht im Hören – Händels Opern, Oskar Hagen und die Bildkraft der Musik – (“My soul sees in hearing – Handel’s operas, Oskar Hagen and the visual power of music”)

Duration: 21 February 2020 - 10 January 2021

Curated by: Christiane Barth (Museum director, Handel House Foundation) with the collaboration of Dr. Konstanze Musketa, Karl Altenburg and Theresa Stiller

Special guided tours of Handel House

31 May, 6 June 2020, each at 11am, and 8 June 2020, 5.30pm, Handel House

***Klangbilder – Bilderklänge* (Pictures in sound – sound in pictures)**

Guided tour of the annual exhibition: Christiane Barth and Theresa Stiller (Handel House Foundation), tickets: €7, number of participants limited (duration: 45 minutes approx.) (in German)

1 June 2020, 10am, Handel House

***Musikmaschinen im Händel-Haus* (Music Machines in Handel House)**

A guided tour of mechanical musical instruments: Guided tour with Christiane Barth (Museum director, Handel House Foundation), tickets: €7, number of participants limited (duration: 45 minutes approx.) (in German)

2 June 2020, 6.30pm, Handel House

***Florentinische Schätze* (Florentine Treasures)**

Tour of the Historical Musical Instruments exhibition and the collection of prints and drawings: Christiane Barth (Museum director, Handel House Foundation), tickets: €7, number of participants limited (duration: 45 minutes approx.) (in German)

5 and 12 June 2020, 4.30pm, Handel House

***„Ton-Gemälde“ – Bilder, Motive und Klangfarben im Musikinstrumentenbau* (“Tone paintings” – Images, motifs and timbre in musical instrument building”)**

PRESS KIT 2020 Handel Festival Halle



Guided tour of the permanent Historical Musical Instruments exhibition in which selected keyboard instruments will be played: Karl Altenburg (Handel House Foundation)

Tickets: €7, number of participants limited (duration: 60 minutes approx.) (in German)

Tickets are available from the museum desk in Handel House by phoning +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 103 or write to ticket@haendelhaus.de.

2. WILHELM FRIEDEMANN BACH HOUSE

Grosse Klausstrasse 12 (entrance on Hallorenring), 06108 Halle (Saale)

Friday and Saturday: 10am to 6pm

Special opening times during the 2020 Handel Festival:

Friday to Sunday: 10am to 6pm

Permanent exhibition in Wilhelm Friedemann Bach House

Halle, the City of Music

Special guided tour in Wilhelm Friedemann Bach House

5 June 2020, 3.30pm, Wilhelm Friedemann Bach House

„Messias“ – ein altmodisches Stück? (Messiah – an old-fashioned piece?)

A special guided tour on the beginnings of the Halle Handel renaissance: Dr. Konstanze Musketa (Library director, Handel House Foundation) // Tickets: €7, number of participants limited (duration: 60 minutes approx.) (in German)

Tickets are available from the museum desk in Handel House by phoning +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 103 or write to ticket@haendelhaus.de.

Visitor information

The 2020 Handel Festival visitors' office in Handel House is open daily from 27 May to 14 June, from 10am to 6pm. Here, visitors can get information about events, the programmes of individual events and unsold tickets. Visitors can also purchase the festival magazine. This provides full information about the festival, with interesting features on the performers, background information about performances and much more besides. The evening box offices open one hour before the start of performances at the respective venues.

Information on ticket sales

Tickets for the 2020 Handel Festival are available: by phone on +49 (0) 345 / 565 2706 (from Monday to Friday: 7am to 7pm, Saturday: 7am to 2pm) or on: www.haendelfestspiele-halle.de, or from CTS Eventim advance ticket sales offices all over Germany; in Saxony-Anhalt also from TiM Ticket in certain Mitteldeutsche Zeitung service centres and Galeria Kaufhof Passage in Halle.

Roßdeutscher & Bartel GbR offers a free waiting list service for sold-out events:
Roßdeutscher & Bartel GbR information and ticket service:, tel. +49 (0) 341 / 1499
0758 or www.barock-konzerte.de/warteliste.

SPECIAL TIP: Family tickets for the closing concert: one child under 14 accompanied by one adult paying the full ticket price pays only ten euros.

Handel Festival 2020: Facts and Figures

29 May - 14 June 2020

77 paying events (over 100 events in total)

22 venues

4 regional venues:

- Goethe Theatre, Bad Lauchstädt
- Kursaal, Bad Lauchstädt
- Carl Maria von Weber Theatre, Bernburg
- St. Bartholomew's Church in Aseleben

3 new venues:

- Kursaal, Bad Lauchstädt (following refurbishment)
- St. Bartholomew's Church in Aseleben
- WUK Theater Quartier

5 operas

- Teseo HWV 9 (staged performance)
- *Ottone, Ré di Germania* HWV 15 (staged performance)
- *Julius Cäsar in Ägypten* HWV 17 (staged performance)
- *Fernando, Ré di Castiglia* HWV 30 (opera fragment; world premiere based on the Halle Handel Edition; concert performance)
- *Alessandro* HWV A¹³ (staged performance)

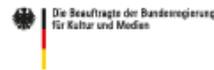
1 dance theatre production

- *Moving Seasons with music from the Four Seasons by Antonio Vivaldi and arias by George Frideric Handel*

5 oratorios

- *La bellezza ravveduta nel trionfo del tempo e del disinganno* HWV 46^a (new production based on the Halle Handel Edition)
- *Israel in Egypt* HWV 54
- *L'Allegro, il Pensieroso ed il Moderato* HWV 55
- *Messiah* HWV 56 (1751 version)
- *Der Messias* HWV 56 (arrangement by W. A. Mozart KV 572)

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Abteilung Musikwissenschaft

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2020 Handel Festival – Musical Paintings

LOTTO provides €53,000 in funding for Baroque music festival

Magdeburg, 26 November 2019 –The Handel Festival will once again be welcoming Baroque music lovers from Germany and abroad to the city of the great composer’s birth from 29 May to 14 June 2020. In more than 100 events, some in authentic Handel venues in the city of Halle an der Saale, stars of the international Baroque music scene, top ensembles and a whole range of interpretational styles can be enjoyed under the heading of “Musical Paintings”.

LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt has been the staunch partner of the Handel Festival since 2008. To date, a total of 700,000 euros of lottery resources* have been allocated to this Baroque music festival, including 53,000 euros for the 2020 festival.

“The Handel Festival has grown into one of the most renowned festivals of Baroque music in Europe. This and other internationally respected music festivals – also sponsored by LOTTO – are placing the state of Saxony-Anhalt on the international stage as a tradition-steeped region of art and culture,” says Lotto’s managing director Maren Sieb. “LOTTO is delighted to be taking part in this development and supports this broad-ranging commitment to enrich our lives.”

“George Frideric Handel’s home city of Halle has commemorated and conserved his legacy for nearly a century. The title of the 2020 festival, “Musical Paintings” – a reference to the initiator of the Handel opera renaissance Oskar Hagen – promises an exciting dialogue between music and art. With operas, oratorios and concerts, it will build bridges between cultures, including to modern genres.

Background:

*Lottery funding resources are a fixed percentage of the betting stakes and are granted for projects in Saxony-Anhalt on the basis of applications.

Any not-for-profit association can submit an application for a specific project to LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt. One important criterion is that it must have a sound financing plan. Up to 50% of the total costs of a project can be funded. 15% of self-funding is required.

A graphic in the section “Lotto fördert” (“Lotto funds”) on www.lottosachsenanhalt.de explains the procedure for awarding lottery funding. For every euro spent on a LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt product, around 20 cents are used to serve the public interest.

Since 1991, LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt has paid more than 25 million euros to the City of Halle – including to the Handel House Foundation for the Handel Festival, to the Hallesche Leichtathletik-Freunde e. V. light athletics association for the Halplus-Werfstage throwing sports competition, and to the St. Mauritius zu Halle (Saale) e. V. civil society for the restoration of St. Maurice’s Church.

**Lotto-Toto GmbH
Sachsen-Anhalt
Stresemannstraße 18
39104 Magdeburg**

Bei Rückfragen wenden
Sie sich bitte an:

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Press release

SWH. Stadtwerke Halle – at the heart of cultural life

Stadtwerke Halle not only assumes economic responsibilities, it is also passionately committed to culture, sport, science and education – as well as numerous other activities that make everyday life in this city on the River Saale pleasanter and contribute to the well-being of the people who live here. “We are extremely attached to the Handel Festival because it has been thrilling music-lovers from all over the world since 1922. Famous artists and first-rate orchestras bring pleasure to concert-goers and music critics alike – reason enough for us to sponsor this top-class event. We want to do our bit towards building a rich cultural landscape in Halle an der Saale, because that is good for us too,” says Matthias Lux, Managing Director of Stadtwerke Halle.

Stadtwerke Halle operates in four fields of business:

- **Energy**
Energy supply, provision of energy-efficiency services **Water and Waste Management**
Water supply, sewage treatment, waste disposal, secondary raw materials **Mobility**
Local public transport, mobility, logistics **Services**
Municipal infrastructure services, internal services

Stadtwerke Halle GmbH

Stadtwerke Halle is a powerful corporate group providing the full range of basic utilities for the city of Halle and services to industry: its operations range from energy and water supply to local public transport, recycling, sewage treatment, waste disposal, street-cleaning, ice and snow-clearing services, logistics, landfill and infrastructure services and data processing, right through to the provision of swimming facilities and street-lighting – all from a single source. With 2,914 employees and interns and an annual turnover of €615m in 2018, Stadtwerke Halle is the largest industrial employer in Halle an der Saale and the largest municipal utility in Saxony-Anhalt. <http://www.stadtwerke-halle.de>