

## PRESS KIT

**for the presentation of the 2021 HANDEL FESTIVAL programme,**

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

**Virtual press conference 3 December 2020, 10 am**, in the chamber music hall of the Handel House, Große Nikolaistraße 5, 06108 Halle (Saale)

Live in the chamber music hall:

- **Clemens Birnbaum**, Director of the Handel House Foundation and Director of the Handel Festival
- **Karl Altenburg**, curator of the annual exhibition "Off the Pedestal - Of Heroes and Redeemers"
- **Philipp Amelungen**, Chief dramaturge of the opera "Teseo" HWV 9

Live music from the Händel House:

- **Kammersängerin and Handel Prize winner Romelia Lichtenstein** (soprano) will sing two arias from "Teseo" and one aria from the "Brockes Passion" accompanied by **Kathrin Wittrisch** (harpsichord) and **Dietlind von Poblozki** (violin)

Film statements will be made by:

- **Dr. Bernd Wiegand**, Lord Mayor of the City of Halle (Saale) and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Handel House Foundation
- **Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hirschmann**, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Handel House Foundation and President of the Georg Friedrich Handel Society, International Association e. V.
- **Walter Sutcliffe**, Director and designated artistic director of the Halle Opera
- **Prof. Dr. Michael Maul**, Director of the Bach Festival Leipzig
- **Dr. Jürgen Fox**, Chairman of the Saalesparkasse Executive Board / Member of the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees

## Contents

2021 Handel Festival	Pages 3 - 4
Organisational information	Page 5
Information on ticket sales	Page 5
The 2021 Handel Festival in figures	Page 6
Opera performances	Pages 7 - 8
Oratorios and choral music	Pages 9 - 11
International stars and gala concerts	Pages 11 -12
A stroll through the festival programme	Pages 13 - 14
Handel's music builds bridges	Pages 15 - 16
2021 International Academic Conference	Page 16
The festival theme: Heroes and Redeemers	Page 17
The Handel Prize winner	Pages 18 - 19
Star guest of Bridges to Classics	Page 19
Patrons and sponsors	Page 20

## 2021 Handel Festival: Heroes and Redeemers

From 28 May to 13 June 2021, Halle an der Saale, the city of George Frideric Handel's birth, will once again be the scene of the prestigious Handel Festival. Entitled "Heroes and Redeemers", the programme comprises around 100 events in 20 different venues. Following the cancellation of the 2020 Handel Festival owing to the coronavirus pandemic, the Handel House Foundation is doing everything it can and deploying a number of different means to ensure that the festival can take place – in some form or other – in the coming year. When the coronavirus broke out in Germany in spring 2020, the programme of next year's festival was already fully planned. Over the past weeks and months, it has had to be made coronavirus-compliant and several items on it have been abandoned. Nevertheless, despite the restrictions and a significant reduction in seating capacity, a comprehensive and diverse programme will be on offer, with numerous stars of Baroque music, new productions and premieres. Even so, we do not know how the pandemic will develop, especially as regards travel restrictions. For this reason, following a risk analysis of the events, for the first time in the long history of the festival advance ticket sales will be staggered. Tickets will be released for sale in three waves: the first wave starts on 3 December 2020, a second is planned for 15 January 2021 and a third wave of ticket sales for 15 March 2021.

*"We hope that we will be able to enjoy the Handel Festival again, live, in Halle in 2021. To help ensure that it can, and despite the difficult and constantly changing circumstances of the pandemic, creative ways have been devised to offer a programme that justifies the excellent reputation the festival enjoys. Added to this is a new form of partnership with the Leipzig Bachfest, which is also a sign of the growing convergence between these two Central German metropolises."*

*Dr. Bernd Wiegand (Mayor of Halle an der Saale and Chairman of the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees)*

International stars, such as the singers Lucy Crowe, Sandrine Piau and Kristina Hammerström, as well as countertenors Andreas Scholl, Xavier Sabata and Raffaele Pé, who will be giving gala concerts, lend special prestige to the Handel Festival. In addition to these, there will be guest performances from internationally renowned ensembles such as The King's Consort led by Robert King, La Cetra Barockorchester Basel under the baton of Andrea Marcon, and Lautten Compagny Berlin under the baton of Handel Prize winner Wolfgang Katschner.

The main theme of the forthcoming Handel Festival is "Heroes and Redeemers", and it focuses on what to this day remains Handel's most famous work: *Messiah*. The oratorio will be performed at the festival in three different versions or arrangements: besides Handel's original London version, visitors also will be familiarised with the little-known German version by Johann Gottfried Herder, as well as a *Messiah* in the Caribbean musical style that will celebrate its European premiere in Halle. Added to these are several concerts which feature the life of Jesus either in excerpts from or new compilations, some of which are being performed at the Handel Festival for the first time.

*"For the first time in the history of the two great Baroque music festivals, Handel Festival Halle and the Leipzig Bachfest, we are offering a coordinated, complemen-*

*tary programme: the story of the Messiah, set to music. The themes of the festivals, treating of Redeemers and Redemption, simultaneously reflect the hopes of people worldwide who wish to be freed, released, from the scourge of the pandemic virus.*

*The virus itself has shaped our plans. I would be delighted if, despite the difficult circumstances, we could all celebrate a carefree Handel Festival.” (Clemens Birnbaum, Director of the Handel House Foundation and Executive Director of the Halle Handel Festival)*

There will be fully-staged, international and national co-productions of the operas *Ariodante*, HWV 33, *Alcina*, HWV 34 and *Teseo*, HWV 9, *Ariodante* being an enchanting puppet production by the Milanese puppet theatre Carlo Colla e Figli and Lautten Compagny Berlin. Anyone who remembers the wonderful puppet productions of *Rinaldo* in 2011 and *Giustino* in 2017 will know that a very special theatre experience awaits visitors. The *Brockes Passion* (subtitled *Der für die Sünde der Welt gemarterte und sterbende Jesus* – “Jesus martyred and dying for the sin of the world”) will be staged by Walter Sutcliffe, one of the most sought-after directors of his generation and the designated artistic director of Halle Opera. Visitors can also attend a concert performance of *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*, HWV 17 – a special version never before performed in modern times and featuring La Cetra Barockorchester Basel under the musical direction of 2021 Handel Prize winner Andrea Marcon – as well as a Handel pasticcio, *Lucio Papirio Dittatore*, HWV A6, featuring the London ensemble Opera Settecento and Leo Duarte in another modern-day premiere.

Visitors can also expect various intercultural and cross-genre concerts, such as the Baroque Lounges, jazz concerts, an organ night, choral concerts, a poetry slam, family events, and the traditional open-air events in the Galgenberg Gorge, including Bridges to Classics, with special guest Robert Hart of Manfred Mann’s Earth Band.

*“If we succeed in holding the 2021 Handel Festival as set out here, it will be thanks solely to the help and support of a number of partners. For this, I would like to thank the City of Halle, the State of Saxony-Anhalt and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, who provide public funding. In addition to them, we also have the support of Lotto Sachsen-Anhalt, which will present Messiah performed by excellent Hungarian musicians, and of Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung and Saalesparkasse, thanks to which we will be staging the new production of Handel’s opera Ariodante. If we are at all able to turn the proposed programme into a reality, it will also be thanks to longstanding partners such as Hallesche Wohnungsgesellschaft, Total Raffinerie Mitteldeutschland, GP Günter Papenburg AG, Orbis Real Estate, Stadtwerke Halle and Kathi. Many sincere thanks to all these Handel friends! Let us celebrate together a music festival filled with extraordinary experiences. We are certain that if we all abide by the rules, take care and are considerate to one another, nothing will stand in our way. We are doing everything we can to ensure this is the case.” (Clemens Birnbaum, Director of the Handel House Foundation and Executive Director of the Halle Handel Festival)*

## Organisational information

### The festival is a celebration and your safety is our priority

Our objective is that the 2021 Halle Handel Festival can take place with live events. What we cannot guess for the moment is what sanitary and physical distancing rules will be in force, whether or not travel restrictions will apply in May and June 2021 and if so, what they will be, or which regions the Robert Koch Institute will classify as regions of risk and what consequences this could have for our musicians and visitors. Neither do we know at present whether events will have to be shortened in time so that they can take place without an interval. We have prepared ourselves for this eventuality: three concerts have already been scheduled so as not to exceed the length of 60 minutes. And to enable us to offer more visitors a chance to attend the concerts despite the low seating capacity, we will hold the concerts a second time after a period of ventilation and disinfection. For other events, we will wait until the spring to see how they can be organised. For many events, we have a "Plan B" in reserve, about which we will inform you in plenty of time should the need arise.

## Information on ticket sales

For the first time, the Handel House Foundation is planning staggered advance ticket sales. These will take place in three waves. The first wave of advance ticket sales begins on 3 December 2020, a second is planned for 15 January 2021 and a third may start on 15 March 2021.

Tickets for the 2021 Handel Festival can be booked:

- By phone +49 (0)345 / 565 27 06 (Monday to Friday: 7am-7pm, Saturday: 7am-2pm)
- [www.haendelfestspiele-halle.de](http://www.haendelfestspiele-halle.de)
- All over Germany from all CTS-Eventim advance ticket booking agencies
- In Saxony-Anhalt also from TiM Ticket in Mitteldeutsche Zeitung service centres and Galeria Kaufhof Passage in Halle

## The 2021 Handel Festival in figures

**28 May – 13 June 2021**

**65 performances in 17 days at 20 venues**

**3 scheduled starts of advance ticket sales:** 3 December 2020  
15 January 2021  
15 March 2021

**1 new venue:**

- Volkspark Halle

**5 operas**

- *Teseo* HWV 9 (staged)
- *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* HWV 17 (concert, first modern-day performance of the 1725 London version)
- *Ariodante* HWV 33 (staged)
- *Alcina* HWV 34 (staged)
- *Lucio Papirio Dittatore* HWV A<sup>6</sup> (concert, first modern-day performance)

**3 oratorios and choral music**

- *Brockes Passion (Der für die Sünde der Welt gemarterte und sterbende Jesus)* HWV 48 (staged)
- *Triumph, ihr Christen seid erfreut.* Cantatas by F. W. Zachow and G. F. Handel/Messiah HWV 56
- *Der Messias* (German version by Johann Gottfried Herder)

**32 concerts (some free)**

- Choral concerts
- Family & children's concerts
- Gala concerts
- Chamber concerts
- Intercultural concerts
- Lunchtime concerts (free)
- Open-air concerts
- Organ concerts
- Poetry slam

**9 guided tours**

- City tours
- Museum tours

**5 talks (free)**

- Festival lectures
- Pre-concert talks

**3 church services**

**Rounding out the Handel Festival:**

- **International Academic Conference:** Redemption and the Modern Age – Handel's Messiah in the 19th to 21st century (31 May – 2 June 2021)**Annual exhibition in Handel House:** Off the Pedestal! Of Heroes and Redeemers (24 February 2021 – 9 January 2022)

## Opera performances

- *Teseo* HWV 9 (staged)  
*Giulio Cesare in Egitto* HWV 17 (concert, first modern-day performance of the 1725 London version)
- *Ariodante* HWV 33 (staged)
- *Alcina* HWV 34 (staged)
- *Lucio Papirio Dittatore* HWV A<sup>6</sup> (concert, first modern-day performance)

The Handel opera ***Teseo, HWV 9***, at Halle Opera was actually meant to mark the opening of the 2020 Handel Festival. But with the cancellation of the festival owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the premiere took place in September 2020. Due the sanitary regulations, the opera will be performed in a 90-minute version by Martin G. Berger. The Handel Festival Orchestra Halle will perform on historical instruments under the baton of the internationally sought-after conductor, Attilio Cremonesi. This version by Martin G. Berger focuses on the sorceress Medea as an archaic figure in a series of images that span time from antiquity through the Middle Ages and the nineteenth century and, finally, into modern times. The title role of Teseo is sung by the up-and-coming star singer Samuel Mariño, who with his crystal-clear coloratura in the high soprano range was already acclaimed as a “sensation” by the specialist press for his performance in Halle as Alessandro in Handel’s *Berenice*. At the centre of the production is Handel Prize winner Romelia Lichtenstein, as the legendary sorceress Medea.

Saturday 5 June & Sunday 13 June 2021, Halle Opera, n° 38 & 63

***Giulio Cesare in Egitto, HWV 17***, has to be one of George Frideric Handel’s most popular operas. Even in the eighteenth century, it was Handel’s most successful work abroad: in Hamburg alone, the opera was performed forty times between 1725 and 1737. The version to be performed at the 2021 festival is not the well-known version of the premiere, but the London revival of 1725, its first performance since Handel’s lifetime. What is special about this version is primarily that the role of Cornelia’s son Sesto is no longer sung by a soprano, but by a tenor. Among other changes, Handel composed three virtuoso arias for the tenor which are scarcely known today. An impressive rendering of this rarely heard opera is brought to us by La Cetra Barockorchester Basel, who have already been celebrated in Halle on several occasions for their outstanding performances, as well as an internationally renowned ensemble of singers conducted by the 2021 Handel Prize winner, Andrea Marcon.

Saturday 29 May 2021, 7pm, George Frideric Handel Hall, n° 10

With ***Ariodante***, HWV 33, Handel created one of his most delightful opera scores, and he also included a chorus and ballet. The story is based on a scene from Ariosto’s *Orlando furioso* and takes the audience to Scotland, where the young nobleman Ariodante has to fight a web of intrigue to win the young princess Ginevra. Following the acclaimed co-productions of Handel’s operas *Rinaldo* and *Giustino* with Lautten Compagny Berlin and Carlo Colla & Figli puppet theatre under the direction of Handel Prize winner Wolfgang Katschner, a third joint Handel opera production is being created for the 2021 Festival. It promises to be a fireworks display of colour, imagery and sound. Almost forgotten memories of the puppet thea-

tre of our childhood, tensely anticipated and adored with all the strength of our imagination, are revived and add an extra something special to our impressions of this rare operatic experience. Performed in Italian with German supertitles, it is co-produced by Handel Festival Halle, *Associazione Grupporiani Milano, Comune di Milano – Cultura Teatro Convenzionato* and Lautten Compagny Berlin. With the kind support of the Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung and Saalesparkasse.

*"After the unfortunately unavoidable cancellation of the last Handel Festival, it is a great pleasure for me that together with Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung we are pursuing our long-standing commitment to the festival in 2021. The fact that this year we will again be funding a performance in Bad Lauchstädt, with the international co-production of Ariodante, is a source of particular pleasure. It will probably be one of the first major events to take place under the freshly restored 'marquee' ceiling – which is largely responsible for the well-known acoustics of the Goethe Theatre. For us, this musical event will therefore also mark a milestone in our joint commitment to the complete restoration of this historic gem in Bad Lauchstädt."*  
*Dr. Jürgen Fox (Chairman of the Saalesparkasse Executive Board / Member of the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees)*

Friday 27 May, Saturday, 28 May and Sunday 29 May 2021, n° 7, 18 & 22

With his magic opera, ***Alcina, HWV 34***, Handel thrilled even his contemporaries thanks to an outstanding ensemble of singers and a magnificent stage set. Alcina is a figure of extraordinary intensity; both a queen and a sorceress. On her island, she seduces the knight Ruggiero, but with the aid of his fiancée Bradamante, he succeeds in freeing himself and even destroying Alcina's magical powers. Already in the 2019 festival production with Lautten Compagny Berlin conducted by Wolfgang Katschner, Niels Badenhop conjured up some Baroque stage magic. In this reprise, the director, set designer and choreographer once again transports the audience into a Baroque wonderworld.

Saturday, 12 June 2021, 3pm, Carl Maria von Weber Theatre, Bernburg, n° 57

With ***Lucio Papirio Dittatore, HWV A<sup>6</sup>***, you can enjoy a Handel pasticcio in its premiere performance in modern times. The London ensemble Opera Settecento led by Leo Duarte will be back in Halle for the third time to present this, another rarely performed work by Handel. The musicians are supported by a superb international ensemble of soloists. The work was the first in a series of operas by other composers, which G. F. Handel adapted for the London stage as a pasticcio between 1732 and 1737. One of the most remarkable early music ensembles in the UK is bringing this Handel pasticcio back to life. The performance is a joint project with the London Handel Festival.

Sunday, 6 June 2021, 4pm, Ulrichskirche Concert Hall, n° 42

## Oratorios and choral music

- *Brockes Passion (Der für die Sünde der Welt gemarterte und sterbende Jesus)* HWV 48 (staged)
- *Messiah* HWV 56
- *Der Messias* (German version by Johann Gottfried Herder)
- *Triumph, ihr Christen seid erfreut*. Cantatas by F. W. Zachow and G. F. Handel

The Passion oratorio ***Der für die Sünde der Welt gemarterte und sterbende Jesus*** (“**Jesus, martyred and dying for the sins of the world**”), **HWV 48**, based on a libretto by the Hamburg city councillor Barthold Hinrich Brockes, will mark the official opening of the Handel Festival on 28 May 2021 at Halle Opera. Brockes first published his version of the Passion of Jesus, in verse, in 1712. Numerous leading composers of the period turned their attention to the Passion, producing more than 30 versions. Besides Handel, they also included Georg Philipp Telemann and Johann Mattheson. Handel and Brockes already knew each other from Halle, where Brockes studied law and philosophy in 1702. The two met up again in Hamburg. Handel received a commission to compose the music from the Hamburg city councillor in 1716, when he had already been living in London for six years. It came at a propitious time for him, as he was plagued by financial difficulties. It is Handel’s only passion and large-scale choral work with a German libretto. It was premiered in March or April 1719 in the refectory of Hamburg Cathedral in the absence of the composer. Walter Sutcliffe, one of the most sought-after directors of his generation, will be making his directorial debut in Halle. Starting in the 2021-22 season, he will be the new director of Halle Opera.

Friday, 28 May 2021, 7.30pm, Halle Opera, n° 4

*“Barthold Hinrich Brockes’ dramatisation of and meditation on the crucifixion story is, viewed from the current perspective, a metaphor for the urgent challenges of the 21st century. Given the current social climate, I cannot think of a more suitable, relevant or stimulating work and look forward to working on it with the Halle Opera team. Since the coronavirus situation is changing all the time, we are going to keep our options open as long as possible regarding performance formats, so as to be able to offer our viewers and listeners a production that is as dynamic and comprehensive as possible.*

*For me as a director, the joy of this oratorio lies in its narrative, which is both intellectually challenging and emotionally stimulating. Brockes Passion is a clairvoyant human tragedy, framed by a musical world of inexhaustible genius. I can hardly wait to celebrate this production in the opera house with the outstanding early music expert Michael Hofstetter, theatre designer Dorota Karolczak, our fantastic ensemble and guest artists, as well as the unique Handel Festival Orchestra – and of course, our audience.”*

*Walter Sutcliffe (director and designated artistic director of Halle Opera)*

The organist and composer Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow was one of the most important musicians of his time in Central Germany. His church cantatas, such as ***Triumph, ihr Christen seid erfreut*** (“Triumph, you Christians rejoice”), organ works

and chamber music were held in high esteem. He held the post of organist of the Marktkirche in Halle, the city's most important musical office, up to his death in 1712. Zachow was a much sought-after music teacher. Of his numerous pupils, the best known is George Frideric Handel. In his Handel biography written in the middle of the eighteenth century, John Mainwaring emphasised that Handel was an unrivalled master when it came to the instrumental movements of his choruses and polyphonic church music – which led Johann Mattheson to comment succinctly and aptly: "This is true; but it all stemmed from Zachow and playing the organ." The concert entitled *Triumph, ihr Christen seid erfreut* aims to raise awareness of Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow in the city where he worked. His church cantatas bear extremely progressive traits on the one hand, but on the other a mastery of counterpoint and a skilful handling of the chorale, which is part of the Protestant music tradition. These unjustly rarely performed works will be performed under the baton of Bernhard Klapprott by the specialist ensembles of Central German Baroque music, Capella Thuringia and Cantus Thuringia – thanks to the financial support of Mitteldeutsche Barockmusik e. V.

Saturday, 29 May 2020, 4pm, Ulrichskirche Concert Hall, n° 9

Some concerts have already become an established tradition with audiences and no Handel Festival programme would be complete without them. The performance of **Messiah, HWV 56**, is definitely one of them. The premiere was held on 13 April 1742 in Dublin, where Handel had a large circle of admirers. *Messiah* is a compelling portrayal of the life of Jesus Christ from his birth to his death. Its refined pastorales, the rousing *Hallelujah Chorus* and the powerful melodies of the arias and choruses make it an unforgettable experience for every visitor. Next year, the Hungarian conductor György Vashegyi will perform Handel's work for the first time with a hand-picked cast of soloists, the Purcell Choir and the Orfeo Orchestra. The high esteem in which this conductor and his ensemble are held internationally is proven by his close collaboration with the *Centre de Musique Baroque* in Versailles, which tends rather to focus on French ensembles, a collaboration that has resulted in a number of opera productions, including CD recordings. The concert is generously presented by LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt.

*"With huge commitment, the Handel Festival has developed into one of the most respected Baroque music festivals in Europe and has brought Saxony-Anhalt into the international spotlight as a tradition-steeped region of art and culture," says Lotto managing director Marko Ehlebe. "This renowned festival of Baroque music, of which LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt has been a steady sponsor since 1998, inspires tens of thousands of visitors every year and contributes significantly to the positive image of our state."*

Friday 4 June 2021, 6pm, Halle Cathedral, n° 30

In addition to the performance of *Messiah* by Hungarian musicians, the conductor and Handel Prize winner Wolfgang Katschner, who is a very familiar figure in Halle, will present Handel's oratorio in a little-known German version by Johann Gottfried Herder, together with an excellent ensemble of soloists (Isabel Schicketanz, Ida Aldrian, Daniel Johannsen and Thomas E. Bauer), Lautten Compagnie Berlin and the MDR Radio Choir. For Herder, Handel's *Messiah* was the epitome of what religiously inspired music can achieve. His knowledge as a theologian, his passion as a preacher,

his philological meticulousness and poetic creativity flowed into this translation, which enables the listener to experience a familiar work in a new and different way and which in many of its idiosyncratic formulations retains some of the flavour of the English original.

Friday 11 June 2021, 6pm, Halle Cathedral, n° 53

## Special tips:

The German premiere of a very unusual, Caribbean-style *Messiah* will be held on 3 June in the Volkspark. You will find further information about this in the section “Handel’s music builds bridges”, on page 14.

The theme of the International Academic Conference to be held from 31 May to 2 June 2021 in Handel House is “Redemption and the Modern Age – Handel’s *Messiah* in the 19th to 21st century” and focuses on the performance history, the history of the arrangements and the history of the impact of the oratorio. Admission to the conference, which is organised by the Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Institute of Music, Media and Speech Science, Musicology Department, in collaboration with the Handel House Foundation and the Georg-Friedrich-Händel-Gesellschaft e. V. music society, is free of charge. Further information on page 15.

## International stars and gala concerts

Every year during the Handel Festival, Halle takes on a special aura as the international city of Handel. Top artists of world renown, such as Andreas Scholl and Dorothee Oberlinger, Sandrine Piau and Kristina Hammarström, Lucy Crowe, Xavier Sabata and Raffaele Pé, will be performing at the 2021 Handel Festival and giving insights into Handel’s extensive oeuvre at various venues with an atmosphere all of their own.

The Italian countertenor **Raffaele Pé**, who has already been enthusiastically received by audiences in Halle on several occasions, focuses on Julius Caesar, statesman, commander and lover at the time of the Roman Republic. The figure of Caesar fascinated not only G. F. Handel, but also G. Giacomelli, A. Pollarolo, N. Piccinni and F. Bianchi, who show the statesman’s many different facets in their works. The period instrument ensemble La Lira di Orfeo conducted by Luca Giardini will be appearing in Halle at the Handel Festival for the first time. The CD recording on which the programme is based was named Album of the Week by the Sunday Times and awarded the renowned Abbiati Prize. To ensure safety and to comply with distancing rules for events, two 60-minute concerts will take place without an interval. The first concert at 11am will be repeated at 3pm after a lengthy break for disinfection and ventilation.

Sunday, 30 May 2021, 11am & 3pm, Löwengebäude (auditorium of Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg), n° 14 & 15

In the gala concert *Abbandonata*, the celebrated soprano **Lucy Crowe** presents female figures who, as abandoned heroines, touched people’s hearts even in Handel’s day. Handel wrote heartfelt, passionate music about a number of abandoned women, such as the inconsolable Armida (*Armida abbandonata*, HWV 105), and Agrippina, with her dramatic outbursts of emotion. With selected pieces of mu-

sic and interpreters, this concert promises to be a moving performance in a class of its own. The British ensemble The King's Consort, known worldwide for their numerous performances and recordings of Handel's works, will accompany star singer Lucy Crowe. The concert is sponsored by GP Günter Papenburg AG.

Tuesday 1 June 2021, 7.30pm, Ulrichskirche Concert Hall, n° 24

**Xavier Sabata**, one of the most sought-after countertenors, takes the role of Alexander the Great (Alessandro) in the concert *L'Alessandro amante*, and interprets arias from operas by Handel, Porpora, Bononcini and others. The Spanish ensemble Vespres d'Arnadí, conducted by the charismatic Dani Espasa, will be accompanying the singer with feeling in this role of army commander, but also tender lover. The CD of the same name has been awarded the Presto Editor's Choice, the International Classical Music Award and the Editor's Choice of Gramophone Magazine. The two 60-minute concerts, which will take place at 4pm and, after a break for disinfection and ventilation, 7.30pm, are sponsored by KATHI Rainer Thiele GmbH.

Saturday, 5 June 2021, 4pm & 7.30pm, Leopoldina Banquet Hall, n° 36 & 37

Two world-famous stars of early music, countertenor **Andreas Scholl** and recorder-player **Dorothee Oberlinger**, will be retracing the musical past of the city of Naples, which over the centuries became a melting pot of cultures, in their gala concert *Arie e Concerti Napoletane*. They will present arias and concerti by Baroque composers such as G. F. Handel, A. Scarlatti and N. A. Porpora, including many gems that today are virtually unknown. Andreas Scholl and Dorothee Oberlinger will perform in two 60-minute concerts without an interval. The first concert at 5pm will be repeated at 8pm after a lengthy break for disinfection and ventilation. Many thanks to Orbis Real Estate GmbH for its support.

Wednesday, 9 June 2021, 5pm & 8pm, Ulrichskirche Concert Hall, n° 47 & 48

In the concert entitled *Das Leben Jesu* ("Jesus' Life"), the outstanding, internationally celebrated star singers **Sandrine Piau** (soprano) and **Kristina Hammarström** (mezzo-soprano) will perform well-known works by Italian Baroque masters and compositions by G. F. Handel, who received his musical training in Italy. The concert, featuring Kammerorchester Basel, one of the world's leading Baroque chamber orchestras which has for decades been a yardstick for performances of Baroque music, especially that of Handel, will be led by the violinist Julia Schröder. With the kind support of TOTAL Raffinerie Mitteldeutschland GmbH.

Saturday, 12 June 2021, 7pm, George Frideric Handel Hall, n° 59

## A stroll through the festival programme of admission-free and family events

Next year, its highly varied programme can be enjoyed in 20 different venues ranging from the historically authentic to the new and modern, and there is something to suit every taste. The traditional start of the festival will take place on 28 May 2021 at 4pm, with the free **official ceremony at the Handel Memorial**. This will be followed at 5pm by the free **Carillon Concert** at the Red Tower on Marktplatz. The free **18th Organ Night** will take place the same evening – or rather that night. In addition to this, three **festival church services** will be held, in Halle Cathedral on 30 May and 13 June, and in Halle's Marktkirche on 6 June 2021. A free **festival lecture** on the theme "Hero and Redeemer. Images of Christ in oratorios by G. F. Handel to F. Schneider" will be given by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Andreas Waczkat in the Stadthaus on Marktplatz on 29 May 2021. From 12pm to 5pm, the theatre group Incanto Erlebenskunst will be performing on Marktplatz with their free **street theatre programme, Baroque & Rococo**.

A free **choral concert** with music by G. F. Handel, G. Ph. Telemann, J. H. Rolle will be given in Halle Cathedral by the Stuttgarter Hymnus-Chorknaben boys' choir and Stadtsingechor zu Halle under the musical direction of Rainer Johannes Homburg and Clemens Flämig. The central item on the concert programme is the psalm setting *As pants the hart*, HWV 251.

Monday 31 May 2021, 7pm, Halle Cathedral, n° 21

Eszter Balogh, the winner of the 2019 London Handel Singing Competition, who can also be heard performing in *Messiah* on 4 June with the Orfeo Orchestra and the Purcell Choir conducted by György Vashegyi, will perform in a free lunchtime concert at Handel House. This Hungarian mezzo-soprano has already numerous appearances in Budapest, Pécs, London and Herne to her credit. She will be accompanied by Japan-born Asako Ogawa, who thrilled Halle concert-goers in 2019 in her own harpsichord concert.

Sunday 30 May 2021, 12 noon, Handel House, Chamber Music Hall, n° 17

Another free **lunchtime concert** will be given by harpsichordist Léon Berben. One of the greatest musicians in his field, he was tutored on the harpsichord and organ by such names as Gustav Leonhardt and Ton Koopman in Amsterdam and The Hague. He will be performing on a replica of the Rucker harpsichord from the collection of the Handel House Foundation. This two-manual harpsichord, built after the Antwerp harpsichord-building style, is an attempt to reproduce the sound of the original Ruckers instrument of 1599 in the Historical Musical Instruments exhibition in Handel House, which has not been playable for some time.

Saturday 5 June 2021, 12 noon, Handel House, Chamber Music Hall, n° 35

The Armenian keyboard virtuoso Varvara Manukyan can also be heard in a free **harpsichord concert**. Her repertoire ranges from the earliest examples of music for keyboard instruments from the sixteenth century through to contemporary music.

Sunday 6 June 2021, 6pm, Handel House, Chamber Music Hall, n° 43

Other musts on the Handel Festival schedule are the **promenade concerts** in the wonderful Botanical Garden, which in the past few years have developed into genuine insider tips.

Tuesday 1 June 2021, 6pm, Botanical Garden (open-air), n° 23

Wednesday 9 June 2021, 6pm, Botanical Garden (open-air), n° 49

Young festival visitors can look forward to the family concert entitled **Handel's Orchestral Fireworks** in Ulrichskirche Concert Hall. It will investigate many questions about Handel's *Fireworks Music*, which he wrote on behalf of the King of England who wanted to celebrate a peace treaty. Staatskapelle Halle will be conducted by José Miguel Esandi. The narrator will be theatre director Andreas Tiedemann.

Sunday 30 May 2021, 11am, Ulrichskirche Concert Hall, n° 16

The programme highlight for children of all ages will take place in the Chamber Music Hall of Handel House on 12 June: the family concert **Frühling im Garten des Riesen (Springtime in the Giant's Garden)**. In this free adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Selfish Giant*, from which short passages will be read, the musicians, together with the children, explore the garden in which different music sounds with every season and encourage the children in their love and respect for the environment. It will be followed by the traditional, free **Family Festival** in the Great Courtyard of Handel House starting at 3pm. Families are cordially invited to come along with their children to try out a variety of creative, hands-on activities. Once again, Kathi Rainer Thiele GmbH will be baking biscuits to decorate.

Saturday 12 June 2021, 2pm, Handel House, Chamber Music Hall, n° 56

Saturday 12 June 2021, 3pm, Handel House, Great Courtyard, n° 56

The open-air events in Galgenberg Gorge are annual classics of the Handel Festival programme. They are spectacular events and family concerts at the same time. The **closing concert** offers an atmospheric musical evening set in breath-taking natural scenery, with a concluding fireworks display. It has taken place in the Galgenberg Gorge since 1952. In 2021, under the direction of Nikolaus Müller Staatskapelle Halle will be joined onstage by the Robert-Franz-Singakademie and the Thuringia State Youth Choir. The closing concert traditionally ends with Handel's *Fireworks Music* and a fireworks display coordinated to the music. With the kind support of Halleschen Wohnungsgesellschaft mbH.

**Special tip:** Family ticket for the closing concert: one child up to 14 years old, accompanied by one adult paying the full ticket price pays only €10.

Sunday 13 June 2021, 9pm, Galgenberg Gorge (open-air), n° 65

There will also once again be free admission to the numerous **pre-concert talks** 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 booklet starting on page 50.

## Handel's music builds bridges

The Handel Festival has enjoyed success for many years and guarantees not only first-class Baroque music but also exciting cross-genre projects. In several events, exciting bridges are built to other musical orientations and cultural milieux.

A very special, Caribbean-style arrangement of Handel's *Messiah* will be performed in the Volkspark in Halle. The **Caribbean Messiah** is a European premiere and a tribute to Halle-born Handel who in London attained superstar status, first and foremost as a composer of operas and oratorios. Using the rhythms, melodic techniques and structures of the Caribbean, the 1688 Collective choir and music ensemble, founded in 2009, reinterprets Handel's work in a whole new way, full of vivacity, Caribbean lightness and freshness. The premiere performances of this *Caribbean Messiah* in Barbados in 2017 and 2018 thrilled audiences in sold-out concert halls.

Thursday 3 June 2021, 7.30pm, Halle Volkspark, n° 28

The concert **Baroque Lounge: Haendel reloaded** combines works by Handel with elements of jazz, world music and pop. Performing in this musical adventure are internationally renowned musicians from Switzerland, Belgium, Poland, Spain and the USA, including the Swiss jazz vibraphonist and classical percussionist Thomas Dobler, who is well-known to both jazz and classical audiences and whose name is synonymous with innovative projects. The saxophonist and composer Daniel Schnyder, who wrote an independent and highly acclaimed version of Handel's *Alceste* for the 2014 Handel Festival for the great MDR Symphony Orchestra and the MDR Radio Choir, will also be there.

Friday 4 June 2021, 7.30pm, Steintor, n° 31

Following a successful premiere in 2018, a **poetry slam** is again on the programme. Next year's modern-day poetry competition will be held in collaboration with klub-solitaer e.V. In line with the festival theme, it will deal with the subject of heroes and redeemers.

Thursday 10 June 2021, 7.30pm, Handel House, Chamber Music Hall, n° 51

The final weekend traditionally bridges the gap between classical music and modern rock. **Bridges to Classics** takes place against the atmospheric, natural backdrop of the Galgenberg Gorge in Halle, and closes with a spectacular fireworks display. For years, the creative mind behind this concert has been saxophonist and conductor Bernd Ruf. Alongside him and Staatskapelle Halle are musicians who have the necessary experience to cross musical boundaries. The special guest in 2021 is Robert Hart, the singer of Manfred Mann's Earthband, who after the cancellation of the 2020 Festival unhesitatingly agreed to postpone his performance by one year. The concert is presented by Stadtwerke Halle GmbH with the support of EVH GmbH and MDR Sachsen-Anhalt. Further information on the star guest Robert Hart can be found on page 18.

Saturday 12 June 2021, 9pm, Galgenberg Gorge (open-air), n° 60

King Xerxes of ancient Persia is the focus of an intercultural concert with Ensemble Concerto Foscari. In the programme "**Serse. An intercultural musical portrait**", Persian and European Christian works of music come together to form fascinating contrasts. Concerto Foscari is an ensemble of young, internationally active musicians

who play on period instruments. They instil into people of all generations a love of the music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and the concert experience.

Sunday, 13 June 2021, 11am, Löwengebäude (auditorium of Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg), n° 62

## 2021 International Academic Conference

The theme of the International Academic Conference, “Redemption and the Modern Age – Handel's Messiah in the 19th to 21st century” will focus on the performance history, the history of the arrangements and the history of the impact of the oratorio, which symbolises the worldwide reputation of the composer more than any other work. Intended by the librettist Charles Jennens as a response to contemporary deistic doubts about the Messianic mission of the Christian Redeemer, *Messiah* has during the course of its unbroken performance history from 1741 to the present day attained the status of a profession of faith which is not only transconfessional, but capable of having an impact even in secular contexts. In its significance for the reception of Handel, *Messiah* is surpassed only by the *Hallelujah Chorus*. The 5th International Handel Research Prize will be awarded during the conference. Admission is, of course, free of charge!

Organised by: Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Institute of Music, Media and Speech Science, Musicology Department, in collaboration with the Handel House Foundation and the Georg-Friedrich-Händel-Gesellschaft e. V. music society

Monday 31 May – Tuesday 2 June 2021, Handel House, Chamber Music Hall, n° 20  
A-C

*“With Messiah, we are directing our attention in the conference to a work which is a part of the world’s musical heritage and which, for the past 275 years, has had an impact that surpasses all boundaries. No other composition by a European musician has such a long, continuous, not to say continuously vigorous, and global history of performance as this exceptional work.*

*Giulio Cesare in Egitto on the other hand, one of the masterpieces by the opera composer Handel, was for a long time forgotten and only rediscovered in the course of the Handel renaissance from the 1920s onward – and with lasting success, as today this opera tops the list of the most frequently performed musical stage works, between Monteverdi und Mozart. The new volume of the Halle Handel Edition contains all the versions the composer made of this opera, which even in his day was enormously successful. I am very much looking forward to the performance of the 1725 version with its hitherto unknown virtuoso tenor arias.”*

*Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hirschmann (Chairman of the Handel House Foundation Advisory Council and President of Georg-Friedrich-Händel-Gesellschaft Internationale Vereinigung e. V.)*

## The festival theme: “Heroes and Redeemers”

Entitled “Heroes and Redeemers”, the Handel Festival and Leipzig Bachfest are jointly placing the focus on what remains the Halle-born composer’s most famous work: *Messiah*. This oratorio will be performed at the festival in three different versions or arrangements: besides Handel's original London version, visitors also will be familiarised with the little-known German version by Johann Gottfried Herder, as well as a *Messiah* in the Caribbean musical style that will celebrate its European premiere in Halle. In many other performances at the 2021 Handel Festival, the story of Jesus’ life, or passages from it, will be told in music. The music festival opens with Handel’s *Brockes Passion*, in which Jesus appears not as a hero triumphing over death, but as a patient man through whom humanity is redeemed of its sins. Jesus the Redeemer is frequently also seen as a hero, conquering death and sin. Building on this, the festival theme encompasses other settings of Christian heroic tales, such as that of the martyr Theodora, or Judas Maccabeus (sadly, the performance has been cancelled owing to the coronavirus), who was portrayed in the history of literature and art of the early fourteenth century as one of the “Nine Worthies” (cf. the French epic poem *Les Voeux du Paon* by Jacques de Longuyon, from 1312, or pictorial representations, such as that in the Hanseatic League Hall in Cologne City Hall). The list of these Nine Worthies includes not only Jewish heroes from the Old Testament, but also heroes of antiquity, such as Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar. These often feature as protagonists in Baroque operas –including those by George Frideric Handel. This is why, in some of the concerts in the 2021 Handel Festival, we will be taking a closer look at these heroes (concerts *Alessandro amante* and *Giulio Cesare – a Baroque hero*). Rounding out this programme are other heroic stories, such as that of the legendary Persian king, Xerxes.

Not least, with its theme of Heroes and Redeemers the Handel Festival also aims to reflect upon modern hero-worship: it seems to be a phenomenon of the times that people in various societies around the world choose to follow those politicians who, by providing simple answers to complex issues, appear as energetic “heroes”, as “redeemers”, saviours, almost, from confused fears, while the more measured forces who aim for compromise and strive for consensus are met with great scepticism. In contrast, Baroque opera shows that even the most famous heroes and statesmen only become true heroes when they show greatness by not persisting in a simplistic, black-and-white way of thinking, but show virtues such as generosity and forgive even the worst offences. Only then do they become heroes and prove themselves worthy of their office.

Clemens Birnbaum

*“I think it’s splendid and sends out a wonderful signal that our two 2021 festivals take the respective themes of Redeemer or Redemption. In the current crisis, we all need some release, and the music of Bach and Handel certainly has the power to redeem us from present worries. Nowhere will this be more audible than in our large-scale cycle, Bach’s Messiah, that will start in Halle Cathedral during the Handel Festival and will end five days later, here in St. Thomas’ Church. A wonderful, musical bridge across the Saale and Pleisse Rivers!”*

*Prof. Dr. Michael Maul (Artistic Director Leipzig Bachfest)*

## 2021 Handel Prize winner: Andrea Marcon

### Recognition of his services to the preservation of Handel's works

The Italian conductor, harpsichordist and organist Andrea Marcon is to receive the Handel Prize of the City of Halle an der Saale, awarded by the Handel House Foundation in 2021. With this award, the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees, chaired by the Mayor of Halle, Dr. Bernd Wiegand, is following the vote of the Advisory Board and honouring his outstanding services to the preservation of Handel's music. The City of Halle Handel Prize is awarded to individuals or ensembles for special artistic, academic or cultural achievements which correspond to Halle's efforts to preserve Handel's musical heritage at the international level. It is an honorary award with no monetary value.

The Handel House Board of Trustees and Advisory Board are honouring Andrea Marcon as a prominent figure of the early music scene. Besides his outstanding musicality, his reputation, his Handel interpretations and not least his close connections to Handel research are what picked him out for the Handel Prize. For example, for his performance of Handel's *Parnasso in festa* in Halle, Andrea Marcon made use for the first time of material from the Halle Handel Edition. The performance of *Giulio Cesare* in the 1725 version, which Andrea Marcon will be conducting at the 2021 Handel Festival in Halle in its first modern-day performance, is based on the findings and scores of the Halle Handel Edition.

Andrea Marcon is one of the most acknowledged and sought-after early music musicians and experts. He was born in Treviso, Italy, and from 1983 to 1987 studied at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis. His teachers included Jean-Claude Zehnder (organ and harpsichord), Hans Martin Linde (conducting) and Jordi Savall (chamber music). Other influential teachers were Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini, Hans van Nieuwkoop, Ton Koopman and Harald Vogel. In 1986 he won first prize in the Paul Hofhaimer organ competition in Innsbruck, and in 1991 first prize in the harpsichord competition in Bologna. In 1997 he founded the Venice Baroque Orchestra, today one of the world's leading Baroque music ensembles. Since 2009 Andrea Marcon is also musical director of the La Cetra Baroque Orchestra Basel. Marcon is a regular guest conductor at the Frankfurt Opera, Theater Basel and the Aix-en-Provence Festival and has been invited by numerous national radio orchestras throughout Europe and prestigious orchestra as Berliner Philharmoniker, Münchner Philharmoniker, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Bamberger Philharmoniker and others. In 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 he conducted the first "Alcina" production at the Bolshoi Theater Moscow. As well the first fully stage production of "Siroe" in Venice and New York, "Ariodante" in Frankfurt, Oviedo, Aix en Provence, Basel, Valencia, "Rodelinda" in Frankfurt. The conductor has appeared several times in Halle, including in 2014 with the performance of Handel's "Parnasso in festa", in 2018 he conducted the "Messiah" and the festive concert with the soprano and Handel Prize winner Magdalena Kožená.

Andrea Marcon has made more than 75 CD recordings. For his CD recordings as an organist and harpsichordist, he has won the German Record Critics Award four times. His recordings as a conductor have also received awards including the Diapa-

son d'or, Choc du Monde de la Musique, the Vivaldi Award of the Cini Foundation and the Edison Prize.

Today, Andrea Marcon is also an acknowledged international leader of Classical and Early Romantic music.

*"I am deeply honoured to be awarded with the Handel Prize 2021 from the city of Halle an der Saale. My thanks goes to the Handel House Foundation and the Advisory Board as well to the Mayor of Halle Dr. Bernd Wiegand.*

*Together with Bach Handel's music has always been part of my musical life since the very beginning and still enlightens it every day with the same power and passion. This prestigious acknowledgment I want to join as well with all soloists, orchestras, opera houses with whom I happily worked sharing the always enriching music of our beloved Handel: thanks Caro Sassone, thanks Halle!"*

*Andrea Marcon, designated laureate of the 2021 Handel Prize*

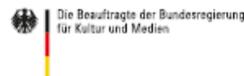
## **Robert Hart is the star guest of the Bridges to Classics**

Robert Hart, the front man of rock band Manfred Mann's Earth Band, is the star guest at this year's symphonic rock concert, Bridges to Classics. The concert will take place on 12 June 2021 in the Galgenberg Gorge in Halle an der Saale. World hits such as *Blinded by the Light*, *Mighty Quinn* und *Davy's on the Road Again* are as catchy today as they ever were, and visitors to the open-air concert can look forward to these and other successful songs by the British band, which was founded in 1971 by South African keyboarder Manfred Mann. Bridges to Classics traditionally ends with a spectacular fireworks display –a not-to-be-missed highlight of the Handel Festival! Robert Hart was born in 1958 in Bournemouth (Great Britain) and began his career in Poole, a small town on the south coast of England. Since 2011 the rock singer and songwriter, who also performs as a solo artist, has been the front man of Manfred Mann's Earth Band. He has also worked as a soloist in the music bands Bad Company, The Distance and Company of the Snakes. He was the first British artist to sign a contract with Hollywood Records. He then wrote several number one hits and composed an array of film soundtracks, including the Hollywood soundtrack for the 1987 Whoopi Goldberg film *The Burglar*. During the course of his long career, Robert Hart has been involved in projects with Andy Taylor of Duran Duran, Peter Dinklage, and members of the music groups Chic and Go West. Bridges to Classics bridges the gap between classical Baroque music and modern rock with spellbinding results. This symphonic rock concert takes place against the breath-taking and atmospheric, natural backdrop of the Galgenberg Gorge in Halle, and closes with a fireworks display. The creative mind behind the concert, saxophonist, conductor and university professor Bernd Ruf, is one of the most innovative personalities in classical crossover. Together with singer Anke Sieloff, keyboard player Benjamin Köthe, his own GermanPops Band & Singers and a selected team of other top musicians, he will further be supported by Staatskapelle Halle and special guest Robert Hart, who is certain to "fire up" the audience.

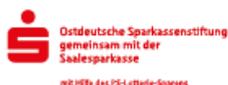
Bridges to Classics is presented by Stadtwerke Halle GmbH with the support of EVH GmbH and MDR Sachsen-Anhalt.

**Sponsors and patrons**

**Förderer, Sponsoren**



#moderndenken



- ▲ SWH. Stadtwerke Halle
- ▲ SWH. EVH Meine Energie



**Partner**



**Medienpartner**



**Kulturpartner**



## 2021 Handel Festival – “Heroes and Redeemers” LOTTO again provides €53,000 for Baroque music festival

Magdeburg, 3 December 2020 - The city of George Frideric Handel’s birth will (pandemic permitting) once again be the venue of the Handel Festival from 28 May to 13 June 2021. In more than 100 events, some at authentic Handel venues in this city on the Saale River, lovers of Baroque music will be offered a comprehensive programme on the theme of "Heroes and Redeemers" featuring numerous stars of Baroque music, with productions of pieces never previously performed in modern times as well as festival premieres.

George Frideric Handel’s home city of Halle has commemorated and conserved the composer’s legacy for nearly a century. **LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt** has been a dependable partner of culture in Saxony-Anhalt for many years. To date, a total of 920,000 euros of **lottery resources\*** have been allocated to this Baroque music festival, including **53,000 euros** for the 2021 festival.

“With huge commitment, the Handel Festival has developed into one of the most respected Baroque music festivals in Europe and has brought Saxony-Anhalt into the international spotlight as a tradition-steeped region of art and culture,” said Lotto Managing Director Marko Ehlebe. “This renowned festival of Baroque music makes a significant contribution to the positive image of our state and inspires tens of thousands of visitors every year.”

*LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt* has been a dependable partner of culture in the state of Saxony-Anhalt for many years. This year, lottery funding worth 1.2 million euros went towards cultural projects in this federal state.

### *Background information:*

\*Lottery funding resources are a fixed percentage of the betting stakes and are granted for projects in Saxony-Anhalt on the basis of applications. For every euro spent on a *LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt* product, around 20 cents are used to serve the public interest.

Any non-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.

Since 1991, *LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt* has provided funding of over 34 million euros to the City of Halle - including some 500,000 euros this year – for the renovation of the village church of St. Peter in Halle-Wörmlitz, the construction of a new training and sports facility for the German Life-Saving Association in Halle, and for the Women in Jazz Festival.

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

Please address queries to:

**Astrid Wessler**

**Phone: 0391 5963-220  
Mobile: 0160 94 94 87 33**

**Email: [a.wessler@sachsen-anhalt-lotto.de](mailto:a.wessler@sachsen-anhalt-lotto.de)**



[facebook.com/LOTTO.Sachsen](https://facebook.com/LOTTO.Sachsen)



[twitter.com/LOTTO\\_Sa\\_Anhalt](https://twitter.com/LOTTO_Sa_Anhalt)

## Press release

### **HWG to present closing concert for the first time** **Housing company once again a partner of the Handel Festival**

**Halle an der Saale, 3 December 2020** Hallesche Wohnungsgesellschaft mbH (HWG) public housing company is a sponsor and partner of the 2021 Handel Festival. Next year, it will be entitled "Heroes and Redeemers" and will take place from 28 May to 13 June 2021. In 2021, HWG will for the first time be presenting the closing concert in the Galgenberg Gorge, on 13 June 2021.

"Especially in times like these, we see it as our duty to support the cultural emblem of our city. Although at the moment we can only hope that the 2021 Festival will take place as usual, we're looking forward to the forthcoming Handel Festival with great anticipation," says HWG Managing Director Jürgen Marx.

Steffen Schier  
Corporate Communications  
Manager

Phone:  
0345-5271070  
0157-3877763

Email:  
[schier.s@hwgmbh.de](mailto:schier.s@hwgmbh.de)

Hansering 19  
06108 Halle (Saale)  
[www.hwgmbh.de](http://www.hwgmbh.de)

## Press release

Press Office:

Stadtwerke Halle GmbH  
Bornknechtstr. 5  
06108 Halle (Saale)

Press Officer:

**Iris Rudolph**

Tel.: (0345) 5 81 - 10 18

Mobile: (0160) 71 54 133

Fax: (0345) 5 81 - 10 20

[iris.rudolph@swh.de](mailto:iris.rudolph@swh.de)

### **SWH: sponsor of the 2021 Handel Festival**

**Halle an der Saale, 2 December 2020 – “Halle has it all. All the time. Secure supply.” runs the slogan of the new advertising campaign of Stadtwerke Halle public utilities group. In line with this claim, SWH aims to supply Halle an der Saale not only with energy, water, waste management and public transport, but also with culture. This is why it will be following the tradition again next year and sponsoring the Handel Festival, scheduled for spring 2021.**

Stadtwerke Halle not only assumes commercial 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 pleasant 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. Well-known artists and first-class orchestras delight concertgoers 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

### **The new advertising campaign of the Stadtwerke Group**

With its slogan “Halle has it all. All the time. Secure supply.” the new campaign by Stadtwerke Halle demonstrate its intention to focus public attention more squarely on the issue of secure supply. You can find full information about the campaign on [www.meine.swh.de/](http://www.meine.swh.de/) and in the new Stadtwerke magazine, which will be published on 5 December 2020.

#### 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 2,958 employees and interns and an annual turnover of €624M in 2019, Stadtwerke Halle is the largest industrial employer in Halle an der Saale and the largest municipal utility in Saxony-Anhalt.

Website: <http://www.stadtwerke-halle.de>

If you no longer wish to receive press releases from the Stadtwerke Halle Group, you can unsubscribe at any time by sending an email to [pressestelle@swh.de](mailto:pressestelle@swh.de) . We will remove your email address from our mailing list and delete it.