

PRESS KIT

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

**Introducing the programme of the
2016 HANDEL FESTIVAL
a music festival in authentic venues
in the city of George Frideric Handel's birth,
Halle an der Saale**

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

Press Conference

November 18, 2015, 2pm, Chamber Music Room, Handel House in Halle

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

Stephan Dorgerloh, Culture Minister of Saxony-Anhalt and Vice-
President of the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees

Dr. Jürgen Fox, Chairman of the Executive Board, Saalespar-
kasse

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hirschmann, President of Georg-Friedrich-
Händel-Gesellschaft Internationale Vereinigung e. V. / Professor at
the Institute of Music at Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-
Wittenberg /President of the Handel House Halle Foundation Ad-
visory Council

Wolfgang Katschner, Artistic Director of Lautten Compagny
Berlin / Artistic Director of *Didone abbandonata*, HWV A¹² (to be
performed in the Goethe Theatre, Bad Lauchstädt on May 28, 29
and 30, 2016)

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

Contents

Press release

2016 Handel Festival (short version) Pages 3 - 4

Short texts

Opera performances Pages 5 - 7

Oratorios and great choral music Pages 7 - 9

The highlights of the festival: the gala performances Page 9

A stroll through the festival programme Page 10

The Handel Festival classics Page 11

Cross-genre projects Page 11

2016 Handel Prize winner Page 12

The museums of the Handel House Foundation during
the festival Pages 13-
14

Addendum: Festival church services Pages 15

Visitor information and information on ticket sales Pages 15

Facts and figures Pages 16-
17

Patrons and sponsors Pages 18

Insert: Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung and the Saalesparkasse
support the 2016 Handel Festival Page 19

Press release by Lotto-Toto GmbH Sachsen-Anhalt Page 20

Press release by Total Raffinerie Mitteldeutschland GmbH Page 21

Press release by HWG Hallesche Wohnungsgesellschaft mbH Page 22

Press release by Stadtwerke Halle GmbH Page 23

Media contact:

Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126

Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416

E-Mail:

maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

PRESS KIT 2016 Halle Handel Festival



2016 Handel Festival: History – Myth – Enlightenment

(Short version)

The Handel Festival is the largest music festival in Saxony-Anhalt and one of the oldest and most famous Baroque music festivals in Europe. Unlike Handel festivals in other locations, in Halle – the city of the composer’s birth – a variety of events take place in authentic Handel venues. It has attracted visitors from all over the world since 1922. Last year, visitors numbered over 50,000.

Next year’s Handel Festival will take place from May 27-June 12. Over a period of 17 days, visitors will be presented with the *crème de la crème* of Baroque music. The 17 days of the festival will feature four different opera stage productions, two oratorios and one ballet performance. International stars such as counter-tenors Valer Sabadus and David Hansen, tenor Ian Bostridge and the exceptional young sopranos Anna Prohaska and Sonia Prina will be taking the stage at the 2016 Handel Festival. Furthermore, the presence of ECHO Klassik prize winners Dorothee Oberlinger, Giovanni Antonini with his ensemble Il Giardino Armonico, and Christina Pluhar with her orchestra L’Arpeggiata guarantees some magical moments of Baroque music.

Visitors will be able to hear and see world-acclaimed orchestras, such as the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Gabrieli Consort & Players with Paul McCreech from the UK, La Risonanza and Accademia Bizantina from Italy, Kammerorchester Basel, and Lautten Compagny Berlin directed by Wolfgang Katschner. Famous, tradition-steeped choirs will be participating in the oratorios, including RIAS Kammerchor and the MDR Radio Choir. On the occasion of the 900th anniversary of Germany’s oldest boys’ choir, Stadtsingechor zu Halle, the latter, together with two other boys’ choirs, will be performing in the traditional closing concert in the Galgenberg Gorge to a more than 3,000-strong audience.

“In 2016 the city of Halle an der Saale will once again be a centre of attraction for people from Germany and all over the world during the two festival weeks and three concert weekends”, underscored Dr. Bernd Wiegand, Mayor of Halle and President of the Handel House Foundation Board of Trustees. “History – Myth – Enlightenment is the theme of the 2016 festival, an evocation of the century of the Enlightenment that was so crucial for our European culture of liberty and its key centre of Halle, with more than 70 events over 17 days. The 2016 Handel Festival supports the Franckesche Stiftungen’s application for UNESCO World Heritage status.”

With more than 100 different events (of which 52 are paying events), the 2016 Handel Festival will be highlighting in particular the theme of “History – Myth – Enlightenment” in Handel’s compositions.

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

PRESS KIT 2016 Halle Handel Festival

Clemens Birnbaum, director of the Handel House Foundation and the Festival's executive director, explains: "Besides the main theme and the outstanding Handel interpretations, we place great importance on setting Handel in an intercultural context too. As in previous years, the music by the famous Halle composer will be placed side-by-side with classical Arab music, for example. In this way, the Handel Festival paves the way for a post-migrant music festival."

The broad and multifaceted programme ranges from opera, oratorios and gala concerts to cross-genre events and projects for children and teens right through to talks, excursions and the annual academic conference.

"My special thanks go to our financial backers, who make this programme possible. Besides the City of Halle, the State of Saxony-Anhalt and the federal government which provide public funding, I want especially to thank Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung and Saalesparkasse," emphasised Clemens Birnbaum.

Dr. Jürgen Fox, Chairman of the Executive Board of Saalesparkasse expressed his satisfaction: "Hand in hand with Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung, we are delighted to be helping to stage the performance of a hitherto unknown Handel pasticcio in Bad Lauchstädt and giving a special 900th-anniversary gift to our Stadtsingechor when it and two other boys' choirs perform in the closing concert in the Galgenberg Gorge."

The scope for interpretation of the theme of the next Handel Festival is extremely broad and very varied. Visitors can form their own personal image of Handel based on their own conceptions and answer for themselves the question of whether Handel was an "enlightener" and whether he is still having an "enlightening" impact today. At the same time, the music still speaks for itself. And that is not only the wonderful thing about the theme, but also about Handel's magnificent music.

"That is also the conviction of our partners who participate with great generosity: the performance of Messiah in the church where Handel was baptised is presented by Lotto Sachsen-Anhalt. Hallesche Wohnungsgesellschaft mbH is funding a free open-air concert. And TOTAL Raffinerie Mitteleuropa and GP Günter Papenburg AG will also be providing some outstanding concerts. Without these partnerships, of which the above are just some examples, the Handel Festival programme would be much the poorer," said Clemens Birnbaum.

Opera performances

Didone abbandonata HWV A¹² (fully staged)

Lucio Cornelio Silla HWV 10 (fully staged)

Sosarme, Re di Media HWV 30 (fully staged)

Hippolyte et Aricie ou la Belle -Mère Amoureuse – a contemporary parody based on the opera Hippolyte et Aricie by Jean-Philippe Rameau (fully staged)

Catone HWV A⁷ (concertante)

Dido and Aeneas (Henry Purcell) Z 626 / The Loves of Mars and Venus (John Eccles and Geoffrey Finger) (concertante)

Acis and Galatea HWV 40^a (concertante)

Opening the 2016 Handel Festival, the Halle Handel Edition version of the opera **Sosarme, Re Di Media**, HWV 30, will be performed for the first time, in Italian with German surtitles, at Halle Opera. The premiere of this opera, featuring star castrato singer Senesino in the leading role, was acclaimed by London audiences in 1732. In 1734, Handel programmed the opera for a second series of performances. Unfortunately, it then fell into oblivion. *Sosarme, Re Di Media* was re-discovered in the mid-twentieth century.

One special highlight of the upcoming Handel Festival will be the first German-language production in modern times of the opera pasticcio **Didone abbandonata**, HWV A¹². Until now, little attention has been paid in research and concert programmes to the opera pasticci which Handel compiled. In recent years, the Handel Festival has repeatedly made these little-known works by Handel familiar to a broad audience. The enthusiastic reception by audiences and the press of the Handel pasticci *Semiramide* in 2015 and *Giove in Argo* in 2014 seems set to guarantee another interesting encounter with an unknown Handel work again next year – especially as it will be performed by Lautten Compagny Berlin, one of the most renowned German Baroque ensembles, under the musical direction of Handel Prize winner Wolfgang Katschner at the Goethe Theatre in Bad Lauchstädt. Co-produced by Theater & Orchester Heidelberg as part of the Winter in Schwetzingen Baroque music festival, *Didone abbandonata* is produced by Yona Kim.

“We feel proud to have the chance to make this very special, fully staged production of the Handel pasticcio Didone abbandonata, which had not been performed since the eighteenth century, possible. The fact that in doing so we are again promoting an event in the Goethe Theatre of Bad Lauchstädt – with which we enjoy a close and longstanding partnership, just as we do with the Handel House Foundation – coincides exactly with our intentions as a Sparkasse bank

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

Media contact:

Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126

Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416

E-Mail:

maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

PRESS KIT 2016 Halle Handel Festival

for the city of Halle an der Saale and the greater Saale region," said Dr. Jürgen Fox, Chairman of the Executive Board of Saalesparkasse.

Catone, HWV A⁷ is another Handel pasticcio that visitors will be able to discover next year on May 28 as a concertante co-production with the Italian festival Opera Barga and Teatro di Pisa in Ulrichskirche concert hall. The Italian ensemble Auser musici, founded by von Carlo Ipata in 1997, will have the vocal support of internationally acclaimed soloists, such as Sonia Prina, who has already appeared at La Scala in Milan and the Salzburg Festival.

There was scepticism just a few years ago at the Handel Festival as to whether it was possible to stage a Baroque opera with puppets. However, the sensational success of *Rinaldo* with Carlo Colla e Figli and Lauten Compagny – now available on DVD in Handel House – speaks for itself. Audiences now have the chance to see a second puppet show at the Handel Festival – and again, not just any. For the first time in Germany, the Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles will be staging a guest production of the parody ***Hippolyte et Aricie ou la Belle-Mère Amoureuse*** by Jean-Philippe Desrousseaux. It is based on the opera *Hippolyte et Aricie* by Jean-Philippe Rameau, which Charles-Simon Favart (1742), Francesco Riccoboni and Jean Antoine Romagnesi (1733) rearranged as a parody. The puppets in Bernburg will be dancing to the music of the French ensemble PhilidOr under musical director Mira Glodeanu. This is a colourful and original gesamt-kunstwerk featuring outstanding singers and instrumentalists. The performance will be held in the nearly 200-year-old Carl Maria von Weber Theatre in Bernburg, which is to host the Handel Festival for the first time. (More information about the Carl Maria von Weber Theatre on page 19.)

TIP: For the first time, visitors will have the chance of travelling to a Handel Festival venue by boat. The ARONA Maritim cruise company invites you on an atmospheric trip on MS Händel. The boat will moor in Bernburg below the castle. Visitors will then walk to the Carl Maria von Weber Theatre.

On the bill is a concertante performance of the opera ***Dido and Aeneas***, Z 626, by the English Baroque composer Henry Purcell. Lasting less than an hour, *Dido and Aeneas* is an opera in miniature. Its emotional and atmospheric breadth is all the more fascinating, especially when performed by such outstanding musicians as the Italian ensemble La Risonanza and an international ensemble of soloists directed by Fabio Bonizzoni. In Halle, *Dido and Aeneas* will be followed by the equally brief masque ***The Loves of Mars and Venus*** by John Eccles and Geoffrey Finger. This double bill of both short operas was first performed in London in 1704.

Handel's ***Acis and Galatea*** HWV 49^a is also a masque. Written for a soloist ensemble, it was first performed in 1718 at the seat of the Earl of Carnarvon, Cannons. The Scottish Dunedin Consort & Players ensemble directed by John Butt,

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

PRESS KIT 2016 Halle Handel Festival

whose performance of *Messiah* in Halle's Marktkirche a few years ago was enthusiastically received, took on this version in 2009 and produced a CD which, among other distinctions, won a Gramophone Award and a special recommendation by Gramophone Magazine. With Joanne Lunn, Nicholas Mulroy and Matthew Brook as soloists, this concertante performance of *Acis and Galatea* promises to be a first-rate Handel event.

The Goethe Theatre in Bad Lauchstädt is to be the venue for another, fully staged opera performance. **Publio Cornelio Scipione**, HWV 20, will be performed there on the last festival weekend. The successful Parnassus Arts Productions team, which created storms of applause at the last festival with Handel's *Alessandro*, have taken on this rarely performed Handel opera. The music will once again be performed by the Greek orchestra Armonia Atenea conducted by George Petrou, whose Handel performances in recent years have been showered with awards (ECHO Klassik, Choc Monde de la Musique, Diapason 5, Gramophon Editor's Choice).

The successful production of the opera **Lucio Cornelio Silla**, HWV 10, will once again figure on the programme of Halle Opera, where audiences can see it for the last time.

Oratorios and great choral music

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. The Marktkirche is the ideal venue for this, Handel's greatest and most famous choral work: it is the church where Handel was baptised and the place where he received an important part of his musical education. *Messiah* was premiered on April 13, 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 fine pastoral singing, the rousing Hallelujah Chorus and the powerful melodies of the arias and choruses make it an unforgettable experience for every visitor. On Friday, June 3, 2016, this brilliant oratorio will be performed by the Italian ensembles Coro Costanza Porta and La Risonanza, directed by Fabio Bonizzoni. The concert is generously presented by LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt.

TIP: The success of *Messiah* is closely bound up with the London Foundling Hospital, where annual charity performances were held. The Foundling Hospital was an orphanage in London which Handel supported in a variety of ways. During the Handel Festival, visitors can see the special exhibition entitled "Handel with a Heart" in Handel House. The exhibition is all about the Foundling Hospital and, of course, *Messiah*.

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

PRESS KIT 2016 Halle Handel Festival

Another important oratorio by Handel will be performed on June 4 in George Frideric Handel Hall: **Belshazzar**, HWV 61. Internationally celebrated stars, including ECHO Klassik prize winners Valer Sabadus, Thomas Walker and Rosemary Joshua, will be accompanied by the Italian ensemble Accademia Bizantina, directed by Ottavio Dantone, and RIAS Kammerchor. With such a host of proven Baroque and Handel musicians, we can anticipate a noteworthy performance. Incidentally, Handel probably wrote *Belshazzar* within the space of just two months – librettist Charles Jennens is said to have difficulty keeping pace with him. The work was premiered on March 27, 1745, at the King's Theatre in London.

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

Besides these two great oratorios, there will be some great choral music on offer in three further concerts.

Handel wrote the **Ode for St Cecilia's Day** in 1739. The text is based on a poem by the English playwright John Dryden and describes the power of music. It was premiered on November 22, 1739, at the Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre in London. At the 2016 Handel Festival, internationally celebrated soloists, Kammerorchester Basel and the MDR Radio Choir will be performing not only the **Ode for St Cecilia's Day** but also the magnificent coronation anthem, **Zadok the Priest**, HWV 258. This work is even familiar to those who love football but know nothing about Handel (yet). This splendid coronation anthem can be heard before every television broadcast of a UEFA Champions League game. HWG (Hallelesche Wohnungsgesellschaft mbH) is the kind sponsor of this wonderful musical event.

Handel's **Dixit Dominus**, HWV 232, was written in Rome for the Catholic Church and with its mighty choruses is a sumptuous unfurling of Roman Baroque splendour. This choral work which stands apart in Handel's oeuvre will be performed by no less than the Gabrieli Consort & Players directed by Paul McCreech, who has thrilled audiences on repeated occasions in the past with his interpretations of Baroque choral music and oratorios. Now, they will at last be making a new guest appearance at the Handel Festival, in the church where Handel was baptised.

Some great choral music can be heard also in the closing concert: on the occasion of the 900th anniversary of the Stadtsingechor zu Halle, Germany's oldest boys' choir, the young singers together with the Hildesheim Boys' Choir and the St. Florian Boys' Choir from near Linz will be performing Handel's **Foundling Hospital Anthem**, HWV 268. Against the unique natural backcloth of the Galgenberg Gorge and before an audience of over 3,000, the famous Hallelujah Chorus will ring out from the throats of more than 100 boys before the Fireworks Music sounds, closing the Handel Festival with a spectacular fireworks display. The two guest boys' choirs come from towns with which Halle has close ties through twinning or friendship agreements. The music at this open-air con-

PRESS KIT 2016 Halle Handel Festival

cert will be provided by the great Staatskapelle Halle, conducted by Jan Michael Horstmann.

We would like to thank Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung and Saalesparkasse for their generous financial support which has made this special event possible.

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

The highlights of the festival: the gala performances

The 2016 Handel Festival will feature five gala concerts with stars of international or national renown. The Australian **countertenor David Hansen** will be appearing on May 30, 2016, in the Leopoldina banquet hall, accompanied by the Italian ensemble Academia Montis Regalis. Only recently, he thrilled audiences at the Innsbruck Festival of Ancient Music in Porporas' *Il Germanico* – directed, incidentally, by the same musical director as in Halle, Alessandro De Marchi.

On June 1, 2016, *Kammersängerin Romelia Lichtenstein*, who is regarded as one of the greatest Handel interpreters and who has placed her artistic stamp on numerous Handel opera performances in Halle, will be giving an unforgettable concert together with the Handel Festival orchestra conducted by Bernhard Forck.

Another artist who appears all over the world is **Ian Bostridge**. This outstanding tenor can be heard with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in Halle Cathedral on June 11, 2016. Another gala concert will be performed by the British ensemble, the **Gabrieli Consort and Players**, directed by Paul McCreesh. They are known for their highly acclaimed performances.

Further magical musical moments will be supplied by **Anna Prohaska** and **Giovanni Antonini** with the ensemble **Il Giardino Armonico**. With his ensemble, Giovanni Antonini won the 2015 ECHO Klassik prize for the Symphonic Recording of the Year. This exceptional concert is kindly sponsored by GP Günter Papenburg AG.

The "Handel goes Wild" project by Christina Pluhar and her ensemble L'Arpeggiata promises to be a feast for the ears and the eyes. The ensemble has received several ECHO Klassik awards for its unceasingly innovative and surprising programmes. This concert will centre on improvisations on the works of George Frideric Handel. Two outstanding singers of Baroque music will also be taking part in the persons of Valer Sabadus and Nuria Rial. The musicians led by Italian jazz clarinetist Gianluigi Trovesi will be providing the jazz ambience. This concert is produced with the kind support of TOTAL Raffinerie Mitteldeutschland GmbH.

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

A stroll through the festival programme

The Handel Festival has enjoyed success for many years and is a guaranteed source not only of first-class Baroque music but also exciting cross-genre projects. Its 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 20 different venues ranging from the historically authentic to the new and modern, and there is something to suit every taste.

The renowned ancient music ensemble La Venexiana will be appearing in the historical ambiance of the Freylinghausen Room in the Franckesche Stiftungen, with works by George Frideric Handel and Leonardo Vinci. The ensemble has already enjoyed major successes at international venues all over the world.

The Handel Festival treats many different themes. A number of events deal with the myth of the Carthaginian queen, Dido; one concert is devoted to the rose, which was often used as a metaphor in the Baroque period, while another concert places "divine madness" at the centre of the music. There will be some special musical events featuring variations on Early Baroque songs for recorder and voice, as well as some mighty but nonetheless vivacious *concerti grossi*. For example, the world-famous French Baroque ensemble Café Zimmermann will be performing one such concert featuring works by Handel and his contemporaries. Contrasting with this, the musicians of the German ensemble Capella de la Torre directed by Katharina Bäuml put the tongue-in-cheek question "If the young Handel in Halle had owned an iPod, what music would he have put on it?". The result, to be heard in Halle Cathedral, is a selection of highly expressive instrumental and vocal pieces by composers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Another new concert experience in 2016 has been made possible thanks to the support of HWG (Hallesche Wohnungsgenossenschaft mbH). For the first time, there will be an open-air concert on Domplatz (the cathedral square) in Halle. "Handel for Brass" will be performed by the excellent Schweriner Blechbläser-Collegium Brass Ensemble. Admission to this extraordinary concert is free for everyone.

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

The Handel Festival classics

Besides the traditional *Messiah* performance in the church where Handel was baptised and the two concerts in the Galgenberg Gorge, the Handel Festival also comprises classics on a smaller scale. For the past couple of years, these have included the **Water Music** concert on the "MS Händel II". This time round, the Sächsische Bläserphilharmonie Wind Quintet will be accompanying visitors on the trip down the valley of the River Saale. Carrying the ensemble and conductor Sven Geipel, the boat will be raising anchor on June 2 and 8, 2016. But the programme would not be complete either without the **promenade concert** in the Botanical Garden, with its picnic on the lawn and special guided tour. The same goes for the Family Festival. On Saturday June 11, 2016, the Family Festival in the courtyard of Handel House offers a colourful afternoon programme in which, among other activities, children get a chance to make their own small musical instruments. The Family Festival is sponsored by KATHI Rainer Thiele GmbH.

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

Cross-genre projects

"Who's afraid of Baroque?" is the rhetorical question posed by the Italian ensemble **Soquadro Italiano**, who will give a concert combining music ancient and modern on June 4, 2016. They produce Baroque sounds mixed with jazz elements in performances which also include theatre and dance.

On Saturday, June 11, 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 2016 the concert, directed by Bernd Ruf, will once again be sponsored by Stadtwerke Halle GmbH. The cross-genre **BaroqueLounge** project will feature twice next year. With concerts entitled "Baroque Beats and Improvisations" and "Graces that Refrain", it builds a bridge between traditional Baroque music and modern electropop sounds. The BaroqueLounge concert starring the wonderful Norwegian singer Tora Augestad is a co-production with the Women in Jazz festival.

The **Spark ensemble**, who in 2011 won the ECHO Klassik "Classical without Borders" award for their first album, *Downtown Illusions*, will be making a guest appearance in a joint project with the Göttingen International Handel Festival. In their concert "Songs in Other Words" the artists switch between highly diverse musical worlds, combining contemporary avant-garde, minimal music and film music.

The 2016 Handel Prize Winner

The 2016 City of Halle Handel Prize awarded by the Handel House Foundation goes to *Kammersängerin* **Romelia Lichtenstein**.

"The Board of Trustees unanimously adopted the Handel House Foundation's nomination: The 2016 Handel Prize winner is Romelia Lichtenstein. Since 1996, she has been the outstanding female voice at Halle Opera. We will be hearing this grandiose Handel interpreter in the prize winner's concert in the Leopoldina on June 1," announced Dr. Bernd Wiegand, Mayor of Halle an der Saale and Chairman of the Handel House Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Romelia Lichtenstein carved out an extraordinary and extremely successful career for herself from an early age. She won the first prize at the Young Opera Singers competition in Gera back in 1990. In 1998, she was nominated "best opera singer of the year" by *Opernwelt* magazine. Three years ago, Romelia Lichtenstein received the title of *Kammersängerin* from the City of Halle. Now, she is also to receive the Handel Prize. The Handel Prize is an honorary prize with no monetary value taking the form of a certificate and a gilt brooch representing notes from Handel's *Messiah*.

The music of George Frideric Handel has played an important role in Romelia Lichtenstein's career and was a significant factor in her vocal development. She has lived in the city on the River Saale for nearly 20 years and is a permanent member of the Halle Opera ensemble. She is a grandiose protagonist of Handel – of which she has repeatedly provided cogent proof in a total of ten Handel roles during the Handel Festival.

Besides opera, Romelia Lichtenstein is also a keen concert singer and has appeared in Berlin, Vienna, Warsaw and Madrid.

The Handel Prize has been won in previous years by such famous artists as Cecilia Bartoli, Magdalena Kožená, Ragna Schirmer and Philippe Jaroussky. The prize is awarded to individuals or ensembles for special artistic, academic or political and cultural achievements which correspond to Halle's efforts to preserve Handel's musical heritage at the international level.

Romelia Lichtenstein will receive the award during her gala concert on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, in the Leopoldina banquet hall. The eulogy will be delivered by Axel Köhler, the executive director of Halle Opera.

More information and photos are available at: <http://www.romelia-lichtenstein.de/>

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

Handel House Foundation exhibitions 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 – Sunday, 10am to 6pm

Special opening times during the 2016 Handel Festival:

Daily from 10am to 7pm

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

Permanent exhibitions in Handel House

Handel – The European

Historical Musical Instruments

Special exhibition in Handel House

Handel with a Heart – The Composer and the Children of the London Foundling Hospital

Duration: February 23, 2016 – January 10, 2017

Curated by: Dr. Konstanze Musketa, Christiane Barth, director of the Handel House Foundation Museum

In collaboration with the London Foundling Museum and Franckesche Stiftungen, Halle

The founding of Halle's orphanage coincided exactly with George Frideric Handel's teenage years. As the son of a cosmopolitan and pious family who lost his father at the age of just twelve and a student of Halle University, the young Handel was certain to have been familiar with the progressive ideas and works of August Hermann Francke before he left Halle in 1703. And he would have seen the school complex that subsequently developed when visiting relatives, if not before. Francke's charitable works for orphans in Halle might have inspired Handel in his subsequent commitment to the Foundling Hospital in London, of which he was a generous patron. The exhibition shows the composer, who was world famous during his own lifetime, from perhaps his most likeable side: Handel with a heart.

Special guided tour of Handel House

June 3 and 10, 2016, 3pm | Handel House, Exhibition of Historical Musical Instruments

Musical Instruments and Mythology

Talk and guided tour: Christiane Barth, director of the Handel House Foundation Museum

Tickets: €5, concessions €3.50, number of participants limited, reservation possible up to 15 minutes before start

+49 (0) 345 / 500 90 103, ticket@haendelhaus.de

PRESS KIT 2016 Halle Handel Festival



HÄNDEL-FESTSPIELE

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

June 4, 2016, 2pm | Handel House, Museum ticket desk

Handel with a Heart

Guided tour of the special exhibition by the curator: Dr. Konstanze Musketa

Tickets: €5, concessions €3.50, number of participants limited, reservation possible up to 15 minutes before start

+49 (0) 345 / 500 90 103, ticket@haendelhaus.de

Media contact:

Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126

Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416

E-Mail:

maria.scheunpflug@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 2016 Handel Festival:

Friday to Sunday: 10am to 6pm

Permanent exhibition in Wilhelm Friedemann Bach House

Halle, the City of Music

Special guided tour of Wilhelm Friedemann Bach House

June 5, 2016, 11.30am Wilhelm Friedemann Bach House

A choir of neglected children and youths or a musical elite? – Stadtsingechor's 900th anniversary

Guide: Dr. Konstanze Musketa

Tickets: €2.50, number of participants limited, reservation possible up to 15 minutes before start

+49 (0) 345 / 500 90 103, ticket@haendelhaus.de

PRESS KIT 2016 Halle Handel Festival



Addendum

For technical reasons, the **Festival church services** were not listed in the programme preview. However, they will be taking place. Please note the following dates and times:

Sunday, June 5, 2016, 10am in Halle Cathedral

Sunday, June 12, 2016 10am, Marktkirche Unser Lieben Frauen

Visitor information

The 2016 Handel Festival visitors' office in Handel House will be open daily from May 27 to June 12, 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

You can obtain tickets for the 2016 Handel Festival by phoning the hotline on:
+49 (0) 345 / 565 27 06
from Monday to Friday: 7am-7pm, Saturday: 7am to 2pm

Or at: www.haendelhaus.de

Or from CTS Eventim advance ticket sales offices all over Germany; in Saxony-Anhalt also from TiM Ticket in 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 / 14 99 07 58 or www.barock-konzerte.de/warteliste

Tip: Family tickets for the closing concert: children under 14 accompanied by one adult paying the full ticket price pay only ten euros each.

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

Handel Festival 2016: Facts and Figures

Dates:	May 27 – June 12, 2016
Fee-paying events:	52
Total number of events:	over 100
Venues:	20
Regional venues:	<u>2 permanent venues:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Goethe Theatre, Bad Lauchstädt- Carl Maria von Weber Theatre, Bernburg <u>5 excursion venues:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bernburg- Gröbzig Synagogue- Petersberg Collegiate Church- Allstedt Castle and Fortress- The Church of St. Bartholomew in Halle
New venues:	2

Carl Maria von Weber Theatre, Bernburg

With this production, the nearly 200-year-old Carl Maria von Weber Theatre in Bernburg will be hosting the Handel Festival for the first time. It was built in the Classical style and is one of the few perfectly conserved old theatre buildings in Anhalt. The theatre was built by the duchy's chief architect J.-A.-P. Bunge (1774–1866) to a design by Karl-Friedrich Schinkel. It was inaugurated in 1827 as the court theatre of the Duchy of Anhalt-Bernburg.

Domplatz, Halle

Domplatz takes its name from the edifice which was built as the church of a Dominican monastery in 1271 and is one of the earliest hall churches in Central Germany. This "Dom", as it is known, underwent alterations in the Renaissance style when Cardinal Albrecht made it a collegiate church. George Frideric Handel was organist here from 1702-1703. Surrounding Domplatz are the *Neue Residenz*, *Neue Kanzlei* and *Domküsterhaus* buildings, the former university hospital building dating from 1839/40 and a half-timbered house constructed in 1800. The "Brühmann Fountain", which was built in 2012 to a design by Horst Brühmann, stands on the square.

Operas:	8
	- Didone abbandonata HWV A12 (fully staged)

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

PRESS KIT 2016 Halle Handel Festival



in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail: maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

- Lucio Cornelio Silla HWV 10 (fully staged)
 - Sosarme, Re di Media HWV 30 (fully staged)
 - Hippolyte et Aricie ou la Belle -Mère Amoureuse
A contemporary parody based on the opera Hippolyte et Aricie by Jean-Philippe Rameau (fully staged)
 - Catone HWV A7 (concertante)
 - Dido and Aeneas (Henry Purcell) Z 626 (concertante)
 - The Loves of Mars and Venus (John Eccles and Geoffrey Finger (concertante)
 - Acis and Galatea HWV 40a (concertante)
- Oratorios 2
- Belshazzar HWV 61
 - Messiah HWV 56
- Great choral music 4
- Ode for St Cecilia's Day HWV 76
 - Coronation Anthem "Zadok the Priest" HWV 258
 - Dixit Dominus HWV 232
 - Foundling Hospital Anthem HWV 268

PRESS KIT 2016 Halle Handel Festival

HÄNDEL-FESTSPIELE

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

Patrons and sponsors

FÖRDERER, SPONSOREN



PARTNER



Martin-Luther-Universität
Halle-Wittenberg,
Institut für Musik, Abteilung
Musikwissenschaft



MEDIENPARTNER



KULTURPARTNER

Media contact:

Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126

Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416

E-Mail:

maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

INSERT:

Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung and the Saalesparkasse support the 2016 Handel Festival

in Halle (Saale) since 1922
27 – June 12, 2016

At the press conference on the 2016 Handel Festival on November 18, 2015, Saalesparkasse chairman Dr. Jürgen Fox handed the Handel House Foundation notice of the agreement by Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung/Saalesparkasse to fund a subproject entitled "Handel in Dialogue". Handel's pasticcio *Didone abbandonata* is to be performed in the historic Goethe Theatre in Bad Lauchstädt for the first time since the eighteenth century. Moreover, at the closing concert of the 2016 Handel Festival there will be an artistic dialogue between Stadtsingechor zu Halle, which next year will be celebrating its 900th anniversary with the Hildesheim Boys' Choir and the Austrian St. Florian Boys' Choir.

Media contact:
Maria Scheunpflug
Press and PR Work Officer

Tel.: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 126
Fax: +49 (0) 345 / 500 90 416
E-Mail:
maria.scheunpflug@haendelhaus.de

Dr. Jürgen Fox, Chairman of the Executive Board of Saalesparkasse, expressed his satisfaction: "Hand in hand with Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung, we are delighted to be helping to stage the performance of a hitherto unknown Handel pasticcio in Bad Lauchstädt and giving a special 900th-anniversary gift to our Stadtsingechor when it and two other boys' choirs perform in the closing concert in the Galgenberg Gorge."

Clemens Birnbaum, Director of the Handel House Foundation and the Festival's Executive Director, thanked him on behalf of the thousands of visitors to the Handel Festival for making this important part of the festival programme possible.



Presseinformation

LOTTO loves culture — 2016 Handel Festival in Halle

Press release

Magdeburg, November 18, 2015 – The Handel Festival in Halle – that means international stars, outstanding ensembles and more than 100 events in the city of George Frideric Handel's birth and first-rate Baroque music. Music-lovers from Germany and abroad broke visitor records at the 2015 Handel Festival. Some events, such as the gala concerts, opera performances and aria evenings and even the academic conference, were sold out weeks before the start.

LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt has helped fund the growth of the Handel Festival since 1998 with a total so far of 391,000 euros.

"It has been a pleasure for us to watch the festival mature and make Saxony-Anhalt known to a wider audience as an important, tradition-steeped region of music," underscored Lotto directors Maren Sieb and Klaus Scharrenberg. If we want to enjoy a thriving art and culture scene for the long term, we have to nurture it – and that includes promoting and supporting it financially." The Handel House Foundation's request for funding for the 2016 music festival is currently being examined. The Lotto Supervisory Board is to make its decision before the end of this year.

Every year, Lotto-Toto GmbH Sachsen-Anhalt sponsors around 150 cultural projects all over Saxony-Anhalt which are especially noteworthy by virtue of the reputation they enjoy beyond the regional borders or their special importance for the state itself. Since it was founded in 1991, LOTTO Sachsen-Anhalt has contributed nearly €59m of its revenues to safeguard artistic and cultural life in all its diversity in the state of Saxony-Anhalt.

Lotto-Toto GmbH
Sachsen-Anhalt
Stresemannstraße 18
39104 Magdeburg

Bei Rückfragen wenden
Sie sich bitte an:

Astrid Wessler

Telefon: 0391 5963-220
Mobil: 0171 6 2222 47

E-Mail: a.wessler@sachsen-anhalt-lotto.de



facebook.com/LOTTO.Sachsen-Anhalt



twitter.com/LOTTO_Sa_Anhalt



Dr. Willi Frantz, Managing Director of TOTAL Raffinerie Mitteldeutschland GmbH

"We are committed to a region of diversity. And having a rich and dynamic cultural landscape is part of that. This is why TOTAL Raffinerie supports a variety of educational and cultural projects in Central Germany.

The Handel Festival is without any doubt one of the most prominent events on the cultural agenda in Central Germany. Just like the European George Frideric Handel, this annual music festival enjoys international prestige. The Handel Festival attracts lovers of Baroque music from all over the world and does much to enhance our region's attractiveness and inspirational impact.

And there is one very special aspect: with the Handel Festival for children, the organisers are also constantly looking to the future. In doing so, they are supporting a goal which is especially close to Total Raffinerie's heart – fostering the interests of children and young people in all kinds of different ways.

We gladly lend our support to this great cultural festival and look forward to another attractive programme in the coming year."

Press contact:

Stefan Möslein

Head of Communications/Press speaker

Tel.: + (49) 34 61 48 10 56

Mobile: + (49) 17 33 99 61 46

Fax: + (49) 34 61 48 42 78

E-mail: stefan.moeslein@total.de



Press release

HWG is a partner of the 2016 Handel Festival

Property rentals agency is the exclusive sponsor of two events

Halle (Saale), November 18, 2016. In 2016, Hallesche Wohnungsgesellschaft mbH (HWG) will again be giving its support to the Handel Festival, the top cultural event in this city on the Saale. "Halle and the Handel Festival go together, just like Halle and HWG. Both have a history which dates back to 1922. That's why it goes almost without saying that we help one another," says HWG managing director, Dr. Heinrich Wahlen.

Halle's largest property rental agency is for the first time to be the exclusive sponsor of two events. Besides the traditional presentation of a classic Handel work, there will be a new, admission-free concert format for all visitors on Domplatz.

On Saturday, May 28, 2016, HWG invites audiences to a whole new event on the Handel Festival programme. Against the history-steeped backdrop of Halle's Domplatz, the Schweriner Blechbläser-Collegium Brass Ensemble will be playing works by Handel in arrangements for brass. The special thing about it is that admission to this open-air concert is free. "We are delighted to be helping the organisers of the Handel Festival to christen its new baby," said Dr. Heinrich Wahlen. This open-air event is aimed at making the Handel Festival even more visible in the city and bringing it closer to the people of Halle. "We are convinced that this new format will suit the Handel Festival very well and will be well received both by longstanding festival-goers and casual visitors," Dr. Heinrich Wahlen went on to say.

Towards the end of the Handel Festival, HWG will be presenting one further event as the exclusive sponsor. On Friday, June 10, 2016, Handel's *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day & Coronation Anthems* will be performed with the participation of the MDR Radio Choir and Kammerorchester Basel in the George Frideric Handel Hall.

This partnership between HWG and the Handel Festival is advantageous for both partners. Halle's largest property rental agency will be present at one of the most important cultural events in Saxony-Anhalt. In return, the long-term funding agreement guarantees the Handel Festival greater security for its forward planning. The partnership has been established for the period up to 2022.



Press release

SWH. Stadtwerke Halle – at the heart of cultural life

Halle (Saale), May 30, 2015 - 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 disposal**
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 2,734 employees and apprentices and an annual turnover of €548.9m in 2013, Stadtwerke Halle is the largest industrial employer in Halle (Saale) and the largest municipal utility in Saxony-Anhalt. <http://www.stadtwerke-halle.de>

Press contact:

Stadtwerke Halle GmbH
Bornknechtstr. 5
06108 Halle (Saale)

Press speaker:

Iris Rudolph
Tel.: (0345) 5 81 - 10 18
Mobile: (0160) 71 54 133
Fax: (0345) 5 81 - 10 20
iris.rudolph@swh.de