



Saturday 5th December 2015
10.00am - 5.00pm

Dale Street Methodist Church,
Dale Street,
Leamington Spa, CV32 5HL

CHORUSES
from
HANDEL'S MESSIAH

An informal workshop for voices and instruments (A440)
(strings, oboes, bassoons, natural trumpets & timps)



Georg Friedrich Händel
1685 - 1759

Tutor: Stephen Davis

Handel's Messiah

George Frederick Handel was born in Germany in 1685. He initially studied music in his home town of Halle.

In 1703, he became a violinist with the Hamburg Opera Orchestra and in 1706 became the court composer in Hanover. He composed many operas, which delighted English audiences and, after a few years, he moved to England. He impressed King George with the Water Music composed in 1716, written as an entertainment for a royal boat outing. His output of operas continued, but in the 1730s and 40s he turned his attention to the oratorio, in response to a change in public taste.

He composed Messiah in 1741 with the scriptural text compiled by Charles Jennens from the King James Bible and from the version of the Psalms from the Book of Common Prayer. It was first performed in Dublin in 1742 and received its London premiere a year later. It was composed for modest forces with optional settings for many of the individual numbers.

After Handel's death in 1759 (in London), Messiah was adapted for performance on a larger scale and its orchestration was revised by Mozart (amongst others), in order to update it. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, there has been a trend to perform it more as Handel first intended.

Stephen Davis

Stephen attended Birmingham Conservatoire where he studied singing with Brian Rayner Cook and conducting with Roy Wales and Jonathan Del Mar. After graduating with distinction, he studied with Jessica Cash, Pamela Cook, Andrew King and Ian Partridge.



Stephen has been a regular soloist with many of the leading choirs in the Midlands, most notably Ex Cathedra, the region's foremost chamber choir, and has also sung with the Britten Singers, Northern Voices, London Voices, The Academy of Ancient Music and The Schütz Choir of London. He broadcasts regularly on Radio 4 with BBC Manchester's Daily Service Singers.

Stephen has been conducting choirs for over forty years and is currently musical director of two choral societies. He also works as guest conductor for several other choirs. He has performed Messiah numerous times in the roles of tenor soloist, chorister and conductor.

He has recently retired from teaching singing at Malvern College, and also as music librarian for Ex Cathedra (although remaining a singer with the choir).

Timetable for the day (approximate timings)

10.00	Registration and refreshments
10.30 - 1.00	Workshop session (including a short break)
1.00 - 2.00	Lunch (please bring your own)
2.00 - 3.45	Workshop session
3.45 - 4.15	Tea and mince pies
4.15 - 5.00	Final session

Directions to Dale Street Methodist Church, CV32 5HL From the M40, leave at J13 (from the south) or J14 (from the north), and follow signs for Leamington A452 (N.B. not A425). Dale Street is the main A452 through Leamington. Coming up the hill from the south, the church is on the left, just past the river - between Portland Place West and the main crossroads of Dale Street and Regent Street. There are two small car parks, one either side of the church, and public car parks nearby - P6 Adelaide Bridge CV32 5AH, and P3 St Peter's Place in Bedford Street CV32 5EL. Maximum charge in both is about £4.00. Leamington Station is about 10 minutes' walk away.

Please note that neither MEMF nor the Church can accept responsibility for any property lost or damaged

<u>Fees</u>	MEMF Members	£18
	Non-members	£20
	Students	Free

Booking Please complete the enclosed Booking Form as soon as possible and send by 21st November 2015 at the very latest, together with a cheque made payable to MEMF, to:
Sue Peters, 658 Birmingham Road, Lydiat Ash, Bromsgrove B61 0QD

If, after booking, you find you are unable to attend, please let us know as soon as possible, as we will be ordering music and there may be a waiting list. In this event, your cheque will be shredded. However, if you do not inform the organiser, your cheque will be presented in the usual way.

Sue Peters can be contacted by email: sue.peters@itforit.com or by telephone: 0121-453-2898

Forthcoming MEMF workshops

- Sat 16 Jan 2016** Music: tba, to include Gesualdo
Tutor: Robert Hollingworth
Venue: Lutley Community Centre, Halesowen
- Sat 13 Feb 2016** Choral works from C18 Rome
Workshop for voices and continuo
Tutor: Peter Leech
Venue: St Andrew's Church, Barnt Green
- Sat 12 Mar 2016** De Rore and Jacquet
Workshop for singers
Tutor: Stephen Rice
Venue: tbc
- Sat 16 April 2016** Schein
Workshop for singers and instruments
Tutor: Peter Syrus
Venue: tbc
- Sat 21 May 2016** Handel Concerti Grossi
Instrumental workshop for strings, oboes and
bassoons (A415)
Tutor: David Hatcher
Venue: Dale Street Methodist Church, Leamington
- June 2016** (to be arranged)
- Sat 16 July 2016** Vocal workshop with David Allinson

MEMF Members receive regular mailings, which include listings of Early Music events in the wider Midlands area, and reviews of events, etc. Members are also entitled to a reduction in Workshop fees. Further information can be obtained from Mike Ashley
mashley@aol.com or 01564-778631

MEMF is affiliated to Making Music - "Supporting and championing voluntary music making"

BOOKING FORM
Choruses from Handel's Messiah with Stephen Davis
Saturday 5th December 2015

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL _____

EMAIL _____

Singers: Please circle Soprano / Alto / Tenor / Bass
Do you have a copy of Messiah (ed. Watkins Shaw)? Yes/No

Players: Instrument _____ (A440)(please bring a music stand)
Instruments required: strings, oboes, bassoons, natural trumpets & timps

Circle here if you are a member of MEMF / another EMF

FEES - Members of MEMF	£18
Non-members	£20
Students	Free

Cheque enclosed for £.....

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Please return this Booking Form as soon as possible, and **by the 21st November 2015, at the latest.**

If booking for more than one workshop, please send booking form and cheques to the respective organisers.

If you would like an acknowledgement, please tick here and provide an email address or send SAE.