

The Handel Institute grants for staged productions of Handel's operas

The Further Particulars below were published in early 2020. The Handel Institute recognises that in light of Covid-19 any plans submitted will be provisional.

Further Particulars

The fund for awarding grants to support staged productions of Handel's operas was created by a bequest from Cambridge Handel Opera, which staged productions of fifteen of Handel's operas between 1985 and 2013.

The production for which a grant is sought is to take place in Great Britain by the end of 2022. Funding is not available twice for the same project.

Essential

The grant is for a production of an opera by Handel that respects the text, intentions and expectations of the composer, and presents the opera in a style – both musical and visual – that Handel would have recognised as falling within the bounds of the possible for one of his operas. 'Opera' means a work by Handel in Italian that he performed on stage with sets, costumes and action, and that comprises entirely or predominantly his own music. The text (music and words) should be of a version that Handel is known to have performed or planned to perform. Cuts, if necessary, are to be minimal. These are essential requirements, under the terms of the bequest from Cambridge Handel Opera.

Desirable

The Handel Institute wishes to encourage applications in which, in addition, at least some of the following elements are addressed. These are not essential criteria:

- the development of new audiences for Handel opera
- the development of young artists
- an education or outreach element beyond the training of performers: e.g. related study session(s); workshops for participants and/or local students or public on aspects of performance or staging; a course of which the production is the culmination. Handel Institute Council members are available to the successful applicant(s) to advise on and/or participate in education plans
- if possible, period instruments or approximations thereto
- use of the original language or of a translation that respects the original text
- performance in more than one venue

The successful applicant is to keep The Handel Institute Council informed of progress at regular intervals (to be determined).

Complimentary tickets for the production and any associated events are to be made available to Handel Institute Council members and Trustees (two per person).

The performing edition (including the translation, if appropriate) and an audio or video recording (if one has been made) are to be deposited in the library of the Gerald Coke Handel Foundation, to be used only for reference purposes, not loaned or hired.

To apply

The applicant should be the company manager, artistic director, music director or stage director.

We would like to know about your vision for the production's staging and music. Please provide a description of your plans, showing how they will fulfil the requirement for a production fitting the terms of the grant.

Please also indicate, as far as currently possible:

- Nature of your company: e.g. institutional, charity, private enterprise, combination; single-company or collaboration

- Work and edition, language(s) of production, estimated performance running time
- Venue(s) for rehearsal and performance; have these been booked?
- Number and dates of projected performances
- If the production is to be sited in one or more academic institution, an expression of interest / commitment on the part of the relevant institution(s) / department(s)
- Orchestra: itemise constitution; professional, student, amateur or combination? period instruments?
- Cast: intended number of singers, dancers and/or extras; professional (give websites where available of those already in discussion with you), student, amateur or a combination?
- Production team: a list of the main posts to be filled; if individuals have already been engaged, please give their names
- Education / outreach plans; contacts with educational bodies made. Proposals for a study course culminating in a production are welcome
- Budget: an estimate of expenditure and income – as full as possible, even if hypothetical at this stage
- Other funding (a) applied for (b) secured
- Marketing plans

Please also supply:

- CVs of the music director and stage director, giving full details of relevant training and experience
- Contact details for two referees who know your previous work as a production or music director and can comment on your plans for the production for which you seek support

Closing date for applications: 31 October 2020

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application early in 2021.

For any enquiries and to apply please contact Dr Ruth Smith, res1000@cam.ac.uk