

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

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 the UK **before 30 September 2024**.

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.

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).

One copy of the score and libretto (including translation, if appropriate) used for the performance plus an audio or video recording (if one has been made) are to be donated to the Gerald Coke Handel Collection at the Foundling Museum, London, for reference purposes, not for loan or hire.

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:

- Development of new audiences for Handel opera
- Development of young artists
- 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
- Use of period instruments, if possible, or approximations thereto
- Use of the original language or of a translation that respects the original text
- Performance in more than one venue, if possible.

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 May 2022

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in autumn 2022.

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