

orlando

CHAMBER CHOIR & LONDON BAROQUE SINFONIA
DIRECTED BY LUCY GODDARD

ELINOR ROLFE JOHNSON SOPRANO
JESSICA GILLINGWATER MEZZO-SOPRANO
DAVID DE WINTER TENOR
GARETH BRYNMOR JOHN BARITONE



MESSIAH

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

THURSDAY 24 MARCH 2022

ST ANDREW HOLBORN

LONDON EC4A 3AF | 19:00

£20 | EARLYBIRD £18 | CONCESSIONS £12

07377 757 666 | ORLANDOCHOIR.ORG.UK

With this year's "Hallelujah" news that choral singing is once more within reach came the realisation that Orlando Chamber Choir has never before performed the most famous "Hallelujah" of all time – the one in Handel's *Messiah*.

When, in the 1730s, public taste for Italian opera faded, Handel forged a new musical format. His oratorios scrap superfluous staging and nefarious narratives to focus on solid Bible texts in plain English translation. The choir moves centre-stage to share the storytelling with the soloists.

The *Messiah*, which paints the life and death of Christ in a myriad musical colours, is Handel's sixth and most successful oratorio. After its triumphant premiere in 1742, the work grew ever more popular. It grew more populous too as, over the centuries, increasingly large-scale performances involved hundreds, then thousands of musicians.

Orlando Chamber Choir bucks this trend and reverts to more modest forces to present a fresh, lively and historically informed account of the *Messiah*. We are proud to be joined by four prize-winning soloists and a superb professional period band.

Book now – we expect standing room only for Orlando Chamber Choir's first "Hallelujah"!



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