

2025 AMERICAN HANDEL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Boston, Massachusetts

February 6–9, 2025

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 6 | College Club of Boston (44 Commonwealth Avenue)

- 6:00pm Welcome Reception
- 6:45pm **Howard Serwer Memorial Lecture**
Ayana Smith (Indiana University Bloomington), “Deathly Images: Discourses of Sight and Sound in Handel’s London Operas”

Friday, February 7 | Concert Hall, MIT New Music Building

- 8:00am Bus 1 leaves The Colonnade for MIT
- 8:30am Bus 2 leaves The Colonnade for MIT
- 8:30am Breakfast
- 9:00am Welcome

Paper Session 1. Bells and Whistles: Handel’s Sounds of Love and Madness (Chair, TBA)

- 9:10am **Minji Kim** (Andover, MA), “‘Make poor Saul stark mad’: Sonic Effect of Bells in Handel’s *Saul*”
- 9:50am **Blake Johnson** (Campbellsville University), “‘Where Love or Honour Calls’: The Role of the Oboe in Handel’s Early Operas, 1705–15”
- 10:20am Coffee Break

Paper Session 2. Handelian Encounters (Chair, TBA)

- 10:40am **Ruth Eldredge Thomas** (Durham University), “J. S. Bach, the Handelian Sublime, and the Natural Theological Argument in 19th-Century Anglo-American Thought”
- 11:20am **Kenneth Nott** (Hartt School of Music), “Lou Harrison and ‘The Divine Mr. Handel’”

Lunchtime Concert

- 12:15pm **Paul Traver Memorial Concert.** Singers of MIT Chamber Chorus and soloists from Emmanuel Music, conducted by Ryan Turner, will perform Handel’s first setting of “As pants the hart” and other works by Victoria and Palestrina. *Free admission.*
- Location: TBA

1:00pm Lunch

Paper Session 3. Handel in America (Chair, TBA)

2:30pm **Joseph Lockwood** (Newcastle University), “Zadok the Priest and the Imperial Soundscape in Boston on the Brink of Revolution”

3:10pm **Berta Joncus** (Guildhall School of Music & Drama), “Handel Melodies and Anti-Slavery Activism: Music for the Common Good”

3:50pm Coffee Break

4:10pm **Stephen Nissenbaum** (Underhill, VT), “Handel Comes to America 1927”

5:00pm Bus 1 leaves MIT for The Colonnade

5:30pm Bus 2 leaves MIT for The Colonnade

Concert

7:30pm ***Love, Handel.*** Joëlle Harvey (soprano) and the Handel + Haydn Society, conducted by Jonathan Cohen, performing Handel's Cantatas, *Il delirio amoroso* and *Tra le fiamme*, and Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 1.
<https://handelandhaydn.org/concerts/2024-25/love-handel>
 Location: Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory (30 Gainsborough Street)

Saturday, February 8 | College Club of Boston

8:30am Breakfast

Paper Session 4. Reconstructions (Chair, TBA)

9:00am **Graydon Beeks** (Pomona College), “Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, 4th Bart. (1749–1789) as a Collector of Handel’s Music”

9:40am **Alex McCargar** (University of Vienna), “Johann Oswald Harms and Handel’s ‘Lost’ Nero”

10:20am Coffee Break

10:40am **Michael Burden** (University of Oxford), “A Ghostly Opera Conundrum: Did Porpora ‘Rival’ Handel?”

11:20am **Ruth Smith** (Cambridge, UK), “Handel’s *Solomon* and Solomon’s Temple”

12:00pm Lunch / AHS Board Meeting (College Club)

Paper Session 5. Oratorios: From Composer to Editor (Chair, TBA)

2:00pm **Fred Fehleisen** (The Juilliard School), “Handel’s First Day on the Job—22 August 1741—and its Implications”

- 2:40pm **Mark Risinger** (New York, NY), “On the Rhetorical Structure and Function of Handel’s Oratorio Choruses”
- 3:20am Coffee Break
- 3:40pm **Annette Landgraf** (Hallische Händel-Ausgabe), “The Different Historical Editions of *Judas Maccabaeus* and Challenges for a Modern Edition”
- 4:20pm **Donald Burrows** (Milton Keynes, UK), “‘In the manner of an oratorio’: Interpreting the Bottom Stave in Handel’s Score of *Messiah*”

Concert

- 8:00pm **Francesco Corti**, harpsichord and organ, performing a solo work for harpsichord, and joining the Boston Early Music Festival Chamber Ensemble and director Robert Mealy to present two Organ Concertos by Handel, Op. 4, nos. 1 and 4. <https://bemf.org/concert-season/francesco-corti>
- Location: First Lutheran Church, Boston (299 Berkeley Street)

Sunday, February 9 | College Club of Boston

- 9:00am Breakfast
- 9:30am Open Business Meeting

Paper Session 6. Competition, Prime donne, and Theatricality (Chair, TBA)

- 10:10am **Francesca Greppi** (University of Bologna), “The Tradition of Soprano Pairing at Venetian Teatro Grimani di San Giovanni Grisostomo: Bordoni and Cuzzoni’s Early Collaborations in Italy”
- 10:50am **David Vickers** (Royal Northern College of Music), “Giulia Frasi and Italian Music in London”
- 11:20am Coffee Break
- 11:40am **Yseult Martinez** (University of Angers), “Female Cross-Dressing and Men’s Redemption on the London Opera Stage: Handel and Transvestite Heroines during the 1730s”
- 12:20am **Matthew Gardner** (Tübingen University), “Handel’s Theatre Singers 1737-1741”
- 1:00pm Closing Remarks