

Handel and Haydn Society To Perform Bach, Beethoven, 'The Bear' and More In 2024-25 Season

210th Season Will Mark the Return of the Acclaimed "Crossing the Deep" Program

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES, March 4, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The best of Beethoven, Bach, Mozart, and more will come to life on stage as the Handel and Haydn Society announces the 210th season of enchanting music, masterfully performed in H+H signature

historically informed style. Artistic Director Jonathan Cohen has crafted an eclectic schedule of concerts designed to inspire audiences, providing them with Baroque and Classical favorites, as well as H+H premieres that they may not be familiar with. The season will include eight concerts featuring six H+H premieres from composers like Michael Haydn and Francisco Lopez Capillas. Subscriptions, including the popular create-your-own packages, are available now at HandelandHaydn.org.



"From Haydn to Beethoven, Mozart to Michael Haydn, H+H will connect the threads of history and inspiration that weave through musical history," said Artistic Director Jonathan Cohen. "We have eight incredible concerts planned for the year ahead that will leave audiences inspired by the beautiful music, passionately performed by our orchestra and chorus."

The season will include several H+H premieres including a number of light and lively early Baroque gems from often overlooked Hispanic composers Antonio de Salazar, Francisco Lopez Capillas, and Juan de Araujo. All composed in Central and South America before Mozart, Beethoven, and Haydn were even born, these pieces represent a unique sound of Baroque music in the New World. The season will also include the first H+H performances of the inspiring Requiem from Michael Haydn, and a beautiful Overture in F Major by Christoph Graupner.

The 210th season will also feature a number of incredibly talented soloists including sopranos Lucy Crowe, Joëlle Harvey, Brianna Robinson, and internationally renowned Jeanine De Bique; countertenor Reginald Mobley; tenor Nicholas Phan; baritone Sumner Thompson; bass-baritone Brandon Cedel; spoken word artist Reggie Gibson; and in-demand fortepianist Kristian Bezuidenhout.

The season will begin with a pair of Requiems from the late 18th century. Michael Haydn's masterpiece lays the groundwork for Mozart's final work. Audiences will be able to hear the inspiration for Mozart's Requiem in Haydn's earlier work, setting the tone for a pair of awe-inspiring performances at Symphony Hall September 27 + 29, 2024. Artistic Director Jonathan Cohen will conduct. Mozart Requiem will feature soloists Lucy Crowe, soprano and Brandon Cedel, bass-baritone.

Celebrated Trinidadian soprano Jeanine de Bique makes her H+H debut to kick off the holiday season with a can't miss performance of Handel's Messiah. Conducted by Jonathan Cohen, the November 29 + 30 and December 1 concerts at Symphony Hall will also include frequent H+H soloist Reginald Mobley, countertenor; Nicholas Phan, tenor; and Sumner Thompson, baritone. The three dates will mark H+H's 171st consecutive year of performing Messiah.

Baroque Christmas offers several H+H premieres as Ruben Valenzuela, founder, artistic director and conductor of the early-music ensemble Bach Collegium San Diego, makes his H+H debut December 19 + 22 at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall. H+H will pair J.S. Bach's Cantata, Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland ("Now come, Saviour of the heathen") with the work of one of his lesser known but important contemporary, Christoph Graupner (Overture in F Major). Graupner turned down a position in Leipzig and recommended Bach. He flourished in the role and spent the rest of his life in Leipzig. Then it is a treat for adventurous music lovers as Valenzuela guides H+H through a series of premieres from Hispanic composers Antonio de Salazar, Francisco Lopez Capillas, and Juan de Araujo. De Salazar's Conceptio Gloriosae, Lopez Capillas's Canticum Beatae Mariae Virginis: Magnificat à 8 and Cui Luna, Sol et omnia ("To him the moon, the sun, and all things"); and De Araujo's Ay andar, a tocar, a cantar, a baylar ("Oh, walk, play, sing, dance") offer a unique Baroque sound from the New World.

A highlight of the season, H+H will once again perform the innovative Crossing the Deep, January 17 + 19, 2025 at NEC's Jordan Hall. Co-created by H+H Resident Conductor Dr. Anthony Trecek-King and H+H Programming Consultant Reginald Mobley and premiered by H+H in 2023, Crossing the Deep explores the juxtapositions between sacred music by Handel and Negro spirituals by enslaved Africans in America using spoken word and moving performances by Mobley, soprano Brianna Robinson, spoken word artist Reggie Gibson, and members of the H+H Orchestra and Chorus. Crossing the Deep is a guided dramatic musical journey exploring the shared wealth of Old World and New World period music. These same stories, particularly those of triumph of the ordinary over the powerful, were incorporated by enslaved Africans into a uniquely American genre, the Spiritual.

"We knew this would be a special performance when Anthony and Reggie first proposed it years ago, but that was nothing compared to the incredible experience of seeing it live," said David Snead, Philip and Marjorie Gerdine President and CEO of the Handel and Haydn Society. "The emotion and passion of the performers shines throughout this moving performance and we are overjoyed to be able to share this with a wider audience across Boston."

Jonathan Cohen returns for a pair of concerts filled with tales of love gone wrong in Love, Handel February 7 + 9 at NEC's Jordan Hall. Soprano Joëlle Harvey returns to join H+H for a pair of Handel Cantatas Il delirio amoroso (The Delirium of Love) and Tra le fiamme (In the Flames). H_H will also perform Handel's Concerto Grosso in G Major.

H+H's concertmaster Aisslinn Nosky and principal keyboardist Ian Watson will co-direct the dazzling, inventive, and inspired Bach Brandenburg Concertos February 20 + 22 at NEC's Jordan Hall and February 21 + 23 at Harvard's Sanders Theatre. Bach's treasury of instrumental music has become a tradition for H+H.

March will bring another Classical connection as Jonathan Cohen pairs Haydn's "Spring" from The Seasons, with Beethoven's Mass in C Major March 28 + 30 at Symphony Hall. Audiences will experience the music as the composers intended and hear how Haydn's work greatly influenced Beethoven. Haydn + Beethoven is set to be one of Cohen's favorites of the season as he has greatly admired "Spring."

The 210th season will conclude with three showstopping surprises in Beethoven, Mozart + The Bear, featuring award-winning fortepianist Kristian Bezuidenhout. Conducted by Cohen, the May 2 + 4 performances at Symphony Hall will include Beethoven's beautiful Piano Concerto No. 4, Mozart's Suite from Thamos, King of Egypt and Haydn's delightful and joyful Symphony No. 82, The Bear.

The 2024-25 Season

Mozart's Requiem	Sep 27 +29, 2024	Symphony Hall
Handel's Messiah	Nov 29 + 30 + Dec 1, 2024	Symphony Hall
Baroque Christmas	Dec 19 + 22, 2024	NEC's Jordan Hall
Crossing the Deep	Jan 17 + 19, 2025	NEC's Jordan Hall
Love, Handel	Feb 7 + 9, 2025	NEC's Jordan Hall
Brandenburg Concertos	Feb 20 - 23, 2025	Sanders Theatre & NEC's Jordan Hall
Handel + Beethoven	Mar 28 + 30, 2025	Symphony Hall
Beethoven, Mozart + The Bear	May 2 + 4, 2025	Symphony Hall

Subscription packages are available with access to the best seats at great savings by visiting www.handelandhaydn.org.

About the Handel and Haydn Society

Boston's Grammy-winning Handel and Haydn Society is dedicated to performing Baroque and Classical music with a freshness, a vitality, and a creativity that inspires all ages. H+H has been captivating audiences for 210 consecutive seasons (the most of any performing arts organization in the United States). Today, H+H's Orchestra and Chorus delight more than 50,000 listeners annually with an eight week subscription series at Boston Symphony Hall and other leading venues. Through the Karen S. and George D. Levy Education Program, H+H supports seven youth

choirs of singers in grades 2-12 and provides thousands of complimentary tickets to students and communities throughout Boston, ensuring the joy of music is accessible to all. H+H's numerous free community concerts include an annual commemoration of the original 1863 Emancipation Proclamation concert on December 31. H+H has released 16 CDs on the Coro label and has toured nationally and internationally. In all these ways, H+H fulfills its mission to inspire the intellect, touch the heart, elevate the soul, and connect us with our shared humanity through transformative experiences with Baroque and Classical music.

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