

MESSIAH

The first ever live choral concert broadcast in cinemas

Be exalted...

"I would happily sit in King's College Chapel listening to this choir sing for the rest of my days." (Richard Morrison, *The Times*)

"A crowning glory of our civilisation" (Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Master of the Queen's Music)

"British Voices: Fresh, Lean and Worldly ... scrupulously prepared, well tuned and musically alert." (*The New York Times*)

London UK 16th March: Handel's *Messiah* will be the first ever choral performance to be streamed live via satellite to cinemas across the UK and Europe on Palm Sunday, April 5, courtesy of Arts Alliance Media - tickets now on sale. The live screening will be in High Definition and 5.1 surround sound.

The world famous Choir of King's College, Cambridge, will sing the best loved choral masterpiece from the magnificent setting of King's College Chapel. The award-winning Choir's performance starring soloists Ailish Tynan (soprano), Alice Coote (mezzo-soprano), Allan Clayton (tenor) and Matthew Rose (bass) will be streamed live to cinemas to mark the 250th anniversary of the death of George Frideric Handel and the 800th anniversary of the prestigious University of Cambridge.

The Choir of King's College dates back to the mid-1400s and consists of sixteen choristers and fourteen choral scholars. Arts Alliance Media will now share their revered rendition of Handel's *Messiah* with over 90 cinemas across Europe.

The performance is the cornerstone of the *Easter at King's* festival of music and services. Conducted by Stephen Cleobury, Director of Music for the Choir at King's College, *Messiah* will also feature the Academy of Ancient Music, one of the world's first and finest period-instrument ensembles now in its fourth decade. They have performed across six continents, made over 250 recordings and were the first orchestra to record all of Mozart's symphonies on period instruments.

Stephen Cleobury, says: "We are all hugely excited about bringing Handel's wonderful music from this superb building to a wider audience."

George Frideric Handel's crowning masterpiece, his oratorio *Messiah*, changed his life at its premiere in 1742. Prior to *Messiah*'s success, Handel found himself on the verge of bankruptcy, depressed and broken following the failure of several of his operas. Today, Handel's *Messiah* remains as one of the most popular pieces in Western choral literature.

Handel based *Messiah* on a libretto by Charles Jennens that employs verses from the bible to present the life of Jesus. The work is in three sections: the Advent and Christmas, Christ's passion and the events told in the Revelation to St. John.

For participating cinemas in your area please visit www.artsalliancemediacom.com.

Notes to Editors

Handel's *Messiah* will be live in cinemas on Sunday 5 April at 7.30pm UK and 8.30pm across the rest of Europe, presented by Opus Arte and King's College Cambridge in association with Arts Alliance Media, DigiScreen and EMI Classics.

About the live presentation:

The cinemas, as listed below, will be showing *Messiah* in High Definition quality, live via satellite systems and digital cinema projectors. Digital cinema projection technology is providing cinema owners, distributors and the entertainment industry at large with substantial benefits: new programming opportunities – 3D films and alternative content (non-movie entertainment), such as live and recorded concerts, music-related documentaries, opera, ballet and sports events. Digital cinema is enabling cinemas to become vibrant entertainment centres, as well as movie houses.

Cinemas confirmed to date

(For the most up to date listings please visit:

www.artsalliancemediacom/opera/MessiahCinemas.html)

City Screen	Clapham Picturehouse
City Screen	Gate Picturehouse
City Screen	Greenwich Picturehouse
City Screen	Ritzy Picturehouse
City Screen	Belmont Picturehouse
City Screen	The Little Theatre Cinema, Bath
City Screen	Duke of York's, Brighton
City Screen	Arts Picturehouse, Cambridge
City Screen	Cameo Picturehouse, Edinburgh
City Screen	Exeter Picturehouse
City Screen	Picturehouse at FACT, Liverpool
City Screen	Cinema City, Norwich
City Screen	Phoenix Picturehouse, Oxford
City Screen	Harbour Lights, Southampton

City Screen	York Picturehouse
City Screen	Regal Picturehouse, Henley
Curzon	Curzon, Chelsea Cinema
Curzon	Curzon Mayfair
Independent	Dukes, Lancaster
Everyman	Everyman, Belsize Park
Curzon	Curzon Richmond
Empire	Empire Leicester Square
Empire	Empire Wigan
Empire	Empire Swindon
Independent	Aldeburgh Cinema, Suffolk
Everyman	Screen on the Green
Lexi	Lexi, Kensal Rise
Independent	Pavilion Cinema, Galashiels
Independent	Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle

Handel 2009 at the Foundling Museum

George Frideric Handel was one of the noted philanthropists of the 18th century, giving regular benefit performances of *Messiah* at the Foundling Hospital, Britain's first home for abandoned and illegitimate children. The Foundling Museum is marking the 250th anniversary of Handel's death with the exhibition *Handel the Philanthropist*. The exhibition draws on the holdings of the Gerald Coke Handel Collection at the Foundling, including Handel's will and an original copy of *Messiah*, as well as generous loans from other collections including the library of King's College, Cambridge. *Handel the Philanthropist* runs until 28 June 2009. For more information visit www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk.