

Handel and His Times

Although older than our nation, Handel's great works, *Messiah*, *Saul*, *Israel in Egypt*, *Samson*, *Judas Maccabeus*, "Water Music," "Music for the Royal Fireworks," *Alexander's Feast*, "Coronation Anthems," and many others remain fresh enough to delight us in the concert hall, comfort us in the church, and entertain us in movies and commercials. To commemorate the 250th anniversary of Handel's death, this course examines the life and achievements of one of history's greatest composers.

Using Handel's works as our guide, we will trace his moves from Saxony to England, survey the ups and downs of his fabulous career, and probe his indelible mark on the first modern society. Why did German-born Handel settle in England and take up citizenship? How did he transform himself from an entertainment star to a national icon? What accounts for his continuous fame? We will follow Handel from his early days as a prodigy composer of Italian opera to his mid-life professional crisis in the 1730s, out of which emerged his English oratorios, and his final years of universal admiration and commercial success. Finally, we will place his music and achievements in the larger context of the first modern society, marked by social mobility, technological innovation, freedom of press, and parliamentary democracy.

This is a comprehensive introduction to Handel's life, music, and times, and offers intellectual preparation for Stanford's annual *Messiah* concert in early December.

ILIAS CHRISOCHOIDIS

Lecturer in Continuing Studies

Ilias Chrissochoidis studied piano, music theory, and musicology in Greece and the United Kingdom (King's College, London), and received a PhD in music from Stanford. A leading expert on Handel, he has been a research fellow at Stanford, Harvard, Yale, UCLA, UT Austin, the Huntington, and the Folger Shakespeare Library. He is currently completing an online Handel Reference Database.

MUS 154

Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:50 pm

6 weeks, October 20 – December 1

1 unit, \$240 *Limit: 40*

(No class on November 24)