

west london
chorus

'The Private Mr Handel'

Thursday 23rd April 2026 at 19.30

St Michaels and All Angels, Bedford Park W4

THE PRIVATE MR HANDEL is a one-hour introduction in words and pictures to the great composer, based on Helen Dymond's acclaimed novel *'Finding Handel'*, which will give the audience an opportunity to question the author and to buy signed copies of the book. Based firmly on historical fact and a bit of imaginative magic, it brings to light some surprising episodes in Handel's friendships and loves. It opens in 1750 when *'Messiah'* has already begun to take its place as the greatest choral work in the English language, but the novel looks back across the whole of Handel's life through Saxony, Italy and London, his musical triumphs and failures, his Christian faith which, as the novel explores, culminates in an unexpected struggle in his final years, and the anguish of his encroaching blindness.

Helen Dymond is a former Lecturer in Humanities who sang in the Handel Opera Chorus. In 1985 she published *'The Handel-Lovers' Chorus,* a comic version of The Hallelujah Chorus incorporating the names of all Handel's operas and oratorios: this is available for choirs to buy on Thames Publishing. Her three plays about the composer, *'Handel and Susannah'*, *'Handel's Feast'* and *'Finding Handel'* have all been successfully performed; her novel based on the final play was first published in 2021 and was re-published in July 2025 by Amazon (Kindle, Paperback, Audible).

