



CHARLOTTE
SYMPHONY
CHRISTOPHER WARREN-GREEN
music director

MUSIC FOR A ROYAL CELEBRATION

Friday, October 19 & Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Knight Theater at Levine Center for the Arts

Christopher Warren-Green, *conductor*
Charlotte Symphony Chorus

G. F. HANDEL
(1685-1759)

Zadok the Priest, Coronation Anthem No. 1

HANDEL

Water Music (selected movements)

Suite I in F major: *Overture, Adagio e staccato, Allegro, Air, Bourree, Hornpipe*

Suite III in G major: *Sarabande, Rigaudon, Allegro, Minuet, Gigue*

Suite II in D major: *Allegro, Hornpipe*

INTERMISSION

Hubert PARRY
(1848-1918)

I was Glad

HANDEL

Music for the Royal Fireworks

I. *Ouverture*

II. *Bourrée*

III. *La Paix*

IV. *La Réjouissance*

V. *Menuet I*

VI. *Menuet II*

William WALTON
(1902-1983)

Crown Imperial: Coronation March
(arr. Taursky)

This concert will end at approximately 9:15 p.m.

The Classical Series is presented
to the community by

WELLS
FARGO

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

Handel was born in Halle, Germany, on February 23, 1685, and died in London, England, on April 14, 1759.



Zadok the Priest, HMV 258 (1727)

On June 11, 1727, King George I died while in Osnabrück. Prior to his death, the king signed a decree granting British citizenship to the German-born composer George Frideric Handel. Handel's first duty as a British citizen was to write a series of anthems for the coronation ceremony of King George II and Queen Caroline. Handel composed four Coronation Anthems for the occasion: *Zadok the Priest*, *My Heart is Inditing*, *Let Thy Hand be Strengthened*, and *The King Shall Rejoice*.

The coronation ceremony took place in Westminster Abbey on October 11, 1727. *Zadok the Priest*, with its dramatic orchestral introduction leading to the stunning entrance of the chorus, trumpets, and drums, immediately captivated those in attendance at Westminster Abbey.

TEXT

Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet appointed Solomon King. And all the people rejoiced, and said: God save the King, long live the King, God save the King! May the King live for ever, amen, alleluia, amen. – I Kings 1:39-40 (adapted)

Excerpts from *Water Music*, HMV 348-350 (1717)

In Handel's London, boat trips on the Thames River were an extremely popular form of recreation, particularly during the summer months. Those who journeyed along the Thames on sizeable barges often enjoyed the delightful bonus of musical entertainment. England's King George I, crowned in 1714, hosted Thames excursions during the summers of 1715, 1716, and 1717. All featured musical accompaniment.

While it is possible that Handel wrote music for each of these royal parties on the Thames, the composer's involvement is confirmed only for the outing of July 17, 1717. Friedrich Bonnet, a Prussian diplomat in London reported:

AT A GLANCE...

The first performance took place at Westminster Abbey in London on October 11, 1727.

*Handel wrote this anthem for the coronation ceremony of King George II and Queen Caroline. *Zadok the Priest* has been included in every subsequent British coronation ceremony.*

Duration: approx. 6 minutes

At about eight in the evening the king repaired to his barge...Next to the king's barge was that of the musicians, about 50 in number—trumpets, horns, oboes, bassoons, German flutes, French flutes, violins and basses, but no singers. The music had been composed specially by the famous Handel, a native of Halle and his majesty's principal court composer. His majesty's approval of it was so great that he caused it to be played three times in all, twice before and twice after supper, even though each performance lasted an hour. The evening was as fine as could be desired for this occasion, and the number of barges and boats full of people to listen was beyond counting.

AT A GLANCE...

Boat trips on London's River Thames were a popular form of 18th century entertainment. Handel wrote his Water Music as entertainment for the one of King George I's Thames parties.

Water Music is traditionally divided into three suites by key (F, D, and G major), though there is no set order to the various movements within the suites.

This concert features Maestro Christopher Warren-Green's arrangement of selected movements from the complete score.

Duration: approx. 35 minutes

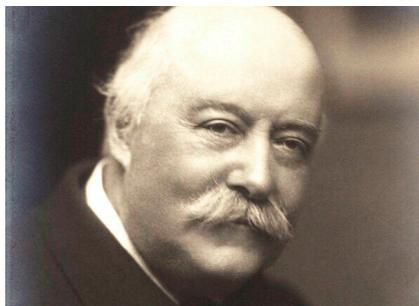
Both the *Water Music* and Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks* (1749) (see next section) are notable for their exceptional vitality, melodic inspiration, and stunning instrumental effects. Small wonder then, that their popularity has continued undiminished from their very first performances.



Belgian painter Edouard Hamman's depiction of the first performance of Handel's Water Music on July 17, 1717: King George sits under the royal canopy while the composer (at left) gestures to the accompanying barge containing the musicians.

SIR HUBERT PARRY

Parry was born in Bournemouth, England, on February 27, 1848, and died in Rustington, England, on October 7, 1918.



I was Glad (1902, rev. 1911)

Venerable English composer Hubert Parry originally wrote the anthem *I was Glad* for the Coronation of Britain's King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, which took place in Westminster Abbey on August 9, 1902. Parry revised the work for the subsequent Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary, on June 22, 1911. When performed at Coronations, the central portion of the anthem features exclamations of "Vivat Rex/Regina" ("Long Live the King/Queen"), that include the monarch's name.

TEXT

I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city: that is at unity in itself. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.

- Psalm 122, Book of Common Prayer, 1-3, 6, 7

Duration: approx. 7 minutes

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

Music for the Royal Fireworks, HWV 351 (1749)

In October 1748, the signing of the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle brought the eight-year War of Austrian Succession to a close. England's King George II decided to commemorate the event with a series of public celebrations, culminating with a magnificent fireworks display in London's Green Park on April 27, 1749. The King commissioned the Florentine architect Giovanni Niccolò Servandoni, scenic artist to the French court and the creator of the St. Sulpice church in Paris, to design a grand pavilion for the event. Handel, England's foremost composer, was commissioned to fashion musical accompaniment for the fireworks display.

The first official performance of *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, Handel's last major orchestral composition, occurred at the April 1749 fireworks celebration. The evening was hardly the triumph envisioned by King George II. Several of the fireworks failed to ignite and finally, a portion of the scaffolding caught fire, causing injury to several people. Despite the confusion, Handel's magnificent score, was well received and remains a perennial concert favorite.



"A VIEW of the FIRE-WORKS and ILLUMINATIONS at his GRACE the Duke of RICHMOND'S at WHITEHALL and on the River Thames." (Anon. hand-colored etching, 1749)

The opening Overture (*Adagio–Allegro–Lentement–Allegro da capo*) is by far the longest of the six movements. The ensuing *Bourrée* (a quick French dance in duple meter) is lightly scored for strings and woodwinds. The slow-tempo movement, entitled *La Paix* ("Peace") is a *Largo* in the form of a *Siciliana*, an Italian dance in 12/8 time. The martial spirit of the Overture returns in the fourth-movement *La Réjouissance* ("Rejoicing") (*Allegro*). *Music for the Royal Fireworks* concludes with two Minuets, the first (*Menuet I*) a subdued piece, the second (*Menuet II*), a far more celebratory affair that recalls the mood and scoring of *La Réjouissance*.

AT A GLANCE...

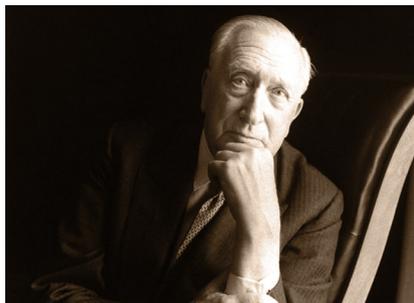
Composed to accompany a fireworks display in London's Green Park, celebrating the signing of the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

Although the original fireworks display was a disaster, Handel's music has thrived as one of the most performed and beloved works of the Baroque era.

Duration: approx. 20 minutes

SIR WILLIAM WALTON

Walton was born in Oldham, England, on March 29, 1902, and died in Ischia, Italy, on March 8, 1983.



Crown Imperial March (1937)

The BBC commissioned Walton—at the time, still a rising young composer—to write his *Crown Imperial* March for the planned November 1936 coronation of Edward VIII. However, when Edward abdicated the throne, Walton's March was first played at the May 12, 1937 coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth at London's Westminster Abbey. The March, accompanying the arrival of the Queen Mother, Queen Mary, was performed by conductor Adrian Boult and the Coronation Orchestra. The vibrant, majestic work continues to make frequent appearances at ceremonial events and in the concert hall.

Duration: approx. 7 minutes