



ACADEMY OF
ANCIENT MUSIC

TRANSFORMATION

Season Brochure London

October - December 24

barbican
Associate Ensemble

from
John McMunn

Chief Executive

Over the past 50 years, Academy of Ancient Music has fundamentally changed the way musicians play – and audiences expect to hear – great classical music, so what better theme for the first season of our next 50 years than *Transformation*?

Across the year, we will explore music’s transformative powers in repertoire ranging from the familiar to the unknown. And whether depicting literal transformation (as in two masterpieces of the French baroque inspired by Ovid), examining more nuanced ideas of influence (in music ranging from Mozart and Haydn to Dittersdorf and Wanhal), or indulging in that most enduring of seasonal classics – Handel’s *Messiah* – music’s power to conjure something from nothing and to change the world sings through.

But more than this is music’s power to move the soul of the listener, to elevate us all from the ordinary through the alchemy of musician and audience. In these uncertain and often unsettling times, it has never been more important to share these authentic experiences in commune with each other.

I hope that you will join us. We look forward to welcoming you.



AAM in London

Barbican Hall

Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS

Milton Court Concert Hall

1 Milton Street, London EC2Y 9BH

Charpentier’s *Actéon* & Rameau’s *Pygmalion*

Wednesday 9 October | Milton Court Concert Hall

Viennese Virtuosity: symphonies by Mozart, Haydn & friends

Thursday 14 November | Milton Court Concert Hall

Handel’s *Messiah*

Monday 16 December | Barbican Hall

Further concerts for 2025 to be announced in October



Scan to view all AAM concerts in London

How to book

Online at barbican.org.uk

By telephone: **020 7870 2500**

Monday–Friday, 12 noon–5.30pm

Multibuy

Get 15% off when you book three or more AAM concerts at the Barbican Centre via barbican.org.uk

Booking fees apply. Booking fees are per transaction and not per ticket. If your booking contains several events, the highest booking fee will apply. Booking fees do not currently apply to in-person bookings.

Charpentier

Actéon

Rameau

Pygmalion

Anna Dennis *soprano*
Rachel Redmond *soprano*
Katy Bray *mezzo-soprano*
Thomas Walker *tenor*

Academy of Ancient Music
Laurence Cummings *director & harpsichord*

Charpentier's *Actéon* and Rameau's *Pygmalion*: two mythological mini-masterpieces of baroque opera, in an exuberant concert performance.

In the world of baroque opera, the impossible comes as standard. Deep in the forest, a huntsman surprises a naked goddess – and finds himself transformed from hunter into prey. A sculptor falls in love with his own beautiful creation; but this time, the gods are smiling and even old stone can conceal a passionate heart.

Those are the tales that AAM re-tells tonight: dramas of human emotion and divine power from two of the most imaginative (and entertaining) masters of the French baroque. Rameau's *Pygmalion* and Charpentier's *Actéon* are rarities on the British stage – and with a knockout cast, this double bill of concert performances will spring into sparkling, sensuous life.

• **Wednesday 9 October, 7.30pm** | Milton Court Concert Hall

Tickets from £15 (£5 under 35s – AAMplify)

See page 2 for all ticketing information

Booking fees apply

Viennese Virtuosity: *symphonies by Mozart, Haydn & friends*

Wanhal *Symphony in D major*
Mozart *Symphony No. 36 in C major 'Linz'*
Dittersdorf *Symphony No. 4 in F major from
'Symphonies after Ovid's Metamorphosis'*
Haydn *Symphony No. 80 in D minor*

Academy of Ancient Music
Laurence Cummings *director & harpsichord*

Musical metamorphoses: Mozart, Haydn and their colleagues come together as AAM celebrates a friendship that transformed music for ever.

'The greatest composer known to me, either in person, or by reputation.' Joseph Haydn never stopped admiring his younger friend Mozart: but the pair shared many musical friendships, and one day in Vienna in 1784 they came together with two of the finest composers of the age for one of the most extraordinary musical gatherings of all time.

Laurence Cummings and AAM celebrate that miraculous occasion with symphonies by all four masters. Mozart and Haydn need no introduction. But we'll also play music by the Czech livewire Johann Wanhal and his teacher, the upwardly-mobile Ditters von Dittersdorf. Four geniuses, striking sparks off each other – and being transformed by the experience.

• **Thursday 14 November, 7.30pm** | Milton Court Concert Hall

Tickets from £15 (£5 under 35s – AAMplify)

See page 2 for all ticketing information

Booking fees apply

Handel

Messiah



Louise Alder *soprano*
Tim Mead *countertenor*
Nick Pritchard *tenor*
Cody Quattlebaum *bass*

Academy of Ancient Music *chorus and orchestra*
Laurence Cummings *director & harpsichord*

With some pieces, the name is enough. Handel's *Messiah* is practically a national institution, and one of those rare works of art that transcends time, place and even musical genre. But Laurence Cummings and AAM take it back to its source, using the sort of musical forces that maybe – just maybe – Handel himself might have recognised.

It's an experience that AAM is always thrilled to share. 'This *Messiah* was lit by a continuous stream of electricity' was one critic's verdict on our most recent performance at the Barbican in 2022, and Handel's music is part of who we are: always inspiring, always new. With the phenomenal Louise Alder heading an all-star cast, Handel's glory will burn brighter than ever.

- **Monday 16 December, 7.00pm** | Barbican Hall

Tickets from £15 (£5 under 35s – AAMplify)

See page 2 for all ticketing information

Booking fees apply



Full programme details at aam.co.uk

Music Director: **Laurence Cummings OBE**
Founder: **Christopher Hogwood CBE**

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Registered charity number: 1085485

All details correct at time of printing

Associate Ensemble at the Barbican Centre, London

Associate Ensemble at the Teatro San Cassiano, Venice

Orchestra-in-Residence at the University of Cambridge

Orchestra-in-Residence at Milton Abbey Summer Music Festival

Orchestra-in-Residence at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds

Artistic Partner to London's Culture Mile

Design by SL Chai

Images:

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