

Bach and Handel turn 300 this year

THE HANDEL WEEKEND

Beginning on Feb. 23, Handel's actual 300th birthday, the Handel Weekend features two afternoons of documentary, discussion, and some of the composer's best music, Saturday, 3-7 p.m., and Sunday, 1-6 p.m. Host is Christopher Newton, distinguished actor and artistic director of Canada's Shaw Festival.

Highlight is the 1982 Festival Ottawa production of Handel's 1711 opera *Rinaldo* -- later Canada's gift to the Metropolitan Opera on its centennial. Marilyn Horne, Benita Valente and Samuel Ramey star in this story about Saracens and Crusaders.

Preceding the opera, Ms. Horne joins soprano Joan Sutherland, conductors Richard Bonyngue and Mario Bernardi, and Peter Sellars -- the controversial artistic director of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington -- in discussing Handel Today: Baroque Opera for the 1980's.

For three hours on Feb. 24, Handel in London documents the years of the German composer's greatest creativity -- nearly 50 years during which his fortunes rose and fell, he wrote numerous operas and developed the oratorio when opera fell from favour.

Participants include renowned Handel scholar H.C. Robbins Landon; early music specialists John Eliot Gardiner, Christopher Hogwood and novelists Kingsley Amis, An-

thony Burgess and Robertson Davies; writer and journalist Malcolm Muggeridge; and H.R.H. Prince Charles on royal patronage.

At 4 p.m., CBC Stereo's Command Performance carries Handel's *Israel in Egypt* -- a work that Toronto Star critic William Littler calls "one of the most high-spirited oratorios to have come down to us from the 18th century." Elmer Iseler conducts the Toronto Symphony, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, soprano Lynn Blaser, mezzo Sandra Graham, tenor Mark Dubois, baritone Mark Pedrotti and bass John Dodington.

THE BACH WEEK

Friday to Thursday, March 1-7, 7-10 p.m., well-known music critic, writer and broadcaster Kenneth Winters hosts an in-depth look at the composer described by the late Glen Gould as "history's most extraordinary musician."

It is amazing that Bach, a musician considered out of step with his own time, and virtually forgotten until the mid-19th century, is one of the most recorded composers of our day. For three hours each night, the programs explore, through documentary material and the words and performances of musicians, how Bach reaches across 300 years with music that remains fresh and challenging.

Bach the man, and the society in which he lived, are brought to light in the first hour each night. In the next two hours,

one or more of the great Bach interpreters perform and talk about the inspiration they have derived from playing his music.

As his most celebrated 20th century keyboard interpreter, the late Glen Gould is heard in music and conversation retrieved from the CBC Archives.

As well, Rosalyn Tureck, regarded now as the greatest living exponent of Bach's keyboard music, talks and plays the clavichord, harpsichord and piano in her New York apartment; organist Peter Hurford and Carlo Curley argue the proper approach to Bach; violinist Yehudi Menuhin and early music specialists Nikolaus Harnocourt, Christopher Hogwood and Trevor Pinnock debate the ancient and modern interpretation of Bach; and Helmut Rilling, the greatest living conductor of Bach's choral music, talks about the cantatas, of which Bach wrote more than 300 for the church.

Further comment comes from Christopher Wolff, chairman of the Harvard University music department and pre-eminent Bach scholar; and from fellow Bach scholars Malcolm Boyd and Alfred Durr.

To bring Bach up-to-the-minute, the Bach Week concludes March 7 with *Whatever Happened to Bach?* CBC has

commissioned pianist Marian McPartland and bassist Ron Carter to do jazz improvisations on Bach, and Winnipeg organist Lawrence Ritchie to extemporize on the favorite Bach theme, *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*. As well, jazzmen Dave Brubeck, Ward Swingle and Jacques Loussier offer their comments and Bach versions,

Robert Moog shows off the synthesized sound, and Prof. Peter Schickele adds his scintillating revelations about P.D.Q. Bach, "the last and least of the Bachs." The Handel Weekend, the afternoons of Feb. 23 and 24; and the Bach Week, the evenings of March 1-7, on CBC Stereo -- it's a celebration that's been 300 years in the making.

TNB's latest taste

Theatre New Brunswick began rehearsals this week for Shelagh Delaney's bittersweet classic *A Taste of Honey*.

Miss Delaney wrote *A Taste of Honey* when she was just nineteen years old, but critics soon recognized her talent and billed the drama as 'bold', 'fascinating' theatre that portrays a world without illusions. It is the story of Jo, a tough, funny 17-year-old whose unending search for love entangles her in passionate relationships with her mother, lover and friend.

A Taste of Honey featured Joyce Gordon, an accomplished Canadian actress in the role of the mother, and Cheryl Swarts who just finished *Twelfth Night* at Young Peo-

ple's Theatre, as her daughter Jo. Completing the cast are David Collins, who appeared in Whiterock Summer Theatre's production of *A Taste of Honey*, Peter Millard and Stephen McMulkin.

The play will be directed by Janet Amos, TNB's Artistic Director, whose production of *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* was recently a huge hit with audiences around the province. The set and costumes are designed by Pat Flood, and David Gibbons returns as Lighting Designer of his eighth production for Theatre New Brunswick.

A Taste of Honey plays in Fredericton March 2-9 and then tours the province for two weeks.



Bach & Handel 300th Anniversary: A Celebration of Genius

February 23-24 and March 1-7

HANDEL WEEKEND - Saturday and Sunday, February 23 and 24
With host Christopher Newton, artistic director of the Shaw Festival.

Saturday, February 23, 2 p.m. (3 ast, 3:30 nst)
Handel Today: Can Handel's Operas be made Relevant to Today's Audience?
A discussion with Marilyn Horne, Dame Joan Sutherland, Richard Bonyngue, Mario Bernardi, controversial director Peter Sellars, and others.

3 p.m. (4 ast, 4:30 nst)

Rinaldo
The 1982 Festival Ottawa production of Handel's opera, starring Marilyn Horne, Benita Valente and Samuel Ramey, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra conducted by Mario Bernardi.

Sunday, February 24, 1-4 p.m. (1:30 nst)

Handel in London
Three hour-long documentaries with music and celebrity guests.
Hour I: Opera, Fame and Good Times: The Early Years in London
Hour II: The Bourgeois Man
Hour III: Creation of Messiah and The Final Years

THE BACH WEEK - Friday-Thursday, March 1-7, 7-10 p.m. (7:30 nst)
With host and music consultant Kenneth Winters.
Seven documentaries on Bach's life and times, followed each night by two hours of his music, with famous interpreters in performance and conversation.

Friday, March 1

Hour I: Bach the Man
The Music: Glenn Gould

Saturday, March 2

Hour II: Bach at Cothen
The Music: Ancient or Modern

Sunday, March 3

Hour III: Bach and his Contemporaries
The Music: Outside Influences

Monday, March 4

Hour IV: The Age of Enlightenment
The Music: Rosalyn Tureck

Tuesday, March 5

Hour V: Bach and the Church - The Cantata
The Music: Bach the Obsessed

Wednesday, March 6

Hour VI: Bach and the Church -
The Passions and B Minor Mass
The Music: The Dance in the Passion/
The Passion in the Dance

Thursday, March 7

Hour VII: Leipzig - 300 Years
The Music: Whatever Happened to Bach?

Executive Producer: Anne Gibson

CONTACT LENSES

DAVID G. HARDING
Contact Lens Practitioner

Dedicated to the highest professional standards of Contact Lens Practice.

- Eye examinations promptly arranged
- Information and Consultation
- Personal and Complete Service

454-2131

MCADAM OPTICAL
KINGS PLACE

"Where we never forget how important you are"

