



## Handel: A Classical Icon OR Handel's 250th Anniversary

*Who is Handel?*

### VOICE OVER

Donald Burrowsald Burrows, Professor of music at the open university, is a world expert on George Frederick Handel.

And one of the few people allowed access to Handel's delicate original manuscripts.....

..... including melodies everyone knows

### DONALD BURROWS

Handel is one of the greatest composers of music in what we now call the baroque style.

He lived in London during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and by the time of his death in 1759 he was already a kind of icon, both as a composer and as a public figure.

### VOICE OVER

A true European, Handel began his career in his birthplace Germany and finally made Britain his home, living in London for 50 years.

### DONALD BURROWS

He was buried in Westminster Abbey with a very large monument, and twenty-five years' later in the Abbey there was a festival commemorating his music. In fact, every anniversary since there have been festivals connected with Handel's music in Britain and in this year, 2009, which is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, there are festivals and conferences and events, in fact now all over the world celebrating the man and his music.

There was a great range to his music: Italian operas, English oratorios, church music, music for orchestra, chamber music for just a couple of instruments with a harpsichord and, in fact, separate keyboard music as well.

many of his pieces of music have become long-term classic hits, in we think of something like the Water Music, very, very famous now as music for orchestra, Messiah as an oratorio that's become known throughout the world, and is probably his most performed piece,

### VOICE OVER

And Handel's grand *Coronation Anthem* Zadok the Priest has set the scene at every coronation since it was written.

We have an enduring love affair with his music

### DONALD BURROWS

In many ways Handel is still very much alive in London. You can still go to his church, you can go to the house where he lived, and the Foundling Museum in London has also got one of the biggest collections of Handel's music.....

.....what we've found out in the course of time is that the range and quality, and emotional power of his music, is such that there's always been something for everyone.- Handel is one of those composers whose music will last, I think, as long as people want to listen to music at all.