

**M502: Handel**  
**Spring 2013**  
**Professor Ayana Smith**

This class will study the life  
composer George Frideric



and music of Baroque  
Handel (1685-1759).

**Biography.** The class will be organized according to the trajectory of Handel's career, and the music composed in Germany, Italy, and England. Each unit will study the relationship between Handel and his colleagues, and how his compositional style evolved as a result. We will also study several different biographical approaches, and the perspectives of their authors.

**Repertory.** We will learn repertory of all the major vocal and instrumental genres in which Handel composed, from opera, cantata, and oratorio, to instrumental suite, sonata, and organ music. In each instance, we will compare music of Handel's contemporaries to gain a better understanding of what makes Handel's style uniquely his own.

**Scholarship.** We will read books and articles which focus on providing interpretive strategies for Handel's music, from theoretical approaches (hexachord theory, or Roman numeral analysis?) and text-painting to the musical meaning of borrowing, and from from gender and sexuality to controversies surrounding Judaism and the Messiah.

**Performance.** We will delve into performance practice issues, using primary sources wherever possible, and student performance demonstrations will be welcome!