



Progress Report to Angel Early Music

London Early Opera specialise in bringing iconic and also lesser known baroque works to the forefront.

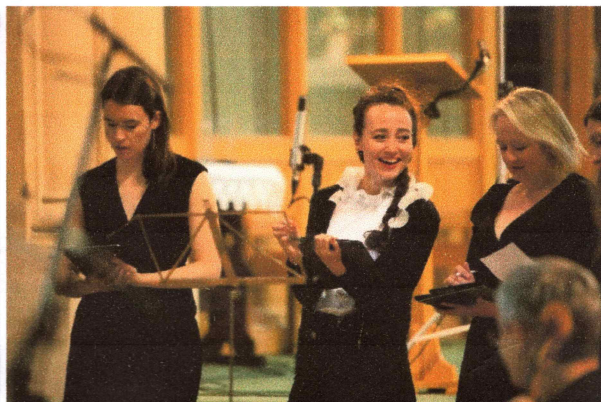
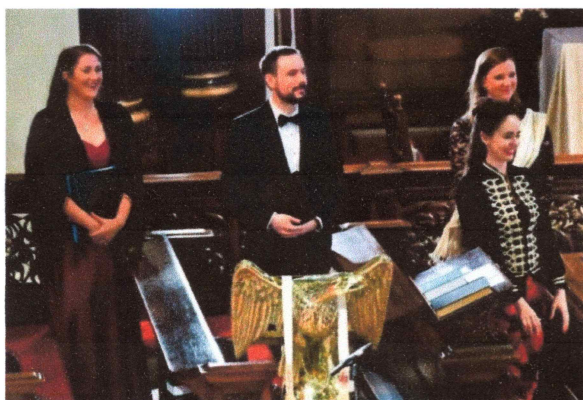
In 2018, *London Early Opera* identified a pasticcio opera by George Frideric Handel which had been overlooked and not performed since its premiere in 1733. We raised funds to digitise the manuscript of

Handel's conducting score of his pasticcio opera, *Caio Fabbricio* HWV A9 the Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, in Hamburg. *Caio Fabbricio* is a pasticcio opera in three acts for seven singers and orchestra which was conducted, selected and arranged by Handel. It is based on Johann Adolf Hasse's own opera with libretto by Apostolo Zeno telling the story of the Pyrrhic victory.



With the scans of this important manuscript, I researched and edited the opera and sourced other manuscripts to fill in the gaps and bits that were missing. I found the provenance for each aria to make the first modern orchestral parts and scores, with the corrected text and translations. This was invaluable part of the process as by editing *Caio Fabbricio* myself, I greatly enhanced my own learning and understanding of this opera and its unique baroque style, part writing and other technical aspects which helps me to coach and direct it from the harpsichord and pass on my knowledge to our own professional singers and musicians

We are extremely grateful to the grant we received from *Angel Early Music* as we were able to print these new scores, vocal reductions and orchestral parts and give musical and language coaching sessions to our singers and younger musicians from our emerging artists scheme, *The Handelians*. Despite the challenges of Covid, and much rearranging and flexible planning, we managed to successfully record *Caio Fabbricio* last September 2021 at All Saints Church, East Finchley with our partner Signum Records. This was at a different venue than expected as dates had changed due to re-scheduling and also we had to record with distancing, separate microphones and music stands - but we did it!





On June 3rd 2022 we released our world premiere album of *Caio Fabbricio* worldwide with Signum Records and have thanked Angel Early Music in the booklet. This album is now available as a double CD and on streaming services such as Spotify and Apple with a free downloadable CD booklet of the research and translations.



Your grant made such a huge difference and was a lifeline to us as it gave us a chance to play together again after such a long gap and record and perform the world premiere performance of *Caio Fabbricio* at Handel's Church, St Georges Hanover Square:

"Once in a lifetime".

"It was unique and formidable and joyous; was honoured to be there".

"Unendingly glorious".

"It's great you have brought this extraordinary piece of work to a modern audience"

It was the first time we have edited and recorded a complete opera and was a wonderful achievement for us. All of our baroque instrumentalists and singers are hugely talented and this project has increased our understanding of both Handel and Hasse's music. Our younger members from *The Handelians* also benefited by receiving coaching, performing with us and learning about baroque style and how the recording process works.

It was such a wonderful learning experience to start from scratch and bring this manuscript back to life. We have donated a CD to the Handel collection at the Foundling Museum and enclose a copy for you. We are so happy to have made it through Covid and are now working towards a new Handel venture looking at his art collection and work in London.

Many thanks again and we are extremely grateful for your support in making this happen.

Bridget Cunningham

Artistic Director of *London Early Opera*

