



Händel Saul

ANDREAS SCHOLL | ADAM PLACHETKA | KRYSTIAN ADAM
CZECH ENSEMBLE BAROQUE & ROMAN VÁLEK



About composition

Saul (HWV 53) is Händel's dramatic oratorio in three acts. The original libretto was written by Charles Jennens, who based it on the First Book of Samuel. The masterpiece was first performed under Händel's direction at Haymarket Theatre, London, on 16th January 1739. The story focuses on the relationship between the main characters, Saul, the first king of Israel, and David, his successor. David's initial admiration turns into envy and hatred, which finally leads to a downfall of the ruler.

Characters



Andreas Scholl

DAVID

countertenor



Adam Plachetka

SAUL

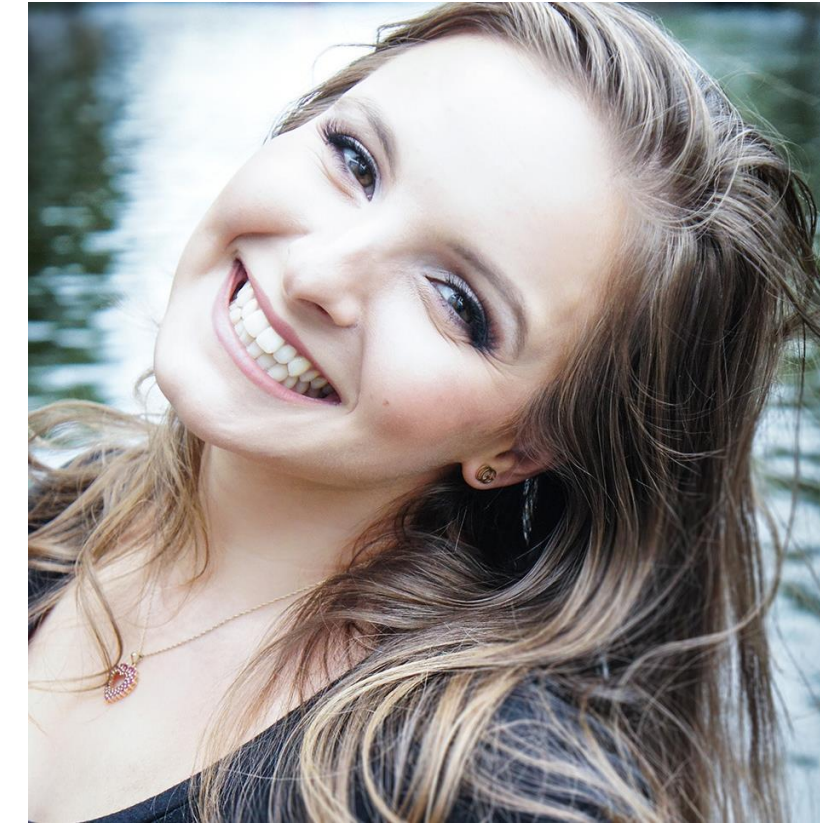
King of Israel - bass



Krystian Adam

JONATHAN

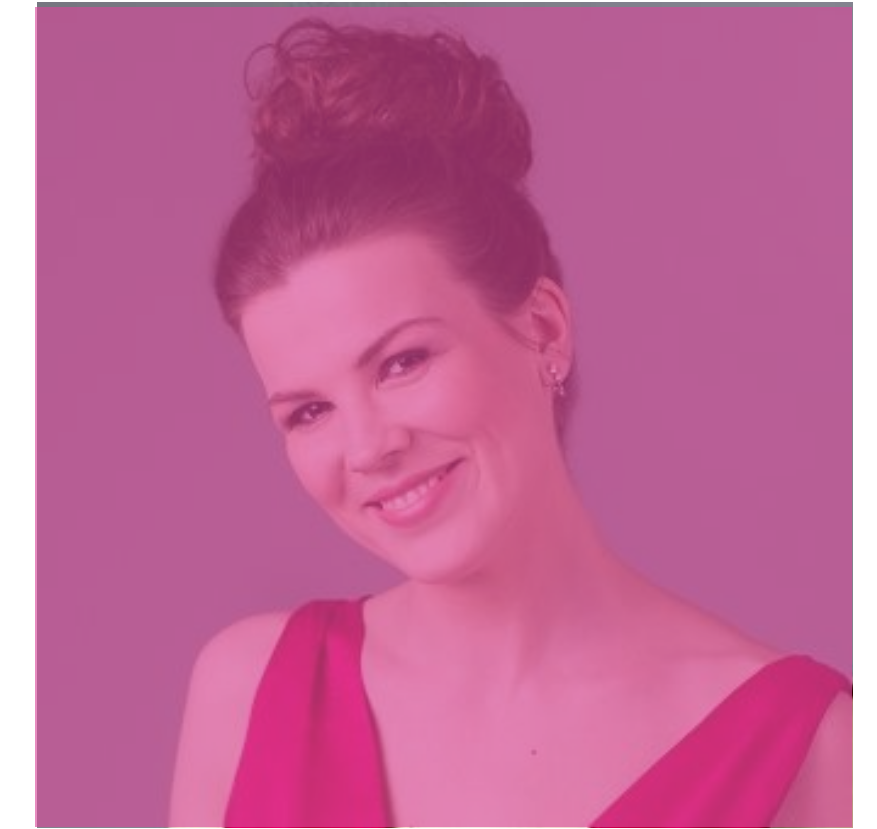
His first son - tenor



Natalia Rubiś

MERAB

His first daughter - soprano



Kristýna Vylíčilová

MICHAL

His second daughter - soprano

Tadeáš Hoza - High Priest (tenor)

Jakub Kubín - Witch of Endor (tenor)

Jiří Miroslav Procházka - Samuel (bass)

Lukáš Hacek - Amalekite (tenor)

Martin Vacula - Doeg (bass)

Markéta Böhmová - soprano

A photograph of Roman Válek, a man with curly hair, wearing a dark historical garment with a high collar and puffed sleeves. He is standing outdoors with a stone wall and foliage in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue filter.

Roman Válek

Roman Válek focuses on the historically informed performance of works dating from early stylistic periods. He is driven by the desire to bring the international vocal-instrumental Renaissance, Baroque and Classicist works on the Czech stages. As a conductor, he has worked with the orchestras Musica Aeterna Bratislava, Musica Florea and Solamente Naturali Bratislava, and with renowned artists specialising in authentic interpretation of early music: J. Griffith, M. Brown, M. Kožená, R. Tyson, G. Farkas, A. di Marchi, D. James, F. Brüggen, B. M. Willi, and others.

He is the founder and chief conductor of the Czech Ensemble Baroque. Roman Válek has received a number of accolades (e.g. the Alfréd Radok Award for the staging of Fibich's melodrama *The Death of Hippodamia*, Diapason award for the recording of the complete Martinů madrigals etc.).

Since 2005 he has explored and premiered in the Czech Republic several significant works: Vivaldi's *Dorilla in Tempe*, Purcell's *King Arthur*, Mysliveček's *Montezuma* or Jean-Philippe Rameau's *Platée*. He established the Summer School of Baroque Music which focuses on 18th-century oratorios. Roman Válek records for Czech Radio and his recordings list more than 30 CDs.

Czech Ensemble Baroque

The ensemble set itself a long-term goal of discovering and restoring the music of a significant Czech composer, F. X. Richter. So far we have recorded *Requiem E flat major* (as a world's premiere) for Supraphon recording company, passion oratio *Deposizione Dalla Croce, Te Deum* and an *Oboe Concerto*. The last album received very positive feedback: the review and tip of the BBC 3, Album des Monat in Toccata magazine (DE), five stars in the Early Music Review etc.



- we play on authentic instruments or their replicas
- we are recognized for progressive dramaturgy: performing Czech premieres of music written by world-famous composers
- we create and participate in many projects (concerts, operas etc.) and we cooperate with highly-regarded artists from the Czech Republic as well as from abroad such as
 - Adam Plachetka
 - John Holloway
 - Jean François Lombard
 - Krystian Adam
 - Barbara Maria Willi
 - Richard Wiegold
 - Emma Kirkby
 - Joel Frederiksen etc.
- we regularly record for Czech Radio, EBU (European Broadcasting Union), Czech Television, Supraphon, etc.
- we play and perform at many prestigious festivals
- we have cooperated with international film productions - *Marguerite* (2016), *Interlude in Prague* (2017), *Maria Theresia* (2017)

Information about project



DURATA

210 minutes
with two breaks



ORCHESTRA

5-4-3-2-2 | 2fl, 2ob, 2fg, 2tr, 3trb, timp | arp,
cemb, org, the (32 players)



CHOIR

5S – 5A – 5T – 5B
(20 singers)



LANGUAGE

In English original
Libretto: Charles Jennens



INSCENATION

We are ready to perform the oratorio in
either concert or stage version

Our Productions

Date of concert premiere:

- 16th January 2019 | Brno – Brno Philharmonic Hall

Other concerts:

- 9th February 2019 | Prague - Rudolfinum, Dvořák Hall
- 30th July 2019 | Holešov - Castle

Date of scenic premiere:

- 25th July 2019 | Znojmo Music Festival

Other performances:

- 27th July 2019 | Znojmo Music Festival
- 28th July 2019 | Znojmo Music Festival

www.hudbaznjomo.cz





Händel's Saul with Plachetka and Scholl Was a First Class Event

The main protagonist was the major attraction for the audience, nevertheless, one can assume that it was not a “one man show” but a collaborative work. Under Válek's dynamic conducting, everybody, the soloists, the choir and the orchestra, had a chance to shine. The orchestra boasts a Baroque harp and a carillon, just like Händel intended.



3 Hours and 20 Minutes of a Baroque Joy

The conductor, Roman Válek, showed an understanding, humour and levity in the way he dealt with the extensive score. He managed to hold the attention of both, the audience and the artists to the maximum. He was inspirational, the music never stuck, never got too heavy in the counterpoints and it never repeated in its ideas.



Saul Conquered Brno!

Oratorio Saul, for the first time in the Czech premiere of the complete work, engaged the audience in the Brno music hall Besední dům for nearly four hours. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the conductor, Roman Válek, to name the head of the orchestra, the soloists and twenty singers in the choir, the concert burnt in memory as an extraordinary event.



Get in Touch With Us

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Czech Ensemble Baroque

Lázy 14, Loucka 756 44

Czech Republic

+420 777 176 854 – Jiří Ludvík (general manager)

+ 420 605 840 406 – Barbora Buliščáková (production)

office@ebcz.eu

