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## **NEW Course • NEW Topic**

**(Not included in our Fall 2016 Class Schedule!)**

### **Handel's "Messiah" – The Familiar Work You Never Knew**

**Instructor: Dr. David Schildkret**

**4 sessions: Mondays, Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5**

**10:30 a.m. – noon**

**Tempe Connections in the Tempe Public Library**

**3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85282**



With the approach of the holiday season, we can expect many performances of Handel's "Messiah". Despite its classic status and unequalled fame, the work is full of mysteries and puzzles. For example, modern audiences almost universally think of "Messiah" as Christmas music—even though Handel wrote it as a Lenten piece and only performed it in the spring. The most famous music of all, the "Hallelujah" Chorus, is rarely heard in its true light as an almost bloodthirsty victory chorus.

From the unusual circumstances of its composition (including its unique design) and first performance to Handel's many revisions to its establishment as an icon in the English-speaking world, *Messiah* presents us with a fascinating series of questions. In this class, ASU Director of Choral Activities David Schildkret will explore the background, history of this piece in detail, including extensive guided listening. Be the one "in the know" at the next performance of Handel's "Messiah"!

**Instructor:** David Schildkret, PhD, is a professor of choral music and the director of choral activities at the School of Music in ASU's Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts. Educated at Rutgers University and Indiana University, he taught at the University of Rochester, Centre College in Kentucky, and was dean of the School of Music at Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, before he came to ASU in 2002. He conducts the ASU Chamber Singers, Choral Union, and Barrett Choir – which he founded in 2011. His teaching ranges from courses in the humanities and music appreciation to advanced instruction for aspiring conductors. He is a member of the AZ Speaks roster for Arizona Humanities and is a frequent lecturer around the state.

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