

MESSIAH - HWV 56 (1742)

A Sacred Oratorio composed by
George Frideric Handel (1685 - 1759) with
libretto by Charles Jennens (1700 -1773)

Part the First**1. Overture**

Sinfony

2. Comfort ye my people

Tenor Recitative

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,
saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,
and cry unto her, that her warfare is
accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness;
prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight
in the desert a highway for our God.

(Isaiah 40: 1-3)

3. Ev'ry valley shall be exalted

Tenor Aria

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted,
and ev'ry moutain and hill made low;
the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

(Isaiah 40: 4)

4. And the glory of the Lord

Chorus

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

(Isaiah 40: 5)

5. Thus saith the Lord

Bass Recitative

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts:
Yet once a little while and I will shake
the heavens and the earth,
the sea and the dry land.
And I will shake all nations;
and the desire of all nations shall come.

(Haggai 2: 6-7)

The Lord, whom ye seek,
shall suddenly come to His temple,
even the messenger of the Covenant,
whom you delight in; behold,
He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

(Malachi 3: 1)

6. But who may abide the day of His coming

Alto Aria

But who may abide the day of His coming,
and who shall stand when He appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire.

(Malachi 3: 2)

7. And He shall purify the sons of Levi

Chorus

And He shall purify the sons of Levi,
that they may offer unto the Lord
an offering in righteousness.

(Malachi 3: 3)

8. Behold, a virgin shall conceive

Alto Recitative

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call His name Emmanuel,
God with us.

(Isaiah 7: 14; Matthew 1: 23)

9. O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

Alto Aria & Chorus

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
get thee up into the high mountain.
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem,
lift up thy voice with strength;
lift it up, be not afraid;
say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God!

(Isaiah 40: 9)

Arise, shine, for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

(Isaiah 60: 1)

10. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth

Bass Recitative

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and gross darkness the people;
but the Lord shall arise upon thee,
and His glory shall be seen upon thee.
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light,
and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

(Isaiah 60: 2-3)

11. The people that walked in darkness

Bass Aria

The people that walked in darkness
have seen a great light; and they that dwell
in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them hath the light shined.

(Isaiah 9: 2)

12. For unto us a Child is born

Chorus

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given, and the
government shall be upon His shoulder;
and His name shall be called Wonderful,
Counsellor, the mighty God,
the Everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9: 6)

13. Pifa

Pastoral Symphony

14. There were shepherds abiding in the field

Soprano Recitative

There were shepherds abiding in the field,
keeping watch over their flocks by night.

(Luke 2: 8)

15. And lo, the angel of the Lord

Soprano Recitative

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,
and the glory of the Lord shone round about them,
and they were sore afraid.

(Luke 2: 9)

16. And the angel said unto them

Soprano Recitative

And the angel said unto them: "Fear not,
for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

(Luke 2: 10-11)

17. And suddenly there was with the angel

Soprano Recitative

And suddenly there was with the angel,
a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God, and saying:

(Luke 2: 13)

18. Glory to God in the highest

Chorus

"Glory to God in the highest,
and peace on earth, good will towards men."

(Luke 2: 14)

19. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion

Soprano Aria

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion,
shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee;
He is the righteous Saviour,
and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

(Zechariah 9: 9-10)

20. Then shall the eyes of the blind

Soprano Recitative

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then shall the lame man leap as an hart,
and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

(Isaiah 35: 5-6)

21. He shall feed His flock

Alto & Soprano Aria

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd,
and He shall gather the lambs with His arm,
and carry them in His bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

(Isaiah 40: 11)

22. His yoke is easy

Chorus

His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

(Matthew 11: 30)

Part the Second**23. Behold the Lamb of God**

Chorus

Behold the Lamb of God,
that taketh away the sin of the world.

(John 1: 29)

24. He was despised

Alto Aria

He was despised and rejected of men;
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

(Isaiah 53: 3)

He gave His back to the smiters,
and His cheeks to them that plucked
off His hair:
He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

(Isaiah 53: 6)

25. Surely He hath borne our griefs

Chorus

Surely He hath borne our griefs,
and carried our sorrows!
He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

(Isaiah 53: 4-5)

26. And with His stripes we are healed

Chorus

And with His stripes we are healed.

(Isaiah 53: 5)

27. All we like sheep have gone astray

Chorus

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way.
And the Lord hath laid on
Him the iniquity of us all.

(Isaiah 53: 6)

28. All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn

Tenor Recitative

All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn;
they shoot out their lips,
and shake their heads, saying:

(Psalm 22: 7)

29. He trusted in God

Chorus

"He trusted in God that He would deliver Him:
let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him."

(Psalm 22: 8)

30. Thy rebuke hath broken His heart

Tenor Recitative

by rebuke hath broken His heart:
He is full of heaviness.
He looked for some to have pity on Him,
but there was no man,
neither found He any to comfort Him.

(Psalm 69: 20)

31. Behold, and see if there be any sorrow

Tenor Aria

Behold, and see if there be any sorrow
like unto His sorrow.

(Lamentations 1: 12)

32. He was cut off out of the land of the living

Tenor Recitative

He was cut off out of the land of the living;
for the transgressions of Thy people was
He stricken.

(Isaiah 53: 8)

33. But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell

Tenor Aria

But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell,
nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One
to see corruption.

(Psalm 16: 10)

34. The Lord gave the word

Chorus

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors,
and the King of Glory shall come in.
Who is this King of Glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors,
and the King of Glory shall come in.
Who is this King of Glory?
The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

(Psalm 24: 7-10)

35. How beautiful are the feet

Soprano Aria

How beautiful are the feet
of them that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things.

(Isaiah 52: 7; Romans 10: 15)

36. Their sound is gone out

Chorus

Their sound is gone out into all lands,
and their words unto
the ends of the world.

(Romans 10: 18; Psalm 19: 4)

37. Why do the nations so furiously rage together

Bass Aria

Why do the nations so furiously
rage together,
and why do the people imagine
a vain thing?
The kings of the earth rise up,
and the rulers take counsel together
against the Lord,
and against His anointed.

(Psalm 2: 1-2)

38. Let us break their bonds asunder

Chorus

Let us break their bonds asunder,
and cast away their yokes from us.

(Psalm 2: 3)

39. He that dwelleth in heaven

Tenor Recitative

He that dwelleth in Heav'n shall laugh
them to scorn.
The Lord shall have them in derision.

(Psalm 2: 4)

40. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron

Tenor Aria

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron,
thou shalt dash them in pieces
like a potter's vessel.

(Psalm 2: 9)

41. Hallelujah

Chorus

Hallelujah; for the Lord God
Omnipotent reigneth.

(Revelation 19: 6)

The kingdom of this world is become
the kingdom of our Lord,
and of His Christ;
and He shall reign for ever and ever.

(Revelation 11: 15)

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

(Revelation 19: 16)

Part the Third**42. I know that my Redeemer liveth**

Soprano Aria

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that He shall stand at the latter day
upon the earth.

And though worms destroy this body,
yet in my flesh shall I see God.

(Job 19: 25-26)

For now is Christ risen from the dead,
the first fruits of them that sleep.

(1 Corinthians 15: 20)

43. Since by man came death

Chorus

Since by man came death,
by man came also the resurrection
of the dead.
For as in Adam all die,

even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

(1 Corinthians 15: 21-22)

44. Behold, I tell you a mystery

Bass Recitative

Behold, I tell you a mystery,
we shall not all sleep,
but we shall all be changed in a moment,
in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

(1 Corinthians 15: 51-52)

45. The trumpet shall sound

Bass Aria

The trumpet shall sound,
and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption,
and this mortal must put on immortality.

(1 Corinthians 15: 52-53)

46. Worthy is the Lamb

Chorus

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,
and hath redeemed us to God by His blood,
to receive power, and riches, and wisdom,
and strength, and honour, and glory,
and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power,
be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne,
and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever.

(Revelation 5: 12-14)

47. Amen

Chorus

Amen

(Revelation 5: 12-14)