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Messiah

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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Messiah

George Frideric Handel

CANNON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

8:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 4, 1988

PROGRAM NOTE

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) composed *Messiah*, the eleventh of his twenty-three oratorios, in only three weeks of the year 1741, to a text selected and arranged from Scripture by Charles Jennens. The First Part was completed on August 28, the Second Part nine days later, and the Third Part followed six days after the second. The orchestration was finished by September 14.

Messiah was first performed on April 13, 1742, in Dublin, Ireland, as a benefit for charity. It premiered in London in 1743 and was repeated in 1745, both times under the title "A Sacred Oratorio," the original title being considered improper for an entertainment. With the original title restored it was revived in 1749 at Covent Garden, the hall where the blind and aging Handel conducted the work in his final public appearance on April 6, 1759.

Messiah was known in the United States only through excerpts until December 25, 1818, when Boston's Handel and Haydn Society presented it in the first complete rendition of an oratorio in America. The first unabridged American performance probably did not take place until 1831.

Unlike most oratorios, *Messiah* has no "story line" describing a series of events. Instead, its three parts deal broadly with the prophecy and coming of a savior (Part One); His ministry and persecution (Part Two); and His promise of eternal life (Part Three). Our performance includes all of the First Part. The majority of the numbers of the Second and Third Parts are combined into the portion performed after the Intermission.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank Lynda Brooks and members of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 123 for their participation in this concert.

We are grateful to the University of Richmond Chapel Guild, whose generous support has made this concert possible.

THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

CHAPEL GUILD, CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE

and

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

present

MESSIAH

BY GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

SOLOISTS

Lisa Burrs, Soprano
Tami Bick, Alto
Tracey Welborn, Tenor
Martin Strother, Bass

**THE UNIVERSITY CHOIR
SCHOLA CANTORUM
AND
MEMBERS OF THE RICHMOND SYMPHONY**

**CONDUCTOR
James Erb**

PROGRAM

PART THE FIRST

SINFONIA (OVERTURE)

RECITATIVE: *Isaiah 40:1-3* (Tenor)

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.

AIR: *Isaiah 40:4* (Tenor)

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

CHORUS: *Isaiah 40:5*

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.

RECITATIVE: *Haggai 2:6; Malachi 3:1* (Bass)

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

AIR: *Malachi 3:2* (Alto)

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

CHORUS: *Malachi 3:3*

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

RECITATIVE: *Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23* (Alto)

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

AIR AND CHORUS: *Isaiah 40:9, 60:1* (Alto)

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

RECITATIVE: *Isaiah 60:2, 3* (Bass)

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.

AIR: *Isaiah 9:2* (Bass)

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.

CHORUS: *Isaiah 9:6*

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.

PIFA (PASTORAL SYMPHONY)

RECITATIVE: *Luke 2:8, 9* (Soprano)

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

RECITATIVE: *Luke 2:10, 11* (Soprano)

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.

RECITATIVE: *Luke 2:13* (Soprano)

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

CHORUS: *Luke 2:14*

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

AIR: *Zechariah 9:9, 10* (Soprano)

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

RECITATIVE: *Isaiah 35:5, 6* (Alto)

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.

AIR: *Isaiah 40:11* (Alto)

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.

AIR: *Matthew 11:28, 29* (Soprano)

Come unto Him, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

CHORUS: *Matthew 11:30*

His yoke is easy, and His burthen is light.

INTERMISSION

PART THE SECOND

CHORUS: *John 1:29*

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

AIR: *Isaiah 53:3, 50:6* (Alto)

He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair. He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

CHORUS: *Isaiah 53:4, 5*

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.

CHORUS: *Isaiah 53:5*

And with His stripes we are healed.

CHORUS: *Isaiah 53:6*

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.

RECITATIVE: *Psalms 22:7* (Tenor)

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

CHORUS: *Psalms 22:8*

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

AIR: *Psalms 2:1, 2* (Bass)

Why do the nations so furiously rage together, 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 His anointed.

CHORUS: *Psalms 2:3*

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

RECITATIVE: *Psalms 2:4* (Tenor)

He that dwelleth in Heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision.

AIR: *Psalms 2:9* (Tenor)

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

CHORUS: *Revelation 19:6, 11:15, 19:16*

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, Hallelujah!

PART THE THIRD

AIR: *Job 19:25, 26; I Corinthians 15:20* (Soprano)

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

CHORUS: *I Corinthians 15:21, 22*

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.

RECITATIVE: *I Corinthians 15:51, 52* (Bass)

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.

AIR: *I Corinthians 15:52, 53* (Bass)

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

CHORUS: *Revelation 5:12, 9, 13*

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.

Amen.

SCHOLA CANTORUM

SOPRANO

Sara Fitzsimmons
Karen Heard

ALTO

Lee Hendricks
Greta Mann
Janet Sisk

TENOR

Robert Black
K. Scott Witmer

BASS

R. Kelly Byrne
Richard Miller
Sean Shaynak

UNIVERSITY CHOIR

SOPRANO

Karyn Akin
Kim Andrews
Deborah Bourne
Katherine Clark
Katherine Dickinson
Ellen Diggs
Laura Dolan
Kathleen Donnelly
Julie Ferrigno
Sara Fitzsimmons
Jennifer Grieveson
Lee Hendricks
Joli Hurst
Tanya Kwan
Michelle Mawicke
Shannon Monaghan
Hunter Price
Kimberly Sayle
Jill Schadt
Lori Sohns
Kristin Strahl
Heidi Ziglar

ALTO

Ellen Bryant
Courtney Butler
Susan Butz
Christine Chenard
Louise Childs
Tara Fisher
Michelle Land
Margaret Larkin
Greta Mann
Julia Breaks
Virginia McAndrews
Elizabeth Morrow
Janel Murphy
Katherine Nimmo
Claudia Sgro
Janet Sisk
Daphne Tams
Sharon Tillman
Joanna Truett
Wendy Withers
Shannon Wood

TENOR

Paul Coffman
Scott Edwards
Sean Healy
Clarke Hobby
David Houghton
Robert Lilly, Jr.
Mark Roberts
Sean Shaynak
Michael Smith

BASS

R. Kelly Byrne
Jeffrey Fowler
David Howson
Randall Jenkins
Christopher Landry
Eric Link
John MacDonald
Richard Miller
John Murphy
Christopher O'Brien
Mark Storms
Eric Tolbert
Thomas Young

ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN

Jan White
Jill Woodburn
Karan Wright
Amy Bartholomew
Henry Liscio
Margie Heath
Deborah Warnaar
Christine Filippi

VIOLA

Jan Murray
Jane Pitman
Ruth Erb

CELLO

Charlotte Lucy

BASS

Delbert Williams

OBOE

Maureen Malone
Leslie Moe

BASSOON

Linda Searcy

TRUMPET

Michael Davison
Jonathan Mela

TIMPANI

Donald Bick

ORGAN

Meredyth Pepper