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### Messiah

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# *Messiah*

*George Frideric Handel*

CANNON MEMORIAL CHAPEL

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

8:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 9, 1984

## 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.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND**

**CHAPEL GUILD, CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE**

**AND**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

**present**

*MESSIAH*

**BY GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL**

### **SOLOISTS**

Jane Hardenbergh, WC '82, Soprano

Lindsey Peters Christensen, WC '68, Alto

Richard Kennedy, Tenor

Thomas Williams, Bass

**THE UNIVERSITY CHOIR**

**AND**

**MEMBERS OF THE RICHMOND SYMPHONY**

**CONDUCTOR**

**James Erb**

## PROGRAM

### PART THE FIRST

#### SINFONIA (OVERTURE)

#### RECITATIVE (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. *Isaiah 40:1-3*

#### AIR (Tenor)

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain. *Isaiah 40:4*

#### 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*

#### RECITATIVE (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. *Haggai 2:6, 7; Malachi 3:1*

#### AIR (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. *Malachi 3:2*

#### CHORUS

And he shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. *Malachi 3:3*

#### RECITATIVE (Alto)

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us. *Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23*

#### AIR (Alto) AND CHORUS

O thou that last 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. *Isaiah 40:9, 60:1*

#### RECITATIVE (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. *Isaiah 60:2, 3*

#### AIR (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. *Isaiah 9:2*

#### 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*

#### PIFA (PASTORAL SYMPHONY)

#### RECITATIVE (Soprano)

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. *Luke 2:8*  
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*

#### RECITATIVE (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. *Luke 2:10, 11*

#### RECITATIVE (Soprano)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying: *Luke 2:13*

#### CHORUS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will toward men. *Luke 2:14*

#### AIR (Soprano)

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*

#### RECITATIVE (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. *Isaiah 35:5, 6*

#### AIR (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. *Isaiah 40:11*

#### AIR (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. *Matthew 11:28, 29*

#### CHORUS

His yoke is easy, and His burthen is light. *Matthew 11:30*

#### INTERMISSION

### PART THE SECOND

#### CHORUS

Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. *John 1:29*

AIR (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. *Isaiah 53:3, 50:6*

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*

CHORUS

And with His stripes we are healed. *Isaiah 53:5*

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*

RECITATIVE (Tenor)

All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn; they shoot out their lips and shake their heads, saying; *Psalm 22:7*

CHORUS

He trusted in God that He would deliver Him; let Him deliver Him; if He delight in Him. *Psalm 22:8*

RECITATIVE

Thy 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*

AIR (Tenor)

Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow. *Lamentations 1:12*

RECITATIVE (Soprano)

He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgressions of Thy people was He stricken. *Isaiah 53:8*

AIR (Soprano)

But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption. *Psalm 16:10*

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. The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. *Psalm 24:7-10*

AIR (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. *Psalm 2:1, 2*

CHORUS

Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us. *Psalm 2:3*

RECITATIVE (Tenor)

He that dwelleth in Heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision. *Psalm 2:4*

AIR (Tenor)

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. *Psalm 2:9*

CHORUS

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

### PART THE THIRD

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

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. *I Corinthians 15:21, 22*

RECITATIVE (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. *I Corinthians 15:51, 52*

AIR (Bass)

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. *I Corinthians 15:52, 53*

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. Amen. *Revelation 5:12, 9, 13*

## UNIVERSITY CHOIR

### SOPRANO

Marie Borges  
Beth Bostwick  
Jennifer E. Cece  
Ellen R. Divers  
Karen Dixon  
Lisa R. Eye, Publicity Chair  
Melissa Harple  
Lise E. Holdorf  
Patricia Hussey  
Lisa M. Kuntz  
Beverly Letcher  
Beth Madonia  
Mary McIntosh, Social Chair  
Diane Pacifico  
Kim Perkins  
Elizabeth A. Pugh,  
Vice President  
Deborah L. Reed,  
Accompanist  
Cindy Ziegler

### BASS

Timothy R. Carlson  
Kevin P. Cosgrove  
Russ Gibson, President  
Eric Goldstein  
Andrew Hunt  
Lobo Kwok  
Brad Longenecker  
Bill Myers  
Brian William Steed  
Mark C. Surles  
Rich Whicker

### ALTO

Kimberly S. Barefoot  
Susan Ayers Clark  
Page Dawsey  
Nancy Jo Elliott  
Kathryn Fessler, Secretary  
Elizabeth Francy  
Laura R. Geer  
Tamera L. Golden

Hartley G. Hadden  
Lynn Ann Holloman  
Janet L. Markhus  
Carol McClelland  
Alyssa A. Miller  
Eliza Packard  
Alyssa Pinks  
Elizabeth Kent Reams  
Molly A. Robb  
Melanie Snead  
Julie Suffredini  
Kim Tyler  
Cathy Weatherson

### TENOR

Michael Compton, Property  
Chair  
David Houghton  
Mike Kotrady  
Jeffery McCracken,  
Treasurer  
Sean Sullivan  
Scott Ziglar, Librarian

## ORCHESTRA

### VIOLIN I

Elizabeth Moore,  
Concertmaster  
Dorothy LeGrand  
Henry Liscio  
Marcia Van Gemert

### VIOLIN II

George Giacobbe, Principal  
Paul Nolte  
Frans Coetzee  
Deborah Wamaar

### VIOLA

Jane Pitman, Principal  
Ellen Grainger  
Lou Herrmann

### VIOLONCELLO

Charlotte Lucy, Principal  
Betsy Allan

### CONTRABASS

Del Williams

### OBOE

Dorothy Darlington  
Gregory Lee

### TRUMPET

Jonathan Mela  
Edward Altman

### BASSOON

Lynda Brooks

### TYMPANI

Donald Bick

### ORGAN

Deborah L. Reed

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Professor Ann Culbertson, Rehearsal Associate

Lisa R. Eye, Program Director

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.