

George Frideric

# HANDEL

## MESSIAH

An Oratorio

for Soli, Chorus and Orchestra  
with English text

CHORAL SCORE

K 06211



# The Messiah

## PART I

### OVERTURE

**RECITATIVE.** *Accompanied.* (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 high-way for our God.

**AIR.** (TENOR)  
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

**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.

**RECITATIVE.** *Accompanied.* (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.** (BASS)  
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**  
And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

**RECITATIVE.** (ALTO)  
Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name EMMANUEL, God with us.

**AIR (ALTO) AND 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! Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

**RECITATIVE.** *Accompanied.* (BASS)  
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall rise 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 (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**  
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.

### PASTORAL SYMPHONY

**RECITATIVE.** (SOPRANO)  
There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

**RECITATIVE.** *Accompanied.* (SOPRANO)  
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.** (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.** *Accompanied.* (SOPRANO)  
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:—

**CHORUS**  
Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill towards men.

**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.

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 a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

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.

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.

CHORUS

His yoke is easy and His burthen is light.

## PART II

CHORUS

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

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.

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. And with His stripes we are healed.

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.

RECITATIVE. *Accompanied.* (TENOR)

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

CHORUS

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

RECITATIVE. *Accompanied.* (TENOR)

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.

AIR. (TENOR)

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

RECITATIVE. *Accompanied.* (SOPRANO)

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

AIR. (SOPRANO)

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

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 the 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 the King of Glory?

The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

RECITATIVE. (TENOR)

Unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee?

CHORUS

Let all the angels of God worship Him.

AIR. (BASS)

Thou art gone up on high; Thou hast led captivity captive, and received gifts for men, yea, even for Thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

CHORUS

The Lord gave the word, great was the company of the preachers.

AIR. (SOPRANO)

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

CHORUS

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

AIR. (BASS)

Why do the nations so furiously rage to-  
gether, 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.

CHORUS

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

RECITATIVE. (TENOR)

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

AIR. (TENOR)

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

CHORUS

HALLELUJAH: for the Lord God Omni-  
potent reigneth.

The kingdom of this world has 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 III

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.

CHORUS

Since by man came death,

CHORUS

By man came also the resurrection of  
the dead.

CHORUS

For as in Adam all die,

CHORUS

Even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

RECITATIVE. *Accompanied.* (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. (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.

RECITATIVE, (ALTO)

Then shall be brought to pass the saying  
that is written: Death is swallowed up  
in victory!

DUET. (ALTO AND TENOR)

O death, where is thy sting? O grave!  
where is thy victory? The sting of death  
is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

CHORUS

But thanks be to God, who giveth us the  
victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

AIR. (SOPRANO)

If God be for us, who can be against us?  
who shall lay anything to the charge of  
God's elect? It is God that justifieth,  
who is he that condemneth?

It is Christ that died, yea, rather that is  
risen again, who is at the right hand of  
God, who makes intercession for us.

CHORUS

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and  
hath redeemed us to God by His blood,  
to receive power, and riches, and wis-  
dom, 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.

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# THE MESSIAH.

G. F. HANDEL  
Composed 1741

## No. 1. OVERTURE.

Grave. ♩ = 69.

Accomp.

Allegro moderato. ♩ = 116.