

HANDEL *MESSIAH*

Text taken from the Scriptures by Charles Jennens (1700–1773)

PART 1

Sinfony (orchestra)

Accompagnato (tenor)

Comfort ye, comfort ye,
my people, saith your God:
Speak ye comfortably to
Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that
her warfare is accomplish'd, 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)

Aria (tenor)

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and
ev'ry 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)

Accompagnato (bass-baritone)

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts:
Yet once a little while, and I
will shake the heav'ns and the
earth, the sea, and the dry land,
all nations I'll shake; 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)

Aria (countertenor)

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 (countertenor)

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

Aria (countertenor) 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. (Isaiah 40:9, 40:1)

Accompagnato (bass-baritone)

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)

Aria (bass-baritone)

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 (orchestra)**Recitative (soprano)**

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

Accompagnato (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. (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)

Accompagnato (soprano)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heav'nly 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)

Aria (soprano)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King com'th unto thee. He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen. (Zechariah 9:9-10)

Recitative (countertenor)

Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd, 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)

Aria (countertenor and soprano)

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. Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him all ye that 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. (Isaiah 40:11, Matthew 11:28-9)

Chorus

His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. (Matthew 11:30)

INTERMISSION

PART 2

Chorus

Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

Aria (countertenor)

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, John 1:6)

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 ev'ry one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

Accompagnato (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)

Accompagnato (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. (Psalm 69:20)

Aria (tenor)

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

Accompagnato (soprano)

He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of Thy people was He stricken. (Isaiah 53:8)

Aria (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 of Hosts: He is the King of Glory. (Psalm 24:7-10)

Recitative (tenor)

Unto which of the angels said He at any time: "Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee?" (Hebrews 1:5)

Chorus

Let all the angels of God worship Him. (Hebrews 1:6)

Aria (countertenor)

Thou art gone up on high; Thou hast led captivity captive, and received gifts for men; yea, even from Thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them. (Psalm 68:18)

Chorus

The Lord gave the word; great was the company of the preachers.
(Psalm 68:11)

Aria (soprano)

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things. (Romans 10:15)

Chorus

Their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world. (Romans 10:18)

Aria (bass-baritone)

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 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)

Aria (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 forever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah! (Revelation 19:6, 11:5, 19:16)

PART 3

Aria (soprano)

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that He shall stand at the
latter day upon the earth: And tho'
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)

Accompagnato (bass-baritone)

Behold, I tell you a mystery:
we shall not all sleep, but we shall
all be chang'd, in a moment, in
the twinkling of an eye, at the last
trumpet. (I Corinthians 15:51-52)

Aria (bass-baritone)

The trumpet shall sound and the
dead shall be rais'd incorruptible,
and we shall be chang'd. For
this corruptible must put on
incorruption and this mortal must
put on immortality.
(I Corinthians 15:52-54)

Recitative (countertenor)

Then shall be brought to pass the
saying that is written;
Death is swallow'd up in victory.
(I Corinthians 15:54)

Duet (countertenor 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.
(I Corinthians 15:55-56)

Chorus

But thanks be to God, who giveth
us the victory through our Lord
Jesus Christ.
(I Corinthians 15:57)

Aria (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.
(Romans 8:31, 8:33-34)

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 pow'r be unto Him that
sitteth upon the throne and unto
the Lamb for ever and ever.
(Revelation 5:9, 12-13)

Chorus

Amen.