

ABOUT HANDEL'S MESSIAH . . .

During the past 200 years, the MESSIAH has enjoyed an unbroken record of performance. From time to time, the music has been "revised and adapted" to reflect the performing standards of the day. In the 19th century, the Romantic Movement in music dictated ever-larger orchestras and great masses of sound, and performances of MESSIAH were Romanticized accordingly. In 1859, when the British observed the centenary of Handel's death, the MESSIAH orchestra numbered 460 players with a chorus of 2,700. Handel's intended score indicates an orchestra of 40 players at most, and a chorus of comparable size -- in reality, a typical 18th century Baroque ensemble. The performance style called for a clean, almost crisp sound with careful attention paid to instrumental and vocal articulation. Handel's grandest oratorios were most usually performed with an orchestra of about 30 to 35 players and a chorus of around 20 to 25 singers.

"MESSIAH is not, as is often popularly supposed, a number of scenes from the life of Jesus, linked together to form a certain dramatic whole, but rather a representation of the fulfillment of Redemption through the Redeemer, the Messiah. Like the other oratorios, MESSIAH is divided into three parts:

Part I - The prophecy and realization of God's plan to redeem mankind by the coming of the Messiah;

Part II - The accomplishment of redemption by the sacrifice of Jesus, mankind's rejection of God's offer and mankind's utter defeat when trying to oppose the power of the Almighty;

Part III - A Hymn of Thanksgiving for the final overthrow of Death" (Larsen, Handel's MESSIAH, pp. 96-97).

The Toe River Chamber Ensemble meets weekly from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Both groups are sponsored by the Toe River Arts Council with a Grassroots Art Grant, through the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency. If you are interested in playing in the orchestra or singing in the chorus, please contact Denise Cook at the Toe River Arts Council (682-7215).

**The Toe River Chamber Ensemble
and
Toe River Community Chorus Present**

Messiah

A Sacred Oratorio by G. F. Handel

*Lisa Mauney, conducting
Beth Joyner, choral rehearsal conductor
Corinne Sneller rehearsal accompanist*

**Tuesday, December 13, 2011
7:00 pm — First Baptist Church**

*The Toe River Chamber Ensemble and the
Toe River Community Chorus are programs of the
Toe River Arts Council, and are made possible by your
donations and a Grassroots Art Grant, through the
North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency.*

**Thank you for coming this evening.
Your donations tonight will help support
our music programs.**



GF HANDEL'S

Messiah

The Prophecy and Realization of God's Plan of Redemption

No. 1 -- Overture

God's Comfort and Promise

No. 2 -- Recitative: Comfort Ye My People
(Isaiah 40 : 1 - 3)

Elizabeth Boulter, alto

No. 3 -- Air: Every Valley Shall Be Exalted
(Isaiah 40 : 4)

Elizabeth Boulter, alto

No. 4 -- Chorus: And the Glory of the Lord
Shall Be Revealed (Isaiah 40 : 5)

No. 5 -- Recitative: Thus Saith the Lord
Issac Boulter, bass

The Distance Between God and Man

No. 6 -- Air: But Who May Abide the Day of
His Coming? (Malachi 3 : 2)

Isaac Boulter, bass

No. 7 -- Chorus: And He Shall Purify the
Sons of Levi (Malachi 3 : 3)

No. 8 -- Recitative: Behold A Virgin Shall Conceive

Elizabeth Boulter, alto

The Message of Joy

No. 9 -- Air and Chorus: O Thou That Tellest Good
Tidings to Zion (Isaiah 40 : 7; 60 : 1)

Elizabeth Boulter, alto

No. 10 -- Recit: For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth

Isaac Boulter, bass

No. 11 -- Air: The People That Walked in Darkness

Isaac Boulter, bass

No. 12 -- Chorus: For Unto Us a Child Is Born
(Isaiah 9 : 5)

The Christmas Message of the Gospel

No. 13 -- Pastoral Symphony

Nos. 14, 15, 16 -- Recitatives: There Were Shepherds
Abiding in the Field (Luke 2 : 8)

And Lo! the Angel of the Lord Came upon Them
(Luke 2 : 9)

And the Angel Said unto Them (Luke 2 : 10 - 11)
And Suddenly There Was with the Angel (Luke 2:13)

Catherine Smith, soprano

No. 17 -- Chorus: Glory to God (Luke 2 : 14)

A Symbolic Representation of Christ's Sojourn on Earth

No. 18 -- Air: Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion
(Zechariah 9 : 9 - 10)

Catherine Smith, soprano

No. 19 -- Recitative: Then Shall the Eyes of the Blind Be
Opened (Isaiah 35 : 5 - 6)

Elizabeth Boulter, alto

No. 20 -- Air: He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd
(Matthew 11 : 28 - 29)

Elizabeth Boulter, alto/Catherine Smith, soprano

No. 21 -- Chorus: His Yoke is Easy

The Reception of the Gospel

No. 44 -- Chorus: Hallelujah (Revelation 19:6; 11:5, 19:16)