
2025 SING ALONG
George Frideric Handel's
Messiah

Nathalie Anderson
conductor

PART I

2. Recitative	Comfort Ye My People	Brendan Kennedy, <i>tenor</i>
3. Aria	Every Valley Shall Be Exalted	Brendan Kennedy, <i>tenor</i>
4. Chorus	And the Glory of the Lord	
5. Recitative	Thus Saith the Lord	Jackson Steuer, <i>bass</i>
6. Aria	But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming?	Jackson Steuer, <i>bass</i>
7. Chorus	And He Shall Purify	
8. Recitative	Behold! A Virgin Shall Conceive	Chris Moon, <i>alto</i>
9. Aria only (no chorus)	O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion	Chris Moon, <i>alto</i>
12. Chorus	For Unto Us A Child Is Born	
14-16. Recitative	There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field	Rachelle Woolston, <i>soprano</i>
17. Chorus	Glory to God	
18. Aria	Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion!	Regina Falker-Hiteman, <i>soprano</i>
20. Aria	He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd	Kiersten Hopkins, <i>alto</i>

PART II

22. Chorus	Behold the Lamb of God	
23. Aria	He Was Despised	Rebecca Connolly, <i>alto</i>
24. Chorus	Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs	
25. Chorus	And with His Stripes We Are Healed	
26. Chorus	All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray	
29. Recitative	Thy Rebuke Hath Broken His Heart	Shederick Whipple, <i>tenor</i>
30. Aria	Behold, and See If There Be Any Sorrows	Shederick Whipple, <i>tenor</i>
38. Aria	How Beautiful Are the Feet	Rachelle Woolston, <i>soprano</i>

PART III

42. Recitative	He That Dwelleth in Heaven	Shederick Whipple, <i>tenor</i>
43. Aria	Thou Shalt Break Them	Shederick Whipple, <i>tenor</i>
45. Aria	I Know That My Redeemer Liveth	Brianne Lindsay, <i>soprano</i>
46. Chorus	Since by Man Came Death	
47. Recitative	Behold, I Tell You a Mystery	Pat Havens, <i>bass</i>
48. Aria	The Trumpet Shall Sound	Pat Havens, <i>bass</i>
53. Chorus	Worthy Is the Lamb That Was Slain	
44. Chorus	Hallelujah	

Thank you to the many talented musicians who made this evening possible:

SECTION LEADERS

Rachelle Woolston and Brianne Lindsay, *Soprano*
Rebecca Connolly and Christine Moon, *Alto*
Shederick Whipple and Brendan Kennedy, *Tenor*
Pat Havens and Jackson Steuer, *Bass*

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Valerie Purvin, <i>violin</i>	Nancy Johnston, <i>viola</i>
April Ricks, <i>violin</i>	Michael McPeak, <i>viola</i>
Cyndia Merrell, <i>violin</i>	Sarah Binford, <i>cello</i>
Ryan Larson, <i>violin</i>	Len Cheatham, <i>cello</i>
Jenny Larsen, <i>violin</i>	Adam Washburn, <i>organ</i>
Tommy Washburn, <i>trumpet</i>	Abe Wilson, <i>piano</i>
Ethan Kline, <i>trumpet</i>	

PROGRAM NOTES

In 1741, Charles Jennens, a wealthy English scholar, assembled and arranged selections from the King James Bible from the books of Isaiah, Haggai, Malachi, Matthew, Luke, Zechariah, Psalms, Lamentations, John, Hebrews, Romans, 1 Corinthians and Revelation. His libretto described the life of Christ, including prophecies related to His coming, His birth, His death and resurrection, and His glorious second coming. Jennens asked his friend, Handel to compose the music, writing “I hope [Handel] will lay out his whole Genius & Skill upon it, that the Composition may excel all his former Compositions, as the Subject excels every other Subject.”

Handel wrote the music for Jennen’s libretto in less than four weeks, writing from morning until evening. Handel chose to debut his work in Dublin in April 1742. After the first open rehearsal, a Dublin newspaper wrote, that the oratorio “in the opinion of the best judges, far surpasses anything of that Nature, which has been performed in this or any other Kingdom.” At the premiere event, ladies were asked to come without their hoops and gentlemen without their swords in order to make “room for more company.” The Messiah’s success in Dublin was shortly thereafter repeated in London.

Handel himself loved the Messiah. He included it in his annual benefit concerts for the London Foundling Hospital. Eight days before his death in 1759, in failing health, Handel attended an April 6 performance of the Messiah in Covent Garden. In the ensuing years, it has become a beloved part of Christmas celebrations worldwide. Our Indianapolis area Messiah sing along event began in 2022.

Sources:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-glorious-history-of-handels-messiah-148168540>

<https://nyphil.org/~/media/pdfs/program-notes/1819/Handel-Messiah.pdf>