

Camerata Chicago

Messiah Part I Libretto

From

Messiah by George Frideric Handel

1685-1759

1. Sinfonia (Overture)

2. Accompagnato

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)

3. Air

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)

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)

5. Accompagnato

Bass

Thus saith the Lord, 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.

(Haggai 2: 6-7)

The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly
come to His temple, even the messenger
of the Covenant, whom you delight in;
behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of
hosts.

(Malachi 3: 1)

6. Air

Alto or soprano

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)

7. Chorus

And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that
they may offer unto the Lord an offering
in righteousness.

(Malachi 3: 3)

8. 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)

9. Air and Chorus

Alto

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!

(Isaiah 40: 9)

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

(Isaiah 60: 1)

Chorus

O thou that tellest. . . etc.

10. Accompagnato

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)

11. 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)

12. 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)

13. Pifa ("Pastoral Symphony")

14a. Recitative

Soprano

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

(Luke 2: 8)

14b. 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)

15. 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)

16. Accompagnato

Soprano

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

(Luke 2: 13)

17. Chorus

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace
on earth, good will towards men."

(Luke 2: 14)

18. 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.
Rejoice greatly. . . *da capo*

(Zechariah 9: 9-10)

19. 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)

20. Air (or Duet)

(Alto &) 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.

(Isaiah 40: 11)

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come
unto Him 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.

(Matthew 11: 28-29)

21. Chorus

His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

(Matthew 11: 30)

Hallelujah Chorus

44. Chorus

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent
reigneth.

(Revelation 19: 6)

The kingdom of this world is become the
kingdom of our Lord,
and of His Christ; and He shall reign for
ever and ever.

(Revelation 11: 15)

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

(Revelation 19: 16)

Hallelujah!

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