

# Messiah

*Selections from the Christmas Portion*



GEORGE

FREDERICK

HANDEL

*Sanctuary Choir, Soloists, Organ and Chamber Orchestra*

*December 11, 2016*



*Northminster Presbyterian Church*

2450 E. Fort Lowell Road, Tucson, Az

# Messiah

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL

Selections from Part One

*Comfort Ye My People* ..... Recitative  
*Every Valley Shall Be Exalted* ..... Air

Anthony Allen Taylor, 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.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

*And the Glory of the Lord*..... Choir

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.

*Behold, A Virgin Shall Conceive* ..... Recitative  
*O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings* ..... Air and Choir

Laura Glunt, Contralto

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.

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

*For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth* ..... Recitative  
*The People That Walked in Darkness*..... Air

Antonio Cruz, 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.

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.

***For Unto Us a Child is Born*** ..... Choir

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, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

***There Were Shepherds Abiding*** ..... Recitative  
Gloria Day, Soprano

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night 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. And the angel said unto the, 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.

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

***Glory to God*** ..... Choir

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

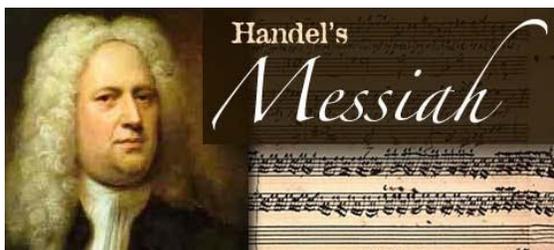
***Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion*** ..... Air  
Gabriella Carrillo, Soprano

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice greatly, Rejoice, 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, rejoice, rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy king cometh unto thee.

***Hallelujah*** ..... Choir

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! 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 for ever and ever.  
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, And He shall reign forever and ever, Hallelujah!

# Messiah



George Frederic Handel (1685-1759), born in Halle, Germany, composed operas, oratorios, anthems, and organ concertos, but it is the oratorio *Messiah* that has captured the hearts and inspired generations of listeners. Almost 275 years after its debut in Dublin, Ireland, *Messiah* still compels listeners into a personal encounter with the prophetic scriptures of salvation.

After completing *Messiah*, Handel declared “I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself.” In fact, Handel was so taken over by his musical inspiration that he could scarcely commit his pen to paper with sufficient speed. It is generally believed that he composed the entire work in only 24 days—nothing short of a remarkable achievement in itself!

Part One, selections of which are heard this morning, begins with the prophecies by Isaiah (and others) in the Old Testament and moves to the annunciation to the shepherds in the New Testament.

The tradition of standing during the “Hallelujah Chorus,” the final chorus from Part Two, began during the second London performance when King George II stood during the singing of that chorus.

Handel was a master dramatist and used drama to its fullest extent in choruses such as “For Unto Us a Child is Born” where there is strong dramatic contrast between the light roudades celebrating the redeemer’s birth which lead to the powerful hammerstrokes on the words “Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God.” The entire work is infused with effects which combine to present a wonderful vehicle for reaching human hearts with the message of Christ’s birth.

When debuted in Dublin, *Messiah* was enormously successful. Handel designated that all the proceeds would go to charities. Handel is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Michelle Abraham, Violin I  
Rollin Medcalf, Violin II  
Rose Todaro, Viola  
Jane Hallett, Cello  
Jeff Holsen, Bass

Cat Cantrell, Oboe I  
Rachel Messing, Oboe II  
Daniel Hursey, Bassoon

Cory Driscoll, Trumpet I  
Morgana Ortiz, Trumpet II

Elizabeth Soflin, Timpani

Gabriella Carrillo, Soprano  
Gloria Day, Soprano  
Laura Glunt, Contralto  
Anthony Allen Taylor, Tenor  
Antonio Cruz, Bass

Dr. John T. Brobeck, Organist & Assistant  
Director

Stardust K. Johnson, Director



*Thank you Northminster Sanctuary Choir and guest musicians!*