

Handel's Messiah

PART ONE

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 moutain 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)

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)

8. 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.

9. 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)

10. 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)

11. 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)

12. Pifa ("Pastoral Symphony")

Recitative

Soprano

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

(Luke 2: 8)

13. 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)

14. Accompagnato

Soprano

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

(Luke 2: 13)

15. Chorus

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

(Luke 2: 14)

16. 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*

(Zecharaiah 9: 9-10)

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)

17. 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)

18. Chorus

His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

(Matthew 11: 30)

PART TWO

19. Chorus

Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.

(John 1: 29)

20. Air

Alto

He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

(Isaiah 53: 3)

He gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked off His hair: He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

He was despised. . . *da capo* *(Isaiah 53: 6)*

21. 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)

22. Chorus

And with His stripes we are healed.

(Isaiah 53: 5)

23. Chorus

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

(Isaiah 53: 6)

24. Accompagnato

Tenor

All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn; they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying:

(Psalm 22: 7)

25. Chorus

"He trusted in God that He would deliver Him; let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him."

(Psalm 22: 8)

30. 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 strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle.

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)

34a. Air

Soprano

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.

(Isaiah 52: 7; Romans 10: 15)

36. Air

Bass

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 against His anointed.

(Psalm 2: 1-2)

37. Chorus

Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us.

(Psalm 2: 3)

Recitative

Tenor

He that dwelleth in Heav'n shall laugh them to scorn; The Lord shall
have them in derision.

(Psalm 2: 4)

38. Air

Tenor

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in
pieces like a potter's vessel.

(Psalm 2: 9)

39. 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!

PART THREE

40. Air

Soprano

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand
at the latter day upon the earth.

And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

(Job 19: 25-26)

For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

(I Corinthians 15: 20)

41. 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)

42. Accompagnato

Bass

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be
changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

(I Corinthians 15: 51-52)

43. Air

Bass

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and
we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put
on immortality.

(I Corinthians 15: 52-53)

47. 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 power, be unto Him that sitteth upon
the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever.

Amen.

(Revelation 5: 12-14)