



**THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY
and Orchestra**

Gretchen Welch, conductor

present

G.F. Handel's

MESSIAH

Joyce Wead, soprano

Sandra Cryder, mezzo-soprano

John Little, tenor

William Cale, bass

Saturday, December 8, 1990
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 9, 1990
3:00 p.m.

Turner Ashby High School Auditorium

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society proudly welcomes you to this performance of George Frederick Handel's beloved oratorio, Messiah.

April 13, 1742. Dublin bustled with excitement. Sedan chairs and carriages thronged around the new music hall in Fishamble Street as patrons arrived to hear George Frederick Handel's new sacred oratorio.

More than one woman in the crowd commiserated with her neighbor about the inconvenience of leaving her dress hoops at home, as a newspaper notice had requested. Men had left off their swords, too — all in the interest of seating more people in the hall for this performance, which was to benefit several charities.

The two performances of The Messiah that day, a dress rehearsal and an evening concert, were sung by a choir of 14 men and 6 boys, plus half a dozen male and female soloists, accompanied by a 30-piece orchestra. At the harpsichord, commanding singers and instrumentalists, sat the composer.

Fashionable Dublin loved The Messiah. Its approval was echoed in the newspaper review: "The Sublime, the Grand and the Tender, adapted to the most elevated, majestic and moving Words, conspired to transport and charm the ravished Heart and Ear."

And because 700 people had been able to squeeze into the hall, a sum of 400 pounds sterling was raised and 142 debtors were released from prison. This set a pattern: During Handel's lifetime his greatest oratorio would be performed to benefit a charity more often than its composer. A contemporary English writer said, "It fed the hungry, clothed the naked, fostered the orphan."

The Messiah (became) a favorite in London, Dublin and other parts of the British Isles. It crossed the ocean to the New World before the colonies became the United States.

Through the years strange things have been done to The Messiah. Mozart arranged the work according to his own style. In Victorian times it was often sung by massive choirs of a thousand or more voices, accompanied by huge orchestras.

The Messiah survived it all. And through its many versions its magic has continued to shine. The perennial appeal of The Messiah is as fresh today as when it was first heard, more than 200 years ago.

— From the article "Handel's Masterpiece" by Elizabeth G. Benton published in the Presbyterian Survey magazine, December 1986.

PART ONE

OVERTURE

RECITATIVE (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)

RECITATIVE (tenor)

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

(Isaiah 40:4)

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)

RECITATIVE (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. The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple; even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in, behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

(Haggai 2:6-7; Malachi 3:1)

AIR (alto)

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)

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)

AIR (alto) and CHORUS

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! O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

(Isaiah 40:1; 60:1)

RECITATIVE (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)

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)

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

(Isaiah 9:6)

PIFA (Pastoral Symphony)

RECITATIVES (soprano)

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks 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 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 Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

(Luke 2:8-13)

CHORUS

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

(Luke 2:14)

AIR (soprano)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem, behold thy king cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

(Zachariah 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)

AIR (alto and 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. Come unto him, all ye that labor, 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.

(Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 11:28-29)

CHORUS

His yoke is easy, his burden is light.

(Matthew 11:30)

INTERMISSION PART TWO

CHORUS

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

(John 1:29)

AIR (alto)

He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. He gave his back to the smiters, and his cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; he hid not his face from shame and spitting.

(Isaiah 53:3; 50:6)

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)

CHORUS

And with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

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)

RECITATIVE (tenor)

All they that see him, laugh him to scorn; they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying: (Psalm 22:7)

CHORUS

He trusted in God that he would deliver him, let him deliver him, if he delight in him. (Psalm 22:8)

RECITATIVE (tenor)

Thy rebuke hath broken his heart; he is full of heaviness. He looked for some to have the pity on him, but there was no man, neither found he any to comfort him. (Psalm 69:20)

AIR (tenor)

Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto his sorrow. (Lamentations 1:12)

RECITATIVE (tenor)

He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgressions of thy people was he stricken. (Isaiah 53:8)

AIR (tenor)

But thou didst not leave his soul in hell; nor didst thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption. (Psalm 16:10)

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 the king of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Who is the king of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. (Psalm 24:7-10)

CHORUS

The Lord gave the word; great was the company of the preachers. (Psalm 68:11)

AIR (soprano)

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things. (Romans 10:15)

CHORUS

Their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world. (Romans 10:18)

AIR (bass)

Why do the nations so furiously rage together, and who 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)

CHORUS

Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us. (Psalm 2:3)

RECITATIVE (tenor)

He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn, the Lord shall have them in derision. (Psalm 2:4)

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)

CHORUS

Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth, Hallelujah! 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.

(Revelation 19:6; 11:15; 19:16)

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

(Job 19:25-26; I Corinthians 15:20)

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)

RECITATIVE (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)

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)

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 honor, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Revelation 5:9, 12-13)

Orchestra**Violin I**

Paul McEnderfer
Marsha Kaufmann
Bethany Cyr
Heidi Hitt
Natalie Toida
William Bartolotta

Bass

Cecil Conley
Greg Ondo

Violin II

Gail Little
Suzanne Mausbach
Sharon Brobst
Ruben Salazar
Kamron Aylor
Michelle Stone

Oboe

Margaret Davis
Carol Maiello

Bassoon

Anne Gladding
Lisa Gibbs

Viola

Scott Hosfeld
Rebecca Hunter
Kimberly Richmond
James Patterson

Trumpet

James Kluesner
Kenneth McGee

Cello

Mary Kay Adams
James Fellenbaum
Christina Kim
Charlotte Shnaider

Timpani

William Rice

Harpichord

John Fast