

Georg Friedrich Händel  
**MESSIAH**  
A Sacred Oratorio, words by Charles Jennens

ACT ONE

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**DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

**1. Sinfony**

**2. Comfort ye** (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. Ev'ry valley** (Aria: 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. And the glory of the Lord** (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. Thus saith the lord** (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. But who may abide** (Aria: 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)

**7. And He shall purify** (Chorus)

And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. (Malachi 3:3)

**8. Behold, a virgin shall conceive** (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. O thou that tellest** (Aria: Alto & 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! (Isaiah 40:9)

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. (Isaiah 60:1)

**10. For behold, darkness** (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. The people that walked in darkness** (Aria: 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. For unto us a child is born** (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)



## THE DREAM

### **14a. There were shepherds** (Recitative: Soprano)

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. (Luke 2:8)

### **14b. And lo, the angel of the Lord** (Aria: 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. And the angel said unto them** (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. And suddenly there was with the angel** (Accompagnato: Soprano)

And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying: (Luke 2:13)

### **17. Glory to God** (Chorus)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men. (Luke 2:14)

### **18. Rejoice Greatly** (Aria: 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. Then shall the eyes of the blind** (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 a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. (Isaiah 35:5-6)

### **20. He shall feed his flock** (Aria: 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)



## ACT TWO

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### SHAME AND MOURNING

#### **22. Behold the lamb of God** (Chorus)

Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

#### **23. He was despised** (Aria: 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)

#### **24. Surely He hath borne our griefs** (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)

#### **26. All we, like sheep** (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)

#### **27. All they that see Him** (Accompagnato: Tenor)

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

#### **28. He trusted in God** (Chorus)

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

#### **29. Thy rebuke hath broken His heart** (Accompagnato: Tenor)

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

#### **30. Behold and see** (Aria: Tenor)

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

#### **38. How beautiful are the feet** (Aria: 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)



## ECSTATIC LIGHT

### **40. Why do the nations** (Aria: 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)

### **44. Hallelujah** (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!

### **45. I know the my Redeemer liveth** (Aria: 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)

### **46. Since by man came death** (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)

### **47. Behold, I tell you a mystery** (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)

### **48. The trumpet shall sound** (Aria: Bass)

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (I Corinthians 15:52-53)

### **53. Worthy is the Lamb** (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. (Revelation 5:12-14)

### **54. Amen** (Chorus)

Amen.

