

GEORG FRIDERIC HANDEL'S



MESSIAH

performed by

The Solano Chamber Society Chorus & Orchestra

Jay Trottier, Director

Sunday, December 3, 2017
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Vacaville, California

Sunday, December 10, 2017
Temple Hill Auditorium
Oakland, California

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Messiah is the greatest oratorio ever written. Huge in scale, sublime in concept, unflinching in its eloquence, it remains one of man's most grandiose conceptions. Only an inspired man could have produced it, let alone in the incredibly short period of twenty-four days.

Detailed accounts of its writing reveal that Handel was such an inspired man. From the moment he started working on *Messiah* he was under an uninterrupted spell, in a kind of trance. He did not leave his house; he allowed no visitors to disturb him. The food that was brought to him was usually left untouched, and when he did eat something, he would munch on a piece of bread without stopping his work. He also did without sleep. When his domestics tried to get him to rest or eat he would answer them ill-tempered and sometimes even with incoherent retorts—his eyes blazing with a wild fury—so that they sometimes thought he was losing his mind. “Day and night he kept hard at his task, living wholly in the realm where rhythm and tone reigned supreme. As the work neared an end, he was increasingly inspired, increasingly tortured by the fury of inspiration. He had become a captive of himself, a prisoner within the four walls of his study; he strummed on the harpsichord; he sang; then sitting at his work table he worked and worked until his fingers gave out. Never had he experienced such a frenzy of creation, never before had he so lived and fought with music.”

Never a religious man in the same sense as Bach, Handel became a God-intoxicated man while writing *Messiah*. When he completed the “Hallelujah Chorus” he exclaimed to his servant, “I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God himself.” Again and again his servants found him in tears as he put to paper an awesome phrase or a devout passage. And then, after the last monumental “Amen” had been written, he confided simply to a physician, “I think God has visited me.” The exaltation with which *Messiah* was created is found on every page of the score.

Messiah is in three parts. The first contains the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah. This is followed by the sufferings and death of Christ. The concluding section deals with the resurrection. To the text provided by his friend Charles Tennens, adapted from the Scriptures (there are some inclined to believe that Tennen's secretary, Pooley, actually wrote it), Handel wrote 50 musical numbers. Recitatives, arias, and chorales concerned themselves with the emotion rather than the dramatic implications of the words, providing such a variety of feeling—from compassion and pathos to serenity, spirituality, and ecstatic joy—that there is never a faltering of pace or lack of contrast.

Over Handel's grave stands a statue by Roubiliac which portrays Handel in front of his working table. On the table are his quills and the score of *Messiah* opened at the passage: “I know that my Redeemer liveth.”

CHORUS

Rehearsal Accompanists – Rica Van Katwyk,
Janette Beverley, Jennifer Hobbs, Denise Plaskett, Bobbie Textor

Section Leaders –David Barthelmess, Jim Dorigatti,
Linda Pedersen, Brian Sennello, Bobbie Textor, Annette Wells

SOPRANO

Emily Bennett	Karen Collins	Lori Nelson	Dana Thompson
Janette Beverley	Lynda Farrow	Linda Pedersen	Lynda Valerio
Kim Bosler	Elizabeth Gray	Cynthia Pfaff	Ingrid Veliz
Amelia Burr	Karyssa Landes	Cynthia Reed	Annette Wells
Sherry Carlson	Kimberly Landes	Jerilyn Scarpa	Gayla Wilson
Marian Chmielewski	Victoria Lorz	Antoinette Temple	Lauren Wright
Lupita Clanton			

ALTO

Melora Bennett	Nichole Katschke	Julie Reeves	Alexi Trottier
Barbara Boyd	Sage Katschke	Jill Retherford	Becky Trottier
Rana Burr	Julie Lewis	Carol Robinson	Katelyn Trottier
Emma Clawson	Diane McClelland	Cyndy Schlant	Katie Whalen
Patty Cole	Jeanette Panchula	Jenny Symons	Susan Whalen
Robin Davis	Lori Pedersen	Renee Syrett	Julie Wright
Peggy Dorigatti	Kathleen Perez	Liza Thomford	Kira Wright
Michelle Eaton	Denise Plaskett	Irene Thomsen	Kylie Wright
Jeannie Foster			

TENOR

Wit Ashbrook	Heidi Halter	Peter Kessel	Bobbie Textor
David Barthelmess	Marty Hansen	Steve Ohlin	Robert Thomsen
Eliza Bonner	Amy Hawkins	Matthew Reed	Evan Weinzinger
Robert Dellenbach	Jennifer Hobbs	Tyler Reed	Craig Wilson

BASS

Bruce Bosler	Jim Dorigatti	Ron Hawkins	Keith Reed
Montana Burr	Carl Espinoza	Tim Lorz	Brian Sennello
Joseph Camilleri	Don Gray	Jeff Nelson	Dan Wanberg
Jack Campbell	Richard Halter	Jim Ogden	Kai Wang
Tom Davies	Lance Hawkes	Gary Plaskett	Paul Ugay

PROGRAM

PART ONE

- No. 1 OVERTURE
- No. 2, 3 RECITATIVE FOR TENOR, AIR FOR TENOR Steve Ohlin (3 & 10)
Comfort Ye My People
Every Valley Shall Be Exalted
- No. 4 CHORUS
And The Glory Of The Lord
- No. 5, 6 RECITATIVE FOR BASS, AIR FOR BASS Gene Wright (3 & 10)
Thus Saith The Lord
But Who May Abide The Day Of His Coming?
- No. 7 CHORUS
And He Shall Purify
- No. 8, 9 RECITATIVE FOR ALTO, AIR FOR ALTO Griena Goody Choi-Trask (3)
Behold! A Virgin Shall Conceive Jennifer Grover (10)
Oh Thou That Tellest Good Tidings To Zion
- No. 10, 11 RECITATIVE FOR BASS, AIR FOR BASS Gene Wright (3 & 10)
For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover The Earth
The People That Walked In Darkness
- No. 12 CHORUS
For Unto Us A Child Is Born
- No. 13 PASTORAL SYMPHONY
- No. 14, 15 16 RECITATIVES FOR SOPRANO Lauren Wright (3)
There Were Shepherds Abiding In The Field Linda Pedersen (10)
And The Angel Said Unto Them
And Suddenly There Was With The Angel
- No. 17 CHORUS
Glory To God
- No. 18 AIR FOR SOPRANO Natasha Kung (3)
Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter Of Zion Rebekka Austin (10)
- No. 19 RECITATIVE FOR ALTO Griena Goody Choi-Trask (3)
Then Shall The Eyes Of The Blind Be Opened Jennifer Grover (10)

“King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, and He shall reign
for ever and ever, for ever and ever... AMEN!”

- | | | |
|--------|--|---|
| No. 20 | AIR FOR ALTO & SOPRANO
<i>He Shall Feed His Flock Like A Shepherd
Come Unto Him</i> | Griena Goody Choi-Trask
& Natasha Kung (3)
Jennifer Grover
& Rebekka Austin (10) |
| No. 21 | CHORUS
<i>His Yoke Is Easy, And His Burthen Is Light</i> | |

INTERMISSION

PART TWO

- | | | |
|---------|--|--|
| No. 22 | CHORUS
<i>Behold The Lamb Of God</i> | |
| No. 24 | CHORUS
<i>Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs</i> | |
| No. 25 | CHORUS
<i>And With His Stripes We Are Healed</i> | |
| No. 26 | CHORUS
<i>All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray</i> | |
| No. 33 | CHORUS
<i>Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates</i> | |
| No. 38. | AIR FOR SOPRANO
<i>How Beautiful Are The Feet Of Them</i> | Marian Chmielewski (3)
Rachel Grider (10) |
| No. 44 | CHORUS
<i>Hallelujah!</i> | |

PART THREE

- | | | |
|------------|--|---|
| No. 45 | AIR FOR SOPRANO
<i>I Know That My Redeemer Liveth</i> | Kim Bosler (3 & 10) |
| No. 46 | CHORUS
<i>Since By Man Came Death</i> | |
| No. 47, 48 | RECITATIVE FOR BASS, AIR FOR BASS
<i>Behold, I Tell You A Mystery
The Trumpet Shall Sound</i>
TRUMPET SOLO | Steve Ohlin (3)
Gene Wright (10)

Scott Miller (3)
Evan Maxfield (10) |
| No. 53 | CHORUS
<i>Worthy Is The Lamb That Was Slain</i>
AMEN | |

CONDUCTOR

JAY TROTTIER

One only needs a brief conversation or a snippet of rehearsal to recognize Jay's overwhelming passion for music. Influenced by his mother who sang in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, he began piano lessons at the age of eight and followed up with the clarinet and oboe in high school and college. He exercised his vocal cords as Captain von Trapp in his high school production of *The Sound of Music* as well as in a highly sought-after missionary choir while serving two years in Hong Kong. From there he directed ward and stake choirs, oftentimes preparing them to sing *Messiah* under the baton of Nico Snell and Doyle West. He founded and conducted the Solano Community Symphony nearly 30 years ago, and concurrently began directing *Messiah* in the Fairfield and Vacaville communities. At the same time he was the music director of *The Music Man* and played Professor Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady* in local productions. He also filled in as the Armijo High School band director for a couple of years. After retiring from the City of Fairfield he was granted the conductorship of the Oakland Temple Hill Symphony Orchestra which he has now gratefully directed for the past five years. Though he has been instructed by Robert Lenz, assistant director of the Utah Symphony, and Dennis DeCoteau, director of the San Francisco Ballet, his greatest teacher has been his heart – he simply feels music! He and his wife, Becky, live in Fairfield and are the parents of four children.

SOLOISTS

STEVE OHLIN (Tenor/Bass)

Steve Ohlin is a long-time participant in this warm and wonderful December tradition. He loves the music and message of the *Messiah*, and enjoys the sense of community in local support of fine music. Steve has performed with numerous choruses in the area, and has been a featured soloist on many occasions. He wishes everyone a blessed Christmas!

GENE WRIGHT (Bass)

Gene Wright has appeared on the SRJC stage in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Caiaphas) and *Phantom of the Opera*. In 2014 he was the bass soloist for the Redwood Empire *Messiah*, and performed these again in 2015 and 2016 with the Solano Chamber Society and the Sebastopol Center for the Arts. This year he performed twice with Cinnabar Theater: der Sprecher in *Magic Flute* and Pasquale/Postman in *The Most Happy Fella*. He will appear as Sarastro in an upcoming *Magic Flute* at SSU. Gene is a member of Take Jack, a vocal band that performs a wide repertoire, including many original compositions. He is a long-time voice student of Jody and Peter Benecke, and has also trained with Ruth Ann Swenson/David Burnakus.

GRIENA GOODY CHOI-TRASK (Mezzo-Soprano/Alto)

Mezzo-soprano Griena Goody Choi-Trask earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance and Master of Music degree in Music Education from the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music and has been a vocal soloist/lead in operas, oratorios and musicals. As a violinist/violist Goody has taught strings & orchestra in public schools, community colleges, and Suzuki studios for over 20 years. Currently she is the director of the Suzuki Strings program in Mountain House where she lives with her husband, son, and dogs Abbey, Bella, and Obi-Wan.

LAUREN WRIGHT (Soprano)

Lauren Wright is 12 years old and in the seventh grade. She loves playing the piano and guitar, swimming, drawing and singing! This is her fourth year performing in the *Messiah* and her second time as a soloist.

LINDA PEDERSEN (Soprano)

Linda enjoys participating in the Arts in many different ways. She teaches violin and has taught with and/or been director of Solano Suzuki Strings for over 30 years. She has played violin for *Messiah* many times, has performed on stage in a variety of musicals, participates in several choirs, and plays in the Temple Hill Orchestra. She is currently studying voice with Johnathan Burton. Linda and her husband love to go visit their 6 children and 12 grandchildren. Family, music and faith in the Savior's plan are what is most important to her.

NATASHA KUNG (Soprano)

Lyric-coloratura soprano Natasha Wanyi Kung received her Master of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, and Doctor of Music Arts degree from the University of Minnesota. In 2005, she was awarded the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), USA, scholarship. Since then, she has enjoyed extensive international exposure, having performed recitals in Baltimore, Twin Cities, San Francisco, Taipei, and Chongqing. In addition, she has played the principal roles in *Die Zauberflöte* (Pamina), *I Pagliacci* (Nedda), *Cendrillon* (Luccette/Cendrillon), *Die Fledermaus* (Rosalinda), *Così fan tutte* (Fiodiligi) and *La Traviata* (Violetta). Opera director Roger Brunet has described her as “An emerging star... a Soprano who has unique voice...”

REBEKKA AUSTIN (Soprano)

Rebekka Austin is pleased to join the performance of the *Messiah* and sing this glorious work! She has enjoyed singing this piece for many years and is always touched by its message. Rebekka is a music educator and teaches this year at George Kelly in Tracy. She has taught music in some form since the young age of 12. She has been a professional musician for over 20 years, singing in various opera companies, in the Bay Area and elsewhere in the country. Some of her favorite roles have been Carmen in *Carmen*, Erika in *Vanessa*, and the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Rebekka lives in Tracy with her husband of 15 years and her 3 boys.

JENNIFER GROVER (Alto)

Jennifer Grover earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance & Choral Education in 2010 from California State University Stanislaus. She played roles in *The Magic Flute* and *The Merry Widow* with Townsend Opera Company in Modesto, CA. From 2010-2012, she worked with Townsend Opera as their chorus master producing choirs for *Madame Butterfly*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Mikado*. For the past 5 years, Jennifer has been the choral director at Tracy High School in Tracy, CA where she lives. She and her husband have 4 children.

MARIAN CHMIELESKI (Soprano)

Marian Iten Chmielewski has sung several *Messiah* solos over the years, as well as singing the roles of Rosalinda in RW Productions' *Die Fledermaus* and Annina in North Bay Opera's *La Traviata*. She has also been a featured soloist with the Deutsche Männerchor in Oakland and is a long-time member of the choir and frequent soloist at Community United Methodist Church in Fairfield. She lives in Vacaville with her husband Bruce.

RACHEL GRIDER (Soprano)

Rachel Grider is from Modesto, CA. She graduated from California State University Stanislaus in June of 2011 with a BM degree in Vocal Performance and Composition, and from Peabody Conservatory in 2013 with MM degrees in Voice Performance and Music Theory Pedagogy. She is currently teaching voice lessons in Modesto and performing freelance. She is working on expanding her career as a performer of oratorio and song.

KIM BOSLER (Soprano)

Kim is married to Bruce Bosler and they have six musical children and thirteen adorable grandchildren. Kim sang with the BYU Young Ambassadors while in college and has performed in various musicals throughout her life. Currently she is the choral director at Cooper Elementary School with a choir of 140 kids. It is an honor for her to sing one of the sweetest and most powerful songs ever written, “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”. This will be her 26th season singing in the great Handel's *Messiah*.

DONATIONS

Dr. Richard E. Bell, NorthBay
Neonatology Associates, Inc.
Dr. Bruce & Kim Bosler, DDS
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints, Fairfield, CA Stake
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints, Vacaville, CA Stake

Richard & Helen Dawson
Dr. Craig Gillespie, MD
Dr. Scott Hicken, DDS
Messiah Chorus Members
Messiah Orchestra Members
Raymond Simonds & Associates
Danny & Lonnie Wells

ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I – Cybele D’Ambrosio**, David Belt, Debbie Dittmer, Griena Goody Choi-Trask, Lydia Cooley, Gerald Haas, Spencer Larsen, Mary Julia McKean, Doug Morrison, Michele Waltz

VIOLIN II – Sue MacDonald*, Sherri Wall, Joyce Anderson, Parisa Imani, Tiffani Mix, Jeremy Pack

VIOLA –Elizabeth Hare*, Ben Nathan, Jon Botting, Emily Lambert, Adele Mitchell, Kaye Sivori

CELLO – Marie Maxfield*, Alan Clark, Eric Anderson, Ted Kolda, Kristina Hendricks Schlechter

BASS – Navaz Jasavala

FLUTE – Cyndi Chancellor*, Shay Nelson*

OBOE – Eric Hagen*, Barbara Hodgkinson

CLARINET – John Phillips*, Patty Phillips, Brinley Nearon

BASSOON – Michael Stern*, Windy Tirados

FRENCH HORN – Kathryn Crandell*, Sally Johnson

TRUMPET – Scott Miller*, Evan Maxfield

TROMBONE – Deven Halcomb* Dave Downer, Jenna Brace

TIMPANI – Kent Burr

** Concertmistress

* Principal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Performance Facility	St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Vacaville Father Blaise Berg, Tina Benedict Temple Hill Auditorium, Oakland
Chorus Rehearsal Facility	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Vacaville
Publicity	Fairfield <i>Daily Republic</i>
Flyer Design	Robert Dellenbach
Flyer Distribution	Peter Kessel, Chorus
Operations	Keith & Cynthia Reed Family, Chorus
Riser Transportation	Kevin Bonner, Chorus

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,...”