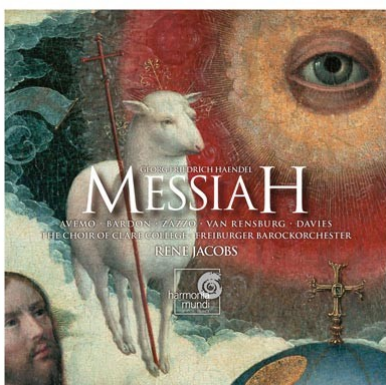


GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

Messiah

The Choir of Clare College, Freiburger Barockorchester, René Jacobs

2h18 2 CD HMC901928.29 October 2006



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The paradoxes of *Messiah*.

After a magisterial interpretation of the highly theatrical *Saul* (Editor's Choice in *Gramophone*, 'Choc' du *Monde de la Musique*, etc.), René Jacobs now turns his attention to *Messiah*, in the 1750 version with two alto soloists. Handel subjected the work to multiple revisions according to the solo singers he had available for his annual performances of it in London. However, this public acknowledgment of the work's value came only some years after the oratorio's triumphant premiere in Dublin on 13 April 1742: in order to win over London audiences *Messiah* had had to confront a cabal that was all the more unjustified in that Handel avoided all dramatisation of the person and Passion of Christ – the exact opposite of *Saul*, in a sense. But history has amply made up for lost time since then!



Artists

- Kerstin Avemo
Soprano
- Patricia Bardon
Contralto
- Lawrence Zazzo
Countertenor
- Kobie van Rensburg
Tenor
- Neal Davies
Bass-baritone
- Choir of Clare College,
Cambridge
- Freiburger Barockorchester
- René Jacobs
Conductor

Composers

- George Frideric
Handel

Contents

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL [1685-1759]

MESSIAH

An Oratorio HWV 56 after Biblical sources collected by Charles Jennens
1750 version (conducted by the composer)

· Part I

1. "Sinfony" (2'59)
- 2. **Accompagnato** (tenor) *Comfort ye, my people, saith your God* (2'59)
- 3. **Air** (tenor) *Every valley shall be exalted* (3'01)

- 4. **Chorus** *And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed* (2'34)
- 5. **Accompagnato** (bass) *Thus saith the Lord of Hosts* (1'19)
- 6. **Air** (countertenor) *But who may abide the day of His coming?* (3'50)
- 7. **Chorus** *And He shall purify the sons of Levi* (2'23)
- 8. **Recitative** (alto) *Behold, a virgin shall conceive*
- 9. **Air** (alto & **Chorus**) *O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise* (5'27)
- 10. **Accompagnato** (bass) *For behold, darkness shall cover the earth* (2'18)
- 11. **Air** (bass) *The people that walked in darkness* (3'41)
- 12. **Chorus** *For unto us a child is born* (3'57)
- 13. **Sinfonia pastorale** (Pifa)
- 14a. **Recitative** (soprano) *There were shepherds abiding in the field*
- 14b. **Accompagnato** (soprano) *And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them*
- 15. **Recitative** (soprano) *And the angel said unto them: Fear not, for behold*
- 16. **Accompagnato** (soprano) *And suddenly there was with the angel* (4'41)
- **Part II**
- 17. **Chorus** *Glory to God in the highest* (2'04)
- 18. **Air** (soprano) *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion* (4'33)
- 19. **Recitative** (alto) *Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened*
- 20. **Air** (alto & countertenor) *He shall feed His flock like a shepherd* (4'58)
- 21. **Chorus** *His yoke is easy, and His burthen is light* (2'20)
- 22. **Chorus** *Behold the lamb of God* (4'24)
- 23. **Air** (alto) *He was despised and rejected of men* (10'42)
- 24. **Chorus** *Surely He hath borne our griefs* (1'45)
- 25. **Chorus** *And with His stripes we are healed* (1'42)
- 26. **Chorus** *All we like sheep have gone astray* (3'50)

MESSIAH

An Oratorio HWV 56 after Biblical sources collected by Charles Jennens
1750 version (conducted by the composer)

- 27. **Accompagnato** (tenor) *All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn* (0'36)
- 28. **Chorus** *He trusted in God that He would deliver Him* (2'11)
- 29. **Accompagnato** (tenor) *Thy rebuke hath broken His heart* (1'30)
- 30. **Arioso** (tenor) *Behold and see if there be any sorrow* (1'21)
- 31. **Accompagnato** (soprano) *He was cut off out of the land of the living*
- 32. **Air** (soprano) *But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell* (2'14)
- 33. **Chorus** *Lift up your heads, O ye gates* (3'03)
- 34. **Recitative** (tenor) *Unto which of the angels said He at any time* (0'14)
- 35. **Chorus** *Let all the angels of God worship Him* (1'23)
- 36. **Air** (countertenor) *Thou art gone up on high* (2'47)
- 37. **Chorus** *The Lord gave the world* (1'09)
- 38. **Air** (countertenor) *How beautiful are the feet of them* (2'40)
- 39. **Chorus** *Their sound is gone out into all lands* (1'24)
- 40. **Air** (bass) *Why do the nations so furiously rage together* (2'49)
- 41. **Chorus** *Let us break their bonds asunder* (1'36)
- 42. **Recitative** (tenor) *He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn*
- 43. **Air** (tenor) *Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron* (1'59)
- 44. **Chorus** *Hallelujah!* (3'56)
- **Part III**
- 45. **Air** (soprano) *I know that my redeemer liveth* (6'02)
- 46. **Chorus** *Since by man came death* (1'57)
- 47. **Accompagnato** (bass) *Behold, I tell you a mystery*
- 48. **Air** (bass) *The trumpet shall sound* (8'36)
- 49. **Recitative** (alto) *Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written*
- 50. **Duet** (alto & tenor) *O Death, where is thy sting?* (1'16)
- 51. **Chorus** *But thanks be to God who giveth us the victory* (2'02)
- 52. **Air** (countertenor) *If God be for us, who can be against us?* (4'19)
- 53. **Chorus** *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain*

54. **Chorus** *Amen* (6'51)