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GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

## Solomon, oratorio in three acts

RIAS Kammerchor, Daniel Reuss

2h35 2 CD HMY2921949.50 September 2016

Handel was 63 years old when he composed *Solomon*, one of his final masterpieces. This monumental oratorio depicts the three highpoints of the biblical king's life: the building of the temple, the famous judgment, and the visit of the Queen of Sheba. With a dramatic instinct keener than ever, the composer did not hesitate to combine political and patriotic reflections with exaltation of carnal love and celebration of earthly riches. This 'perfect marriage of music and English words', as Winton Dean has called it, caused the composer serious financial difficulties in 1749 on account of the exceptional forces it required – but today, under the baton of Daniel Reuss, it finds performers totally devoted to its noble cause!

### Artists

- Daniel Reuss  
Conductor
- Sarah Connolly  
Contralto
- Susan Gritton  
Soprano
- Carolyn Sampson  
Soprano
- Mark Padmore  
Tenor
- David Wilson-Johnson  
Bass
- RIAS Kammerchor Berlin
- Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin

### Composers

- George Frideric  
Handel

### Contents

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL [1685-1759]

#### SOLOMON

##### · ACT ONE

No.1 Overture (6'55)

##### · Scene 1

No.2 Chorus of Priests *Your harps and cymbals sound* (3'40)

· No.3 Air. Levite *Praise ye the Lord for all his mercies past* (4'58)

· No.4 Chorus of Priests *With pious heart, and holy tongue* (4'44)

· No.5 Accompagnato. Solomon *Almighty pow'r* (3'15)

· No.6 Recitative. Zadok *Imperial Solomon* (0'32)

· No.7 Air. Zadok *Sacred raptures cheer my breast* (4'33)

· No.8 Chorus of Israelites *Throughout the land Jehovah's praise record* (3'51)

· No.9 Recitative. Solomon *Bless'd be the Lord* (0'26)

· No.10 Air. Solomon *What though I trace each herb and flow'r* (5'59)

· **Scene 2**

No.11 Recitative. Solomon *And see my queen, my wedded love* (0'41)

· No.12 Air. Queen *Bless'd the day when first my eyes* (4'52)

· No.13 Recitative. Solomon, Queen *Thou fair inhabitant of Nile* (0'43)

· No.14 Duet. Queen, Solomon *Welcome as the dawn of the day* (3'28)

· No.17 Recitative. Solomon *My blooming fair* (0'09)

· No.18 Air. Solomon *Haste, haste to the cedar grove* (2'45)

· No.19 Recitative. Queen *When thou art absent from my sight* (0'15)

· No.20 Air. Queen *With thee th'unshelter'd moor I'd tread* (2'25)

· No.21 Recitative. Zadok *Search round the world* (0'11)

· No.22 Chorus *May no rash intruder disturb their soft hours* (4'25)

· **ACT TWO**

**Scene 1**

No.23 Chorus of Israelites *From the censer curling rise* (5'20)

· No.24 Recitative. Solomon *Prais'd be the Lord* (0'54)

· No.25 Air. Solomon *When the sun o'er yonder hills* (4'05)

· No.26 Recitative. Levite *Great Prince, thy resolution's just* (0'19)

· No.27 Air. Levite *Thrice bless'd that wise discerning king* (3'24)

· **Scene 2**

No.28 Recitative. Attendant, Solomon *My sovereign liege*

**Scene 3**

*First Harlot Thou son of David, hear a mother's grief* (1'51)

· No.29 Trio. Solomon, two Harlots *Words are weak to paint my fears* (5'17)

**SOLOMON**

· No.30 Recitative. Solomon, 2nd Harlot *What says the other to th'imputed charge?* (1'11)

· No.31 Air. Second Harlot *Thy sentence, great king* (1'56)

· No.32 Recitative. First Harlot *Withhold, withhold the executing hand* (0'11)

· No.33 Air. First Harlot *Can I see my enfant gor'd* (4'33)

· No.34 Accompagnato. Solomon *Israel, attend to what your king shall say* (1'31)

· No.35 Duet. First Harlot, Solomon *Thrice bless'd the king* (3'06)

· No.36 Chorus of Israelites *From the east unto the west* (2'54)

· No.37 Recitative. Zadok *From morn to eve I could enraptur'd sing* (0'17)

· No.38 Air. Zadok *See the tall palm that lifts the head* (5'46)

· No.39 Recitative. First Harlot *No more shall armed bands our hopes destroy* (0'19)

· No.40 Air. First Harlot *Beneath the vine, or fig-tree's shade* (6'27)

· No.41 Chorus of Priests *Swell, swell the full chorus to Solomon's praise* (3'10)

· **ACT THREE**

No.42 Symphony: arrival of the Queen of Sheba (2'52)

· No.43 Recitative. Queen of Sheba, Solomon *From Arabia's spicy shores* (1'10)

· No.44 Air. Queen of Sheba *Ev'ry sight these eyes behold* (4'42)

· No.45 Recitative. Solomon *Sweep, sweep the string* (0'13)

· No.46 Solo. Solomon and Israelites *Music, spread thy voice around* (2'31)

- No.47 Solo. Solomon and Israelites *Now a diff'rent measure try* (1'53)
- No.48 Recitative. Solomon *Then at once from rage remove* (0'31)
- No.49 Chorus of Israelites *Draw the tear from hopeless love* (2'51)
- No.50 Recitative. Solomon *Next the tortur'd soul release* (0'15)
- No.51 Solo. Solomon and Israelites *Thus rolling surges rise* (3'42)
- No.52 Recitative Queen of Sheba *Thy harmony's divine, great king* (1'01)
- No.53 Recitative. Zadok *Thrice happy king, to have achiev'd* (0'39)
- No.54 Air. Zadok *Golden columns, fair and bright* (3'17)
- No.55 Recitative. Solomon *Gold now is common on our happy shore* (0'25)
- No.56 Air. Solomon *How green our fertile pastures look* (2'39)
- No.57 Recitative. Queen of Sheba *May peace in Salem ever dwell!* (0'40)
- No.58 Air. Queen of Sheba *Will the sun forget to streak* (6'22)
- No.59 Recitative. Solomon *Adieu, fair queen, and in thy breast* (0'17)
- No.60 Duet. Queen of Sheba, Solomon *Ev'ry joy that wisdom knows* (2'52)
- No.61 Double Chorus *Praise the Lord with harp and tongue!* (4'21)