



George Frideric Handel

# Messiah

*The Sacred Wing*

musical director : David Fligg

repetiteur : Fiona Thompson

accompanist : Jenny Wattis

All Hallows Leeds 21st December 2008

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759) was a German-born composer who spent most of his adult life in England. In the summer of 1741, at the peak of his musical prowess but depressed and in debt, he began setting Charles Jennens’ selection of Biblical excerpts to music at his usual breakneck speed. In just 24 days, Handel completed his most popular oratorio – “Messiah”.

For this performance of highlights from Messiah, we are delighted to welcome students and alumni of Leeds College of Music and Leeds University. The soloists are: Clare Patullo (soprano), Emily Browne (alto), Thomas Morss (tenor) and Philip Wilcox (bass). The string quartet is: Anne Griffiths and Heather Cordwell (violins), Andrew Shuttleworth (viola) and Jessica Stones (Cello).



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. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight, and the rough places plain. 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 XL 1-5

And he shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. MALACHI III 3

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, “God with us”. ISAIAH VII 14, MATTHEW I 23

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 XL 9

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. 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 LX 1-3

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. ISAIAH IX 2

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 IX 6

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock 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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. LUKE II 8-11

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. LUKE II 13-14

Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd, 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 XXXV 5-6

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. ISAIAH XL 11

Come unto him, all ye that labour, 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 XI 28-29

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 LIII 4,5

He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn: the Lord shall have them in derision. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. PSALM II 4,9

Hallelujah: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 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 XIX 6, XI 15, XIX 16

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 XIX: 25-26

For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep. I CORINTHIANS XV 20

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. 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 XV 51-53

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. Amen. REVELATION V 12-14

# Carols & Readings

We hope that you will stay for the second part of the evening and join us in what has now become a well-established Sacred Wing tradition.

After mince pies and coffee during the interval, we'll ask you to take your seats again. The lights will be dimmed, and a soloist will sing the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* while the choir enters with candles. Please join in with the rest of the carol, and feel free to come forward and light your own candle.



We will continue with a sequence of readings and carols. You'll find the words for the more familiar carols in this programme – sing them with us and enjoy the experience of “making a joyful noise” alongside everybody else.

# Once in Royal David's City

Once in Royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from Heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall seem him,  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in Heaven above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars his children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

# O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in the dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessing of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as one with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.

# Ding Dong! Merrily on High

Ding dong! Merrily on high  
In heaven the bells are ringing:  
Ding dong! Verily the sky  
Is riven with angels singing.  
*Gloria Hosanna in Excelsis!*

E'en so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And ee-o, ee-o, ee-o,  
By priest and people sungen.  
*Gloria Hosanna in Excelsis!*

Pray you dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rhyme  
Your eve time song, ye singers.  
*Gloria Hosanna in Excelsis!*



# Oh Come All Ye Faithful

Oh come all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
Oh come ye, Oh come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:  
Oh come, let us adore him,  
Oh come, let us adore him,  
Oh come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
Oh come, let us adore him,  
Oh come, let us adore him,  
Oh come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:  
Oh come, let us adore him,  
Oh come, let us adore him,  
Oh come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

- 1999 Gabriel Fauré: Requiem
- 2000 Antonio Vivaldi: Gloria
- 2001 George Frideric Handel: Zadok the Priest, highlights from Messiah
- 2002 Gareth Valentine: Requiem for all those who have died with AIDS
- 2003 Wolfgang Mozart: Requiem
- 2004 Gabriel Fauré: Requiem
- 2005 Karl Jenkins: The Armed Man – a Mass for Peace
- 2006 John Rutter: Requiem
- 2007 Antonio Vivaldi: Gloria
- 2008 George Frideric Handel: highlights from Messiah



Sacred Wing happens because some members of the lesbian and gay choir Gay Abandon and some members of All Hallows Church like to sing sacred choral music with a few friends. Membership changes from year to year but a core team, including musical director David Fligg and repetiteur Fiona Thompson, gives continuity.

We are grateful to be able to rehearse and perform here at All Hallows, which aims to be an open, welcoming and inclusive church. (One year the then vicar, Ray Gaston, introduced us as the ‘sacred wing of Gay Abandon’; it’s not quite accurate, but we liked the name so much that it stuck.)

We haven’t yet decided what we’re singing next year, but keep an eye on our website [www.sacredwing.org.uk](http://www.sacredwing.org.uk), our FaceBook group, or the All Hallows announcements to see what we’re up to and when. If you’d like to get involved, just speak to any member of the choir or email [info@sacredwing.org.uk](mailto:info@sacredwing.org.uk).



# The Sacred Wing

To make our concerts more accessible, they are free. But please give generously on your way out if you can afford to do so – all the profits go to local charities.