



Messiah

Georg Friedrich Händel

Congregational Church of San Mateo
May 19, 1968 Eight o'clock

MESSIAH
Georg Friedrich Handel

PART I

Overture

Recitative: Comfort ye My people

Air: Ev'ry valley shall be exalted

Chorus: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

Recitative: Thus saith the Lord

Air: But who may abide the day of His coming?

Chorus: And He shall purify

Recitative: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son

Air and Chorus: O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

Recitative: For, behold darkness shall cover the earth

Air: The people that walked in darkness

Chorus: For unto us a Child is born

Pastoral Symphony

Recitative: There were shepherds abiding in the fields

And Lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them

And the angel said unto them

And suddenly there was with the angel

Chorus: Glory to God

Air: Rejoice greatly

Recitative: Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened

Air: He shall feed His flock . . . Come unto Him

Chorus: His yolk is easy

At this mid-point in the program, an offering will be taken for those who wish to contribute to the concert fund, after which there will be a ten-minute intermission.

PART II

Chorus: Behold the Lamb of God

Air: He was despised

Chorus: Surely He hath borne our griefs

Chorus: And with His stripes we are healed

Chorus: All we like sheep have gone astray

Recitative: Thy rebuke hath broken His heart

Air: Behold, and see if there be any sorrow

Recitative: He was cut off from the land of the living

Air: But Thou did'st not leave His soul in hell

Chorus: Lift up your heads O ye gates

Air: How beautiful are the feet

Chorus: Their sound is gone out

Air: Why do the nations so furiously rage together?

Chorus: Let us break their bonds asunder

Recitative: He that dwelleth in Heaven

Air: Thou shalt break them

Chorus: Hallelujah! (*audience may remain seated.*)

PART III

Air: I know that my Redeemer liveth

Chorus: Since by man came death

Recitative: Behold I tell you a mystery

Air: The trumpet shall sound

Chorus: Worthy is the Lamb, Amen.

Georg Friedrich Handel (1685-1759) composed **MESSIAH** in the remarkably short period of three weeks, from August 22 to September 14, 1741. It was the eleventh of 23 oratorios composed by Handel, and was to become the best-known and most frequently performed of any. The text was selected and arranged from Holy Scriptures by Charles Jennens. The first performance took place on April 13, 1742 in Dublin, Ireland.

In general keeping with Handel's first scoring of the work, the orchestration for tonight's presentation consists of strings, trumpets, organ, and timpani.

MESSIAH has been performed under many kinds of conditions and interpretations, with small choirs and organs to choirs of thousands and huge symphonic orchestras. Many have struggled to find the true, the real, the authentic performance – a difficult, if not impossible, task. The deeper question remains as to how this remarkable music could be so profound as to have survived over two centuries of being all things to all people while yet maintaining the capacity to continually renew itself and move the hearts of human beings.

In preparation for this performance of **MESSIAH**, we have been guided by the watchwords of simplicity, gentleness, poignancy, and joy. In striving for these inherent qualities, and in trying to keep them uncomplicated, we have found Handel's **MESSIAH**, to be, once again, . . . new.

SOLOISTS

edith zitelli, soprano
peter sacco, tenor

margery tede, contralto
milton williams, brass

CHANCEL CHOIR

Sopranos

zelta adams
ileen allison
geraldine bogart
nancy brock
naomi eide
lois eleson
jane fairchild
nancy howard
patricia householder
ellen kummer
kay lyman
merle pratt
peg scofield
dorothy smith
gertrude spalding
carol stromquist
sharon stickney
kay underwood
bonnie williams
valna van duker

Altos

virginia blumer
carol chesbro
nancy coxwell
emma crawford
margaret doe
nancy fogerson
ingeborg france
neta howell
jo ann jeremiah
jean jones
helen kelso
alice koyen
renee leroy
kathleen magoon
marilyn mariel
bonnie mc gregor
constance park
caroline reinke
margaret stonelake

Tenors

edward adams
lucius crumrine
alfred harris
james howell
darryl lewis
fletcher means
george parker

Basses

martin bredsteen
walter delano
edward edison
winfield fairchild
frank haylock
edward hoy
edwin howard
arden mc gregor
robert reinke
paul reshatoff
wallace ruland
ashton white
thomas williams

ORCHESTRA

Violin I

marilyn myers
casimir antosik
janice konigsmark
john konigsmark
patricia pinsky

Bass

john mc phillips

Violin II

jay hosler
harold edelstein
gail berry
barbara ild

Trumpet

ralph la canna
j. r. bertram

Viola

fidel sevilla
valerie powell

Cello

jo ann pritchard
alan clark

Timpani

richard peterson

Organ: s. leslie grow

Director: patricia hudson