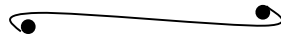


Opera51 Messiah Sing

December 19, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at 51 Walden

Conducted by Alan Yost

Margretta Beaty, soprano - Debra Gleason Schwartz, alto,
Kartik Ayyasola, tenor - James C. S. Liu, bass



Festive Music Performed by The Liberty Bones

Jim Battell, Walter Carter, Elizabeth Crone, Bob Davis, Vinnie LaFleur, Matt McGarrell, John O'Toole, Lee Prager, Mike Rosen, and Dennis Shedd



Messiah, by G.F. Handel

1. Overture
2. Comfort Ye, My People (tenor recitative)
3. Every Valley Shall Be Exalted (tenor air)
4. And the Glory of the Lord (chorus)
5. Thus Saith The Lord (bass recitative)
6. But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming? (alto air)
7. And He Shall Purify (chorus)
8. Behold! A Virgin Shall Conceive (alto recitative)
9. O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion (alto air and chorus)
10. For, Behold, Darkness (bass recitative)
11. The People That Walked in Darkness (bass air)
12. For Unto Us A Child Is Born (chorus)
13. Pastoral Symphony
14. There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field, And Lo, The Angel of the Lord (soprano recitatives)
15. And the Angel Said Unto Them (soprano recitative)
16. And Suddenly There Was With The Angel (soprano recitative)
17. Glory To God (chorus)
18. Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion (soprano air)
19. Then Shall the Eyes of the Blind (alto recitative)
20. He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd (alto and soprano air)
21. His Yoke Is Easy And His Burthen Is Light (chorus)
44. Hallelujah Chorus
48. The Trumpet Shall Sound



G.F. Handel
1685-1759

Georg Friedrich Handel was born in the German principality of Saxony. By age twelve he had mastered the keyboard and violin. In his teens, he was a Cathedral organist and began to study law, but abandoned both for a violinist's position in Hamburg's Goose Market Opera. In his early twenties, Handel went to Italy to develop his skills in opera composition, then returned to Germany as court musician to the Elector of Hanover (one of the princes of the Holy Roman Empire so titled because they elected the Emperor). He soon left for England where he spent his last fifty years. Ironically, when Queen Anne died, the new King George I was that very same Elector of Hanover whose service he had abandoned. Handel was one of Europe's foremost organists and a prolific composer. Although born in the same year as Johann Sebastian Bach, and is now considered a Baroque composer, he anticipated some of the musical emotion of the Romantic period. Romain Rolland, the influential French author and music critic, called Handel "a kind of Beethoven in chain... Beneath the classic ideal burned a romantic genius.



King George
II
1683-1760

Messiah (1741). Handel was invited to Dublin by Ireland's Lord Lieutenant, where in a few weeks' time he completed his *Messiah*, its text compiled from the *Old and New Testaments* by his friend and librettist, Charles Jennens. In the Hebrew and Aramaic languages the Messiah was the future King who would bring peace and justice to the Jews, a prophecy realized in Christian theology by the coming of Jesus. The Dublin premiere expected such a large audience that women were requested not to wear hoops nor gentlemen their swords! The oratorio has three parts: the prophecy and coming of the Messiah, the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus, and the Resurrection. Part I includes a gentle interlude, the *Pastoral Symphony*, by muted strings. At the end of Part II, the glorious *Hallelujah Chorus* was said to have brought King George II to his feet, starting the custom still observed today.

Richard Porter

The Orchestra

Violin 1

Siri Smedvig
Judy Takata
Tim Arnold

Violin 2

Loretta Tramontozzi
Carole Wayland
Pam Hill
Edward Wu

Viola

Cathy Gates
Sarah Jaffer

Cello

Erica Klein
Matt Coogan

Oboe

Eileen Snyder
Sharon Juhasz

Bassoon

Dawn Kumiega

Trumpet

Margaret Romero
Jim Dolham

Timpani

Frank Kumiega