THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST.MARY & ST.BARTHOLOMEW, HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN



SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER 1980

7.30 pm

MESSIAH by G.F.Handel

JOY NAYLOR	Soprano
JENNIFER SHELTON	Contralto
PAUL FARRINGTON	Tenor
LESLIE SMITH	Bass
JANE TAYLOR	Orchestra Leader
MARTIN GALLERY	Organ
ANDREW DICKS	Conductor

The choir and orchestra would like to thank all who have helped in making tonights performance possible, especially Miss H.Wallace, the Birmingham School of Music, Hampton Manor Homes, the George Fentham Trustees, and Canon Harold Sly.

Handel's friend and librettist Charles Jennens gave him the text of a new oratorio in the summer of 1741. This was an arrangement of passages from both the Old and New Testaments and was to be called MESSIAH. When Handel received the text he was at the lowest point in his career. He had withdrawn from public life to his modest bachelor romms in London's Hanover square. He had been left with very little money after the final death of opera in England and his health was at breaking point. To brood was self-destructive, the only thing he could turn to was work, and he worked on Messiah as he had never worked before. He started the composition on August 22, 1741 and completed the whole manuscript in 24 days. It must have meant working almost constantly in a frenzy of inspiration and there is no reason to doubt the famous story of a servant finding him in tears after completing the "Hallelujah" chorus and exclaiming "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God himself!" What perhaps is more amazing is that Handel immediately began and completed another very different masterpiece SAMSON.

After devoting a lifetime to opera, MESSIAH brought success for Handel although it did bring problems. Early in November 1741 he set off for Ireland to give a series of concerts and gave the first performance of MESSIAH in Dublin on 13 April 1742. This was a charity performance and was well received. His attempt to introduce MESSIAH to London was less successful. There was much opposition to the singing of sacred texts by theatre singers (Kitty Clive and Susannah Cibber) in that den of iniquity, the Covent Garden Theatre! In 1750, however, Handel used MESSIAH to end his Lent season in Covent Garden and then repeated the work for charity later in the year at the Foundling Hospital- one of his pet projects. These performances became annual and began to spread the work's popularity.

Mozart added accompaniments of his own to MESSIAH and before long more musicians were "having a go." It was arranged, re-scored, sanctified, man-handled in every possible way - and yet it has survived! Recent attempts to remove the romantic embellishments and give us the "authentic version" have revealed the natural vitality of the music.

Presenting MESSIAH today is a challenge; as in Handel's time there are no hard and fast rules to what is a good performance. Handel is known to have varied the work a great deal according to the local circumstances and the quality of the available musicians and singers. The aria "and who may abide" for example, was sung by a male contralto, bass and sometimes even soprano in Handel's own performances.

As far as Handel's orchestra was concerned, again the numbers varied with the circumstances but generally totalled about 30 players. of these, there were about 15 violins, 5 violas, 3 cellos and 2 double basses plus oboes, bassoons, brass and kettle drums. Vocal forces included five soloists and a chorus of about 20.

The performance tonight consists of numbers from Handel's Part 1, known as "Nativity" and Part 2, known as "Passiom".

The edition of Messiah used for the performance is by Ebenezer Prout, published by Novello.

GEORGE FREDERIC HANDEL

MESSIAH

A SACRED ORATORIO

Part One

SINFONIA

1. ACCOMPANIED RECITATIVE

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.

Isaiah 40 : I-3

2. AIR

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted,
and ev'ry mountain and hill made low;
the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

Isaiah 40 : 4

3. CHORUS

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 40 : 5

4. ACCOMPANIED RECITATIVE

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts:
Yet once a little while and I will shake the
heavens and the earth,
the sea and the dry land.
And I will shake all nations;
and the desire of all nations shall come.

Haggai 2 : 7

The Lord whom ye seek,
shall suddenly come to His temple,
even the messenger of the covenant,
whom ye delight in; behold, He shall come,
saith the Lord of Hosts.

Malachi 3 : I

5. AIR

But whom may abide the day of His coming?
and who shall stand when He appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire.

Malachi 3 : 2

6. CHORUS

And He shall purify the sons of Levi,
that they may offer unto the Lord an offering
in righteousness.

Malachi 3 : 3

7. RECITATIVE

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,
and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us.

Isaiah 7 : I4 *Matthew I : 23*

8-9. AIR AND CHORUS

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 40 : 9

Arise, shine, for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Isaiah 60 : I

10. ACCOMPANIED RECITATIVE

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 60:2-3

11. AIR

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

Isaiah 9 : 2

12. CHORUS

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 9 : 5

PIFA PASTORAL SYMPHONY

14 RECITATIVE

There were shepherds abiding in the field,
keeping watch over their flocks by night.

Luke 2 : 8

ACCOMPANIED RECITATIVE

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.

Luke 2 : 9

RECITATIVE

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 2 : 10-11

ACCOMPANIED RECITATIVE

And suddenly there was with the
angel a multitude of the heavenly
host praising God, and saying:

Luke 2 : 13

15. CHORUS

Glory to God in the highest, and
peace on earth, good will towards men.

Luke 2 : 14

16. AIR

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee;
He is the righteous Saviour,
and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

Zechariah 9 : 9-10

17. RECITATIVE

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened
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 35 : 5-6

18. AIR

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd;
and He shall gather the lambs with His arm,
and carry them in His bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40 : II

Come unto Him, all ye that labour,
ye 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 II : 28-29

19. CHORUS

His yoke is easy, and His burthen is light.

Matthew II : 30

Part Two

20. CHORUS

Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh
away the sin of the world.

John I : 29

21. AIR

He was despised and rejected of men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

Isaiah 53 : 3

He gave His back to the smiters,
and His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair:
He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

Isaiah 50 : 6

22. CHORUS

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 53 : 4-5

23. CHORUS

And with His stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53 : 5

24. CHORUS

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way.
And the Lord hath laid on Him the
iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53 : 6

27. ACCOMPANIED RECITATIVE

Thy rebuke hath broken His heart:
He is full of heaviness.
He looked for some to have pity on Him,
but there was no man,
neither found He any to comfort Him.

Psalm 69 : 2I

28. AIR

Behold, and see if there be any sorrow
like unto His sorrow.

Lamentations I : I2

29. ACCOMPANIED RECITATIVE

He was cut off out of the land of the living:
for the transgressions of Thy
people was He stricken.

Isaiah 53 : 8

30. AIR

But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell;
nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy
One to see corruption.

Psalm I6 : IO

31. CHORUS

Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
Who is the King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord
mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
Who is the King of glory?
The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of glory.

Psalm 24 : 7-IO

36. AIR

How beautiful are the feet of them
that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things.

Isaiah 52 : 7 *Romans IO : I5*

38. AIR

Why do the nations so furiously rage together,
and why do the people imagine a vain thing?
The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take
counsel together against the Lord,
and against His Anointed.

Psalm 2 : I-2

40. RECITATIVE

He that dwelleth in heaven shall
laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall
have them in derision.

Psalm 2 : 4

41. AIR

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron;
Thou shalt dash them in pieces
like a potter's vessel.

Psalm 2 : 9

42. CHORUS

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

Revelation I9 : 6

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 II : I5

Hallelujah!

HANDEL "MESSIAH" Hampton-in-Arden Parish Church

Saturday December 20th 1980 3.30pm . 2.15 pm for 2.30 pm

PART 1

1 Overture
2 Comfort Ye
3 Ev'ry valley
4 And the glory of the Lord
5 Thus saith the Lord
6 But who may abide
7 And he shall purify
8 Behold a virgin shall conceive
9 O thou that tellest
10 For behold, darkness
11 The people that walked in darkness
12 For unto us a child is born
13 Pastoral symphony
14 there were shepherds
15 And the angel said unto them
16 And suddenly
17 Glory to God
18 Rejoice greatly
19 The shall the eyes of the blind
20 He shall feed his flock
21 His yoke is easy

PART 2

22 Behold the Lamb of god
23 He was despised
24 Surely He hath borne our griefs
25 And with His stripes
26 All we like sheep
27 Thy rebuke hath broken his heart
30 Behold and see
31 He was cut off
32 But thou didst not leave
33 Lift up your heads
37 The Lord gave the word
38 How beautiful are the feet
40 Why do the nations
42 He that dwelleth in heaven
43 Thou shalt break them
44 Hallelujah!