

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

A Sacred Oratorio

George Frideric Handel

December 9th and 10th, 2022 • 8pm

Basilica of St. John the Baptist

Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra Sinfonia

Martin MacDonald, conductor

Philharmonic Choir of the NSO

(Stephen Candow, conductor)

Miriam Khalil, soprano • Danielle MacMillan, mezzo

Adam Luther, tenor • Phillip Addis, baritone

Violin I	Heather Kao, concertmaster; Dominic Greene, assistant concertmaster; Andy Kao; Lauren Smee; Jennifer Johnson
Violin II	Nancy Case-Oates, principal; Carole Bestvater; Elena Vigna; Natalie Finn
Viola	Kate Read, principal; Chantelle Jubenville; Ema Shiroma-Chao; Mahina Graham-Laidlaw
Cello	Nathan Cook, principal; Sandra Pope; Amy Collyer-Holmes
Bass	Frank Fusari, principal; Denise Lear
Oboe	Annie Corrigan, principal; Kathy Conway-Ward
Bassoon	Grant Etchegary
Trumpet	Katie Sullivan, principal; Jill Dawe
Timpani	Rob Power
Continuo	Jenny Griffioen

Philharmonic Choir of the NSO

Soprano	Carol Bajen-Gahm, Andrea Blair, Kristian Burt, Glenda Compton, Mary Connolly-Wilson, Jodi Cooke, Madison Curtis, Vicki Ficzer, Joanne Faour, Beth Halfyard, Elizabeth Henderson, Nancy Hickey, Amanda Mansfield, Margie Murray Reed, Ann Newhook, Allyson O'Brien, Rolene Pryor, Alma Singleton, Stephanie Rockwood, Jennifer Robbins, Gloria Small, Ruth Wakeham, Jane Thomas-Yager, Michelle Zwicker
Alto	Jean Barry, Anne Bown, Judy Bradley, Pauline Brophy, Karen Butt, Marjorie Doyle, Marie Cahill, Lana Collins, Donna Hamilton, Sophie Haven, Heather Healey, Janet Hewson, Mary Lynn Hiscock, Cathy Jackman, Louise Jones, Donna Marie Kelly, Anne Marie Lane, Doris Mayo, Antonia McGrath, Lorraine Michael, Michelle Mifflin, Margaret Moore, Barbara O'Keefe, Deborah Rehner, Kit Roberts, Ann Ryan, Kathy Skinner, Sarah Smith, Colleen Sullivan, Margaret Wakeham, Janet Whittaker, Elizabeth Wright
Tenor	Darrell Boone, Barbara Canning, Tom Connors, Ed O'Keefe, Barry Roberts, Eric Steele, Christopher Williams, Susan Williams
Bass	Harry Bown, Glenn Chafe, Roy Chaytor, Fonse Faour, Mackenzie Hughes, Alex Lee, Paul Lundrigan, Scott Moffatt, Peter Ralph, Chris Stevenson, Wolfgang Thomeier, Graham Wakeham, Bruce Woodland

Complete bios of Martin MacDonald and our guest soloists can be found at nsomusic.ca/concert/handels-messiah/

or by scanning here:



Special Thanks

Many thanks to the **Sisters of Mercy** and **Presentation Sisters** for their generous support for these productions of Handel's Messiah.

Thank you to **Canadian AV** for support with lighting and sound.

The appearance of tonight's soloists is supported in part by a generous gift from the **Estate of the late Dr. Angus J. Neary**.

Much gratitude, also to the **team at the Basilica**, in particular to **Fr. Cecil Critch** and **John Fitzgerald** for their ongoing support of these productions of Handel's Messiah.



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HANDEL'S MESSIAH

MARTIN MacDonald, CONDUCTOR with the PHILHARMONIC CHOIR OF THE NSO



Part I

Sinfony (Overture)

Accompagnato – Isaiah 40:1-3
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.

Aria – Isaiah 40:4
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

Chorus – Isaiah 40:5
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.

Accompagnato – Haggai 2:6-7/Malachi 3:1
Thus saith the Lord of Hosts; Yet once, a little while, and I will shake all nations, 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: 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.

Aria – Malachi 3:2
But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire.

Chorus – Malachi 3:3
And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering of righteousness.

Recitative – Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23
Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.

Aria and Chorus – Isaiah 40:9; 60:1
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! O though that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Accompagnato – Isaiah 60:2-3
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.

Aria – Isaiah 9:2
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.

Chorus – Isaiah 9:6
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.

Pifa (Pastoral Symphony)

Recitative & Accompagnato – Luke 2:8-11, 13
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.

Accompagnato – Luke 2:9

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

Chorus – Luke 2:14
Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.

Aria – Zechariah 9:9-10
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.

Recitative – Isaiah 35:5-6
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.

Aria – Isaiah 40:11/Matthew 11:28-29
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. 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.

Chorus – Matthew 11:30
His yoke is easy and his burthen is light.

Part II

Chorus - John 1: 29
Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.

Aria – Isaiah 53:3; 50:6
He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: He gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to those that plucked off the hair: He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

Chorus – Isaiah 53:4-5
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;

Chorus – Isaiah 53:5
And with His stripes we are healed.

Chorus – Isaiah 53:6
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Chorus - Psalm 22:8
He trusted in God that He would deliver Him; let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him.

Accompagnato – Psalm 69:20
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.

Arioso – Lamentation 1:12
Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow.

Accompagnato – Isaiah 53:8
He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgressions of Thy people was He stricken.

Aria – Psalm 16:10
But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption.

Chorus – Psalm 24: 7-10
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 this 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 this King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

Aria – Psalm 2:1-2
Why do the nations so furiously rage together: 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.

Recitative – Psalm 2:4
He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Aria – Psalm 2:9
Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Chorus – Revelation 19:6, 16/11:15
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. Hallelujah.

Part III

Aria - Job 19:25-26/I Corinthians 15:20
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. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

Chorus – Corinthians 15:21-22
Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Accompagnato – Corinthians 15:51-52
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.

Aria – Corinthians 15:52
The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Chorus – Revelation 5: 12-13
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.

Notes on Handel's Messiah

The creation of Handel's *Messiah* was actually induced by his librettist, Charles Jennens. Jennens expressed in a letter to a friend that he wanted to create a Scriptural anthology set to the music of Handel. His desire quickly turned into reality when Handel composed the entire work in only twenty-four days. Jennens wished for a London debut in the days leading to Easter, however, a doubtful Handel anticipated such a wish would not be granted. A year after the work was completed, Handel received an invitation to perform his music in Dublin to which he joyously agreed.

Messiah was met with eager ears at its debut on Friday, April 13, 1742 at Neal's New Musick Hall on Fishamble Street. Handel had staged a public rehearsal the day before its premiere, creating quite a buzz. It is reported that hundreds of people were turned away due to lack of space. At its debut, *Messiah* was actually titled A Sacred Oratorio and all its proceeds were donated to local charities an hospitals for the mentally ill at the request of Jonathan Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Since its debut, there have been many versions of Handel's *Messiah*. Handel himself reworked and edited his score countless times to fit the needs and abilities of his performers. While the true original is lost in a sea of variations, today's *Messiah* is as close to the original as music historians can agree upon. Though *Messiah* was originally intended as a thought-provoking work for Easter and Lent, it has become more of a Christmas tradition.