# THE BRUSSEL CHORAL

OCIETY

6TH MAY-1979-

# MESSIAH by G.F. HANDEL

. Recitative (Tenor)

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.

3. Air (Tenor)

Evr'y valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

4. Chorus

And the glory, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

5. Recitative (Bass)

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of Hosts:
yet once, a little while,
and I will shake the heav'ns, 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,
ev'n the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in.
Behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

6. Air (Alto)

But who may abide the day of his coming and who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiners fire.

8. Recitative (Alto)

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.

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(\*) from Monday to Thursday. Friday: a fifth flight at 21.50. Saturday and Sunday: 10.20 and 18.20.





#### Paul PHOENIX (Boy)

was born in 1967 and went to St. Paul's Cathedral Choir School as a probationer in May, 1976. He became a full Chorister in October of that year. He has made several records with the Choir and is featured as a soloist on the popular single « My Way » which is enjoying enormous success in England at the present time. He was also featured in a television documentary about the Choir School and has also visited Jersey to give concerts as well as singing in a recent performance of « Elijah » in the Royal Albert Hall. His home is in Disley, near Stockport (Cheshire) and his interests range from country-and-western music to football — he is a keen supporter of Manchester City.



#### Patrizia KWELLA (Soprano)

entered the Royal College of Music as a scholar in 1971 to study the piano, cello and, principally, singing. Before leaving the RCM in 1976 she won several prizes and scholarships for singing, and gained her ARCM diploma with honours. Her professional career commenced while still at college, including during that period the Kings Lynn Festival, several appearances as a soloist in the Royal Albert Hall and on BBC TV, and many engagements for oratorio and as a recitalist throughout the country. In the early months of 1979 she completed her first recording as a soloist, and also her first engagements abroad.



#### Claire POWELL (Alto)

comes from Tavistock in Devon. She studied for six years at the Royal Academy of Music and the London Opera Centre. Professional appearances have been with the Nonsuch Opera, Chelsea Opera Group and she has appeared as soloist with a number of choral societies. Claire Powell was a finalist in the 1977 Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Scholarship and the winner of 1978 Richard Tauber Memorial Scholarship. This season she will sing the part of Hansel, and the part of Orlofsky in Die Fledermaus for the English National Opera North. She will also take part in next season's production of Ulisse at Glyndebourne.



#### Alastair THOMPSON (Tenor)

was formerly a chorister at Westminster and a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge. He joined the King's Singers as the tenor soloist, remaining with them for ten years, until May 1978. He has recently been attending the Lieder Class of Konrad Richter in Stuttgart, and his recital repertoire centres around the German Lieder of Schubert, Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms and Wolf. In English music, Alastair Thompson's repertoire includes the songs of the 16th and 17th centuries, and he has a particular interest in 20th century composers.



#### Stephen VARCOE (Bass)

was born in Cornwall. He sang as an undergraduate in the choir of King's College, Cambridge, and thereafter started a singing career in London. Beginning in small choirs and ensembles, he gradually established himself as a soloist, specialising particularly in Baroque and contemporary music. In 1977 he won a Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Fellowship which enabled him to concentrate on his chosen field. His work now takes him not only around the major concert halls of England, but also to many European centres. In April he recorded a Handel opera for WDR in Brugges, and in October he returns to Brussels to record some Baroque Cantatas for BRT.

#### THE ESSEX COUNTY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

The youth orchestra movement in this country is largely a post-war phenomen, and, through its Education Committee, Essex has played a leading role in its development. Founded in 1957 the Essex Youth Orchestra and the second orchestra are open on audition to young people under 21 years of age from the whole of Essex. These 2 orchestras are supported by the Schools' String Orchestra for 11-13 year olds, and the numerous school and area youth orchestras and bands all offering early training in ensemble work and the opportunity to study both the classical repertoire and contemporary works.

The Essex Youth Orchestra meets only in holiday periods and is fortunate to have as tutors a team of English musicians of international repute. The orchestra has built up over the 20 years of its existence a reputation as one of the finest in the country. It gives regular concerts in various parts of Essex, normally makes one major London concert appearance and one appearance in Aldeburgh each year. It has taken part in the Bath and the Kings Lynn Festivals, it undertakes concert tours abroad almost every year and has visited most countries of Western Europe, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the USA, Canada and Israel, playing in some of the finest concert halls in the world. The orchestra made a concert tour to Russia immediately after Christmas 1978 playing in Moscow, Leningrad and Minsk, and hope to be able to accept in 1980 an invitation to be the first British County Youth Orchestra to visit Japan.

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### MESSIAH

#### by G.F. HANDEL

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

- L Sinfonia
- Recitative (Tenor)

  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,
- 3. Air (Tenor)

  Evr'y valley shall be exalted,
  and every mountain and hill made low:
  the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

prepare ye the way of the Lord,

- 4. Chorus

  And the glory, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
  and all flesh shall see it together,
  for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.
- Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of Hosts:
  yet once, a little while,
  and I will shake the heav'ns, 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,
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  Behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.
- 6. Air (Alto)

  But who may abide the day of his coming and who shall stand when he appeareth?

  For he is like a refiners fire.
- 8. Recitative (Alto) Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.

- 9. Air (Alto) 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'.
  O thou that telleth good tidings to Zion, arise,
  shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord
  is risen upon thee.
- 10. Recitative (Bass)

  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.
- Il. Air (Bass)

  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 shineth.
- 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.
- 13. Pifa ("Pastoral Symphony")
- 14. Recitative (Boy)

  There were shepherds abiding in the field,
  keeping watch over their flocks 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.
- 15. Recitative (Boy)

  And the angel said unto the m, 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.

- 16. Recitative (Boy)

  And suddenly there was with the angel
  a multitude of the heav'nly host,
  praising God, and saying.
- 17. Chorus
  Glory to God in the highest
  and peace on earth,
  good will toward men.
- 18. Air (Soprano)

  Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem.

  Behold, they King cometh unto thee.

  He is the righteous Saviour, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen.
- 19. Recitative (Alto)

  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.
- Duet (Soprano and Alto)

  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.
- 21. Chorus

  His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light.

Interval (20 minutes)

#### PART TWO

22.	Chorus  Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.
23.	Air (Alto)  He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
24.	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.
25.	Chorus  And with his stripes we are healed.
26.	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.
27.	Recitative (Tenor)  All they that see him laugh him to scorn;  they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying,
28.	Chorus  He trusted in God that he would deliver him;  Let him deliver him if he delight in him.
29.	Recitative (Tenor)  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.
30.	Air (Tenor)  Behold and see if there be any sorrow, like unto his sorry.
31.	Recitative (Boy)  He was cut off out of the land of the living:  for the transgression of thy people was he stricken.
32.	Air (Boy)  But thou didst not leave his soul in hell,  nor didst thou suffer they Holy One to see corruption.

33. 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 this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

37. Chorus

The Lord gave the word:
Great was the company of the preachers.

- 38. Air (Soprano)

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

  Their sound is gone out into all lands,

  and their words unto the ends of the world.
- 40. Air (Bass)
  Why do the nations so furiously rage together?
  Why do the poeople imagine a vain thing?
  The Kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and his Annointed.
- 41. Chorus

  Let us break their bonds asunder,
  and cast away their yokes from us.
- 42. Recitative (Tenor)

  He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn:

  The Lord shall have them in derision.
- 43. Air (Tenor)

  Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron;

  Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potters vessel.
- 44. Chorus

  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 THREE

- Air (Soprano)

  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.
- 46. Chorus

  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.
- 47. Recitative (Bass)

  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.
- 48. Air (Bass)

  The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised and we shall be changed.
- 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 Lord
  for ever and ever. Amen.

## **CHEMICAL BANK**

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#### **MESSIAH**

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (b. 1685) wrote his original version of Messiah during three weeks in 1741 to words selected from the Bible by Charles Jennings. The first performance was given in Bublin on 13 April 1742, with 7 soloists, about 30 in the choir and 30 in the orchestra. Up until 8 days before his death in 1759 Handel had conducted 24 performances of the work, mostly in London, and had made many modifications to his original score and had changed the allocation of voices to each item. During the latter half of the 18th Century more resources were used (e.g. in 1784 in Westminster Abbey, the orchestra numbered 229 and choir 257), while in the 19th and early 20th centuries Messiah became a popular repertoire item for large choral societies in Western Europe. The mid-20th century saw a move back to more authoritative performances both in resources and style, although this was contradicted by a phenomenem in the 1970s known as « Messiah from Scratch » whereby as many singers and instrumentalists as can, meet for a single rehearsal and performance. Such an event in London's Albert Hall sees an annual 4000 singers with an orchestra of up to 800. Tonight's performance is based on Watkin Shaw's edition which provides a scholarly analysis of Handel's intentions, but leaves the performers free to make their own interpretation.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

12 May at 8.15 p.m. Holy Trinity Church

19 May

27 May

20 & 21 October at 8.00 p.m. Uccle Cultural Centre

**9 December at 8.00 p.m.** Palais des Beaux-Arts

British School of Brussels Chorale, Gyde Kamer-Knebusch (Harp), Heather Charlton (Organ). Chichester Psalms (Bernstein), Jesu Priceless Treasure (Bach) and choral music by Kodaly, Rossini and Randall Thompson. Admission by programme, 120 francs.

The Brussels Madrigal Singers will present a programme of motets, madrigals and songs including the Spanish School, Monteverdi, Brahms, Debussy and Vic Nees at the American Protestant Church of Brussels (in the grounds of the International School) 19 Kattenberg, Boitsfort. Details from Roger Nelson - 735 97 78, and on the 16th of June at the Ferme de Froidmont, Rixensart. Details from Catherine Hilton (day) 512 18 60 or Janet Saunders (evening) 771 43 32.

English Comedy Club of Brussels will perform « The Grog » by J. Lambrechts at the Third Festival of European Anglophone Theatrical Societies (FEATS) at the Royal Flemish Theatre, Brussels at 8.15 p.m. Tickets from Pat Bannerman, Avenue des Jockeys 6, 1150 Brussels.

The Brussels Gilbert and Sullivan Society will present an Autumn Concert with guest artist John Reed, Principal Comedian with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company in London.

The Society for Suppressed Songsters will present their annual Christmas Carol concert, details to be announced.

