



The Messiah: An Oratorio Complete Vocal Score

Georg Friedrich Händel

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Jenny says

For several months prior to Easter, I gathered together with other members of my Church to learn and practice the music of Handel's Messiah each Sunday evening. What began as simply practicing our music transformed into a beautiful study of the Savior's life as we immersed ourselves in Handel's music and the words of the scriptures. We had many wonderful musicians involved with our performance, but many of those involved were amateurs. Our conductor reminded us to keep our eyes on her and to follow her lead. Despite our inexperience, despite the mistakes we made, we raised our voices together to praise our Lord and Savior. And notwithstanding our imperfections, the Spirit accompanied us. It was an amazing experience to sing a masterpiece like The Messiah.

As we performed, I realized that this was not meant to be simply a one time event. Each and every day of our lives is meant to be an expression of our praise for our Savior. Our purpose here on earth is to live such a masterpiece. And our lack of experience, our imperfections, our mistakes will not detract from our performance if we follow our Leader, our Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Nicholas says

One of the all-time greats of Christian music, some of the pieces contained herein are so well known that many people don't even know that they know them. I sang the entire work as part of a 100+ person choir in the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, and it's a heady experience that I definitely hope to repeat someday.

Alice says

We chose this to go with our December study of Handel's Messiah. Bible verses selected by Charles Jennens and paintings by Bary Moser. I really enjoyed sharing this with the kids and think it would be a nice Christmas present for my parents who love (and shared with me) Handel's amazing Messiah.

Arleen Faustina says

This is a vocal score, not a book to read!

Mark Woodland says

It's hard to know what to say about one of the most magnificent pieces of music ever composed that hasn't already been said before. This score (the complete solos, chorus, text and notes) has been one of my

treasured possessions since high school, when I performed as part of a 700 voice choir with a symphony orchestra; that's an experience I'll never forget. That aside, the music is so powerful, so emotional and so majestic, and the arrangements so intricate, that it remains as one of the prime examples of an oratorio. I think it's deservedly so. To me, there's no way to experience it like singing the music, but many people can't do that. However, a non-musical reader can still appreciate the work (more than just the hearing of it) by listening to a recording of the work and following along in the book. Seeing the words and the interweaving of the vocal parts while hearing them is a valuable exercise in music appreciation. This version is the professional standard version; I'd recommend buying no other if you're interested. Also, there's a version that's only the choruses. I don't recommend that, because it deprives you of being able to follow along with the solos. Besides, maybe you'll sing one of them some day.

Slee says

I like this reduction, and it doesn't weigh too much. Are there some questionable notations? Yes, but that will happen with any edition, and they are all worthy of scholarly debate, but it is accessible, the print is large enough without creating too much bulk. This is, hands down, my go-to publication of Handel's *Messiah* for piano and choir.

Elisabeth says

Continual study as both chorister and soloist makes it impossible to put a finished date on this monumental classic. To truly appreciate it or any other work of the performing arts, however, go catch a live performance for the total experience!

Bethany says

This work is timeless, absolutely incomparable.

Scott L. says

Glorious. A Masterpiece. One of the top 100 musical compositions of all time.

Celeste says

I try to read the score for *The Messiah* yearly around either the Christmas or Easter season. It's definitely one of my favorite musical pieces of all time.

The Messiah is a must-listen-to, must-read, must-see for classical music lovers.

I don't know what more I can really say other than if you get the chance to see a performance of *The Messiah*, you should definitely go for it. I know that in Seattle, the Seattle Symphony puts on *The Messiah* yearly around Christmastime at Benaroya Hall. Tickets sell really quickly though, so I'm never able to go as

often as I'd like to. But I would definitely recommend going to see it if the opportunity ever presents itself.

Trice says

I've been singing bits of this with choirs since high school (thank you forever Mr. Godfrey!) and always been amazed by its beauty and depth, caught up into a vision that draws on all scripture. But I will forever remember today's listening. My uni organized a trip for the foreign teachers and the international affairs office to go to a Miao village (this people has also been known as the Hmong) to a performance by their church choir which has been singing praises to God together for a hundred+ years. They performed several pieces in the Miao language, 3 of which are adapted from this oratorio - hearing 'For Unto Us a Child is Born' in Miao and going on to the 'Hallelujah' - a picture of heaven with all the peoples singing, and it was hard not to weep. Hallelujah!

Rachel Wagner says

When I am feeling stressed I often turn on this music and let it take the stress away. I love everything about it. Attending a Messiah Sing-in is a Christmas must for me each year.

Jody says

I will not give here a history of Handel's Messiah, nor will I attempt in any way to criticize it or him. For me, this is the single greatest piece of music written, as a whole. As a singer, the first time I sang from this score, I floundered. It was one of the most alien works I had ever attempted. Now, after two decades, several dozen performances, and countless hours of rehearsal, it is the easiest thing I sing! Where 15 minutes of some choral music leaves me fatigued, Messiah rejuvenates me! It is two or more hours of vocalises that enable me to continue on, while spiritually feeding me beside the Psalmist's "still waters." I rejoice to hear it, I exult in singing it, and I praise Him who inspired it!

Huda Aweys says

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K.Q. Webster says

I sang this for the first time last December. So much work but it was worth it. The story behind it is amazing!
