

# Handel's *Messiah* Lyrics

## Sinfonia (Overture)

### Tenor Recitative—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.

### Tenor Air—Isaiah 40:4

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry 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.

### Bass Recitative—Haggai 2:6-7; Malachi 3:1

Thus saith the Lord, 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.

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.

### Alto Air—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 in righteousness.

### Alto 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.

### Alto Air and Chorus—Isaiah 40:9; Isaiah 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!

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

**Bass Air—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)****Soprano Recitative—Luke 2:8**

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

**Soprano Accompagnato—Luke 2:9**

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.

**Soprano Recitative—Luke 2:10-11**

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 Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

**Soprano Recitative—Luke 2:13**

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.

**Soprano Air—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 Savior, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

**Alto 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.

**Soprano Air—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 labor, that are heavy laden, and He shall 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 burden is light.

**Intermission**

**Chorus—John 1:29**

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

**Alto Air—Isaiah 53:3-6**

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 them that plucked off His hair: He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

**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.

**Bass Air—Psalm 2:1-2**

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.

**Chorus—Psalm 2:3**

Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us.

**Tenor Recitative—Psalm 2:4**

He that dwelleth in Heav'n shall laugh them to scorn; The Lord shall have them in derision.

**Tenor Air—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; 11:15; 19:16**

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, Lord of lords.

**Soprano Air—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—I 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.

**Bass Accompagnato—I 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.

**Bass Air—I Corinthians 15:52-53**

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

**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 honor, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honor, glory and power to be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.