



GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

Handel's Messiah

Performed by

Biggleswade & District Choral Society
& S^t Mary's Singers, Potton

With the

Sandy Sinfonia

Leader

Jan Kaznowski

Conductor

Howard Parkhouse

Using Shaw's edition (Novello & Company Ltd.)

With soloists:

Peggy Handscombe

Soprano

Rachael Lloyd

Contralto

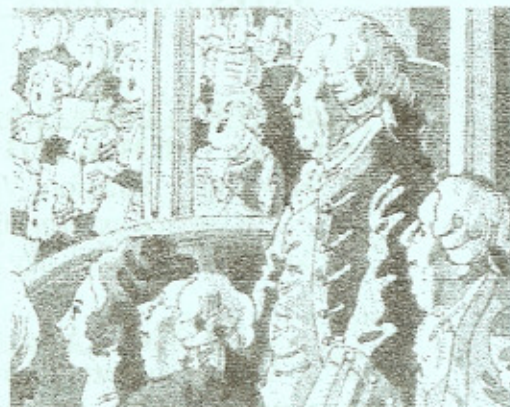
Jack Cornwell

Tenor

Leslie King

Bass

The first performance of the 'Messiah', conducted by Handel from the harpsichord, was given in Dublin in 1742. A year later in London, George II (right) was so moved by the opening bars of the 'Hallelujah' Chorus that he leapt to his feet. The audience rose too, so beginning a tradition of standing to show respect while the chorus is being sung.



Programme 50p

5th April 2003 ~ Sandy Baptist Church

PEGGY HANDSCOMBE was born and educated in Bedfordshire and has studied singing under Roger Heath and Jennifer Dakin. She has played leading roles in many of the Savoy Operas as well as *Rosalinda* in *Die Fledermaus*, *Anna* in *The Merry Widow* and *Mrs. Nordstrom* in *A Little Night Music*. In March 2001 she played *Micaela* in *Carmen*. Her oratorio repertoire includes Haydn's *Creation* and Mozart's *Requiem* and *C Minor Mass*. Peggy has sung with several local groups both at home and abroad and has organised and performed in various concerts for charity. She is a member of Hitchin Thespians and the Locrian Chamber Choir and is currently performing with the Concord Singers, based in Bedford. Future engagements include Handel's *Dixit Dominus*.

RACHAEL LLOYD was born and educated in Maidstone, Kent. At the age of eighteen she gained a scholarship to study singing at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, from where she graduated in July 2001. Her concert performances have included the alto solos in Handel's *Messiah*, Rossini's *Petit Messe Solonelle*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and the mezzo soprano solo in Durufle's *Requiem*. Her operatic experience includes *Dido* in *Dido and Aeneas* for The Kent Youth Opera, *Amalta* in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* for GSMD, and *Mary* in the world premiere of Andrew Schultz's *Going into Shadows* (understudy – GSMD). Opera excerpts include the title role in Bizet's *Carmen*, *third lady* in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, *Ottavia* in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *Orlofsky* in Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, *La principessa* in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, and *Olga* in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*. Her recording experience includes the folk song *Dream Angus* on a Hyperion disc of Folk songs from the British Isles, and the mezzo solos on the premier recording of Humphrey Clucas's *Requiem*. In 2000 she performed and recorded one of the mezzo solos in Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* – a Mass for Peace, which was premiered at the Royal Albert Hall in the Easter of that year. In 2001 she performed Elgar's *Sea Pictures* with The National Musician's Symphony Orchestra at St. John's, Smith Square. In 2002 she performed with the Glyndebourne Festival Opera, and then went on tour with them until December. Rachael made her BBC Proms debut in September 2002 as a soloist in *Elijah*, with the London Philharmonic

Orchestra, conducted by Kurt Mazur. She also sings with the BBC Singers (ad hoc.) and studies singing with Brian Parsons in London. Her latest engagement has been singing in the Raymond Gubbay production of *Madam Butterfly* at the Royal Albert Hall.

JACK CORNWELL has lived in Bedfordshire all his life and received his early musical training as a chorister in St. Mary's Choir, Luton. His musical repertoire is broad, ranging from Gilbert and Sullivan to Britten, and he is much in demand for oratorio, opera, operetta and concert work, particularly in the Home Counties and further afield. Operatic roles include *Don José* in *Carmen* and *Rodolfo* in *La Bohème*; he has sung principal roles with numerous light operatic companies and took part in one of the first performances of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Requiem*. Jack is also a member of the Albany Consort in Bedford, which raises funds for local charities. Married with two children and three grandchildren, his other interests include playing golf and gardening.

LESLIE KING lives in Langford. At the age of eight he joined the choir of St. Andrew's Parish Church and is still a regular member. His musical interests are varied and range from Music Hall ditties to Opera and Oratorio works. He has been a member of the Biggleswade and District Choral Society for many years, was a founder member of the Oriel Singers in Letchworth, has sung with the Herts Chamber Choir under the direction of Malcolm Hicks and is also a member of the Locrian Singers. His solo singing has taken him throughout Bedfordshire and the surrounding counties with various choirs and orchestras. Oratorios include *Messiah*, *Elijah*, *The Creation*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Requiem*, C. Minor Mass and Coronation Mass. He has given recitals of *Songs of Travel* and *Mystical Songs* by R. Vaughan Williams, also parts of *Winterreise* by Schubert. Future engagements include several Cantatas around Easter. His joys are singing and his family – not necessarily in that order! Music in his family is never far away as his daughters and grandchildren play flutes, pianos, cello, violin and drums!

HOWARD PARKHOUSE Born and educated in Wales, Howard completed his musical training at Trinity College of Music, London, where he studied pianoforte with Irene Kohler, organ with Geoffrey Hanson and conducting with Charles Proctor. He then went on to study at The Institute of Education, London University and City University. In 1967 he played the organ continuo in the first performance in London of Telemann's *St. Matthew Passion* which was given as part of the Camden Festival. Since then he has gone on to broadcast on both radio and television, examine, teach, lecture and adjudicate as well as give innumerable organ recitals in places as diverse as Ireland, Germany, Spain, Malta, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore. Howard has lived in Bedfordshire since 1969 and is currently Director of Music at St. Andrew's Parish Church, Bedford, an examiner for Trinity College, London, and a freelance accompanist and conductor.

MESSIAH

G.F. Handel

Handel started composing the *Messiah* on 22nd August, 1741 and completed it on 14th September, twenty-four days later. The libretto, by Charles Jennens, is in three parts: Part One consists of prophecies from the Old Testament of the coming of the Messiah, together with an account of His birth as told in the New Testament, Part Two tells of His suffering and death, while Part Three relates to His second coming. The first performance was given in Dublin in 1742 for the benefit of various charities; the first performance in England was at Covent Garden Theatre in 1742. Between 1750 – 58 it was performed annually in the Chapel of the Foundling Hospitals, London, for the benefit of that Charity. Handel made many revisions to the original score before it was finally published in 1767.

MESSIAH

Part One

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Orchestra | Overture |
| Tenor | Comfort ye my people Every valley shall be exalted |
| Chorus | And the glory of the Lord |
| Bass | Thus saith the Lord |
| Alto | But who made abide the day of his coming? |
| Alto | Behold, a virgin shall conceive |

Alto & Chorus O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion
Bass For behold, darkness shall cover the earth
The people that walked in darkness
Chorus For unto us a child is born
Orchestra Pastoral Symphony
Soprano There were shepherds abiding in the field
And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them
And the angel said unto them
And suddenly there was with the angel
Glory to God
Chorus Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion
Soprano Then shall the eyes of the blind
Alto He shall feed his flock
Alto & Soprano His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light
Chorus

Part Two

Chorus Behold the Lamb of God
Alto He was despised
Chorus Surely he hath borne our griefs
Chorus And with his stripes we are healed
Chorus All we like sheep have gone astray
Tenor All they that see him laugh him to scorn
Chorus He trusted in God
Tenor Thy rebuke hath broken his heart
Behold, and see if there be any sorrow
He was cut off out of the land of the living
But thou didst not leave his soul in hell
Chorus Lift up your heads, O ye gates

SHORT INTERVAL

Chorus The Lord gave the word
Soprano How beautiful are the feet
Chorus Their sound is gone out
Bass Why do the nations so furiously rage together?
Chorus Let us break their bonds asunder
Tenor He that dwelleth in heaven

Tenor Thou shalt break them
Chorus Hallelujah
Part Three
Soprano I know that my redeemer liveth
Chorus Since by man came death
Bass Behold, I tell you a mystery
The trumpet shall sound
Chorus Worthy is the lamb that was slain. Amen

BIGGLESWADE & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

Soprano

Joan Barrall
Pam Blythe-Brook
Mary Burke
Maureen Cushman
Enid Desert
Barbara Eames
Jean Fearn
Jan Geeves
Doreen Gibbons
Janet Humphries
Elsie Lane
Jean Le Warne
Melanie Macey
Claire Neville
Beurrean Richards
Vivien Stallon
Evelyn Wilding

Tenor

Mike Bradley
Joe Pateman
Richard Smart
Alan Smith
Martin Woodhead

Alto

Jenny Broadbridge
Cynthia Dent
Rosamund Drakes
Judith Emmerson
Margaret Fitch
Moirra Fuller
Valerie Heaps
Betty King
Jane Le Sueur
Elaine Lucas
Alex McAlpine
Alice McMillan
Jill Shayler

Bass

Peter Cumming
Denis Desert
Roy Gibbons
Gordon Horner
David Starr
Peter Le Sueur
Archie Russell
Barrie Thompson

ST. MARY'S SINGERS

1st Soprano

Pat Fisher
Virginia Hopwood
Pam McGrady
Esme Parrott
Pat Robertson
Anne Wright

2nd Soprano

Emma Bratley
Joy Cerrino
Wyn Chamberlain
Heather Curry
Jill Davies
Joy Gillon
Anne Graham
Kim Gutteridge
Fiona Hunter
Gill Ireland
Angela Jackson
Giselle Kingston
Jan May
Liz Smith

1st Alto

Liz Bruning
Lillian Gower
Joan Inskip
Julie Noddles
Fern Padfield
Mavis Rayment
Eileen Tomlinson

2nd Alto

Freda Ansell
Barbara Bunce
Rita Fryer
Wendy Ream
Liz Snoswell
Pat Thwaites
Sylvia Wharton

Tenor

Chas Brooker
Alf Fisher
John Harding
David Smith
John Southan

1st Bass

Guy Anderson
Jack Bonner
Richard Cheffers
Gary Nicholson
Ralph Pettet
Dave Thompson
Bryan Wilkes

2nd Bass

Roger Catt
Bill Hardinge
Dave Lester
John May
Terry Moxham
Jack Routledge
Bob Woolven

ORCHESTRA

1st Violin

Jan Kasnowski (Leader)
John Heaps
Abigail Furnell

2nd Violin

Anita Jennings
Ceri Parkhouse
Julie Farrar

Viola

Lucinda Fudge
Colin Davey

Cello

Kath Tipping
Rachel Wainwright

Bass

Jean Amos

Oboe

Karen Brown
Michelle Beaseley

Trumpet

Paul Hyndman
Neil Mapletoft

Timpani

Ben Parker

Organ

Henry Macey

Rehearsal Accompanist for both choirs: Anne Wright

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RECORDERS IS **NOT ALLOWED**

ALSO - PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR MOBILE TELEPHONES
AND/OR DIGITAL WATCHES ARE **SWITCHED OFF**.

Thank you.

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Friends of Biggleswade & District Choral Society

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. V. Brown | Mr. & Mrs. G.H.B. Horner |
| Miss C. Brunt | Mrs. M. Humphris |
| Mrs. M. Colbert | Mr. & Mrs. K. Marsom |
| Miss C. Dilley | Mr. & Mrs. A. Russell |
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| Eileen & Ian Gosling | Mrs. S.I. Smith |
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| Mr. J. Heaps | Mr. Martin J. Turner |

If you would like information about becoming a 'Friend' please contact: Mrs. M. Fitch (Tel: 01767 - 315318)

The **Choral Society** always welcomes new members.
It rehearses on Tuesday evenings at St. Andrew's Church,
Biggleswade at 8.00 p.m.

If you would like to join us, please come along to a rehearsal or contact: Mrs. M.V. Heaps (Tel: 01462 - 700462)

St. Mary's Singers rehearse in the Church Hall, Potton on
Wednesday evenings at 7.45 p.m.

For further information contact:
Mrs. F. Padfield (Tel: 01480 212740)

The Biggleswade and District Choral Society is a member of the
National Federation of Music Societies.

St. Mary's Singers are affiliated to NODA.

B. & D.C.S. Registered Charity No. 29982581

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Biggleswade & District Choral Society

Saturday, 17th May, 2003 - 7.30 p.m.

'Show-time' - Langford Village Hall

To include excerpts from:

Fiddler on the Roof - My Fair Lady

St. Mary's Singers

4th & 5th July in Potton Lower School

Summer Concert - 'Eastern Promise'

To include excerpts from:

Mikado, King and I, South Pacific
and the *Polovtsian Dances*

Our grateful thanks to Sandy Baptist Church
for allowing us to perform here tonight and
for making us so welcome.