

**ZO 10 DEC**

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**RIAS  
KAMMERCHOR  
& AKADEMIE FÜR  
ALTE MUSIK**

**HÄNDELS MESSIAH**

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**SPOT/DE OOSTERPOORT**

**19.30 UUR / SPOTGRONINGEN.NL**



Georg Friedrich Händel (Olieverf op doek, Thomas Hudson, 1756)

**dirigent** Justin Doyle | **sopraan** Julia Doyle | **countertenor** Benno Schachtner  
**tenor** Alexander Sprague | **bas** Neal Davies

**Bij schrijven over (en luisteren naar) *Messiah* kom je toch al gauw uit bij superlatieven. En vanavond nog iets meer dan normaal, want het werk wordt gebracht door een van de beste koren ter wereld. RIAS Kammerchor was in 2010 al eens met Händels meesterwerk te gast in De Oosterpoort. De beste uitvoering die in decennia op een Groninger podium te horen was, schreef Dagblad van het Noorden destijds.**

Het Berlijnse koor werd in 1948 opgericht door radiozender RIAS (Rundfunk Im Amerikanischen Sektor) en groeide uit tot *one of the ten best choirs in the world*, aldus het toonaangevende muziekmagazine Gramophone. In de rug gesteund door hun op authentieke instrumenten spelende stadsgenoten van de Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, trakteren de zangers van RIAS u vanavond op een van de absolute hoogtepunten uit de klassieke muziek, een werk dat onlosmakelijk tot de kersttijd is gaan behoren.

Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759) schreef het briljante driedelige oratorium in 1741. De gefortuneerde aristocraat Charles Jennens, als librettist medeverantwoordelijk voor de successen van Händels oratoria *Saul* en *Israel in Egypt*, zag hoe diens populariteit tanende was bij het Londense publiek. *Deidama* beleefde maar drie opvoeringen en zou Händels laatste opera worden. De componist overwoog een sabbatical en aanvaardde de uitnodiging om het concertseizoen 1741-42 in Dublin door te brengen. In de zomer van 41 gaf Jennens hem het libretto van *Messiah*. Händel gooide de turbo erop en slechts 24 dagen later lag de partituur klaar. De rest is geschiedenis.

De uitbundige en grootse compositie draagt op een barokke manier leven, strijd en bezinning uit. Het is geen afgerond, op muziek gezet Bijbels verhaal, maar een reeks bespiegelingen uit het Oude en Nieuwe Testament, die vertellen over de geboorte van Jezus Christus, zijn leven, lijden, sterven, opstanding en eeuwige koningschap. Bijzonder voor die tijd is dat dit werk niet is geschreven in het Latijn, Italiaans of Duits – Händels moedertaal – maar in het Engels. De componist had zich in 1727 tot Engels staatsburger laten naturaliseren en vond het belangrijk dat *Messiah* door iedereen kon worden begrepen. Ook de muziek is toegankelijk en in Händels dagen werd het stuk als ‘grand musical’, gepresenteerd in theaters en concertzalen. Heel gek is dat niet; de muziek gaat over herkenbare emoties en heeft een hoog ‘meezingehalte’.

*Messiah* was na de première in Dublin in 1742 zo’n groot succes dat dames verzocht werden niet in hoepelrok te komen, zodat er meer kaarten verkocht konden worden. Het is het eerste stuk in de muziekgeschiedenis met een ononderbroken uitvoeringstraditie: u bent vanavond dus onderdeel van iets bijzonders.

# **DEEL I**

## **Ouverture**

### **Recitatief (tenor)**

Comfort ye,  
Comfort ye my people, saith your God.  
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,  
and cry unto her, that her warfare  
is accomplish'd, that her iniquity is pardon'd.  
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 (tenor)**

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted,  
and ev'ry mountain and hill made low,  
the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

### **Koor**

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.

### **Recitatief (bas)**

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once,  
a little while, and I will shake the heav'ns  
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, ev'n the messenger of the Covenant,  
whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come,  
saith the Lord of Hosts.

### **Aria (alt)**

But who may abide the day of His coming  
and who shall stand when He appeareth?  
For He is like a refiner's fire.

### **Koor**

And He shall purify the sons of Levi,  
that they may offer unto the Lord  
an offering in righteousness.

**Recitatief (alt)**

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

**Aria (alt)**

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.

**Koor**

O thou that  
tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine  
for thy light is come, and the glory of the  
Lord is risen upon thee.

**Recitatief (bas)**

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 (bas)**

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.

**Koor**

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)**

### **Recitatief (sopraan)**

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.  
And suddenly there was with the angel  
a multitude of the heav'nly host,  
praising God and saying:

### **Koor**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace  
on earth, good will towards men!

### **Aria (sopraan)**

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.

### **Recitatief (alt)**

Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd,  
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 (sopraan en alt)**

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,  
come unto Him 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.

### **Koor**

His yoke is easy, His burthen is light.

*PAUZE*



## **DEEL II**

### **Koor**

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

### **Aria (alt)**

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 the hair,  
He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

### **Koor**

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.

And with His stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray,  
we have turned ev'ry one to his own way;  
and the Lord hath laid on Him the  
iniquity of us all.

### **Recitatief (tenor)**

All they that see Him, laugh Him  
to scorn; they shoot out their lips,  
and shake their heads, saying:

### **Koor**

He trusted in God that He would deliver Him,  
let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him.

### **Recitatief (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.



**Aria (tenor)**

Behold, and see if there be any sorrow  
like unto His sorrow!

**Recitatief (tsporaan)**

He was cut off out of the land of the living;  
for the transgressions of Thy people  
was He stricken.

**Aria (sopraan)**

But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell;  
nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One  
to see corruption.

**Koor**

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.

**Recitatief (tenor)**

Unto which of the angels said He at any time,  
Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee?

**Koor**

Let all the angels of God worship Him.

**Aria (alt)**

Thou art gone up on high, Thou hast led  
captivity captive, and received gifts for men;  
yea, even for Thine enemies, that the Lord  
God might dwell among them.

**Koor**

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

**Aria (sopraan)**

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

**Koor**

Their sound is gone out into all lands,  
And their words unto the ends of the world.

**Aria (bas)**

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 His anointed.

**Koor**

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

**Recitatief (tenor)**

He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh  
them to scorn, The Lord shall have them  
in derision.

**Aria (tenor)**

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron;  
thou shalt dash them in pieces  
like a potter's vessel.

**Koor**

Hallelujah! for the Lord God Omnipotent  
reigneth, Hallelujah! 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,  
and He shall reign for ever and ever,  
Hallelujah!

## **DEEL III**

### **Aria (sopraan)**

I know that my Redeemer liveth,  
and that He shall stand at the latter day  
upon the earth. And tho' worms destroy  
this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.  
I know that my Redeemer liveth:  
For now is Christ risen from the dead,  
the first fruits of them that sleep.

### **Koor**

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.

### **Recitatief (bas)**

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not  
all sleep, but we shall all be chang'd in a  
moment, in the twinkling of an eye,  
at the last trumpet.

### **Aria (bas)**

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead  
shall be rais'd incorruptible, and we  
shall be chang'd. For this corruptible  
must put on incorruption, and this  
mortal must put on immortality.

### **Recitatief (alt)**

Then shall be brought to pass the saying  
that is written, death is swallow'd up in victory.

### **Duet (alt en tenor)**

O death, where is thy sting? O grave,  
where is thy victory? The sting of death  
is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

## **Koor**

But thanks be to God, who giveth us  
the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Aria (sopraan)**

If God be for us who can be against us?  
Who shall lay anything to the charge  
of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.  
Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ  
that died, yea rather, that is risen again,  
who is at the right hand of God,  
who makes intercession for us.

## **Koor**

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 pow'r  
be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne,  
and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

