

ZO 8 DEC



foto: Sim Canetty-Clarke

TENEBRAE & ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC
HÄNDELS MESSIAH

SPOT/DE OOSTERPOORT

SPOTGRONINGEN.NL

PROGRAMMA

Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759)

Messiah, HWV 56

dirigent

Nigel Short

sopraan

Grace Davidson

alt

Martha McLorinan

tenor

Nick Pritchard

bas

Matthew Brook

Dit concert is mede mogelijk gemaakt
door het Büchli-Fest-Meijerfonds.



PROGRAMMATOELICHTING

Niet alle componisten konden hem dat nazeggen, maar Georg Friedrich Händel is tijdens zijn leven al ongelooflijk populair. Met name in Engeland zijn zijn Italiaanse opera's enorm geliefd. Zozeer zelfs, dat de Duitse componist zich in Londen vestigt en de Britse nationaliteit aanneemt. Maar zoals dat gaat, heeft het publiek er ineens ook weer helemaal genoeg van. Italiaanse opera's worden zelfs het mikpunt van spot. Als Händel in 1737 ook nog eens een beroerte krijgt en zijn rechterhand niet meer kan gebruiken, belandt hij in een depressie. Het lijkt over en uit.

De redding komt van zijn vriend en librettoschrijver Charles Jennens (1700-1773). Hij stuurt Händel een libretto met teksten uit de Bijbel. Het onderwerp: de Messias. Het is de weg uit het dal voor Händel, die in slechts 24 geïnspireerde dagen zijn grootste meesterwerk componeert: de *Messiah*.

En dus is het op 13 april 1742 een drukte van belang voor The Great Music Hall in Dublin. De *Messiah* staat op het punt in première te gaan. De zaal is tot de laatste stoel bezet, de organisatie heeft opgeroepen om hoepelrokken en zwaarden thuis te laten, zodat iedereen kan zitten.

Om zelf de première te kunnen leiden, verscheept Händel, inmiddels grotendeels hersteld, zijn eigen orgel naar de Ierse hoofdstad.

Het publiek hoort die avond voor het eerst het beroemde oratorium voor zangsolisten, koor en orkest. De *Messiah* bestaat uit drie delen: de geboorte, het lijdensverhaal en de wederopstanding van Jezus, de Messias. Maar in tegenstelling tot Bach, die het lijden van Jezus centraal stelde in zijn *Matthäus Passion*, kiest Händel voor een hoopvolle boodschap. Het werk is dan ook licht van toon en hoewel geschreven voor Pasen, is de *Messiah* hierdoor uiteindelijk een typisch kerststuk geworden.

Deel 1 gaat over de voorspelling van de komst van de Messias, de zwangerschap van Maria en de boodschap van Jezus' geboorte aan de herders. Het middelste deel gaat over het lijdensverhaal, de dood en de wederopstanding van Christus en eindigt met het prachtige en beroemde *Hallelujah*, waarin God wordt geprezen. Het slotdeel gaat over de aankondiging van de Dag des Oordeels en de hemelvaart van Jezus. Bijzonder voor die tijd is dat dit religieuze koorwerk niet is geschreven in het Latijn, Italiaans of Händels Duitse moedertaal, maar in het Engels.

Messiah (Nigel's Cut)

PART ONE

Sinfonia (Overture)

Recitative - Comfort Ye My People

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.

Aria - Ev'ry valley shall be exalted

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

Chorus - And the Glory of the Lord

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.

Recitative - Thus saith the Lord

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.

Aria - But who may abide the day of his coming?

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 - And he shall purify Chorus

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

Recitative - Behold, a virgin shall conceive

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

Aria and Chorus - O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

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.

Recitative - For behold, darkness shall cover the earth

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 - The people that walked in darkness

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 - For Unto Us a Child is Born

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')

Recitative - There were shepherds abiding in the field

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

Recitative - And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them

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.

Recitative - And the angel said until them

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.

Recitative - And suddenly there was with the angel

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Chorus - Glory To God

Chorus Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will toward men.

Aria - Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion

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.

Recitative - Then shall the eyes of the blind

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.

Aria - He shall feed his flock

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.

Chorus - His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light

His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light.

PART TWO

Chorus - Behold the Lamb of God

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

Aria - He Was Despised

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.

Chorus - Surely he hath borne our griefs

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

Chorus - And with his stripes we are healed

And with his stripes we are healed.

Chorus - All we like sheep have gone astray

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.

Recitative - All they that see him laugh him to scorn

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

Chorus - He trusted in God

He trusted in God that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, if he delight in him.

Recitative - Thy rebuke hath broken his heart

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 - Behold, and see if there be any sorrow

Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto his sorrow.

Recitative - He was cut off out of the land of the living

He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgressions of thy people was he stricken.

Aria - But thou didst not leave his soul in hell

But thou didst not leave his soul in hell; nor didst thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption.

Chorus - Lift up your heads, O ye gates

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.

Aria - Why do the nations so furiously rage together

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 - Let us break their bonds asunder

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

Recitative - He that dwelleth in heaven

He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Aria - Thou shalt break them

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

Chorus - Hallelujah

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

Aria - I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

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 - Since by man came death

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.

Recitative - Behold, I tell you a mystery

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:

Aria - The Trumpet Shall Sound

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.

Aria - If God be for us

If God be for us, who can be against us? Who shall lay any thing 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.

Chorus - Worthy is the lamb that was slain

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 Lamb for ever and ever.



Georg Friedrich Händel