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Messiah on CD

If you wish to take our rendition of Handel's Messiah home with you, an audiophile-quality recording of the complete oratorio is now available on a three-CD set.

As in this afternoon’s performance, the recording features soloists Catherine Hainhe, Emily Lunde, Stephen Wall and Brian Box with Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers under the direction of George Shangrow.

"This recording can be strongly recommended both for its overall musical and technical excellence, and also for its successful navigation between the two often conflicting Chora..." – Michael Storari

CDs may also be purchased on our web site at www.oscs.org

Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers congratulate the Ladies Musical Club on the Centennial Celebration of their International Series

Hashem el-Tawil

On the 22nd of August, Handel began to set Jennens' text to music. He finished the first part of his new oratorio (which deals with the prophecy of Christ's coming and his nativity) in six days, the second part (which describes the trials and sufferings of Jesus) in seven days, and the final part (which tells of his crucifixion and resurrection) in ten days. The final complete form of Messiah took a year to complete, and was performed for the first time on April 14, 1741, at the Theatre Royal in Covent Garden. This date is commemorated today as Handel's Birthday, and is celebrated by numerous performances of Messiah around the world.
SOLO ARTISTS

A native of Washington, baritone Brian Box received his Masters degree in vocal performance from Western Washington University in 1985. Mr. Box performs frequently with many Northwest ensembles, including Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers, Seattle Pro Musica, Bellevue Chamber Choir, and Choir of the Sound. He has performed with Rudolf Nureyev, singing Mahler’s Songs of a Wayfarer to Mr. Nureyev’s dance. Mr. Box has performed frequently with OSSCS in such works as Bach’s St. Matthew Passion, St. John Passion, and Christmas Oratorio, and appears on their recording of Handel’s Messiah, as well as on previous albums of music by Bach and Vaughan Williams. The regional winner of San Francisco Opera’s 1988 Merola Opera Program, Mr. Box made his Seattle Opera debut as the Corporeal in Donizetti’s Daughter of the Regiment. For Tacoma Opera, Mr. Box created the role of Franz in the world premiere of Charles’ Sam’s/The Sleep of Hamlet. He has also performed extensively with Seattle Opera’s Education Program and Northwest Opera in the Schools.

Soprano Catherine Haight is well known to Seattle audiences for her performances of Baroque music. She is an accomplished performer of theatorio repertoire, including all of the major works of Handel and Bach, as well as works by Vivaldi, Purcell, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Brahms and others. For the past five years, Ms. Haight has been a guest soloist with the Pacific Northwest Ballet in their acclaimed production of Carmina Burana. She has traveled with them to Australia to perform as part of the Melbourne Festival in 1995, and to the Kennedy Center for three performances in 1996. Her recent recordings include: Mendelssohn’s Elijah and St. Paul’s Symphony, Offa’s Carmina Burana with the Seattle Choral Company; and Handel’s Messiah with Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers.

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Theo Schaad

Julie Reed

Valerie Ross

Violin

Beatrice Dolf

Katherine McWilliams

Tim Prior

Sam Williams* 

Oboe

Shannon Hill

Norie Ihi

Bassoon

Jeff Eldridge

Trumpet

David Cole

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Timpani

Dan Oie

Harpsichord

Robert Keachley

George Shawgr

Assistant Conductor

Justin Cole

** concertmaster *

principal

SEATTLE CHAMBER SINGERS

Soprano

Ana McCordell

Paula Rimmer

Nancy Anderson

Liamen van Cleef

Alto

Sharon Agnew

Julia Ackroy-Thiel

Cheryl Blackburn

Jane Blackwell

Shireen Debo

Penni Deny

Laura Dooley

Deanna Frykle

Carla Hildbrand

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Lipmann

Adrienne McCoy

Suzi Meadd

Laura Medd

Kristin O’Donnell

Liz Proctor

Christine Ricket

Sharon Ruppert

Nedra Slasson

Annie Thompson

Tenor

Alex Chiu

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Waste-Free Holidays * Give the Gift of Experience

The holidays are one of the most wasteful times of year, with Americans generating an extra one million tons of trash per week. To lighten this impact on the environment, King County suggests an alternative: give experiences instead of stuff. From November 24 through the end of December, Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers are voicing their support of the environment by joining with King County to offer discounted tickets to all of our performances from January through May. Give the gift of great music!

Receive a 20% discount on $15 tickets is any of the following performances:

Harp Concerto: January 14 * Choral Showcase: February 18
World Premieres: May 18 * Holiday 2020 * Benefit Recital at Benaroya Hall
Piano Rhapsody: March 18 * Manns Hall
St. John Passion: April 13 * St. Mark’s Tower Foundation Auditorium * Benaroya Hall

To order tickets: call 206-682-5208 or visit www.oscs.org

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge all of our wonderful volunteers, who through their hard work, time, and talents, make these concerts possible. In addition to all of our vocal and instrumental performers and office staff, this group includes: Steve Billerse, Charlie Burden, Michael & Patricia Clarke, Gini Chapson, James Dooley, Jack Dunn, Linda & John Filippi, April & Alme Filippi, Terri Fincham, Tobey Nelson, Terry Rogers, Bob Schilpseit, Kathy Sienkiewich, Nancy Taw, Doug Weltz, Peg Williams and Saskia Winchell. We also wish to acknowledge all of those who, through their thoughtfulness, donations, have enabled us to offer these performances and to purchase the pair of beautiful harpsichords used in this afternoon’s concert. Built by Michael Reiter of Tacoma, the first of these French double harpsichords made its debut in last year’s Messiah performance; the second makes its OSSCS debut today. If you would like to help ensure the continued artistic success of our organization by becoming a donor, please drop by our “Join the OSSCS Family” table located in the lobby for further information.
PART II

Chorus
Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.
John 1:29

Air
He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.
Isaiah 53:3
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.
Isaiah 50:6
Chorus
Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; we had hoped that we were delivered out of them: but He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.
Isaiah 53:4-5
Chorus
And with His stripes we are healed.
Isaiah 53:5
Chorus
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
Isaiah 53:6
Accompagnato
All they that see Him, laugh Him to scorn: they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying,
Psalms 22:7
Chorus
He trusted in God that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him.
Psalms 22:8
Accompagnato
Thy rebuke hath broken His heart; He is full of heaviness: He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was none; neither found He any to comfort Him.
Psalms 69:20
Arioso
Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow.
Lamentations 1:12
Accompagnato
He was cast out of the land of the living; for the transgressions of Thy people was He stricken.
Isaiah 53:8
Air
But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption.
Psalms 16:10
Recitative
Unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee?
Hebrews 1:5
Chorus
Let all the angels of God worship Him.
Hebrews 1:6
Air
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.
Psalms 68:18
Chorus
The Lord gave the word: great was the company of the preachers.
Psalms 68:11
Air
How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
Romans 10:15
Chorus
Their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world.
Romans 10:18
Air
Why do the nations so furiously rage together:
Romans 10:18
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;

Psalms 2:1-2
Chorus
Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us.
Psalms 2:3
Recitative
He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn: the Lord shall have them in derision.
Psalms 2:4
Air
Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
Psalms 2:9
Chorus
Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, Hallelujah!
Revelation 19:6
The Kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever, Hallelujah!
Revelation 11:15
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, and He shall reign for ever and ever, Hallelujah!
Revelation 19:16

PART I

Symphony
Accompanato
Comfort ye, comfort my people, saith your God.

Isaiah 40:1-3
Air
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straighten, and the rough places plain:
Isaiah 40:4
Recitative
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.
Isaiah 40:5
Chorus
Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea, and the dry land;
Isaiah 40:6
And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come.
Haggai 2:6-7
Air
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.
Malachi 3:1
Air
But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth?
John 1:28
For He is like a refiner's fire.
Malachi 3:2
Chorus
And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.
Malachi 3:3
Recitative
Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, “God with us”.
Isaiah 7:14
Air and Chorus
O thou, that leadest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou, that leadest 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!
Isaiah 40:9
Air
Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
Isaiah 60:1
Accompagnato
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.
Isaiah 60:2-3
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Isaiah 60:2-3
Air
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
Isaiah 9:2
Chorus
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.
Isaiah 9:6
Pifa (Pastoral Symphony)
Recitative – Accompanato
There were shepherd's abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
Luke 2:8-9
Recitative
And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
Luke 2:10-11
Accompagnato
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:
Luke 2:13
Chorus
Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will toward men.
Luke 2:14
Air
Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee.
Isaiah 62:10
He is the righteous Savior and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.
Zechariah 9:9-10
Recitative
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears that are deaf unstoppered.
Isaiah 40:11
Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.
Isaiah 35:5-6
Air
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.
Isaiah 40:10
Come unto Him, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28-29
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.
Matthew 11:29-30
Chorus
His yoke is easy, His burden is light.
Matthew 11:30
PART II

Chorus
Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.
John 1:29

Air
He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.
Isaiah 53:3

Chorus
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.
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Chorus
And with His stripes we are healed.
Isaiah 53:5

Chorus
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.
Isaiah 53:6

Accompanist
All they that see Him, laugh Him to scorn: they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying,
Psalms 22:7

Chorus
He trusted in God that He would deliver Him; let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him.
Psalms 22:8

Accompanist
Thy rebuke hath broken His heart; He is full of heaviness; He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was none; neither found He any that comfort Him.
Psalms 69:20

Arioso
Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow.
Lamentations 1:12

Accompanist
He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgressions of Tyre people was He stricken.
Isaiah 53:8

Air
But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption.
Psalms 16:10

Recitative
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Chorus
Let all the angels of God worship Him.
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Air
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.
Psalms 68:18

Chorus
The Lord gave the word: great was the company of the preachers.
Psalms 68:11

Air
How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of great things!
Romans 10:15

Chorus
Their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world.
Romans 10:18

Air
Why do the nations so furiously rage together:
Romans 1:20

Chorus
The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His anointed.
Psalms 2:1-2

Chorus
Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us.
Psalms 2:3

Recitative
He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn: the Lord shall have them in derision.
Psalms 2:4

Air
Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
Psalms 2:9

Chorus
Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, Hallelujah!
Revelation 19:6

The Kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever, Hallelujah!
Revelation 11:15

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, and He shall reign for ever and ever, Hallelujah!
Revelation 19:16

PART I

Symphony
Accompanist
Comfort ye, comfort my people, saith your God.
Isaiah 40:1

Air
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.
Isaiah 40:4

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.
Isaiah 40:3

Air
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low; the crooked straightened, and the rough places plain:
Isaiah 40:4

Chorus
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.
Isaiah 40:5

Accompanist
Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea, and the dry land;
Isaiah 40:11

And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come.
Haggai 2:7

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.
Malachi 3:1

Air
But who may abide the day of his coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth?
Malachi 3:2

Air
And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.
Malachi 3:3

Recitative
Behold, a voice is crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Isaiah 5:1

Air and Chorus
O thou, that leadest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou, that leadest 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!
Isaiah 40:9

Air
Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
Isaiah 40:1

Accompanist
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.
Isaiah 60:1

And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
Isaiah 60:2

Air
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
Isaiah 9:2

Chorus
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.
Isaiah 9:6

Pifa (Pastoral Symphony)
Recitative – Accompanist
There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
Luke 2:9

Recitative
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.
Luke 2:10

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11

Accompanist
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:
Luke 2:13

Chorus
Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will toward men.
Luke 2:14

Air
Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee.
Isaiah 12:10

Air
He is the righteous Savior and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.
Zechariah 9:10

Recitative
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.
Isaiah 35:5

Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.
Isaiah 35:5

Air
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.
Isaiah 40:11

Come unto Him, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

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.
Matthew 11:29

Chorus
His yoke is easy, His burthen is light.
Matthew 11:30
SOLO ARTISTS
A native of Washington, baritone Brian Box received his Masters degree in vocal performance from Western Washington University in 1985. Mr. Box performs frequently with many Northwest ensembles, including Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers, Seattle Pro Musica, Bellevue Chamber Chorus, and Choir of the Sound. He has performed with Rudolf Nureyev, singing Mahler’s Songs of a Wayfarer to Mr. Nureyev’s dance. Mr. Box has performed frequently with OSSCS in such works as Bach’s St. Matthew Passion, St. John Passion, and Christmas Oratorio, and appears on their recording of Handel’s Messiah, as well as on several albums of music by Bach and Vaughan Williams. The regional winner of San Francisco Opera’s 1988 Merola Opera Program, Mr. Box made his Seattle Opera debut as the Corporal in Donizetti’s Daughter of the Regiment. For Tacoma Opera, Mr. Box created the role of Franz in the world premieres of Carmen McWilliams’ The Snow Queen of Huxelme. He has also performed extensively with Seattle Opera’s Education Program and Northwest Opera in the Schools.
Soprano Catherine Haight is well known to Seattle audiences for her performances of Baroque music. She is an accomplished performer of the oratorio repertoire, including all of the major works of Handel and Bach, as well as works by Vivaldi, Purcell, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Brahms and others. For the past five years, Ms. Haight has been a guest soloist with the Pacific Northwest Ballet in their acclaimed production of Carmina Burana. She traveled with them to Australia to perform as part of the Melbourne Festival in 1995, and to the Kennedy Center for three performances in 1996. Her recent recordings include: Mendelssohn’s Lobengula: Northwest Opera, Otto’s Carmina Burana with the Seattle Choral Company; and Handel’s Messiah with Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers.

One of the Pacific Northwest’s premier mezzo-sopranos, Emily Lunde is a Seattle native who has sung extensively with many of the area’s finest ensembles, including the Seattle Symphony, OSSCS, Northwest Sinfoniaet, Seattle Choral Company, Choir of the Sound, Everett Symphony and Walla Walla Symphony. Ms. Lunde also performs regularly with the Pacific Northwest Ballet in their productions of The Nutcracker and A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Her repertoire runs the gamut from early music to classical and contemporary works. She has a special affinity for music of all of the great Baroque periods, having performed both of the great Bach passions as well as many of Handel’s oratorios, including Messiah, which she recently recorded with OSSCS. Ms. Lunde recently been featured at Benaroya Hall in performances of Maurice Ravel’s Shéhérazade, Bach’s St. Matthew Passion, Mendelssohn’s Elijah and Mozart’s Requiem with OSSCS, and in a concert performance of Denys Taylor’s opera Peter Ibbetson with the Seattle Symphony.

Tenor Stephen Wall has appeared frequently with Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers since 1985, when he performed as a soloist in Bach’s St. Matthew Passion. He has been featured in leading and supporting roles with Seattle Opera, Portland Opera, Utah Festival Opera, and Tacoma Opera, and has soloed with the symphonies of Seattle, Vancouver, Spokane, Everett, Bellevue, Yakima, Pendleton, Great Falls and Supporto (Japan). Mr. Wall appears on the new recording of Handel’s Messiah by OSSCS. Last January, he appeared in a supporting role in Seattle Opera’s performances of Boris Godunov. Last season, Mr. Wall sang performances of Vaughan Williams’ Serenade to Music, Monteverdi’s 1610 Vespas, Handel’s Messiah and Purcell’s Ode for St. Cecilia’s Day with OSSCS.

ORCHESTRA SINGERS

Violin
Doljana Akrapovic
Lisa Carlson
Lauren Daugherty
Fritz Klein**
Avros Maledy
Gregor Nitchke
Susan Owens
Leif-Olav Pedersen*

Cello
Theo Schaad
Jeff Elledge

Violoncello
Julie Reed*
Valerie Ross

Viola
Beatrice Dolf
Katherine McWilliams
Tin Prior
Sam Williams*

Bass
Josephine Hansen
Oboe
Shannon Hill*

Clarinet
Theo Schaad
Julie Reed*

Timpani
Dan Gie

Harpsichord
Robert Keachley
George Shagawt

Assistant Conductor
Justin Cole

Tamara Mays

** concertmaster
* principal

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Soprano
Mary Ahern
Barb Anderson
Sue Dodd
Crissa Cugini
Kyla Delorme
Dana Durnoff
Cinda Feeke
Kili Blackwell
Loredelene Knowles
Jill Krasko
Nancy Lewis

Tenor
Alex Chun
Ralph Cobb
Steve Goring
Alvin Krom
Jon Lange
Dan Lee
Timothy Lande
Thomas Neshbitt
Victor Rayner
Jenny Sams

Bass
Benjamin Buckley
Greg Canova
Steve Carl
Richard Doucette
Douglas Durnoff
Mare Fitchett
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As this afternoon’s performance, the recording features soloists Catherine Haight, Emily Lunde, Stephen Wall and Brian Box with Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers under the direction of George Shangrow.

“This recording can be strongly recommended both for its overall musical and technical excellence, as also for its successful navigation between the often conflicting Choral/Orchestral world. It is a worthy addition to the interpretation of this ever-popular work.”

– Michael Sartorius

Recordings are available in the lobby during the intermissions for the low price of $22.

CDs may also be purchased on our web site at www.oscs.org

This recording makes the perfect holiday gift for the music lover in your family!

Program Notes

George Frideric Handel was born in Halle, Germany, on February 23, 1685, and died in London on April 14, 1759. He composed Messiah between August 22 and September 14 of 1741. The oratorio was first performed in Dublin on April 13, 1742, under the direction of the composer. In addition to a quartet of vocal soloists and choir, the work is scored for 2 oboes, bassoon, 2 trumpets, timpani, harpsichord and strings.

Dr. Charles Burney, an 18th-century English music historian, wrote that Handel’s oratorio, Messiah, “has been heard in all parts of the world, and is the most universal as well as the most favorite piece of music.” He added, “If we believe that your musical experience will be enriched, and that you will hear with special delight our unique interpretation of one of the most famous of all musical compositions.

George Frideric Handel, renowned in his day as an organist and as a highly respected London and English oratorios, was born in Germany in 1685 about a month before J.S. Bach. He received his musical training in Italy, and later became 18th-century England’s “national composer.” Between February and November 1741, Handel, suffering at the age of 56 from various ailments, both physical and mental, withdrew increasingly from public life. At some point that year, the composer received from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and the governors of Dublin’s three major charitable institutions an invitation to travel to that city to aid the charitable through the performance of his music. Handel was very interested in Dublin as an arch-enemy composer, and his works were often played there to benefit charities.

It may thus have been this invitation that provided the incentive for Handel to compose this new sacred oratorio.” In July of 1741, Charles Jennens, who was responsible for the texts of Handel’s oratorios, Israel in Egypt and Saul, gave the program for Handel the oratorio of Messiah, a collection of biblical texts from both the Old and New Testament where Jesus suffers and dies.

On the 22nd of August, Handel began set Jenne’s text to music. He finished the first part of his new oratorio (which deals with the prophecy of Christ’s coming and his nativity) in six days, the second part (which describes other aspects of the story) in a month, and the third part (which celebrates the resurrection and eternal life of Christ) in six more days, with two or three additional days for completing the orchestration. According to Handel’s biographer, Jonathan Keates, in his life story, Handel’s “Man and the Muses,” that “his vision of the ultimate triumph of Jesus Christ was so clear to him that he could see all this as accomplished long before it actually occurred.”

Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers
on the Centennial Celebration of their International Series

Founded on March 20th, 1891 to stimulate the development of musical activity in the community, by 1900 the school had had strong enough to attempt a concert season of great visiting artists, the first project of is kind in Seattle. The school has maintained the highest standards of excellence and the years has continued to bring the “musically great” to Seattle.

The Ladies Musical Club presents the International Art Series with their sustaining fund and has also supported the Seattle Symphony, Seattle Youth Symphony, Seattle Young Audiences, the Metropolitan Opera Auditions. The Club provides awards to deserving young professionals, and in 1991 instituted a Debut Tour Program for the winners of these awards. Through the Music in the Schools Program, club members and other make presentations to Seattle elementary classrooms, introducing children to classical music. In addition to the International Art Series, two complimentary concerts are presented each month by its own members, to which the public is invited.

For over thirty-five years members have performed free monthly programs at the Seattle Public Library. Recently other performance venues have been added such as the Seattle Art Museum, the Seattle Asian Art Museum and the Frye Museum. In 1995 the Ladies Musical Club embarked on a collaboration with the Seattle Art Museum and Moxy Hall for the Performing Arts at the University of Washington.

Ladies Musical Club

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If you wish to take our rendition of Handel’s Messiah home with you, an audiophile-quality recording of the complete oratorio is now available on a three-CD set.

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MESSIAH
Sunday, December 17, 2000 • 3:00 PM
Meany Hall
University of Washington
Catherine Haight, soprano
Emily Lunde, alto
Stephen Wall, tenor
Brian Box, baritone

An Orchestra
Seattle Chamber Singers
George Shangraw, conductor

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL
Messiah, A Sacred Oratorio
1685-1759

Part I
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Part III

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