

The Chantry Singers

present

THE MESSIAH

Timothy Venvell Conductor

Margaret Humphrey Clarke Soprano

Elizabeth Harley Contralto

Ian Barratt Tenor

Mark Pancek Bass

Jeremy Sampson Leader

Jeremy Filsell Continuo

Holy Trinity Church

Guildford

Saturday 19th December at 7.30 p.m.

1987

THE MESSIAH

PART ONE

1. Sinfonia (Overture)
2. Comfort ye my people Recit.
3. Ev'ry valley shall be exalted Air
4. And the glory of the Lord Chorus
5. Thus saith the Lord Recit.
6. But who may abide the day of his coming? Air
7. And he shall purify Chorus
8. Behold, a virgin shall conceive Recit.
9. O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion Air and Chorus
10. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth Recit.
11. The people that walked in darkness Air
12. For unto us a child is born Chorus
13. Pastoral Symphony
14. a) There were shepherds abiding in the fields Recit.
b) And lo, the angel came upon them Recit.
15. And the angel said unto them Recit.
16. And suddenly there was with the angel Recit.
17. Glory to God Chorus
18. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion Air
19. Then shall the eyes of the blind Recit.
20. He shall feed his flock Air
21. His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light Chorus

PART TWO

22. Behold the Lamb of God Chorus
23. He was despised Air
24. Surely he hath borne our griefs Chorus
25. And with his stripes we are healed Chorus

26.	All we like sheep have gone astray	Chorus
27.	All they that see him laugh him to scorn	Recit.
28.	He trusted in God	Chorus
29.	Thy rebuke hath broken his heart	Recit.
30.	Behold, and see if there be any sorrow	Air
31.	He was cut off out of the land of the living	Recit.
32.	But thou didst not leave his soul in hell	Air
33.	Lift up your heads, O ye gates	Chorus
34.	Unto which of the angels said he at any time	Recit.
35.	Let all the angels of God worship him	Chorus
36.	Thou art gone up on high	Air
37.	The Lord gave the word	Chorus
38.	How beautiful are the feet	Air
39.	Their sound is gone out	Chorus
40.	Why do the nations so furiously rage together ?	Air
41.	Let us break their bonds asunder	Chorus
42.	He that dwelleth in heaven	Recit.
43.	Thou shalt break them	Air
44.	Hallelujah	Chorus

INTERVAL

PART THREE

45.	I know that my redeemer liveth	Air
46.	Since by man came death	Chorus
47.	Behold I tell you a mystery	Recit.
48.	The trumpet shall sound	Air
49.	Then shall be brought to pass	Recit.
50.	O death, where is thy sting ?	Duet
51.	But thanks be to God	Chorus
52.	If God be for us	Air
53.	Worthy is the lamb that was slain	Chorus

'The Messiah' is Handel's best-known oratorio, and probably the best-loved oratorio ever, so it needs little introduction. What is less widely known is that Handel came to oratorio-writing almost by accident. He settled in London in 1711 with the express purpose of writing operas, and formed his own Italian Opera Company to sing them. However, this project was ill-fated throughout its stormy existence, experiencing bankruptcy and revival several times, as Handel struggled to educate the English public into an appreciation of Italian *opera seria*. Having written over forty operas, and already well on in years, Handel eventually tried his hand at oratorio, and produced 'Saul' and 'Israel in Egypt' in 1739. The arias and recitatives of these oratorios were exactly like their counterparts in opera. What was different was the inclusion of a major role for a chorus, which commented on the action, and, of course, the withdrawal of the action from the stage to the concert platform. Ironically, it was only after this move from the theatre to the concert hall that Handel produced his most wonderful dramatic music, as lovers of 'The Messiah', first produced in Dublin in 1741, will testify.



Margaret Humphrey-Clarke has made regular oratorio appearances in London and the Home Counties, and is a member of the BBC Singers. She also holds teaching posts in various colleges and schools, including Eton College.

Elizabeth Harley has made numerous appearances in Guildford, following a time at the Guildhall College of Music and Drama. In particular, she sang an impressive 'Angel' in the Surrey Festival 'Gerontius' last July.

Ian Barratt has spent most of his singing life in Oxford, beginning as an Academical Clerk at Magdalen College, and later transferring to Christchurch Cathedral as a lay clerk, after a short period at Peterborough.

Mark Pancek is a pupil of Mark Wildman at the Royal Academy of Music, and has made a number of appearances in the Home Counties this year.



Next Concert: 20th February, 1988 at St. Mary's Church, Guildford.
Music will include Dvorak- Mass in D minor & Britten- Rejoice in the Lamb.
Details from Hon. Secretary, Cotswold, Swayne's Lane, Mellow,
Guildford. GU1 2XX