

Handel's Messiah Notes

Track	Title	Solo	Scripture Reference	Scripture
No. 1	Sinfonia (Overture) (Grave - Allegro moderato)			
No. 2	Recitative (Larghetto e piano)	Tenor	Isaiah 40:1-3	1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. 3 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.
No. 3	Air (Andante)	Tenor	Isaiah 40:4	4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:
No. 4	Chorus (Allegro)		Isaiah 40:5	5 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.
No. 5	Recitative	Bass	Haggai 2:6-7 Malachi 3:1	6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; 7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come ... 1 ... 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.
No. 6	Air (Larghetto - Prestissimo)	Bass	Malachi 3:2	2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire ...
No. 7	Chorus and Recitative	Alto and Chorus	Malachi 3:3 Isaiah 7:14 Matthew 1:23	3 ... [A]nd he shall purify the sons of Levi, ... that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. 14 ... Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. 23 ... God with us.

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No. 8	Air (Andante)	Alto and Chorus	Isaiah 40:9 Isaiah 60:1	9 ¶ O Zion [thou], that bringest [tellest] good tidings [to Zion], get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem [thou], that bringest [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! 1 ¶ Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.
No. 9	Recitative (Andante larghetto)	Bass	Isaiah 60:2-3	2 For, behold, the 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. 3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
No. 10	Air (Larghetto)	Bass	Isaiah 9:2	2 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.
No. 11	Chorus (Andante allegro)		Isaiah 9:6	6 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.
No. 12	Pifa (Pastoral Symphony) (Larghetto e mezzo piano) and Recitative	Soprano	Luke 2:8	8 ... [T]here were ... shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock[s] by night.

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No. 13	Recitative	Soprano	Luke 2:9 Luke 2:10-11	9 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. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
No. 14	Recitative	Soprano	Luke 2:13	13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
No. 15	Chorus (Allegro, da lontano e un poco piano)		Luke 2:14	14 Glory to God in the highest, and [peace] on earth peace , good will toward men.
No. 16	Air (Allegro)	Soprano	Zechariah 9:9-10 Isaiah 35:5-6	9 ¶ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation [the righteous saviour] 10 And ... he shall speak peace unto the heathen 5 ¶ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing
No. 17	Duet (Larghetto e piano)	Alto and Soprano	Isaiah 40:11 Matthew 11:28-29	11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: [and] he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. 28 Come unto me [him], all ye that labour and [, come unto him that] are heavy laden, and I [he] will give you rest. 29 Take my [his] yoke upon you, and learn of me [him]; for I am [he is] meek and lowly in [of] heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
No. 18	Chorus (Allegro)		Matthew 11:30	30 For my [his] yoke is easy, and my burden [his burthen] is light.

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No. 19	Chorus (Largo)		John 1:29	29 ... Behold the Lamb of God, which that taketh away the sin of the world.
No. 20	Air (Largo)	Alto	Isaiah 53:3 Isaiah 50:6	3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief 6 I [He] gave my [His] back to the smiters, and my [His] cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I [He] hid not my [His] face from shame and spitting.
No. 21	Chorus (Largo e staccato)		Isaiah 53:4-5	4 ¶ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows 5 ... [H]e was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him
No. 22	Chorus (Alla breve, moderato)		Isaiah 53:5	5 ... and with his stripes we are healed.
No. 23	Chorus (Allegro moderato - Adagio)		Isaiah 53:6	6 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.
No. 24	Recitative (Larghetto)	Tenor	Psalms 22:7	7 All they that see me [Him] laugh me [Him] to scorn: they shoot out the[ir] lip[s], they shake the head, saying,
No. 25	Chorus (Allegro)		Psalms 22:8	8 He trusted on the LORD [in god] that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing [if] he delighted in him.
No. 26	Recitative (Largo)	Tenor	Psalms 69:20	20 Reproach [Thy rebuke] hath broken my [His] heart; and I am [He is] full of heaviness: and I [He] looked for some to take [have] pity [on Him], but there was none [no man]; and for comforters, but I found none [neither found He any to comfort Him].
No. 27	Arioso (Largo e piano)	Tenor	Lamentations 1:12	12 ... [B]ehold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my [His] sorrow
No. 28	Recitative	Tenor	Isaiah 53:8	8 ...[H]e was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression[s] of my [Thy] people was he stricken.
No. 29	Air (Andante larghetto)	Tenor	Psalms 16:10	10 [But] For thou wilt [didst] not leave my [His] soul in hell; neither wilt [nor didst] thou suffer thine [Thy] Holy One to see corruption.

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No. 30	Chorus (A tempo ordinario) and Recitative	Chorus and Tenor	Psalm 24:7-10 Hebrews 1:5	7 ¶ Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. 9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. 5 ... [U]nto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? ...
No. 31	Chorus (Allegro)		Hebrews 1:6	6 ... [L]et all the angels of God worship him.
No. 32	Air (Larghetto)	Bass	Psalm 68:18	8 Thou hast ascended [gone up] on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast [and] received gifts for men; yea, [even] for [thine enemies] the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.
No. 33	Chorus (Andante allegro)		Psalm 68:11	11 The Lord gave the word: great was the company of [the preachers] those that published it.
No. 34	Aria (Larghetto)	Soprano	Romans 10:15	15 ... How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
No. 35	Chorus (A tempo ordinario)		Romans 10:18 (Psalm 19:4)	18 ... [T]heir sound went [is gone out] into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. (4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun)
No. 36	Air (Allegro)	Bass	Psalm 2:1-2	1 ¶ Why do the heathen [nations so furiously] rage [together], and [why do] the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves [rise up], and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed

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No. 37	Chorus (Allegro e staccato) and Recitative	Chorus and Tenor	Psalm 2:3 Psalm 2:4	3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their eords [yokes] from us. 4 He that sitteth [dwelleth] in the heavens shall laugh [them to scorn]: the Lord shall have them in derision.
No. 38	Aria (Andante)	Tenor	Psalm 2:9	9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
No. 39	Chorus (Allegro)		Revelation 19:6 Revelation 11:15 Revelation 19:16	6 ... Alleluia [Hallelujah]: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 15 ... The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. 16 ... KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.
No. 40	Aria (Larghetto)	Soprano	Job 19:25-26 I Corinthians 15:20	25 ... I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 20 ¶ But [For] now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept [sleep].
No. 41	Chorus (Grave - Allegro)		I Corinthians 15:21-22	21 ...[S]ince by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
No. 42	Recitative	Bass	I Corinthians 15:51-52	51 ¶ Behold, I shew [tell] you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump[et] ...
No. 43	Aria (Pomposo, ma non allegro) and Recitative	Bass and Alto	I Corinthians 15:52-53 I Corinthians 15:54	52 ... the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 ...[T]hen shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

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No. 44	Duet (Andante)	Alto and Tenor	I Corinthians 15:55-56	55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.
No. 45	Chorus (Andante)		I Corinthians 15:57	57 But thanks be to God, which [who] giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
No. 46	Aria (Larghetto)	Soprano	Romans 8:31,33,34	31 ... If God be for us, who can be against us? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh [makes] intercession for us.
No. 47	Chorus (- Largo - Andante - Larghetto) and Chorus (Allegro moderato)	Soprano and Chorus	Revelation 5:9, 12-13	9 ... [And has] has redeemed us to God by thy [His] ... 12 ... Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 ... Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.