

# “MESSIAH”

‘A Sacred Oratorio’

Music

by

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Libretto

by

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# “MESSIAH”

## A Sacred Oratorio

*“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” I Tim. 3:16.*

### PART I.

#### *Prophecy of Future Glory.*

1. Overture (instrumental).

2. 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.

*Isaiah 40:1-3.* (Tenor)

3. 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.

*Isaiah 40:4.* (Tenor)

4. 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)

#### *The Judgment of the Nations.*

5. For thus saith the LORD, the LORD of hosts; Yet once, a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land, And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come:

*Haggai 2:6.* (Bass)

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.* (Bass)

6. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire. *Malachi 3:2.* (Alto.)

7. And he shall purify the sons of Levi, . . . that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. *Malachi 3:3.* (Chorus)

### ***The Prophecy of Christ's birth.***

8. Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. God with us. *Isaiah 7:14, M't. 1:23.* (Alto)

### ***Prophecy of Future Glory, continued.***

9. O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! *Isaiah 40:9.* (Alto)

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. *Isaiah 60:1.* (Alto and Chorus)

10. 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. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. *Isaiah 60:1.* (Bass)

11. 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. *Isa. 9:2.* (Bass)

12. 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.* (Chorus)

### ***The annunciation to the shepherds.***

13. Pifa ("*Pastoral Symphony*") instrumental.

14a. There were shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. *Luke 2:8.* (Soprano)

14b. 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 2:9.* (Soprano.)

15. 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.  
*Luke 2:10-11.* (Soprano)

16. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, (Soprano)

17. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. *Luke 2:13-14.* (Chorus)

*Prophecy of Future Glory, continued.*

18. 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. *Zechariah 9:9.* (Soprano)

19. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing. *Isaiah 35:5-6.* (Soprano)

20. 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.* (Alto and Soprano)

Come unto him, all ye that labour, ye 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.  
*Matthew 11:28-29.* (Soprano)

21. His yoke is easy, His burden is light. *Matthew 11:30.* (Chorus)

## PART II.

### Christ the Sin Bearer.

22. Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.  
*John 1:29.* (Chorus)

23. He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. *Isaiah 53:3,* (Alto)

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.* (Alto)

24. 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. *Isaiah. 53:4-5.* (Chorus)

25. And with his stripes we are healed. *Isaiah 53:5.* (Chorus)

26. 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.* (Chorus)

27. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, *Psalms 22:7.* (Tenor)

28. He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. *Psalms 22:8, M't. 27:43.* (Chorus)

29. Thy rebuke hath broken his heart. He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man, neither found He any to comfort Him.  
*Psalms 69:20.* (Tenor or Soprano)

30. Behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow.  
*Lamentations 1:12.* (Tenor or Soprano)

### *Christ's Death and Resurrection.*

31. He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgressions of Thy people was He stricken. *Isaiah 53:8.* (Tenor or Soprano)

32. But thou didst not leave his soul in hell, nor didst Thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption. *Acts 2:31, Psalm 16:10.* (Tenor or Soprano)

### *Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.*

33. 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; even lift them 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. *Psalm 24:7-10.* (Chorus)

### *Christ the Mediator, higher than the Angels.*

34. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? *Hebrews 1:5.* (Tenor)

35. Let all the angels of God worship Him. *Hebrews 1:6.* (Chorus)

36. Thou art gone up on high, thou hast lead captivity captive, and received gifts for men; yea, eve for thine enemies . . . that the LORD God might dwell among them. *Psalm 68:18, Ephesians 4:8.* (Soprano)

### *The Aionian Gospel.*

37. The Lord gave the word; great was the company of the preachers *Psalm 68:11.* (Chorus)

38. How beautiful are the feet. *Romans 10:15, Isaiah 52:7,* (Soprano)

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

### *The Response by the Kings of the Earth*

40. 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 against His Anointed.

*Psalms 2:1-2.* (Bass)

41. Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their yokes (cords) from us. *Psalms 2:3.* (Chorus)

42. He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision. *Psalms 2:4.* (Tenor)

43. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. *Psalms 2:9.* (Tenor)

### *Christ's Ultimate Victory.*

44. Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. *Rev. 19:6,*

The kingdom of this world are become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. *Rev. 11:15,*

KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. *Rev. 19:16,* and he shall reign for ever and ever. *Rev. 11:15,* (Chorus)

### **PART III.**

### *The Promise of Resurrection to Life Eternal.*

45. I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. *Job 19:25-26,*

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. *I Cor. 15:20* (Soprano)

46. Since by man came death. . .

47. By man came also the resurrection of the dead.

*I Corinthians 15:21.* (Chorus)

48. For as in Adam all die. . .

49. Even so in Christ shall all be made alive. *I Corinthians 15:22.* (Chorus)

### *The Day of Judgment.*

50. 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. *I Corinthians 15:51-52.* (Bass)

51. The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. *I Corinthians 15:52.*

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. *I Corinthians 15:53.* (Bass)

### *The final conquest of sin.*

52. then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. *I Corinthians 15:54* (Alto)

53. 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. *I Corinthians 15:55-56.*  
(Alto and Tenor)

54. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *I Corinthians 15:57* (Chorus)

55. 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. *Romans 8:31-34.* (Soprano)

### *The Acclamation of the Messiah.*

56. 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. *Revelation 5:12-13.* (Chorus)

57. Amen. *Revelation 5:13, 22:20.* (Chorus)

AMEN