

## A Christmas Concert

December 20, 1998 at four o'clock

### MESSIAH

A Sacred Oratorio

by

*George Frideric Handel*  
(1685-1759)

The Words Selected from Holy Scripture by  
*Charles Jennens*

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir  
Patrick Allen, *Director of Music and Fine Arts*

with

The Atlanta Baroque Orchestra  
Lyle Nordstrom, *Artistic Director*

Penelope Jensen, *Soprano*    Mark Crayton, *Countertenor*

Gregory Carder, *Tenor*    Mark Risinger, *Bass*

### MAJORA CANAMUS

*Virgil, Eclogue IV*

And without Controversy, great is the mystery of Godliness:

God was manifested in the Flesh, justified by the Spirit, seen of Angels, preached  
among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

In whom are hid all the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge.

*1 Timothy 3:16; Colossians 2:3*

*These words, selected by Jennens, the librettist, formed a preface to the word-book of the first  
performance in April 1742 at Dublin. They were repeated on the word-books published in  
London 1749-1759 and later.*

**Word-Book**  
Overture

**Part the first**

**Arioso for Tenor**

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*

**Air for Tenor**

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight, 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*

**Recitative for Bass**

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; 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. *Haggai 2:6-7 and Malachi 3:1*

**Air for Countertenor**

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*

**Chorus**

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

**Recitative for Countertenor**

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel, "God with us." *Isaiah 7:14*

**Air for Countertenor and Chorus**

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. *Isaiah 40:9 and 60:1*

Arioso for Bass

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.  
*Isaiah 60:2-3*

Air for Bass

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.  
*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 for Soprano

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.  
*St. Luke 2:8*

Arioso for Soprano

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.  
*St. Luke 2:9*

Recitative for Soprano

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.  
*St. Luke 2:10-11*

Arioso for Soprano

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

Chorus

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

Air for Soprano

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 9:9-10*

Recitative for Countertenor

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.  
*Isaiah 35:5-6*

Air for Soprano

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 and 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.  
*Isaiah 40:11 and St. Matthew 11:28-29*

Chorus

His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light. *St. Matthew 11:30*

*Pause*

**Part the second**

Chorus

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

Air for Countertenor

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.  
*Isaiah 53:3 and 50:6*

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; and with his stripes we are healed. 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 53:4-6*

Recitative for Tenor

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

Air for Tenor

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. 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.  
*Revelation 19:6, 11:15, 19:16*

### Part the third

#### Air for Soprano

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.

*Job 19:25-26 and 1 Corinthians 15:20*

#### Chorus

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. *1 Corinthians 15:21-22*

#### Recitative for Bass

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. *1 Corinthians 15:51-52*

#### Air for Bass

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. *1 Corinthians 15:52-53*

#### Recitative for Countertenor

Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. *1 Corinthians 15:54*

#### Duet for Countertenor and Tenor

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. *1 Corinthians 15:55-56*

#### Chorus

But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:57*

#### Air for Soprano

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 maketh intercession for us. *Romans 8:31-34*

#### Chorus

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. Amen. *Revelation 5:12-13*

## The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Kirk Alford  
Anne Bell-Alford  
Ruth Bean  
Louise Beard  
Becky Castleberry  
Robert Castleberry  
Joe Chesnut  
Margaret Chesnut  
Foster Cook  
Susan Edwards  
Morgan Eiland  
Alan Grier

Evan Halsey  
Elizabeth Henderson  
Andrew Hicks  
Robert G. Hill, Jr.  
Karen Houston  
Elaine Huckleberry  
Robert Hunter  
Gregory Jeane  
Karen Jeane  
Gorman Jones  
Walter Jones

George E. Keller, III  
Annette Kinderman  
Robert Kracke  
Janet Ort  
Ginni Robertson  
Lynne Simmons  
William Somerall  
Samuel Stayer  
Jason Turner  
Kathryn Walthall  
Kate Waters  
Helen Yarboro

## The Westminster Choir

Lanford Beard  
Carabeth Beck  
Frances Bell  
Leigh Bennett  
Charlotte Brockman  
Allen Bunting  
Anne Donaldson  
Hillary Esco

Meagan Esco  
Loren Feagin  
Lydia Garlikov  
Meghan Garlikov  
Audrey Howell  
Julie James  
Kathryn Johnson

Gaines Marsh  
Kate Marsh  
Wamaitha Muya  
Cheryl Rice  
Mara Thomas  
Marliese Thomas  
Pearl Uhomba  
Caroline Underwood

## The Atlanta Baroque Orchestra

### Violin

Cynthia Roberts,  
*Guest Concertmaster*  
Valerie Prebys,  
*Principal Second*  
Dongmyung Ahn  
Irene Chung  
Jennifer Dalmas  
Ute Marks

### Viola

Melissa Brewer,  
*Principal*  
Scott Cole

### Cello

Johanna Blendulf,  
*Principal*  
Eckhart Richter  
Dorothy Rocklin

### Violone

Martha Bishop

### Oboe

George Riordan,  
*Principal*  
Lara Lay

### Bassoon

Keith Collins

### Trumpet

Barry Baugess,  
*Principal*  
Tom Heuner

### Timpani

David Pruett

### Organ

Daniel Pyle

### Harpsichord

Karyl Louwenaar Lueck

### Theorbo

Lyle Nordstrom  
*Artistic Director*