

George Haendel – Messiah (Christie) [1994]

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 22 October 2009 20:14 - Last Updated Friday, 20 December 2013 21:36

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Disc: 1

1. *Messiah: Sinfonia*
2. *Messiah: Recitative (Tenor): Comfort Ye, My People*
3. *Messiah: Air (Tenor) : Every Valley*
4. *Messiah: Chorus: And The glory Of The Lord*
5. *Messiah: Recitative (Bass): Thus Saith The Lord*
6. *Messiah: Air (Alto): But Who May Abide*
7. *Messiah: Chorus: And He Shall Purify*
8. *Messiah: Recitative (Alto): Behold - Air & Chorus: O Thou*
9. *Messiah: Recitative & Air (Bass): For Behold - The People*
10. *Messiah: Chorus: For Unto Us A Child Is Born*
11. *Messiah: Pastoral Symphony (Pifa)*
12. *Messiah: Recitative (Treble): There Were Shepherds - And Lo, The Angel - And The Angel, Chorus: Glory To God*
13. *Messiah: Air (Soprano I): Rejoice Greatly*
14. *Messiah: Recitative & Air (Soprano I & Alto): Then Shall The Eyes - He Shall Feed His Flock*
15. *Messiah: Chorus: His Yoke Is Easy*
16. *Messiah: Chorus: Behold The Lamb Of God*
17. *Messiah: Air (Alto): He Was Despised*
18. *Messiah: Chorus: Surely He Hath Borne - All We Like Sheep*

Disc: 2

1. *Messiah: Recitative (Tenor): All They That See - Chorus: He Trusted In God*
2. *Messiah: Recitative (Tenor): Thy Rebuke Hath - Air (Tenor): Behold And See*
3. *Messiah: Air (Soprano I): But Thou Didst Not Leave*
4. *Messiah: Chorus: Lift Up Your Heads*
5. *Messiah: Recitative (Tenor): Unto Which Of - Chorus: Let all the angels*
6. *Messiah: Air (Soprano II): Thou Art Gone Up On High*
7. *Messiah: Chorus: The Lord gave the word*
8. *Messiah: Air (Soprano I): How Beautiful Are The Feet*
9. *Messiah: Chorus: Their Sound Is Gone Out*
10. *Messiah: Air (Bass): Why Do The Nations*
11. *Messiah: Chorus: Let Us Break Their Bonds Asunder*
12. *Messiah: Recitative (Tenor): He That Dwelleth - Air (tenor): Thou Shall Break Them*

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13. *Messiah: Chorus: Hallelujah!*

14. *Messiah: Air (Soprano I): I Know That My Redeemer*

15. *Messiah: Chorus: Since By Man Came Death*

16. *Messiah: Recitative (Bass): Behold, I Tell You - Air (Bass): The Trumpet Shall Sound*

17. *Messiah: Recitativo (Alto): Then Shall Be Brought - Duet (Alto & Tenor): O Death - Chorus: But Thanks Be*

18. *Messiah: Air (Soprano II): If God Be For Us*

19. *Messiah: Chorus: Worthy Is The Lamb That Was Slain*

20. *Messiah: Chorus: Amen*

Sandrine Piau (Soprano) Mark Padmore (Tenor) Andreas Scholl (Countertenor) Barbara Schlick (Soprano) Nathan Berg (Bass Baritone) Les Arts Florissants William Christie - conductor

The great strength of William Christie's Messiah is his soloists: the two sopranos, Barbara Schlick and Sandrine Piau, are excellent--Schlick warmer and more engaging than usual, Piau downright spectacular in "Rejoice greatly"; reigning countertenor Andreas Scholl and sturdy bass Nathan Berg (whose vibrato could use some taming) do fine work; Mark Padmore is one of the best Handel tenors around. Christie conducts with his usual energy and elegance--but the weak point of this performance is another regular Christie feature: his soprano-heavy, vibrato-heavy chorus. In French Baroque music this isn't a serious problem, but Handel's melodies and countermelodies require a transparent choral sound--Christie's choir turns them to soup. Still, while this may not be a first-choice Messiah, Handel collectors should consider it for the solo singing alone. --Matthew Westphal, amazon.com

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