

Welcome to *Messiah* - Sing!

For those of you who have participated in a *Messiah*-Sing before, this will be like greeting an old friend. For those of you who have not participated, this will be an exciting new experience. Handel's *Messiah* had its first performance, not during the Christmas season, but on April 13, 1742. The tradition of a Christmas performance of *Messiah* was started in America by the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston in 1819. *Messiah* remains, not only one of the most performed Christmas works but the single most performed major choral work ever written.

Messiah-Sing FAQ:

Who sings? The audience sings! Others are most welcome to enjoy the performances as audience members, but singers should sit in the seats near the stage in the sections shown in the diagram below. Non-singing audience members will have the best experience if they sit in the balcony where they can hear and see more of the performers.

If I want to sing, must I have sung *Messiah* before or come to practices?

NO! Anyone can sing. There will be plenty of experienced singers who will help guide each section. Get the music and sing along!

Do I have to sit in the correct section?

It make things easier to see cues from the conductor, but if you came with a group of experienced friends of different voice parts, and you would like to sing together, you certainly may. Just sit in the rows behind the established SATB sections.

Who sings the solos?

The solos will be sung by four professional soloists from the stage.

Do we stand to sing?

We ask that the choral singers stand during the choruses as you are able. The conductor will provide direction on when to stand or sit.

Do we sing every movement?

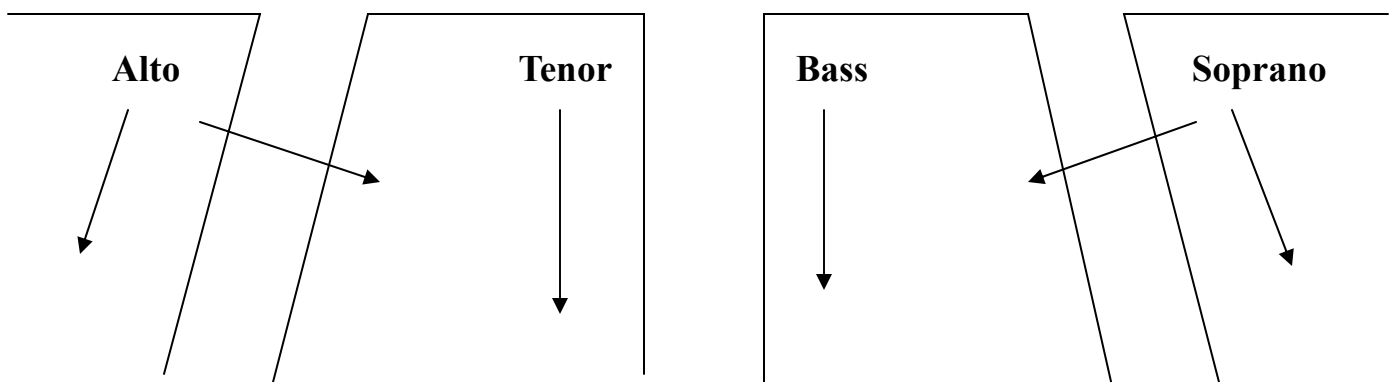
No, we sing only the selections listed in the program.

Where can I buy a vocal score?

Check with your local music store, Eble's Music Company in Iowa City or purchase one at the door before the performance (\$8 for G. Schirmer edition).

STAGE

Conductor



Messiah - Sing! Program

1. OVERTURE

2. **RECITATIVE** (Tenor): Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish'd, 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.
3. **AIR** (Tenor): Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain.
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.
5. **RECITATIVE** (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.
6. **AIR** (Alto): But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire.
7. **CHORUS**: And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.
8. **RECITATIVE** (Alto): Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.
9. **AIR** (Alto) and **CHORUS**: O thou the 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.
10. **RECITATIVE** (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.
11. **AIR** (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.
12. **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.
13. **PASTORAL SYMPHONY**
14. **RECITATIVE** (Soprano): There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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.
15. **RECITATIVE** (Soprano): And the angel of the Lord 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 Savior, which is Christ the Lord.
16. **RECITATIVE** (Soprano): And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: -
17. **CHORUS**: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.

Intermission

18. **AIR** (Soprano): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
19. **RECITATIVE** (Alto): Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.
20. **AIR** (Alto): 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.
21. **CHORUS**: His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.
22. **CHORUS**: Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.
24. **CHORUS**: Surely He hath born 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.
25. **CHORUS**: And with his stripes we are healed.
26. **CHORUS**: 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.
40. **AIR** (Bass): Why do the nations so furiously rage together, and 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.
41. **CHORUS**: Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us.
42. **RECITATIVE** (Tenor): He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision.
43. **AIR** (Tenor): Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
44. **CHORUS**: Hallelujah! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world has 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. Hallelujah!