MESSIAH
PORTLAND
DECEMBER 12, 1967
8 P. M.

NASSON COLLEGE
DECEMBER 14, 1967
8 P. M.

THE PORTLAND MAINE SYMPHONY

PAUL VERMEL music director
43rd SEASON
PORTLAND MAINE SYMPHONY

PAUL VERMEL, Conducting

June Woodberry — Soprano  Barbara Hardy Burbank — Soprano
Phyllis Elhady — Contralto  Richard Hayden — Bass
David Goulet — Tenor  John Fay at the Kotzschmar Memorial Organ
Richard Roberts

Portland Symphony Chorus — Madeline Perazzi, Director

John Fay at the Kotzschmar Memorial Organ
Harpsichord  Richard Roberts
Continuo  Katherine Graffam
Trumpet Solo  Robert Pettipaw

Tuesday, December 12, 1967, 8:00 P. M.
Nasson College, December 14

MESSIAH

BY

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL

1685 - 1759

Overture
Grave-allegro moderato

Arioso
Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God; Speak ye comfortable to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

Air
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

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.

Recitative
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.

Air
But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire.

Chorus
And He shall purify the sons of Levi; That They may offer unto the Lord, an offering in righteousness.

Recitative
Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name EMMANUEL, God with us.

Air
O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountains; 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 the light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Arioso
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 Holy Light and linger to the brightness of Thy rising.
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.

Pastoral Symphony
Larghetto

Recitative and Arioso .......................................................... Soprano
There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks 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.
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.
And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

Chorus
Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.

Air .......................................................... Soprano
Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout O daughter of Jerusalem, behold thy King cometh unto thee.

Recitative .......................................................... Contralto
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf un­stopped. Then shall the lame man leap up as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

Air .......................................................... Contralto and Soprano
He shall feed His flocks 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 Labor, Come unto Him all ye that are heavy laden, And He will give you rest; Take His yoke upon you and ye shall find rest.

Chorus
His yoke is Easy; His burthen is light.

-:-    -:-    *INTERMISSION    -:-    -:-

Chorus
Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world.

Air .......................................................... Contralto
He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.

Air .......................................................... Tenor
All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn; They shout out their lips and shake their heads saying;

Chorus
He trusted in God that He would deliver Him; Let Him deliver Him if He delight in Him.

Recitative .......................................................... Tenor
Thy rebuke hath broken his heart; He is full of heaviness; He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man; neither found he any to comfort him.

Air .......................................................... Tenor
Behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto his sorrow.
Recitative  Tenor
He was cut off out of the land; For the Transgressions of Thy people was He stricken.

Chorus
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 the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.

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.

Chorus
Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yoke from us

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 Hallelujah!

Air  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.

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.

Recitative  Bass
Behold, I tell you a mystery; We shall not all sleep; but we shall be changed in a moment in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

Air  Bass
The trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed.

Recitative  Alto
Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in Victory.

Duet  Alto & Tenor
O Death where is thy sting; O Grave where is thy victory; The sting of Death is sin; The sting of Sin is the Law.

Recitative  Tenor
But thanks be to God.

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 honor, and glory and blessing.

Blessing and honor, glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb; Forever and ever.

A-MEN.

*The audience is requested to withhold applause until the end of the complete oratorio. Harpsichord courtesy of Portland Baldwin Studios.