

The Thames Vale Singers

Guest Soloists

Soprano Nicola Bagshaw Tenor Vincent Mears
Contralto Jennifer Le Cocq Bass Colin Anthony
(Trumpet Jennifer Bagshaw)

Organist Peter Bernard

Musical director Alex Taylor

CHOIR

Soprano

Diana Bagshaw
Kathleen Clark
Sue Clark
Phyll Clarke
Alison Dade
Jenny Dimmock
Christine Gale
Linda Hedger
Daphne Hollier
Jill Hughes
Faye Lewis
Anne Orton
Judy Rayers
Val Ryan
Margaret Smith
Myfanwy Starling
Linda Stern
Carol Silitoe
Paula Moore

Contralto

Liz Allison
Jane Andrews
Sally Bergmann
Margaret Broadbent
Jean Brownfoot
Ann Chapman
Linda Clargo
Jean Cockling
Sue Fraser
Elizabeth Jackson
Gillian Macdonald
Wendy McMahon
Sheila Mason
Betty Miller
Christine Minton
Annie Parkinson
Karen Patten
Margaret Perry
Janet Reed
Sybil Titlow
Maureen Watkivs

Tenor

Norman Bagshaw
John Dimmock
Don Dobby
Peter Farrow
Sozze Kasozimusoke
Wally Watkivs

Bass

Reg Blgrave
John Cathrew
Bob Dimmock
Emrys Lewis
William Macphee
Giles Maddocks
Tim Martin
G.A. (Mac) McClelland
John Pady
Jon Skeet
Ray Watson
John Wigmore
Lionel Williams

We are seeking to recruit some additional Tenors and Bases for the Choir. For details of membership and for any other information about the Thames Vale Singers, please contact our Chairman, John Cathrew on 0118 984 2845

The Thames Vale Singers

present

Messiah

by

George Frederick Handel

*6pm Sunday 23rd April 2000
(Easter Sunday)*

at

St Mary's Church, Purley on Thames

*Proceeds to The Duchess of Kent
House*

In 1741 at the age of 56 Handel's career was failing, He was a naturalised citizen and had lived in England for thirty years - for the previous seventeen years at 25 Brook Street in London. He was also on the verge of bankruptcy and his recent operas had been a failure. His friend Charles Jennens had given him a selection of words from the Scriptures and on 14 August he began work on Messiah. Exactly three weeks later he signed the last page and the 265 pages had been completed from beginning to end with barely a correction. Messiah marked a change in Handel's career from one of (unsuccessful) opera composition to one of (very successful) oratorio composition. This work was first performed in Dublin the following year in a charity concert for the poor. Ironically Handel earned very little from it's success but his position in musical society was thereafter firmly established.

The work is in three parts illustrating the birth of Christ then the Passion and finally the Resurrection and hope of glory

Part 1

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Overture | |
| 2. | Comfort ye My people | Tenor |
| 3. | Ev'ry valley shall be exalted | Tenor |
| 4. | And the glory of the Lord | Chorus |
| 5. | Thus saith the Lord | Bass |
| 6. | But who may abide? | Contralto |
| 7. | And he shall purify | Chorus |
| 8. | Behold, a virgin shall conceive | Contralto |
| 9. | O thou that tellest good tidings | Contralto
& Chorus |
| 10. | For behold, darkness | Bass |
| 11. | The people that walked in darkness | Bass |
| 12. | For unto us a Child is born | Chorus |
| 13. | Pastoral Symphony | |
| 14. | There were shepherds
And lo! the angel of the Lord | Soprano |
| 15. | And the angel said unto them | Soprano |
| 16. | And suddenly | Soprano |
| 17. | Glory to God | Chorus |
| 18. | Rejoice greatly | Soprano |
| 19. | Then shall the eyes of the blind | Contralto |
| 20. | He shall feed His flock | Contralto &
Soprano |
| 21. | His yoke is easy | Chorus |

Short Interval

Part 2

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 22. | Behold the Lamb of God | Chorus |
| 23. | He was despised | Contralto |
| 24. | Surely He hath borne our griefs | Chorus |
| 25. | And with His stripes | Chorus |
| 26. | All we like sheep | Chorus |
| 27. | All they that see Him | Tenor |
| 28. | He trusted in God | Chorus |
| 29. | Thy rebuke hath broken His heart | Tenor |
| 30. | Behold, and see | Tenor |
| 31. | He was cut off | Tenor |
| 32. | But Thou did'st not leave | Tenor |
| 33. | Lift up your heads O ye gates | Chorus |
| 34. | Unto which of the angels | Tenor |
| 35. | Let all the angels of God | Chorus |
| 36. | Thou art gone up on high | Bass |
| 37. | The Lord gave the word | Chorus |
| 38. | How beautiful are the feet | Soprano |
| 39. | Their sound is gone out | Chorus |
| 40. | Why do the nations? | Bass |
| 41. | Let us break their bonds asunder | Chorus |
| 42. | He that dwelleth in Heaven | Tenor |
| 43. | Thou shalt break them | Tenor |
| 44. | Hallelujah! | Chorus |

Part 3

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 45. | I know that my Redeemer liveth | Soprano |
| 46. | Since by man came death | Chorus |
| 47. | Behold I tell you a mystery | Bass |
| 48. | The trumpet shall sound | Bass |
| 49. | Then shall be brought to pass | Contralto |
| 50. | O death where is thy sting? | Tenor &
Contralto |
| 51. | But thanks be to God | Chorus |
| 52. | If God be for us | Soprano |
| 53. | Worthy is the Lamb | Chorus |