

1982

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FORTHCOMING CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERTS.

Wednesday, 8th December - Concert of Christmas Music.  
St. Michael's Church, Caldmore. 7.30

Saturday, 21st May - Walton: Te Deum  
Purcell: Funeral Music  
Stravinsky: Symphony of Psalms.  
St. Matthew's Church. 7.45  
\*(Tickets available at reduced rate if  
bought at tonight's Concert)

MAY, 1984 - Bach: Mass in B Minor.

Next Saturday Queen Mary's Grammar School present a  
Seasonal Choral Concert, including Britten, Missa,  
Brevis and Schutz The Christmas Story, in St. Paul's Church,  
Darwall Street.

We would be very grateful if you could answer the short  
questionnaire available at this Concert.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance of  
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, Walsall Arts Council,  
and the National Federation of Music Societies, and the kind  
permission of the Vicar and Wardens of St. Matthews for the  
use of the Church.

WALSALL CHORAL SOCIETY

T H E M E S S I A H

SOLOISTS: ANDREA GRAY - (Soprano)  
JOSEPHINE BOULD - (Alto)  
GRENVILLE HEATH - (Tenor)  
ANTHONY SCALES - (Bass)

WOLVERHAMPTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Organ: - Andrew Proverbs  
Conducted by - Peter Morris.

Saturday, 4th December, 1982 - 7.30 p.m.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

(By kind permission of the Vicar)

THE MESSIAH

The Preface to the words of the first performance in April 1742 at Dublin were chosen from St. Paul's Epistles by the librettist, Jennens:

And without Controversy, great is the myster of Godliness: God was manifested in the Flesh, justified by the Spirit, seen of Angels, preached among the Gentiles, belived on in the world, received up in glory.

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

The Messiah - an English institution since its completion - was, it can be said, a product of Handel's famous change of direction in the 1720's. When opera was rendered unfashionable, and therefore unprofitable, by the realisation of the absurdities of Italian opera in Baroque London, Handel turned to Oratorio instead. Despite the oft-quoted view that Handel's Oratorios are merely his operas without costume and movement, the Messiah shows not only Handel's faith and a sense of the reality of his subject, but also his ability to create drama and profundity purely through musical means.

When Peter Morris was a choirboy at Chester Cathedral, the most frequently told story was of Handel's stay in Chester on his way to Dublin for the first performance. He asked for a bass who could sing at sight to try the aria "The Trumpet Shall Sound". A cathedral lay clerk who attempted the task was unable to sing it at all. Handel, despairing, told the man "I thought you could sing at sight" only to receive the reply "I can, but not at first sight!"

PART ONE

THE PROPHECIES AND NATIVITY.

- Overture - Orchestra
- Comfort Ye my People - Tenor
- Every Valley - Tenor
- And the Glory of the Lord - Chorus
- Thus saith the Lord - Bass
- But who may abide? - Alto
- And He shall purify - Chorus
- Behold a Virgin shall conceive - Alto
- O Thou that tellest good tidings - Alto and Chorus
- For behold, darkness - Bass
- \\ The people that walked in darkness - Bass

PART ONE (continued)

12 For unto us a Child is born \*  
Pastoral Symphony  
There were Shepherds  
17 Glory to God \*  
Rejoice greatly  
Then shall the eyes of the blind  
He shall feed His flock  
His yoke is easy

- Chorus  
- Orchestra  
- Soprano  
- Chorus  
- Soprano  
- Alto  
- Alto and  
Soprano  
- Chorus

INTERVAL

PART TWO

THE PASSION AND TRIUMPH OF JESUS

22 Behold the Lamb of God - Chorus  
23 He was despised - Alto  
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 has broken His heart - Tenor  
30 Behold, and see - Tenor  
31 He was cut off - Tenor  
32 But Thou didst not leave - Tenor  
33 Lift up your heads - Chorus  
37 The Lord gave the word - Chorus  
38 How beautiful are the feet - Soprano  
40 Why do the nations? \* - Bass  
Let us break their bonds asunder - Chorus  
He that dwelleth in Heaven - Tenor  
Thou shalt break them - Tenor  
44 Hallelujah! \* - Chorus

PART THREE

THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE.

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	- Alto
50 O death, where is thy sting?	- Alto and Tenor
51 But thanks be to God	- Chorus
52 If God be for us.	- Soprano
53 Worthy is the Lamb *	- Chorus
Amen	- Chorus

Please see over....