



HANDEL

MESSIAH

Presented by the combined voices of
Kowhai Singers and **Matakantata**

Conducted by **Peter Cammell**

SATURDAY 13 MAY
SUNDAY 14 MAY
2017

WARKWORTH TOWN HALL
(celebrating its re-opening after renovation)

<http://kowhaisingers.org.nz>

Messiah is an English-language oratorio composed by George Frideric Handel. The scriptural text was compiled by Charles Jennens from the King James Bible, and from the Psalms included with the Book of Common Prayer. It was first performed in Dublin on 13 April 1742 and received its London premiere nearly a year later. After an initially modest public reception, the oratorio gained in popularity, eventually becoming one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works in Western music.

Handel's reputation in England, where he had lived since 1712, had been established through his compositions of Italian opera. He turned to English oratorio in the 1730s in response to changes in public taste. *Messiah* was his sixth work in this genre and although its structure resembles that of opera, it is not in dramatic form; there are no impersonations of characters and no direct speech. Instead, Jennens's text is an extended reflection on Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

In Part I the Messiah's coming and the virgin birth are predicted by the Old Testament prophets. The annunciation to the shepherds of the birth of the Christ is represented in the words of Luke's gospel. Part II covers Christ's passion and his death, his resurrection and ascension, the first spreading of the gospel through the world, and a definitive statement of God's glory summarised in the "Hallelujah". Part III begins with the promise of redemption, followed by a prediction of the day of judgment and ending with the final victory over sin and death and the acclamation of Christ.

The music for *Messiah* was completed in 24 days of swift composition. Having received Jennens's text Handel began work on the music on 22 August 1741. His records show that he had completed Part I in outline by 28 August, Part II by 6 September and Part III by 12 September, followed by two days of "filling up" to produce the finished work on 14 September. The 259 pages of the autographed score show some signs of haste such as blots, scratchings-out, unfilled bars and other uncorrected errors. After the first performance he continued to revise and recompose individual movements, sometimes to suit the requirements of particular singers.

Handel wrote *Messiah* for modest vocal and instrumental forces, with optional settings for many of the individual numbers. In the years after his death, the work was adapted for performance on a much larger scale, with giant orchestras and choirs. Our modest complement of 75 singers, 10 instrumentalists and organ is perhaps closer to Handel's original intentions.



George Frideric Handel
1685 - 1759

Part I

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Overture | Organ, orchestra |
| 2. | Comfort ye my people | Tenor, strings, organ |
| 3. | Ev'ry valley | Tenor, orchestra |
| 4. | And the Glory of the Lord | Chorus, organ, orchestra |
| 5. | Thus saith the Lord | Bass, continuo |
| 6. | But who may abide? | Soprano, organ, strings. |
| 8. | Behold, a virgin shall conceive | Alto, organ |
| 9. | O thou that tellest | Alto, chorus, organ, orchestra |
| 10. | For behold, darkness shall cover the earth | Bass, organ, orchestra |
| 11. | The people that walked in darkness | Bass, organ, orchestra |
| 12. | For unto us | Chorus, organ, orchestra |
| 13. | Pastoral symphony | Organ, orchestra |
| 14. | There were shepherds / And lo, the Angel ... | Soprano, organ, strings |
| 15. | And the angel said unto them | Soprano, organ. |
| 16. | And suddenly | Soprano, continuo, strings |
| 17. | Glory to God | Chorus, organ, orchestra |
| 18. | Rejoice greatly | Soprano, organ, orchestra |
| 19. | Then shall the eyes | Alto, organ. |
| 20. | He shall feed his flock | Alto, Sop., organ, orchestra |
| 21. | His yoke is easy | Chorus, organ, orchestra. |

Interval

Part II

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 22. | Behold, the lamb of God | Chorus, organ, orchestra |
| 23. | He was despised | Alto, organ, orchestra |
| 24. | Surely He hath borne | Chorus, organ, orchestra |
| 25. | And with his stripes | Chorus, organ, orchestra |
| 26. | All we like sheep | Chorus, organ, orchestra |
| 27. | All they that see him | Tenor, continuo, strings |
| 28. | He trusted in God | Chorus, organ, orchestra |
| 29. | Thy rebuke | Tenor, organ |
| 30. | Behold and see | Tenor, organ, orchestra |
| 31. | He was cut off | Tenor, organ |
| 32. | But thou didst not leave | Tenor, organ, orchestra |
| 33. | Lift up your heads | Chorus, organ, orchestra |
| 40. | Why do the nations? | Bass, organ, orchestra |
| 42. | He that dwelleth in heaven | Tenor, organ |
| 43. | Thou shalt break them | Tenor, organ, orchestra |
| 44. | Hallelujah! | Tutti, including soloists |

Part III

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------------------|
| 45. | I know that my redeemer | Soprano, organ, orchestra |
| 46. | Since by man came death | Chorus, organ, orchestra |
| 47. | Behold, I tell you a mystery | Bass, organ, cello |
| 48. | The trumpet shall sound | Bass, organ, orchestra |
| 53. | Worthy is the Lamb/ Blessing and honour/ Amen | Tutti |



Peter Cammell (BA, Post Grad. Dip. Mus.) has conducted the Kowhai Singers since 1995. After studying music at Auckland and Otago Universities Peter taught in various schools and colleges in London and Auckland. Although a violinist and recorder player his main interest has always been choral singing and conducting. He has sung at various times in the Dorian Choir, Auckland Anglican Cathedral Choir, Cantus Firmus, The Graduate Choir and Musica Sacra.

This will be Peter's last concert as Musical Director of Kowhai Singers. In his 22 years at the helm he has developed the repertoire and capability of the choir enormously – we thank him profoundly and wish him well in his retirement.

Susan Hayday (BMus, FTCL & LRSM, [singing], ATCL [piano]) has enjoyed a busy musical life from a young age, singing in choirs including the Auckland Dorian Singers and Viva Voce. She has also sung in operas, musical theatre, recitals, and has enjoyed solo work with choirs as well as adjudicating at vocal competitions. As an Associate of the Institute of Registered Music Teachers NZ she presently teaches piano and singing both at home and at Mahurangi College, Warkworth. Susan has been Music Director of Matakānata choir since its inception in 2009, and is also presently Music Director of Albany based Pohutukawa Singers.



Hamilton soprano **Jayne Tankersley** is one of New Zealand's most experienced singers of early music. She won Best Musical Act at 2015 Auckland Fringe Festival and is in demand as a soloist throughout the country. From 1999 - 2006 she was based in Boston USA, where she completed a Masters degree in Early Music Vocal Performance, and appeared as soloist and recorded with some of the leading period groups of America. Since returning home Jayne has appeared throughout the country, including the Auckland Philharmonia, Opus Orchestra, Voices NZ, Age of Discovery, NZ Barok, Bach Musica NZ, Scholars Pro Musica, and is heard regularly on RNZ Concert. Her ensemble Affetto has won numerous awards and in 2015 toured with Chamber Music NZ.

Beverley Hicks (BA, ATCL) lives in Warkworth and has been a member of Kowhai Singers since its inception, frequently performing with them as soloist. She has sung with a number of choral societies in the North from Whangarei to Tauranga and often performs as soloist with Auckland groups Bach Musica, Handel Consort and Quire. She worked extensively with NZ composer the late Dorothea Franchi on her own works for house recitals, local concerts and the Auckland Lieder Society. As a teacher of English for many years her love of language has led to a particular interest in early 20th century art song. Upon retiring from teaching she studied for and gained the ACTL (Performance) qualification with Distinction in 2004.

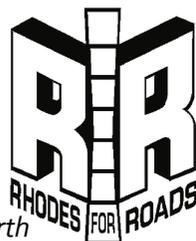


Iain Tetley (BA) has sung since his youth, playing title roles in musicals during school and university. Since moving to New Zealand in 1997 he has sung a wide range of roles from Whangarei to Dunedin, earning a strong reputation for his versatility. His proudest solo appearance was with countertenor Andreas Schöll in 2011. Iain has conducted Sing Waiheke, Auckland Youth Choir, South Auckland Choral Society, Franklin Community Choir and Cantando Choir in Hamilton. In 2008 he conducted 222 performers in the Auckland première of Karl Jenkins's *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*, combining three choirs, orchestra and eight soloists. He was a deputy conductor of Musica Sacra for ten years, and now directs Cantorum, a chamber choir he formed in 2014 to perform mainly early sacred music.



Chalium S P Poppy began his earliest musical training whilst a cathedral chorister and organ scholar in England. He studied at the Royal College of Organists in London and then at a number of conservatoires in Europe - Lyon, Bologna, Freiberg and graduated Masterstudium in Protestant Church Music with Honours from the Academy of Music in Vienna. In Canada he served as Organist & Choirmaster for six years before meeting and marrying a New Zealander and relocating to Mt Maunganui in 2009. During his short time in New Zealand, Chalium has appeared as a guest soloist with many choirs throughout NZ, from Auckland to Dunedin. His unique education and experience allows him to enjoy an extremely versatile career as a professional church musician, conductor, oratorio soloist, occasional operatic singer, music commentator, clinician and teacher.

Michael C W Bell (BMus, DipTchg) is presently resident organist, composer and music teacher at Kings School in Remuera, Auckland. He resigned as Director of Music at St Matthews in the City in 2016 after fourteen years' service. He has a passion for the music of J.S. Bach and improvises on organ and piano with his own blend of Classical and Baroque elements. Bell is represented on the SOUNZ composers' website. In 2016 St Matthews in the City performed his new setting of Psalm 100. He won best performance of a NZ work at the Kids Sing in June with *The Crocodile*, words by Roald Dahl. As an organist Bell continues to accompany several choirs and musical groups around New Zealand.



Thanks to **Webster Malcolm Law, Warkworth**

Kowhai Singers

Sopranos

Meri Armstrong
Jocelyn Brough
Margaret Cammell
Nicola Cammell
Georgina Christie
Elizabeth Clark
Rona Glover
Carole Hay
Susan Hayday
Pauline Hirst
Jennifer Kirker
Bronwyn Lane
Hilary Lewis
Elke Metzler
Annette Meyer
Maureen Rutherford
Jeannette Scott
Patte Williams

Altos

Cathy Betty
Joy Boniface
Jenny Cammell
Jenny Collins
Elly Day
Jeanette Grimmer
Robyn Hambleton
Xavia Healey-Diaz
Lorna Laxon
Sharon Lee
Marion McDermott-Jones
Dru Rose
Kate Shevlad
Mary Slaughter
Margaret Smith

Tenors

Russell Cullen
Jo Evans
Jonathan Lane
Alan Lyth
Roger Mackay
Mike Rose
Lesley Stone

Basses

Robin Brown
Alan Cocker
Keith Hopner
Ron Jamieson
Warwick Massey
Peter McMillan
John Millett
Graeme North
Rik Schijf
Neil Sutherland
Peter Taylerson
Norbury Teare
Geoff Ward

Matakantata

Sopranos

Davin Bradford
Lee Cook
Susan Hayday
Jennifer Kirker
Sarah McDonald
Cathy Monsbourgh
Helen Wintle

Altos

Judy Chan
Alison Coates
Evelyn Dashper
Janet Dodsworth
Kate Greenaway
Gael Rhodes
Sam Rutherford

Tenors

Ken Cutforth
Ross Hetherington

Basses

Neville Johnson
Robert McRae
Bert Rolston
Ken Rhodes
Peter Skeates
Pete Williams

Matakantata has been rehearsed for the Messiah performances by
Susan Hayday



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