

Tafelmusik

Sing-Along *Messiah*

Massey Hall

Sunday, December 20, 2009 2:00 pm

Ann Monoyios *soprano*

Meg Bragle *mezzo-soprano*

Benjamin Hulett *tenor*

Sumner Thompson *baritone*

Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra

Tafelmusik Chamber Choir

Directed by the composer,
George Frideric Handel

Sinfonia

Comfort ye my people

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted

And the glory of the Lord

Behold, a virgin shall conceive

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth

The people that walked in darkness

For unto us a child is born

Pifa

There were shepherds abiding in the fields

But lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them

And the angel said unto them

And suddenly there was with the angel

Glory to God

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened

He shall feed his flock

His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light

Tenor Recitative

Tenor Air

Chorus

Alto Recitative

Alto Air and Chorus

Bass Recitative

Bass Air

Chorus

Soprano Recitative

Soprano Recitative

Soprano Recitative

Soprano Recitative

Chorus

Soprano Air

Alto Recitative

Alto and Soprano Duet

Chorus

INTERMISSION

Behold the Lamb of God	Chorus
He was despised	Alto Air
Surely he hath borne our griefs	Chorus
And with his stripes we are healed	Chorus
All we like sheep have gone astray	Chorus
All they that see him laugh him to scorn	Tenor Recitative
He trusted in God	Chorus
Thy rebuke hath broken his heart	Soprano Recitative
Behold, and see if there be any sorrow	Soprano Air
He was cut off out of the land of the living	Tenor Recitative
But thou didst not leave his soul in hell	Tenor Air
Hallelujah	Chorus
I know that my redeemer liveth	Soprano Air
Since by man came death	Chorus
Behold, I tell you a mystery	Bass Recitative
The trumpet shall sound	Bass Air
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain	Chorus
Amen	Chorus

Tafelmusik is delighted once again to welcome George Frideric Handel as guest director of its annual Sing-Along *Messiah*. Tafelmusik first asked Mr. Handel to take on this role 23 years ago, undaunted by the fact that he'd been dead some 227 years. That first performance of the Sing-Along Messiah caused quite a stir in the artistic community — it marked not only Mr. Handel's Toronto debut, but also his first performance in North America. Tafelmusik scored another coup when it convinced Mr. Handel to sign an exclusive "lifetime" contract. Unlike the many crates of fine vintage claret that are a significant bargaining point in his contract, Mr. Handel has not mellowed with age, and his legendary rapier wit and fiery Saxon temper are as sharp as they were over 250 years ago. His annual appearance at Massey Hall has become a true Toronto tradition.

Any resemblance of Mr. Handel to any persons living and/or dead, in particular Tafelmusik choir director Ivars Taurins, is unintentional, but not entirely coincidental.