



**Etcetera**  
The Civil Service Choir

# Handel's Messiah

Part I for Christmas

1pm Tuesday 12 December  
St Stephen's Church  
Rochester Row, SW1

Admission free  
Charity collection

[www.civilservicechoir.org.uk](http://www.civilservicechoir.org.uk)



# Handel's Messiah Part I

**Stephen Hall: Conductor**

**Angharad Watkeys: Soprano**

**Devid Menezes: Tenor**

**Amy Kerenza: Mezzo-Soprano**

**René Bloice-Sanders: Bass**



The structure of *Messiah* resembles that of an opera, although it is not in dramatic form. It is divided into three parts, charting the prophecy of the birth of a messiah and the Incarnation (Part I), the Passion and the Resurrection (Part II), and Christ's glorification in Heaven (Part III). He completed the work in a mere 24 days. Handel uses the text compiled by librettist Charles Jennens, who used extracts from the King James Bible and Psalms in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. Today, Etcetera Choir performs Part I, in keeping with the Christmas message, and will end with the Hallelujah Chorus.

It was given its first performance in Dublin on 13 April 1742. It was a charitable event in support of three charities: the Society for Relieving Prisoners, the Charitable Infirmary, and Mercer's Hospital. In order to allow the biggest possible audience, men were requested to remove their swords, and women were asked not to wear hoops in their dresses. Seven hundred people attended the performance, which was warmly received by the press and the audience.

The success of the Dublin performance was not repeated at the London premiere at the Covent Garden Theatre the following year, when it received a lukewarm response. Handel then set aside the work for four years, before organising a revival, again at Covent Garden, in 1749. The same year, Handel held a benefit concert at London's Foundling Hospital. The concert featured a work he specially composed for the event, the *Foundling Hospital Anthem*. The work included the Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah*. Subsequently, the composer was involved with the institution of annual charity performances of *Messiah* there, thus helping to popularise the work to audiences in Britain. Fittingly, Etcetera continues with this tradition of raising funds for worthwhile causes.

## Sinfony (Overture)

### **Comfort ye my people** - Tenor

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (*Isaiah 40: 1-3*)

### **Ev'ry valley shall be exalted** - Tenor

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight and the rough places plain. (*Isaiah 40: 4*)

### **And the glory of the Lord** - 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. (*Isaiah 40: 5*)

### **Thus saith the Lord** - Bass

Thus saith the Lord, 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. (*Haggai 2: 6-7*)  
The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the Covenant, whom you delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. (*Malachi 3: 1*)

**But who may abide the day of his coming? - Alto**

But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire. (*Malachi 3: 2*)

**And he shall purify - Chorus**

And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. (*Malachi 3: 2*)

**Behold, a virgin shall conceive - Alto**

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us. (*Isaiah 7: 14; Matthew 1: 23*)

**O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion - Alto and Chorus**

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. 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! (*Isaiah 40: 9*)

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. (*Isaiah 60: 1*)

**For behold, darkness shall cover the earth - Bass**

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 light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. (*Isaiah 60: 2-3*)

**The people that walked in darkness - Bass**

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. (*Isaiah 9:2*)

**For unto us a child is born - 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. (*Isaiah 9: 6*)

**Pifa ('Pastoral Symphony')**

**There were shepherds abiding in the field - Soprano**

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. (*Luke 2: 8*)

**And lo, the angel of the Lord - Soprano**

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. (*Luke 2: 9*)

**And the angel said unto them - Soprano**

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." (*Luke 2: 10 -11*)

**And suddenly there was with the angel - Soprano**

And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying: (*Luke 2: 13*)

**Glory to God - Chorus**

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men." (*Luke 2: 14*)

**Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion - Soprano**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee; He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen. (*Zechariah 9: 9-10*)

**Then shall the eyes of the blind - Alto**

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. (*Isaiah 35: 5-6*)

**He shall feed his flock - Alto & Soprano**

He shall feed His flock 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. (*Isaiah 40: 11*)

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (*Matthew 11: 28-29*)

**His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light - Chorus**

His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. (*Matthew 11: 30*)

**Hallelujah - Chorus**

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. (*Revelation 19: 6*)

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever. (*Revelation 11: 15*)  
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. (*Revelation 19: 16*)





### **Angharad Watkeys - Soprano**

Angharad is a graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where she studied for an MA in Opera Studies under the tuition of Beatrice Unsworth and Michael Pollock. Whilst studying at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama she has played the role of the Governess in a devised piece “Britten’s Women” for Bath Music Festival, Despina in *Così fan Tutti*, Pappagena in *The Magic Flute* and she has also covered the role Tina in Jonathan Dove's opera *Flight*.

Oratorio work includes Monteverdi’s *Vespers*, Bach’s *St John Passion*, Pergolesi’s *Stabat Mater*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Handel’s *Dixit Dominus*, Mozart’s *Requiem*, Faure’s *Requiem* and Tippitt’s *The Child of Our Time*.



### **Amy Kerenza - Mezzo-Soprano**

Amy studied at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and has been a member of the English National Opera (ENO) chorus since 2010, having previously sung for Garsington Opera and Grange Park Opera. She has sung several small roles and covered over 15 roles whilst at ENO and will cover the role of Iolanthe in the operetta of the same name in Spring.

Roles elsewhere include Cenerentola (Bart’s Academic Festival Orchestra), Dorabella: *Così fan Tutte* & Rosina: *Barber of Seville* (St Alban’s Chamber Opera), Kate Pinkerton: *Madama Butterfly* & Fox/ Woodpecker: *Cunning Little Vixen* (Grange Park Opera), Giovanna: *Rigoletto* & Fenena: *Nabucco* (Kentish Opera), 2nd Lady: *Magic Flute* (Swansea City Opera).

Web address: [www.civilservicechoir.org.uk](http://www.civilservicechoir.org.uk)

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Email: [etcetera@civilservicechoir.org.uk](mailto:etcetera@civilservicechoir.org.uk)



### **David Menezes - Tenor**

Born in Barnsley, David gained a degree in classics at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, before studying singing at the Royal College of Music.

Roles include Colonel Fairfax – *Yeomen of the Guard*, Flute-*Midsummer Night's Dream* (British Youth Opera) Pierre - *The Wandering Scholar*, Satyavan - *Savitri* (Minotaur Opera), Remendado - *Carmen* (Longborough Festival), Peter Quint/

Prologue - *Turn of the Screw* (Opera Up Close), Ferrando- *Così Fan Tutte*, Mozart - *Mozart & Salieri*, Nanki-Poo, the Defendant, Duke of Dunstable, Tololler, Richard Dauntless, Ralph, Frederic (Charles Court Opera), Count Almaviva - *Barber of Seville*, Don Basilio/Curzio - *Marriage of Figaro*, Goro - *Madama Butterfly*, Don Ottavio (Heritage Opera).



### **René Bloice-Sanders - Bass**

René's vocal training began as a treble in Canterbury Cathedral Choir and he became a member of the National Youth Choir in 2004. In 2010 he graduated from The University of Nottingham with a BA (Hons) and received a Distinction for his Masters in Vocal Studies at the Royal Academy of Music in 2013. His operatic roles include Figaro (Il barbiere di Siviglia), Marcello (la bohemes), Orfeo (L'Orfeo), Morales/Dancairo (Carmen), Marco (Gianni Schicchi) and

Count Almaviva (Le Nozze di Figaro) and his concert work has included Handel's Messiah, Bach's Johannes and Mattheus Passion and Brahms' Requiem.



### **Stephen Hall - Conductor**

Stephen works in Defra as Head of Statistics within the Rural Policy team. He co-founded Etcetera in 2009 as music director and chairman – his first experience as a conductor. He also now conducts a community choir in Wimbledon. He is chairman of English Baroque Choir and also sings with Orchestra of St. John's Voices, Anton Bruckner Choir, Collegiate Singers (occasional services in Westminster Abbey), and several other choirs. He has occasionally been a

soloist (most recently Pontius Pilate and arias in both Bach St John and St Matthew Passions for the BBC Staff Choirs), and has performed in 15 musicals, plays and pantomimes with the Lantern Arts Centre, Wimbledon.

## ETCETERA The Civil Service Choir

Choir members are drawn from a wide range of Government Departments and there are currently over 150 active members.

**Soprano:** Topaz Amoore, Katherine Beard, Hannah Brabham, Elizabeth Chrominska, Holly Clacey, Phoebe Clapham, Moira Costello, Nicola Ellis, Manuela Galan, Steph Gale, Clare Gillett, Daria Gromyko, Laura Haddock, Alexandra Hawkins, Sarah Hendry, Beverley Howes, Bridget Jones, Elizabeth Leeming, Diana MacDowall, Catriona Marchant, Gill McManus, Tracie Meisel, Doreen Mitchell, Clare Moriarty, Rosalynde Phillip, Sophie Pickup, Maisie Robinson, Rachel Silvey, Celia Smith, Tricia Vincent, Anna Wardell, Gemma Warren, Eleanor Whittle

**Alto:** Judy Addy, Emma Andrews, Ayla Bedri, Katharine Charles, Esther Chilcraft, Louisa jmChorley, Gillian Clissold, Elspeth Coke, Hannah Crawford, Janet Dixon, Catherine Duce, Maria Freeman, Stephanie Freeth, Janice Grahame, Lottie Haines, Sue Harling, Alison Harvey, Jane Houghton, Diana Killip, Tacey Laurie, Catherine Lovell, Joanne Lowman, Sara Lymath, Sharon Maddix, Jenny Maresh, Eileen Mortby, Shreya Nanda, Mary Obeng, Anne-marie Pickup, Alicia Pol Mendez, Pamela Roberts, Kim Sibley, Louise Sun, Barbara Stewart, Suzanne Verhoven, Edith Walker, Suzanne Wallis, Susan Williams, Rachel Worledge

**Tenor:** Alan Bowden, Robert Bradburne, Andrew Davis, Jan Gladysz, John Hampton, Alex James, Scott Paul Johnston, Malcolm Lowe, Tim May, William Sing Lam Ng, Peter Swift, Richard Vidal, Paul Whiteside, Pam Whittingham-Webb, James Young

**Bass:** Solomon Abraham, Anthony Aderogba, Ian Boughton, Mike Bourne, Simon Croft, Andrew Cunnane, Michael Denniss, Jon Foster, David Freeman, Paul Gillett, Ian Grimley, Warwick Hawkins, Ashley Holt, Graham Hysted, Rob Kirtley, Hans Libby, Richard Shand, Philipp Thiessen, Christopher Thom, Jonathan Tillson, Ed Walkington

**Rehearsal pianists:** Stephen Axford, Alan Bowden

**Chamber Organ:** Stephen Axford

We are delighted to be joined by an orchestra specially formed for this performance from members of the Whitehall Orchestra, work colleagues and other associates.

**Violin:** Christian Halstead (Leader), Stephen Brown, Jeremy Cook, Caroline Day, Stuart Dearnley, Francis Dickinson, Erika Kennington, Rachel Moyce, Charlotte Town, Catherine Vincent

**Viola:** Rosemary Cook, Helen Jeffries, Bruce Paterson

**Cello:** Susan Farmery, David Rawlins, Stephanie Seeley

**Bass:** Caroline Harding

**Oboe:** Clair Macmillen, Anna Pyshkin

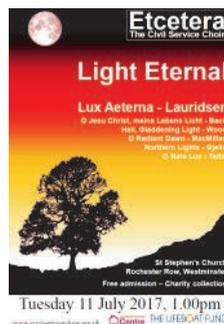
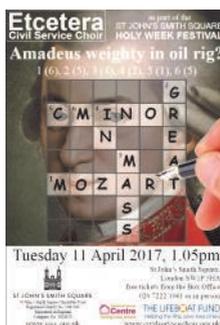
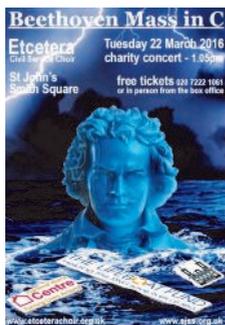
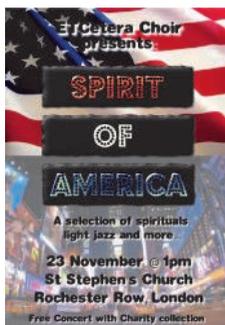
**Bassoon:** Richard Vincent

**Trumpet:** Angela Dudley, Rob Slater

Orchestra recruitment/liaison:

Richard Vincent

## Past Performances



Since its founding in 2009 the choir has sung in carol services, Departmental events, and at other services and commemorative events at St Stephen's and elsewhere – performing 73 times in total so far. It continues to grow and welcome new members from across Whitehall. For further information and a full list of performances visit [www.civilservicechoir.org.uk](http://www.civilservicechoir.org.uk)

## Thanks

We would like to thank Westminster Cathedral and the Cardinal Hume Centre for allowing us to use the Sacred Heart Church, Horseferry Road, for our weekly rehearsals. Thanks also to Revd. Graham Buckle of St Stephen's Church, Rochester Row.

Thanks to SPARTA for their financial support.

## Committee

Stephen Hall (chairman, music director, posters, social media, publicity coordination), Graham Hysted (membership secretary, treasurer), Jan Gladysz (assistant treasurer), Beverley Howes (librarian, printing, general support), Eileen Mortby (secretary, programme), Diana MacDowall (publicity coordination, general support), Robert Bradburne, Stephen Axford, Alan Bowden. The Committee are grateful for further support from voice reps: Doreen Mitchell, Jane Houghton, Andrew Frost and David Freeman; Daria Gromyko (social media); Barbara and John Stewart; and choir members and communications colleagues helping with publicity.

# CHARITY COLLECTION ON LEAVING

## please give generously

Putting on this concert has been an enormous project and Etcetera would be very grateful if you could show your appreciation not just in your hoped-for applause, but also in your generosity. Every five, ten or twenty pounds you give in lieu of an admission charge will be donated to our chosen charities.

Volunteers will be standing by the exits to collect donations after the concert. Please give generously.

Our principal charity is the **Cardinal Hume Centre** – turning lives around to overcome poverty and homelessness – which provides remarkable support to young and other vulnerable people just a short walk from St. Stephen’s.



[www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk](http://www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk)

We are also supporting **The Lifeboat Fund** – helping the RNLI to save lives at sea – which is the oldest Civil Service charity. Reaching its 150th anniversary last year, the Fund aims to raise sufficient money to purchase a new lifeboat for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.



[www.thelifeboatfund.org.uk](http://www.thelifeboatfund.org.uk)

The choir has so far raised over £25,000 for charities through its concerts and hopes to raise £1000s more today through your generosity.

### Etcetera shall return for

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday 19 December 1.00pm, St Stephen’s Church, Rochester Row

POULENC: STABAT MATER

Tuesday 27 March 2018 1.00pm, St John’s Smith Square, Westminster

