George Frederic Handel Messiah

New deluxe facsimile of the autograph score

Messiah HWV 56. Facsimile of the Autograph Score in the British Library, London. Edited by Donald Burrows

Issued on the occasion of 250th anniversary of Handel's death

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The first performance of George Frederic Handel's oratorio Messiah on 13 April 1742 in Dublin aroused unqualified rapture. A newspaper report a few days later declared that it combined "the Sublime, the Grand, and the Tender". Its success has remained undiminished even since, and the Messiah has taken its place in musical life.

14 April 2009 is the 250th anniversary of the composer's death. To mark this jubilee year, the British Library and Bärenreiter Verlag have joined forces to make the autograph score of the Messiah available to the public in a meticulously reproduced, lavishly presented facsimile. The renown Handel scholar Donald Burrows introduces the characteristics of Handel's manuscript, describes the history of the work's composition, and explains the differences between later versions of the Messiah as reflected in the conducting scores. A two-page sketch from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge completes the publication.

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