

--LOOKING FORWARD--

ISAIAH 40:1-5

2. *Tenor Recitative*. — *Isaiah 40:1-3*

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.

3. *Tenor Air* — *Isaiah 40:4*

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

4. *Chorus* — *Isaiah 40:5*

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.*

(cf NT John the Baptist: Luke 1:76, 3:4-6, also parts in Mt 3:3, Mk 1:2-3, Jn 1:23)

HAGGAI 2:6,7a

5. *Bass Recitative* —

Thus saith 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 **[[treasure]]** of all nations shall come....

(Heb 12:26f – cf Joel 3:16/4:16; Isa 13, 60)

MALACHI 3:1b-2a, 3b

The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: Behold, He shall come, *saith the Lord of Hosts.*

(Mt 11:10)

6. *Bass Air* — *Malachi 3:2*

But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire....

(cf Mt 3:10-12)

7. *Chorus* — *Malachi 3:3*

And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the **Lord** an offering in righteousness.

(cf Heb 12:28)

ISAIAH 7:14; (+ MATTHEW 1:23)

8. *Alto Recitative* —

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call his name Emma'nu'el, (**God with us**).

--THE BIRTH: LIGHT--

ISAIAH 40:9; ISAIAH 60:1-3

9. *Alto Air 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, and be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, **Behold your God!**

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of **the Lord** is risen upon thee.

10. *Bass Recitative* — *Isaiah 60:2,3*

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**.

(Luke 2:32?? – Isa 42:6 & 49:8)

ISAIAH 9:2

11. *Bass Air* —

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**.

(Mt 4:15-16; Lk 1:79)

ISAIAH 9:6

12. *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.

PIFA - Handel's Pastoral break..... sweet music and a rest for the listener to take it in!

LUKE 2:8-14(12)

14. *Soprano Recitative* — *Luke 2:8,9*

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. 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.

15. *Soprano Recitative* — *Luke 2:10,11*

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.

16. *Soprano Recitative* — *Luke 2:13*

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

17. Chorus — *Luke 2:14*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will toward men.

--THE MINISTRY--

ZECHARIAH 9:9a,b, 10c

18. *Soprano Air* —

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee.

He is the righteous Savior. And he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

(Matt 21:5, Jn 12:15)

ISAIAH 35:5,6

19. *Alto Recitative* —

Then the eyes of the blind shall 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.

(cf Matt 11:5)

ISAIAH 40:11;

20. *Alto Air* —

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.

(John 10)

MATTHEW 11:28-30

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, that are heavy laden, and He shall 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.

21. Chorus — *Matthew 11:30*

His yoke is easy, and His burthen is light.

In an Oratorio (a large-scale musical work of a sacred subject):

Recitative — Solo narration or dialogue sung rhythmically in speech patterns, often using few notes

Air — An 'aria' — a solo song, with or without musical accompaniment

Chorus — A piece sung by a large group, often soprano, alto, tenor, bass