

## Text

### PART I

#### Arioso for 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*

#### Air for Tenor

Every valley shall be exalted, and  
every mountain and hill made low:  
the crooked straight, and the  
rough places plain.  
*Isaiah 40:4*

#### 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*

#### Recitative for Bass

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 of all nations shall  
come. 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.  
*Haggai 2:6-7 and Malachi 3:1*

#### Air for 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*

#### Chorus

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

#### Recitative for Alto

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and  
bear a son, and shall call his name  
Emmanuel, "God with us."  
*Isaiah 7:14 and St. Matthew 1:23*

#### Air for 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!  
Arise, shine; for thy light is come,  
and the glory of the Lord is risen  
upon thee.  
*Isaiah 40:9 and 60:1*

#### Arioso for 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*

#### Air for 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*

#### 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*

#### Recitative for Soprano

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

#### Arioso for 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.  
*Saint Luke 2:9*

#### Recitative for 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.  
*Saint Luke 2:10-11*

#### Arioso for Soprano

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

#### Chorus

Glory to God in the highest, and  
peace on earth, good will toward  
men.  
*Saint Luke 2:145*

#### Arioso for 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*

#### Recitative for 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*

#### Air for Alto and 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.  
Come unto him, all ye that labour  
and 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.  
*Isaiah 40:11 and Saint Matthew  
11:28-29*

#### Chorus

His yoke is easy, and his burthen is  
light.  
*Saint Matthew 11:30*

## INTERMISSION

## PART II

### Chorus

Behold the Lamb of God, that  
taketh away the sin of the world.  
*Saint John 1:29*

### Air for Alto

He was despised and rejected of  
men; a man of sorrows, and  
acquainted with grief. He gave his  
back to the smiters, and his  
cheeks to them that plucked off  
the hair: he hid not his face from  
shame and spitting.  
*Isaiah 53:3 and 50:6*

### Chorus

Surely he hath borne our griefs,  
and carried our sorrows: he was  
wounded for our transgressions,  
he was bruised for our iniquities:  
the chastisement of our peace  
was upon him; and with his  
stripes we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone  
astray; we have turned every one  
to his own way; and the Lord hath  
laid on him the iniquity of us all.  
*Isaiah 53:4-6*

### Arioso for Tenor

All they that see him laugh him to  
scorn: they shoot out their lips,  
and shake their heads, saying,  
*Psalm 22:7*

### Chorus

He trusted in God that he would  
deliver him: let him deliver him, if  
he delight in him.  
*Psalm 22:8*

### Recitative for Tenor

Thy rebuke hath broken his heart;  
he is full of heaviness:  
he looked for some to have pity on  
him, but there was no man, neither  
found he any to comfort him.  
*Psalm 69:20*

### Air for Tenor

Behold, and see if there be any  
sorrow like unto his sorrow.  
*Lamentations 1:12*

### Recitative for Tenor

He was cut off out of the land of  
the living: for the transgression  
of thy people was he stricken.  
*Isaiah 53:8*

### Air for Tenor

But thou didst not leave his soul in  
hell; nor didst thou suffer thy Holy  
One to see corruption.  
*Psalm 16:10*

### Chorus

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and  
be ye lift up, ye everlasting  
doors; and the King of glory shall  
come in.  
Who is this King of glory? The Lord  
strong and mighty, the Lord mighty  
in battle.  
Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and  
be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
Who is this King of glory? The Lord  
of hosts, he is the King of glory.  
*Psalm 24:7-10*

### Air for Alto

Thou art gone up on high, thou  
hast led captivity captive, and  
received gifts for men; yea, even  
for thine enemies, that the Lord  
God might dwell among them.  
*Psalm 68:18 (Ephesians 4:8)*

### Chorus

The Lord gave the word:  
great was the company of  
the preachers.  
*Psalm 68:11*

### Arioso for Soprano

How beautiful are the feet  
of them that preach the gospel  
of peace, and bring glad tidings  
of good things.  
*Romans 10:15*

### Chorus

Their sound is gone out into all  
lands, and their words unto the  
ends of the world.  
*Romans 10:18 (Psalm 19:4)*

### Air for Bass

Why do the nations so furiously  
rage together: why do the people  
imagine a vain thing?  
The kings of the earth rise up,  
and the rulers take counsel  
together: against the Lord, and  
against His Anointed.  
*Psalm 2:1-2*

### Chorus

Let us break their bonds  
asunder, and cast away their  
yokes from us.  
*Psalm 2:3*

### Recitative for Tenor

He that dwelleth in heaven shall  
laugh them to scorn:  
the Lord shall have them in derision.  
*Psalm 2:46*

### Air for Tenor

Thou shalt break them with a rod of  
iron; Thou shalt dash them in  
pieces like a potter's vessel.  
*Psalm 2:9*

### Chorus

Hallelujah: for the Lord God  
omnipotent reigneth.  
The kingdom of this world is  
become the kingdom of  
our Lord and of his Christ; and he  
shall reign for ever and ever.  
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.  
*Revelation 19:6, 11:15, and 19:16*

## PART III

### Arioso for Soprano

I know that my redeemer liveth, and  
that he shall stand at the latter day  
upon the earth: and though worms  
destroy this body, yet in my flesh  
shall I see God.  
For now is Christ risen from the  
dead, the first fruits of them that  
sleep.  
*Job 19:25-26 and Corinthians 15:20*

### Chorus

Since by man came death, by man  
came also the resurrection of the  
dead. For as in Adam all die, even  
so in Christ shall all be made alive.  
*I Corinthians 15:21-22*

**Recitative for Bass**

Behold, I tell you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet:

*1 Corinthians 15:51-52*

**Air for Bass**

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

*1 Corinthians 15:52-53*

**Chorus**

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain and hath redeemed us to God by His blood to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Blessing, and honour, glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

*Revelation 5:12-137*