

The book was found

# Handel: Messiah (Cambridge Music Handbooks)



## Synopsis

Donald Burrows brings many new insights to this fascinating account of one of the favorite works of the concert hall. He traces the course of *Messiah* from Handel's initial musical response to the libretto, through the oratorio's turbulent first years to its eventual popularity with the Foundling Hospital performances. The book addresses such questions as the position of *Messiah* within the oratorio genre, Handel's treatment of structural design, tonal relationships in the work and problems of English wordsetting, as well as contemporary issues such as Handel's relationship with his librettist, Charles Jennens, and with his performers and audience.

## Book Information

Series: Cambridge Music Handbooks

Paperback: 140 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press (June 28, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0521376203

ISBN-13: 978-0521376204

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,294,875 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Handel #378 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Religious & Church Music #1884 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Voice

## Customer Reviews

"Handel scholarship has come long way...notably in important articles on "Messiah" and its versions by Donald Burrows published in *Music and Letters* in 1975 and 1985. (The material has been pulled together admirably in Mr. Burrows's new Cambridge Music handbook on the oratorio.)" *New York Times*"...the music lover who would like to know more about Handel and *Messiah* will find succinct history of English oratorio, a genre that Handel himself invented under circumstances and for reasons that remain unclear to this day, and a concise survey of the evolution of the genre to 1741 (Ch. 1). ...presents for the first time in English a clear and detailed chronology of the composition and the events leading up to the first performance of *Messiah* on 13 April, 1742." Charles Michael Carroll, *The Eighteenth Century*

The course of the Messiah is traced from Handel's initial musical response to the libretto, through the oratorio's turbulent initial years to its eventual rise to popularity with the Foundling Hospital performances.

Great!

My favorite book about Handel's iconic work remains Jens Peter Larsen's definitive study of 1957. However, getting through Larsen's painstakingly researched and densely written volume is a forbidding task for even a trained musician, let alone a casual music lover wanting to know more about the oratorio. This shorter guide by Donald Burrows offers a worthy alternative and supplement (though a fairly high degree of musical literacy is still presupposed). Burrows' portrait of Handel's librettist Charles Jennens and the uneasy relationship between Jennens and the composer brings both figures vividly to life, in part through frequently quoting primary source material. His chronology of Messiah's composition and early performances is both more concise and more interesting than Larsen's somewhat ponderous background text. On the other hand, for cogent, detailed analysis of each individual number, as well as in thorough dissections and balanced conclusions regarding Messiah's changing versions, Larsen comes out far ahead. I also do not agree with Burrows' contention in a separate essay that Handel's original text-settings, with their frequently faulty accentuation of the English language, must be kept at all costs. Still, in terms of packing quantities of useful, interesting information into a small space without sacrificing readability, this Cambridge Musical Handbook is a winner.

These Cambridge Music Handbooks are geared for specific background and analysis on specific musical works. I own another Cambridge book about Haydn's Creation, which is also very good. Burrows begins with historical background of the Messiah, recounts the initial performances in Dublin, and then covers the revisions and revivals in London. Other chapters cover later versions of Messiah (e.g. Mozart's orchestration), a short analysis of the overall design of the work, short comments on individual movements of interest, and Handel's word-setting. There are also two appendices and a wonderful bibliography. Although brief and concise, the work is quite scholarly, containing many citations. It is clear that Burrows knows his stuff regarding Handel and Messiah. My only disappointment with the book (and subsequent reason for four stars) is that many of Burrows' good points are buried within his scholarly prose and these gems are easy to overlook. Despite this,

I would recommend this book to anybody involved in a performance of Handel's Messiah, and it is a must for any conductor. It provides a great deal of necessary background information in a concise manner, and is a great resource for program notes.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

HANDEL [ Messiah, Oratorio in three parts, George Frideric Handel ] Vocal Score based on the Urtext of the Halle Handel Edition, arranged by Max Schneider (Barenreiter 4012b, Foreign Music Distributors) Handel: Messiah (Cambridge Music Handbooks) Handel: Messiah (vocal Score Based on the Urtext of the Halle Handel Edition) G.F. Handel -- The Messiah -- Oratorio -- Edited by T. Tertius Noble, Revised According to Handel's Original Score by Max Spicker -- VOCAL SCORE (Schirmer's Collection of Oratoris and Cantatas) Christmas with Handel's Messiah: Artistic Settings of Selections from the Masterful Oratorio by George Frideric Handel (Sacred Performer Collections) The Cambridge Companion to Handel (Cambridge Companions to Music) The Messiah: The Texts Behind Handel's Masterpiece (Lifeguide Bible Studies) Handel's Messiah: Comfort for God's People (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Liturgical Studies) Every Valley: Advent with the Scriptures of Handel's Messiah G.F. Handel Messiah (Watkins Shaw) - Paperback Edition Vocal Score Choral Edition [Paperback] by UNKNOWN ( Author ) A Textual Companion to Handel's Messiah Handel The Messiah, Full Score, G. Schirmer, 1906 Tainted Glory in Handel's Messiah: The Unsettling History of the World's Most Beloved Choral Work Handel: The Messiah. Vocal Score - CARUS URTEXT Messiah in Full Score (Dover Vocal Scores) unknown Edition by Handel, George Frideric, Opera and Choral Scores (1989) Messiah: The Little-Known Story of Handel's Beloved Oratorio Messiah (A Sacred Oratorio). By George Frideric Handel. Edited By Watkins Shaw. For Choral (Vocal Score). Handel's Bestiary: In Search of Animals in Handel's Operas Cambridge Global English Stage 9 Workbook: for Cambridge Secondary 1 English as a Second Language (Cambridge International Examinations) The Cambridge Handbook of Metaphor and Thought (Cambridge Handbooks in Psychology)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)