

# Messiah

*Inspired by God, entrusted to George Frideric Handel*

**December 5**

Sunday at 3 pm

**Crossroads Presbyterian Church**

6031 W Chapel Hill Rd Mequon, WI

# *MAMCCO Thanks . . .*

**Faith Lutheran Church** in Germantown for providing time and space for choral rehearsals.

**Grace Lutheran Church** in Thiensville for providing time and space for orchestra rehearsals.

**Crossroads Presbyterian Church** in Mequon for providing a beautiful venue for the presentation of this work.

*We are grateful for the musical gifts God has given each of us. We are grateful for this sacred music, and we pray that hearing it will be a blessed, meaningful experience for each of you.*

## *Milwaukee Area Messiah Community Chorus & Orchestra*

is a community ecumenical choir and orchestra formed for the purpose of enriching the lives of the residents of the Greater Milwaukee area by spreading God's Word through music, including Handel's Messiah.

We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in Wisconsin. If you share our mission, we invite you to support us both prayerfully and financially.

One hundred percent of the offerings collected at presentations goes to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, but we do have considerable expenses.

Donations can be sent to:

MAMCCO, 4120 W. Gazebo Hill Blvd., Mequon, WI 53092

# George Frideric Handel

1685-1759

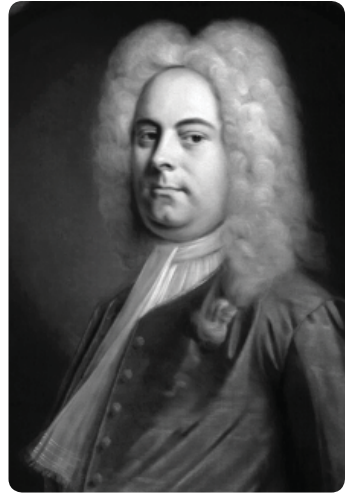
George Frideric Handel was born in Germany and was a contemporary of J.S. Bach. Although Handel's father wanted him to be a lawyer, the Duke of Weissenfels convinced him that he should encourage his son's talent. Handel proceeded to be instructed by Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow in organ, harpsichord, violin, and oboe.

Handel traveled and composed in Italy, and finally in 1712, settled in England. This was the Baroque period, which highlighted great works of Protestant music rooted in the Bible. Handel added numerous operas, oratorios, concertos, hymns, and other compositions to this era.

As with many famous composers, Handel had great highs and lows in his career. In 1741, at age fifty-six, experiencing one failure after another, Handel thought he would end up in debtor's prison. It was at this time that his friend Charles Jennens gave him a libretto based on the life of Christ, taken from the Bible. At this low point in his life, Handel sequestered himself in his home for 24 days, until he emerged with the completed score for Messiah. The original completed score ended with Handel's signature and the words "Soli Deo Gloria"—to God alone be the glory. It is also said that when Handel's servant brought him food, he found him with tears in his eyes as he worked on "Hallelujah Chorus." Handel exclaimed, "I did think I did see all heaven before me and the great God Himself!"<sup>1</sup>

The first performance of Messiah was in Dublin in 1742 with the proceeds going to three charitable undertakings. When Handel was complimented on the great entertainment of the work he replied, "My Lord, I should be sorry if I only entertained them; I wished to make them better."<sup>2</sup> It is in this spirit that we hope you hear Messiah tonight; not as a concert, but rather, as worship-filled expression of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.

By 1759, Handel was blind, yet he managed to conduct 10 concerts during the oratorio season. He ended with Messiah on April 6. He died 8 days later on April 14, 1759. His wish was to die on Good Friday, "...in hope of rejoining the good God, my sweet Lord and Savior, on the day of His resurrection."<sup>3</sup> He died on Holy Saturday.



# Messiah

+ +

*Prophecy and Promise of the Redeeming Messiah* Part One  
**Overture** **Orchestra**

*God's Comforting Promise* Scene One  
**Comfort Ye My People**

*Isaiah 40:1-3*

**Tenor, Robert Stuart Mitchell**

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."

**Every Valley Shall Be Exalted**

*Isaiah 40:4*

**Tenor, Robert Stuart Mitchell**

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

**And the Glory of the Lord**

*Isaiah 40:5*

**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.

*God's Glory Comes Through a Virgin*  
**Behold, a Virgin Shall Conceive**

Scene Three

*Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23*

**Mezzo-Soprano, Kathleen Sonnentag Brenckle**

Behold! A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,  
And shall call his name Emmanuel; God with us.

**O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion**

*Isaiah 40:9*

**Mezzo-Soprano, Kathleen Sonnentag Brenckle**

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,

**Chorus**

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 has come,

And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.”

*From Darkness Comes the Light of the World*

Scene Four

**For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth**

*Isaiah 60:2-3*

**Bass, Timothy W. Schmidt**

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.

**The People That Walked in Darkness**

*Isaiah 9:2*

**Bass, Timothy W. Schmidt**

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.

**For Unto Us a Child Is Born**

*Isaiah 9:6*

**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, Counselor, the Mighty God,

The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

*The Christmas Story*  
**Pastoral Symphony**

Scene Five  
**Orchestra**

***There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field***

*Luke 2:8*

**Soprano, Erica Breitbarth**

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

***And Lo! The Angel of the Lord Came upon Them***

*Luke 2:9*

**Soprano, Erica Breitbarth**

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.

***And the Angel Said unto Them***

*Luke 2:10-11*

**Soprano, Erica Breitbarth**

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."

***And Suddenly There Was with the Angel***

*Luke 2:13*

**Soprano, Erica Breitbarth**

And suddenly there was with the angel  
A multitude of the heavenly host  
Praising God, and saying:

***Glory to God***

*Luke 2:14*

**Chorus**

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth,  
Goodwill towards men."

***Christ, the Shepherd-King's Ministry on Earth***

Scene Six

***Then Shall the Eyes of the Blind Be Open'd***

*Isaiah 35:5-6*

**Mezzo-Soprano, Kathleen Sonnentag Brenckle**

Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd,  
And the ears of the deaf unstopped.  
Then shall the lame man leap as an hart,  
And the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

***He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd***

*Isaiah 40:11, Matthew 11:28-29*

**Mezzo-Soprano, Kathleen Sonnentag Brenckle**

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,  
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.

**Soprano, Erica Breitbarth**

***His Yoke is Easy, and His Burthen is Light***

*Matthew 11:30*

His yoke is easy, His burthen is light.

**Chorus**

+ +

**Intermission**

15 Minutes

***The Suffering Lamb Who Redeems***

Part Two

***The Sacrificial Lamb Heals His Wayward Flock***

Scene One

***Behold the Lamb of God***

*John 1:29*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
That taketh away the sin of the world.

**Chorus**

***He Was Despised***

*Isaiah 53:3; 50:6*

**Mezzo-Soprano, Kathleen Sonnentag Brenckle**

He was despised, despised and rejected of men,  
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

***Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs***

*Isaiah 53:4-5*

**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***

Isaiah 53:5

And with His stripes we are healed.

**Chorus**

***All We, Like Sheep, Have Gone Astray***

Isaiah 53:6

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.

**Chorus**

***The Heathen Rebel Against God's Gospel  
He That Dwelleth in Heaven***

Psalms 2:4

**Tenor, Robert Stuart Mitchell**

He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn;  
The Lord shall have them in derision.

Scene Five

***Thou Shalt Break Them***

Psalms 2:9

**Tenor, Robert Stuart Mitchell**

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron;  
Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

***Hallelujah***

We invite you to join the chorus! Sheet music to share is available in each row.

Revelation 19:6; 11:15; 19:16

**Chorus**

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.  
Hallelujah! 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. Hallelujah!

+ +

***Thanksgiving for the Defeat of Death***

Part Three

***The Redeemer Lives***

Prologue

***I Know That My Redeemer Liveth***

Job 19:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:20

**Soprano, Erica Breitbarth**

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.



*The Expectation of Our Own Resurrection*  
**Since by Man Came Death**

Scene One

*1 Corinthians 15:21-22*

**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.

**Behold, I Tell You a Mystery**

*1 Corinthians 15:51-52a*

**Bass, Timothy W. Schmidt**

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.

**The Trumpet Shall Sound**

*1 Corinthians 15:52b-53*

**Bass, Timothy W. Schmidt**

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.

*The Final Judgement by the Lamb*

Scene Three

**Worthy Is the Lamb That Was Slain**

*Revelation 5:12-13*

**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 honor, and glory, and blessing.  
Blessing and honor, glory and power,  
Be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb,  
Forever and ever! Amen!

## *Director*

Brian Dearing

## *Soloists*

Erica Breitbarth - Soprano

Kathleen Sonnentag Brenckle - Mezzo Soprano

Robert Stuart Mitchell - Tenor

Timothy W. Schmidt – Bass

## *Chorus*

\* Section Leaders

### **Sopranos**

Amy Campbell  
Marilyn Dearth  
Terri Lynn Doucette  
Kelly Fleming \*  
Tracy Greymont  
Linda Hurlebaus  
Jeanette Koch  
Jennifer Mattson  
Catherine Regner  
Laurie Stretz

### **Altos**

Linda Aguado  
Holly Blaubach  
Hillary Chavez  
Nancy Holley  
Terri Lakich  
Cheryl Melzer \*  
Linda Menzel  
Pamela Mylotta  
Joy Powers \*  
Jean Schneider  
Kristin Ziana

### **Tenors**

Larry Berning  
Michael Hamman  
Richard Knepprath  
Chris Larsen  
Tom Maurer  
Rip McManus  
David A. Walther

### **Basses**

Scott Blaubach  
Tom Holley  
Richard Krueger  
Tom Krueger  
Max Sommerfeld  
Philip Starr  
Larry Sween  
Scott Ullsperger \*  
Ronald Williams



Follow us on Facebook to find out about upcoming presentations: [www.facebook.com/mamcco/](http://www.facebook.com/mamcco/)



Contact us about joining the group or making a charitable contribution to support our mission: [info@mamcco.org](mailto:info@mamcco.org)

# *Orchestra*

## **1st Violins**

Karla Siegler  
Laura Bartelt

## **2nd Violins**

Ellen Willman  
Abbi Ruchti

## **Violas**

Jo Ann Haasler  
Amanda Koch

## **Cellos**

Paul Gronquist  
Jonathan Koch

## **Double Bass**

Nicolas Buendia

## **Oboes**

Vinny Maloney  
Rachel Vohnoutka

## **Bassoon**

Eric Heitkemper

## **Trumpets**

Adam Fisher  
Brandon Viliunas

## **Tympani**

Bob Kriefall

## **Keyboard Continuo**

James Norden

## *Where we are from!*

Chorus and orchestra members attend these area churches:

Alliance Bible Church-Mequon

Brookside Baptist-Brookfield

Crossway Church-Germantown

Crossroads Church of God-  
Milwaukee

Crossroads Presbyterian- Mequon

East Side Baptist-Milwaukee

Eastbrook Church-Milwaukee

Epikos Church-Wauwatosa

First Congregational Church-  
Port Washington

Friedens Church-Port Washington

Good Shepherd Lutheran-  
West Bend

Grace Lutheran Church-Thiensville

Immanuel UCC-West Bend

Mount Carmel Lutheran-  
Milwaukee

North Brook-Richfield

Our Lady of Good Hope-  
Milwaukee

Our Saviour's UCC-Germantown

Pilgrim UCC-Grafton

St. Frances Cabrini-West Bend

St. John's Lutheran-Jackson

St. John's Lutheran-Newburg

St. Robert Catholic-Shorewood

St. Gabriel-Richfield

United Methodist-Whitefish Bay

Wawatosa Ave United Methodist

# *Biographies*

## *Brian Dearing*

Brian's professional musical career began in 1979, when he became Organist and Choirmaster of St. Adalbert's Church (R.C.) in Schenectady, NY. Since then, he has served four Catholic and two Lutheran congregations in five cities in the US and the UK. While living in the UK, he served as a clinician for the Northampton Diocese in Choral Conducting and Organ Improvisation. He holds the Service Playing Certificate from the American Guild of Organists and is currently Director of Music for Grace Lutheran Church in Thiensville, WI. In addition to his musical activities, he has a successful 40 year career in business, and currently has a private practice in merger and acquisition consulting. He and his wife, Cindy, live in Mequon, WI.

## *James Norden*

Our keyboardist received the BM and MM degrees from Michigan State University and the DMA degree from the University of Iowa. He has taught at Southwestern State U. in Oklahoma, and at UW-Eau Claire, Alverno College, WI Lutheran College, and Cardinal Stritch U. in Wisconsin. Active as a teacher, adjudicator, and clinician, Dr. Norden has also performed for many years as a chamber music pianist and accompanist with/for artists around the country. He has been active in the Music Teachers National Association for many years, having held association offices at the state, division and national levels, finally serving as MTNA National President. Norden presently conducts two German choruses in the Milwaukee area and leads the Chancel Choir at Wauwatosa Ave. United Methodist Church in Wauwatosa, WI.

## *Erica Breitbarth*

Erica Breitbarth is an active vocalist, conductor, clinician, music teacher and education advocate in the Milwaukee area. Currently, she serves as choir director, International Baccalaureate music teacher and chair of the music department at Reagan IB High School in the Milwaukee Public Schools. Over the last 13 years, Breitbarth and her colleagues built the music program at Reagan IB High School from 50 students to over 500, garnering local, state and national recognition for excellence in music education instruction. A strong advocate for music education, Breitbarth is a founder and leader of the Milwaukee Music Educators Association (MMEA) and serves as the Vice President of the Wisconsin Music Educators Association (WMEA). She has a passion for culturally responsive music

pedagogy and shares this knowledge through workshops, lectures and professional development. In addition to teaching, Breitbarth is an active soprano soloist throughout the greater Milwaukee area, performing choral masterworks with the Bel Canto Chorus, Kettle Moraine Symphony and contemporary works with Present Music's Hearing Voices Ensemble. She garnered recognition as Civic Music Association Choral Music Educator of the Year (2013), Grammy Music Educator Finalist (2017), WCDA Outstanding Young Choral Director (2018) and Herb Kohl Teaching Fellow (2020). She holds a bachelors of music education from the Wheaton Conservatory of Music (2009) and a masters of music education (choral conducting emphasis) from Northwestern University (2015).

### *Kathleen Sonnentag Brenckle*

"Rich," "Glorious," "Lovely" are just a few adjectives that critics have used to describe Kathleen's mezzo-soprano voice. She has sung Handel's Messiah in well over fifty performances from Chicago's Orchestra Hall to Tokyo's Hitomi Memorial Hall. A frequent soloist with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Kathleen has sung Bach's Magnificat, Beethoven's Mass in C, Bruckner's Te Deum, and Bernstein's Trouble in Tahiti. She has sung with the Japan Shinsei Symphony in Mendelssohn's Paulus, the Virginia Symphony in Mozart's Requiem, the Dayton Philharmonic in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the Southwest Florida Symphony in Handel's Messiah, and numerous orchestras throughout the Midwest. Excelling in opera as well, she has sung leading roles in Carmen, La Cenerentola, Hansel and Gretel, and The Marriage of Figaro. She received First Place in the Midwest District Metropolitan Opera Auditions, and was a finalist in the International Belvedere Competition in Vienna. Kathleen records for the Hal Leonard Corporation and was the repertoire consultant for the Mezzo-Soprano Oratorio Anthology, published in 1994. She has served on the faculty at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and Alverno College, and currently maintains a private voice studio in her home.

### *Robert Stuart Mitchell*

Robert Stuart Mitchell's vocal repertoire and performances encompass Concert Oratorio & Opera, Celtic Folk & Traditional vocal music, and expands substantively into Modern Sacred & Worship music - a unique World music artistic spectrum. On the Classical masterworks and oratorio concert stage, Stuart has appeared as a solo artist with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Bel Canto Chorus, Wisconsin Philharmonic Orchestra, Bach Chamber Choir & Orchestra, MAMCCO (MKE), Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, Racine Symphony Orchestra, and other substantial artistic groups. Stuart

has shared his gifts in operatic roles and concerts with Florentine Opera, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, La Musica Lirica, Windfall Theatre, Cornerstone University, Music by the Lake, Concord Chamber Orchestra, South Shore Chorale, and others. Roles included Fenton (Verdi - Falstaff), Ernesto (Donizetti - Don Pasquale), Ferrando (Mozart - Cosi Fan Tutte), and Nemorino (Donizetti - L'Elisir D'Amore). In traditional Celtic vocal and other World music, Stuart has developed and presented new arrangements of a number of traditional favorite Scots-Irish ballads. He and the Celtic folk ensemble RIRA collaborated creatively to produce and perform these new arrangements, and also produced two acoustic Celtic music albums. Most notable is Stuart's worship music facility in all forms of Inspirational and Sacred vocal music. Since early on in life, Stuart's worship music effort has arguably been his greatest strength, and evoked the greatest worth. Stuart's "INSPIRE" concert appearances are uplifting, exalted, and memorable ([rstuartmitchell.com/inspire-concerts.html](http://rstuartmitchell.com/inspire-concerts.html)). He is a sincere and inquisitive mind, a powerful ear, and an exceptional sound. United together, these distinctions make Stuart a compelling presenter. Stuart graduated magna cum laude from Cornerstone University where he received his undergraduate degree. He received a graduate studies diploma in the M.I.C.A.P. (MIS) program from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. To hear/see more of Stuart and support his ministry career efforts, visit [rstuartmitchell.com](http://rstuartmitchell.com), and invite him to present at your church community or spiritual/ministry gathering.

### *Timothy W. Schmidt*

Timothy, bass-baritone, is a native of Mequon, Wisconsin. He received a bachelor of music from Lawrence University and pursued additional post-graduate studies at the Eastman School of Music. He has appeared as a soloist with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Rochester (N.Y.) Philharmonic, Bel Canto Chorus, Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, White Heron Chorale, Bay View Music Festival, Kenosha Chamber Choir, and Southeastern Wisconsin Performing Arts. He sings with the Florentine Opera Company as a chorister. During the Christmas season, he carols with the Dickens Delights vocal ensemble ([DickensDelights.com](http://DickensDelights.com)). He worships at Epikos Church in Wauwatosa. Beyond his musical activities, Mr. Schmidt works as an attorney for a Milwaukee-area manufacturing company. He lives in the area with his wife, Molly, and children ages 8, 5, and 1.

# *Milwaukee Rescue Mission*

If you feel so led, MAMCCO invites you to respond to this work with a free-will donation for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission (MRM). Donation baskets will be set up outside the sanctuary at intermission and following the presentation. Checks should be made payable to "Milwaukee Rescue Mission."

MRM has been serving Milwaukee's poor and homeless since 1893 when a group of local businessmen and community leaders founded the organization. The MRM mission statement reads, "In response to the command of Jesus, we compassionately serve to help make whole the hungry, homeless and poor in body, mind and spirit for the glory of God."



For more information, visit [www.milmission.org](http://www.milmission.org)

**MRM**  
**Milwaukee Rescue Mission**

*'...to share your  
food with the hungry and to  
provide the poor wanderer  
with shelter . . .'* Isaiah 58:7

Through the generosity of local individuals, businesses, and congregations, Milwaukee Rescue Mission provides Safe Harbor (a program for men), Joy House (programs for women and children), and Crosstrainer's Academy (education for at-risk youth).



*Milwaukee Area Messiah  
Community Chorus & Orchestra*