



Christmas with Handel's *Messiah*

Artistic Settings of Selections from the
Masterful Oratorio by George Frideric Handel

Arranged by **Jan Sanborn**

The Messiah, by George Frideric Handel, is one of the most familiar pieces in choral literature, beloved by audiences worldwide and considered standard fare during the Christmas season. It was written speedily and premiered in Dublin in 1741 to a wildly enthusiastic audience. The material is rich, insightful, noble, and imperishable.

Piano transcriptions of several of the familiar choruses and arias are presented here, for use as solos or sets. They are appropriate for concerts as well as worship services. Approximate performance times are included to assist in planning.

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COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

G. F. Handel (1685–1759)

Arr. Jan Sanborn

Larghetto (♩ = 80)

First system of the musical score. The treble clef staff begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) beamed together, marked with a '3' above. The bass clef staff has a piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piece is in a slow tempo, marked 'Larghetto' with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The instruction 'pedal ad lib.' is written below the bass staff.

Second system of the musical score, starting at measure 4. The treble clef staff features a melodic line with a slur over measures 4 and 5, and a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in measure 6, marked with a '3' above. The bass clef staff has a piano (*p*) dynamic marking in measure 4 and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) marking in measure 6. The instruction 'cantabile' is written above the treble staff in measure 6. The key signature and time signature remain the same.

Third system of the musical score, starting at measure 7. The treble clef staff has a melodic line with a slur over measures 7 and 8. The bass clef staff has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. The instruction 'Slowly' is written above the treble staff in measure 7. The key signature and time signature remain the same.

Fourth system of the musical score, starting at measure 10. The treble clef staff has a melodic line with a slur over measures 10 and 11, and a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) in measure 12, marked with a '3' above. The bass clef staff has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. The instruction 'cresc.' is written below the bass staff in measure 12. The key signature and time signature remain the same.

PASTORAL SYMPHONY

G. F. Handel (1685–1759)

Arr. Jan Sanborn

Larghetto (♩. = 44)

p

pedal ad lib.

5

9

3 1

4 2

mp

13

5 1

5 2

mf

4

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

G. F. Handel (1685–1759)

Arr. Jan Sanborn

Spritely (♩ = 84)

mf

4

*mf*₅

mp

7

10

1

4-1

5

2

1

5

3

THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS

G. F. Handel (1685–1759)

Arr. Jan Sanborn

Brightly (♩ = 96)

mf *mp* *mf*

detached

5 *mp* *mf*

9 *mp* *mf* *f*

13 *mf*

17 *f* *p*