

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
and
NATCHEZ FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Present

Hallelujah!



"Adoration of the Magi" window at Trinity Episcopal Church

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

*An English-Language Oratorio by George Frideric Handel
with Text by Charles Jennens*

Conducted by Jay Dean

In Celebration of the Bicentennial Anniversary of
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1822-2022

3 P.M., SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2022

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
305 SOUTH COMMERCE STREET
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

WELCOME

Welcome to Trinity Church!
For the convenience and safety of all attending “Hallelujah! Handel’s *Messiah*,” please observe the following guidelines. Thank you!

- Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Seating is not allowed in the balcony nor in the first row on both sides of the center aisle.
- To satisfy a maximum of music lovers, 8 to 10 people should sit in each long pew (4 to 5 people on each side of pew divider), and 2 to 3 people should sit in short pews.
- Food and drink are not allowed inside the church.
- Photographing or recording the concert is not allowed.
- Cell phones must be silenced throughout the performance.
- Standing is allowed only for the ushers EXCEPT during the Hallelujah Chorus.
- Only doors to the front porch are to be used if a person must exit during the concert.



On the night of June 22, 2022, the light of 200 candles shone brightly on the steps of Trinity Episcopal Church, a glow that was matched by an even brighter spirit of joy and youthful exuberance from the parishioners and other well-wishers gathered around.

What started as small flickers from individual candles of varying sizes, shapes

and scents turned into a bright orange glow. A view through the church’s front doors to the lighted stained-glass window and candles at the altar added to the display.

May the light of that evening burn brightly in our hearts and continue to be the light of Christ for future generations at Trinity Episcopal Church.

By Ben Hillyer, Member, Trinity Episcopal Church, Natchez

PROGRAM

George Frideric Handel's **MESSIAH**

Part I

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Overture | <i>Orchestra</i> |
| Comfort Ye My People | <i>Recitative</i> |
| Ev'ry Valley Shall Be Exalted Derek Meler, tenor | <i>Air</i> |
| And The Glory Of The Lord | <i>Chorus</i> |
| Thus, Saith The Lord | <i>Recitative</i> |
| But Who May Abide The Day Of His Coming? Paul Houghtaling, baritone | <i>Air</i> |
| And He Shall Purify | <i>Chorus</i> |
| Behold, A Virgin Shall Conceive | <i>Recitative</i> |
| O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings To Zion Myka Murphy, alto | <i>Air and Chorus</i> |
| For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover The Earth | <i>Recitative</i> |
| The People That Walked In Darkness Paul Houghtaling, baritone | <i>Air</i> |
| For Unto Us A Child Is Born | <i>Chorus</i> |
| Pastoral Symphony | <i>Orchestra</i> |
| There Were Shepherds Abiding In The Field | <i>Recitative</i> |





And Lo, The Angel Of The Lord *Recitative*

And The Angel Said Unto Them *Recitative*

And Suddenly There Was With The Angel **Recitative**

Stacey Trenteseaux, soprano

Glory To God *Chorus*

Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter Of Zion *Air*

Stacey Trenteseaux, soprano

Then Shall The Eyes Of The Blind *Recitative*

He Shall Feed His Flock Like A Shepherd *Air*

Myka Murphy, alto
Stacey Trenteseaux, soprano

His Yoke Is Easy, And His Burthen Is Light *Chorus*

Additional Selections from Parts II and III

Worthy Is The Lamb That Was Slain *Chorus*

Hallelujah *Chorus*

INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish'd, that her iniquity is pardon'd. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a high-way for our God.

Isaiah 40:1-3

ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR, JAY DEAN

Jay Dean, the Artistic Director of Opera Mississippi and the Natchez Festival of Music, is also the Founding Artistic Director of FestivalSouth.

He received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The University of Texas at Austin. From 1988 until 2018, he was the Director of Orchestral Activities for the University of Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra.

At USM he also served as the Director of the School of Music and as the Associate Dean for Arts and External Relations in the College of Arts and Sciences. He now works part-time for USM as the Executive Director of the Arts Institute of Mississippi and the founder of the Ambassador Series on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

His work as a conductor and educator spans orchestras in the United States, Central and South America, Europe and Asia. His recruiting efforts turned the USM Symphony Orchestra into a multinational conglomerate that included students from numerous countries.

Unique partnerships developed under his leadership that allowed the orchestra to achieve a spirit and reputation of superior musicianship that brought international acclaim to the university and to the state of Mississippi. The orchestra became known for “Bringing the World to Mississippi.”

The artistic programs he has directed at USM and throughout the state are projects that have enhanced the lives of many. For his work, he has received the Governor’s Award for Leadership in the Arts and the Excellence for Global Arts and Culture award from the Mississippi World Trade Center. He was inducted into the USM Alumni Hall of Fame and is a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the USM Research Council. In 2017, he and Opera Mississippi received the Governor’s Award for Artistic Excellence, and in 2018 he was honored by the Mississippi State Legislature for his artistic work in Mississippi.

INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

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.”

Luke 2:10–11





ABOUT THE SOLO ARTISTS

Stacey Trenteseaux, Soprano

American soprano Stacey Trenteseaux has sung in concerts and productions with various companies in the United States and, since 2018, in Germany.

Her German debut was as Luisa in Verdi's "Luisa Miller" with Münchens Kleinstes Opernhaus at Pasinger Fabrik in Munich and at SemperZwei of the Dresden Semperoper in American composer Liam Wade's opera "Eine Oktoberfest Oper."

Other operatic roles include Rosalinda in Strauss' "Die Fledermaus," Juliette in Gounod's "Romeo et Juliette," Micaëla in Bizet's "Carmen," Fiordiligi in Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte," Hanna in Lehár's "Die lustige Witwe," Angelica in Puccini's "Suor Angelica" and First Lady in Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte."

One of Stacey's fondest concert experiences was singing the 2016 premier of "PostSecret: A Song Cycle" by award-winning young composer Jonathan Posthuma at the New Music Composer's Symposium in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Stacey enjoys collaborating with artists to present solo concerts that tell a story and express a unique artistic voice, including "A Night of Love Songs" and "Moonlight and Magic!" with Chinese American pianist Zhaolei Xie performed in Jackson and Hattiesburg, Miss.; "Fierce Femmes," a virtual concert collaboration with Israeli American mezzo soprano Michal Doron sponsored by Opera Mississippi; and "Mondenschein" performed in Dresden with American pianist Ellen Rissinger at the Robert Schumann concert hall in the Coselpalais.

Stacey earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Florida and a Master of Music Performance degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. She serves as Executive Director of Opera Mississippi and works as a coach, teacher and artistic consultant.

Myka Murphy, Alto

Myka Murphy is a mezzo-soprano who has been described as "a (vocal) powerhouse...with an abundant quality of strength." (*OperaWire*).

She will perform in Opera Mississippi's double-bill as La Principessa in "Suor Angelica" and Zita in "Gianni Schicchi." She recently performed as Lady Bertram in a filmed production of "Mansfield Park" and Baba the Turk from "The Rake's Progress" at Boston University.

Past highlights include a Jackson Symphony debut as the mezzo soloist for Beethoven's 9th Symphony and a portrayal of the Sorceress in the Juilliard School's stage production and touring production of "Dido and Aeneas" with Juilliard's Historical Performance ensemble—Juilliard 415. In that production, she made her debuts in London's Holland Park and Versailles's Opéra Royal.

Myka earned a master's degree in Voice from The Juilliard School and a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Southern Mississippi.

In 2021, she completed her performance certificate with the Opera Institute at Boston University and is now developing song cycles with Juilliard composing alums Trey Makler and Ivan Enrique Rodriguez.

ABOUT THE SOLO ARTISTS

Derek Meler, Tenor

Derek Meler has performed in numerous operas, musicals and concerts with such companies as the Nashville Opera, Nashville Symphony, Opera Naples, Belle Meade Baroque, Vocal Artists Nashville and Seagle Music Colony (Young Artist).

He made his professional debut with the Nashville Opera as the worker in the world premiere production of the opera “Elmer Gantry.” Working closely with the composer Stephen Schwartz, he premiered the character of Mr. Clayton in “Seance on a Wet Afternoon,” a career high point for him.

Some of Derek’s favorite roles include Nemorino in “L’Elisir d’Amore,” Tamino in “Die Zauberflöte” and Lysander in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

He is currently pursuing a music conducting degree at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Paul Houghtaling, Bass-Baritone

Paul Houghtaling has sung a diverse repertoire throughout the United States and abroad. Career highlights include the Philip Glass soundtrack to Reggio’s film “Naqoyqatsi” for SONY; several Carnegie Hall solo appearances with Cecelia Chorus of New York, American Composers Orchestra, and others; United States tours with the Waverly Consort, including Kennedy Center appearances; and “Opera Buffa: Comedy on Stage” in Lincoln Center’s “Meet the Artists” series.

He has appeared with Opera Mississippi as Ko-Ko in “The Mikado” and the Major General in “The Pirates of Penzance,” in addition to Gilbert and Sullivan and opera reviews in the fall 2018 and 2019 seasons.

Additional engagements include Ko-Ko in “The Mikado” with Anchorage Opera, Natchez Festival of Music and Opera Saratoga; Sir Joseph in “H.M.S. Pinafore” for Nashville Opera; stage director and Angelotti in “Tosca” with Mobile Opera; another Angelotti with Opera Las Vegas; and his debut with Opera Birmingham as Dulcamara in “L’Elisir d’Amore.”

Currently the Director of Opera at the University of Alabama, Paul has also appeared with the Central City, Baltimore, Boston Lyric, Knoxville, Long Beach, Opera on the James, and Santa Fe Operas and the Metropolitan Opera Guild. He has also created roles in works by Lee Hoiby, Michael Ching and others.

INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, “God with us.”

(Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23)



ABOUT THE MEISTERSINGERS CIVIC CHORUS

The Meistersingers Civic Chorus of Hattiesburg, Miss., has been a part of the Hattiesburg Concert Association (HCA) since 1996. The original artistic component of HCA, the Civic Chorus has created lasting memories with exceptionally entertaining concerts, galas and musical productions.

The Meistersingers personnel, including talented amateur and professional vocalists from throughout the area, present some of the most creative, respected and well-attended cultural events in the state and region.

The Meistersingers *Messiah* Chorus

Soprano

Jean Claire Bounds
Christy Ann Enslin
Diane Key
Pam Love
Carolyn McLarnan
Sarah Odom
Debra Padula
Connie Roberts
Dixie Windham
Kim Wingo

Anne Katherine Deviney
Emily Gilbert
Martha Ginn
Kris Henington
Althea Jerome
Leigh Ann Lockey
Kristin McNair
Janna Raber
Elizabeth Shattles
Ramona Stevens

John Meyer
David Pylate
Robin Roberts
Mark Tucker

Bass

Ralph Bolt
Kyle Bozeman
Daniel Buchanan
Clark Hicks
Nathan Lockey
Jim Puckett
Duane Raanes
Brian Rifkin
Jacob Suttle
Don Vail
Danny Williams

Alto

Cherie Boone
Allison Chestnut
Judi Collins
Gwen Combs

Tenor

Matthew Aiken
Kamron Glover
Nick Joslin
Mark Malone
Tammy Matlock

THE ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Shellie Kemp, Concertmaster
Vince Massimino
Carla Briggs
Noelani Perry

Violin II

Zakary Joyner
Bonnie Brown
Emily Williams

Viola

Ausra Jasineviciute
Hristo Hristov

Violoncello

Veronica Parrales
Nancy Bateman

Bass

Glenn Hale

Oboe

Julie Hudik
Rut Moreno

Bassoon

Jon Wenberg

Trumpet

Darcie Bishop
Ben Bullock

Timpani

Bud Berthold

Harpsichord/Organ

Kathy Vail

ABOUT HANDEL'S MESSIAH

George Frideric Handel's oratorio *Messiah* is his most famous composition. Written in just over a period of three weeks in 1741, it was first performed on April 13, 1742, in Dublin, Ireland. It is said that the "audience was transported."

The first London performance was on March 23, 1743. King George II on hearing *Messiah* was so deeply moved by Handel's music that he stood for the "Hallelujah Chorus" in appreciation. With the king standing, the audience rose as well, inaugurating the custom of standing when this famous chorus is sung.

Handel was born on February 23, 1685, in Halle, Brandenburg, Germany. His mother nurtured his musical gifts, while his father insisted that he go into law. Handel studied law but excelled as an organist and composer. He wrote over forty operas and other oratorios, such as *Judas Maccabaeus* and instrumental compositions, such as "Water Music."

Choosing to devote his life to music, he became a prolific composer. He lived at the same time as another famous composer, J. S. Bach, who was also born in 1685. While the two composers knew about each other and their compositions, they never met in person.

Handel moved to England and became a British citizen in 1727. Some have wondered what his relationship was with the Church of England. He became a member of that Church since it was the official Church of the country. He was not a "church musician" in the usual sense of the profession, but undoubtedly some of his instrumental compositions, such as his organ concertos, and vocal compositions were performed in English cathedrals and churches.

The majority of the Biblical texts for *Messiah* were from the King James version of the Bible, but the psalms were taken from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England. In the worldwide Anglican Communion with 41 member Churches, each with a different name, the sister Church of the Church of England in the United States is the Episcopal Church.

*By The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Butcher,
Member, Trinity Episcopal Church, Natchez*

INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

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



"HALLELUJAH! HANDEL'S MESSIAH" SUPPORTERS

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Mary Lessley, Past President, Natchez Festival of Music
The Rev. Ken Ritter, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church
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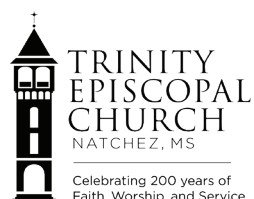


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ABOUT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1822-2022: Celebrating 200 Years of Faith, Worship and Service

Trinity Episcopal Church was founded in 1822. Members wanted a place to worship and a priest to lead the congregation. Construction immediately began on a large brick building at the corner of South Commerce Street and Washington Street, and soon thereafter, the Rev. James Pilmore arrived.

The first service in the building was in May 1823. Since then, worship services have been held continuously at Trinity, the oldest and largest church building in downtown Natchez.

For 200 years, Trinity Church has been a Christian community in the heart of Natchez. A leader in the Diocese of Mississippi, Trinity was the site of the formation in 1826 of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, home in 1850-51 of the Diocese's first Bishop and host for dozens of Diocesan Annual Councils.

Trinity is one church in mission, inviting, transforming and reconciling all people to God and neighbor in Natchez and to the ends of the earth.

www.trinitynatchez.org

ABOUT NATCHEZ FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

The mission of the Natchez Festival of Music is to enlighten and enrich the lives of the citizens of the greater Mississippi/Louisiana region and neighboring areas by producing a variety of musical events, including popular music, Broadway shows, recitals, musical theater, operas, jazz, blues and other special concerts.

The Festival also provides educational outreach programs in music and performing arts for thousands of children every year.

As an important part of the cultural fabric of Natchez and the state of Mississippi, the Festival benefits the region by providing quality of life events for citizens and educational events for students while serving as a tool for tourism and economic development.

The vision for the Festival is to be a driving force for cultural activity that attracts people to Natchez and Mississippi from around the world.

Natchezfestivalofmusic.com

INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

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. Hallelujah!

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





"The Ascension" altar window at Trinity Church was created by John La Farge and installed in 1884. It is the only La Farge window in Mississippi and one of a few outside the Northeast.

Trinity photos by Ben Hillyer



TRINITY
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
NATCHEZ, MS

Celebrating 200 years of
Faith, Worship, and Service

