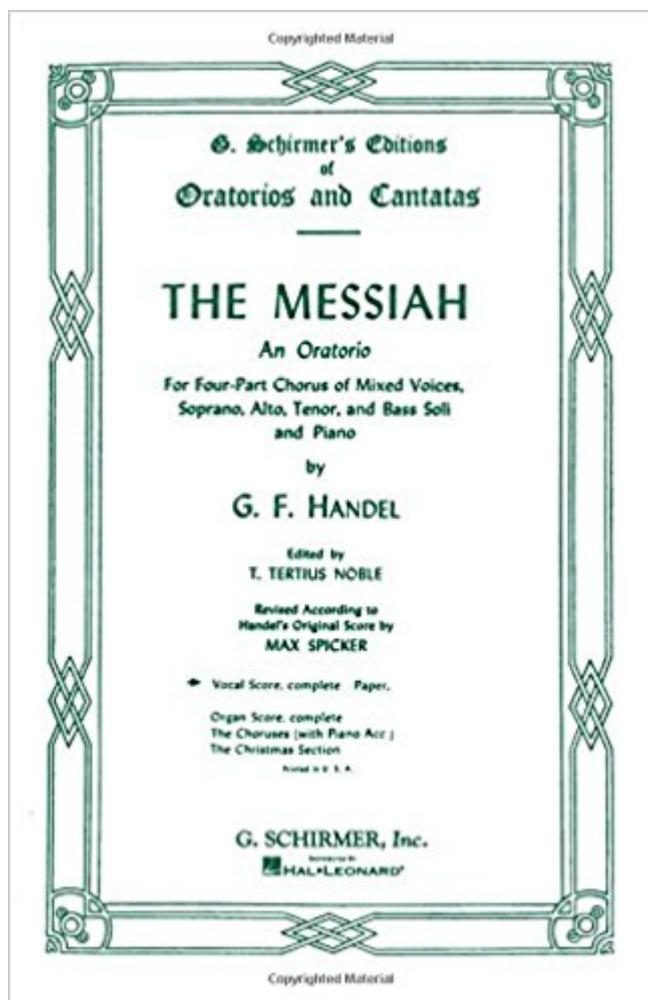


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# The Messiah: An Oratorio For Four-Part Chorus Of Mixed Voices, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, And Bass Soli And Piano



## Synopsis

THE MESSIAH, Handel's most successful and best known oratorio, was composed in the year 1741 in twenty four days, from August the 22d to September the 14th. It was first performed at a concert given for charitable purposes at Dublin, Ireland, on April the 13th, 1742, Handel conducting the performance in person. As the centuries have passed, a considerable number of vocal scores have, of course, been made after Flandel's partition; notably that by Dr. Clarke (Whitfield Clarke, 1809)., and a later one by Vincent Novello. Their value, however, was more or less doubtful, their character being rather that of transcriptions in pianoforte style, with not infrequent arbitrary or capricious aberrations, than a faithful and exact reduction of the orchestral score. Neither have the more recent editions of vocal scores based on the Mozart orchestra score, with its many contrapuntal charms, quite fulfilled expectations, as they materially increased the difficulty of the piano part. Hence, a vocal score which should be in every way reliable and practical has become a matter of prime necessity. The present edition agrees at every point with Handel's original score, as it follows the facsimile edition of this latter with most careful exactitude. Slight deviations from the original, which in the course of many years have obtained almost traditional authority, are inserted in small notes in every case, the professional artist being left free to employ them or not, at his discretion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Anyone attending a Messiah sing-along is most likely to fit in when using this old favorite edition.

The musicological work has been superseded by Watkins Shaw's edition for Novello, but his piano

reductions are idiosyncratic. This piano-vocal score has no measure numbers or rehearsal figures, but the reduction is pianistic in scope. The choral lines are in smaller type but are workable. The price is of course also highly attractive. Listeners who truly love this work may be interested in the full orchestral score--also at a great price--from Dover, edited by Alfred Mann. --William R. Braun

This piano-vocal score of Handel's Messiah is an older edition by G. Schirmer, and is completely traditional, with none of the alternative material found in many newer scores. It has an interesting feature not found in other editions; each number, starting with #2, has the scripture reference in the upper left corner of the page on which it begins. For me this is the best score because it does not clutter itself with alternative versions of various numbers which are seldom used except by professional Baroque specialists. Further, this edition leaves the oratorio structurally intact by leaving "But Who May Abide" with the bass, rather than giving it to a countertenor. Five Stars

I have no question as to the quality of the music. The problem was that the download only downloaded the top portion of each page, leaving the bottom of the page unavailable. I have an older Kindle [Generation 3], that does not have a touch screen, and that might have cured the problem, but I tried twice to download the score, both times unsuccessfully. I have a standard size iPad Air, but it only showed the top half of the page, also. I looked for customer service contact information, and found that for \$2.99 I could download a book that would provide me with Customer Service contact phone numbers.

I wasn't sure this was the full choral score. It is. I purchased this for my family to use at a Messiah sing along. My nine year old really enjoyed following along (and honestly was excited about the concert and less bored than he has been in the past). I chose the Shirmer edition because that is what our local orchestra uses.

This is needed if you are planning on singing in a production of Handel's Messiah. It is further needed if you are going to highlight the parts you are singing (Also) and asked to fill in and sing a different part (Tenor) and need to highlight another set of parts. It is even more needed if your son is going to sing and needs a book so he can have a book for himself for his part (Bass). If you are able to participate in a Messiah, even if you feel you are not a great singer, but have been invited to sing--you should. This is a moving piece of music. Powerful.

The Schiller edition was once very good but they appear to have been using the same plates for the last 104 years. So much of it is no longer distinct - there are light spots in the lettering, bars in runs of 16th notes bleed together, etc. Going to seek out a different edition with crisper printing.

This was purchased as a gift, and it was well received. It is the same classic cream-colored paperback version that so many choirs use, and have for years. This version contains the complete vocal parts (SATB) and piano score, but not the full orchestral score. You've likely handled one of these before, but if not, it is worth noting that although the covers are basically thick paper and rather susceptible to bending, the overall construction is sturdy enough for years and years of use.

I've been singing from a well-used score and this is an identical replacement. The print is clear and is complete with solos so I can follow along through the entire performance.

This was a gift for a family I know. I have two copies already. It's great for playing along with a recording (if you play an instrument) or taking to one of the Messiah sing a longs they do almost every year. It's great.

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