

# Handel Festival



*The three hundredth birthday  
celebration of George Frideric  
Handel (1685-1759)*

## **Israel in Egypt**

**May 11, 1985**

**Zion Mennonite Church**

**Souderton, PA**

Co-sponsored by

**Bucks County Choral Society**

**Montgomery County Community College**

## **Dr. Robert A. Harris**

### *Guest Conductor*

**ROBERT A. HARRIS** is a member of the faculty of the School of Music at Northwestern University where he holds the position of Professor of Conducting and Director of Choral Organizations. Prior to joining the faculty at Northwestern in 1977, Dr. Harris taught theory and composition and conducted the Women's Chorale at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and at Michigan State University where he served as Director of Choral Activities from 1970 to 1977. His responsibilities at Northwestern include teaching conducting on both undergraduate and graduate levels as well as conducting two ensembles — University Chorale, a select choir primarily designed for graduate and advanced undergraduate musicians, and University Chorus, an oratorio chorus of 120 voices. Dr. Harris earned his Ph.D. degree in composition from Michigan State University and has undertaken graduate and post-doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music and the Aspen Music School. His compositions, especially those in the choral medium, have received performances throughout the United States as well as in several European countries. His published works are presently in the catalogues of Boosey and Hawkes, Carl Fischer, Mark Foster and the Heritage Music Press. In 1974, Dr. Harris was selected by the American Choral Directors Association to be a member of a delegation of conductors to visit and exchange ideas with conductors in several European countries (including the Soviet Union). He is quite active as a conductor, choral clinician and adjudicator, having appeared in these capacities throughout the country. Biographical listings include **WHO'S WHO AMONG BLACK AMERICANS (1975-76)**, **MEN OF ACHIEVEMENT (London, 1977)**, and **WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA (1980-81)**. He also serves as Director of Music and Choirmaster at the Trinity Church of the North Shore in Wilmette, Illinois.

### *Soloists*

Jennifer Culp, *soprano*  
Janet Fryling, *soprano*  
Joy Musselman, *soprano*  
Marion vander Loo, *alto*

Blair Wilson, *tenor*  
Philip Franchois, *bass*  
David Fryling, *bass*

**Bucks County Choral Society**  
Elma Heckler, *Director*

**Montgomery County Community Chorus**  
Judith Willoughby Miller, *Director*

## **Israel In Egypt**

George Frideric Handel

### **I. EXODUS**

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>OVERTURE</b>          | <i>Sinfonia from Saul</i>  |
| <b>1. RECITATIVE</b>     | Now there arose a new King<br><i>Blair Wilson, tenor</i>   |
| <b>2. DOUBLE CHORUS</b>  | And the children of Israel sighed<br><i>Marion vander Loo, alto</i>                                |
| <b>3. RECITATIVE</b>     | And their cry came up unto God<br>Then sent He Moses<br><i>Blair Wilson, tenor</i>                 |
| <b>4. CHORUS</b>         | They loathed to drink  |
| <b>5. AIR</b>            | Their land brought forth frogs<br><i>Marion vander Loo, alto</i>                                   |
| <b>6. DOUBLE CHORUS</b>  | He spake the word  |
| <b>7. DOUBLE CHORUS</b>  | He gave them hailstones  |
| <b>8. CHORUS</b>         | He sent a thick darkness   |
| <b>9. CHORUS</b>         | He smote all the first-born  |
| <b>10. CHORUS</b>        | But as for His people  |
| <b>11. CHORUS</b>        | Egypt was glad   |
| <b>12. DOUBLE CHORUS</b> | He rebuked the Red Sea<br>He led them through the deep   |
| <b>13. DOUBLE CHORUS</b> | But the waters overwhelmed their enemies<br>And Israel saw the great work<br>And believed the Lord |

**INTERMISSION**

## II. THE SONG OF MOSES

### 14. DOUBLE CHORUS

Moses, and the children of Israel  
I will sing unto the Lord

### 15. DUET

The Lord is my strength

*Janet Fryling and Joy Musselman,*  
*sopranos*

### 16. DOUBLE CHORUS

He is my God

And I will exalt Him

### 17. DUET

The Lord is a man of war

*Philip Franchets and David Fryling,*  
*basses*

### 18. DOUBLE CHORUS

The depths have covered them

### 19. DOUBLE CHORUS

Thy right hand, O Lord

And in the greatness

Thou sentest forth Thy wrath

### 20. CHORUS

And with the blast of thy nostrils

### 21. AIR

The enemy said

*Blair Wilson, tenor*

### 22. AIR

Thou didst blow with the wind

*Jennifer Culp, soprano*

### 23. DOUBLE CHORUS

Who is like unto thee?

The earth swallowed them

### 24. DUET

Thou, in Thy mercy

*Marion vander Loo, alto;*

*Blair Wilson, tenor*

### 25. DOUBLE CHORUS

The people shall hear

### 26. AIR

Thou shalt bring them in

*Marion vander Loo, alto*

### 27. DOUBLE CHORUS

The Lord shall reign

### 28. RECITATIVE, DOUBLE CHORUS

For the horse of Pharaoh

*Blair Wilson, tenor*

### 29. RECITATIVE

The Lord shall reign

And Miriam the prophetess

*Blair Wilson, tenor*

### 30. SOLO, DOUBLE CHORUS

Sing ye to the Lord

*Joy Musselman, soprano*

# Program Notes

Kingdon W. Swayne

*Israel in Egypt* is divided into two parts, of notably different character. The first begins with the history of Israel's bondage in Egypt, and the plagues the Lord brought upon the Egyptians — each vividly described in both words and music, by turns agitated and majestic. The mood suddenly changes as the Lord turns his attention to the people of Israel, and in a hauntingly lyrical passage, leads them forth "like sheep" out of bondage. After a vivid account of the parting of the waters of the Red Sea, Part I ends with the acknowledgement by the Israelites of the power of the Lord and of Moses, his servant.

This recognition of the majesty of God sets the stage for Part II, an extended hymn to the Lord, which one can imagine being sung by a people now safely on the eastern shore of the Red Sea. The hymn is mostly about praise and thanksgiving, but it is rooted in recent history and in specific prophecies for the near future. It opens and closes with a joyous recollection of the drowning of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea, and midway makes explicit the Israelites' expectation that the Lord will see them safely settled in the land of Canaan.

We think of Handel as a German composer, but he emigrated to England in his mid-twenties and remained there until his death. By the time he composed *Israel in Egypt* at the age of 53, he had lived half his life in England, and he naturally chose for it an English text, drawn from Exodus and the Psalms. Those familiar with English can derive a special pleasure from Handel's use of word painting and other descriptive devices to reinforce key words in the text. At the very beginning, listen as *the children of Israel sigh*. As the plagues come on, listen to the violins as *leaping frogs and buzzing flies*, and to the basses as *locusts*. Then hear the tympani as *hailstones*, followed by a *thick darkness* painted by the chorus, leading in turn to the *smiting* of the Egyptian first born by the total ensemble. And finally, in the passage that begins and ends Part II, listen for the galloping rhythm as *the Lord throws horse and rider into the sea*.

Many of Handel's oratorios lend themselves to staging by opera companies. *Messiah* and *Israel in Egypt* are the main exceptions, the latter because it features the chorus so prominently. Consequently, it is a favorite of choral groups, who are challenged by its demands for stamina, virtuosity, and a broad range of dramatic expression. It uses all the tricks of the choral composer's trade, from stern declamation with all voices on the same note, through the give-and-take of two separate choruses in dialogue, to the intricacies of fugues, simple and complex. The sheer variety of musical form keeps the listener wondering what new tricks Handel has up his sleeve for the next segment.

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY CHORUS

Judith Willoughby Miller, *Director*

Donna Kirkner, *Accompanist*

## SOPRANO

Elaine Albe<sup>o</sup>, Norristown  
Jocelyn Bates, Philadelphia  
Ursula Carfagno, Jenkintown  
Celine Childs, Plymouth Meeting

### *President*

Mary Christou, North Wales  
Anna Marie Esposito, Blue Bell  
Phyllis Grayce, Conshohocken  
Mary Harrison, Abington  
Kathleen Haskell, North Wales  
Elaine Hunter, Glenside  
Joan Kehr, Spadertown  
Laura Keyser, Wyndmoor  
Joyanne Munschman, Silverdale  
Jill Shafer-Walker, Jenkintown  
Bernice Shaw, Norristown  
Kathleen Wertley, Norristown

\*Member of Montgomery County  
Community College Choir

## ALTO

Teresa Banik, Ambler  
Beth Brodtag, Lansdale  
Patricia Campie, Glenside  
Susan Dalton, North Wales  
Argentine Deigh, Norristown  
Brigitte DePiero, Ardley  
Laura Foster, Hatfield  
Kathy Frey, North Wales

### *Treasurer*

Patricia Frey, Lansdale  
Jean Maus, Erdenheim  
Mary McCaughey, Lansdale  
Emiko Nakatani<sup>o</sup>, Blue Bell  
Jane Nolde, Laverock  
Betty Lou Nyce, Lansdale  
Lorraine Sands, North Wales  
June Schwoyer, North Wales  
Janice Vavrina, Media  
Mary Whitman, Lansdale

## BASS

Elvin Berie, Audubon  
Mark Deasy, North Wales  
Sean Devitt, Glenside  
Van Harrison, Abington  
Richard Hastings, Royersford  
Barry Hornberger, Lansdale

### *Recording Secretary*

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David Landolt, Harleysville

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Ralph Hege, Audubon  
Thomas Lackman, Jenkintown  
Donald Mooty, Lansdale

### *Vice President*

William Saunders, Ambler  
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Thomas Vavrina, Media

# HANDEL FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

## VIOLIN I

Lynn Mather Hoeng,  
*Concertmaster*  
Ruggero Aliffranchini  
Sandra Packer

## VIOLIN II

David Reichman  
Robin Cross  
Shelagh Maloney

## VIOLA

Linda Feldman  
David Rubenstein

## VIOLINCELLO

Kim Gryga  
John Koen

## STRING BASS

Peter Conover

## OBOE I

John Blumenfeld

## OBOE II

Corinna Widner

## BASSOON

Karen Meyer  
Nancy Kou

## TRUMPET

Brian Kuzyk  
Frederick Reimers

## TROMBONE

Deborah Taylor  
Charles Hutchings  
Michael McGuire

## TIMPANI

Kenneth Miller

## ORGAN

Joan Gurniak

## HARPSICHORD

Kim Heindel

# BUCKS COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

Elma Heckler, *Director*

Joan Gurniak, *Accompanist*

## SOPRANO

Elizabeth Burke, Chalfont  
Doris Charles, Doylestown  
Jennifer Culp, Doylestown  
Doris Daniels, Pineville  
Anne Ehrhart, Doylestown  
Jean Eifman, Doylestown  
Janet Fryling, Dublin  
Geri George, Yardley  
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Jinny Haring, Furlong  
Norma Johnson, Newtown  
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Martie Kyde, Newtown  
Helen O'Connor, Richboro  
Jane Macomber Rinchart,  
Hatfield  
Barbara Tall, Doylestown

## ALTO

Marcia Averre, Langhorne  
Evelyn Bucher, Lansdale  
Audrey Close, Doylestown  
Lisa Delp, Souderton  
Lola Glass, Doylestown  
Colleen Hahn, Richboro  
Roberta Harding, Perkasie  
Suzanne Howe, Perkasie  
Love Jungster, Lansdale  
Janet Kline, Harleysville  
Sue Knorr, Doylestown  
Lois Moore, New Britain  
Martha Palaskey, Ambler  
Hope Pratt, New Hope  
Frances Waite, Doylestown  
Heidi Wolfskill, Doylestown

## BASS

Hugo Ciccotosto, Hatfield  
Merrill Detweiler, Sellersville  
*Vice President*  
Philip Franchois, Doylestown  
David Fryling, Dublin  
David Glassman, Quakertown  
Jeff Greaser, Souderton  
John Grever, Colmar  
Gerry Kratz, Perkasie  
Carrell McNulty, Jr., Doylestown  
Peter Ott, Ottsville  
Walfred Saari, Lansdale  
*President*  
Kingdon Swayne, Newtown  
Ron Tempest, Hatboro

## TENOR

Carole Benecke, Doylestown  
Carl Bergeson, Holicong  
Norman Christy, Chalfont  
Richard Cowles, Jr., Carversville  
Larry Gleason, Jeffersonville  
Eanis Grunden, Hatboro  
David Hughes, Doylestown  
Walter Quate, Warrington  
*Treasurer*  
Jerry Schauer, Broomall

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The Handel Festival is sponsored in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

### Handel Festival Steering Committee

Montgomery County Community Chorus:

Celine Childs, Kathy Frey, Barry Hornberger, David Landolt

Bucks County Choral Society:

Audrey Close, Merrill Detweiler, Lola Glass, Walfred Saari

### Our special thanks

Montgomery County Community College:

Allison Garis, Production

Ann Boltz, Secretarial Staff

Sue Odland, Continuing Education

Betty Ogg, Public Relations

Zion Mennonite Church Board, Staff, Music Committee

*Your cooperation is appreciated in not using cameras or  
tape recorders at this concert.*