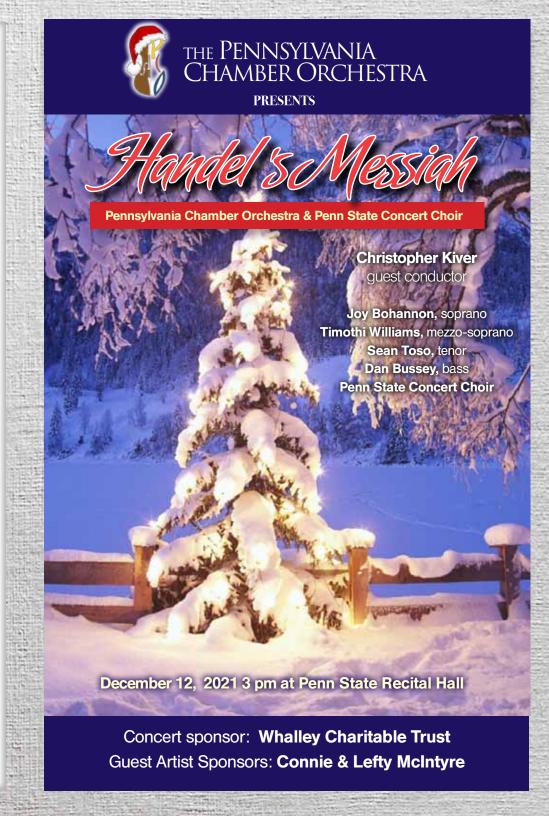
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#### **Christopher Kiver**

Christopher Kiver is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Pennsylvania State University where he directs the Concert Choir and Glee Club. oversees the graduate choral conducting program, and teaches classes in choral conducting and choral literature. He has served as Director of Music at the University Baptist and Brethren Church in State College, as founder and director of The Orpheus

Singers, and guest conductor of the Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra.

Choirs under Kiver's direction have performed at numerous state and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and National Association for Music Education. In March 2017, Kiver led a performance of Julia Wolfe's Anthracite Fields with the Penn State University Concert Choir and Bang on a Can All-Stars. He has taught at the Westminster Choir College Summer and Saturday Seminar programs, and appeared as guest conductor, clinician and



for the Eastern Region of the American Choral Directors Association, former national Repertoire and Standards chair for Men's/ TTBB Choirs and a past president of the Pennsylvania chapter of ACDA.

A native of England, he has received numerous prizes and scholarships including a Fulbright Award, and the 2002 Sydney World

Choral Symposium Foundation Scholarship. In February 2006, he was a double Grammy Award winner ("Best Choral Performance" and "Best Classical Album") as a chorus master for the critically acclaimed Naxos recording of William Bolcom's monumental Songs of Innocence and of Experience. Kiver was the recipient of Penn State University's President's Award for Engagement with Students in 2017. He is a graduate of the University of London, Florida State University. and the University of Michigan where he received the D.M.A. in choral conducting.









#### **Our Soloists**

Joy Bohannon is a 2021 graduate of Penn State with a Master of Music in Pedagogy and Performance. She has been privileged this semester to work as an adjunct professor in the voice area, teaching applied lessons in addition to her private studio work



and collaborate music making as a Professional Performance Certificate student. Recent performances include Belinda in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, also under the direction of Dr. Christopher Kiver.

Timothi Williams, mezzo-soprano, is a West Virginia native, and is currently based in Pittsburgh, PA. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from West Liberty University,

retrormance from west Liberry University, and holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from the Pennsylvania State University. Upon completion of her graduate studies, she obtained a Professional Performance Certificate from the Penn State School of Music.

Ms. Williams has had the pleasure of performing several operatic roles on stage such as Jo March in Mark Adamo's Little Women, Rosina in Rossini's II Barbiere di Siviglia, Ruggiero in Handel's Alcina, Dinah in Bernstein's Trouble in Tahiti, Mélisande in Debussy's Pelléas et Mélisande, Dido in Purcell's

Dido and Aeneas, and most recently, Donna Curson in Mozart/Guerreiro's Figaro 90210.

Quickly gaining popularity as a soloist, Timothi performs regularly with many orchestral, vocal, and chamber ensembles throughout the East Coast. She has been making her debuts in opera programs around the country, most recently as a Studio Artist with Chautauqua Opera for their 2019 season. Among her most notable credits, she was named a Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition District Winner (Pittsburgh) in 2018.

Ms. Williams has a passion for education and enjoys sharing the gift of voice with others through her private voice studio, offering masterclasses and teaching at the university level. She is currently a member of the voice faculty at Slippery Rock University.

Praised for his "melting lyricism" (Voix des Arts), tenor

Sean Toso has performed as a soloist with the Boundless Rodies Contemporary Pallet company

less Bodies Contemporary Ballet company, sung in the world premiere of Scott Eggert's Memoria with the Penn State Concert Choir, performed Bach's Magnificat in D with the Orpheus Singers, and was selected to sing at the 2017 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl. His other oratorio credits include Handel's Messiah and Saint-Saëns' Oratorio de Nicil

singing the roles of Gherardo (Gianni Schiochi) and Alfred (Die Fledermaus). Other previous roles include

Bastien (Bastien and Bastienne), Strephon (Cosi fan tutte), and covering the role of Ferrando (Cosi fan tutte) with Penn State Opera Theatre. In 2019, Mr. Toso participated in workshop performances of Leavings, a new opera with music by Alex Heppelmann. sincing the roles of Mozart and Brother.

Mr. Toso holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from UNC Greensboro and a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Penn

State University.

Oratorio de Noël.

He recently performed with UNCG Opera Theater,

**Daniel Bussey** is a second year Master's student at Penn State, studying vocal performance

at Penn State, studying vocal performance and pedagogy. Most recently, he performed with Penn State Opera Theatre in their production of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, playing the role of "Aeneas", and sang the role of "Bob" in Menotti's The Old Maid and the Thief. In the spring, he will be taking on the role of "Count Almaviva" in Penn State's production of Le Nozze di Figaro. Dan was recently

named as a semifinalist at the 2022 NATS Musical

Theatre Competition, which will take place in New York City in January. Originally from England and raised in Kenya, Dan lives with his wife and two kittens on Long Island. He is grateful for the chance to work with Dr. Kiver and be a part of performing this wonderful music that tells the greatest

story ever written.



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mel Center (Philadelphia), and the Music Center

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dents major in a variety of subjects throughout the

#### **TODAY'S PROGRAM**

#### **A Holiday Celebration Repertoire**

#### Messiah, HWV 56

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Joy Bohannon, Soprano Timothi Williams, Mezzo-Soprano Sean Toso, Tenor Dan Bussev. Bass

#### PART I

#### 1. Sinfony

#### 2. Recitative

Tenor
Comfort ye, comfort ye my
people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to
Jerusalem...
(Isaiah 40: 1-3)

#### 3. Aria

Tenor
Ev'ry valley shall be exalted,
and ev'ry mountain and hill made
low...
(Isaiah 40: 4)

#### 4. Chorus

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together... (Isaiah 40: 5)

#### 5. Recitative

Bass
Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts:
Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth... (Haggai 2: 6-7)
The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple... (Malachi 3: 1)

#### 6. Aria

Bass
But who may abide the day of
His coming,
and who shall stand when He
appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire.
(Malachi 3: 2)

#### 7. Chorus

And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. (Malachi 3: 3)

#### 8. Recitative

Mezzo-Soprano Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us. (Isaiah 7: 14; Matthew 1: 23)

#### 9. Aria and Chorus

Mezzo-soprano, Chorus
O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
get thee up into the high mountain...
(Isaiah 40: 9)
Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
(Isaiah 60: 1)

#### 10. Recitative

Bass
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people... (Isaiah 60: 2-3)

#### 11. Aria

Bass
The people that walked in darkness
have seen a great light...
(Isaiah 9: 2)

#### 12. Chorus

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... (Isaiah 9: 6)

#### 13. Pifa

Pastoral Symphony

#### 14a. Recitative

Soprano
There were shepherds abiding in the field,
keeping watch over their flocks by night.
(Luke 2: 8)

#### 14b. Recitative

Soprano
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.
(Luke 2: 9)

#### 15. Recitative

Soprano
And the angel said unto them:
"Fear not, for behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy..."
(Luke 2: 10-11)

#### 16. Recitative

Soprano
And suddenly there was with
the angel,
a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God, and saying:
(Luke 2: 13)

#### 17. Chorus

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men." (Luke 2: 14)

#### 18. Aria

Soprano Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem... (Zecharaiah 9: 9-10)

#### Intermission (20 minutes)

Please clear the hall for the duration.

#### 19. Recitative

Mezzo-Soprano
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened...
(Isaiah 35: 5-6)

#### **20. Duet**Mezzo-Soprano, Soprano

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm... (Isaiah 40: 11)
Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden... (Matthew 11: 28-29)

#### **PART II**

#### 22. Chorus

Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1: 29)

#### 23. Aria

Mezzo-Soprano
He was despised and rejected
of men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted
with grief.
(Isaiah 53: 3)
He gave His back to the
smiters...
(Isaiah 53: 6)

#### 24. Chorus

Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows... (Isaiah 53: 4-5)

#### 25. Chorus

And with His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53: 5)

#### 26. Chorus

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way... (Isaiah 53: 6)

#### 27. Recitative

Tenor
All they that see Him laugh
Him to scom...
(Psalm 22: 7)

#### 28. Chorus

He trusted in God that He would deliver Him... (Psalm 22: 8)

#### 29. Recitative

Tenor
Thy rebuke hath broken His heart:
He is full of heaviness...
(Psalm 69: 20)

#### 30. Aria

Tenor
Behold, and see if there be any sorrow
like unto His sorrow.
(Lamentations 1: 12)

#### 31. Recitative

Tenor
He was cut off out of the land of the living...
(Isaiah 53: 8)

#### 32. Aria

Tenor
But Thou didst not leave His soul
in hell...
(Psalm 16: 10)

#### 44. Chorus

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. (Revelation 19: 6)
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11: 15)
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. (Revelation 19: 16)
Hallelujah!

#### PART III

#### 45. Aria

Soprano
I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth... (Job 19: 25-26)
For now is Christ risen from the dead,
(I Corinthians 15: 20)

#### 47. Recitative

Bass Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep... (I Corinthians 15: 51-52)

#### 48. Aria

Bass The Trumpet shall sound... (I Corinthians 15: 52–53)

#### 53. Chorus

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood...
Amen.
(Revelation 5: 12-14)

Thank you **Hyatt Place State College** for hosting Ms. Williams for this concert.

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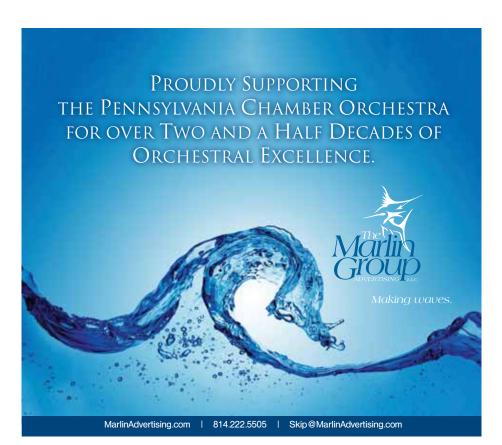
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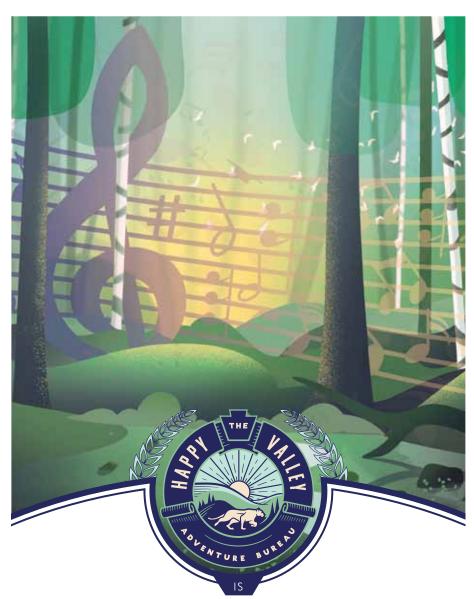
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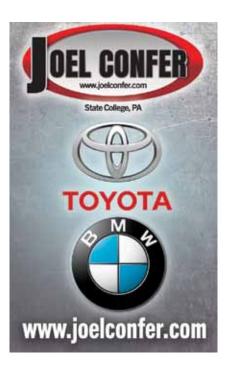
George Frideric Handel remains one of the most admired composers of the Baroque era. Although today he is most well known for his oratorios, especially Messiah, he was most famous in his own day as a composer of 42 Italian operas. Other compositions by Handel include other choral works, such as the Coronation Anthems and orchestral works. including the Water Music and The Music for the Royal Fireworks and many concerti grossi. Handel composed 29 oratorios, including Israel in Egypt (1738), Saul (1738), L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato (1740). Samson (1743), Semele (1743), Hercules (1734), Belshazzar (1734), Judas Maccabeus (1747), Joshua (1748), Susanna (1748), Solomon (1748), Theodora (1750), and Jephtha (1751), in addition to Messiah.

The idea for an oratorio called Messiah came not from Handel, but from Charles Jennens, a wealthy Englishman and literary scholar who edited Shakespeare's plays. Jennens had been an admirer of Handel's since at least 1725, when he had become a subscriber of Handel's published operas. purchasing their scores as they were published. The two met in the mid 1730s, and Jennens soon after began collaborating with Handel, provided him with libretti for two oratorios before Messiah (Saul and L'Allegro), and two after (Belshazzar, and probably Israel in Egypt).

Jennens compiled the libretto of Messiah from the Bible, primarily the Old Testament (even the title of the work is a Hebrew word taken from the Old Testament). Rather than telling the story of Jesus narratively, it presents the significance of the Christian Messiah as a theological idea. Despite its religious subject matter, the libretto (and therefore the entire work) is clearly conceived of operatically: the Biblical texts were chosen and arranged by Jennens in the traditional operatic forms of recitative and aria (as well as choruses, and two pieces for orchestra alone), and the work's three parts are subdivided into separate scenes, much like an opera.

Handel began Messiah on August 22, 1741, and completed it twenty-four days later. The scholar Clifford Bartlett writes that "such speed was not unusual, nor was the time of year. Not much happened in London during the summer, so it was a good time to get ahead with the preparation for the next season ... Bach could produce a cantata, organizing the copying of parts, and rehearse and perform it every week: Three weeks to compose an oratorio without the immediate responsibility for organizing the performance was, therefore, ample, But, however hasty the composition, the power of the musical imagination, the wealth of ideas, the depth of inspiration, and the sheer variety of invention continue to astonish."







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Op. 36

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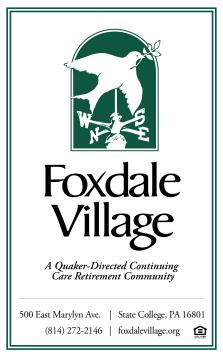
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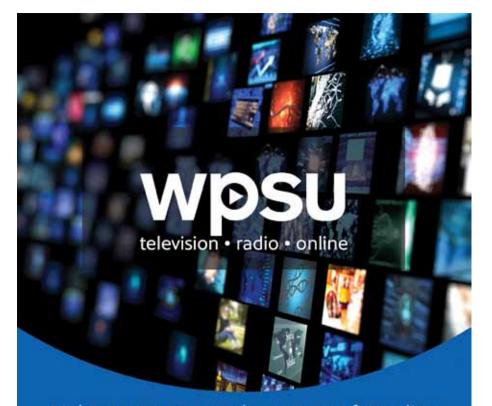
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## Announcing... The Legacy Society

of the Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra

Please consider a gift of orchestral music for the next generation in our community

#### Legacy Society members receive:

- Invitations to special receptions and events
- Recognition in concert programs and on the website, if so desired

Your charitable bequest to the Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra can make a lasting impact by helping to ensure our mission will continue far into the future. Gifts of all sizes make it possible for the PCO to build financial strength and maintain our tradition of excellence that has delighted our community for more than 29 years, and shall continue for generations to come.

Making a charitable gift in your will (or through other beneficiary designations) allows your assets to be distributed according to your wishes. Further, it enables you an opportunity to create a lasting gift of support.

Your privacy will be respected.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

For more information call 814-234-8313 or email info@PAChamberorchestra.org

MAY YOUR GENEROSITY INSPIRE OTHERS