

Seventh Annual
Sing-along
Messiah

by George Frideric Handel

Dr. Lillian Quackenbush
Conductor

Whitney Vance
Soprano

Zach Marshall
Tenor

Elizabeth Woodard
Mezzo-Soprano

Mark Hightower
Bass

Monday, December 21, 2009 • 7:00 p.m.

Washington Street United Methodist Church
Columbia, South Carolina

The Reverend Dr. Paul Harmon, Senior Minister
The Reverend Evelyn Middleton, Associate Minister
The Reverend Don Thrasher, Minister of Education
Mrs. Arletta Raley, Director of Music

PROGRAM NOTES

One of the interesting things about the origin of *Messiah* is the fact that when Handel was writing this signature work in 1741, he, unlike his predecessors Bach and Telemann, was not composing under contract with a church. He was, however, exceptionally popular, having established a stellar reputation in the field of opera. In 1737 Handel turned from a 39-year focus on composing operas, a declining genre in England, toward developing the oratorio genre, more as a matter of practicality than religiosity. In most of his oratorios Handel paraphrased Biblical texts, focusing on characters and setting them as stories similar to characters in his operas. In *Messiah*, Handel's librettist Charles Jennins sets the text using actual Biblical phrases rather than paraphrasing the text and setting it as "story." The central idea then is not a representation of the life of Christ, but rather a dialogue of the struggle of dark and light and the ultimate redemption of humanity. Tonight's performance focuses on Part I with texts combining the prophecies of Isaiah, Haggai, Malachi and Zechariah and the gospels of Matthew and Luke, juxtaposed against the stirring words of "Hallelujah" and "Worthy is the Lamb" from the book of Revelation. Though it was originally written to be performed during the Easter season, no Christmas season seems complete without a public performance of this monumental work. Thank you for helping us continue this tradition as an offering to and celebration of our community.

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers or set them to vibrate only during the performance.
At the end of the performance, please return all borrowed scores to the narthex.

Messiah

by George Frideric Handel

* Audience Sing-along

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DR. LILLIAN QUACKENBUSH

Conductor

Lillian Quackenbush recently retired as professor and chair of the Department of Music at Columbia College, Columbia, South Carolina. Her musical resume includes numerous performances of Handel's *Messiah* as chorus member, soloist, and conductor. Dr. Quackenbush is the founder/artistic director of the Sandlapper Singers, a 30-voice professional choral ensemble, and she also serves as Director of Music at Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia. She has had an extensive career as a vocal performer in musical theater, opera, and oratorio and frequently serves as clinician for choral festivals and workshops.

WASHINGTON STREET ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Neil Casey

Concertmaster

Micah Gangwer

Frank Thomas

Andrea Krafft

Cello

Colleen Marcou

Dusan Vukajlovic

Double Bass

Ken Klatte

Trumpet

James Ackley

Randy Love

Timpani

Scott Herring

Violin II

Jennifer Hill

Laura Thomas

Nicole Neely

Oboe

Benjamin Woodruff, Jr.

Judi Shirley

Harpsichord

Jerry Curry

Viola

Audrey Harris

Chris Neely

Bassoon

Stephanie Whitson

PARTICIPATING CHOIRS

Columbia Choral Society

Dr. Will Carswell, Director

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Sanctuary Choir

Fredna Lee, Director

Shandon Presbyterian Church

Chancel Choir

Dr. Lillian Quackenbush, Director

Washington Street United Methodist Church

Sanctuary Choir

Arletta Raley, Director

SOLOISTS

Whitney Ison Vance is a native of Columbia, South Carolina, and recently received a master's degree in vocal performance from the University of South Carolina. While at USC, she performed lead roles in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* as well as Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*. In 2004 Mrs. Vance earned a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Other operatic performances include the role of Nannetta in Verdi's *Falstaff*, along with named roles in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and Poulenc's *The Dialogue of the Carmelites*. Equally adept on the concert stage, Mrs. Vance has performed in numerous recitals and orchestra concerts throughout the U.S. and Europe. She is a member of the Washington Street United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir, where she is a soprano soloist.

Elizabeth Langley Woodard has frequently appeared in South Carolina and Georgia performing with the Columbia Choral Society, the Masterworks Choir of Florence, the Hilton Head Choral Society, and the South Carolina Philharmonic. Other appearances include concerts with the Savannah Symphony, the Palmetto Mastersingers, the Augusta Choral Society, South Carolina State College, and Presbyterian College. She toured throughout Spain with the University of South Carolina Concert Choir. Teased by her colleagues as the "Oratorio Alto," she has performed a wide variety of works such as Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Brahms's *Alto Rhapsody*, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, Mozart's *Requiem*, and Handel's *Messiah*. Ms. Woodard is an active member of Shandon Presbyterian Church, serving as a soloist for 32 years. She also sings with Colla Voce and the Sandlapper Singers. Ms. Woodard has one daughter and is a telecommunications design engineer with Xeta Technologies.

Zach Marshall is originally from Bristol, Tennessee, and in his second year of study for the doctorate in musical arts in vocal performance at the University of South Carolina. He received his master of music degree in vocal performance from the University of Tennessee in 2006. While there, he performed roles in *The Most Happy Fella* (Ciccio), *Carmen* (El Ramendado), and *Sweeney Todd* (Beadle). He recently appeared in *The Tender Land* as Martin for East Tennessee State University's opera workshop. Since coming to Columbia, Mr. Marshall has appeared with Opera at USC in *Les Contes d'Hoffman* (Nathaniel) and *Our Town* (George Gibbs). Mr. Marshall served previously as an adjunct voice faculty member at ETSU and Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville. He is a member of the international competing barbershop quartet, Buc Wild, and sings and plays guitar in his band, Doc Bonhomie. Mr. Marshall is a member of the Washington Street United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir where he is a tenor soloist.

Mark Hightower

**Grateful appreciation is expressed for support of the Sing-along *Messiah*
to the following major donors**

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ProducerArletta Raley
Assistant Producer..... Charlotte Broome
PublicityBrian Murrell
Program..... Charlotte Broome, Teresa Fisher and Ed McClain
Website (www.singalongmessiah.org).....Ed McClain
Facilities Manager..... Jerry Sumpter