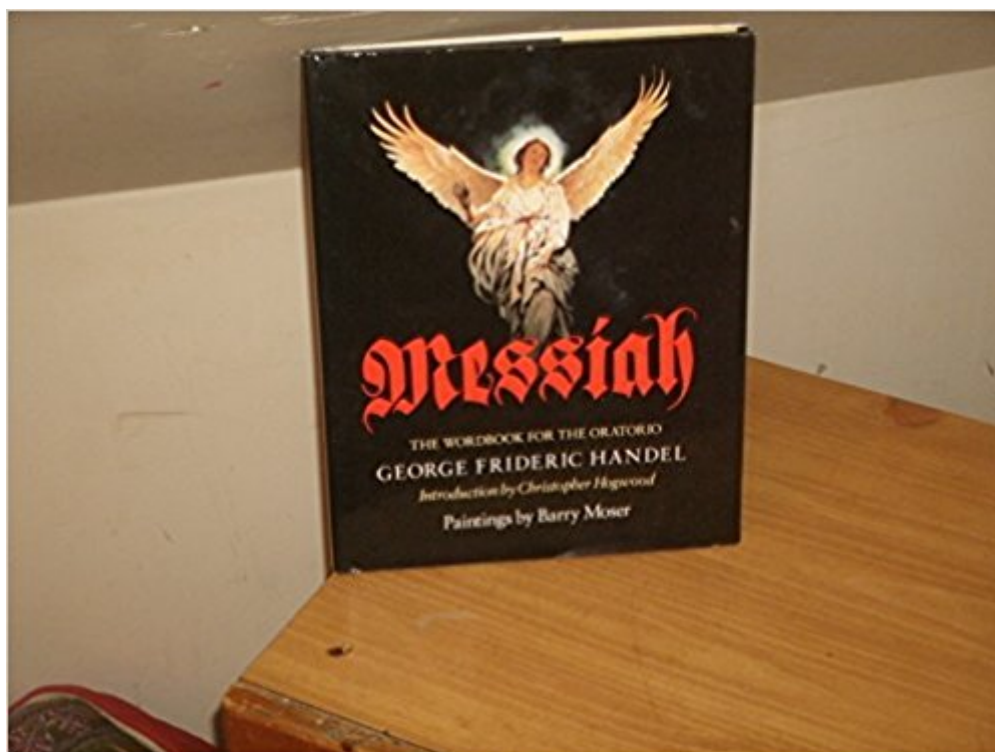


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Messiah: The Wordbook For The Oratorio



Synopsis

A gift edition of the wordbook to accompany Handel's famous, beloved oratorio, with striking watercolors, celebrates the 250th anniversary of the work's premiere performance.

Book Information

Hardcover

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #324,367 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Children's & Teens > Teens > Bible Stories #316 in Books > Teens > Religion & Spirituality #66485 in Books > Religion & Spirituality

Customer Reviews

Like a richly decorated but inedible pastry, this overblown volume falls flat under the sheer weight of its own pomposity. Neither cream-stock pages nor elegant typefaces nor Moser's occasionally lovely, often bleak and largely obscure watercolors can lift this volume off the launching pad. Highly pedigreed conductor Christopher Hogwood's sturdy, scholarly introduction may find a rapt audience among music lovers, but few others--and certainly no child--will wade through the ponderous prose. Not particularly useful for sing-alongs (it contains only the libretto), the book may find a niche as a coffee-table curio, but marketing it as a children's book seems myopic. Indeed, some may believe that this particular publication (the dust-jacket blurb mentions the word "gift" not once but twice) contradicts the true spirit of Christmas that Handel's sublime music so movingly voices. Bah, humbug! All ages. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It is difficult to hear all the words of the oratorio when they are sung in operatic voices. Even adults find it difficult, and children need help. This book lays out all the words. It gives scripture references. And it is accompanied by Barry Moser's excellent illustrations. The print is a little hard to read in a dim theater while the performance is going on, but this book is a worthwhile purchase. I bought one

for each of my kids as a keepsake souvenir for the first time they attended "Messiah."

Maestro McCreesh's 1996 effort is a strong contender among the PI (period instrument) crowd. The orchestra doesn't screech, the chorus has weight, decent diction and color and the soloists have fine voices particularly the sopranos and the contralto. McCreesh appears to see the Messiah as drama or perhaps as opera. For example, contralto Bernarda Fink's desire for us feel her pain in "He was despised..." is over the top and distracting. The apparent intent of the players to strive for effect and to shade every word robs the performance of genuine sincerity-this is a work of spiritual expression after all. Nevertheless I enjoyed the performance for what it was and the interpretative approach will appeal to many.

I find this summary of the Messiah very true to form. This is a great companion to read along in while listening to the recorded version.

Anyone can enjoy Messiah's amazing music. Handel just overflows with good tunes throughout. This is an "authentic" group that I had not heard about (not reviewed in the couple books I have), but they do as good a job, or better, than some more famous names. Very well done--I am glad to add it to my collection of Messiah performances that do the music justice.

There are 2 disks (volume 1 and volume 2). I received volume 1 only. If you magnify the image description, you will discover that it is only volume 1. Not the complete Messiah.

fabulous recording with detail and energy. small ensemble recording at its best, excellent soloists and crisp choral singing, all in all a pleasure

Great cd

This is a brilliant recording of the "Foundling Hospital Version". Paul McCreesh's tempi are characteristically extreme, with no better example of how well they work than the opening accompagnato (beautifully largo) followed by a zippy "Ev'ry valley". The soloists are all top-notch, and the sound of the band, soloists and chorus on this recording are all superlative. I'm a bit of a nerd, and probably have a few too many recordings of Messiah. This is still my favourite.

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