

Handel's Judas Maccabæus

Sunday, October 30, 2011, 4:00 p.m. Kettering Adventist Church 3939 Stonebridge Road Kettering, Ohio

John Neely, Music Director R. Alan Kimbrough, Accompanist

Welcome to the first concert of the Bach Society's exciting 2011-2012 season!

After hearing *Judas Maccabæus* today, we're sure you'll want to subscribe for the remainder of this "Season to Remember." That way you won't miss our enormously popular holiday concert, our March collaboration with Central State University's Chorus, and our all-Bach finalé in May. The final page of this program is a subscription form that you can hand to an usher with a check before you leave today.

The same form allows you to make a contribution to support the Bach Society. Your financial gifts, along with ticket sales, are the core of our annual budget. Please consider a generous gift to help us continue to bring great music to the Greater Dayton area.

We are grateful to Culture Works for providing Level 2 General Operating Support for this concert season, and to the Monarch/Genesis Fund of The Dayton Foundation and Dr. and Mrs. Hans Zwart for their generous support of our March and May concerts.

Next season, 2012-2013, is the Bach Society's 10th anniversary, and we plan a year-long celebration. Today we invite you to use the sheet inserted in this program to tell us what "favorites" you'd like to hear us perform at our May 2013 concert-something you've heard us sing or a piece you've wished we'd offer. Simply hand the form to an usher before you leave today or mail it back if you need more time to think about your favorites.

If you are (or know) an experienced singer who would like to join the Bach Society, please call 294-BACH to schedule an audition.

Now...enjoy Handel's compelling story of the "conquering hero," Judas Maccabæus.



The Arts Fund







Bach Society of Dayton Chorus

Soprano

Carla Ballou Sarah Cavender Kay Cherry Joan Crafton Susan Cromer Britteny Cyphers Mary Ann Frazell Jennifer Grubb Sharon Kohnle Karen Linaberry Deborah Martin Connie Palmus Donna Reece Cathy Renfrow Shirley Richardson-McCourt Faye Seifrit

Alto

Sarah Brockmeier Willow Cliffswallow Pamela Cooper-Servaites Helen Cripe Peg Holland Greta Holt Ann Holzer Margaret Karns Barbara Piatt Pam Rauch Mary Beth Rodes Judith Russell Barbara Schramm Mary Tymeson Sara Vice

Tenor

Todd Berry Marc Georgin Stan Gockel Gary Grubb Skip Layman Michael Linaberry Gregory Martin Thom Meyer Kevin Samblanet Jerome Servaites Bill Spohn Blair Wentworth

Bass

Fred Bartenstein Erick Beaven Cullen Bower Paul Grabiel David Grupe John Gummel Lew Hann Dick Hattershire Larry Hollar Alan Kimbrough Steve Makovec Bill Miller Dave Roderick Mark Spencer John Stengel The Bach Society of Dayton's mission is to perform and promote appreciation of choral music, both sacred and secular, including the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, and to nurture the next generation of choral singers. Through an annual concert series that features diverse repertoire and innovative collaborations and educational elements, the Bach Society provides musical excellence across the range of classical music. Generous funding support from foundations, government arts entities, underwriters, donors, and subscribers makes this possible. See more about us at www.bachsocietyofdayton.org.



John Neely is one of the most renowned musicians in the Greater Dayton region. He has been Music Director of the Bach Society of Dayton since its inception in 2002. His engaging personality, abundant musical skills, and ability to nurture musicians of varied ages make him the ideal musical leader of the Bach Society. For 30 years John Neely has been Associate Pastor for Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Dayton. A superb organist and choral director, under his leadership Westminster Church has an active

music program for all ages with five singing choirs and three handbell choirs. Westminster offers musical programs that nourish the entire region.

Neely holds degrees from Duquesne University, Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister. Prior to coming to Dayton he taught at Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania, and at Mt. Union College in Alliance, Ohio. He has held leadership roles in the American Guild of Organists and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. Neely is active in the tri-state area as an organ recitalist and choral clinician.



R. Alan Kimbrough, a professor of English at the University of Dayton, is well known within the Dayton arts community as an outstanding organistaccompanist. Dr. Kimbrough was the accompanist for the former Dayton Bach Society from 1974 to 2002. He is a long-time member of the American Guild of Organists and is currently a co-organist at the First Baptist Church of Dayton.

Soloists



Andrea Chenoweth, soprano, is a two-time regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions. She has appeared with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, Cleveland Opera, Commonwealth Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Dayton Opera, the Springfield Symphony, the Bach Society of Dayton, Mansfield Symphony Orchestra, Arcadia Players, and Red (an orchestra).

Ms. Chenoweth's recent operatic engagements include Atalanta in Handel's *Xerxes* with Arcadia Players; Lucia in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* with Commonwealth Opera in Massachusetts. She has also performed the roles of Blondchen in Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio* with Lyric Opera Cleveland, Lìu for Cleveland Opera on Tour, and Madeline in the Ohio professional premiere of Philip Glass's opera *The Fall of the House of Usher*. She has understudied numerous roles, including Rosalinda from *Die Fledermaus* and Alma March in Mark Adamo's *Little Women*. She has also performed in scenes from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (Donna Elvira), Massenet's *Manon* (Manon), Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* (Female Chorus and Lucia), Douglas Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe* (Baby Doe), and Puccini's *La Bohème* (Mimì).

Her recent orchestral engagements include Bach's *Magnificat* with the Cleveland Orchestra, concert performances of *Candide* with the Mansfield Symphony, Vaughan-William's *Dona Nobis Pacem*, Mozart's *C minor Mass* and *Coronation Mass* with the Dayton Philharmonic, and the world premiere of *A Red Couch Floats in Lake Erie: A Symphony of Songs* by Jonathon Sheffer with Red (an orchestra). She toured Japan with Maestro Neal Gittleman, singing Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with the Telemann Chamber Orchestra.

A proponent of new music, Ms. Chenoweth has worked with many living composers including Libby Larsen, Joseph Summer, Jonathon Sheffer, and Monica Houghton. She performed all the major soprano roles in a concert reading of Houghton's opera, *The Big Bonanza*, conducted by Stephen Byess, and has also premiered several songs by Houghton, including the cycle *In Singing Weather*.

An active recitalist, Chenoweth has performed at several institutions of higher education throughout Ohio, presenting full recitals, lecture/demonstrations, and master classes. She has performed outreach concerts under the auspices of Opera Cleveland. She has twice participated in the Cleveland Art Song Festival where she has worked with such noted professionals as Stephanie Blythe, Warren Jones, Francois le Roux, Mikhail Hallak, Vladimir Chernov, and Anthony Dean Griffey. She recently made her Boston debut singing music by Joseph Summer and Schubert on the long-running Shakespeare Concert Festival. Ms. Chenoweth received her Master of Music in voice from The Cleveland Institute of Music and her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Dayton. Her teachers include Ruth Golden, George Vassos, Ellen Shade, and Linda Snyder. She competed in the Dutch International Vocal Competition in the Netherlands.

Ms. Chenoweth was Lecturer in Voice at Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music for two years and now teaches voice at the University of Dayton.



Steven Rickards, countertenor, has received international acclaim as one of America's finest countertenors. He took part in the premiere of John Adams's oratorio *El Niño* at the Châtelet Opera in Paris. Subsequent performances of the work have featured the Adelaide Symphony, the BBC Philharmonic, the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, the Tokyo Symphony, and the Malmö Opera (Sweden).

Rickards has appeared internationally with Joshua Rifkin and the Bach Ensemble, as well as with The American Bach Soloists, Chanticleer, Ensemble

Voltaire, the Gabrieli Consort, Chicago's Music of the Baroque, the New London Consort, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Seattle Baroque Orchestra, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, the Santa Fe Opera, and the symphony orchestras of Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Tokyo. He has sung at Carnegie Hall with the Oratorio Society of New York, in France as a soloist with The Festival Singers under the direction of Robert Shaw, and with Paul Hillier and the Theatre of Voices. Rickards was the soloist in the American premiere performance of Michael Nyman's *Self-Laudatory Hymn of Inanna and Her Omnipotence* at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall.

He has recorded for Chanticleer, Decca, Dorian, Four Winds, Gothic, Harmonia Mundi, Koch, Newport Classics, Smithsonian, and Teldec. Rickards can also be heard on the Naxos label where, with lutenist Dorothy Linell, he recorded two solo albums of the songs of John Dowland and Thomas Campion. Rickards currently lives in Indianapolis where he teaches singing at Butler University and the University of Indianapolis. He sings regularly with The Choir of Men and Boys at Christ Church Cathedral. He received his doctorate from Florida State University.



Cameo Humes, tenor, in the role of Judas Maccabæus, is completing doctoral studies at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. While there he has performed the roles of Almaviva (*II Barbiere di Siviglia*) and the Ballad Singer (*Of Mice and Men*). Other opera credits include Tito (*La Clemenza di Tito*), Prunier (*La Rondine*), Slender (*Merry Wives of Windsor*), Gaston (*La Traviata*), Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) with Operafestival di Roma and the Orchestra Sinfonica dell'International Chamber Ensemble, and most recently Peter (*Porgy and Bess*) with Dayton Opera. He has also performed the roles of Tony Candolino (Terrence McNally's *Master Class*) and the Beadle (*Sweeney Todd*). Equally at home in concert oratorio, he has performed as tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, J.S. Bach's *Mass in B Minor* and *St. John Passion*, Mozart's *Grand Mass in C Minor* and a world premiere of Mozart's *Requiem* in collaboration with Cincinnati Ballet at the Aronoff Center. Upcoming engagements include a complete performance of Bach's *Weihnachts-Oratorium* in December. Mr. Humes is an Adjunct Professor of Voice at Central State University. He holds a Bachelor of Music in voice and in International Studies from Stetson University and a Master of Music in voice from the University of Florida.



Jason Amos, tenor, received his Bachelor of Music from Central State University, where he studied under Professor (and Bach Society Board member) William Caldwell. He also attended the Capital Conservatory of Music in Bexley, Ohio, and frequently coaches with Christina Haan in Cincinnati. A native of Massillon, Ohio, Mr. Amos has worked with a number of opera companies and orchestras, including Cincinnati Opera, Dayton Opera, Opera Columbus, the Dayton Philharmonic, and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra in New York under Wynton Marsalis. His repertoire ranges from operas and oratorios to contemporary jazz and art song arrangements. His most recent engagements include *Mass* written by Wynton

Marsalis, and *Fidelio* and *Porgy and Bess* with Dayton Opera. Future engagements include *Romeo and Juliet* with Dayton Opera and *Messiah* at Armstrong United Methodist Church in Cincinnati this December.



Ben Smolder, bass-baritone, has enjoyed a varied regional and international performance career. He has performed opera in houses in the Czech Republic, Italy, Spain, Vienna, and Cairo. He has performed roles with the Spoleto Festival, Des Moines Opera, and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, including Reverend Hale in Ward's *The Crucible*, Don Prudenzio in Rossini's *Viaggio a Reims*, Don Alfonso in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Death in Holst's *Savitri*, Collatinus in Britten's *Rape of Lucretia*, and Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. He has also gained a reputation regionally

as an oratorio soloist and has performed with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, West Virginia Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Wheeling Symphony, and the Lexington Philharmonic. His oratorio repertoire includes over thirty works with emphasis on the passions and oratorios of Bach. Mr. Smolder was a national finalist in the Wurlitzer Competition and winner of the Greenbriar Song Festival.

He has taught voice for Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, University of Kentucky, and the University of Dayton, and was appointed as the youngest

member of the voice faculty at the West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts. He now teaches voice at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. During the summers he has acted as vocal coach and accompanist for Downtown Theater Classics, an equity theater based in Cincinnati's Aronoff Center for the Arts. Mr. Smolder can be heard on a new CD of Copland's "The Tender Land" as Grandpa with the Bahu-Slave Martinu Orchestra (Albany Records).

Orchestra

First Violins

Aurelian Oprea, Concertmaster Dona Nouné-Wiedmann Will Manley

Second Violins

John Lardinois Bill Slusser Rachel Frankenfeld

Violas

Colleen Braid Lori LaMattina

Cellos

Linda Katz Nan Watson

Bass

Don Compton

Flutes

Jennifer Northcut Marianne Chenoweth

Oboes

Eileen Whalen Ashley Noble

Bassoon Kristen Smith

Horns

Sean Vore Richard Chenoweth

Trumpets

Eric Knorr David Zeng David Diamond

Timpani

Jane Varella

Organ

R. Alan Kimbrough

Concert Preview 3:00 p.m.



Rabbi Judy Chessin has been the Rabbi of Temple Beth Or since its inception in 1984.

Originally from Orlando, Florida, Rabbi Chessin received her undergraduate training at the University of South Florida, where she was the first graduate in "Judaic Studies" within the Religious Studies Department. After studying in Jerusalem, Israel, she went on to complete her Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. There she received ordination as Rabbi in June of 1984 and was awarded the Morris H. Youngerman Prize for Homiletics. During her tenure

at HUC-JIR, she served pulpits in Owensboro, Kentucky, and Brookhaven, Mississippi. Chessin also directed the seminary's Youth and College Programming for three years.

Rabbi Chessin also studied graduate-level psychology at the University of Cincinnati and worked as a caseworker at both the University of Cincinnati's Walk-in Clinic and Jewish Family Service of Cincinnati. From 1984-5 she received pastoral counseling training and supervision at the Pastoral Counseling Center at Miami Valley Hospital.

In 1984 she was asked to guide 35 South Dayton families in their endeavor to create a Reform Jewish synagogue in the Centerville area. Together they created Temple Beth Or (a member congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism), which has now grown to 225 families and serves the needs of Reform Jewish families from all over the Dayton area.

Along with her duties at the congregation, Rabbi Chessin speaks extensively for Dayton area universities, churches, synagogues, and organizations on topics of Jewish interest. She also serves as a mentor to rabbinic students at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion who are preparing for a career in the rabbinate. Additionally, she spends several weeks each summer teaching Jewish youth at the Goldman Union Camp Institute in Zionsville, Indiana. She is currently President of the Synagogue Forum of Greater Dayton and was honored in 2004 as a Woman of Influence by Dayton's Y.W.C.A.

JUDAS MACCABÆUS George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

BACH SOCIETY OF DAYTON

Jason Amos, tenor Andrea Chenoweth, soprano Cameo Humes, tenor Steven Rickards, countertenor Ben Smolder, bass-baritone

CHARACTERS REPRESENTED

Judas Maccabæus, *tenor* Israelitish Man, *tenor* Israelitish Woman, *soprano* A Priest, *alto* Simon, the High Priest, *bass* Israelitish Messenger, *bass* Israelitish Woman, *alto* The People of Israel, *chorus*

ARGUMENT

- Part I. –Lamentations for the death of Mattathias (the father of Judas Maccabæus and Simon), by whom the Jewish people had been roused to resist the cruelties and oppressions of Antiochus Epiphanes, the Syrian king, in his attempt to suppress their religion and liberties. –The divine favour invoked. –Judas recognized as leader. –Appeal to the patriotism of the people, and their response. –The value of liberty. –Preparations for war. –Pious trust in God, and heroic resolve to conquer or die.
- Part II. –Celebration of the victories gained over the armies of Apollonius, the Governor of Samaria, and Seron, the Deputy Governor of Cœlesyria; and the valour of Judas. –Renewal of war by a division of the Syrian army from Egypt, under Gorgias, and the despondency it occasions amongst the Israelites. –Judas again arouses the failing courage of the people, and they set out to meet the enemy. –Those who remain behind utter their detestation of the Heathen Idolatries, by which the Sanctuary at Jerusalem had been desecrated, and their determination to worship only the God of Israel.
- Part III. –Feast of the Dedication at Jerusalem, after Judas and his followers had recovered and restored the Sanctuary, and reestablished the liberties of his country. –Return of Judas from his final victory over Nicanor and his confederates.

Part the First

OVERTURE

SCENE.—Modin Israelites, Men and Women, lamenting the death of Mattathias, Father of Judas Maccabæus.

CHORUS

Mourn, ye afflicted children, the remains Of captive Judah, mourn in solemn strains; Your sanguine hopes of liberty give o'er; Your hero, friend, and father is no more.

DUET (Israelitish Man and Woman)Mr. Amos and Ms. ChenowethFrom this dread scene, these adverse pow'rs,
Ah! Whither shall we fly?O Solyma, thy boasted tow'rs

In smoky ruins lie!

CHORUS For Sion lamentation make With words that weep, and tears that speak.

RECITATIVE (Simon)

Not vain is all this storm of grief; To vent our sorrows gives relief. Wretched indeed! But let not Judah's race Their ruin with desponding arms embrace.

CHORUS

O Father, whose Almighty pow'r The heav'ns, and earth, and seas adore, The hearts of Judah, Thy delight, In one defensive band unite, And grant a leader bold and brave, If not to conquer, born to save.

RECITATIVE (Simon)

I feel the Deity within, Who, the bright Cherubim between, His radiant glory erst display'd; To Israel's distressful pray'r He hath vouchsaf'd a gracious ear, And points out Maccabæus to their aid: Judas shall set the captive free,

And lead us on to victory.

Mr. Smolder

Mr. Smolder

AIR (<i>Simon</i>) Arm, arm, ye brave! A noble cause, The cause of Heav'n, your zeal demands; In defence of your nation, religion, and laws, The almighty Jehovah will strengthen your hands.	Mr. Smolder
CHORUS We come, we come, in bright array, Judah, thy sceptre to obey!	
RECITATIVE (<i>Judas Maccabæus</i>) 'Tis well, my friends! With transport I behold The spirit of our fathers, famed of old For their exploits in war. –Oh, may their fire With active courage you, their sons, inspire! As, when the mighty Joshua fought, And those amazing wonders wrought, Stood still, obedient to his voice, the sun, Till kings he had destroy'd, and kingdoms won.	Mr. Humes
AIR (<i>Judas Maccabæus</i>) Call forth thy pow'rs, my soul, and dare The conflict of unequal war: Great is the glory of the conqu'ring sword That triumphs in sweet liberty restor'd.	Mr. Humes
CHORUS Lead on, lead on! Judah disdains The galling load of hostile chains!	
RECITATIVE (Israelitish Woman)MTo Heav'n's almighty King we kneel,For blessings on this exemplary zeal.Bless him, Jehovah, bless him, and once moreTo Thy own Israel liberty restore.	ls. Chenoweth
DUET (<i>Israelitish Woman and Man</i>) Come, ever-smiling liberty, And with thee bring thy jocund train; For thee we pant, and sigh for thee, With whom eternal pleasures reign!	and Mr. Amos
RECITATIVE (<i>Judas Maccabæus</i>) My zealous father, now at rest In the eternal mansions of the blest: "Can ye behold," said he, "the miseries	Mr. Humes

In which the long insulted Judah lies? Can ye behold their dire distress, And not, at least, attempt redress?" Then faintly, with expiring breath: "Resolve, my sons, on liberty, or death." We come! O see, thy sons prepare The rough habiliments of war, With hearts intrepid, and revengeful hands, To execute, O Sire, thy dread commands.

TRIO and CHORUS (*Priest, Israelitish Man, and Simon*) Mr. Rickards, Mr. Amos, and Mr. Smolder Disdainful of danger, we'll rush on the foe, That Thy pow'r, O Jehovah, all nations may know.

RECITATIVE (*Simon*) Haste ye, my brethren, haste ye to the field, Dependent on the Lord, our strength and shield.

CHORUS Hear us, O Lord, on Thee we call, Resolv'd on conquest, or a glorious fall!

Part the Second

SCENE.—The same. The Israelites celebrating the return of Judas from the victories over Apollonius and Seron.

CHORUS Fall'n is the foe: so fall Thy foes, O Lord, Where warlike Judas wields his righteous sword.

DUET (*Israelitish Woman and Man*) Sion now her head shall raise; Tune your harps to songs of praise. Ms. Chenoweth and Mr. Amos

DUET and CHORUS Hail, Judea, happy land! Salvation prospers in his hand.

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INTERMISSION

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Mr. Smolder

Ms. Chenoweth and Mr. Rickards

RECITATIVE (<i>Judas Maccabæus</i>) Thanks to my brethren: but, look up to Heav'n! To Heav'n let all glory and all praise be giv'n; To Heav'n give your applause, nor add the second caus As once your fathers did in Midian, Saying, "The sword of God and Gideon." It was the Lord that for His Israel fought, And this our wonderful salvation wrought.	Mr. Humes se,
AIR (<i>Judas Maccabæus</i>) How vain is man, who boasts in fight The valour of gigantic might.	Mr. Humes
RECITATIVE (Israelitish Messenger) O Judas, O my brethren! New scenes of bloody war In all their horrors rise. Prepare, prepare, Or soon we fall a sacrifice To great Antiochus: From th' Egyptian coast (Where Ptolemy hath Memphis and Pelusium lost) He sends the valiant Gorgias, and commands His proud victorious bands To root out Israel's strength, and to erase Ev'ry memorial of the sacred place.	Mr. Smolder
AIR (<i>Israelitish Woman</i>) and CHORUS Ah! Wretched, wretched Israel! Fall'n how low, From joyous transport to desponding woe.	Ms. Chenoweth
RECITATIVE (<i>Judas Maccabæus</i>) My arms! Against this Gorgias will I go! The Idumean governor shall know How vain, how ineffective his design, While rage his leader, and Jehovah mine.	Mr. Humes
AIR (<i>Judas Maccabæus</i>) and CHORUS Sound an alarm, your silver trumpets sound, And call the brave, and only brave, around! Who listeth, follow:to the field again! Justice, with courage, is a thousand men.	Mr. Humes
CHORUS We hear, we hear the pleasing, dreadful call, And follow thee to conquest:If to fall, For laws, religion, liberty, we fall.	

RECITATIVE (*Simon*) Enough! To Heav'n we leave the rest; Such gen'rous ardour firing ev'ry breast, We may divide our cares. The field be thine, O Judas, and the Sanctuary mine. For Sion, holy Sion, seat of God, In ruinous heaps is by the heathen trod. Down, down with the polluted altars, down! Hurl Jupiter Olympius from his throne, Nor reverence Bacchus with his ivy crown! Our fathers never knew him, or his hated crew, Or, knowing, scorn'd such idol vanities.

CHORUS

We never, never will bow down To the rude stock, or sculptur'd stone: We worship God, and God alone.

Part the Third

SCENE. –Mount Sion Israelitish Priests, etc., having recovered the Sanctuary.

AIR (Priest)

Father of Heav'n, from Thy eternal throne Look with an eye of blessing down, While we prepare, with holy rites, To solemnize the Feast of Lights. And thus our grateful hearts employ, And in Thy praise This altar raise With carols of triumphant joy.

RECITATIVE (*Israelitish Woman*) O grant it, Heav'n, that our long woes may cease, And Judah's daughters taste the calm of peace; Sons, brothers, husbands, to bewail no more, Tortur'd at home, or havock'd in the war.

AIR (*Israelitish Woman*) So shall the lute and harp awake, And sprightly voice sweet descant run, Seraphic melody to make,

In the pure strains of Jesse's son.

Ms. Chenoweth

Ms. Chenoweth

Mr. Rickards

RECITATIVE (*Israelitish Messenger*) From Capharsalama on eagle wings I fly, With tidings of impetuous joy: Came Lysias, with his host array'd In coat of mail; their massy shields Of gold and brass flash'd lightning o'er the fields; But Judas, undismay'd, Met, fought, and vanquish'd all the rageful train. But Io! The conqueror comes; and on his spear, To dissipate all fear, He bears the vaunter's head and hand,

That threaten'd desolation to the land.

SCENE. –Near Jerusalem

Israelitish Youths and Maidens meeting Judas on his return from the victory over Nicanor.

CHORUS

See, the conqu'ring hero comes! Sound the trumpets, beat the drums; Sports prepare, the laurel bring, Songs of triumph to him sing. See the godlike youth advance, Breathe the flutes, and lead the dance; Myrtle-wreaths and roses twine, To deck the hero's brow divine.

MARCH

CHORUS Sing unto God, and high affections raise To crown this conquest with unmeasur'd praise.

DUET

Ms. Chenoweth and Mr. Rickards

O lovely peace, with plenty crown'd, Come, spread thy blessings all around; Let fleecy flocks the hills adorn, And valleys smile with wavy corn. Let the shrill trumpet cease, nor other sound But nature's songsters wake the cheerful morn.

AIR (*Simon*) and CHORUS Rejoice, O Judah, and in songs divine, With cherubim and seraphim harmonious join. Hallelujah! Amen! Mr. Smolder

Libretto by The Rev. Thos. Morell, D.D. (1703-1784)

Please join us for a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the concert. The Bach Society of Dayton extends appreciation to the Kettering Adventist Church for providing this opportunity for refreshment and conversation.

Mark your calendar now to listen to the broadcast of this concert on 'Live and Local' on WDPR/WDPG (FM 88.1 and 89.9 or on the web at www.dpr.org) on Saturday, December 3, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

Program Notes

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) wrote over twenty-five oratorios between 1707 and his death, in addition to nearly fifty operas between 1705 and 1750. These two genres of composition for orchestra-accompanied voices brought him considerable fame and income. The two genres overlap considerably. Musically, individual recitatives, arias, choruses, and orchestral overtures or interludes become nearly interchangeable. And Handel's soloists moved easily between the two genres. The chief differences, of course, lie in the facts that the operas were staged, costumed theatrical works and that they were sung in Italian. Because government regulations banned theatrical performances of Biblical material, all of Handel's operas have libretti derived from secular sources. The English-language libretti for Handel's oratorios, by contrast, frequently explore Biblical material, typically drawn from Hebrew scriptural narratives. *Messiah* is a major exception. It also atvpically does not identify particular soloists-or the chorus-with specific, named characters. The other major difference between the two genres comes with the far more prominent role given to the chorus in the oratorios.

Judas Maccabæus falls midway in the major era of Handel's oratorios—later than his early successes, including *Saul, Israel in Eqypt, Messiah, Samson, and Belshazzar* (1738-44), but earlier than *Solomon* (1748), and *Jephtha* (1752). Handel wrote *Judas Maccabæus* in 1746—reportedly in two months. Its first performance took place—at Covent Garden—on 1 April 1747.

The oratorio's dedication makes its contemporary political connections abundantly clear: "To His Royal Highness Prince William, Duke of Cumberland, This Faint Portraiture of a Truly Wise, Valiant, and Virtuous Commander, As to the Possessor of the like Noble Qualities, Is, With most profound Respect and Veneration, Inscribed, By His Royal Highness's Most obedient, and most devoted Servant, The Author." The Duke of Cumberland, King George II's son, had led the English troops in the decisive Battle of Culloden (16 April 1746), which routed the Jacobite rebellion led by Bonnie Prince Charlie, the "Young Pretender," who hoped to overthrow the Hanoverian succession. For a detailed account of this historical context, see Ruth Smith's finely detailed article "The Meaning of Morell's Libretto of 'Judas Maccabaeus'" (*Music & Letters*, Vol. 70 No. 1 [February 1998], 50-71). The Duke's older brother, Frederick Louis, the Prince of Wales and later King George III, personally recommended that Handel engage Thomas Morell as his librettist when Handel began work on the oratorio.



William Hogarth, T. Morell, 1762. Engraving by J. Bastine, British Museum.

Thomas Morell (1703-1784), educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge, eventually worked both as a clergyman and as a classical scholar. After his initial collaboration with Handel, he wrote the libretti for three more of Handel's oratorios—*Alexander Balus, Theodora, and Jephtha*; he prepared an English text for Handel's early oratorio *The Triumph of Time and Truth*; and he wrote the libretti for two additional oratorios that used Handel's music after the composer's death—*Nabal* and *Gideon*.

For Judas Maccabæus. Morell drew his material from both I Maccabees and II Maccabees in the Apocrypha and inconsistent accounts from two firstcentury works by Josephus: his Antiquities of the Jews and his Jewish War. Smith ("Meaning") reconstructs the historical narrative, noting Morell's many omissions, condensations, changes, and additions. The battles related to this history occurred in a six-year span (166-160 BCE), when Israel was part of the Seleucid or Syrian Empire. After the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE, his feuding generals eventually divided his conquered territories into three dynasties: the Ptolemies in Egypt, the Seleucids in Asia, and the Antigonids in Macedonia. The Seleucid dynasty was founded by Seleucus Nicator; one of his successors, Antiochus III (223-187 BCE), managed to wrest control of Phoenicia and Palestine from the Ptolemies. When the oratorio's plot begins, King Antiochus IV Epiphanes (c. 215-163 BCE) is pursuing his zealous campaign to suppress Jewish religion and to force the Hellenization of the Jewish people. (Thus the references to Jupiter Olympius and Bacchus at the end of Part II in Morell's libretto.) The Maccabean revolt began in 168 BCE, when Judas's father, Mattathias, led an armed resistance. The oratorio opens with mourning for Mattathias's death two years later and the continuation of the resistance by his sons, especially Judas, the military leader, and his oldest brother, Simon, the religious leader.

Morell's libretto apparently assumes a familiarity with the material that many modern audiences lack. Thus a partial glossary of place names to help make sense of the text:

Capharsalama (Kafar Salama)—the city northeast from Jerusalem, the site of Judas's victory in Part III of the oratorio. Morell conflates Judas's earlier battles elsewhere against forces led by Lysias, the encounter with Nicanor that occurred at Capharsalama, and the final victory over Nicanor at Adasa, when the victorious Israelites severed Nicanor's head and right hand and brought them back to Jerusalem as trophies.

Cœlesyria (Coele-Syria, Celesyria)—the Greek term for the area of southern Syria including the Begaa Valley of Lebanon and Judea.

Idumea—the region of ancient Israel south of Judea.

Modin (Modein. Modiin)—the community in northwest Judea, east of the seaport Joppa, home to Mattathias and his family.

Samaria—the region of ancient Israel north of Judea and south of Galilee.

Sion—both an alternate name for Jerusalem, as Mount Sion was one of the two hills of Jerusalem and the site of the city's citadel, and a term synonymous with the Jewish religion and/or people.

Solyma—a Biblical Greek alternative for Salem (Peace), the original name for Jerusalem and thus synonymous with Jerusalem.

Morell's mention of the "Feast of the Dedication" at the beginning of Part III in the prefatory "Argument" (or plot summary) and the Priest's mention of the "Feast of Lights" in the air that begins Part III both refer to the annual celebration mandated in I Maccabees, chapter 4:

Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chislev, in the one hundred and fortyeighth year, [53] they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering which they had built. [54] At the very season and on the very day that the Gentiles had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals. [55] All the people fell on their faces and worshiped and blessed Heaven, who had prospered them. [56] So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days, and offered burnt offerings with gladness; they offered a sacrifice of deliverance and praise. [57] They decorated the front of the temple with golden crowns and small shields; they restored the gates and the chambers for the priests, and furnished them with doors. [58] There was very great gladness among the people, and the reproach of the Gentiles was removed. [59] Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication of the altar should be observed with gladness and joy for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev. [Revised Standard Version]

This feast is more popularly known as Hanukkah. The entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion* provides additional details, including the date of the rededication of the Second Temple—25 Kislev 165 BCE, "the third anniversary of its desecration by Antiochus IV Epiphanes." The ensuing elaboration fits well with Morell's reworking of his Apocryphal material, particularly his de-emphasis of the military aspects of the story. The enormous success that Handel enjoyed with *Judas Maccabæus* and its enduring popularity during the rest of his lifetime have been linked with the significant Jewish presence in London in the mid-18th century, a strong community that was reliably pro-Hanoverian and anti-Jacobite in political sympathies.

Smith ends her examination of the libretto by observing, "In 1747 Britons had much to be positive about, and *Judas Maccabaeus* gave them an image for it; . . . Locating this work in the events and climate of its time enables us to hear it as a prayer for unity, peace, and an end to fear of a foreign enemy, . . . It is not complacent or vainglorious or belligerent but an expression of relief, gratitude and hope for a better future" (67-68). May we hear it similarly in 2011!

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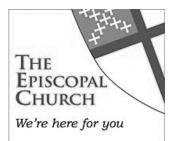
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