Welcome!

We are pleased to have you join us for this time honored Waukesha Choral Union tradition, the presentation of Handel’s Messiah. For this presentation, we are indebted to the legacy of Fred and JoAnn Portz, two former members of the Choral Union who knew the intrinsic value of performing such grand choral works, especially ones requiring the accompaniment of orchestra and professional soloists. They were able to see the importance of these performances not only for members but for the community as well. Through gracious contributions on behalf of Karelyn Beck, we continue to posthumously honor Fred and JoAnn with one of the most precious gifts of all, music.

On a more personal note, the Messiah presentation and its inclusion of community singers has a special place in my heart. Singing the Messiah as a community member was my first exposure to the Choral Union in 2016. I was considering becoming a fully auditioned member, however I wanted to “audition” the Choral Union first to explore if this was an organization I wanted to work with. Before the first rehearsal concluded, I was impressed and pleased by the musicianship, kindness, dynamics of the rehearsal and even the antics of the director. It was singing as a community member that solidified my decision to become a fully auditioned member. Thankfully, the Choral Union obliged my request to audition, and I am overwhelmed with the positive impact joining the ensemble has had on my life.

It’s a joy and pleasure to bring you today’s presentation of the Messiah. Please consider donating to the Waukesha Choral Union. Your investment allows us to continue to sing, which not only benefits our audiences, but has a deep impact on all involved.

Yours in Music,
Makenzie Kojis
President, Waukesha Choral Union

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The Waukesha Choral Union can trace its roots as Waukesha’s premier choral society back to 1949 at Carroll University. Over the years, under various names and outstanding artistic directors, WCU has developed a reputation for excellent choral music performances in SE Wisconsin. Adhering to our educational mission, we have collaborated with Carroll University choirs, with music groups from Waukesha South, Waukesha North, Kettle Moraine, Muskego, Hartford Union, and New Berlin Eisenhower High Schools, and with the Waukesha Children’s and the Lake Country Children’s Choirs. We’re proud to have shared the stage with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Milwaukee Choristers, Jubilate Chorale, and Bel Canto Chorus. Our potential is endless!

The Waukesha Choral Union (WCU) pursues artistic excellence through variety of musical programming. The WCU challenges, enriches, and educates its members, audiences and community. The chorus also impacts the community through collaboration with area schools, youth choral groups and local arts organizations in Waukesha County.

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**Rev. Michael D. Strachota**

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  - 7:30 AM at St. Joan of Arc
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The Waukesha Choral Union is always in need of an extra pair of hands. Call (262) 238-3454 or email marketingmanager@choralunion.org to help out.

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Handel's Messiah 5
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Messiah

George Frideric Handel

*Messiah* premiered in Dublin, Ireland in April of 1742, where it was enthusiastically received. It remains as Handel’s best known work; however, that was not the case until the last few years of his life, when it became a part of his charitable concert series – with proceeds benefiting an organization for underprivileged children.

At that time in his life, Handel had suffered several bouts of serious illness (speculation is either strokes, or lead poisoning to his central nervous system – or both). Yet, he was composing large scale works at a prolific pace.

*Messiah* was composed in August and September of 1741 - in only 24 days. And after writing out the “Hallelujah” chorus, Handel is reported to have exclaimed to his servant with tears in his eyes:

“I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself seated on His throne, with his Company of Angels.”

In Short

**Born:** February 23, 1685, in Halle, Prussia (Austria)

**Died:** April 14, 1759, in London, England

**Work composed:** August 22-September 14, 1741 in London

**World premiere:** April 13, 1742, at the Great Music Hall in Dublin, Ireland; an open rehearsal had been held four days earlier
MELODIES OF ARTISTRY & INSPIRATION

Waukesha Choral Union
2019–2020 Season

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PROGRAM

Michael Chapel, Conductor  
Shallece Saleen, Soprano  
Allison Hull, Mezzo-Soprano  
Alex Gmeinder, Tenor  
Thomas Weis, Bass-Baritone  
Waukesha Choral Union & Community Singers

G.F. HANDEL (1685-1759)  
Messiah (1741)

PART I

Sinfonia [Overture]  
Recitative (Tenor): Comfort ye my people  
Air (Tenor): Ev’ry valley shall be exalted  
Chorus: And the glory of the Lord  
Recitative (Bass-Baritone): Thus saith the Lord  
Air (Mezzo-Soprano): But who may abide the day of his coming?  
Recitative (Mezzo-Soprano): Behold, a virgin shall conceive  
Air (Mezzo-Soprano) and Chorus: O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion  
Recitative (Bass-Baritone): For behold, darkness shall cover the earth  
Air (Bass-Baritone): The people that walked in darkness  
Chorus: For unto us a child is born  
Pifa ["Pastoral Symphony"]  
Recitative (Soprano): There were shepherds abiding in the field  
Recitative (Soprano): And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them  
Recitative (Soprano): And the angel said unto them  
Recitative (Soprano): And suddenly there was with the angel  
Chorus: Glory to God  
Air (Soprano): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion  
Recitative (Mezzo-Soprano): Then shall the eyes of the blind  
Air (Soprano and Mezzo-Soprano): He shall feed his flock

INTERMISSION

PART II

Chorus: Behold the Lamb of God  
Air (Mezzo-Soprano): He was despised  
Chorus: Surely he hath borne our griefs  
Recitative (Tenor): Thy rebuke hath broken his heart  
Air (Tenor): Behold, and see if there be any sorrow  
Chorus: Lift up your heads, O ye gates  
Air (Soprano): How beautiful are the feet  
Air (Bass-Baritone): Why do the nations so furiously rage together?  
Recitative (Tenor): He that dwelleth in heaven  
Air (Tenor): Thou shalt break them  
Chorus: Hallelujah!

PART III

Air (Soprano): I know that my redeemer liveth  
Chorus: Since by man came death  
Recitative (Bass-Baritone): Behold, I tell you a mystery  
Air (Bass-Baritone): The trumpet shall sound  
Recitative (Mezzo-Soprano): Then shall be brought to pass  
Duet (Mezzo-Soprano and Tenor): O death, where is thy sting?  
Chorus: Worthy is the Lamb that was slain  
Chorus: Amen
PROGRAM TEXTS

Handel's *Messiah*
Libretto assembled from passages in The Bible

PART I

Sinfonia [Overture]

Recitative (Tenor)
Comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish’d, that her iniquity is pardon’d.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Air (Tenor)
Ev’ry valley shall be exalted, and ev’ry mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

Chorus
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Recitative (Bass-Baritone)
Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once, a little while, and I will shake the heav’n’s and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come.

The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple; ev’n the messenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

Air (Mezzo-Soprano)
But who may abide the day of his coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth? For he is like a refiner’s fire.

Recitative (Mezzo-Soprano)
Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, “God with Us.”

Air (Mezzo-Soprano) and Chorus
O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountains; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

Arise, shine; for thy light is come. And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Recitative (Bass-Baritone)
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.

And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and Kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Air (Bass-Baritone)
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. And they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
**Chorus**
For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!  
*Isaiah IX: 6*

**Pifa [“Pastoral Symphony”]**

**Recitative (Soprano)**
There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.  
*Luke II: 8*

**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 II: 9*

**Recitative (Soprano)**
And the angel said unto them: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.  
*Luke II: 10*

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord.”  
*Luke II: 11*

**Recitative (Soprano)**
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heav’nly host praising God, and saying:  
*Luke II: 13*

**Chorus**
“Glory to God in the highest, and peace of earth, good will towards men.”  
*Luke II: 14*

**Air (Soprano)**
Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy king cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior,  
*Zechariah IX: 9*

and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.  
*Zechariah IX: 10*

**Recitative (Mezzo-Soprano)**
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
*Isaiah XXXV: 5*

then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.  
*Isaiah XXXV: 6*

**Air (Soprano and Mezzo-Soprano)**
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.  
*Isaiah XL: 11*

**PART II**

**Chorus**
Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world.  
*John I: 29*

**Air (Mezzo-Soprano)**
He was despised and rejected of men: a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.  
*Isaiah LIII: 3*

**Chorus**
Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;  
*Isaiah LIII: 4*

He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.  
*Isaiah LIII: 5*

*(Please turn the page quietly.)*
Recitative (Tenor)
Thy rebuke hath broken his heart; He is full of heaviness. He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man; neither found He any to comfort him.
Psalm LXIX: 20

Air (Tenor)
Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto his sorrow.
Lamentations I: 12

Chorus
Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.
Psalm XXIV: 7

Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.
Psalm XXIV: 8

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.
Psalm XXIV: 9

Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.
Psalm XXIV: 10

Air (Soprano)
How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.
Romans X: 15

Air (Bass-Baritone)
Why do the nations so furiously rage together? [and] why do the people imagine a vain thing?
Psalm II: 1

The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His anointed.
Psalm II: 2

Recitative (Tenor)
He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision.
Psalm II: 4

Air (Tenor)
Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.
Psalm II: 9

Chorus
Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
Revelations XIX: 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.
Revelations XI: 15

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.
Revelations XIX: 16

PART III

Air (Soprano)
I know that my redeemer liveth and that he shall stand at the latter day upon earth.
Job XIX: 25

And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.
Job XIX: 26

For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.
I Corinthians XV: 20

Chorus
Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
I Corinthians XV: 21

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
I Corinthians XV: 22
Recitative (Bass-Baritone)
Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be chang’d.
I Corinthians XV: 51
In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.
I Corinthians XV: 52

Air (Bass-Baritone)
The trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be rais’d incorruptible, and we shall be chang’d.
I Corinthians XV: 52
For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.
I Corinthians XV: 53

Recitative (Mezzo-Soprano)
Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”
I Corinthians XV: 54

Duet (Mezzo-Soprano and Tenor)
O death, where is thy sting? Where is thy victory?
I Corinthians XV: 55
The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is in the law.
I Corinthians XV: 56

Chorus
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive
power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.
Revelations V: 12
Blessing and honour, glory and pow’r be unto him that sitteth upon
the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever.
Revelations V: 13

Chorus
Amen.
Revelations V: 14

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BIOGRAPHIES

Conductor/Artistic Director **Michael Chapel** is the choir specialist at Brown Deer Middle-High School, where he teaches all middle and high school vocal ensembles in grades six through twelve (three middle school choirs, five high school choirs and a hand bell ensemble). He is also the musical theatre director, and is the fine arts event scheduling and performance facilities coordinator for the School District of Brown Deer.

Mr. Chapel just completed the final year of his four-year appointment as the Choir Coordinator for the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) Middle Level Honors Project. He is active as an adjudicator for solo/ensemble festivals and honors auditions sponsored by the WSMA. Additionally, he is in his 22nd year as the choir director and lead service accompanist at Parkside Community UCC (formerly St. Peter’s) in Saukville, WI.

Mr. Chapel is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music and a Master’s Degree in Music Education – with an emphasis on choral conducting.

Milwaukee based soprano, **Shallece Saleen**, is a first place award winner and is currently active in opera, concert work, and art song. She was most recently seen with Bach Chamber Choir Milwaukee as a soloist and as Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus* with Master Singers of Milwaukee. Previous opera roles include Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Cathleen in *Riders to the Sea*, Madame Lidoine in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte*, La bergère in *L’enfant et les sortilèges*, and Dew Fairy in *Hansel and Gretel*. Concert credits include Brahms’ *Requiem*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Mascagni’s *Sancta Maria*, and Verdi’s *La Forza del Destino*.

Shallece graduated summa cum laude with her MM in voice and opera from Northwestern University’s Bienen School of Music in 2018 and received her BFA in vocal performance from UW-Milwaukee.

She is currently on faculty at UW-Milwaukee as Associate Lecturer of Voice and has a private studio in Greendale, WI. You can see her next in recital on April 17 at UW-Milwaukee and with Florentine Opera in Verdi’s *Macbeth*.

**Allison Hull** holds degrees in Vocal Performance from Lawrence University and The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She has served as a young artist for the Skylight, Glimmerglass Opera, and Seattle Opera, where she gave a notable performance as Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

Ms. Hull has won awards from the Metropolitan Opera Auditions including District Winner and Third Place at Regionals. She is on the voice faculty at UW-Parkside, Carthage College, and the Florentine Opera’s Young singing Actor Intensive.

Ms. Hull recently appeared as Jane in *Thank you, Next*, Alto Soloist in *Songs from the Uproar*, Historian in *Clara* and Alto Soloist in *The Poe Requiem*. Recent and upcoming engagements include Mahler’s *Songs for a Wayfarer*, Meij’s *Symphony No. 4*, *Sweeney Todd* with Skylight Music Theatre, Pitti-sing in Gilbert and Sullivan’s *The Mikado*, and *Ljubica* in the Milwaukee premiere of Ana Sokolovic’s *SVADBA*. 
Tenor, **Alex Gmeinder**, most recently had the pleasure of performing the role of Don Curzio in Mozart’s famous opera *Le Nozze di Figaro* with the Aspen Opera Company. In the summer of 2018, Mr. Gmeinder performed the roles of Andrès, Cochenille, and Pitichinaccio in Offenbach’s *Les Contes d’Hoffmann*. In the summer of 2017, Mr. Gmeinder had the honor of working with International pop star Rufus Wainwright on his new opera *Hadrian*, which recently made its debut at the Canadian Opera Company. Mr. Gmeinder joined Sarasota Opera in 2014 as an apprentice artist where he participated in scenes and mainstage operas. Mr. Gmeinder has sung in Novafeltria, Italy at La Musica Lirica where he performed the roles of Arturo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) and Edoardo Milfort (*La Cambiale di Matrimonio*). Mr. Gmeinder is known in the Midwest for his concert and oratorio work including Bach: *Magnificat*, Handel: *Messiah*, Mendelssohn: *Elijah* and *Magnificat*, Mozart: *Requiem* and *Regina Coeli*, R.V. Williams: *Serenade to Music* and *Hodie*, Puccini: *Messa di Gloria*, Beethoven: *Choral Fantasia in C*, Schubert: *Mass in E flat Major*, and various selections by Bernstein and Verdi. Showing his vocal versatility, **Dr. Thomas J. Weis** has performed leading and secondary roles with a wealth of operatic, oratorio and symphonic, and musical theatre companies in the Midwest and across the country. Thomas has sung as Bass Soloist in Bach’s *Magnificat*, Haydn’s *The Creation*, Verdi’s *Requiem*, Mozart’s *Requiem*, Dvorak’s *Stabat Mater*, Brahms’ *Requiem*, and more. Thomas has been an active voice teacher and performer at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin for twenty years, offering recitals, master classes, and numerous faculty collaborations. Dr. Weis is a member of NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing), and serves on the Wisconsin NATS board. Dr. Weis has served as vocal area coordinator at Carroll University, and was the director of the Carroll University Men’s Chorus while in existence. Thomas obtained a Doctorate of Musical Arts - Vocal Performance degree and an Opera Production minor from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, his Masters of Music degree in Vocal Performance was earned from the University of Arizona and undergraduate work in music was completed at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.
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