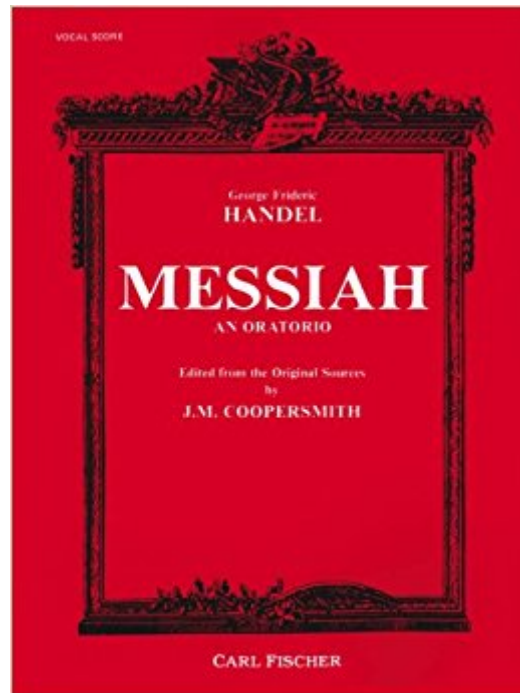




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Messiah Vocal Score



Synopsis

(Music Sales America). Vocal score edited by Ebenezer Prout. Paperback Edition. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Book Information

Paperback: 248 pages

Publisher: Carl Fischer Music (November 1, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0825802997

ISBN-13: 978-0825802997

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 8 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 88 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,584,065 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #86 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Handel](#) #312 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Historical Period > Baroque](#) #454 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Religious & Church Music](#)

Customer Reviews

In my lifetime, I have had three or four copies of the choral music of the Messiah. Some of them were on loan from church or school and I even bought a copy at a used bookstore once (and lost it). I love this as a choral piece of music. But this copy is the best I've owned for one simple reason - the book and the type are larger than I have ever seen. Anyone who has performed Messiah and is not required to memorize it will appreciate how much larger this version is. All lines are easier to read. None of the measures get lost into the fold of the book. All parts are easy to follow, so no matter if you're a spoiled soprano like me, or a bass enjoying those low notes, you'd actually be able to read this while performing. Yes, it is a sort of scholarly version of the work, but Messiah is not a casual piece of music. It was written to be performed in front of royalty, and while I doubt King George I (the first) would have had Handel killed if he didn't like it, he certainly could have ruined his career. It was written in a time that is very different from ours (she typed into a strange machine to post her words and express her opinion for all to see), and therefore, to include the full variations in the work is to incorporate everything that Handel wanted with it. It is his best known work and really, his masterpiece. The editors treat it as such. Thoroughly enjoyable for a casual musician and huge fan of the work and composer.

The publishers chose to place all the variations for each piece (i.e., transpositions of the piece into different keys) together in order, rather than grouping them as an appendix in the back. It makes the score cumbersome to use for anyone who is not a soloist - and it's completely confusing for a casual user. I bought it for a friend to use at a Messiah Sing-A-Long and it was a bit awkward for her to navigate.

This is a very good edition of Handel's Messiah. I am a soprano, and I find it very useful. I have sung all the soprano arias from this book.

Much easier to play than Schirmer edition, but the measures are numbered the same which makes it compatible with the full score. I would recommend it for accompanists not skilled enough for the Schirmer edition. It is made for either piano or organ accompaniment and I didn't care for that feature. It made it a bit confusing and the organ version wasn't the greatest.

We at ReagansMom.Com LLC used this edition of the Messiah in teaching accompanist 4-part sight reading and rehearsal skills. The edition is readable and clear for the trained musician to read effortlessly. We can endorse the Soprano line for having a minimum of difficult page turns. Enjoy this timeless masterpiece! Thank you, .com, for the ease of availability for musicians.

I specifically ordered this 2003 edition because the reviews said the print was larger and clearer than in the Schirmer version, but sent me the 1992 (smaller print) edition. Twice, so I know it wasn't just a fluke. So, minus a star because what you will get is not what is listed here in the description--even the physical dimensions are smaller. I'm sure the music itself is fine (I bought this to participate in a Messiah Sing-Along, so it's not like I'm a professional or anything) but I would have ordered the Schirmer instead if I knew I'd still be getting the tiny print.

Like many musicians I have multiple copies of Handel's Messiah. When I heard I would be singing Messiah again this year I had to buy an updated version (my original was way too beat up to survive another performance!), the Watkins Shaw publication is my favorite edition. I received this book in a timely manner and in perfect condition.

Good size font for old eyes, nice size easy to handle during performance.

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