

Hereford Choral Society

Rehearsal notes for Handel *Messiah*

No	Page	Bar	Part	Note
4	10	And the glory of the Lord		
4	Throughout		SATB	'And the' / 'and all' clearly separated every time
4	10	17	SATB	Crotchet off minim
4	11	19–22	B	Lighter tone
4	11	36	SATB	Sing through 'Lord shall'
4	11	38	SATB	Crotchet off minim
4	12	57	SATB	Crotchet off first note (TB place 't' on third beat)
4	12	60	ATB	'flesh / shall' clearly separated
4	12	51	TB	Strong 'F' on 'For' (also B bar 68)
4	12	58	S	Strong 'F' on 'For' (also b 93)
4	13	73	SATB	Full length
4	13	89, 90	TB	Dim on 'flesh' also bars 103, 104)
4	15	137	SATB	Softer 'e', '(spo)-kun'
7	24	And he shall purify		
7	Throughout		SATB	Very light tone on opening phrase
7	24	2	S	Dim through 'purify'
7	24	6	B	Dim through 'purify'
7	25	9	A	Dim through 'purify'
	26	22	SATB	Sing through after 'Lord'
	26	25	S	Leave off 's' in '-ness' for a better breath after first note
7	26	26	B	<i>p</i> on new phrase
7	26	27	B	B1: leave out '-fy' to start 'shall' on time B2: leave out 'shall' and come in on 'purify' on time
7	27	33	SATB	Dim through 'purify'
7	28–29	49–51	SATB	Gradual crescendo
7	29	52	SATB	<i>f</i> on new phrase
7	29	53		Sing through after 'Lord'
7	29	55	SATB	Quaver off '-ness' but no breath
9	34	O thou that tellest		
9	34–35	106–112	SATB	'O thou' very sprung each time
9	35	116–117	SATB	Clearly separate 'say / unto ...'
9	36	126–127	SATB	Clearly separate 'say / unto ...'
9	36	132	SATB	Cut tied quaver on 'Lord'
9	36	133	SATB	Make 'Lord' a dotted quaver tied to a quaver
9	36	136	SATB	Separate 'Lord / is ...' (no 'Lor dis')
12	42	For unto us		
12	42–43	7–19	SATB	Strong (<i>think Welsh double</i>) 'F' on entry (ie 'Efor')
12	42–4	7–24	SATB	Place the 's' in 'us' exactly on the next beat (and everywhere else this occurs)
12	44	33	SATB	Percussive 'W' on 'Wonderful ...'
12	45	34	SATB	Percussive 'K' on 'Counsellor ...'
12	45	35, 36	SATB	No breath after 'God' or 'Father' (also bars 51 & 52, 70 & 71)
12	45	37	A	Sing 'Prince of Pea' to start 'Unto ...' on time
12	46	49	SATB	Percussive 'W' on 'Wonderful ...'
12	46	50	SATB	Percussive 'K' on 'Counsellor ...'
12	46	53	T	Sing 'Prince of Pea' to start 'Unto ...' on time
12	47	57–59	B	<i>mp</i> on both phrases
12	48	68	SATB	Percussive 'W' on 'Wonderful ...'
12	48	69	SATB	Percussive 'K' on 'Counsellor ...'

12	48	72	B	Sing 'Prince of Pea' to start 'Unto ...' on time
12	50	85	SATB	Percussive 'W' on 'Wonderful ...'
12	50	86	SATB	Percussive 'K' on 'Counsellor ...'
12	50	87	SATB	No breath after 'God'
12	50	88	SATB	Dim through 'Father', then no breath.
17	55	Glory to God		
17	Throughout		SATB	Almost 'Glory t' God' as in normal speech, rather than 'tooo God'
17	55	14	TB	<i>p</i> for phrase
17	55	15	TB	No early 's' sounds
17	55	18	SATB	Strongly articulated text here (also b 33 onwards)
17	56	29–30	SATB	<i>p</i> (esp. B on the top G)
17	56	29–31	SATB	Legato
21	70	His yoke is easy		
21	Throughout		SATB	Very light tone on opening phrase
21	Throughout		SATB	Come away from the second half of '-then' in 'burthen'
21	72	26	A	Bring this up
21	73	28, 29	S	Diminuendo throughout 'burthen'
21	73	38	SAT	Quaver off 'light'
21	74	44	SATB	Quaver off 'light'
21	74	45	S	Quaver off second note of 'easy', with diminuendo
22	75	Behold the Lamb of God		
22	75	4 & 5	SATB	Semiquaver on 'Be-', as shown in alternative above stave, and at all similar places
22	75	6	T	Semiquaver on last note, 'of'
22	75	7	STB	Semiquaver on 'that'
22	76	8	SAB	Semiquaver on last note, 'the'
22	76	12	SATB	Semiquaver on last note, 'the'
22	76	14	SATB	Quaver off 'world'
22	76	16	SATB	Semiquaver on last note, 'Be-'/ 'the'
22	76	17	SATB	Quaver off 'God'
22	76	18	ATB	Semiquaver on 'that' (also bars 22, 23)
22	77	24	B	Diminuendo on the top D slightly
22	77	24	TB	Semiquaver on fourth (T)/third (B) note, 'the'
22	77	26	SAT	Quaver off first note, 'world'
22	77	27	SATB	Diminuendo in second half of bar
22	77	28	SATB	Sing through the first two beats
22	81	Surely He hath borne our griefs		
22	Throughout		SATB	Emphasise / roll 'r' on 'Surely' throughout
22	82	8	SATB	Quaver off final note
24	83	11	SATB	Quaver off final note
24	83	12–	SATB	Sing legato
24	83	15	SATB	Quaver off second beat ('-sions')
24	83	16	SATB	Quaver off '-ed'
24	83	19	SATB	Quaver off '-ties'
24	84	22	SATB	No breath after 'peace'
25	85	And with His stripes		
25	Throughout		SATB	Tune descending interval on 'His stripes' carefully
26	90	All we, like sheep		
26	Throughout		SATB	'All we, like sheep': make 'we' and 'like' quavers with a quaver rest Keep it all light so it doesn't get behind
26	93	33	TB	Diminuendo to rest
26	95	56	B	no more than <i>mf</i> – balance to the tenors
26	95	65	B	B1: leave out first beat, take a breath and come in promptly on 'we' B2: sing first beat, miss out 'we have' and come in promptly on 'turn-'

26	97	76	SATB	<i>p</i> entries but fully sustained
26	97	76	SATB	All dotted rhythms sung slightly 'swung' with the quaver approximately like the last quaver of a triplet
26	97	88	SATB	No breath after 'Him': sing through here
28	99	He trusted in God		
28	99	1	SATB	Quaver off first beat, to make space for 'tr', with vowel on the beat
28	99	1	SATB	'tru-' is sung as a quaver followed by a quaver rest
28	99	3 and 4	SATB	Emphasis on the first beat! ie '(de-)Lliver' then less on 'Him' so it comes out 'deliver him' not 'deliver Him'
28	99	5	SATB	'-light' and 'in' and 'Him' are all quavers with a quaver rest
28	Throughout		SATB	Please mark these details of phrasing in every time they come in your parts, otherwise as the movement progresses it will become less and less convincing compared with the opening
33	110	Lift up your heads		
33	111	8	SSA	Quaver off 'door' but no breath
33	111	11	TB	Phrase off on 'Glory' (and at all similar places)
33	112	14, 15	T	Sing semiquaver alternatives above stave
33	113	22	ATB	Quaver off 'door' but no breath
33	118	67	A	Change underlay: cut tied quaver at beginning of bar, then sing 'the Lord of Hosts' (like the tenors), taking the dot off the dotted crotchet, with no breath
35	The interval comes after no 33 and these two movements are cut			
36				
37	126	The Lord gave the word		
37	126	1-2	TB	In bar 1 sing 'The' very short, <i>on</i> the third beat. Double-dot 'gave', ie 'the' in bar 2 is a semiquaver
37	126	3	SATB	Strong "Grr". Vowel on the beat
37	127	9-10	SA	In bar 9 sing 'The' very short, <i>on</i> the third beat. Double-dot 'gave', ie 'the' in bar 10 is a semiquaver. Crotchet off 'word'
37	128	22	SATB	Quaver off second beat, no breath
39a	131	Their sound is gone out		
39a	131	4	B	Cut tied crotchet
39a	132	5	SA	Quaver off first note
39a	132	6	TB	Quaver off first note
39a	132	8	A	Quaver off first note
39a	132	10	B	Cut crotchet on first beat.
39a	133	18	ST	Quaver off first note
39a	133	20	B	Quaver off first and third beats (no breaths; this is for punctuation)
39a	133	21	A	Quaver off dotted crotchet
39a	133	23	SAT	Quaver off minim
39a	133	24	SA	Crotchet off first note
39a	133	26	S	Crotchet off first note
39a	133	28	T	Crotchet off first note
39a	134	29	SA	Crotchet off first note
39a	134	30	TB	Crotchet off first note
39a	134	31	S	Crotchet off first note
39a	134	32	B	Crotchet off first note
39a	134	35	B	Crotchet off first note
39a	134	36	SATB	Make first note a crotchet
41	141	Let us break their bonds		
41	Throughout		SATB	Strong 'k' on 'break'
41	141	3	ST	Quaver off 'break' and all similar places
41	142	4	AB	Quaver off 'break'/'bonds'
41	142	14-21	AT	Quaver off 'us'

41	142	22	T	Quaver off 'us'
41	143	23	SAB	Quaver off 'us'
41	143	24, 25	S	Quaver off 'bonds' and all similar places
41	143	26	A	Quaver off 'bonds' and all similar places
41	143	27	B	Quaver off 'bonds' and all similar places
41	143	28	T	Quaver off 'bonds' and all similar places
41	145	46	B	Crotchet off 'bonds'
41	145	53	T	Crotchet off 'yokes'
41	146	54	A	Cut tied crotchet
44	150	Hallelujah		
44	Throughout		SATB	Very strong initial consonants, especially H in 'Hallelujah' and f in 'for'
44	153	39	SATB	Quaver off 'Lord'
44	153	40	SATB	Quaver off 'Christ'
44	153	41	SATB	Make 'Christ' a crotchet
44	154	57	A	Cut tied minim
44	154	60	S	Cut tied crotchet
44	155	63	S	Make first note a crotchet
44	155	66	S	Cut dotted crotchet
44	155	68	SATB	Make first note a crotchet
44	155	69	SATB	Make first note a crotchet
46	162	Since by man came death		
46	163	13	SATB	Quaver off 'dead'
46	164	25, 27	SATB	Quaver off '-live'
46	164	32	SATB	Go on after 'Christ'; quaver off first 'all'
51	173	But thanks be to God		
51	Throughout		SATB	Short vowel on 'to' in 'thanks be to God'. Not 'too God', closer to 't'God'
51	173	2	SATB	Quaver off first 'thanks'. After this, shorten any 'thanks' if it is a crotchet followed by another 'thanks' (but if it is followed by a rest, then it is full length).
51	174	8	SAT	Make 'Christ' a crotchet
51	175	15	A	Cut tied quaver
51	176	32	S	Quaver off 'God' (and any similar places)
51	176	33–34	TB	<i>mf</i> on entry. Phrase off 'giveth', aiming towards 'victory'
51	177	39	A	Quaver off 'God' (and any similar places)
51	178	46	S	Quaver off 'Christ'
51	177	43	B	Diminuendo through phrase
53	183	Worthy is the Lamb		
53	183	1	SATB	Strong 'W'. Vowel on the beat
53	184	12	SATB	Strong 'W'. Vowel on the beat
53	186	34–35	S	Keep semiquavers light
53	186	36	T	Keep semiquavers light
53	187	44–45	AT	Keep semiquavers light
54	190	Amen		
54	191	20	SATB	Quaver off final minim
54	192	35	SATB	Quaver off final minim
54	195	76	SATB	Starting to slow ... watch carefully
54	195	80	SATB	Big <i>allargando</i> from here to the end

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