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HANDEL'S

ISRAEL IN EGYPT

DIANA VIVIAN — Soprano
EMMA MABIN — Soprano
PENNY VICKERS — Contralto
VERNON KIRK — Tenor
CHRISTOPHER FOSTER — Bass
SIMON BIRCHALL — Bass

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SOLOISTS

Diana Vivian initially studied piano and violin at the Royal Academy of Music where she gained her music degree. Preferring to sing she moved to the Guildhall School of Music to study with Rudolph Piernay. Whilst there she gave an early music recital at the Purcell Room which was subsequently broadcast on Radio 3. She was awarded the Principal's Prize for outstanding concert work. She joined Scottish Opera singing small roles and covers working with Leonard Bernstein and Jonathan Miller on the award winning *Candide* televised by the BBC. She is currently touring both here and abroad with Opera Players singing 1st Lady in *The Magic Flute* and Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro*, a role which she repeated with great success with a new company, Loseley Opera, this summer at Loseley House. She was a semi-finalist in the English Song Award at the Brighton Festival and has performed at the Edinburgh Festival. She recently took over the soprano role at very short notice in *The Messiah* at Guildford Cathedral for Voices for Hospices. Future engagements include *The Creation* and *Hiawatha* by Coleridge Taylor.

Emma Mabin, originally from Farnham, studied singing at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama under Rudolf Piernay and is currently studying with Ian Barr. In her final year, Emma won the Mirsky Memorial Prize for Lieder and was awarded the Dorothea Crompton Prize for Chanson as well as being runner-up in the Susan Longfield Competition, the George Painter Prize for G&S, and the Miriam Lçette Paris Scholarship.

On leaving college, Emma joined the New D'Oyly Carte Opera Company singing the roles of Mabel and Phyllis on their national and international tours. Whilst working with the Carte, Emma performed in a Royal Command performance before the Princess Royal at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

Locally, Emma's performances have included opera, opera gala evenings, recitals and oratorios with many societies throughout the region.

Broadcasts include a live recital for Dutch National Radio and television appearances for BBC's Day Time Live and for BBC Northern Ireland.

Future local performances will include a shared recital with Diana Vivien and an Opera Gala evening at Dogmersfield Park.

Penny Vickers is a member of the BBC Singers. She trained at the Royal College of Music and has worked with many of the country's leading early music ensembles, such as the Tallis Scholars and the Sixteen. With the Taverner Consort she was a soloist in Liszt's *Via Crucis* which was broadcast on Radio 3 and featured on CD in the BBC's *Music Magazine*. She has recorded three CDs of Renaissance music with the Rose Consort of Viols, which have been released on the Naxos label. She has made several recordings with the Consort of Musicke, most recently a set of madrigals by Weelkes, and she joined them last summer for a series of recitals including a live broadcast on Radio 3.

Her solo appearances have included the *Mozart Requiem from Scratch* at the Royal Albert Hall with Sir David Willcocks and *Messiah* at the London Handel Festival. She recorded a newly-discovered Bononcini mass with London Baroque for Swiss Radio. With Ivor Bolton she sang the role of Saul in Scarlatti's *Il Pugno David* and sang Alexander Goehr's setting of Psalm 4 at the Lufthansa Festival. She was a soloist at the Proms with the BBC Singers in Thea Musgrave's *Rorate Coeli*. Later this year she is to sing for Stephen Cleobury in King's College Chapel in Janacek's *Glagolitic Mass*.

Vernon Kirk was born in Malaysia and studied singing at the Royal Academy of Music. At present he studies with Diane Forlano.

His solo career includes both the operatic stage and concert platform. His operatic roles include Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*), Nemorino (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), Sellem's (*Rake's Progress*), Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), Bob Boles (*Peter Grimes*), Ernesto (*Don Pasquale*), Titus (*La Clemenza di Tito*), Freddie (*The Station*) by Howard Blake at the Purcell Room, and in September 1996 he will sing the role of Ferrando (*Così fan Tutte*) at the Brandenburger Theatre in Germany.

He has appeared in concerts with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (Lloyd Webber *Requiem*), and the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ*) at the 1992 BBC Promenade Concerts. Other recent performances include Haydn's *Creation* at the Royal Albert Hall with Sir David Willcocks, Handel's *Messiah* in Birmingham Town Hall with Sir David Willcocks, Haydn's *Creation* and Bach's *Magnificat* at the Barbican, Monteverdi's *Vespers* in Kings College Chapel, Cambridge, Schubert's song cycle *Die Schöne Müllerin* in St Martin-in-the-Fields, and the western premiere of Aledar Karamanov's *Stabat Mater* in Westminster Central Hall with the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra.

Recordings for BBC Radio 3 have included Britten's *Serenade for tenor, horn and strings* and his cantata *The Company of Heaven*, and more recently the roles of the Herald and St. Paul in George Dyson's oratorios *Nebuchadnezzar* and *St. Paul's Voyage to Melita*.

Christopher Foster graduated from Newcastle University in 1985 with BA(Hons) Mus., specialising in singing and Tudor church music.

In 1991 he was a winner of the NFMS Young Concert Artists' Award for men's voices which led to engagements, covering an extensive repertoire, with choral and concert societies throughout the UK at venues such as the Purcell Room, the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the cathedrals of Gloucester, Ripon, Southwark and Truro. Whilst maintaining a busy schedule of oratorio and recital work (especially English song) he has since introduced more operatic work into his repertoire. Roles have included the title role in Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, Baron Douphol in *La Traviata* for Clonter Opera, the title role in *The Marriage of Figaro* for Surrey Opera and Loseley Opera and covering the role of Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* for John Eliot Gardiner.

Christopher has appeared twice on French radio: with Philippe Herreweghe and *La Chapelle Royale* and with Mark Minkowski and *Les Musiciens du Louvre* — the latter leading to his debut at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam.

Performances for Radio 3 have included the world premieres of Donizetti's cantata *Christopher Columbus* with the BBC Concert Orchestra and Britten's *The Rescue of Penelope* at the Aldeburgh Festival with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Nicholas Cleobury. Again with the BBC Concert Orchestra, he has recorded *Schön Ellen* by Max Bruch and he has appeared in the 1994 Henry Wood Promenade Concerts as Judas in Joshua Rifkin's performance of the St Matthew Passion. His Royal Festival Hall debut was in Schumann's *Manfred* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Andrew Davis. He has recorded Purcell's *Timon of Athens* with DG and Radio 3 under the direction of Trevor Pinnock and most recently he was a finalist in the 1995 Richard Tauber Competition at the Wigmore Hall.

He studies with David Mason and Colin Baldy.

Simon Birchall began his musical training as a chorister in Oxford. He became a choral scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge, studying with John Carol Case, before going on to the Guildhall School of Music. He is the winner of a number of awards.

Simon's repertoire ranges from Bach and Handel to the present day, and his performances of Bach's Passions, with the London Handel Orchestra have been much acclaimed. He has sung *Messiah* under Richard Hickox and with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, made his Royal Festival Hall debut in 1989 with the City of London Sinfonia under Simon Joly and has sung for John Eliot Gardiner and Roger Norrington.

Other oratorio engagements, including performances of works by Mendelssohn, Brahms and Elgar as well as the baroque repertoire, have taken him to many choral societies throughout Britain. His membership of a number of vocal consorts has enabled him to travel widely, singing in places as far afield as Japan, Malaysia and East Africa.

Simon's recordings include Monteverdi's *Vespers* and Handel's "Israel in Egypt" with Harry Christophers and the Sixteen, Handel's "Dixit Dominus" with Simon Preston and the choir of Westminster Abbey, and recent Purcell recordings for Harry Christophers and Martin Neary.

Malcolm Hicks graduated in Music at the University of Birmingham where he was also Assistant Master at the Cathedral, and organist and Assistant Conductor with major choirs and orchestras. After further studies in piano, cello, singing and conducting at the Guildhall School of Music, he has since pursued a full-time career as keyboard player and conductor. He plays with all the major London Orchestras in South Bank concerts, Proms, many broadcasts for radio and TV, films and gramophone records, and on tour abroad, many times in Europe, and as far afield as Japan, Korea and Mexico. He was Associate Conductor of London Philharmonic Choir for 13 years and now works as chorus master with the Royal Choral Society and BBC Chorus. He has worked on the staff of the European Community Youth Orchestra, has taught, lectured and examined extensively. He was appointed Musical Director of the Waverley Singers in May 1982.

ISRAEL IN EGYPT

PART ONE

RECIT — TENOR

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph; and he set over Israel taskmasters to afflict them with burthens, and they made them serve with rigour.

CHORUS

And the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and their cry came up unto God. They oppressed them with burthens, and made them serve with rigour; and their cry came up unto God.

RECIT — TENOR

Then sent He Moses, His servant, and Aaron whom He had chosen; these shewed His signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham.

He turned their waters into blood.

CHORUS

They loathed to drink of the river. He turned their waters into blood.

AIR — CONTRALTO

Their land brought forth frogs, yea, even in their king's chambers.

He gave their cattle over to the pestilence; blotches and blains broke forth on man and beast.

CHORUS

He spake the word, and there came all manner of flies and lice in all their quarters.

He spake; and the locusts came without number, and devoured the fruits of the ground.

CHORUS

He gave them hailstones for rain; fire mingled with the hail ran along upon the ground.

CHORUS

He sent a thick darkness over the land, even darkness which might be felt.

CHORUS

He smote all the first-born of Egypt, the chief of all their strength.

CHORUS

But as for His people, He led them forth like sheep: He brought them out with silver and gold; there was not one feeble person among their tribes.

CHORUS

Egypt was glad when they departed, for the fear of them fell upon them.

CHORUS

He rebuked the Red Sea, and it was dried up.

He led them through the deep as through a wilderness.

But the waters overwhelmed their enemies, there was not one of them left.

CHORUS

And Israel saw that great work that the Lord did upon the Egyptians; and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.

INTERVAL

PART TWO

CHORUS

Moses and the children of Israel sung this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying: I will sing unto the Lord, for He had triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea.

DUET — 1st & 2nd SOPRANOS

The Lord is my strength and my song; He is become my salvation.

CHORUS

He is my God, and I will prepare Him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

DUET — 1st & 2nd BASSES

The Lord is a man of war: Lord is His name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath He cast into the sea; his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

CHORUS

The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.

CHORUS

Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power; Thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

CHORUS

And in the greatness of Thine excellency Thou has overthrown them that rose up against Thee.

CHORUS

Thou sentest forth, Thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

CHORUS

And with the blast of Thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

AIR — TENOR

The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

AIR — SOPRANO

Thou didst blow with the wind, the sea covered them; they sank as led in the mighty waters.

CHORUS

Who is like unto Thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Thou stretchedst out Thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

DUET

Thou in Thy mercy hast led forth Thy people which Thou hast redeemed; Thou hast guided them in Thy strength unto Thy holy habitation.

CHORUS

The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away: by the greatness of Thy arm they shall be as still as a stone; till Thy people pass over, O Lord, which Thou hast purchased.

AIR — CONTRALTO

Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of Thine inheritance, in the place, O Lord, which Thou hast made for Thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which Thy hands have established.

CHORUS

The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

CHORUS

The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

RECIT — TENOR

And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them.

SOLO AND CHORUS

Sing ye to the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea.

TILFORD BACH ORCHESTRA

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Peter Stevens (Leader)
Bridget Wallace
Michael de Saulles
Colin Huber
Viviane Ronchetti
Manuel Porta-Gallego

2nd Violins

Christine Read
Michiko Ueno
Stephen Kear
Dayle Stevens
Ruth Whitehouse
Juan Orpella-Garcia

Violas

Christopher Wellington
Eric Sargon
Diana Carrington
David Hume

Cellos

Justin Pearson
Sara Pacey
Michael Ronayne

Double Bass

Alan Brown
Kate Saxby

Oboes

Stella Dickinson
Jo Lively

Bassoons

Wendy Phillips
Deirdre Dundas-Grant

Trumpets

Stephen Cutting
Gillian Hicks

Trombones

John Edney
David Hissey
Richard Wall

Timpani

Tristan Fry

Harpsichord

Lesley-Ann Brown

Organ

Paul Griffiths

FUTURE PROGRAMMES

Saturday, June 8th, 1996: at St. Thomas-on-the-Bourne Church, Farnham.

Summer Concert with Organ
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Saturday, November 16th, 1996: at St. Andrew's Garrison Church, Aldershot.

Mass in C by Mozart
Stabat Mater by Denys Darlow

Saturday, December 14th, 1996: at St. Andrew's Garrison Church, Aldershot

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