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亨德尔《弥赛亚》简介:

清唱剧是以宗教事件或宗教人物为主角的,以管弦乐与人声歌唱为表现形式的大型作品,通常是作曲家根据剧本唱词写作旋律。

《弥赛亚》的内容完全取材于圣经,剧作家詹宁斯对圣经各个篇章故事的采撷、编绘,具备高度的广博性,且能做到融会贯通,所以剧本自身就具备很高的文学素质。《弥赛亚》的中心思想非常明确一一颂赞救主基督的全生涯,从旧约圣经的预言,到主耶稣的出生、生活、受难、受死及复活,以迄荣耀的再临体现整曲的一贯性。《弥赛亚》超越了教会的教义,成为一种非礼仪的圣乐,而向全世界人类传达救恩的喜讯。

《弥赛亚》唱词主要选自圣经的《以赛亚书》、《诗篇》等。此次唱本为约翰·内尔森修订的巴洛克版,删除了第三部分。

高男高音拉里·沙佐,又称假声男高音,他将用女中音--最古典巴洛克的唱法唱出《安慰你们,我的子民》。在第一部分中间,他倒述救主的降生,而且把降生的情景,如童女怀孕生子,天使向牧羊人报佳音,牧羊人在旷野等都生动描绘出来,使听众如生历其境。合唱曲《光荣属于上帝》,以遥远而轻盈的声音演唱。随着乐团齐奏,音乐逐渐增强。女高音黄英独唱的咏叹调《放牧羊群》,以优美恬静著称。四声部交替的合唱声,由上海歌剧院的男高音迟黎明和男中音杨小勇徐徐唱出,第一部结束。

第二部分以《以赛亚书》及诗篇为主,默想基督代罪羔羊的苦难,和他光荣的复活。这部份最为突出的是女高音黄英所演唱的悲伤咏叹调和三首哀婉而令人心碎的合唱曲。随后与其形成对比的是一段女高音简短的宣叙调,以及一段赋格式的合唱;紧接着的是五个声部的合唱《醒来吧!》和人们的祈祷曲。结尾曲是亨德尔最著名的作品:《哈利路亚》合唱曲,哈利路亚原意是"将荣耀归给主,赞美救主"之意。这个合唱成为整部作品的高潮和精髓,也是如今最常上演的段落,在西方国家甚至是妇孺皆知的,其气势宏大,感人至深。

A Brief of Baroque Messiah

For more than 250 years, this great and most popular of oratorios, composed by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), has survived and endured numerous revisions and reorchestrations in performances ranging from "cast of thousands" to today's emphasis on "authentic" performance practice employing period instruments and small all-male choral ensembles.

The premiere was met with considerable success and served to boost Handel's spirits for a return to London. While it is true that George II stood during the singing of the mighty "Hallelujah" Chorus at the second London performance, Messiah did not enjoy the popularity of many of Handel's other oratorios during the composer's lifetime. In fact, it was only through Handel's annual Eastertide performances to benefit his favorite charity, the Foundling Hospital, that Messiah was heard at all!

What Handel achieved in Messiah was a wonderful blend of elegant, Italianate melody alternating with virtuosic vocalism for the soloists and, for the chorus, unmatched choral sonorities ranging from madrigalesque lightness to the composer's characteristic ceremonial style which endeared him to the British public.

Across the span of 250 years, Messiah still holds its extraordinary grip on musician and audience member alike. It reaches us with its directness of expression and its infinite capacity for self-renewal. It bestows on us the special gift of aesthetic and spiritual grace.

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