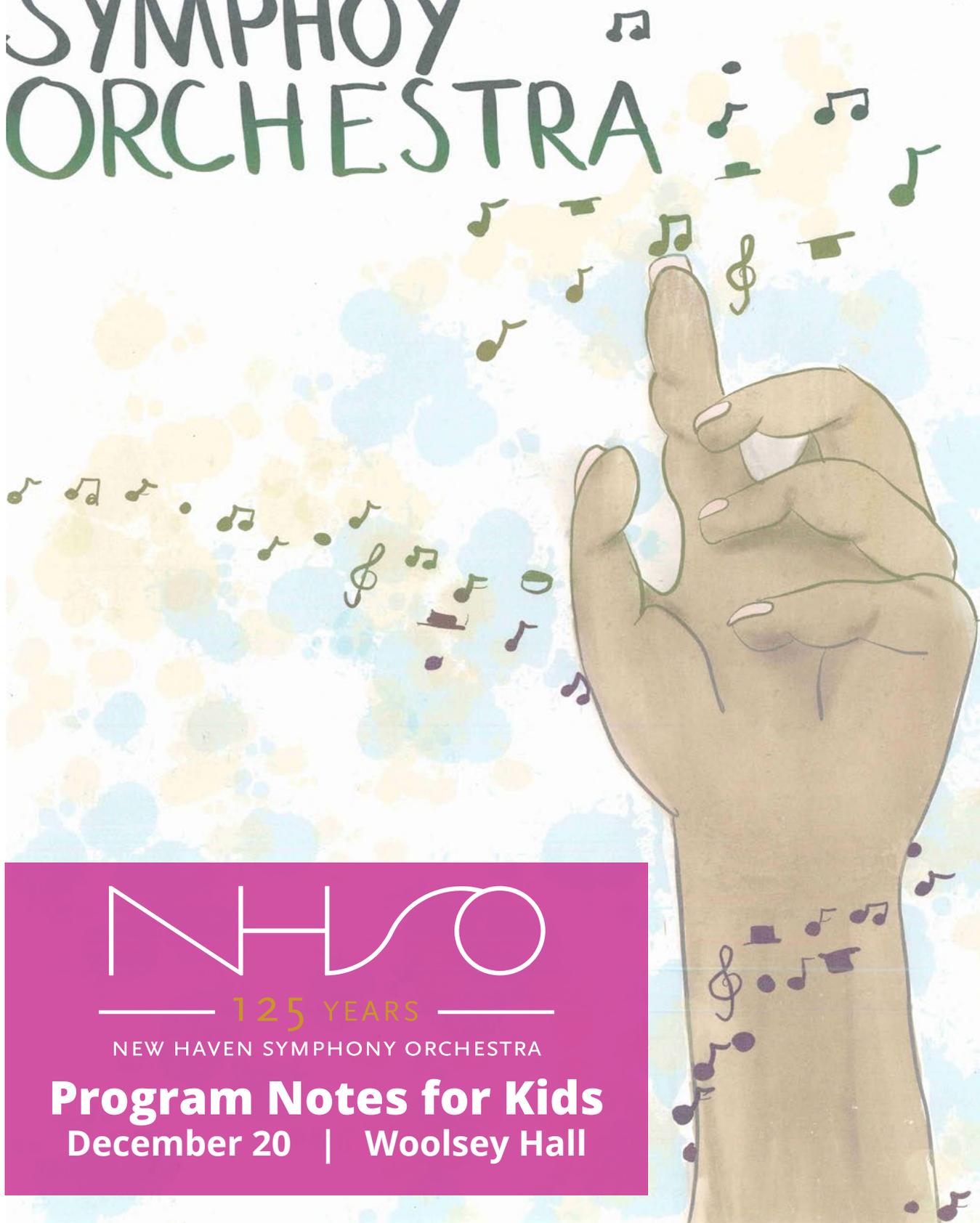


NEW HAVEN SYMPHOY ORCHESTRA



NHSO

125 YEARS

NEW HAVEN SYMPHOY ORCHESTRA

Program Notes for Kids

December 20 | Woolsey Hall

Handel's Messiah

Messiah

George F. Handel

Part I

Part II

Part III



CONGRATULATIONS!

Tonight's Art Contest winner is Camryn Flaherty, Grade 7, St. Lawrence School in West Haven.

Welcome to the NHSO!

Before the concert begins:

- Turn off any device that makes noise.
- Read the *Program Notes for Kids*.
- Locate the restrooms and exits.
- Look around at the architecture of the theater.
- Listen to musicians warm-up their instruments.



During the concert:

- Clap as people enter the stage.
- Listen quietly as the orchestra plays.
- Wait for every section (called *movements*) of a piece to be played, then clap. (Hint: the conductor will turn to face you when it's time.)
- During intermission, you are free to get up.
- At the end of the concert, people may stand up to show their appreciation. This is called a *standing ovation*.



ENJOY!

Words & Music Literacy Project

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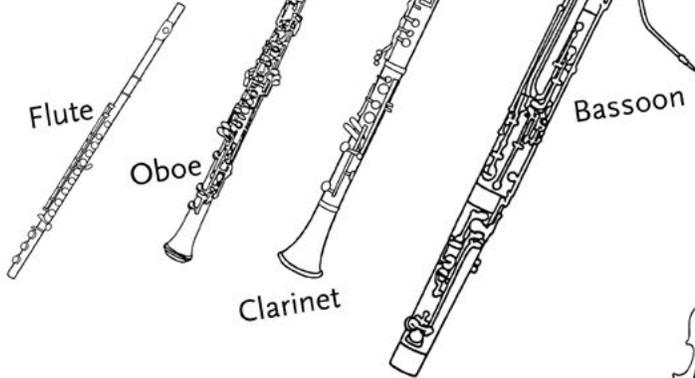
Instruments of the Orchestra



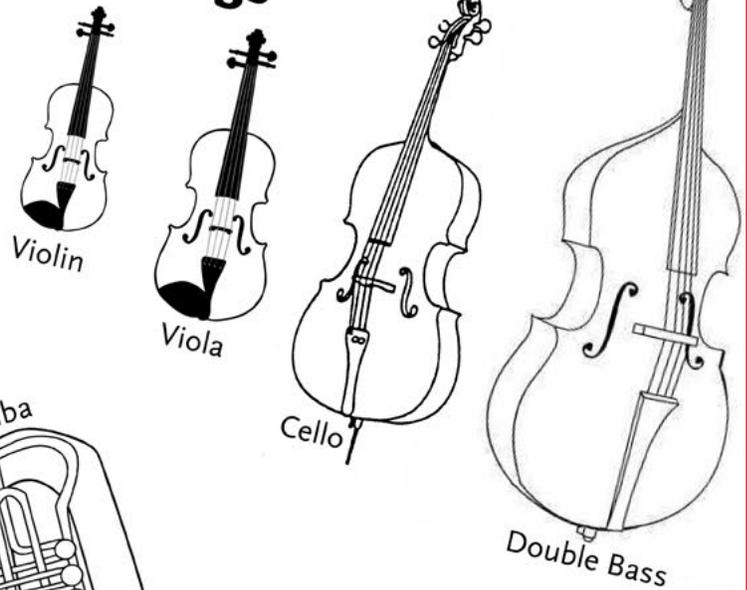
125 YEARS

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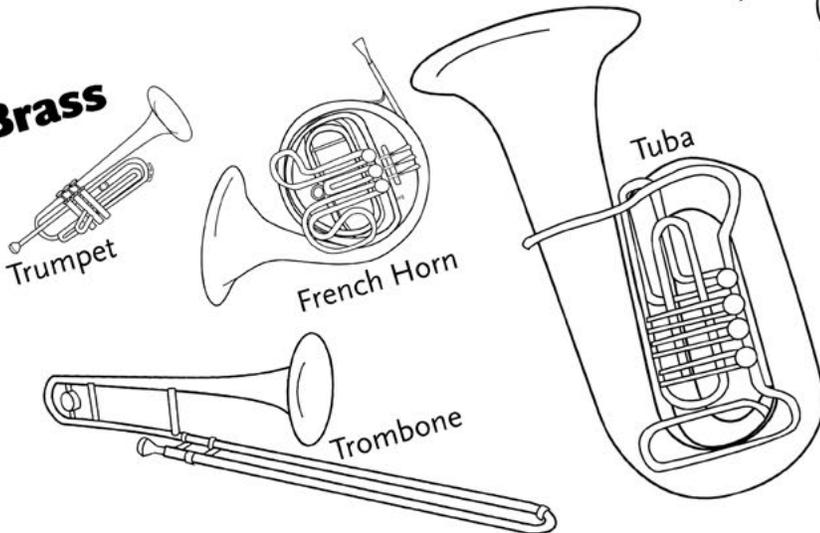
Woodwinds



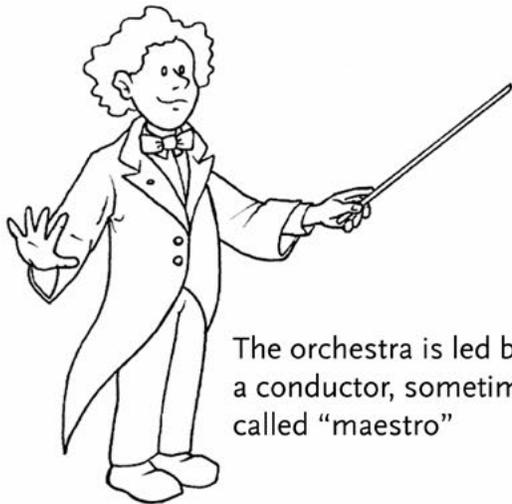
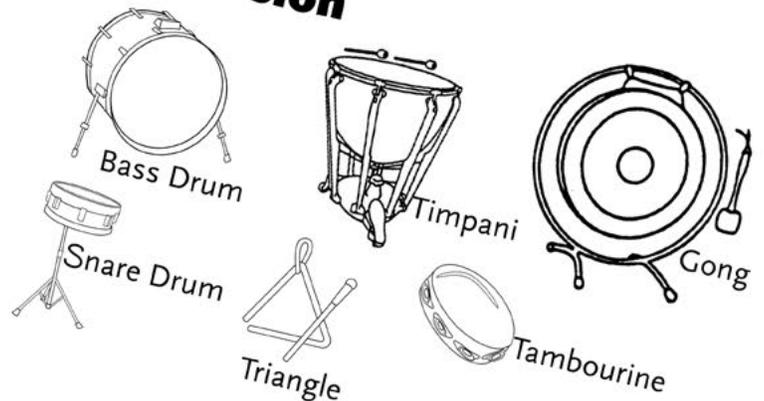
Strings



Brass



Percussion



The orchestra is led by a conductor, sometimes called "maestro"

and more!

Messiah



Part I - 21 movements

Part II - 23 movements

Part III - 9 movements

In this work, you can think of each song as a “movement.” The **movements** are similar to pages in a book, and parts are similar to chapters.

Messiah is one of the most famous pieces ever written by George F. Handel. It is an **oratorio** that tells the story of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, from his birth to his death and resurrection. A lot of the words that the choir and soloists are singing come directly from the King James Bible. The story is told in three separate parts.

What’s an oratorio?

An oratorio is a performance involving the orchestra and also a large choir with vocal soloists. It is pretty similar to an opera, but there are a few differences:

- An oratorio sounds like an opera, but sounds more like a **concert** instead of a play/musical.
- There are **no characters** in the Messiah.
- There are **no props or costumes**.
- The subject matter of an oratorio is **religious**.



What’s The Story?

Messiah tells the story of Jesus Christ, a very important figure in the Christian religion. According to the story, which is part of the New Testament of the Christian Bible, a Messiah was to be sent from heaven by God to bring peace to the world. The Messiah, Jesus Christ, was born, and the Christmas season is centered around the celebration of his birth. After living and preaching the word of God for 33 years, some of the people did not believe that he was a true king and decided that he needed to be put to death for spreading his teachings. They hung him on a cross and he died, but came back to life and went to heaven, forever proving that he was the Messiah that the people were promised.

Part I: The first part of the performance focuses on the birth of the Messiah. Part I also has a lot to do with the **prophecy** of the Messiah’s arrival. A prophecy is like a prediction, something that people think might happen but aren’t sure will come true. Part I is often associated with Christmas.



Part II: The second part of the performance focuses on what is called the **Passion** of the Messiah. The Passion refers to the end of the Messiah’s life and his rising to heaven. Part II is often associated with Easter.

Part III: The final part of the performance focuses on one of Jesus’ *disciples* (followers), St. Paul, as he travel teaching others what Jesus taught him, and also on the Messiah’s glory in heaven.

George F. Handel



- Born in 1685 in Halle, Germany and died in 1759 in London, England.
- He was a composer during the Baroque (bah-ROHK) period of music, which was from about 1600-1750.
- He is most famous for writing vocal music, but he also wrote a lot of instrumental music, as well.
- He traveled and composed in Germany and Italy before moving to England, where he wrote *Messiah*.
- Handel wrote *Messiah*, which has 53 different movements total, in just 24 days!

ACCORDING TO LEGEND...

Handel's father was a surgeon and didn't approve of his son's interest in music, so Handel had to practice his music in secret. According to legend, The Duke (who is kind of like a king) where Handel lived once overheard the young musician practicing and was so impressed by Handel's playing that he went to Handel's father and insisted that Handel be placed in music lessons. And the rest is history!

Messiah
an Oratorio
(This is Handel's

Instruments used at this performance:

2 oboes
1 bassoon
2 trumpets
4 timpani
1 harpsichord
6 violins
2 violas
2 cellos
1 double bass

Can you find them on the stage?



Christ Church Choir

The choir that you are hearing tonight is from Christ Church in downtown New Haven. The choir is made up of students from Yale University and members of the New Haven community. We are so excited to have them here performing with us, and we hope you enjoy hearing them sing!

The Christ Church also works with the **Community Soup Kitchen**, which is an organization that offers meals to those who may not be able to afford them. Part of the proceeds from tonight's concert is being donated to the Community Soup Kitchen. Thank you for helping to fight hunger in your community!

Scavenger Hunt

How many questions can you answer?

1. How many columns are there around Woolsey Hall? _____

2. How many organ pipes are there behind the stage? _____

3. How many oboes are on stage? _____

4. How many string instruments are on stage? _____

5. How many lights are hanging from the ceiling? _____

Are the beginning and ending of the Parts I, II, and III in Handel's Messiah performed **piano** (softly) or **forte** (loudly)?

Beginning of Movement:

End of Movement:

Part I. _____

Part II. _____

Part III. _____

If you were writing a review of the Christ Church Choirs's performance tonight, which words would you use to describe it? Check all that apply!

Captivating

Boring

Effortless

Quick

Exhilarating

Amazing

Fascinating

Vibrant

Quiet

Fast

Strong

Slow

Out of all the movements (or songs) that you heard tonight, which one was your favorite? Why?

Concert Review

Write about your experience at the concert tonight.

Who did you see? What did you hear?

What did you think about the music and the experience?

What would you like to tell the Maestro and the musicians?

We would love to know what you think!
Scan or copy this page and send it to

Education Department
New Haven Symphony Orchestra
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New Haven, CT 06511
Education@NewHavenSymphony.org



Family Concert Series: FAIRY TALES

The NHSO Family Concert Series provides fun, interactive concerts for students ages 3-9 to meet the instruments of the orchestra. These concerts will be held from January - March at Davis Street School in New Haven and Shelton Intermediate School.

Before each concert, the NHSO offers an Instrument Petting Zoo where children can tap, tickle, and toot real orchestral instruments before the performance. Following the concert, families are invited to stay for a healthy snack. New Haven Reads provides free children's books for everyone who attends the concert. Attendance is FREE but donations are welcome!

THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF
January 12 & 13

The NHSO string quintet tells this classic fairytale while studying famous melodies.

GREEN EGGS & HAM
February 23 & 24

Dr. Seuss's classic tale is told by NHSO fan favorite, Michael Boudewyns

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD TAKES METRO NORTH
March 9 & 10

A world premiere by the NHSO's mixed quartet!

Visit NewHavenSymphony.org/Family to learn more.



Did you know?

Kids go **FREE** to **ALL** NHSO concerts!

The NHSO offers free KidTix for children age 17 and under with the purchase of an adult ticket. Additional child tickets are available for \$10 each. KidTix can be purchased online or by calling the NHSO box office at 203.787.4282.

Frontier
COMMUNICATIONS

NewHavenSymphony.org

