Student Study Outline

Chapter 27: Handel and the English Oratorio

1. English Oratorio
   1. What is an oratorio?
      1. What was the typical subject matter of an oratorio?
2. Characteristics of Oratorios
   1. How is an oratorio different from an opera?
   2. In his oratorios, Handel greatly expanded use of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. *Messiah* (1741)
   1. How long did it take for Handel to composer *Messiah*?
   2. This work was first performed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in 1742 as a benefit for Irish charities.
   3. What are the three parts of *Messiah*?
   4. How does the oratorio begin?
   5. Nearly half of the 53 parts are sung by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
      1. Solo arias make up the rest of the parts.
4. Making Connections: Handel, the Duke of Cumberland, and Bonnie Prince Charlie
   1. Who was “Bonnie Prince Charlie”?
   2. For what heinous deed is the Duke of Cumberland infamous?
   3. What did Londoners think about the Duke?
      1. Handel honored the Duke in which oratorio?
5. Making Connections: Handel’s *Messiah* and Jonathan Swift
   1. Jonathan Swift is best known as the author of *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726)
      1. Swift was the Dean of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin
      2. What did Swift think about Handel’s *Messiah*?
6. Listening Map: “Rejoice Greatly, O daughter of Zion” from *Messiah* by Handel
   1. This aria is scored for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and orchestra.
   2. In which of the three parts of *Messiah* can this aria be found?
   3. What is the form of this aria?
   4. How does this music convey joy?
   5. What words are sung using melismas?
7. Listening: “Hallelujah” Chorus **Listening Map 22**
   1. In which of the three parts of *Messiah* can this aria be found?
   2. How many distinct musical ideas are heard in this piece?
   3. What are some of the contrasting musical textures that Handel uses in this chorus?
8. Making Connections: Standing Up for Handel
   1. How did the tradition of standing for the Hallelujah Chorus start?