

Handel's Messiah

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Lesson Plans & 10-Page Printable Pack

Notebooking page, maze, copywork, listening sheets,
and music symbol & instrument worksheets

Lesson plans for Handel's Messiah

Christmas evokes fond memories often enchanted by our senses- sparkling Christmas lights and beautiful decorations, cold snowy evenings with warm fires in the fireplace, the smell of gingerbread and evergreen, and the sounds of Christmas with perhaps at the top of that list one of the most majestic music ever written: Handel's *Messiah*. Today I'm happy to share with you a homeschool lesson about Handel's *Messiah* that you can use to teach your children about it.

Who was Handel?

Georg Friedrich Handel was born in Halle, Germany in 1685. He was an organist and wrote organ concertos. He also wrote vocal music such as anthems, operas, cantatas, songs, and oratorios and instrumental music such as concertos, concerti grossi, and suites. Handel is one of the most famous composers of the Baroque Era which lasted from 1600-1725. He moved to London in 1712 and lived there until his death at age 74 in 1759. Two of his most well-known suites are *Water Music* and *Music for the Royal Fireworks*. Listen to these two selections at YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcknsYVgdkM>

Messiah:

Messiah is an oratorio, which is similar in structure to an opera, but without the dramatic staging. *Messiah* is in English and uses a choir, 5 soloists, and an orchestra. It was originally written for Easter and had its debut at Musick Hall in Dublin, Ireland on April 13, 1742. It is now a fixture of the Christmas season. The full story of *Messiah* is of Jesus' nativity, passion, resurrection, and ascension.

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It's divided into 3 parts:

- Part I- Prophecies by Isaiah and the Annunciation of the Shepherds
- Part II- The Passion of Christ (ends with the Hallelujah Chorus)
- Part III- Resurrection of the Dead, Glorification of Christ in Heaven

The libretto (lyrics to be sung) was written by a devout believer in Jesus and in Scriptural authority Charles Jennens. Many of the words come from the *King James Bible* and the *Book of Common Prayer*. Each of the three parts are divided into scenes. Each scene contains recitatives (a form of singing similar to speaking to relate the song before it to the song after it), arias (a song sung by a soloist), and choruses. There are also 2 instrumental pieces.

Amazingly, Handel wrote the music to *Messiah* in 24 days. He signed it SDG, which stands for Soli Deo Gloria (to God alone the glory). The original manuscript of 259 pages is in the British Library.

According to tradition, when *Messiah* debuted in London in 1743, King George II stood during the Hallelujah Chorus. Since he stood, all others stood. It's been a tradition to stand during the song ever since.

Listen to these selections from Messiah:

"Comfort Ye"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dDjva1ecYo>

"For Unto Us a Child is Born"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS3vpAWW2Zc>

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"He Shall Feed His Flock" Hear an example of recitative at the beginning of this recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zdkmj2cRLu8>

"Hallelujah" Chorus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUZEtVbJT5c>

Listen to the entire oratorio performance here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZTZRtRFkvk>

You can hear just the audio of [Handel's Messiah at this site](#).

What Do You Hear in This Music?

Composer _____ Title _____

Tempo (speed) and Dynamics (loud, soft):	Mood: (How does it make you feel?)	Instrumentation/Orchestration: (orchestra, piano, voice, etc.)
Tonality: (atonal, very clashing? Or pleasing to the ears?)	Rhythm: (Is there a steady beat, does the meter change often, etc.)	Form: (symphony, opera, musical, film score, concerto, aria, song, rhapsody, etc.)
Style: (impressionism, serialism, neo-classicism, expressionism, etc.)	Does this piece reflect the history in which it was written? How?	Would you want to listen to this piece again? If you play or sing, would you want to perform this piece someday?



Copywork for “For Unto Us a Child is Born”

For unto us a Child is born,

Unto us a Son is given,

And the government shall be upon His shoulder;

And his Name shall be called

Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God

The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Copywork

Wonderful

Counselor

The Mighty God

The Everlasting Father

The Prince of Peace

Learn Music Symbols Write the symbol's name on the line



quarter note _____



2 eighth notes _____



flat _____



eighth note _____



2 sixteenth notes



treble clef _____



whole note _____



bass clef _____

Match the Music Symbols Draw a line from the symbol to its name.



2 eighth notes



quarter note



eighth note



flat



2 sixteenth notes



treble clef



whole note



bass clef

Learn the Instruments

Write the instrument's name on the line.



Trumpet



Trombone



Organ



Violin



Clarinet



Piano

Instrument Matching

Draw a line from the instrument to its name.



Clarinet



Trumpet



Piano



Violin



Trombone

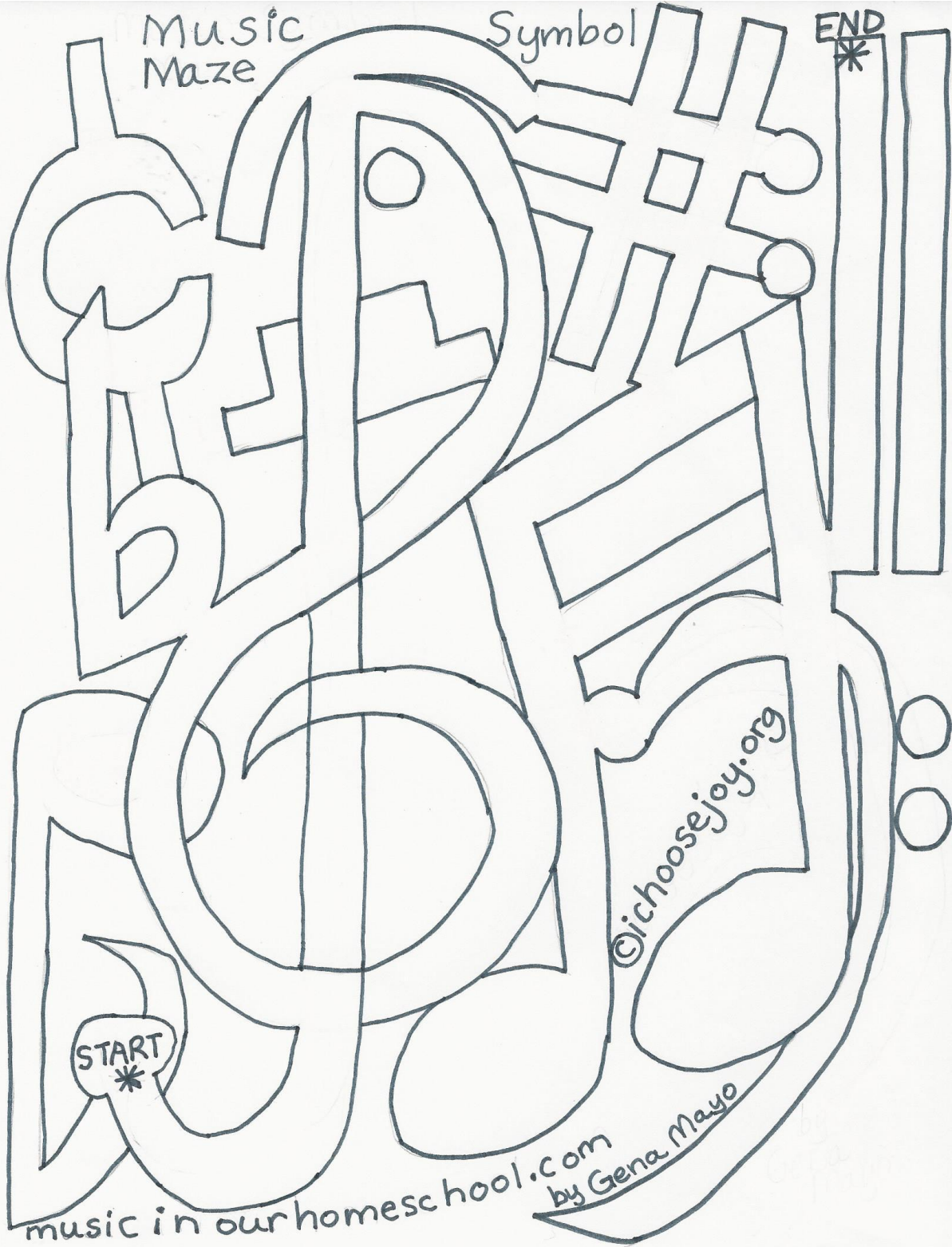


Organ

Music
Maze

Symbol

END
✱



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by Gena Mayo