

45. Duet

(Il Moderato) **Soloists** Ann Meza and Charles Aitken

As steals the morn upon the night,
And melts the shades away,
So Truth does Fancy's charms dissolve,
And rising Reason puts to flight
The fumes that did the mind involve,
Restoring intellectual day.

46. Chorus

(Il Moderato)

Thy pleasures, Moderation give,
In them alone we truly live.

*This reduced text, to support the performance by OCMC on May 18th 2019,
was based upon Novello's Original Octavo Edition*



Oxford and Cambridge Musical Club



Saturday May 18th 2019 at 6.30pm
at St. George's Bloomsbury, Bloomsbury Way, WC1A 2SA
Concert No 2231

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)



**L'ALLEGRO, IL PENSEROSO
ED IL MODERATO**

Conductor Peter Bullett

The performance will be followed by a "Bring and Share" party for performers and guests.

Chorus

Soprano	Pamela Kolirin, Ann Meza, Jill Noakes, Lyn Parkyns, Judith Peak, Geneviève Usher
Alto	Linda van Abel, Dulcie Conway, Kirsten Johnson, Norman Parkyns
Tenor	Charles Aitken, Chris Holmes, Patrick Howard, Michael Wells
Bass	Michael Crowe, Giles de la Mare, John Suddaby

Club Orchestra

First Violins	Peter Wall (leader), Helen France, Michael Friess
Second Violins	Jenny Frost, Chris Mellor, Steven Rodman*
Violas	Mary Kemp, Naomi Randles*
Cellos	Bill Randles, Monica Vincent*
Double Bass	Louise Stoddard*
Flute	Anna Bell
Oboes	Nick Murray, Clare Shanks
Bassoons	Steve Warrington, Vikta Harvey
Horn	Edward Kay
Trumpet	Alex Brain*
Continuo	Michael Bevan*
Harpsichord/Organ	

*guest

We are indebted to the following for their assistance

Rehearsal hosts: Claire Kitchin, William Tyndale Primary School, London N1

Rehearsal pianists: Nicholas Reading, Chris Underhill

Musical Director: Peter Bullett

Picture and Quiz: Charles Aitken

Programme: Nicholas Usher

The Oratorio Committee

Charles Aitken, Peter Bullett, Michael Crowe, Patrick Howard, Lyn Parkyns,

Chris Underhill and Geneviève Usher

PART THE THIRD

39. Recitative

(Il Moderato) **Soloist** John Suddaby
Hence! boast not, ye profane,
Of vainly-fancied, little-tasted pleasure,
Pursued beyond all measure,
And by its own excess transform'd to pain.

40. Air

(Il Moderato) **Soloist** John Suddaby
Come, with native lustre shine,
Moderation, grace divine,
Whom the wise God of nature gave,
Mad mortals from themselves to save;
Keep, as of old, the middle way,
Nor deeply sad, nor idly gay,
But still the same in look and gait,
Easy, cheerful and sedate.

41. Recitative & Chorus

(Il Moderato) **Soloist** John Suddaby
Sweet Temp'rance in thy right hand bear,
With her let rosy Health appear,
And in thy left Contentment true,
Whom headlong Passion never knew;
Frugality by Bounty's side,
Fast friends, though oft as foes belied;
Chaste Love, by Reason led secure,
With joy sincere, and pleasure pure;
Happy life from heaven descending,
Crowds of smiling years attending:
All this company serene,
Join, to fill thy beauteous train.

Chorus

(Il Moderato)

All this company serene,
Join, to fill thy beauteous train.

35. Recitative

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Linda van Abel

But let my due feet never fail
To walk the studious cloisters pale,
And love the high embowed roof,
With antic pillars massy proof,
And storied windows richly dight,
Casting a dim religious light.

36. Solo & Chorus

Chorus

There let the pealing organ blow
To the full voiced choir below,
In service high and anthems clear.

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Linda van Abel

And let their sweetness, through mine ear,
Dissolve me into ecstasies,
And bring all Heav'n before mine eyes.

37. Air

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Lyn Parkyns

May at last my weary age
Find out the peaceful hermitage,
The hairy gown and mossy cell,
Where I may sit and rightly spell
Of every star that heaven doth shew,
And every herb that sips the dew;
Till old Experience do attain
To something like prophetic strain.

38. Chorus

(Il Penseroso)

These pleasures, Melancholy give,
And with thee will choose to live'



Introduction

L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato is a pastoral oratorio written by Handel in 1740 to words by John Milton and Charles Jennens. There are no characters as such, but the soloists and chorus praise the different styles of life represented by the Lively, the Thoughtful and the Moderate Man in a kind of dialogue continued throughout the piece. It was performed at least seven times in both London and Dublin in 1740-1741, just before the première of Messiah. The recitatives, arias and duets represent Handel at his best in terms of word-painting and fine melodies, notably the aria 'Sweet Bird' (with flute obbligato) and the duet 'As Steals the Morn'. The lively choruses add a great deal to the beauty and character of the work. The first performance included two Concerti Grossi, which served as an overture, and in today's performance two movements from his Concerto Grosso Op.6 No.1 fulfil the same role. It is noteworthy that at the Dublin performances the solos were sung by members of the chorus, as is being done today.

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

L'ALLEGRO,
IL PENSEROSO
ED IL MODERATO

(1740)

A Pastoral Cantata

Words by John Milton

adapted and expanded by Charles Jennens

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

L'Allegro

Il Penseroso

Il Moderato

Chorus

30. Air

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Judith Peak
Hide me from Day's garish eye,
While the bee with honied thigh,
That at her flow'ry work doth sing,
And the waters murmuring,
With such consort as they keep
Entice the dewy-feather'd Sleep;
And let some strange mysterious Dream
Wave at his wings in aery stream
Of lively portraiture display'd
Softly on my eyelids laid:
And as I wake, sweet music breathe
Above, about, or underneath,
Sent by some spirit to mortals good,
Or th'unseen genius of the wood.

32. Air

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Pamela Kolirin
And ever, against eating cares,
Lap me in soft Lydian airs,
Married to immortal verse,
Such as the meeting soul may pierce,
In notes with many a winding bout
Of linked sweetness long drawn out,
With wanton heed and giddy cunning,
The melting voice through mazes running,
Untwisting all the chains that tie
The hidden soul of harmony.

34. Air and Chorus

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Chris Holmes
These delights if thou canst give,
Mirth, with thee I mean to live.

Chorus

These delights if thou canst give,
Mirth, with thee we mean to live.

27. Solo & Chorus

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** John Suddaby

Populous cities please me then,
And the busy hum of men.

Chorus

Populous cities please me then,
And the busy hum of men,
Where throngs of knights and barons bold
In weeds of peace high triumphs hold,

With store of ladies, whose bright eyes
Rain influence, and judge the prize
Of wit or arms, while both contend
To win her grace, whom all commend.

28. Air

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Michael Wells

There let Hymen oft appear
In saffron robe, with taper clear.
And pomp, and feast, and revelry,
With mask, and antique pageantry;
Such sights as youthful poets dream
On summer eves by haunted stream.

29. Recitative

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Judith Peak

Me, when the sun begins to fling
His flaring beams, me goddess bring
To arched walks of twilight groves,
And shadows brown that Sylvan loves;
There in close covert by some brook
Where no profaner eye may look.

PART THE FIRST

Overture: Concerto Grosso Op.6 No.1 I a tempo giusto II allegro

1. Recitative

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Patrick Howard

Hence, loathed Melancholy.
Of Cerberus and blackest Midnight born,
In Stygian cave forlorn,
'Mongst horrid shapes, and shrieks, and sights unholy!
Find out some uncouth cell,
Where brooding Darkness spreads her jealous wings,
And the night-raven sings;
There, under ebon shades, and low-brow'd rocks,
As ragged as thy locks,
In dark Cimmerian desert ever dwell

2. Recitative

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Kirsten Johnson

Hence, vain deluding Joys,
dwell in some idle brain,
And fancies fond with gaudy shapes possess,
As thick and numberless
As the gay motes that people the sunbeams;
Or likest hov'ring dreams
The fickle pensioners of Morpheus' train.

3. Air

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Lyn Parkyns

Come, thou goddess fair and free,
In Heav'n yclep'd Euphrosyne,
And by men, heart-easing Mirth,
Whom lovely Venus, at a birth,
With two sister graces more,
To ivy-crowned Bacchus bore.

4. Air

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Judith Peak
Come rather, goddess sage and holy;
Hail, divinest Melancholy!
Whose saintly visage is too bright
To hit the sense of human sight;
Thee bright-hair'd Vesta long of yore,
To solitary Saturn bore.

5. Air and Chorus

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Chris Holmes
Haste thee, nymph, and bring with thee
Jest and youthful Jollity,
Quips, and cranks, and wanton wiles,
Nods, and becks, and wreathed smiles,
Such as hang on Hebe's cheek,
And love to live in dimple sleek;
Sport that wrinkled Care derides,
And laughter holding both his sides.

Chorus

Haste thee, nymph, and bring with thee
Jest, and youthful jollity;
Sport, that wrinkled care derides,
And laughter, holding both his sides.

6. Air and Chorus

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Charles Aitken
Come, and trip it as you go,
On the light fantastic toe.

Chorus

Come, and trip it as you go,
On the light fantastic toe.

PART THE SECOND

Overture: Concerto Grosso Op. No.1 III *adagio*

23. Recitative

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Ann Meza
Hence, vain deluding Joys,
The brood of Folly without father bred!
How little you bested,
Or fill the fixed mind with all your toys!
O, let my lamp, at midnight hour
Be seen in some high lonely tower,
Where I may oft out-watch the Bear,
With thrice great Hermes, or unsphere
The spirit of Plato, to unfold
What worlds or what vast regions hold
Th'immortal mind, that hath forsook
Her mansion in this fleshly nook.

24. Air

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Dulcie Conway
Sometimes let gorgeous Tragedy
In sceptred pall come sweeping by,
Presenting Thebes, or Pelops' line,
Or the tale of Troy divine;
Or what, though rare, of later age,
Ennobled hath the buskin'd stage.

26. Recitative

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Pamela Kolirin
Thus, Night, oft see me in thy pale career,
Till unwelcome Morn appear.

22. Air and Chorus

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Michael Wells

Or let the merry bells ring round,
And the jocund rebeck sound
To many a youth, and many a maid,
Dancing in the checquered shade;

Chorus

And young and old come forth to play
On a sunshine holiday,
Till the livelong daylight fail.
Thus past the day, to bed they creep,
By whispering winds soon lull'd to sleep.

Interval – twenty minutes

7. Recitative

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Linda van Abel

Come, pensive nun, devout and pure
Sober, steadfast, and demure;
All in a robe of darkest grain
Flowing with majestic train.

8. Air

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Linda van Abel

Come, but keep thy wonted state;
With even step and musing gait;
And looks commercing with the skies,
Thy wrapt soul sitting in thine eyes:

9. Recitative and Chorus

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Dulcie Conway

There, held in holy passion still,
Forget thyself to marble, till
With a sad leaden downward cast
Thou fix them on the earth as fast;
And join with thee calm Peace, and Quiet,
Spare Fast, that oft with gods doth diet,
And hears the muses in a ring
Round about Jove's altar sing.

Chorus

Join with thee calm Peace and quiet,
Spare Fast, that oft with gods doth diet.

10. Recitative

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Patrick Howard

Hence, loathed Melancholy!
In dark Cimmerian desert ever dwell.
But haste thee, Mirth, and bring with thee
The mountain nymph, sweet Liberty.
And if I give thee honour due,
Mirth, admit me of thy crew!

11. Air

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Kirsten Johnson

Mirth, admit me of thy crew,
To live with her and live with thee
In unreprieved pleasures free;
To hear the lark begin his flight,
And singing startle the dull Night;
Then to come in spite of sorrow,
And at my window bid good morrow.

12. Recitative

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Geneviève Usher

First and chief, on golden wing,
The cherub Contemplation, bring;
And the mute Silence hist along,
'Less Philomel will deign a song,
In her sweetest, saddest plight,
Smoothing the rugged brow of night.

13. Air

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Geneviève Usher

Sweet bird, that shun'st the noise of folly,
Most musical, most melancholy!
Thee, chauntress, oft the woods among,
I woo to hear thy even song;

Or, missing thee, I walk unseen,
On the dry smooth-shaven green,
To behold the wand'ring Moon
Riding near her highest noon.

14. Recitative

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Patrick Howard

If I give thee honour due,
Mirth, admit me of thy crew.

15. Air

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Patrick Howard

Mirth, admit me of thy crew,
To listen how the hounds and horn
Cheerly rouse the slumbering morn,
From the side of some hoar hill,
Through the high wood echoing shrill.

17. Air

(Il Penseroso) **Soloist** Michael Wells

Far from all resort of mirth,
Save the cricket on the hearth,
Or the bellman's drowsy charm,
To bless the doors from nightly harm.

18. Recitative

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Charles Aitken

If I give thee honour due,
Mirth, admit me of thy crew.

19. Air

(L'Allegro) **Soloist** Charles Aitken

Let me wander not unseen
By hedge-row elms, or hillocks green.
There the ploughman, near at hand,
Whistles o'er the furrowed land,
And the milkmaid singeth blithe
And the mower whets his scythe,
And every shepherd tells his tale
Under the hawthorn in the dale.