

The Scratch Maltese Messiah – Saturday 6 March 2010

Musical notes for chorus

SCORES

Singers must bring vocal scores and should learn their parts beforehand (in English). The Prout, Watkins Shaw, Peters and Bärenreiter editions of *Messiah* are all musically compatible. Music Dynamics on 01242 679 379 can supply scores and rehearsal tapes or CDs. The movement and page numbers below refer to the Prout Edition, published by Novello and widely available. These may vary widely in other editions.

MUSICAL INSTRUCTIONS

There are important updates (marked with an asterisk) for those who have sung 'Messiah' with us before! Please check carefully, and mark your parts accordingly.*

* In Malta, the following numbers will be omitted altogether: 34–37, 41, 49–52. This reinstates several numbers including two choruses which TRBC has previously omitted – No. 21 'His yoke is easy' and No. 39 'Their sound is gone out'. If you are not familiar with these from performances with other choirs, please make sure that you learn them in advance. Please also note that these cuts are different from any that have been or will be used at *Messiah from Scratch* in the Royal Albert Hall.

- 1 The Choir will normally stand at the beginning of each chorus and sit at the end — but there will be the following exceptions:

STAND: 8 bars before the end of **No. 6** 'But who may abide' (*for No. 7*); 5 bars before letter H in **No. 9** 'O Thou that tellest' (*for Chorus entry*); at the beginning of **No. 16** 'And suddenly' (*for No. 17*)

REMAIN STANDING: at the end of **No. 24** 'Surely He hath borne' (*for No. 25 and No. 26*); at the end of **No. 26** through **No. 27** 'All they that see Him' (*for No. 28*)

- 2 There will be no break either at the double bar at H in **No. 9** 'O Thou that tellest', or at the end of **No. 16** 'And suddenly'. At both places the chorus should take over from the soloist, at the same tempo.
- 3 Choir members should watch carefully in the last choral phrase of **No. 12** 'For unto us', since there will be no *rallentando*.
- 4* **No. 21** 'His yoke is easy', previously omitted in TRBC performances, WILL be sung.
- 5 The upbeat quavers in **No. 22** 'Behold the Lamb' should be altered from quavers to semiquavers.
- 6 Divisions in the soprano part in **No. 33** 'Lift up your heads' will be agreed at the first rehearsal.
- 7* **No. 39** 'Their sound is gone out', previously omitted in TRBC performances, WILL be sung.
- 8* **No. 46** 'Since by man came death' will now be sung by the chorus throughout.
- 9 In **No. 53** 'Worthy is the Lamb', at bar 7 and also at bar 19, the beats will start at the new (faster) tempo from the beginning of the bar. The beats will still be crotchets. Special care is needed at L, where a gradual *rallentando* will begin.