



Come and Sing Handel's "MESSIAH" At Chester Cathedral

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING!

Come and Celebrate 270 years of

MESSIAH

Please join us on

Saturday 5th May 2012

to sing the world's most sacred oratorio in
the stunning surroundings of
Chester Cathedral.

Conducted by Chester Cathedral's Director
of Music, Philip Rushforth.

Accompanied by the Cathedral's
magnificent organ.

In the City where Handel completed his
work in November 1741.

In celebration of the first performance of the Messiah in April 1742

Performance: SATURDAY 5TH MAY 2012

with the rehearsal starting at 1.30pm that afternoon. Please
put this date in your diary if you would like to Come and Sing
- tickets £10 - please check www.chestercathedral.com
for more details.

In November 1741 Handel was stranded in Chester by a violent storm in the Irish Sea which prevented the boat from Ireland docking at Parkgate.

Mr Baker, the organist, allowed Handel to work in the schoolroom which was behind his house in Abbey Street. Handel was putting the finishing touches to his new work, Messiah, which was to receive its first performance in Dublin.

When he had finished his composing, he asked Mr. Baker if he had any choirmen who could read on sight. Mr. Baker recommended several, among them a fine bass, Mr. Jansen. The private rehearsal took place at the Golden Falcon (subsequently the Northgate Brewery) where Handel was staying. On trying the chorus "And with his stripes we are healed" Mr. Jansen failed and was upbraided by Handel in several different languages saying, "I thought you could sing on sight!" To which Mr. Jansen replied, "I can, but not at first sight!"

The first performance eventually took place in Dublin in April 1742.

We are celebrating 270 years of this glorious work in the place where Handel completed it.

If you or your choir would like to join us in our celebration, please visit www.chestercathedral.com for more information and to book your place.

A facsimile of Messiah can be seen in Chester Cathedral