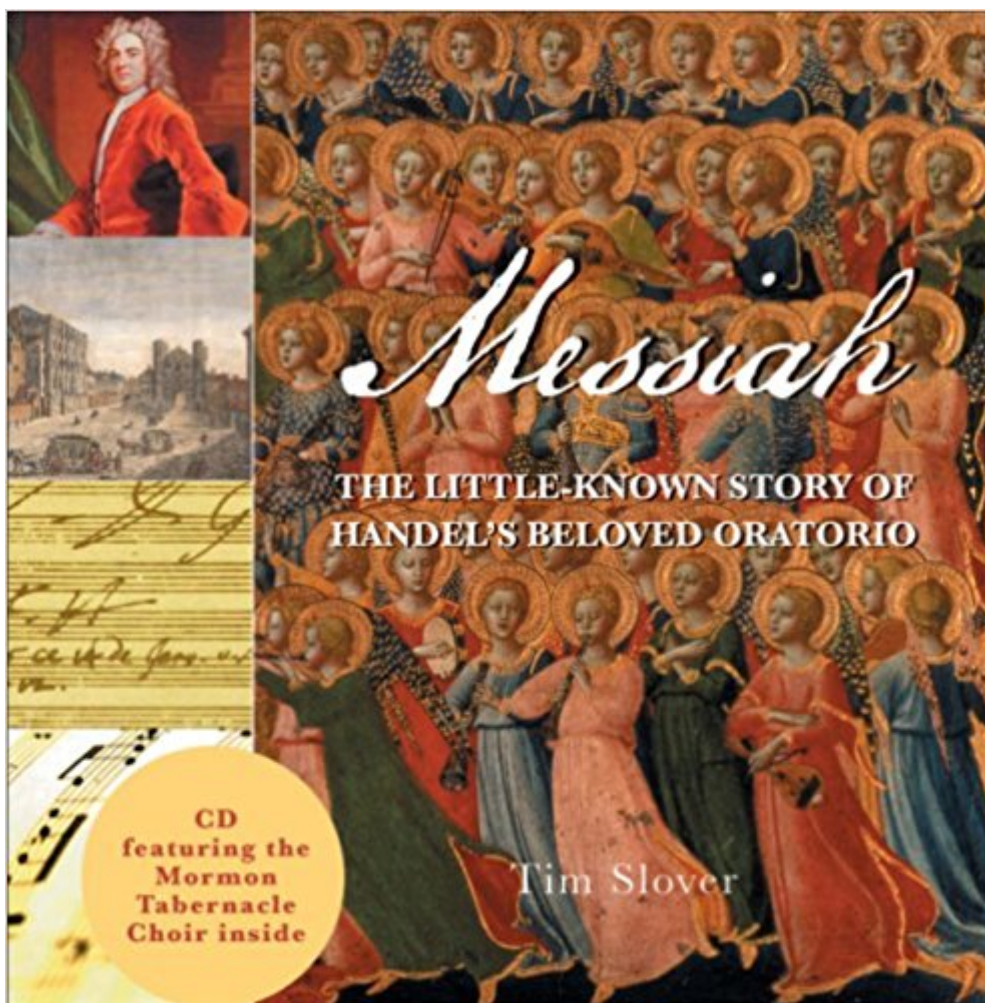


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Messiah: The Little-Known Story Of Handel's Beloved Oratorio



Synopsis

This account presents the remarkable story of the creation of the world-famous Messiah by George Frideric Handel. Revealing that the work was composed during a tumultuous period of Handel's life and molded through many unlikely circumstances, this chronicle tells of how this musical masterpiece was crafted and how it became a glorious production that is now performed around the world every Christmas season. Images of significant sites and artifacts of note, including the church where Messiah was first performed, accompany the text to accurately place this rich tale in its historical context. A bonus CD featuring the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's rendition of Messiah is also included.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tim Slover is a playwright and screenwriter. He teaches dramatic literature and playwriting at the University of Utah. He lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Really enjoyed the story of how Handel came to create this amazing music. The cd that came with the book was one of the best Messiah performances I've heard. I play it every day throughout the Christmas season. This latest purchase was for a friend who I know will come to love it as much as I do. Someone gave me this same book/cd a few years ago. Highly recommended for "Messiah" lovers.

The cover has come off about many ideas we have about the Messiah and Handel's life. Good research into many unknown facts. If you love the Messiah you will want to read this book.

CD with the oratorio and book with a short story of how it came to be. In about 80 pages the author situates the context of the story, the main characters and the circumstances in which the oratorio was created. The language could have been a little down-to-earth to make it sound more intimate or familiar, more appropriate with the story. However, it's worth the price; and the CD is great.

Messiah is no scholarly version of how Handel's oratorio came to be. Slover writes in such an intimate style that one feels as if one is actually in the concert hall, anticipating the first London performance of the famous composer's mysteriously titled work, "'A New Sacred Oratorio". Slover presents us at the outset with a number of mysteries. Why the "veiled" title? Why does the librettist, Charles Jennens, look displeased as he waits for the concert to start? Why does the tenor soloist look ill, and the contralto "stricken"? And will the king attend the performance, after snubbing Handel's music for the last four years? After drawing so vivid a picture for the reader, Slover deftly backtracks to lay the groundwork for revealing the answers to each of these questions. The story that follows is as riveting as it is entertaining. And, in the end, touching, as well. For Handel's Messiah is not only a great work of art (okay, that may be a bit of an understatement), but invoked a healing spirit upon many of his age, as it continues to touch and heal many hearts today. Messiah is replete with drawings and artwork, many from Handel's lifetime, that bring the age even more fully to life for the reader. The art designer for Messiah, Amy Orton, is to be applauded. (Art designers are too often overlooked in books like this.) I cannot recommend Messiah: The Little-known Story of Handel's Beloved Oratorio highly enough. If you are a music lover, do yourself a favor. Read this book!

Tim Slover in this book "Messiah: The Little Known Story of Handel's Beloved Oratorio" puts a human face on the story behind one of the most well known and loved pieces of Baroque music. One of the other reviewers described it perfectly as a book that puts the reader right in the middle of the action. The CD with excerpts from the recording featuring the Mormon Tabernacle Choir under the direction of Sir David Willcocks is worth the price of the set alone. This book/cd set makes a perfect gift for the music lover, Messiah lover, or Tim Slover fan.

This is a short but fun read for those who might be interested in Handel the composer, and the human background behind the creation of "Messiah."

Really well done! This book is so nice I am going to purchase more for gifts.

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