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Music 366  
Dr. Kiver  
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***Praise the Lord from "Judas Maccabeus" – G. F. Handel (1685-1759)C  
arranged by Hal H. Hopson***

**Background**

German-British Composer

Baroque Period

Born in Germany around the same time as Johann Sebastian Bach and Domenico Scarlatti

Received musical training in Italy before settling in London

Strongly influenced by Italian Baroque composers and the middle German polyphonic choral tradition

Well known for writing operas, oratorios, and concertos

Famous works - 42 Operas, 29 Oratorios, and more than 120 Cantatas, Trios, and Duets, numerous arias, chamber music pieces, and large numbers of odes and organ concerti

- Operas – *Almira, Nero, Daphne, Rodelinda*
- Oratorios – *Israel in Egypt, Messiah, Saul, Samson*
- Concertos, Concerti Grossi, Cantatas,
- *Water Music*
- *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

Early age skillful in harpsichord and organ

In 1710, Handel became *Kapellmeister* to German Prince George, Elector of Hanover, who in 1714 would become King George I of Great Britain

During his oratorios *Deborah* and *Athaliah* he featured choral anthems that laid the foundation for the choir use in his later oratorios

***Praise the Lord***

Oratorio in three acts

Composed in 1746

Libretto by Thomas Morell (1703-1784)

The oratorio was devised as a compliment to the victorious Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland upon his return from the Battle of Culloden

Originally titled in the oratorio as *Hail, hail, Judea, Happy Land*

Originally a Soprano and Alto duet with Choir entering later

Victorious and Joyous section of Oratorio

Mellismas throughout to depict text painting on important words such as "rejoice" and "Alleluia"

Several homophonic sections

Also very fugal in nature

Very bright and brisk during the text "Rejoice"

Emphasis on “Praise the Lord” with tenutos  
Piano accompaniment resembles vocal part, should be played as if it is being played on Harpsichord.

### **Translation**

Praise the Lord.  
Let songs of joy break forth,  
Let songs of joy break forth.  
Sing alleluia.  
Praise his name for every more.  
Shout, sing and dance  
Come dance and celebrate  
Rejoice; let all with in us praise his name.  
Shout, sing, let songs of joy break forth.  
Praise the Lord,  
Let songs of joy break forth.  
Let songs of joy break forth.  
Sing alleluia.  
O praise his holy name for ever more.

### **Bibliography**

Hogwood, Christopher. *Handel*. New York, NY: Thames and Hudson, 2007.

### **Discography**

Handel, G.F. “Judas Maccabeus” on *Handel: Judas Maccabeus*. Performed by U.C. Berkley Chamber Chorus, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Guy de May, Lisa Shaffer, Patricia Spence, and Brian Asawa. Conducted by Nicholas McGegan. Harmonia Mundi Fr, 2006. Audio CD.