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Form and Analysis

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Project Proposal and Abstract

An Analysis on Handel's *Messiah* Finale: "Worthy Is The Lamb"

Abstract

The Oratorio, the *Messiah*, was composed by Handel, George Frederic (1685-1759) from 22 August 1741 to 14 September 1741 in London. The lyrics were given by his good friend Charles Jennens. Based on Revelations 5:12-13 of the King James Bible, "Worthy is the Lamb" is a summary and response to the entire *Messiah*. Handel wrote the entire work only in twenty-four days. He felt God's presence and it enabled him the strength to compose this great oratorio. When Handel finished writing the *Messiah*, he told his servants he saw Heaven and what a joy it was to experience God's grace and mercy. Because the lyrics are from the Bible, these words gave the *Messiah* a sense of authority and power. "Worthy is the Lamb" is the most grand piece in the entire composition. The form, structure, and harmony are unique in their own way. The "Amen" chorus expresses the continuous praise and respect to God in the fugue style, and the suspensions repeatedly sing in the highest and the most glorious manner. Today, the "Worthy is the Lamb" chorus is still often sung by choirs especially during the Easter and Christmas seasons.