

# *Tafelmusik*

G.F. Handel  
**Israel in Egypt**

## **Part I**

### **The Lamentation of the Israelites for the Death of Joseph**

#### **Chorus**

The sons of Israel do mourn, and they are in bitterness; all the people sigh, and hang down their heads to the ground. How is the mighty fall'n! He that was great among the princes, and ruler of the provinces! He put on righteousness, and it clothed him: his judgement was a robe and a diadem.

#### **Quartet**

When the ear heard him, then it blessed him; and when the eye saw him, it gave witness of him.

#### **Chorus**

How is the mighty fall'n! He that was great among the princes, and ruler of the provinces! He deliver'd the poor that cried, the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. Kindness, meekness and comfort were in his tongue. If there was any virtue, and if there was any praise, he thought on those things. How is the mighty fall'n! He that was great among the princes, and ruler of the provinces!

#### **Quartet & Chorus**

The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance, and the wise will shine as the brightness of the firmament.

#### **Chorus**

Their bodies are buried in peace: but their name liveth evermore. The people will tell of their wisdom, and the congregation will show forth their praise. Their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the most high.

#### **Quartet**

They shall receive a glorious kingdom, and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand.

#### **Chorus**

The merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever on them that fear him, and his righteousness on children's children.

## **Part II**

### **Exodus**

#### **Recitative (Tenor)**

Now there arose a new king over Egypt which knew not Joseph; and he set over Israel taskmasters to afflict them with burdens, and they made them serve with rigour.

#### **Solo (Alto) & Chorus**

And the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and their cry came up unto God. They oppressed them with burdens, and made them serve with rigour; and their cry came up unto God.

**Recitative (Tenor)**

Then sent he Moses, his servant, and Aaron whom he had chosen; these shewed his signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham. He turned their waters into blood.

**Chorus**

They loathed to drink of the river. He turned their waters into blood.

**Air (Alto)**

Their land brought forth frogs, yea, even in their king's chambers. He gave their cattle over to the pestilence; blotches and blains broke forth on man and beast.

**Chorus**

He spake the work, and there came all manner of flies and lice in all their quarters. He spake; and the locusts came without number, and devoured the fruits of their ground. He gave them hailstones for rain; fire mingled with the hail ran along upon the ground. He sent a thick darkness over all the land, even darkness which might be felt. He smote all the first-born of Egypt, the chief of all their strength.

But as for his people, he led them forth like sheep: he brought them out with silver and gold; there was not one feeble person among their tribes. Egypt was glad when they departed, for the fear of them fell upon them. He rebuked the Red Sea, and it was dried up. He led them through the deep as through a wilderness. But the waters overwhelmed their enemies, there was not one of them left.

And Israel saw that great work that the Lord did upon the Egyptians; and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and his servant Moses.

**PART III  
Moses' Song****Chorus**

Moses and the children of Israel sang this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying: I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

**Duet (2 Sopranos)**

The Lord is my strength and my song; he is become my salvation.

**Chorus**

He is my god, and I will prepare him an habitation: my father's God, and I will exalt him.

**Duet (2 Basses)**

The Lord is a man of war: Lord is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea; his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

**Chorus**

The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone. Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power; thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee. Thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble. And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

**Air (Tenor)**

The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

**Air (Soprano)**

Thou didst blow with the wind, the sea covered them; they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

**Chorus**

Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Thou stretchest out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

**Duet (Alto & Tenor)**

Thou in thy mercy hast led forth thy people which thou hast redeemed; thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

**Chorus**

The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on them: all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away: by the greatness of thy arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O Lord, which thou hast purchased.

**Air (Alto)**

Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

**Chorus**

The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

**Recitative (Tenor)**

For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

**Chorus**

The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

**Recitative (Tenor)**

And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and dances. And Miriam answered them:

**Solo (Soprano) & Chorus**

Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. The Lord shall reign for ever and ever. I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.