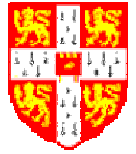




# Oxford and Cambridge Musical Club



*Saturday 14 November 2009 at 6:00 pm  
at St Peter's Church, Belsize Square, Belsize Park NW3 4HJ*

**Concert No 2015**

## **SAUL**

**an oratorio by  
G F Handel (1739)**

Libretto by Charles Jennens

This performance is dedicated to the memory of Sue Estermann, member of the Oxford and Cambridge Musical Club October 1981 – October 2009

### **Main characters in order of appearance**

*please note that many of the characters will be sung by several singers*

<i>Saul, King of Israel (bass)</i>	<b>Carl Murray, John Daweswell, Michael Crowe</b>
<i>David, conqueror of Goliath (alto)</i>	<b>Stuart Wood, Jo Parton, Rachel Goodkin, Vivien Price, Oenone Cox</b>
<i>Abner, Captain of Guard (tenor)</i>	<b>Andrew Bale</b>
<i>Merab, daughter of Saul (soprano)</i>	<b>Robyn Parton</b>
<i>Michal, daughter of Saul (soprano)</i>	<b>Evelyn Bercott, Genevieve Usher, Penelope Manser, Lyn Parkyns</b>
<i>Jonathan, son of Saul (tenor)</i>	<b>Andrew Bale, Patrick Howard</b>
<i>Messenger (bass)</i>	<b>David Banbury</b>
<i>Witch of Endor (contralto)</i>	<b>Oenone Cox</b>
<i>Samuel the Prophet (bass)</i>	<b>David Banbury</b>
<i>Amalekite (tenor)</i>	<b>Andrew Bale</b>
<i>Ablathar (tenor)</i>	<b>Andrew Bale</b>

### *Ensemble Singers*

**Norman Parkyns (alto) Jo Rodgers (alto)**

**Conductor Peter Bullett**

*Organisers:*

**Jo Parton and Carl Murray**

The Interval will be at the end of Part 1

**The performance will be followed by a party for performers and guests**

## Synopsis

### Part 1

David's victory over Goliath - he is presented to Saul – Jonathan's friendship for him – Saul betroths his eldest daughter Merab to David – her scorn of the alliance – Michal, Saul's youngest daughter and her companions, celebrate the praises of Saul and David- Saul's envy is moved – David attempts to quell his anger by music – Saul, on David's escaping his rage, charges Jonathan and his attendants to destroy him – Jonathan's struggle between his filial duty and his affection for David – supplication of divine protection for David.

### Part 2

The hatefulness of envy – Jonathan intercedes with Saul for David – Saul, feigning to be reconciled to David, makes him leader of his armies and bestows on him his daughter Michal, who had cherished an affection for him, instead of Merab, who had formerly scorned him, and had since been given to another – Saul's rage is renewed on David's returning safe from the wars, and he again attempts his destruction.

### Part 3

Saul, in remorse and fear, resorts to the witch of Endor – Samuel being raised up warns him of his ruin – tidings of the deaths of Saul and Jonathan are brought to David – he avenges Saul's death – lamentation for Saul and Jonathan – recognition of David as leader and ruler of the people of Israel.

#### PART THE FIRST

Sinfonia		Welcome, welcome	Chorus
How excellent Thy Name	Chorus	What do I hear	Recit
An infant rais'd	Air	David his ten thousand slew	Chorus
Along the monster atheist strode	Trio	To him ten thousands	Recit
The youth inspir'd	Chorus	With rage I shall burst	Air
Our fainting courage soon restor'd	Chorus	Imprudent women	Recit
How excellent Thy Name	Chorus	Fell rage and black despair	Air
Hallelujah	Chorus	Rack'd with infernal pains	Recit
Behold O King	Recit	O Lord whose mercies	Air
O King, your favour	Air	'Tis all in vain	Recit
O early piety	Recit	A serpent in my bosom warm'd	Air
Thou, Merab, first in birth	Recit	Has he escap'd my rage	Recit
My soul rejects the thought	Air	O filial piety	Recit
See, see with what a scornful air	Air	No, no cruel, father, no	Air
Sinfonia		Preserve him for the glory	Chorus
Already are the daughters of the land	Recit		

#### PART THE SECOND

Envy! Eldest born of hell	Chorus	Thy father is as cruel and as false	Recit
Hast thou obey'd	Recit	At persecution I can laugh	Duet
Sin not, O King	Air	Whom dost thou seek?	Recit
As great Jehovah lives	Air	No, no! let the guilty tremble	Air
Wisest and greatest	Air	Sinfonia	
Appear, my friend	Recit	The time at length is come	Recit
A father's will	Recit	Where is the son of Jesse?	Recit
O fairest of ten thousand fair	Duet	O fatal consequence of rage	Chorus
Is there a man?	Chorus		

#### PART THE THIRD

Wretch that I am	Recit	Mourn, Israel	Chorus
'Tis said here lives a woman	Recit	Oh, let it not in Gath	Air
With me what wouldst thou	Recit	Brave Jonathan	Air
Infernal spirits	Air	Eagles were not so swift as they	Chorus
Why hast thou forced me?	Recit <i>Accomp</i>	In sweetest harmony	Air
Sinfonia		O fatal day	Solo & Chorus
Whence com'st thou?	Recit	Ye men of Judah	Recit
Impious wretch	Air	Gird on thy sword	Chorus
Dead March			

Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759) established his reputation in London mainly as a composer of Italian operas. When public taste changed, he swiftly turned to oratorio in English and the first of many biblical subjects to be tackled was Saul. This oratorio has striking purely orchestral music, for example the 'Dead March', and the Witch of Endor scene evokes the supernatural with great dramatic effect.

The main characters are depicted with penetrating insight. The two daughters of Saul are sharply differentiated – Merab fiercely independent and Michal sweetly romantic. Jonathan is torn between his filial duty and his affection for David, while Saul himself is a tragic figure, the mad king subject to violent mood swings, at one moment profoundly grateful to David and the next intensely jealous.

The Chorus throughout provides commentary on the action.

'This oratorio symbolises the threefold union of opera house, church and concert hall.' (Percy Young).

## **ORCHESTRA**

**Details to be announced**

### **CHORUS OF ISRAELITES**

**Soprano** Evelyn Bercott\*, Christine Fisher\*, Rachel Goodkin\*, Pip Kings, Myrtle Lesser, Penelope Manser, Pamela Markle, Lyn Parkyns\*, Robyn Parton\*, Genevieve Usher\*  
**Alto** Oenone Cox\*, Norman Parkyns\*, Jo Parton\*, Vivien Price\*, Jo Rodgers\*, Stuart Wood\*  
**Tenor** Andrew Bale\*, Patrick Howard\*, Alan Mayall\*, Alan Reddish  
**Bass** David Banbury, Michael Crowe\*, John Dawswell\*, Mike Drake, Carl Murray\*, Richard Shaw, Peter Sowerby, Andrew Westlake,

\* soloist

**CHORUS-MASTER – LYN PARKYNS**  
**REHEARSAL PIANIST – ALAN REDDISH**

For more information about forthcoming concerts by the oxford and Cambridge Musical Club see our website: [www.ocmc.org.uk](http://www.ocmc.org.uk)