

MESSIAH

Notes for choir

Everything refers to Novello Watkins Shaw edition

- Cuts: Nos. 34 - 35, Nos. 49 - 52
- Other points to note:

No. 13 (Pastoral Symphony) is only bars 1 - 11, **No. 23** (Alto aria) the DC is only bars 1-8,

No. 48 (Bass aria) bars 1 - 156 only (i.e. up to FINE)

Choruses:

No. 4 - And the glory STAND when intro. begins

bar 11 - alto entry **f**

bar 14 - altos - 'Lord' - minim, crotchet rest

bar 17 - 'Lord' only a crotchet

bar 25 - tenors - 'Lord' - minim, crotchet rest

bar 28 - sops - 'Lord' - minim, crotchet rest

bar 38 - minim, crotchet rest

bar 57 - minim, crotchet rest

bar 73 - minim, crotchet rest

bar 84 - sops, altos - remain **f**

bar 87 - altos - 'Lord' - crotchet, crotchet rest

bar 87 - altos + later entries of T & B - **mf** from 'shall'

bar 93 onwards - sops **f**, then tenors **f** end 94 then **f** altos, basses

bar 102, letter E - altos **mf**, then tenors, basses **mf**

bar 106 - sops **f**, A,T,B **f** bar 110

bar 110 - sops - minim, crotchet rest

bar 124 - ATB - minim, crotchet rest

SIT when No.5 begins

No. 7 - And he shall purify STAND pg 34, bar 151

General point: all 'And he shall purify' phrases (as sopranos at the start) - *crescendo* to 2nd bar ('pu-') then *diminuendo*

bar 21, letter B - **ff**

bar 22 - no breath - take breath after '-ness' (beat 1) in bar 24 -

dim. to **p** on beats 3 and 4

page 37 - last bar and bit - basses - **sempre p**

page 38 - **sempre p** except altos, last bar **forte**

page 39 - all entries **forte** bar 52,

letter E - all parts **ff**

bars 54, 55 - *diminuendo* to **p**

bar 56 - full minim

REMAIN STANDING

No. 9 - O thou that tellest

bar 114 - sops & tenors, break before 'a-rise'

bar 118 - make break after 'Judah' and accent 'Behold'

bars 124, 128, 127- breath at commas

bar 132 - rest on tied quaver on 'Lord' ie 'Lord' is a dotted crotchet

bar 133 - make 'Lord' a dotted crotchet (ie as in previous bar)

bars 133/134 - altos - **forte**, then *diminuendo* to **p** - end of bar

bar 134 - S,T,B enter **p**

bar 136 - *crescendo* to **f**

SIT when No.10 begins

No. 12 - For unto us a child is born STAND when intro. begins

General point: always hold 'us' for full length

bar 24 - basses, breath after first note (C#)

bar 26 - tenors **f**

bar 27 - tenors, bar 29 - sops, bar 44 - altos,

bar 46 - basses (+ altos): 'shoulder' staccato on quavers

bar 28 - sopranos **f**

bar 30 - altos and basses **f**

bar 37 - very short crotchets - Prince/of/Peace/

bar 43 - altos **f**

bar 45 - basses **f**

bar 47 - sop & ten **f**

bar 53, bar 72 - 'Peace' - short

bar 61 - tenors **f** (2nd beat)

bar 63 - sopranos **f**

bar 65 - altos/basses **f**

bar 72 - basses, last beat **ff**

bar 73 - S,A,T **ff**

bar 90 - break after 'Father'

bar 91, last bar 'Peace' - only a crotchet

REMAIN STANDING

No. 17 - Glory to God

bar 5, bar 14 - T & B - **mp**

bar 18 onwards, always a break between 'good' and '-will'

bar 29 - **mp**

bar 39 - sops, breath at end of bar

SIT when No.18 begins

(No. 19. 20 - version II)

No. 21 - His yoke is easy

STAND pg 85, bar 53

General point: take note of all the contrasting dynamics!

bar 4 - sops, **pp** on 'his burthen'

bar 11 - sops **f** (not **mf**)

bars 14/15 - SAT, **f** (not **mf**)

bars 25, 26 - basses - do dotted rhythm as written above stave

bar 38 - S, 'light' - make a quaver, quaver rest

bar 38 - A & T - crotchet at end of 'light' make a quaver,

quaver rest

bar 41 - all parts, **ff** at 'his yoke'

bar 44 - sops - 'light' - crotchet, quaver rest

- ATB - crotchet at end of 'light' make a quaver, quaver rest

bar 45 - sops - no breath after 'easy'

bar 46 - SATB - as before, break after 'light'

bar 48 - **ff**

INTERVAL

STAND on cue

No. 22 - Behold the lamb of God - See sheet

SIT on cue (before No. 23 begins)

No. 24 - Surely he hath borne our griefs - STAND

when intro. begins

bars 7 & bar 10 - no breath after 'griefs'

bar 8 - last note '-rows' make quaver, quaver rest

bar 11 - hold last note for full length bar 12 - Alto then

other parts - enter **p**

bar 13 - *crescendo* beat 3 to beginning of next bar, then

diminuendo back again

bar 14 - *crescendo* beat 3 to beginning of next bar, then

diminuendo back again

bar 15 - big break after 'transgressions'

bar 15 - **pp** from 'he was'

bar 16 - quaver out of '-ed' ie quaver, quaver rest for SAT and dotted crotchet, quaver rest for B

bar 18 - massive *crescendo* 2nd half of bar (watch)

bar 19 - make dotted rhythm very dotted i.e. double dotted

bar 19 - make crotchet on 2nd beat ('-ties') a quaver, quaver rest

bar 22 - quasi *diminuendo* to end

bar 22 - no breath after 'peace'

bar 24 - last note make crotchet, crotchet rest

No. 25 - And with his stripes

throughout whole mvt.: every entry 'And with His stripes'

- first three notes always v. short

- each entry at beginning (S then A, then T, then B), start **f**, sing as above, and then **diminuendo** from 'stripes' down to **p**
bar 13 - Sops, then Basses bar 14, Tenors 16, Altos 17, sing **f** all way through

bar 20 onwards, tenors - sing *italics*

bar 36 - all altos - sing upper note

bar 39 - **cresc.** to letter F

bar 43-end - sopranos - sing *italics*

last 2 bars, **Adagio**, diminuendo down to **p**

No. 26 - All we like sheep

thought mvt: 'All we like sheep' - slightly detached

bar 4 - S&T - **cresc.** to beat 3 of bar 5, then **dim.** to **p**

bars 10/11 - A&B - **cresc.** then **dim.** as above

bar 11 - S&T - 'we have' *staccato*

bars 13/14 - Sop - 'ev'ry one to his own' - all *staccato*

bar 13 - A - 'we have' *staccato*

bars 15/16 - Tenor - 'ev'ry one to his own' - all *staccato*

bars 19/20 - T&B - **cresc.** then **dim.** as previously

bars 21/22 - S&A - **cresc.** then **dim.** as previously

bar 23 - T&S - 'we have' *staccato*

bar 25 - S - 'we have' *staccato*

bars 25/26 - T - 'ev'ry one to his own' - all *staccato*

bar 27 - S - 'ev'ry one to his own' - all *staccato*

bar 29 - all parts - 'way' - short

bar 29 - S, bar 30 T&A, bar 31 B - 'we have' *staccato*

bar 32 - S&A, bar 33 - T&B - **dim.** on 'one to his own way'

bar 36 - A - **cresc.**

bar 37 - S - **cresc.**

bars 38/39 - T - **cresc.** then **dim.** as previously

bars 40/41 - S&B **cresc.** then **dim.** as previously

bar 41 - T, bar 42 - A, bar 43 - B - 'we have' *staccato*

bars 43/44 - A - 'ev'ry one to his own' - all *staccato*

bars 45/46 - all parts - 'we have' *staccato*

bars 47/48 - 'ev'ry one to his own way' - all *staccato*

bars 56/57 - **cresc.** to bar line, then **dim.**

bars 58/59 - S&A **cresc.** to bar line, then **dim.**

from end 59 - all parts - 'we have' *staccato*

bars 65, 66, 67, 68 - all parts - 'we have' *staccato*

bars 72, 73 - all parts - 'one to his own way' - all *staccato*

bar 74 - all parts - 'one to' *staccato*

bar 76 - all parts - 'way' make crotchet, crotchet rest

from bar 76 - all entries **f** and make 'and' a crotchet followed by rest

bar 83 - all parts - general **diminuendo**

bar 88 - all parts - take breath after 'him', then **crescendo** and **dim.** over the 4 crotchets

REMAIN **STANDING**

No. 28 - He trusted in God

- opening theme (tune) - make 'him' short every time.

- all the way through: when you sing 'delight in him', make last three syllables short: light/in/him/ - every time!

bar 19 onwards; take note of where **mf** is marked. Sing these sections notably lighter than the surrounding **f**/loud sections

bars 40, 41 and 49 - general **cresc.** in these bars

bar 61 - **ff** - all three crotchets short

SIT when No.30 begins

No. 33 - Lift up your heads - STAND when intro begins

bars 6, 7, 16, 20, 21 - make last note a QUAVER up-beat (not semi-quaver)

bar 11 - basses - do dotted rhythm on 'King of' as tenors

bars 14, 15 - tenors - do dotted rhythm on 'King of' (not the basses)

bar 22 - break after 'doors'

bar 26 - S&A - begin **p** then **crescendo**

bar 29 (end of bar) - A,T,B **legato** and **p**

bar 53, last note - **piu f**

bar 55 - all parts - start **mf** then **crescendo**

bar 62, last note, all parts - **piano**, then next phrase end of 63 - **f**

bar 65 - all parts - start **mf** then **crescendo**

bar 75 - all parts - **p** - 'of Glory'

Nos. 34/35 CUT

SIT when No.36 begins

STAND pg 141, bar 106

No. 37 - The Lord gave the word

bar 10 - S&A - last note, crotchet, crotchet rest

bar 14 - S&B - **no** breath

bar 14 - A&T - breath!

bar 22 - all parts - breath after 'preachers'

SIT on cue

No. 39 - Their sound is gone out - STAND pg 150, bar

21 - See sheet!

SIT when No.40 begins

No. 41 - Let us break - STAND pg 159, bar 68

throughout mvt: make last note of phrases short i.e 'break', 'bonds', 'us', 'yokes'

bar 10 onwards - 'and cast away' phrase - make crotchets short

bars 44 & 59 - 'from us' - both short

bars 52 & 57 - 1st note - '-way' - short

SIT when No.43 begins (NOT 42)

No. 44 - Hallelujah! - STAND when intro begins

bars 37, 39 - no breath

bar 40 - make 'Christ' a crotchet + quaver rest

bar 41 - make 'Christ' a crotchet + rest

bars 52, 55, 58, 61, 64 - lower parts 'for ever and ever...' phrase start **mf**, then **cresc.**

bar 60 - sops cut off 'KINGS' on the crotchet i.e. make tied crotchet a rest

bar 63 - sops - make the minim a crotchet + crotchet rest

bar 66 - sops - make 'KINGS' crotchet + quaver rest

bar 68 - no breath

bar 69 - 'LORDS' - crotchet + rest

SIT on cue

No. 46 - Since by man came death - STAND pg.185, bar 154

bar 5 - **crescendo** to 'death', then **dim.**

bar 13 - break after 'dead'

bar 21 - **crescendo** to 'die', then **dim.**

bars 25, 27 - break after '-live'

bar 29 - no breath after first note

bar 32 - no breath after 'Christ', take breath after 'all'

SIT when No.48 begins (NOT 47).

STAND pg.194, 3rd bar. At **FINE**, cut to no.53

No. 53 - Worthy is the Lamb

bars 3, 14 - 'that/was/' - short

bar 6 - sops - break after 'God'

bar 12 - **p**

bar 19 - **f** at **Andante**

bar 24 onwards - in this phrase always **crescendo** through repeated notes

bar 39 - all parts - make 'Lamb' short

bar 53 - make 'him' short

bar 59 - basses - no breath after 'throne'

bar 60 - sops - no breath after 'throne'

bars 61,62 - start 'for ever' phrases **mf** then **cresc.** at bar 63 to **ff** in 67

bars 72 to 91 - all **p**

bar 72 onwards - follow direction of gentle **staccato** on crotchets

bars 91, 106 - last minim make a crotchet + rest

bar 102 (letter 'G') **f**

bar 103, altos - beats 2 & 3 crotchets make short

bars 104,105 - sops - sing **legato**

bar 110 - sops - last crotchet, then next two crotchets

- make these 3 notes short

bar 111 - altos - make 3 crotchets short