

Allegro from “Xerxes”

George F. Handel

arranged by
Ken Selden

1 Full Score

8 Violin 1

8 Violin 2

3 Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)

5 Viola

3 Viola (Violin A.C.)

5 Cello

5 Bass

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Program Notes

Best known for his "Hallelujah" chorus, George Frideric Handel was also the composer of an astounding 42 operas between 1705 and 1741. Although the title character of Handel's 1738 opera *Serse* (Xerxes) was a historical figure, the story was of course embellished to include multiple scenarios and subplots popular in Baroque opera: love triangles, cross-dressing characters, anonymous letters, sibling rivalries, and of course, a happy ending.

In the *Allegro* from his overture to *Serse*, Handel creates a lively and vigorous atmosphere full of positive energy and playful interaction between the instruments. Transposed to D major for accessibility, this arrangement can be played in first position for all instruments except for a few notes in the bass part which require a shift to second or third position.

About the Arranger

Ken Selden was appointed conductor and music director of the Symphony Orchestra and New Music Ensemble at Portland State University in the fall of 2006. Under his direction, the PSU Symphony has received three awards in Adventurous Programming from ASCAP and the League of American Orchestras.

Selden is a graduate of New England Conservatory, Indiana University, and Peabody Conservatory. He studied violin with James Buswell and Yuval Sharon, and conducting with Gustav Meier and Markand Thakar. He also performed in master classes for Neeme Jarvi, Jorma Panula, and Yuri Temirkanov, and attended the National Conducting Institute (Kennedy Center) where he worked with Leonard Slatkin and conducted the National Symphony.

An advocate for new music, Selden has worked with composers Pierre Boulez, John Cage, and Tan Dun and has conducted recent world premieres of music by Peter Lieberon, Michael Nyman, and Stephen Paulus. Prior to his appointment at PSU, Selden led a series of performances as assistant conductor of two innovative ensembles – the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the Eos Orchestra. He has also worked extensively with the Juilliard Pre-College Orchestras and the New Jersey Youth Symphony, and was music director of orchestras at Brooklyn College and Columbia University.

Selden made his debut with the National Arts Center Orchestra at the invitation of Pinchas Zuckerman, and subsequently appeared with orchestras of Denver, Baltimore, Minnesota, and North Carolina as well as at music festivals in the United States, Israel, Japan, Romania, and Switzerland. Additionally, he has performed with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra at the David Oistrakh Festival and conducted orchestras in Finland, Italy, and Belgium. Selden has appeared as guest conductor of the Oregon Symphony, Third Angle New Music Ensemble, Portland Youth Philharmonic, and the Newport Symphony. His recording of Mahler and Debussy arrangements with the newly established Martingale Ensemble was released on MSR Classics.

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Allegro ♩ = 104

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score is for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is Allegro with a quarter note equal to 104 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). Measure 1 starts with a violin entry marked *mf*. Measures 2-4 show the other instruments joining in. A large watermark "FOR PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 5-8. The score is for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano). Measure 5 shows the instruments continuing their parts. Measure 6 has a *p* dynamic marking. Measure 7 has a *p* dynamic marking and a hairpin symbol. Measure 8 has a *p* dynamic marking. A large watermark "FOR PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid on the score.

Allegro from "Xerxes" - Score

9

Musical score for measures 9-12. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Measure 9: Vln. 1 starts with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. Vln. 2 and Vla. are silent. Cello and Bass play a quarter note G2. Measure 10: Vln. 1 continues with eighth notes. Vln. 2 starts with a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. Vla. is silent. Cello and Bass play a quarter note G2. Measure 11: Vln. 1 continues with eighth notes. Vln. 2 continues with eighth notes. Vla. starts with a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. Cello and Bass play a quarter note G2. Measure 12: Vln. 1 continues with eighth notes. Vln. 2 continues with eighth notes. Vla. continues with eighth notes. Cello and Bass play a quarter note G2. Dynamics include *mf* and *V* (accents).

Musical score for measures 13-16. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Measure 13: Vln. 1 starts with a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. Vln. 2 starts with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. Vla. starts with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. Cello and Bass start with a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. Measure 14: Vln. 1 continues with eighth notes. Vln. 2 continues with eighth notes. Vla. continues with eighth notes. Cello and Bass continue with eighth notes. Measure 15: Vln. 1 continues with eighth notes. Vln. 2 continues with eighth notes. Vla. continues with eighth notes. Cello and Bass continue with eighth notes. Measure 16: Vln. 1 continues with eighth notes. Vln. 2 continues with eighth notes. Vla. continues with eighth notes. Cello and Bass continue with eighth notes. Dynamics include *mf* and *V* (accents). There are also markings *x2 x4* above the Cello staff in measure 15.

Allegro from "Xerxes" - Score

18

Musical score for measures 17-20. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 17 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 18 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measure 19 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measure 20 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

24

Musical score for measures 21-24. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 21 starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measure 22 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measure 23 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measure 24 has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

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Musical score for measures 25-28. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. Measure 25 shows Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 26 shows Vln. 2, Vla., and Cello with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 27 shows Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Cello with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 28 shows Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass with a *mf* dynamic. A large watermark "FOR PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 29-32. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. Measure 29 shows Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass with a *p* dynamic. Measure 30 shows Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass with a *p* dynamic. Measure 31 shows Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass with a *mp* dynamic. Measure 32 shows Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass with a *mp* dynamic. A box containing the number "32" is located above measure 32. A large watermark "FOR PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid on the score.

Allegro from "Xerxes" - Score

Musical score for measures 33-37, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The score includes dynamic markings *mf* and *f*, and various articulation marks such as accents and slurs. A large watermark "For Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 38-41, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The score includes dynamic markings *mp* and *p*, and various articulation marks such as accents and slurs. A large watermark "For Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

Allegro from "Xerxes" - Score

44

Musical score for measures 42-45, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* and *fz*, and performance instructions like *H3* and *V*. Measure numbers 42, 43, 44, and 45 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Musical score for measures 46-49, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The score includes performance instructions like *V* and *Vz*. Measure numbers 46, 47, 48, and 49 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Allegro from "Xerxes" - Score

52

Musical score for measures 50-53, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* and performance instructions like *V* (Vibrato) and *(h)* (Harmonics). Measure numbers 50, 51, and 53 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Musical score for measures 54-57, continuing from the previous system. It features the same five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, slurs, and dynamic markings. Measure numbers 54, 55, 56, and 57 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Allegro from "Xerxes" - Score

58

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Cello
Bass

58 *mp* 59 60 *mf* 61

Adagio ♩ = 72

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Cello
Bass

62 *f* 63 64 65 66