



THE MASTERWORKS

VOL. 4/5

2 CD Set

George Frideric Handel

Judas Maccabaeus



BRILLIANT
CLASSICS

CD 2

1	Israelite Messenger "Oh Judas, oh my brethren!"	0'40	17	Israelite Woman "So shall the lute"	4'32
2	Israelite Woman, Chorus "Ah! wretched Israel!"	7'16	18	Israelite Messenger "From Capharsalama"	1'30
3	Simon "Be comforted"	0'48	19	Chorus "See the Conquering Hero"	2'50
4	Simon "The Lord worketh wonders"	3'05	20	March	1'53
5	Judas "My arms!"	0'25	21	Duet and Chorus "Sing unto God"	3'04
6	Judas, Chorus "Sound an alarm!"	1'39	22	Judas "Sweet flow the strains"	1'00
7	Chorus "We hear"	2'32	23	Judas "With honor let desert"	3'14
8	Simon "Enough! To Heaven we leave the rest"	0'53	24	Eupolemus "Peace to my countrymen"	0'51
9	Simon "With pious hearts"	3'25	25	Chorus "To our great God"	2'27
10	Israelite Man, Woman "Ye worshippers"	1'21	26	Israelite Woman "Again to Eart"	1'06
11	Israelite Woman "Wise men, flattering"	5'37	27	Israelite Woman, Man (duet) "Oh lovely peace"	4'19
12	Israelite Woman, Man (duet) "Oh! never, never bow"	2'26	28	Simon "Rejoice oh Judah!"	1'57
13	Chorus "We never will bow down"	3'57	29	Chorus "Hallelujah-Amen"	1'45
				Total time	72'25

Act III

14	Israelite Man "Father of Heaven"	6'16
15	Israelite Man "See yon flames"	0'40
16	Israelite Woman "Oh grant it"	0'41



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CD 1

1 Overture

Act I

Israelites mourn Mattathias,
father of Simon and Judas Maccabaeus

2 Israelites (Chorus)

Mourn, ye afflicted children, the remains
Of captive Judah, mourn in solemn strains; Your
sanguine hopes of liberty give o'er; Your hero, friend
and father is no more.

3 Israelite Man

Well may your sorrows, brethren, flow
In all th' expressive signs of woe:
Your softer garments tear
And squalid sackcloth wear,
Your drooping head with ashes strew
And with the flowing tear your cheeks bedew.

Israelite Woman

Daughters, let your distressful cries
And loud lament ascend the skies;
Your tender bosoms beat, and tear
With hands remorseless your dishevelled hair;
For pale and breathless Mattathias lies,
Sad emblem of his country's miseries!

4 Israelites (Chorus)

For Zion lamentation make
With words that weep, and tears that speak.

5 Israelite Man (Recitative)

Not in vain is all this storm of grief,
To vent our sorrows gives relief.
Wretched indeed; but let not Judah's race
Their ruin, with desponding arms, embrace;
Distractful doubt and desperation
I'll become the Chosen Nation.

6 Israelite Woman (Aria)

Pious orgies, pious airs,
Decent sorrows, decent prayers
Will to the Lord ascend and move
His pity, and regain his love.

7 Israelites (Chorus)

O Father, whose almighty power
The heavens and earth and seas adore,
The hearts of Judah, thy delight,
In one defensive band unite.
And grant a leader, bold and brave,
If not to conquer, born to save.

Enter Simon

8 Simon (Recitative)

I feel, I feel the Deity within
Who, the bright Cherubim between,
His radiant glory erst displayed;
To Israel's distressful prayer
He has vouchsafed a gracious ear,
And points out Maccabaeus to their aid.
Judas shall set the captive free,
And lead us on to victory.

9 Simon (Aria)

Arm, arm, ye brave! a noble cause,
The cause of Heaven, your zeal demands.
In defence of your nation, religion and laws,
The almighty Jehovah will strengthen your hands.

10 Israelites (Chorus)

We come, we come, in bright array,
Judah, thy sceptre to obey.

Enter Judas

11 Judas (Recitative)

'Tis well, my friends; with transport
I behold
The spirit of our fathers, famed of old
For their exploits in war.

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Oh, may their fire

With active courage you, their sons, inspire,
As when the mighty Joshua fought,
And those amazing wonders wrought;
Stood still, obedient to his voice, the sun,
Till kings he had destroyed,
and kingdoms won.

12 Judas (Aria)

Call forth thy powers, my soul, and dare
The conflict of unequal war.
Great is the glory of the conquering sword
That triumphs in sweet liberty restored.

13 Israelite Woman and Man (Duet)

Come, ever-smiling liberty
And with thee bring thy jocund train,
For thee we pant and sigh, for thee
With whom eternal pleasures reign.

14 Israelites (Chorus)

Lead on, lead on! Judah disdains
The galling load of hostile chains.

15 Judas (Recitative)

So willed my father, now at rest
In the eternal mansions of the blest.
"Can ye behold," said he, "the miseries
In which the long-insulted Judah lies?
Can ye behold their dire distress
And not, at least, attempt redress?"
Then faintly, with expiring breath,
"Resolve, my sons, on liberty, or death!"
We come! oh see, thy sons prepare
The rough habiliments of war.
With hearts intrepid, and revengeful hands
To execute, oh sire, thy dread commands.

16 Israelite Man (Male Chorus)

Disdainful of danger, we'll rush on the foe
That Thy power, oh Jehovah,
All nations may know.

17 Judas (Recitative)

Ambition! If e'er honor was thine aim,
challenge it here.
The glorious cause gives sanction
to thy claim.

18 Judas (Aria)

No unhallowed desire
Our breasts shall inspire.
Nor lust of unbounded power!
But peace to obtain,
Free peace let us gain,
And conquest shall ask no more.

19 Israelite Man (Recitative)

Haste we, my brethren, haste we to the field,
Dependent on the Lord, our strength
and shield.

20 Israelites (Chorus)

Hear us, oh Lord, on Thee we call,
Resolved on conquest, or a glorious fall.

Act II

Israelites celebrate Judas's victories

21 Israelites (Chorus)

Fallen is the foe; so fall Thy foes, oh Lord! Where
warlike Judas wields his righteous sword.

22 Israelite Woman, soprano II,

Chorus Of Israelites (Duet, Chorus)
Zion now her head shall raise
Tune your harps to songs of praise.

23 Israelite Woman (Recitative)

Oh let eternal honors crown his name;
Judas! first worthy in the rolls of fame.
Say, "He put on the breast-plate as
a giant, and girt his warlike harness
about him; in his acts he was
like a lion, and like a lion's whelp
roaring for his prey."

24 Israelite Woman (Aria)

From mighty kings he took the spoil,
And with his acts made Judah smile.
Judah rejoiceth in his name,
And triumphs in her hero's fame.

25 Israelite Woman and Man, Chorus (Duet, Chorus)

Hail, hail, Judea, happy land!
Salvation prospers in his hand.

26 Judas (Recitative)

Thanks to my brethren; but look up to
Heaven;
To Heaven let glory and all praise be given;
To Heaven give your applause,
Nor add the second cause,
As once your fathers did in Midian,
Saying, "The sword of God and Gideon."
It was the Lord that for his Israel fought,
And this our wonderful salvation wrought."

27 Judas (Aria)

How vain is man, who boasts in fight
The valor of gigantic might!
And dreams not that a hand unseen
Directs and guides the weak machine.

CD 2

Messenger enters

1 Israelite Messenger

Oh Judas, oh my brethren!
New scenes of bloody war
In all their horrors rise.
Prepare, prepare,
Or soon we fall a sacrifice
To great Antiochus; from the
Egyptian coast,
Where Ptolemy hath Memphis and
Pelusium lost,
He sends the valiant Gorgias, and
commands
His proud, victorious bands
To root out Israel's strength, and to erase
Every memorial of the sacred place.

2 Israelite Woman and Chorus

Ah! wretched, wretched Israel!
fallen, how low,
From joyous transport to desponding woe.

3 Simon (Recitative)

Be comforted, nor think these plagues
are sent
For your destruction, but for chastisement. Heaven oft

in mercy punisheth, that sin
May feel its own demerits from within
And urge not utter ruin. Turn to God,
And draw a blessing from His iron rod.

4 Simon (Aria)

The Lord worketh wonders
His glory to raise;
And still, as he thunders
Is fearful in praise.

5 Judas (Recitative)

My arms! against this Gorgias will I go.
The Idumean governor shall know
How vain, how ineffective his design,
While rage his leader, and Jehova mine.

6 Judas (Aria)

Sound an alarm! Your silver trumpets sound,
And call the brave, and only brave, around. Who listeth
follow: to the field again!
Justice with courage is a thousand men.

7 Israelites (Chorus)

We hear, we hear the pleasing dreadful call,
And follow thee to conquest; if to fall,
For laws, religion, liberty, we fall.

8 Simon (Recitative)

Enough! To Heaven we leave the rest.
Such generous ardor firing every breast,
We may divide our cares;
The field be thine, Oh Judas,
and the Sanctuary mine;
For Zion, holy Zion, seat of God,
In ruinous heaps, is by the heathen trod;
Such profanation calls for swift redress,
If e'er in battle Israel hopes success.

9 Simon (Aria)

With pious hearts, and brave as pious,
O Zion, we thy call attend,
Nor dread the nations that defy us,
God our defender, God our friend.

10 Israelite Man (Recitative)

Ye worshippers of God,
Down, down with the polluted altars, down;

Hurl Jupiter Olympus from his throne,
Nor reverence Bacchus, with his ivy crown
And ivy-wreathed rod.
Our fathers never knew him, or his beastl crew,
Or knowing, scorned such idle vanities.

Israelite Woman

No more in Zion let the virgin throng,
Wild with delusion, pay their nightly song
To Ashtoreth, ycleped the Queen of Heaven. Hence to
Phoenicia be the goddess driven,
Or be she, with her priests and pageants, hurled To the
remotest corner of the world,
Ne'er to delude us more with pious lies.

11 Israelite Woman (Aria)

Wise men, flattering, may deceive us
With their vain, mysterious art;
Magic charms can ne'er relieve us,
Nor can heal the wounded heart.
But true wisdom can relieve us,
Godlike wisdom from above;
This alone can never deceive us,
This alone all pains remove.

12 Israelite Woman, Man (Duet)

Oh! never, never bow we down
To the rude stock or sculptured stone,
But ever worship Israel's God,
Ever obedient to his awful nod.

13 Chorus

We never, never will bow down
To the rude stock or sculptured stone.
We worship God, and God alone.

Act III

Israelites reconsecrate the Sanctuary

14 Israelite Man (Aria)

Father of Heaven! from Thy eternal throne
Look with an eye of blessing down,
While we prepare with holy rites
To solemnize the Feast of Lights.
And thus our grateful hearts employ:
And in Thy praise
This altar raise,
With carols of triumphant joy.

15 Israelite Man (Recitative)

See, see yon flames that from the altar broke
In spiry streams pursue the trailing smoke.
The fragrant incense mounts the yielding air,
Sure presage that the Lord hath heard our
prayer.

16 Israelite Woman (Recitative)

Oh grant it, Heaven, that our long woes
may cease,
And Judah's daughters taste the calm of peace; Sons,
brothers, husbands to bewail no more, Tortured at
home, or havocked in the war.

17 Israelite Woman (Aria)

So shall the lute and harp awake
And sprightly voice sweet descant run, Seraphic melody
to make
In the pure strains of Jesse's son.

Enter Messenger

18 Israelite Messenger (Recitative)

From Capharsalama on eagle wings I fly
With tidings of impetuous joy!
Came Lysias, with his host arrayed
In coats of mail; their massy shields
Of gold and brass, flashed lightning
o'er the fields,
While the huge tower-backed elephants
displayed
A horrid front; but Judas undismayed
Met, fought and vanquished all the rageful
train!
Yet more, Nicanor lies with thousands
slain;
The blasphemous Nicanor, who defied
The living God, and, in his wanton pride
A public monument ordained
Of victories yet ungained.
But lo! the conqueror comes;
and on his spear,
To dissipate all fear
He bears the vaunter's head and hand,
That threatened desolation to the land.



Israelites greet returning Judas

19 Youths (Chorus)

See the conquering hero comes!
Sound the trumpets, beat the drums;
Sports prepare, the laurel bring,
Songs of triumph to him sing.

Virgins

See the godlike youth advance!
Breathe the flutes, and lead the dance;
Myrtle wreaths, and roses twine,
To deck the hero's brow divine.

Full Chorus

See, the conquering hero comes, etc.

20 March

21 Duet and Chorus

Sing unto God, and high affections raise
To crown this conquest with unmeasured praise.

22 Judas (Recitative)

Sweet flow the strains that strike my feasted ear;
Angels might stoop from Heaven to hear
The comely song we sing
To Israel's Lord and King.
But pause awhile; due obsequies prepare
To those who bravely fell in war.
To Eleazar special tribute pay;
Through slaughtered troops he cut his way
To the distinguished elephant, and,
'whelmed beneath
The stabbed monster,
Triumphed in a glorious death.

23 Judas (Aria)

With honor let desert be crowned,
The trumpet never in vain shall sound;
But all attentive to alarms
The willing nations fly to arms,
And, conquering or conquered,
claim the prize
Of happy earth, or far more happy skies.

Enter Eupolemus,
the Jewish Ambassador to Rome

24 Eupolemus (Recitative)

Peace to my countrymen, peace and liberty. From the
great Senate of Imperial Rome,
With a firm league of amity, I come.
Rome, whatever nation dare insult us more, Will rouse
in our defense her veteran power, And stretch her
vengeful arm, by land or sea, To curb the proud and set
the injured free.

25 Chorus

To our great God be all the honor given
That grateful hearts can send from earth to Heaven.

26 Israelite Woman (Recitative)

Again to Earth let gratitude descend, Praiseworthy is
our hero and our friend:
Come my fair daughters,
choicest art bestow,
To weave a chaplet for the victor's brow;
And in your songs forever be confessed
The valour that preserved, the power that bless'd.
Blessed you with hours, that scatter as they fly Soft,
quiet, gentle love, and boundless joy.

27 Israelite Woman, Man (Duet)

Oh lovely peace, with plenty crowned
Come, spread thy blessings all around.
Let fleecy flocks the hills adorn,
And valleys smile with wavy corn.
Let the shrill trumpet cease, nor other sound But
nature's songsters wake the cheerful morn.

28 Simon (Aria)

Rejoice, oh Judah! and, in songs divine,
With Cherubim and Seraphim harmonious join.

29 Chorus

Hallelujah! Amen.
O Judah, rejoice, and in songs divine,
With Cherubim and Seraphim harmonious join.

CD 1

1	Overture Largo-Allegro-Largo	4'43	17	Judas "Ambition!"	0'20
			18	Judas "No unhallowed desire"	2'15
Act I					
2	Chorus "Mourn, ye afflicted children"	6'32	19	Israelite Man "Haste we, my brethren"	0'14
3	Israelite Man, Woman "Well may your sorrows"	1'36	20	Chorus "Hear us, oh Lord"	3'22
Act II					
4	Chorus "For Zion lamentation make"	2'57	21	Chorus "Fallen is the foe"	3'27
5	Israelite Man "Not in vain is all this storm"	1'04	22	Soprano Duet, Chorus "Zion now her head shall raise"	5'46
6	Israelite Woman "Pious orgies"	2'51	23	Israelite Woman	0'41
7	Chorus "O Father, whose almighty power"	2'46		"Oh let eternal honors"	
8	Simon "I feel the Deity within"	1'06	24	Israelite Woman "From mighty kings"	8'40
9	Simon "Arm, arm, ye brave!"	3'20	25	Israelite Woman, Man (duet), Chorus "Hail, hail, Judea"	2'24
10	Chorus "We come in bright array"	1'10	26	Judas "Thanks to my brethren"	0'49
11	Judas "'Tis well, my friends"	0'42	27	Judas "How vain is man"	6'07
12	Judas "Call forth thy powers"	2'06			
13	Israelite Woman and Man (duet) "Come, ever-smiling liberty"	1'33	Total time		71'29
14	Chorus "Lead on, lead on"	0'53			
15	Judas "So willed my father"	1'31			
16	Chorus "Disdainful of danger"	2'09			

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George Frideric Handel

Judas Maccabaeus

Israelite woman: **Heather Harper, soprano**

Israelite man: **Helen Watts, contralto**

Judas Maccabaeus: **Alexander Young, tenor**

Simon: **John Shirley-Quirk, baritone**

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

AMOR ARTIS CHORALE,

John McCarthy, chorus master

WANDSWORTH SCHOOL BOYS CHOIR,

Russell Burgess, director

Johannes Somary, conductor

STEMRA ADD



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