

# Napa Valley Chorale

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Mark Teeters, Conductor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NAPA VALLEY CHORALE PRESENTS HANDEL'S MESSIAH

The Napa Valley Chorale presents G. F. Handel's *Messiah* (complete) on Sunday, December 12, 2004, at 3:30 p.m. at the Pacific Union College Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Angwin. The concert will be performed in memory of Isaac Johnson who sang in the bass section of the Chorale for the past several years. Johnson was a popular teacher at Pacific Union College who passed away this past summer.

Featuring professional soloists and orchestra, this performance of the entire *Messiah* will be conducted by Chorale Artistic Director Jan Lanterman and Conductor Mark Teeters. Soloists are Carol Kessler, soprano; Theresa Cardinale, contralto; William Gorton, tenor; and Peter Atherton, bass.

*Messiah* was written by Handel in 24 days and was premiered in Dublin in 1742. Conducted by the composer, the first performance was given for charitable purposes. Following the performance, the *Dublin Journal* reported, "Words are wanting to express the exquisite Delight it afforded to the admiring crouded [sic] Audience. The Sublime, the Grand, and the Tender, adapted to the most elevated, majestick [sic] and moving Words, conspired to transport and charm the ravished Heart and Ear."

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The oratorio is a paragon of popular art—a challenge to professionals, a hummable joy for amateurs, a work susceptible to endless shades of interpretation. The work has been revived again and again over the 263 years since its premiere in churches and concert halls around the world, and in an unending stream of recordings. It has been said that *Messiah* is probably the most important piece of music ever written in western Europe.

The Napa Valley Chorale was founded in 1963 and continues to provide the opportunity for study and performance of major choral repertoire. Singers range from high school age to senior citizens—a microcosm of our population—who join together because of their love of singing and their passion for choral music.

Bay Area soprano soloist Carol Kessler is an international soloist who has performed throughout the United States as well as in Germany and England. She earned the bachelor of science degree at Indiana University and has studied voice with Jim Toland, Nancy Stokes Milnes, and Carol Smith. Her coaches have included Alessandro Misciasci of the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Steve Hess of the Staatstheater in Stuttgart, and locally, Monroe Kanouse. In addition to solo recitals, she has performed soprano solos in many major oratorios. Her previous appearances with the Napa Valley Chorale include Charpentier's Christmas Cantata *In Navitatem Domini Canticum*, Christmas Oratorio by Saint-Saens, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Respighi's *Laud to the Nativity*, and Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*.

Theresa Cardinale, contralto, of San Francisco performs throughout northern California in opera and on the concert stage. She trained at San Francisco State University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She studied with Janet Parlova and Barbara Aurora and in Italy with Maria Louisa Icon. She was a winner of the Western Regional Award of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and maintains voice studios in San Francisco and Berkeley. She has performed with the Napa Valley Chorale in Charpentier's Christmas Cantata *In Navitatem Domini Canticum* and the Christmas Oratorio by Saint-Saens.

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Tenor William Gorton of Napa has performed extensively in venues on the West Coast and sung numerous engagements around the United States and Europe. He has appeared with Opera Pacific, Festival Opera, Sacramento Opera, Orchestra X of Houston, the Stockton Symphony, and the Opera Center of the San Francisco Opera and has recorded with the Russian National Orchestra. His repertoire includes the majority of well known tenor roles. He and his wife, soprano Deidra Palmour, and the Moravian Philharmonic recently released a recording of great opera duos entitled *When Love Goes Wrong*.

Bass-baritone Peter Atherton has performed over thirty-five roles performed with the Los Angeles Opera, Seattle Opera, Baltimore Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Wolf Trap Opera, Virginia Opera, San Francisco Opera Touring Division, Opera Atelier, and the Cairo Opera and with conductors such as Leonard Bernstein, Pierre Boulez, Lukas Foss, and Kurt Herbert Adler. In concert and oratorio he has performed to acclaim with major orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, L'Orchestra de la Suisse Romande, Los Angeles Master Chorale, San Diego Symphony, and the William Hall Chorale. He performed six different roles in *The Phantom of the Opera* in New York, Los Angeles, and Toronto. He has appeared with the Napa Valley Chorale several times, most recently in Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*. He holds degrees from the Juilliard School, USC, and UCLA. Currently he serves as artistic director of Opera Chapman and Professor of Voice at Chapman University in Southern California.

Artistic Director & Conductor Jan Lanterman has conducted the Napa Valley Chorale since 1984. She is artistic assistant in the Choral Music Department at Vintage High School in Napa and is the executive secretary of the American Chorale Directors Association in California. She also serves as director of music at Napa's First United Methodist Church. She is a graduate of California State University, Chico, where she studied with Ralph Wadsworth and sang in the A Cappella Choir. She has studied music

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postgraduate with Jane Marshall, Carlton Young, Louis Magor, Alice Parker, and René Clausen.

Mark Teeters has conducted the Napa Valley Chorale since 2001. He is director of choral activities at Vintage High School in Napa where he conducts five choirs and also serves as chair of the Fine & Performing Arts Department. He is director of music at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Napa and serves as Northern Regional Representative to the Board of Directors of the American Choral Directors Association in California. He holds a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma, where he studied with Dennis Shrock, and received his bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University, where he studied with Jo-Michael Scheibe and Edith Copley.

The Napa Valley Chorale is proud of its connections to members of its Honorary Advisory Board—conductors, arts specialists, composers, and arrangers of international stature, including René Clausen, composer, arranger, and conductor of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota; composer and arranger Henrique de Curitiba of Londrina, Paraná, Brazil; composer William Hawley of New York; Tom Illgen, Executive Director of the Napa Valley Symphony; conductor, pianist, and teacher Louis Magor of Seattle; composer, arranger, and trumpeter Doug Morton of Marin County; conductor Granville Oldham of southern California; composer, arranger, and conductor Alice Parker of New York and western Massachusetts; André Thomas, composer, arranger, and conductor, of Florida State University in Tallahassee, and Carlton Young, composer, arranger, and conductor, of Nashville.

The public is cordially invited to attend the Angwin concert and join with the chorus, soloists, and orchestra for a special sing-along at the conclusion of the performance. Tickets for *Messiah* may be obtained in advance by calling 707-261-6165, online at [www.napavalleychorale.org](http://www.napavalleychorale.org), or at the door the day of the performance.

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