



Handel's Messiah: Comfort for God's People (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Liturgical Studies)

Calvin R. Stapert

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Handel's oratorio *Messiah* is a phenomenon with no parallel in music history. No other work of music has been so popular for so long. Yet familiarity can sometimes breed contempt — and also misunderstanding.

This book by music expert Calvin Stapert will greatly increase understanding and appreciation of Handel's majestic *Messiah*, whether readers are old friends of this remarkable work or have only just discovered its magnificence.

Stapert provides fascinating historical background, tracing not only *Messiah*'s unlikely inception but also its amazing reception throughout history. The bulk of the book offers scene-by-scene musical and theological commentary on the whole work, focusing on the way Handel's music beautifully interprets and illuminates the biblical text.

For anyone seeking to appreciate Handel's *Messiah* more, this informed yet accessible guide is the book to have and read.

(Handel's *Messiah: Comfort for God's People* is the newest volume in the flourishing Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Liturgical Studies Series, edited by John D. Witvliet.)

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