# Performance ephemera as a research resource: what can we learn from their content?

Katharine Hogg
Gerald Coke Handel Collection
The Foundling Museum, London

# Examples of performance ephemera from the Gerald Coke Handel Collection







Last Night but Two. At PLAY-HOUSE PRICES during LENT. TheatreRoyal, Covent Garden, This present FRIDAY, March 11, 1796, Will be performed (for the Last Time this Season) The Sacred Oratorio of The Composed by G. F. HANDEL. To be Opened by Madame MARA. At the end of Part I. a CONCERTO on the HARP by Madame Delaval, PRINCIPAL VOCAL PERFORMERS,
Madame M A R A,
Mifs L E A K, Master ELLIOT, Miss FLETCHER (from Birmingham) And Mifs P A R K E, Mr. KELLY. And Mr. NIELD, Mr. SALE, And Mr. BARTLEMAN. Mr. G. ASHLEY, Leader of the Band, Mcff. Mars, Sarjant, C. Afnley, Boyr, Bridgetower, Lavanu, Warr, Harvey, Parkindon, Taylo, two Flacks, Dreiler, Gradiam, Stort, Pires, USarp, W. Sarp, M. Sarp, M. Sarp, M. Sarp, A. Sarp, A. Archer, Cobham, Nicks, Frank, Simplion Genth, Parney, Letter, Woodham, Gancio, Sailerno, Nicks, Frank, Simplion Grant, Salerno, Corgan, Mr. J. Assiltr., Double Drines (order at Weffminter Abbey) Mr. R. Astiltr., College, Mr. J. Assiltr., Cobbin. Comp. Coll. On Phys. Rev. Lett. Phys. Rev. Lett. Phys. Rev. Lett. Phys. Rev. Phys. Phys. Rev. Phys. Rev. Phys. Rev. Phys. Phys. Rev. Phys. Rev. Phys. Rev. Phys. Phys THE CHORUSSES Will be Numerou and Complex. A SHLEZ?

The Whole under the Direction of Mr. A SHLEZ?

Bore, to—the Direction of Mr. and the Hird-fired.

Bore, to—the Mr. and the Hird-fired the direction in Hirt-fired.

Doer to be spreed a IXI, and the Perionance to begin a SEVIN o'Clock pretity,

prevent the Pilot being imposited page by ferriam primate Backs of the Perionance, the New York of the Perionance of the Perionance of the New York of the Perionance of t

ALEXANDER'S FEAST; OR, THE POWER OF MUSICK. Wrote in Honour of St. CECILIA, By Mr. DRYDEN. Set to MUSTEE by Mr. HANDEL. Hear been Timothess' various Lays jurprife And bid alternate Pajions full and rijs;
While, at each Change, the Son of Libyan Jore
Now barns with Glory, and then melts with Laue; Now his heres Ever with Barkling Fury slop, Now Sight fleat out, and Tears hogin to flows and Greeks like Turns of Nature found, and the World's Viller flood fielda'd by Sound. Pecc's Effey on Criticism. LONDON: Printed for J. and R. Tonson in the Strand, [ Price One Shilling. ]

Hospital for the Maintenance and Education of exposed and deserted young Children.

THIS is to give Notice, that towards the Support of this Charity, the Sacred Oratorio, called,

Will be performed in the Chapel of this Hospital, under the Direction of George Frederick Handel, Esq; on Thursday next, the 27th inst. at twelve o'clock at Noon precitely; and, to prevent the Chapel being crouded, no more Tickets will be delivered than it can coaveniently hold; which are ready to be had of the Steward of the Hospital; at Arthur's Chocolate-bouse in St. James's Street; at Batson's Coffee bouse in Corn bill; and at Tom's Coffee bouse in Devereux Court, at Half a Guinea each. T. COLLINGWOOD, Secretary.



Playbill from 1797, featuring the leading soprano Madame Mara as the main attraction

### HAMPSHIRE MusicMeeting.1

Will be held at WINCHESTER on WEDNESDAY the 6th of SEPTEMBER, and Two following Days. PRINCIPAL VOCAL PERFORMERS:

Mr. CHARD, Mr. HILL, Mr. JAMES MAHON.

Mr. GOSS, &c. &c. PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMERS:

Mr. JOHN MAHON, (Leader of the Band,) Mr. C. ASHLEY, (Principal Violoncello,)

Mr. Smart (principal Double Bass), Mr. Mahon, Mr. R. Ashley, Mr. Wilson, Mr. H. Smart (principal Tenor), Mr. Richards, Mr. Rofs, Mr. Guy, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Sykes, Mr. Christiana, Mr. Royal, &c. &c. The rest of the Band by approved Performers.

On WEDNESDAY EVENING, (at ST. JOHN's HOUSE,) will be performed A SELECTION,

With a MISCELLANEOUS ACT, in which Madame MARA will fing Purcell's celebrated Song of "Mad Bess," for that Night only.

On THURSDAY MORNING, the SACRED ORATORIO of

With a MISCELLANEOUS ACT,
Confifting of some of the most favourite Italian and English Songs, with Chorustes from Alexander's
Feast and Boyce's Solomon; with a CONCERTO on the CLARIONET, by Mr. JOHN MAHON. On FRIDAY MORNING,

### A Grand Selection of Sacred Music.

Taken from the Oratorios of Joshua, Sampson, Athalia, Israel in Egypt, Theodora, Judas Maccabæus, Redemption, &c. &c. To conclude with HANDEL's

#### CORONATION ANTHEM.

On FRIDAY EVENING, a GRAND MISCELLANEOUS CON

On Wednesday and Friday Evenings, will be a BALL.

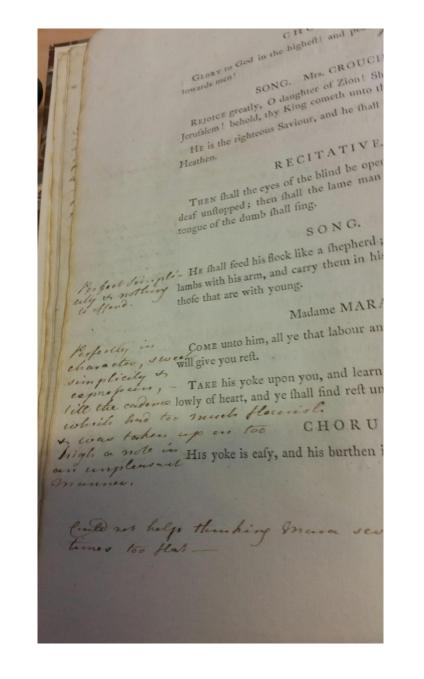
Tickets for the Thurslay Evening Performance at the Theatre, Upper and Lower Boxes 5s. Pit 3s. 6d. Gallery 3s. Tickets for the University of the Cathedral and College, Winchefter.

The Morning Performance will begin at Eleva of College, the Brenning Performances at Seven.

Begin at Eleva October, the Brenning Performances are Seven.

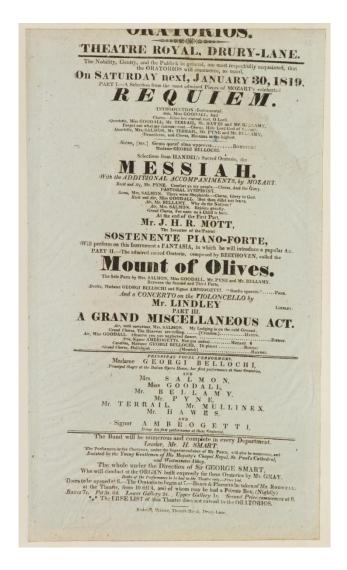
# York Festival programme, 1791

Extensive annotations by the owner who was present, describing Mara at one point as 'flatter than the violins'.

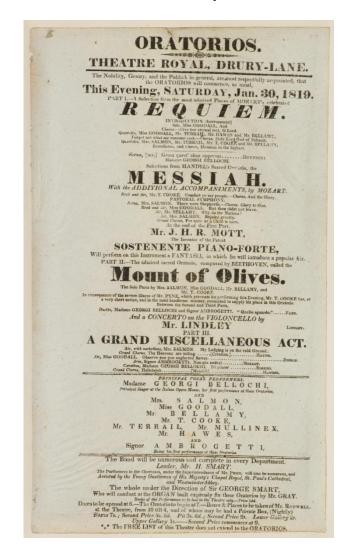


#### Different playbills for the same event, showing late changes in performers

#### Mr Pyne is listed among the soloists



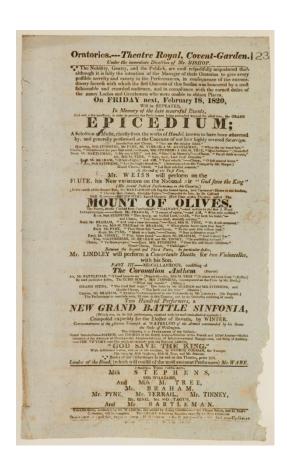
'In consequence of the severe illness of Mr Pyne... Mr Cooke will take his place'



#### Programmes changed at short notice; did the audience take note?

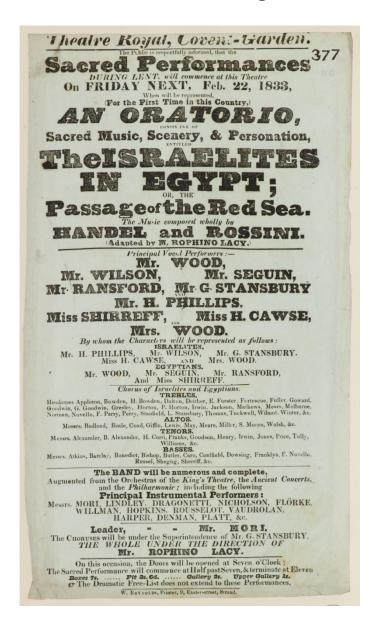
A featured work is Beethoven's *Mount of Olives*, a week before the event

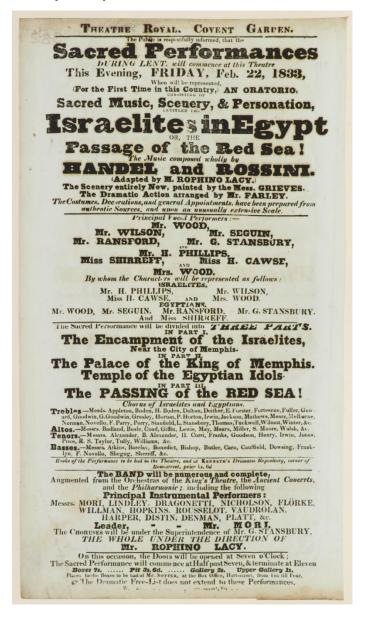
Beethoven's work has been replaced by Handel's Messiah, and much of the 'miscellaneous' section has changed



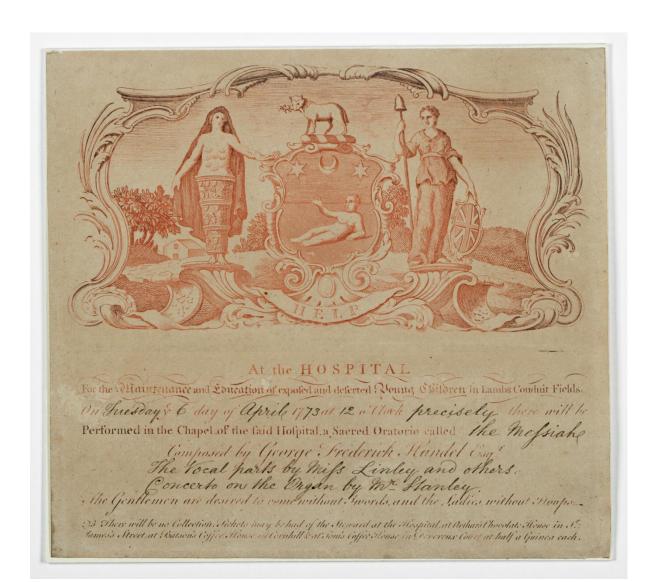


Two different playbills for the same event, apparently printed a week apart. For this rare 'staged oratorio', unusually all performers are listed





# Ticket for performance of Handel's *Messiah* at the Foundling Hospital, 1773. Printed with manuscript additions for this particular performance



Hospital for the Maintenance and Education of exposed and deferted young Children.

PHIS is to give Notice, that towards the Support of this Charity, the Sacred Oratorio, called, M E S S I A H.

Will be performed in the Chapel of this Hospital, under the Direction of George Frederick Handel, Esq; on Thursday next, the 27th inst. at twelve o'clock at Noon precisely; and, to prevent the Chapel being crouded, no more Tickets will be delivered than it can conveniently hold; which are ready to be had of the Steward of the Hospital; at Arthur's Chocolate-bouse in St. James's Street; at Botson's Coffee-bouse in Corn bill; and at Tom's Coffee-bouse in Devereux Court, at Half a Guinea each. T. COLLING WOOD, Secretary.

Riot at Covent Garden Theatre in 1763 when the management stopped allowing reduced price admission to those attending only the last part of the opera



# Three differently priced tickets for a concert at the Yorkshire Musical Festival in 1828, and a supplement to the printed programme







#### THIRD Porkshire Musical Festibal. SUPPLEMENT TO THE SELECTION TO BE PERFORMED ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER, 26, 1828. In the First Part; after the Chorus, Haydn, (in page 20.) LUTHER'S HYMN. Madame CATALANI. (Trumpet Obligato .- Mr. HARPER.) GREAT GOD! WHAT DO I SEE AND HEAR? The end of things created! The Judge of Mankind does appear. On clouds of glory seated. The trumpet sounds, the graves restore The dead that they contained before: Prepare my soul to meet him, (Page 21.)—RECITATIVE, "And God said;" and AIR, "On mighty plumes." Madame CARADORI. (Page 23.)-RECITATIVE AND SONG,-Judas Maccabeus,-HANDEL. Miss PATON. RECITATIVE. O let eternal honours 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 prev." SONG. 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. \*\*\* The Patrons and Public are respectfully informed, that to avoid delay and inconvenience in leaving the Church, no Collections are made at the doors, as is usual at Festivals held for charitable purposes; but that Donations will be thankfully received at the YORK BANKS, on the Festival Account for the Four Charities. R. BUNDERIN, PRINTER, HIGH-SUSECUTE, YORK.

#### Yorkshire Musical Festival 1828



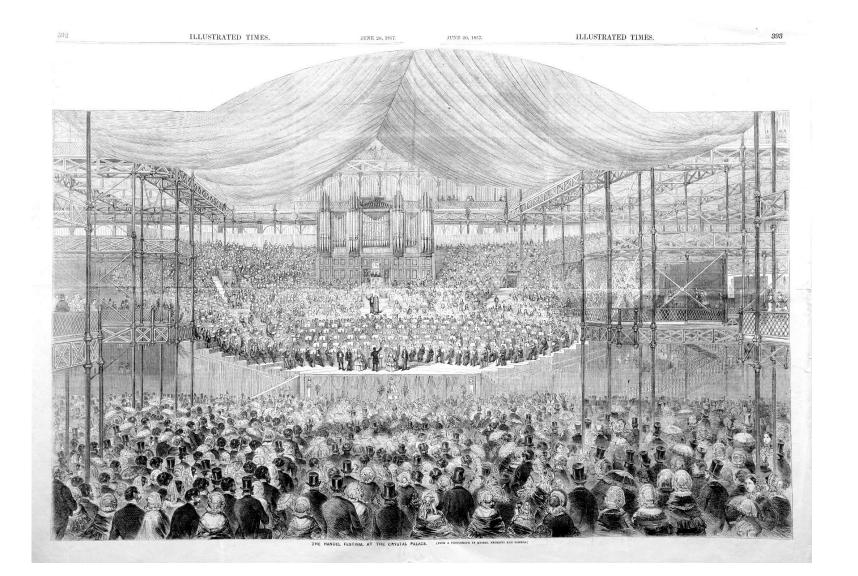
Handel Commemoration 1784, ticket for a performance at Westminster Abbey



## Ticket for a benefit concert for the Choral Fund, 1796, showing the remains of the stub which has been removed



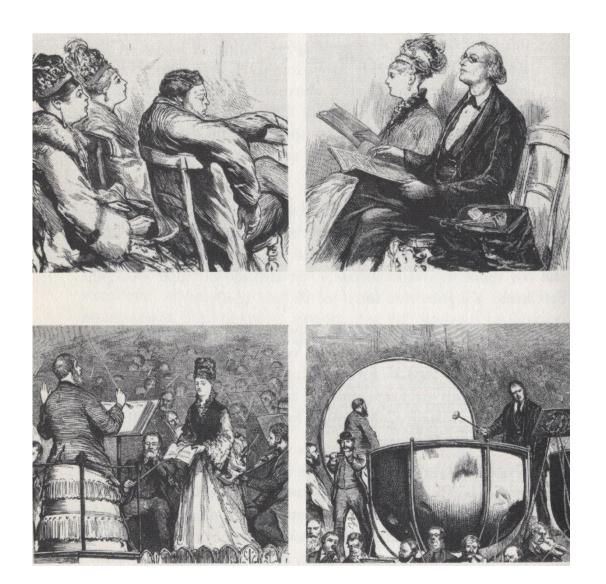
# Depiction of the Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace in 1859, published in the *Illustrated London News*



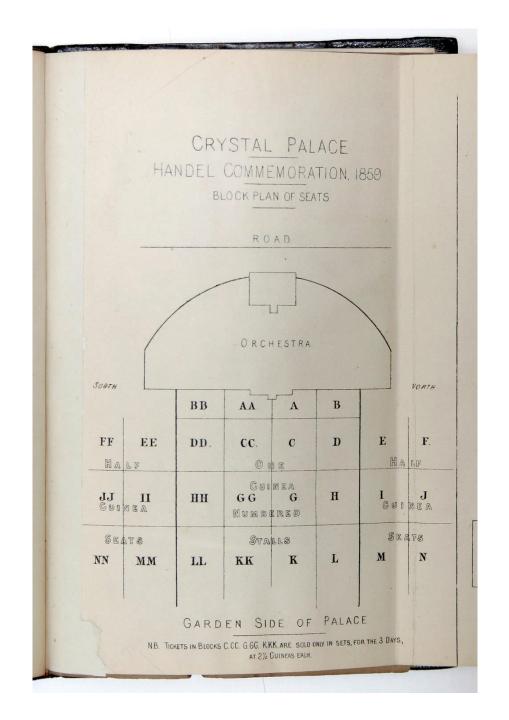
Sheet music cover for a piano score of music from Handel's oratorio Israel in Egypt, showing a view of the Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace in 1859



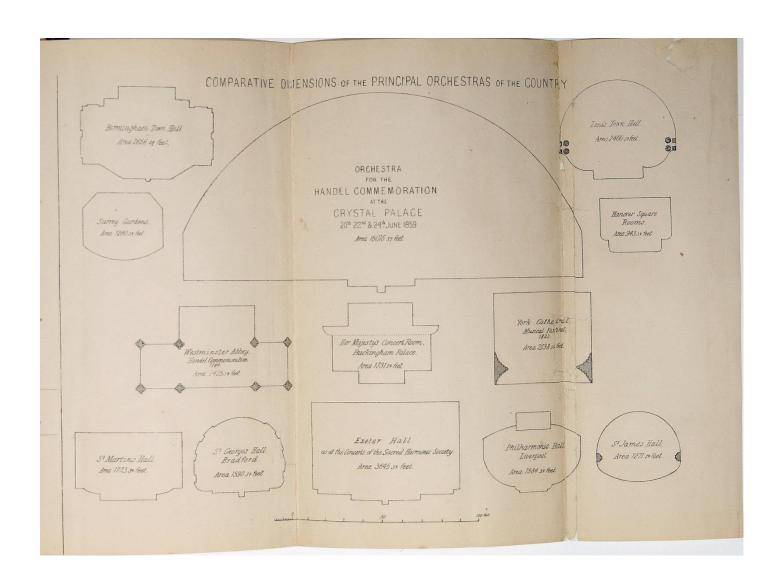
# Caricatures of the audience and performers at the Handel Commemoration Festival in 1859



Seating plan for the audience at the Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace in 1859, noting the different prices for the side seats



# Plan of the stage for the Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace in 1859, comparing the size with other performance venues of the time

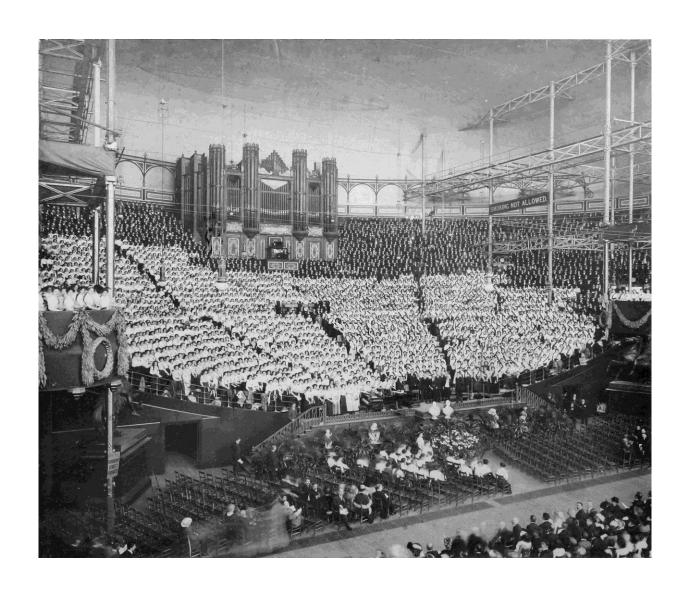


Commemorative medal issued to every performer at the Handel Festival in 1859.

Each medal has the individual's name engraved around the rim.



### Crystal Palace concert at the Festival of Empire, 1911



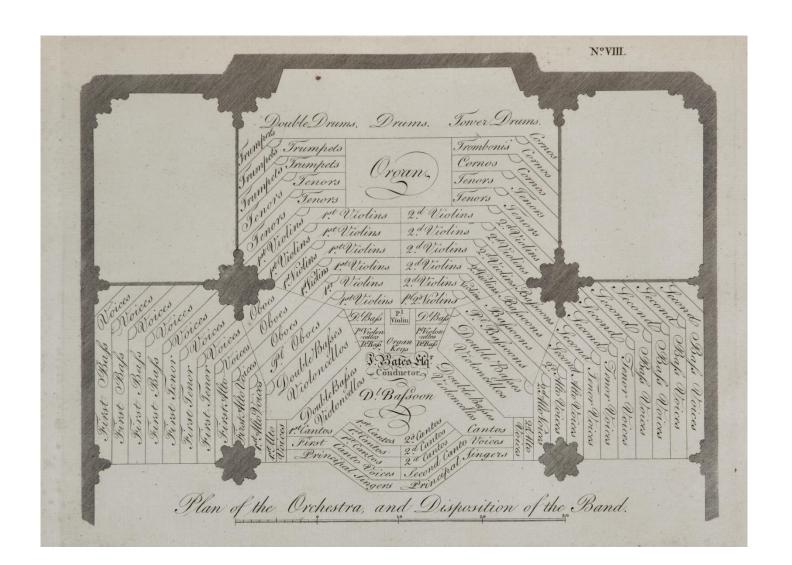
Performers gathered from across the country to sing in the Handel Festivals at the Crystal Palace, including this group fro Yorkshire in 1909.



Payment list for the singers at Handel's *Messiah* at the Foundling Hospital in 1760 (the orchestra listed on the reverse); evidence of the number of performers and the cost of the event



# Plan of the orchestra and singers at the 1784 Handel Commemoration Concerts in Westminster Abbey



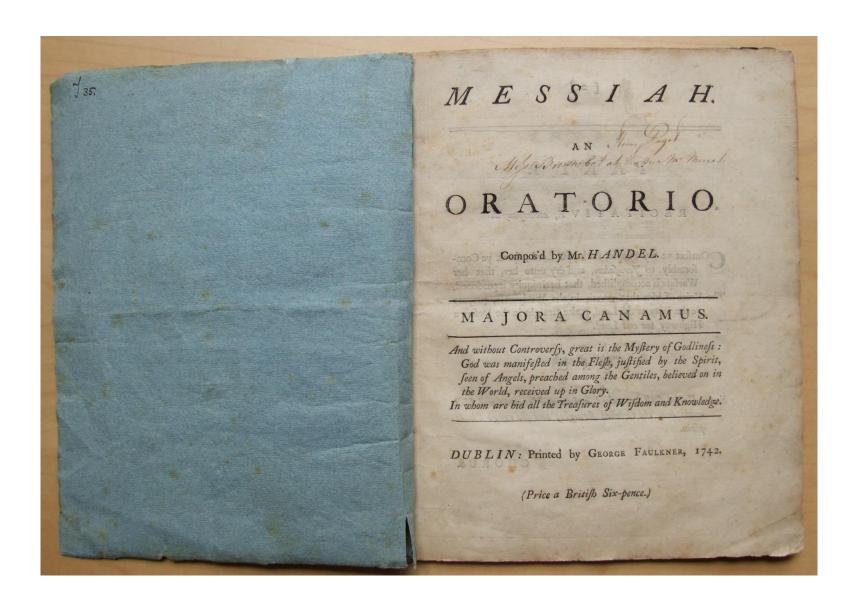
View of the organ and seating installled for the Handel Commemoration in Westminster Abbey in 1784



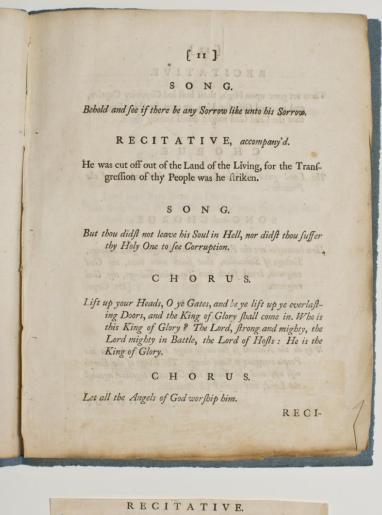
Westminster Abbey at the Handel Commemoration ca. 1790, showing the performers with the sopranos arranged 'decoratively' at the front



# Wordbook for the first performance of Handel's *Messiah* in Dublin in 1742, in its original wrappers



Wordbook for the first performance of Handel's Messiah, 1742. With an errata slip inserted, indicating that a recitative had been missed out in the original printing



Unto which of the Angels faid He at any Time, thou art my Son, this Day have I begotten thee?

CHORUS.

Let all the Angels of God worship bim.

RECI

### Katharine Hogg

handel@foundlingmuseum.org.uk www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk