

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

March 22, 1987

George Frideric Handel: In Celebration of
303 Years of His Life and Music

Order of Service

1. Handel at the Organ --- Michael Briggs
2. "Heroic March," --- Anna Nettleton, violin,
accompanied by Aileen Nettleton
3. Sonatas #1 and #3 for oboe --- Jori Vetzner,
accompanied by Aileen Nettleton
4. "Revenge, Timotheus Cries," from Alexander's Feast (verses by
John Dryden, composed 1726)
--- Michael Sheehy, accompanied by Linda Sheehy
5. Two Songs from The Beggar's Opera (1728):
"Let us take the road. . ." (music stolen from Handel, March in Rinaldo)
"Over the hills and far away," (music from a popular song of the period)
--- the congregation, accompanied by Susan Hagstrom
And a lawyer's chorus from the same — Barbara James, Michael Briggs, & Joe Lawrence
6. Gigue from a Concerto Grosso --- George Calden, Mandolin, and
Ruth Calden, piano
7. "Where E'er You Walk," from Semele (verses from William Congreve,
touched up by Alexander Pope and others, composed 1744)
--- Barbara Park, accompanied by Dodie Chapru
8. An "Allegro" from a Concerto, and an Aria, arranged for
--- The Prairie Winds
9. To be announced — *Joe Lawrence, violin, & Michael Briggs, piano.*

Coordinated by Warren Hagstrom

Closing lines to John Milton, "L'Allegro" (set to music by Handel in 1740)

And ever against eating cares
Lap me in soft Lydian airs,
Married to immortal verse,
Such as the meeting soul may pierce,
In notes with many a winding bout
Of linked sweetness long drawn out,
With wanton heed and giddy cunning,
The melting voice through mazes running,
Untwisting all the chains that tie
The hidden soul of harmony;
That Orpheus' self may heave his head
From golden slumber, on a bed
Of heaped Elysian flowers, and hear
Such strains as would have won the ear
Of Pluto, to have quite set free
His half-regained Eurydice.

These delights if thou canst give,
Mirth, with thee I mean to live.

ON HANDEL'S BLINDNESS

An observer noted, "To see him. . . led to the organ. . . at upwards of seventy years of age, and then ^{conducted} ~~conducted~~ towards the audience to make his accustomed obeisance, was a sight so truly afflicting and deplorable to persons of sensibility, as greatly diminished their pleasure in hearing him perform. . . . I was always much disturbed and agitated by Beard's singing of Samson's air 'Total eclipse,' which moved audiences to tears.

BENJAMIN MARTIN, "TO MR. HANDEL. ON THE LOSS OF SIGHT."

Homer and Milton might complain
They roll'd their sightless orbs in vain;
Yet both have wing'd a daring flight,
Illumin'd by celestial light.
Then let not old Timotheus yield,
Or, drooping, quite th' advent'rous field;
But let his art and vet'ran fire
Call for th the magic of his lyre;
Or make the pealing organ speak
In sounds that might the dead awake:
Or gently touch the springs of woe,
Teach sighs to heave, or tears to flow:
Then with a more exalted rage
Give raptures to the sacred page,
Our glowing hearts to heaven raise
In choral songs and hymns of praise.