

Allegro from “Xerxes”

George F. Handel

arranged by
Ken Selden

1 Full Score

8 Violin 1

8 Violin 2

3 Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)

5 Viola

3 Viola (Violin A.C.)

5 Cello

5 Bass

Extra Part - P3036351

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Program Notes

Best known for his “Hallelujah” chorus, George Frideric Handel was also the composer of an astounding 42 operas between 1705 and 1741. Although the title character of Handel's 1738 opera *Serse* (Xerxes) was a historical figure, the story was of course embellished to include multiple scenarios and subplots popular in Baroque opera: love triangles, cross-dressing characters, anonymous letters, sibling rivalries, and of course, a happy ending.

In the *Allegro* from his overture to *Serse*, Handel creates a lively and vigorous atmosphere full of positive energy and playful interaction between the instruments. Transposed to D major for accessibility, this arrangement can be played in first position for all instruments except for a few notes in the bass part which require a shift to second or third position.

About the Arranger

Ken Selden was appointed conductor and music director of the Symphony Orchestra and New Music Ensemble at Portland State University in the fall of 2006. Under his direction, the PSU Symphony has received three awards in Adventurous Programming from ASCAP and the League of American Orchestras.

Selden is a graduate of New England Conservatory, Indiana University, and Peabody Conservatory. He studied violin with James Buswell and Yuval Yaron, and conducting with Gustav Meier and Markand Thakar. He also performed in master classes for Neeme Jarvi, Jorma Panula, and Yuri Temirkanov, and attended the National Conducting Institute (Kennedy Center) where he worked with Leonard Slatkin and conducted the National Symphony.

An advocate for new music, Selden has worked with composers Pierre Boulez, John Cage, and Tan Dun and has conducted recent world premieres of music by Peter Lieberson, Michael Nyman, and Stephen Paulus. Prior to his appointment at PSU, Selden led a series of performances as assistant conductor of two innovative ensembles – the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the Eos Orchestra. He has also worked extensively with the Juilliard Pre-College Orchestras and the New Jersey Youth Symphony, and was music director of orchestras at Brooklyn College and Columbia University.

Selden made his debut with the National Arts Center Orchestra at the invitation of Pinchas Zuckerman, and subsequently appeared with orchestras of Denver, Baltimore, Minnesota, and North Carolina as well as at music festivals in the United States, Israel, Japan, Romania, and Switzerland. Additionally, he has performed with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra at the David Oistrakh Festival and conducted orchestras in Finland, Italy, and Belgium. Selden has appeared as guest conductor of the Oregon Symphony, Third Angle New Music Ensemble, Portland Youth Philharmonic, and the Newport Symphony. His recording of Mahler and Debussy arrangements with the newly established Martingale Ensemble was released on MSR Classics.

Duration 2:34

Allegro from "Xerxes"

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Allegro ♩ = 104

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Bass

2 3 4

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

5 6 7 8

Allegro from "Xerxes" - Score

9

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

9 10 11 12

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

13 14 15 16

Allegro from "Xerxes" - Score

18

Score for measures 17-20, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass.

Measure 17: Vln. 1 (*p*), Vln. 2 (*p*), Vla. (*p*), Cello (*p*), Bass (*p*).

Measure 18: Vln. 1 (*mp*), Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, Bass.

Measure 19: Vln. 1, Vln. 2 (*mp*), Vla., Cello, Bass.

Measure 20: Vln. 1, Vln. 2 (*mp*), Vla. (*mp*), Cello (*mp*), Bass (*mp*).

24

Score for measures 21-24, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass.

Measure 21: Vln. 1 (*mp*), Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, Bass.

Measure 22: Vln. 1, Vln. 2 (*H3*), Vla., Cello, Bass.

Measure 23: Vln. 1, Vln. 2 (*V*), Vla., Cello, Bass.

Measure 24: Vln. 1 (*mf*), Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, Bass.

Allegro from "Xerxes" - Score

Score for measures 25 to 28, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass.

Measures 25-28 show a rhythmic pattern with accents (*mf*) and dynamic markings (*mf*).

Measures 25-28 show a rhythmic pattern with accents (*mf*) and dynamic markings (*mf*).

Score for measures 29 to 32, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass.

Measures 29-32 show a rhythmic pattern with accents (*p*) and dynamic markings (*p*, *mp*).

Measures 29-32 show a rhythmic pattern with accents (*p*) and dynamic markings (*p*, *mp*).

Allegro from "Xerxes" - Score

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

33 34 35 36 37

mf *f* *mf* *f*

38

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

38 39 40 41

mp *p* *mp* *p*

44

46 47 48 49

52

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Bass

54 55 56 57

Allegro from "Xerxes" - Score

58

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

58 *mp*

59

60 *mf*

61

Adagio ♩ = 72

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

62 *f*

63

64

65

66