

INTERNATIONAL ORANGE CHORALE OF SAN FRANCISCO  
PRESENTS

# MESSIAH'S FALSE AND TRUE

COMPOSED BY REX ISENBERG  
ZANE FIALA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



LIVE PERFORMANCE

**SATURDAY, MAY 21 - 8:00PM**  
**ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
1755 CLAY ST, SAN FRANCISCO

LIVESTREAM

**JUNE 5, 2022 - 5:00PM**



CHRISTOPHER KEADY, ORGAN  
JAMES NICKELL, PERCUSSION  
BRIAN VANDERPOL, NARRATOR



## FROM THE **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Welcome to our Spring 2022 concert series!

Thank you for joining the International Orange Chorale of San Francisco as we present our Spring 2022 program, "Messiahs: False and True." Rex Isenberg's piece calls us to reflect on how people throughout history have – for better and for worse – followed messianic leaders through cycles of longing, enraptured loyalty, and disillusionment. In our tumultuous times, when messianic political and cultural figures are causing tremendous upheavals, this music has become more relevant than ever. Ultimately it asks us to renew a humbler faith in ourselves and each other, to heal our wounds, and to build a better future together.

As always, we extend our deepest thanks to you, our audience. We consider all of you a part of the IOCSF community, and we absolutely love sharing our music with you. Our seasons would not be possible without your support. We hope our program this evening enriches your lives, opens your ears, and redoubles your interest in new music from around the world.

Thank you once again for being here and sharing in our continuing musical explorations. You make this adventure possible!



**IF YOU LIKE  
CHORAL MUSIC,  
YOU NEED TO LISTEN**

*Learn more about tonight's piece from  
composer Rex Isenberg's In Unison interview.*

**[www.inunisonpodcast.com/messiahs](http://www.inunisonpodcast.com/messiahs)**



**ZANE FIALA** | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# Messiahs: False and True

## **PART I**

- 1 - Consolamini, consolamini
- 2 - Vox clamantis
- 3 - Populus qui ambulabat in tenebris
- 4 - Exsulta satis, filia Sion

## **PART II**

- 5 - Dominus dabit verbum evangelizantibus
- 6 - Omnes videntes me deriserunt me – Qui habitat in cælis irredebit eos
- 7 - Omnes nos quasi oves erravimus
- 8 - Videtis, videtis
- 9 - Nos autem sperabamus

## **EPILOGUE**

- 10 - Man is his own star



## **PERFORMERS**

**Christopher Keady** Organ

**James Nickell** Percussion

**Brian Vanderpol** Narrator

***Messiahs: False and True** was commissioned by Mark Shapiro and Cantori New York in 2014 and premiered on March 7, 2015 at Church of St. Luke in the Fields in New York City with Kathleen Chalfant as narrator. This represents the 2019 revision of the piece for Choral Chameleon.*



# CONCERT NOTES

## REX ISENBERG, COMPOSER

Messianic leaders are a perennial motif in human history. During periods of crisis or cultural upheaval, societies gravitate toward individuals who promise salvation, elevating them to power. Some of these leaders become our greatest heroes, others our most hateful villains. Nevertheless, we find ourselves looking to them for answers again and again.

***Messiahs: False and True*** (for choir, organ, bass drum, and narrator) explores this phenomenon through a tour of messianic figures – heroic and horrific – throughout history. The narrative of the piece follows society’s common response to such figures: anticipation, jubilation, disappointment, condemnation, grief. The spoken narration consists of a collage of texts from various messianic leaders and their admirers and critics. Their words are paired with biblical passages used in Handel’s *Messiah*, sung in Latin by the choir, which follow the events of the story and respond to the narration.

After this journey, the final words of the piece ask us to consider relying a bit less on our would-be saviors and a bit more on ourselves.

### ABOUT THE COMPOSER

**REX ISENBERG** (b.1987) is a Los Angeles-based composer whose music has been described as “timeless” and “inviting” (Herald Times, IN). Many of Isenberg’s works touch upon the nature of human relationships from the personal to the societal throughout history and the present day. He is also devoted to expanding the catalog of Jewish liturgical music, with compositions that honor the spirit of the original text while offering renewed meaning for contemporary audiences.

Isenberg holds a B.A. in Music from Yale University, and Master’s and Doctorate degrees in Composition from Manhattan School of Music. He studied composition with Richard Danielpour, Reiko Fütting, Kathryn Alexander, Michael Klingbeil, and Missy Mazzoli.



Born in Philadelphia, he lives in L.A. with his husband Matt. Select choral works are available through ECS Publishing.



# PROGRAM TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

## PART I

### Movement 1 - *Consolamini, consolamini*

*Consolamini, consolamini, popule meus, dicit Deus vester. Loquimini ad cor Jerusalem, et advocate eam quoniam completa est malitia ejus, dimissa est iniquitas illius.*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been pardoned.

—Isaiah 40:1-2

#### NARRATOR:

The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit, to choose our better history, to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.

—Barack Obama, "First Inaugural Address," 2009

#### CHOIR:

*Consolamini, consolamini, popule meus, dicit Deus vester.*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

—Isaiah 40:1-2

My brethren and friends! May you be privileged to see God's salvation, to be eyewitnesses to His return to Zion!

—Sabbatai Zevi, "Letter to the People of Sofia" from Baruch of Arezzo's  
*Memorial to the Children of Israel*, 1668

A voice calls from the wilderness!

—Isaiah 40:3

## Movement 2 - *Vox clamantis*

### CHOIR:

*Vox clamantis in deserto: Parate viam Domini.*

A voice calls in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the LORD.

—Isaiah 40:3

### NARRATOR:

The time for empty talk is over. Now arrives the hour of action. This carnage stops right here and right now. From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land. The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer. You will never be ignored again.

—Donald Trump, "Inaugural Address," 2017

### CHOIR:

*Vox clamantis in deserto: Parate viam Domini, rectas facite in solitudine semitas Dei nostri.*

A voice calls in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

—Isaiah 40:3

## Movement 3 - *Populus qui ambulabat in tenebris*

### NARRATOR:

In his great spirit, he lives among the people. As he pauses for the night in a village, or in the open countryside, great throngs come to him as to a holy shrine. He would seem to be what the people regard him – the perfect and universal man, simple and undefiled. His endeavour is to wipe out the barriers which divide the people from one another, and make them one great united brotherhood. His idealism transcends the boundaries of race and country, and seeks to make itself one with the highest hopes of humanity.

—John Haynes Holmes, "Mahatma Gandhi: Who is the Greatest Man in the World Today," 1921

### CHOIR:

*Populus qui ambulabat in tenebris, vidit lucem magnam; habitantibus in regione umbræ mortis, lux!*

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light [shines].

—Isaiah 9:2

## **Movement 4** - *Exsulta satis, filia Sion*

### **CHOIR:**

*Lux! Lux! Exsulta satis!*

Light! Light! Rejoice greatly!

—Zechariah 9:9-10

### **NARRATOR:**

By ascending the throne, he fulfilled the highest hopes of the people. Full and absolute power was at once put into his hands by the senate and the mob.

He was met by a dense and joyful throng, who called him their "star." 'I prayed to the gods for our tyrant to die and for you to become our king.'

—Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars*, "The Life of Caligula," A.D. 121

### **CHOIR:**

*Exsulta satis, Sion, jubila filia Jerusalem ecce rex tuus veniet tibi justus et salvator ... et loquetur pacem gentibus.*

Rejoice greatly, Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king comes to you, righteous and a savior ... and he will speak peace to the nations.

—Zechariah 9:9-10

## **PART II**

## **Movement 5** - *Dominus dabit verbum evangelizantibus*

### **NARRATOR:**

But soon the people began whispering about him. Some said he was a good man, but others thought he deceived the people. Still many believed in him fervently, saying, "When the Messiah comes, will he perform more miracles than this man?" No one would question him publicly out of fear.

At the festival, the man stood up and addressed the people. "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me rivers of living water will flow forth from within them." Some of the people cried out, "Surely this man is our prophet. He is the Messiah!" But others replied, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee?"

The priests observed, "This mob knows nothing – there is a spell on them."

And every man retreated into his own house. And so the people were divided.  
—John 7:12-13, 31, 37-38, 40-41, 49, 53. Alt. Rex Isenberg

**CHOIR:**

*Dominus dabit verbum evangelizantibus virtute multa.*

The Lord gave the word: great was the company of the preachers.

—Psalm 68:11

**Movement 6** - *Omnes videntes me deriserunt me –  
Qui habitat in cælis irredabit eos*

**CHOIR:**

*Omnes videntes me deriserunt me.*

All who see me mock me.

—Psalm 22:7

*Qui habitat in cælis irridebit eos, et Dominus subsannabit eos.*

He that dwells in Heaven shall laugh at them; The Lord shall have them in derision.

—Psalm 2:4

**NARRATOR:**

No man has rendered more important services to his country than this man. His deeds have shed imperishable glory upon his country and his name. For these services, his country is grateful. But these great services and deeds of devotion to the general welfare, and perilous defense of his native soil, are the sources of envy in the minds of malignant partisans and bad-hearted men. Such men have filled the country with gross misrepresentations of his character and conduct. Every act of his life has been perverted. No man, elevated and noble in his devotion under great emergencies, and in the most trying times, has been so much defamed. No man has been more foully slandered.

—Henry Lee, "A Vindication of the Character of Andrew Jackson," 1828

**CHOIR:**

*Omnes videntes me deriserunt me.*

All who see me mock me.

—Psalm 22:7

**NARRATOR:**

The standard of truth has been erected. No unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing, persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, but the truth will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent till it



has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the great Jehovah shall say the work is done!

—Joseph Smith, *History of the Church: The Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*,  
"The Wentworth Letter," 1842

**CHOIR:**

*Qui habitat in cælis irridebit eos, et Dominus subsannabit eos.*

He that dwells in Heaven shall laugh at them; The Lord shall have them in derision.

—Psalm 2:4

**Movement 7** - *Omnes nos quasi oves erravimus*

**NARRATOR:**

It is time for us to realize that we're too great to limit ourselves to small dreams. We're not, as some would have us believe, doomed to an inevitable decline. Let us begin an era of renewal. Let us renew our determination, our courage, and our strength. And let us renew our faith and our hope. We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we're in a time when there are no heroes, they just don't know where to look.

—Ronald Reagan, "First Inaugural Address," 1981

**CHOIR:**

*Omnes nos quasi oves erravimus, unusquisque in viam suam declinavit: et posuit Dominus in eo iniquitatem omnium nostrum.*

All we like sheep have gone astray, each one in his own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

—Isaiah 53:6

**NARRATOR:**

Let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

—Abraham Lincoln, "Second Inaugural Address," 1865

**CHOIR:**

*Et posuit Dominus in eo iniquitatem omnium nostrum.*

And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

—Isaiah 53:6

*Et livore ejus sanati sumus.*

And with his stripes we are healed.

—Isaiah 53:5

*Omnes nos quasi oves erravimus, unusquisque in viam suam declinavit: et posuit Dominus in eo iniquitatem omnium nostrum.*

All we like sheep have gone astray, each one in his own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

—Isaiah 53:6

## **Movement 8 - Videtis, videtis**

### **NARRATOR:**

He's a liar, a despot, and a buffoon.

—*Harper's Weekly* on Abraham Lincoln, 1864

### **CHOIR:**

*Videtis quia nihil proficimus? Ecce mundus post eum abiit.*

Do you see how you can do nothing? Look, the world has gone after him!

—John 12:19

### **NARRATOR:**

He was going to bring poverty to an absolute end! He promised to see that there would be no such thing as a man without a home and the comforts of a home. He promised that there would be no such thing as an unemployed man or woman, but how many of you are unemployed today? Why have this misery and this distress? Why have people hungry? Why have our people homeless? Why? Because this man refused to carry out his promise to the people.

—Huey Long on Franklin D. Roosevelt, *Congressional Record*, 1935

### **CHOIR:**

*Ecce mundus totus post eum abiit.*

Look, the world has gone after him!

—John 12:19

### **NARRATOR:**

And the people cried out, "Away with him!"

—John 19:15

**CHOIR:**

*Nos audivimus ex lege, quia Christus manet in æternum.*

We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever.

—John 12:34

*Si tu es Christus, salvum fac temet ipsum et nos.*

Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

—Luke 23:39

*Quia Filium Dei se fecit. Se fecit! Crucifige, crucifige!*

Because he made himself the son of God. Crucify, crucify!

—John 19:7, 19:6

**Movement 9 - *Nos autem sperabamus***

**NARRATOR:**

A hush solemn stillness went out over the land.

The heads of the people were bowed – like the waves of the sea when first swept by the tempest, only to rise later in the storm.

For a moment there stole through men's hearts a strange distrust of each other. They looked at their fellow citizens with a searching glance, which said not so much who are you but what are you and how do you feel at this mournful hour?

What was the cause of our grief? It was not because the country had lost a leader, but because the world had lost a man - one whose like we may not see again.

—Frederick Douglass, "Eulogy for Abraham Lincoln," 1863

**CHOIR:**

*Nos autem sperabamus quia ipse esset redempturus Israel*

But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.

—Luke 24:21

*Consolamini, consolamini.*

Comfort ye, comfort ye.

—Isaiah 40:1-2

**NARRATOR:**

Let us be vigilant, but not afraid. It falls on each of us to be guardians of our democracy; to embrace the joyous task we've been given to continually try to improve this great nation of ours. Because for all our outward differences, we all share the same proud title: Citizen.

I will be right there with you, as a citizen, for all my remaining days. But for now, I have one final ask of you: I'm asking you to believe. Not in my ability to bring about change – but in yours.

—Barack Obama, "Farewell Address," 2017

**EPILOGUE****Movement 10** - Man is his own star**NARRATOR:**

Our chief want in life is somebody who shall inspire us to be what we could be.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The Conduct of Life," 1904

Stand with a leader that stands right. Stay with him while he is right but part with him when he goes wrong.

—Abraham Lincoln, "Peoria Speech," 1854

If you make yourself a sheep, the wolves will eat you.

—Benjamin Franklin, "Letter to Jane Mecom," 1773

We can have faith in the future only if we have faith in ourselves.

—John F. Kennedy, "The New Frontier," 1960

**CHOIR:**

Man is his own star, and the soul that can  
Render an honest, and a perfect man,  
Commands all light, all influence, all fate  
Nothing to him falls early or too late.  
Our acts our angels are, or good or ill,  
Our fatal shadows that walk by us still.

—John Fletcher, "The Honest Man's Fortune," 1613



# THE SINGERS

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Kim Kaz  
Grace Kendall  
Mandy Lai\*  
Marcialyn Lopez  
Regina Merrill  
Jane Spencer Mills  
Sara Wiant

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Austin Spivey  
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Melike Yersiz

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Jon Diaz  
Myles K. Glancy  
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\* indicates section leader

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## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



**Zane Fiala** has been a member of the International Orange Chorale of San Francisco (IOCSF) since 2007 and was named Artistic Director in 2009. During his time with the chorale, Zane has collaborated on concerts and new works with composers including Jake Heggie, Fredrik Sixten, Robin Estrada, and Caroline Shaw. In 2010, he conducted IOCSF in the West Coast premiere (and first-ever unaccompanied performance) of Milton Babbitt's *Music for the Mass*. As director for IOCSF, Zane pioneered the *Freshly Squeezed* program—a concert entirely made up of premieres, presented every other year. His work with the ensemble has led to the premieres of over 100 compositions, including two of his own. He is also the producer and co-host of the choral music podcast, *In Unison*.

Mr. Fiala received his M.A. in Choral Conducting from San Francisco State University, where he studied with Dr. Joshua Habermann, and his B.A. in Jazz Studies from Columbia College Chicago.



## WE THANK YOU IOC SUPPORTERS

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church; St. Luke's Episcopal Church & Joy-Leilani Garbutt; Eric Choate of Grace Cathedral; David Conte; Zach Miley for Audio/Visual Engineering; Helene Whitson for helpful repertoire suggestions; Emil Wilson for design of this season's concert program and poster; Joey Kotfica, Bradley Roberge, Teresa Tam, Melinda McConchie for photos and graphics; all volunteers and IOCSF members past and present for helping us share this gorgeous music with you.



## ABOUT **IOCSF**



Recipient of the 2011 Chorus America / ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming, the International Orange Chorale of San Francisco (IOCSF), led by Artistic Director Zane Fiala, was founded in 2003. Named after the color of the Golden Gate Bridge, the International Orange Chorale of San Francisco is an auditioned, all-volunteer chamber choir devoted to performing established

repertoire of all periods, with particular attention to contemporary music, including newly commissioned works by promising composers.

IOCSF has performed world premieres of twenty-five choral works and has also presented regional premieres of five works, including Milton Babbitt's "Music for the Mass," Nico Muhly's "Lorde Heare My Prayer," Jake Heggie's "Faith Disquiet," and Pulitzer Prize-winner Caroline Shaw's "Fly Away I." IOCSF has collaborated with Frederica von Stade, Zheng Cao, Jake Heggie, and Nicolle Foland; appeared as part of the Noontime Concert Series at Old St. Mary's Church and the Noe Valley Chamber Music Series in San Francisco; performed in collaboration with the Yale Glee Club at Grace Cathedral; participated in the Haiti Earthquake Relief Concert at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland; and served as a Featured Ensemble at the Chorus America National Conference by giving both performances and master classes. Since its inception, the group has been committed to performing free concerts featuring challenging and imaginative a cappella choral programming.



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