

MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

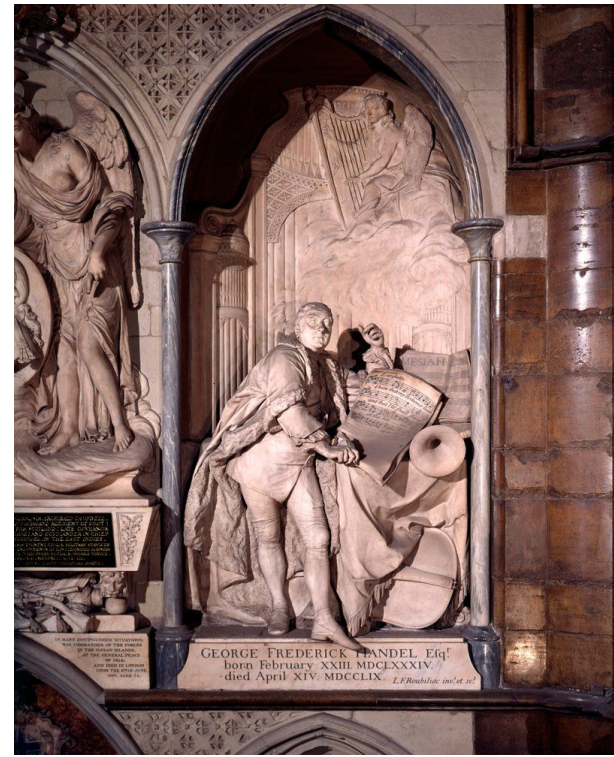
On this date in 1741 composer George Frideric Handel finished his *Messiah* after 24 days of swift composition. It is an **oratorio** (a musical composition with dramatic text for choir, soloists and orchestra. Similar to an opera, but with minimal staging).

It was first performed in Dublin in April 1742, then London a year later, and initially wasn't very successful, but it became one of the best known and most frequently performed choral works.

Messiah tells the story of Jesus as the Messiah from the King James Bible. Part 1 tells of his life, Part 2 the Passion of Jesus and the famous *Hallelujah Chorus*, Part 3 covers resurrection and Christ's glorification in heaven.

The original manuscript is preserved in the British Library. The Royal Choral Society have performed Handel's *Messiah* on Good Friday at the Royal Albert Hall every year since 1876. ([4 min video of Hallelujah Chorus](#)).

Handel was born in Germany and moved to England in 1712, becoming a British citizen in 1727. When he died in 1759 he was given a state funeral at Westminster Abbey, where he is buried in Poet's Corner (pictured).



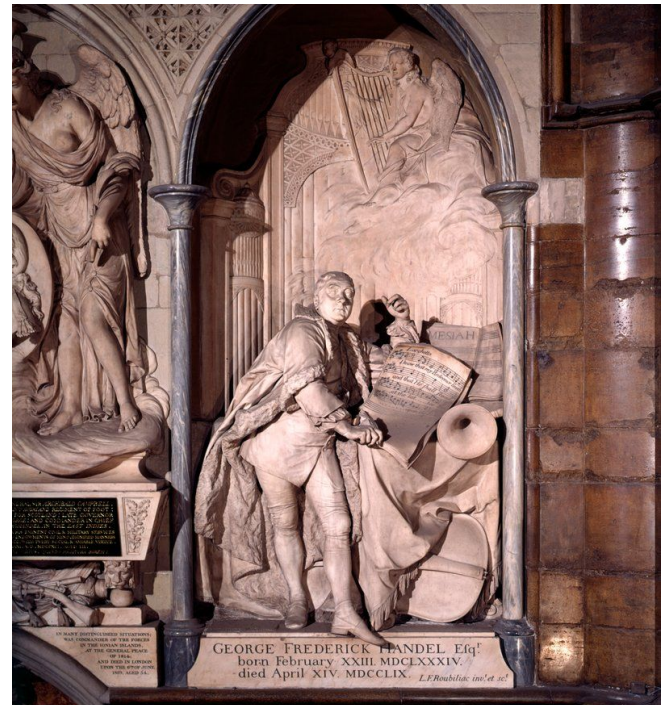
- 1) How does *Hallelujah Chorus* make you feel? Do you want to hear more of *Messiah*?
- 2) Why do you think Handel was given a state funeral?

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- 1) How does *Hallelujah Chorus* make you feel?
- 2) Why do you think Handel was given a state funeral?