



THE CREATION

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

text by Baron Gottfried van Swieten (1733-1803)

PART ONE

Orchestral Prelude: The Representation of Chaos

Recitative and Chorus

Raphael

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth; and the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

Chorus

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters; and God said: Let there be light; and there was light.

Uriel

And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

Aria and Chorus

Uriel

Now vanish before the holy beams the gloomy dismal shades of dark; the first of days appears. Disorder yields to order fair the place. Affrighted fled hell's spirits black in throngs; down they sink in the deep of abyss, to endless night.

Chorus

Despairing, cursing rage attends their rapid fall. A new created world springs up at God's command.

Recitative

Raphael

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters, which were under the firmament, from the waters which were above the firmament, and it was so. Outrageous storms now dreadful arose; as chaff by the winds are impelled the clouds. By heaven's fire the sky is enflamed, and awful rolled the thunders on high. Now from the floods in streams ascend reviving showers of rain, the dreary wasteful hail, the light and flaky snow.

Solo and Chorus

Gabriel

The marv'llous work beholds amaz'd the glorious hierarchy of heav'n, and to the ethereal vaults resound the praise of God, and of the second day.

Chorus

And to the ethereal vaults resound the praise of God, and of the second day.

Recitative*Raphael*

And God said: Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear; and it was so. And God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of waters called He seas; and God saw that it was good.

Aria*Raphael*

Rolling in foaming billows uplifted roars the boist'rous sea. Mountains and rocks now emerge, their tops into the clouds ascend. Thro' the open plains outstretching wide in serpent error rivers flow. Softly purling glides on thro' silent vales the limpid brook.

Recitative*Gabriel*

And God said: Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind, whose seed is in itself upon the earth; and it was so.

Aria*Gabriel*

With verdure clad the fields appear delightful to the ravish'd sense; by flowers sweet and gay enhanced is the charming sight. Here vent their fumes the fragrant herbs; here shoots the healing plant. By load of fruits the expanded boughs are press'd; to shady vaults are bent the tufty groves; the mountain's brow is crown'd with closed wood.

Recitative*Uriel*

And the heavenly host proclaimed the third day, praising God and saying:

Chorus

Awake the harp, the lyre awake! In shout and joy your voices raise! In triumph sing the mighty Lord! For He the heavens and earth has clothed in stately dress.

Recitative*Uriel*

And God said: Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night, and to give light upon the earth; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and for years. He made the stars also.

Recitative*Uriel*

In splendor bright is rising now the sun and darts his rays; an am'rous, joyful, happy spouse, a giant proud and glad to run his measur'd course. With softer beams and milder light steps on the silver moon thro' silent night. The space immense of the azure sky innum'rous host of radiant orbs adorns, and the sons of God announced the fourth day in song divine, proclaiming thus His power:

Chorus and Soli*Chorus*

The heavens are telling the glory of God; the wonder of his works displays the firmament.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael

To day that is coming speaks it the day; the night that is gone to following night.

Chorus

The heavens are telling the glory of God; the wonder of his works displays the firmament.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael

In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived. ever understood.

Chorus

The heavens are telling the glory of God; the wonder of his works displays the firmament.

PART TWO

Recitative

Gabriel

And God said: Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

Aria

Gabriel

On mighty pens uplifted soars the eagle aloft, and cleaves the sky in swiftest flight to the blazing sun. His welcome bids to morn the merry lark, and cooing calls the tender dove his mate. From ev'ry bush and grove resound the nightingale's delightful notes. No grief affected yet her breast, nor to a mournful tale were tun'd her soft, enchanting lays.

Recitative

Raphael

And God created great whales, and ev'ry living creature that moveth, and God blessed them, saying: Be fruitful all and multiply! Ye winged tribes, be multiplied and sing on ev'ry tree! Multiply, ye finny tribes and fill each wat'ry deep! Be fruitful, grow and multiply! And in your God and Lord rejoice!

Recitative

Raphael

And the angels struck their immortal harps, and the wonders of the fifth day sang.

Trio

Gabriel

Most beautiful appear, with verdure young adorn'd the gently sloping hills. Their narrow, sinuous veins distill in crystal drops the fountain fresh and bright.

Uriel

In lofty circles plays, and hovers thro' the sky the cheerful host of birds. And in the flying whirl the glitt'ring plumes are dyed as rainbows by the sun.

Raphael

See flashing thro' the wet in thronged swarms the fry on thousand ways around. Upheaved from the deep, the immense Leviathan sports on the foaming wave.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael

How many are thy works, O God! Who may their numbers tell? Who? O God! Who may their numbers tell?

Chorus and Soli

The Lord is great, and great His might; His Glory lasts forever, and evermore.

Recitative

Raphael

And God said: Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind; cattle and creeping thing, and beasts of the earth after their kind.

Recitative

Raphael

Strait opening her fertile womb, the earth obey'd the word, and teem'd creatures numberless, in perfect forms and fully grown. Cheerful roaring stands the tawny lion. In sudden leaps the flexible tiger appears. The nimble stag bears up his branching head. With flying mane and fiery look, impatient neighs the sprightly steed. The cattle in herds already seek his food on fields and meadows green. And o'er the ground, as plants, are spread the fleecy, meek and bleating flock. Unnumber'd as the sands in whirl arose the host of insects. In long dimensions creeps with sinuous trace the worm.

Aria

Raphael

Now heav'n in fullest glory shone; earth smiles in all her rich attire. The room of air with fowl is fill'd, the water swell'd by shoals of fish; by heavy beasts the ground is trod. But all the work was not complete. There wanted yet that wond'rous being that grateful should God's pow'r admire, with heart and voice His goodness praise.

Recitative

Uriel

And God created man in His own image. In the image of God created He him. Male and female created He them. He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

Aria

Uriel

In native worth and honor clad, with beauty, courage, strength adorn'd, to heav'n erect and tall, he stands a man, the Lord and King of nature all. The large and arched front sublime of wisdom deep declare the seat, and in his eyes with brightness shines the soul, the breath and image of his God. With fondness leans upon his breast the partner for him form'd, a woman fair and graceful spouse. Her softly smiling virgin looks, of flow'ry spring the mirror, bespeak him love, and joy, and bliss.

Recitative

Raphael

And God saw ev'rything that He had made; and behold, it was very good; and the heavenly choir in song divine, thus closed the sixth day.

Chorus

Achieved is the glorious work; the Lord beholds it and is pleas'd. In lofty strains let us rejoice! Our song let be the praise of God!

Trio

Gabriel, Uriel

On thee each living soul awaits; from thee, O Lord, they beg their meat. Thou openest thy hand, and sated all they are.

Raphael

But as to them thy face is hid, with sudden terror they are struck. Thou tak'st their breath away; they vanish into dust.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael

Thou lett'st thy breath go forth again, and life with vigor fresh returns. Revived earth unfolds new force and new delights.

Chorus

Achieved is the glorious work. Our song let be the praise of God! Glory to His name forever; He sole on high exalted reigns, alleluia.

PART THREE

Introduction: Morning

Recitative

Uriel

In rosy mantle appears, by tunes sweet awak'd, the morning young and fair. From the celestial vaults pure harmony descends on ravished earth. Behold the blissful pair, where hand in hand they go! Their flaming looks express what feels the grateful heart. A louder praise of God their lips shall utter soon. Then let our voices ring, united with their song!

Duet and Chorus

Eve, Adam

By thee with bliss, O bounteous Lord, the heav'n and earth are stor'd. This world, so great, so wonderful, Thy mighty hand has fram'd.

Chorus

For ever blessed be His pow'r! His name be ever magnified!

Adam

Of stars the fairest, O how sweet thy smile at dawning morn! How brighten'st thou, O sun, the day, thou eye and soul of all!

Chorus

Proclaim in your extended course, proclaim the almighty pow'r and praise of God!

Eve

And Thou that rules the silent night, and all ye starry host, spread wide and ev'rywhere His praise in choral songs about!

Adam

Ye strong and cumb'rous elements, who ceaseless changes make, ye dusky mists and dewy steams, who raise and fall thro' the air,

Adam, Eve, Chorus

Resound the praise of God our Lord! Great His name, and great His might.

Eve

Ye purling fountains tune His praise, and wave your tops, ye pines! Ye plants exhale, ye flowers breathe at Him your balmy scent!

Adam

Ye that on mountains stately tread, and ye, that lowly creep; ye birds that sing at heaven's gate, and ye, that swim the stream,

Adam, Eve, Chorus

Ye living souls extol the Lord! Him celebrate, Him magnify!

Adam, Eve

Ye valleys, hills, and shady woods, our raptur'd notes ye heard; from morn to ev'n you shall repeat our grateful hymns of praise.

Chorus

Hail, bounteous Lord! Almighty, hail! Thy word call'd forth this wond'rous frame. Thy pow'r adore the heav'n and earth, we praise Thee now and evermore.

Recitative

Adam

Our duty we performed now in off'ring up to God our thanks. Now follow me, dear partner of my life! Thy guide I'll be, and ev'ry step pours new delights into our breast, shows wonders ev'rywhere. Then may'st thou feel and know the high degree of bliss the Lord allotted us, and with devoted heart His bounty celebrate. Come follow me! Thy guide I'll be.

Eve

O thou, for whom I am! My help, my shield, my all! Thy will is law to me. So God, our Lord, ordains, and from obedience grows my pride and happiness.

Duet

Adam, Eve

Graceful consort! At thy side softly fly the golden hours. Ev'ry moment brings new rapture; ev'ry care is put to rest. Spouse adored! At thy side purest joys o'erflow the heart. Life and all I am is thine; my reward thy love shall be. The dew dropping morn, O how she quickens all! The coolness of ev'n, O how she all restores!

How grateful is of fruit the savor sweet! How pleasing is of fragrant bloom the smell!
But without thee, what is to me the morning dew, the breath of ev'n, the sav'ry fruit, the
fragrant bloom! With thee is ev'ry joy enhanced, with thee delight is ever new; with thee is
life incessant bliss; thine it whole shall be.

Recitative

Uriel

O happy pair, and always happy yet, if not misled by false conceit; ye strive at more as
granted is, and more to know as know ye should!

Chorus

Sing the Lord, ye voices all! Utter thanks, ye all His works! Celebrate His pow'r and glory!
Let His name resound on high! The Lord is great; His praise shall last for aye. Amen.