

THE MESSIAH
By Handel

Most people will at least have heard of this great oratorio, but have you ever been to a live performance of it? One such performance was being given in the Port Lincoln Town Hall some years ago and old Dave Briggs from Cummins, thought he might like to go. He tried to persuade his wife to go with him, but she wasn't too keen.

"Nah, Dad. It's a bit stuck up for me. Give me a bittuva laugh or some karaoke and I'll be there, but you go and tell me about it when ya get back"

So Dave went on his own. He had no idea what to expect. In fact he had never heard of "The Messiah" It was just that he fancied doing something a bit different from his usual Saturday night visit to the Boston pub.

When he got back home, Dave's wife was all ears "Come on then. Tell us all about it"

"Well" said Dave. S'pose it was OK, but it wasn't what I thought it'd be. There wasn't any movin' around on the platform. Fact, there wasn't any room on the platform. It was chokkers with singers. I'd just got comfy in me seat when in comes a heap o' blokes all carryin' fiddles. Then another old bloke brings in the biggest fiddle I've ever seen. It was so ginormous they had to wheel it in on castors. Then he started rubbing it's belly with a stick and y' shoulda heard it groan. It sounded like a cow with croup. Then all the fiddles joined in and made a racket like a heap o' galahs. Then they settled down an' it all went quiet. After about a minute in comes the Messiah; well I think it was 'im cos ev'rybody clapped and all the fiddle players stood up and gave 'im a good ole welcome. He was a poncy little squirt all dolled up in a white dickie with some flower in 'is buttonhole. Yeah! 'E musta been the Messiah. Then he picked up a little stick and started waving it at ev'ryone on the platform. They were all starin' at 'im wonderin' wot was up. Then they started t' sing

It wasn't long before they were howlin' like dingoes. They kept askin' who was the King of Glory? First one side said HE is the king of glory and then the other side said he's the king of glory and then they were all at it hammer and tongs, but it fizzled out in the end. Then there was a shemozzle about some sheep that 'ad gone astray. Some of the singers musta liked a bitta mutton cos they kept singin' "Oh we like sheep" Personally, I like a bitta well-done steak, but that's OK. Well I think those lost sheep musta belonged t' one of the singers cos he stood up and said ev'ry moun'ain and hill should be laid low. "Good" I thought t' meself, "if they flatten all the moun'ains they'll be sure t' find the sheep that 'ave gone astray." Well! Then the fella on the organ started up and the band joined in and they seemed t' be gettin' real mad about summat. The way they were sawin' at them fiddles, I thought they were gunna fall apart.

Then after that all the sheilas stood up t' sing. Believe me some ov 'em looked a bit past it – they musta been 70 at least an' they kept singin' "Unto us a child is born" 'an all the blokes shouted "Wonderful". I thought "It's a bloomin' miracle." Then they all settled down a bit and started singin' about a woman called Joyce Greatly I'd never 'eard of 'er but apparently she's a daughter of Zion, whoever 'e is.

I was gettin' a bit sick of it by now. I'd been sittin' fer nearly two hours and all of a sudden I got cramp in me leg. I jumped outta me seat and d'ya know what? They musta all 'ad cramp same as me cos they all jumped up at the same time! Then the choir shouted "Hallelujah, it's gunna rain fer ever and ever" Well, I didn't wanna get stuck in the mud so I thought it'd be best if I got goin' before the rain started. So seein' as I was already on me feet, I reckoned I'd 'ad me money's worth. Anyway, it was a real good do, but I jest 'ope they find them lost sheep.