

"THE CREATION"

FIRST PART

INTRODUCTION (Orchestra)

REPRESENTATION OF CHAOS

RECITATIVE. *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.

RECITATIVE. *Uriel*

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

AIR. *Uriel*

Now vanish before the holy beams
The gloomy shade of ancient night;
The first of days appears.
Now chaos ends, and order fair pre-
vails.
Affrighted fly hell's spirits black in
throng:
Down they sink in the deep 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.

Now furious storms tempestuous rage,
Like chaff, by the winds impelled are
the clouds,

By sudden fire the sky is inflamed,
And awful thunders are rolling on
high.

Now from the floods in steam ascend
reviving showers of rain,
The dreary, wasteful hail, the light
and flaky snow.

SOLO. *Gabriel*

The mar'vous work behold amaz'd
The glorious hierarchy of heaven;
And to th' ethereal vaults resound
The praise of God, and of the second
day.

CHORUS

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

RECITATIVE. *Raphael*

And God said, Let the waters under
the heaven be gather'd together to
one place, and let the dry land ap-
pear: and it was so. And God
call'd the dry land Earth, and the
gathering of waters call'd He Seas:
and God saw that it was good.

AIR. *Raphael*

Rolling in foaming billows,
Uplifted, roars the boisterous sea.
Mountains and rocks now emerge,
Their tops among the clouds ascend.
Through th' open plains, outstretch-
ing wide,
In serpent error rivers flow.
Softly purling, glides on
Through silent vales the limpid brook.

RECITATIVE. *Raphael*

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

AIR. *Gabriel*

With verdure clad the fields appear,
Delightful to the ravish'd sense;
By flowers sweet and gay
Enhanc'd is the charming sight.
Here fragrant herbs their odours shed;
Here shoots the healing plant.
With copious fruit th' expanded
boughs are hung;
In leafy arches twine the shady
groves;
O'er lofty hills majestic forests wave.

RECITATIVE. *Uriel*

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

CHORUS

Awake the harp, the lyre awake,
And let your joyful song resound.
Rejoice in the Lord, the mighty God;
For He both heaven and earth
Hath 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 splendour bright is rising now the
sun,
And darts his rays; a 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 through si-
lent night;
The space immense of th' azure sky
A countless host of radiant orbs
adorns.
And the sons of God announcèd the
fourth day
In song divine, proclaiming thus His
power:

CHORUS

The heavens are telling the glory of
God,
The wonder of His work displays the
firmament;

TRIO. *Gabriel, Uriel, and 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 work displays the
firmament.

TRIO

In all the lands resounds the word,
Never unperceivèd, ever understood.

CHORUS

The heavens are telling the glory of
God,
The wonder of His work displays the
firmament.

SECOND PART

RECITATIVE. *Raphael*

And God created great whales, and
every living creature that moveth;
and God blessèd them, saying,
Be fruitful all, and multiply,
Ye wingèd tribes, be multiplied,
And sing on every 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 sung.

TERZETTO

Gabriel

Most beautiful appear, with verdure
young adorn'd,
The gently sloping hills; their nar-
row, sinuous veins
Distil, in crystal drops, the fountain
fresh and bright.

Uriel

In lofty circles play, and hover, in the
air,
The cheerful host of birds; and as
they flying whirl,
Their glitt'ring plumes are dy'd as
rainbows by the sun.

Raphael

See flashing through the deep in
thronging swarms
The fish a thousand ways around.
Upheavèd from the deep, th' immense
Leviathan
Sports on the foaming wave.

Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael

How many are Thy works, O God!
Who may their number tell?

TRIO AND CHORUS

The Lord is great, and great His
might,
His glory lasts for ever and for ever-
more.

RECITATIVE. *Raphael*

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

RECITATIVE. *Raphael*

Straight 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. With sudden leap
The flexible tiger appears. The nimble
stag
Bears up his branching head. With
flying mane,
And fiery look, impatient neighs the
noble steed.
The cattle, in herds, already seek their
food
On fields and meadows green.
And o'er the ground, as plants, are
spread
The fleecy, meek, and bleating flocks.
Unnumber'd as the sands, in swarms
arose
The host of insects. In long dimension
Creeps, with sinuous trace, the worm.

AIR. *Raphael*

Now heaven in fullest glory shone;
Earth smil'd in all her rich attire;
The room of air with fowl is filled;
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 wondrous
being,
That, grateful, should God's power
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 breathèd into his nostrils the
breath of life, and Man became a
living soul.

AIR. *Uriel*

In native worth and honour clad,
With beauty, courage, strength,
adorn'd,
Erect, with front serene, he stands
A man, the lord and king of nature
all.
His large and archèd brow sublime
Of wisdom deep declares 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 every thing that He had
made, and behold, it was very good.
And the heavenly choir, in song
divine, thus closèd the sixth day:

TRIO. *Gabriel and Uriel.*

On Thee each living soul awaits;
From Thee, O Lord, all seek their
food;
Thou openest Thy hand,
And fillest all with good.

Raphael

But when Thy face, O Lord, is hid,
With sudden terror they are struck;
Thou tak'st their breath away,
They vanish into dust.

Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael

Thou sendest forth Thy breath again,
And life with vigour fresh returns;
Revivèd earth unfolds new strength
And new delights.

CHORUS

Achievèd is the glorious work;
Our song let be the praise of God.
Glory to His name for ever.
He sole on high exalted reigns.
Hallelujah.