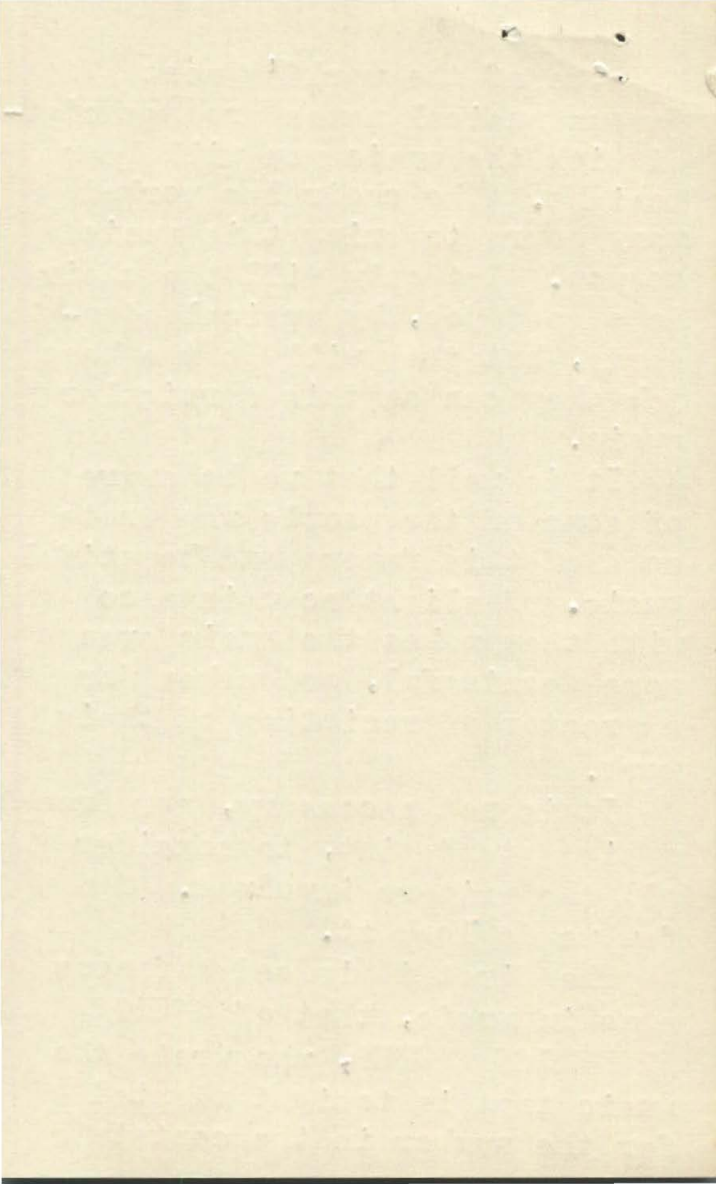


Some of the world's most famous musical names are associated with the music you will hear tonight. The choir has worked many hours to bring this music to you. Not only will the choir do a good job, by musical standards, but they will do the best job they can on this particular music.

It is well that we be aware of some of the people who wrote some of this famous and beautiful music. A slight acquaintance with them makes the music even more meaningful, and makes for a greater appreciation of their work.

It is not necessary, nor from a time standpoint, to consider all the writers involved. A few we do look at.

The first is indeed a famous name in music, that of GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL, who wrote the music that is tonight adapted for the number in the cantata



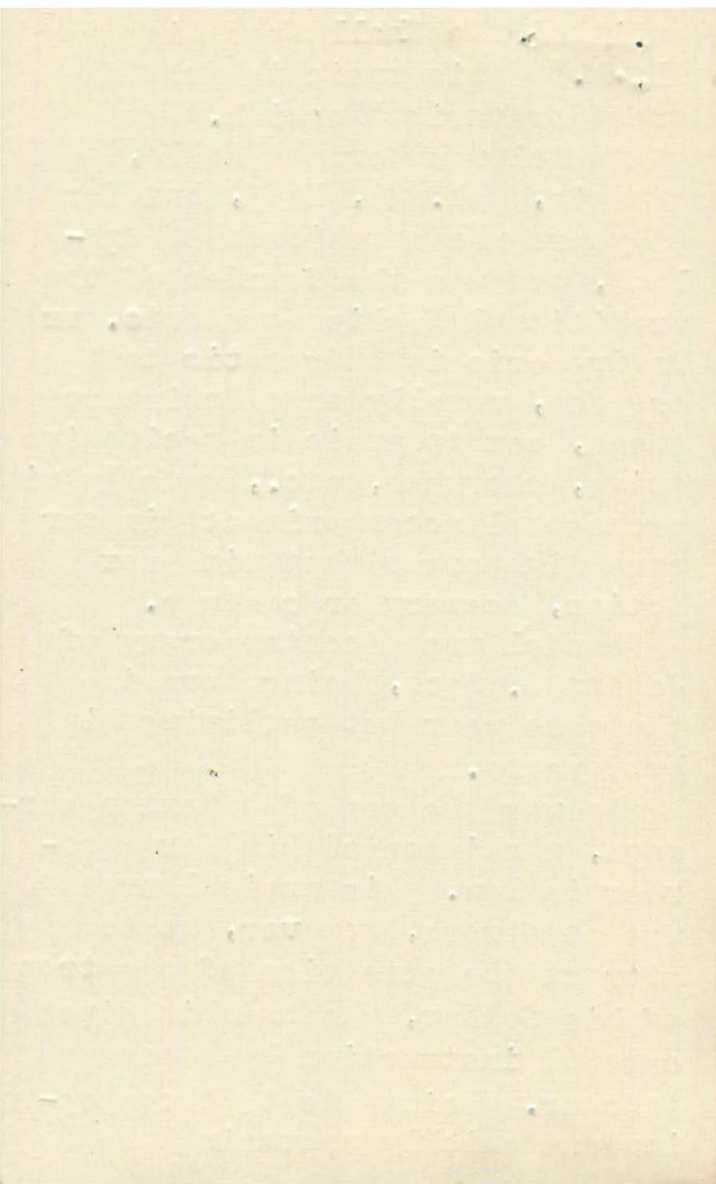
entitled. "He ~~Shall~~ Feed His  
Flock." This music is from the  
great oratoria "Messiah."

Handel was born at Halle,  
Prussia, Feb. 23, 1685, but for  
50 years was a resident of Eng-  
land, and was the founder of the  
traditional English oratorie. ~~xx~~

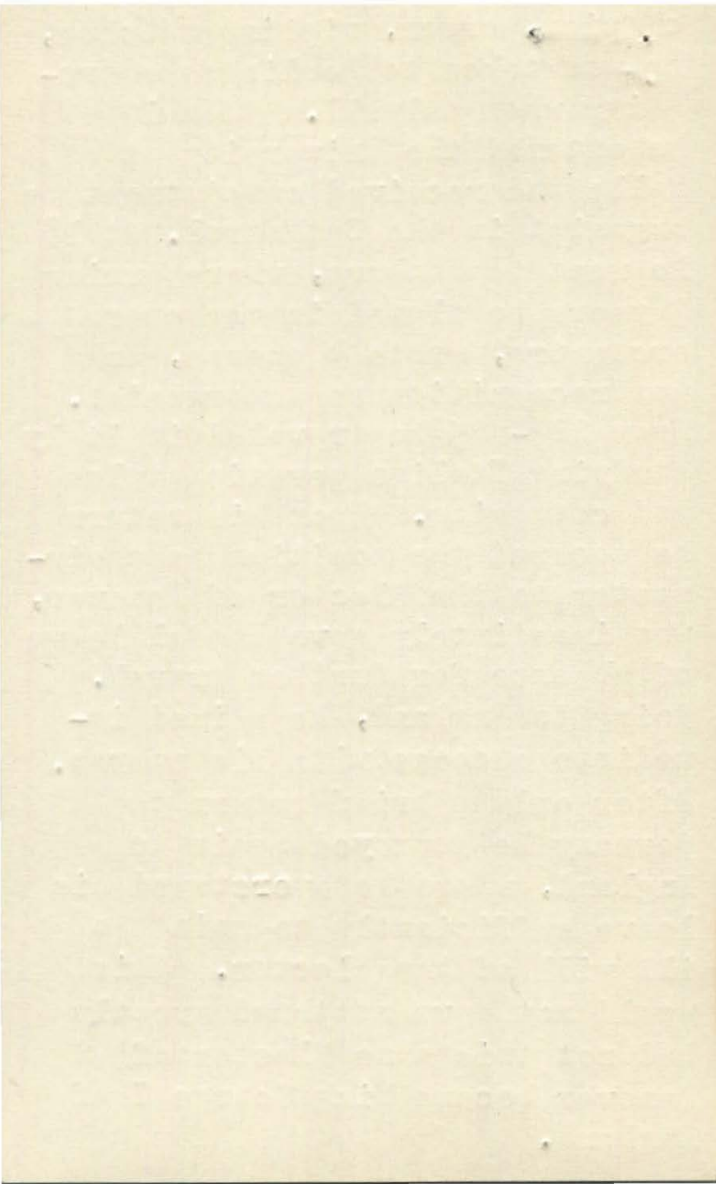
An Oratorio is a dramatic text  
or poem, usually on a Scripture  
theme, set to music in recitative  
arias, choruses, etc., usually with  
orchestral accompaniment (in our  
case with organ) but with not  
action, scenery or costume.

Handel was a contemporary of  
Johann S. Bach, being born in  
the same year but outliving him  
by 9 years.

He was the son of a German sur-  
geon, who intended him for a ca-  
reer in law. His musical urge  
was so strong, however, as to  
attract the attention of a patron  
of his father, who had him given  
careful instruction by a good  
teacher. Being adept at compos-  
ing and quickly mastering the



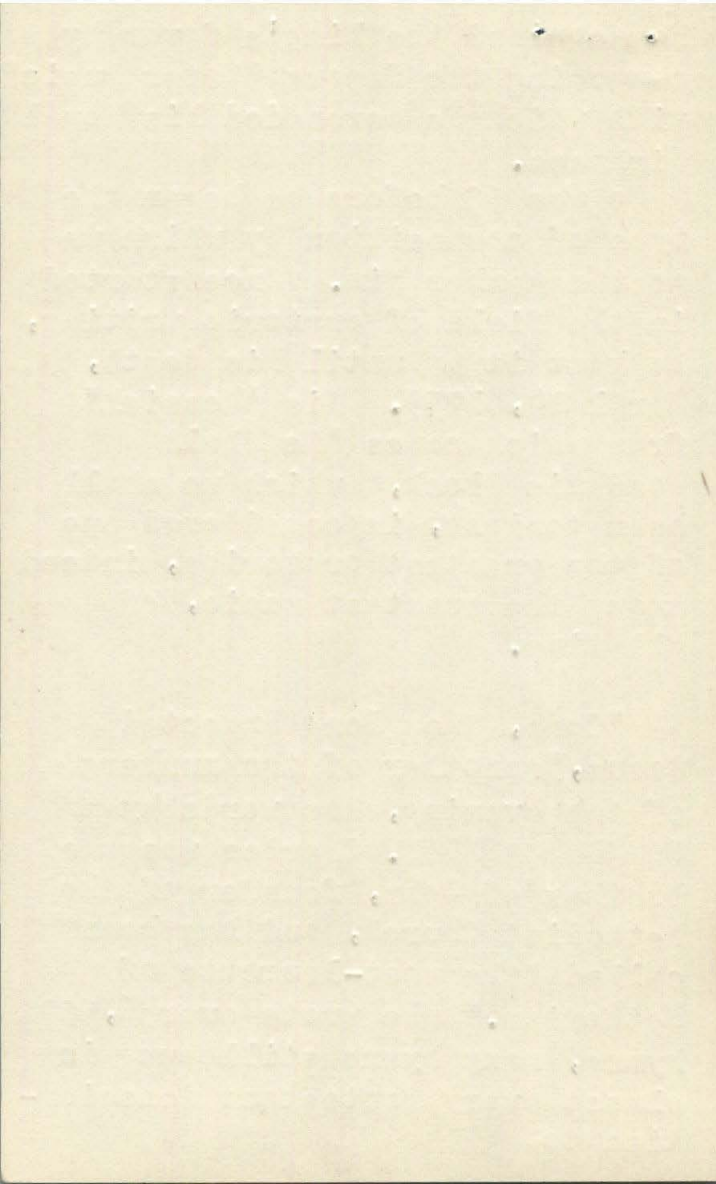
clavier, organ, violin and oboe, he was taken to Berlin as a prodigy when only 11. When 17 he entered the University at Halle and received appointment as organist in the Cathedral. At 18 he went to Hamburg, where during 3 years he played in the opera orchestra, wrote 4 operas, and won recognition as an organist. From 22 - 25 he traveled in Italy studying Italian peratic styles and composing. Upon his return he secured the position as choir-master to the Elector of Hanover, who immediately gave Handel leave of absence for further travel. Going to England, he gained immediate success with his operas. After only a brief return to Germany he journeyed again to England, where he overestayed his leave sufficiently to gain the ill will of the Elector. This would not have mattered greatly had not this same Elector of Hanover become King George I of England.



He regained the king's favor by composing the famous "Water Music" with which he serenaded his Royal Highness.

He was 53 before he began the type of composition by which we most remember him. Once started in the field of oratorio writing, he kept it up until his death, April 14, 1759. His "Messiah" from which comes "He Shall Feed His Flock," which we shall hear tonight, is considered one of the greatest oratorios, indeed among the greatest music, of all time.

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus," another of the numbers of the evening, has words by CHARLES WESLEY. Charles was the brother of John, founder of The Methodist Church, and has been called "the poet-laureate of Methodism." He wrote over 6,500 hymns, many hymns still sung in almost every Protestant denomination to



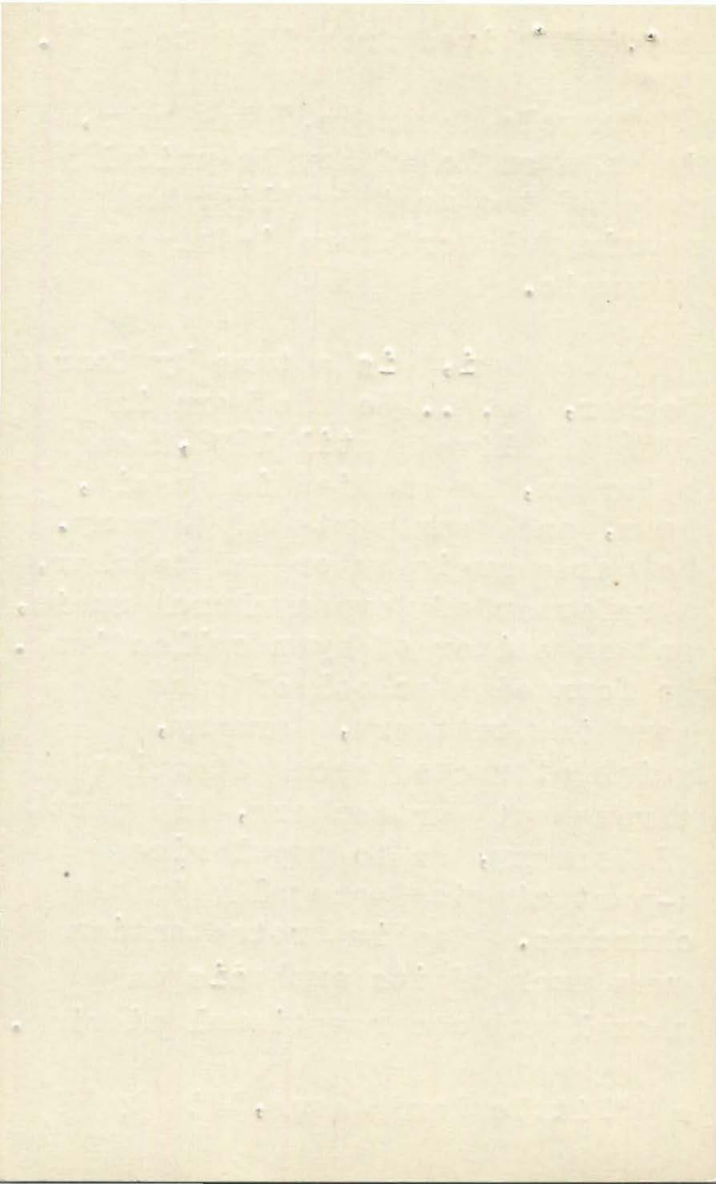


day. He lived from 1707 to 1788.

"Angels Serenade," by Braga, is an example of how beautifully some of the most familiar and meaningful Scripture is adapted to music.

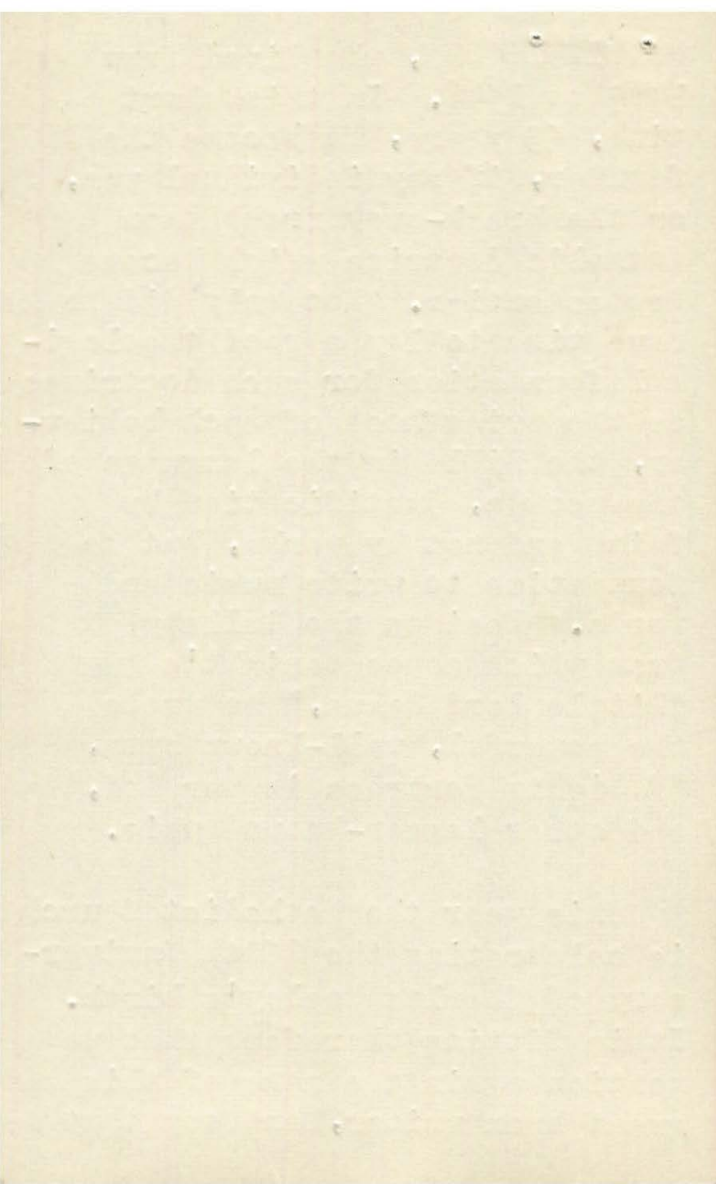
"The Magi," is a tune by Conrad Kocher, Ph.D.. He was born in 1786 and lived until 1872. Though a German, he studied in Russia, Rome, and many parts of Germany. He was a music tutor and teacher, a reformer of German church music, and an editor of hymn collections. He founded a school of sacred song in Stuttgart, Germany, which attracted such attention throughout Wurttemberg, his part of Germany, as to popularize 4-part singing generally in the churches. To him Protestantism owes much of its emphasis on choral and congregational singing.

"Little Lord Jesus," is by



MARTIN LUTHER, who lived from 1483 to 1546. In this short time, 63 years, he became the founder, if any individual was, or the break-away from Roman Catholic doctrine which became Protestantism. Not only did he have time to lay a good theological foundation for such doctrines as the priesthood of each believer, the Bible in the language of the people, justification by faith and not by works, but he found time to write music and words. Besides the lullaby from which comes tonight's "Little Lord Jesus," he wrote the powerful, well-known hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," and other lesser-known music.

This year the Methodist Church is celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Charles Wesley's birth. It is fitting therefore that we mention again the name of this great hymn writer, and say that



one other number in our evening's  
contata was written by him, the  
words of the familiar "Hark the  
Herald Angels Sing," part of our  
contata, being by Charles Wesley.

As the music progresses let  
the words and tunes of dedicated  
Christians, writers and composers,  
bring you the message of Christ.  
Great names and lesser-known  
ones, a great deal of talent has  
gone into the preparation and  
the rendering of this contata.  
This is a Christmas service of  
worship. May your heart be filled  
with the Christ Child this ~~after~~  
~~evening~~ evening.

