

George Frideric Handel

(GAY-org frih-drick HAN-dull)

1685 – 1759



- By age 10 he was considered a keyboard prodigy, but he also played several other instruments.
- His father wanted him to study law, but after one year, Handel took a job at an opera house and never looked back.
- Handel was born in Germany. He lived and worked there, but also traveled to Italy and England where his music was very popular.
- Handel worked under the system of patronage, just like Bach. He had to receive permission from his boss to make these trips. When he received permission for a second trip to England, he promised to return to Germany “within a reasonable time.” But he stayed in England!
- In England, under the patronage of the Queen, he received a salary for life.
- Two of Handel's most famous pieces were written for outdoor events in England. They are his Music for the Royal Fireworks and the Water Music Suites.
- Handel composed 71 operas, 24 oratorios, 43 arias, 138 cantatas, 81 sacred vocal pieces, 32 other vocal songs, 76 chamber pieces, 124 keyboard works, 69 orchestral works, 25 pieces for theater and 34 concertos.



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