

George Frederic Handel - -

2009 is the 250th anniversary of George Frederic Handel's death. He was born in Germany in 1685, the same year as Johann Sebastian Bach. Handel wrote many operas, orchestral works ("The Royal Fireworks" and "Water Music") and oratorios. His most famous oratorio (singing based on Scripture) is "The Messiah" written in 24 days. It takes three hours to perform and includes the famous "Hallelujah Chorus."

Handel became a British citizen and when he died in 1759, he was buried in England's most sacred place, Westminster Abbey. Today we sing this famous baroque (a period in music, art, and architecture with much ornamentation) composer's anthem – "Lord, I Lift My Soul To You" from his oratorio "Theodora."