

An American Messiah

The Epic Life of Jesus for Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

Music by Miklos Rozsa and Alfred Newman

Oratorio Arranged by John Mauceri

Conceived and Produced by Davi Strauss Bernstein

Part One. The Promise

1. Prologue (Descent of the Holy Spirit)
2. Overture
3. Nativity

Childhood

4. Shofar and Roman March
5. Slaughter of the Innocents
6. The Mother's Love

Adulthood

7. Temptation
8. Herod's Judea
9. Miracles
10. Sermon on the Mount
11. The Lord's Prayer

Part Two. The Fulfillment

12. Entr'acte
13. Entering Jerusalem
14. Tempest in Judea
15. The Last Supper and Gethsemane
16. Betrayal and Arrest
17. Via Dolorosa
18. Crucifixion
19. Descent from the Cross
20. Resurrection
21. Epilogue

An American Messiah, for chorus and symphony orchestra, is a series of meditations on the life and story of Jesus Christ with music from two of Hollywood's legendary composers, Alfred Newman and Miklos Rozsa. The work, created by John Mauceri and Davi Strauss Bernstein, restores the greatest American religious music of the twentieth century—the epic scores to Alfred Newman's *The Robe* (1953) and *The Greatest Story Ever Told* (1965) and Miklos Rozsa's *Ben Hur* (1959) and *King of Kings* (1961). Together these two composers received 47 Academy Award nominations and 12 Oscars.

An American Messiah is performed with a narration of excerpts from the New Testament with visual accompaniment of individual works of Biblical art projected on a screen above and behind the orchestra. The chorus sings wordlessly, except for the occasional use of Latin, Greek and Aramaic. The phrase "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" is uttered by a member of the chorus, in the language of the public.