

*Gift of Mrs MacLellan*

X

HANDEL

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BACH

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HER IMPERIAL AND ROYAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCESS OF GERMANY.

THE  
ROSE OF SHARON

A DRAMATIC ORATORIO  
FOUNDED ON THE SONG OF SOLOMON

THE WORDS SELECTED FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE BY

JOSEPH BENNETT

AND THE MUSIC COMPOSED EXPRESSLY FOR THE NORWICH MUSICAL FESTIVAL, 1884, BY

A. C. MACKENZIE.

Paper cover, 5s.; Paper boards, 6s.; Scarlet cloth, 7s. 6d.  
Tonic Sol-fa Edition, 2s.

THE TIMES.

"The entire section, commencing with the Sulamite's solo, 'Dark am I but comely,' and ending with her address to the women of King Solomon's harem, 'I charge ye all, daughters of Jerusalem,' may be unhesitatingly classed among the masterpieces of oratorio music. It comprises the gorgeously designed 'Procession of the Ark,' and the poetic 'Dream of the Sulamite,' entirely different from each other in character, but each in its way perfect. . . . Mr. Mackenzie is eminently fitted to become the leader of the rising English school and to do honour to that school as an exponent of high and serious art both at home and abroad."

DAILY TELEGRAPH.

"At the close the general verdict was unmistakable; cheer after cheer rang through the hall, while the members of the choir rained down flowers upon the fortunate composer. The Norwich audience thus stamped the oratorio with their approval. They could do no other and be just."

STANDARD.

"I have already alluded to the hearty reception given to Mr. Mackenzie, who richly deserved all the encomiums passed upon him. The knowledge of orchestral combination, the contrapuntal skill displayed no less in the instrumental than in the vocal parts, and, above all, the ease and grace of the melodies, together with the poetic feeling which underlies it, all set the seal of nobility upon 'The Rose of Sharon.' . . . The chorus 'Make a joyful noise' is simply an astonishing piece of contrapuntal ingenuity and skill. Handel or Bach would have been proud of such an exercise as this."

DAILY NEWS.

"It is one of the most important works of its class that has been produced for many years, and will doubtless speedily find wide acceptance."

MORNING POST.

"Mr. Mackenzie has produced a work which will make a distinct mark in his own career, as well as in the history of modern music. . . . It is the most remarkable endeavour of a high character which has as yet been achieved by an Englishman, and as such it deserved the enthusiastic reception which was accorded to it at the conclusion."

DAILY CHRONICLE.

"We are inclined to believe that nothing has been written of late years by any composer, British or foreign, to surpass the second scene of the second part of the oratorio. . . . The impression made is vastly increased by a second rendition."

ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

"No work, whether by a foreigner or by a native composer, has ever before drawn such an audience to the Crystal Palace, and the applause with which the oratorio was received showed that the confident expectation of the public had been in no way disappointed."

ATHENÆUM.

"The composer has put forth his full strength, and has not only surpassed everything he has previously done but in our deliberate opinion has produced by far the finest oratorio ever written by an Englishman. . . . By his new achievement Mr. Mackenzie has placed himself at the head of living English composers, and shown the possession of genius as distinguished from highly cultivated talent."

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

"'The Rose of Sharon' contains much beautiful and impressive music. The vocal writing—both for the soloists and the chorus—is fluent and effective; the orchestral details being throughout full of picturesque colouring and contrast."

WEEKLY DISPATCH.

"This has been a red-letter day for English music. Among the company of young composers who are striving successfully to raise the musical status of the country, Mr. A. C. Mackenzie may be accorded the foremost place, and he has now gained a conspicuous triumph in the most difficult branch of the art—namely, oratorio."

SUNDAY TIMES.

"It was listened to from the first note to the last, not only with patience and rapt attention, but with a delight which the audience could not at times refrain from showing. The interest of the story, the charm and the grandeur of the music, the excellence of the performance—all combined to impress upon the hearer one simple but decisive opinion, that 'The Rose of Sharon' is a magnificent work, and brings fresh honour to English art and additional fame to its gifted composer."

NORWICH ARGUS.

"The scene of enthusiasm witnessed in St. Andrew's Hall on the termination of Thursday morning's performance has probably never been equalled in the history of the Norwich Festival. . . . Again and again was Mr. Mackenzie recalled to the platform, and each time was the same rapturous ovation repeated. The excited assemblage shouted with delight, and assuredly, we repeat, put in a 'best on record' in the way of festival receptions."

LONDON AND NEW YORK: NOVELLO, EWER & CO.