

## Preface: The Libretto of Haydn's *Creation*

Paul McCreesh

Haydn's *Creation* was the first oratorio to be published in two languages. Although the autograph score is now unfortunately lost, the original 1800 publication has Baron Gottfried van Swieten's German text given in full underlay, while his English version is loosely printed above the vocal parts, with most of the rhythmic changes needed for the recitatives and arias indicated in small notes. This English version, however, has always been regarded as considerably inferior to the German.

The complex history of the *Creation* libretto has been subjected to an interesting re-evaluation in recent years by Neil Jenkins ("The text of Haydn's *The Creation*: New sources and a possible librettist", *Journal of the Haydn Society of Great Britain*, no. 24/2, 2005). The libretto was clearly influenced by Milton and perhaps also by the poet James Thomson (whose work made up the libretto for *The Seasons*). It went through substantial alteration and translation into German by van Swieten, who then re-translated his own version back into English. Whilst odd phrases work well enough (perhaps drawn directly from the original libretto), there are many places where mistranslation, garbled grammar and syntax, and a propensity to apply German word order to English, reduce the text to nonsense. At other times the rhythmic alterations required for the English language play havoc with the rhetoric of Haydn's music.

There is some evidence that Haydn had libretti in both languages to hand when he composed the *Creation*; although the German version was clearly his primary source of inspiration, just occasionally his music seems to reflect ideas only present in the English text. *The Creation* is now generally sung in German, yet there is no doubt that Haydn wished for the immediate impact which can only be created by performing the work in the audience's own language (French and Italian versions appeared very soon after the original publication). There have been many attempts to adapt and rewrite parts of the English text, but in preparation for the Gabrieli Consort & Players recording (2008 DG Archiv 477 736-1) I decided to give the libretto a complete and thorough revision, in the hope of creating a version which speaks directly and comfortably to English listeners, and is more worthy of Haydn's sublime music.

In reassessing the libretto I have not sought to re-invent the wheel. Where certain phrases have become a part of our language through their association with this great work ("With verdure clad", "The flexible tiger", "In rosy mantle"), I have taken special care to preserve the original. Nor do I claim originality for every solution: some of the very earliest editions of *Creation* attempted to resolve some of the problems in the text, and where these solutions are clear improvements (i.e. Neukomm's vocal score, 1832), I have been happy to incorporate them. It has been something of a fascinating crossword puzzle, but often very simple changes to word order, or the insertion of a word with the correct number of syllables can make for considerably more beautiful (and more comprehensible) English and, crucially, a better relationship between the text and Haydn's music. I also felt it important to re-work sentences that are simply mistranslations of the original German, taking considerable care to use appropriate contemporary language drawn from a wide range of sources.

In addition, Timothy Roberts and I have rewritten the recitatives as Haydn might have done had he been composing them for the English text. As Donald Tovey surmised in a famous essay, recitative in translation is neither good speech nor good music. In fact we have been able to follow all Haydn's harmonies and preserve the shape of all the melodic lines, but in detail these revised recitatives, unlike the printed ones, now obey the fundamental musical and rhetorical principles of English word-setting.

Although all these changes are inevitably subjective, I hope that this new version better serves both the communication of the libretto's ideas and Haydn's extraordinary score. I am most grateful to Neal Davies, Mark Padmore, Peter Harvey and Timothy Roberts, who have all made extremely helpful suggestions for improving details of both the text and the setting of the vocal lines. Thanks also to Andra East, and especially Rachel Kelly who has prepared most of the vocal score, and worked with superhuman patience over many months as (to paraphrase Adam) ceaseless changes were made to the mighty elements.

Paul McCreesh

The text of this edition is copyright but Paul McCreesh is happy to encourage further usage with proper accreditation.

A set of vocal scores is available for hire from Gabrieli Consort & Players for a nominal fee.

Gabrieli Consort & Players  
372 Old Street  
London EC1V 9LT  
+44 (0) 20 7613 4404  
info@gabrieli.com

**Joseph Haydn: *Die Schöpfung*  
(*The Creation*)**

English text is taken from the original full-score,  
published by Artaria, Vienna, 1800

First Part

**1. Overture**

**The Representation of Chaos**

(\*1a) **2. Recitative and Chorus**

RAPHAEL

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth;  
and the earth was without form, and void;  
and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

CHORUS

And the spirit of God  
moved upon the face of the waters;  
and God said, Let there be Light,  
and there was Light.

**Recitative**

URIEL

And God saw the Light, that it was good;  
and God divided the Light from the darkness.

(\*2) **3. Aria and Chorus**

URIEL

Now vanish before the holy beams  
the gloomy, dismal shades of dark;  
the first of days appears.  
Disorder yields to order fair the place.  
Affrighted fled hell's spirits, black in throngs;  
down they sink in the deep of abyss to endless night.

CHORUS

Despairing, cursing rage,  
attends their rapid fall.  
A new created world  
springs up at God's command.

**Joseph Haydn: *Die Schöpfung*  
(*The Creation*)**

English text revised by Paul McCreesh 2006 and  
2009 (© Paul McCreesh 2009)

First Part

**Overture**

**The Representation of Chaos**

**Recitative [accompagnato] and chorus**

RAPHAEL

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.  
and the earth was without form, and void;  
and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

CHORUS

And the spirit of God  
mov'd upon the face of the waters.  
And God said, Let there be light:  
and there was light.

**Recitative**

URIEL

And God saw the light, that it was good:  
and God divided the light from the darkness.

**Aria and chorus**

URIEL

Now vanish before the holy beams  
the gloomy, dismal shades of darkness;  
the first of days appears!  
Disorder yields and order fair prevails.  
Affrighted fly hell's spirits, black in throngs;  
down they sink in the deepest abyss to endless night.

CHORUS

Despairing, cursing rage,  
attends their rapid fall.  
A new-created world  
springs up at God's command.

**(\*3) 4. Recitative**

RAPHAEL

And God made the firmament,  
and divided the waters  
which were under the firmament  
from the waters which were above the firmament,  
and it was so.

Outrageous storms now dreadful arose;  
as chaff by the winds are impelled the clouds.  
By heaven's fire the sky is enflamed,  
and awful rolled the thunders on high.  
Now from the floods in streams ascend  
reviving showers of rain,  
the dreary wasteful hail, the light and flaky snow.

**(\*4) 5. Aria with chorus**

GABRIEL

The marvellous work beholds amazed  
the glorious hierarchy of heaven,  
and from the ethereal vaults resound  
the praise of God and of the second day.

CHORUS

And from the ethereal vaults resound  
the praise of God and of the second day.

**(\*5) 6. Recitative**

RAPHAEL

And God said: Let the waters under the heaven  
be gathered together unto one place,  
and let the dry land appear;  
and it was so.  
And God called the dry land earth;  
and the gathering together of waters called he seas;  
and God saw that it was good.

**(\*6) 7. Aria**

RAPHAEL

Rolling in foaming billows,  
uplifted roars the boisterous sea.  
Mountains and rocks now emerge,  
their tops into the clouds ascend.  
Through the open plains  
outstretching wide in serpent error rivers flow.  
Softly purling glides on  
through silent vales the limpid brook.

**Recitative [accompagnato]**

RAPHAEL

And God made the firmament,  
and divided the waters  
which were under the firmament  
from the waters which were above the firmament:  
and it was so.

Outrageous, dreadful storms now arise;  
as chaff by the winds impell'd are the clouds.  
By heaven's fire the sky is enflam'd,  
and awful roll the thunders on high.  
At his command, rise from the floods,  
reviving showers of rain,  
the dreary wasteful hail, the light and flaky snow.

**Aria and chorus**

GABRIEL

The glorious heav'nly hierarchy,  
the marvellous work beholds amaz'd.  
And to the ethereal vaults resounds  
the praise of God, and of the second day.

CHORUS

And to the ethereal vaults resounds  
the praise of God, and of the second day.

**Recitative**

RAPHAEL

And God said: Let the waters under the heaven  
be gathered together unto one place,  
and let the dry land appear;  
and it was so.  
And God called the dry land Earth,  
and the gath'ring of waters called he Seas,  
and God saw that it was good.

**Aria**

RAPHAEL

Rolling in foaming billows,  
uplifted roars the boisterous sea.  
Mountains and rocks now emerge,  
into the clouds their tops ascend.  
Through verdant plains outstretching wide  
the rivers flow, in serpent error.  
Softly purling glideth on  
through silent vales the limpid brook.

**(\*7) 8. Recitative**

GABRIEL

And God said: Let the earth bring forth grass,  
the herb yielding seed,  
and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind,  
whose seed is in itself, upon the earth;  
and it was so.

**(\*8) 9. Aria**

GABRIEL

With verdure clad the fields appear  
delightful to the ravished sense;  
by flowers sweet and gay  
enhanced is the charming sight.  
Here vent their fumes the fragrant herbs;  
here shoot the healing plant.  
By loading of fruits the expanded boughs are pressed;  
to shady vaults are bent the tufty groves;  
the mountain's brow is crowned with closed wood.

**(\*9) 10. Recitative**

URIEL

And the heavenly host proclaimed  
the third day, praising God, and saying:

**(\*10) 11. Chorus**

CHORUS

Awake the harp, the lyre awake!  
In shout and joy your voices raise!  
In triumph sing the mighty Lord!  
For he the heavens and earth  
has clothed in stately dress.

**(\*11) 12. Recitative**

URIEL

And God said:  
Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven  
to divide the day from the night,  
and to give light upon the earth;  
and let them be for signs, and for seasons,  
and for days, and for years.  
He made the stars also.

**Recitative**

GABRIEL

And God said: Let the earth bring forth grass,  
the herb yielding seed,  
and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind,  
whose seed is in itself, upon the earth:  
and it was so.

**Aria**

GABRIEL

With verdure clad, the fields appear  
delightful to the ravish'd sense;  
by flowers sweet and gay  
adorned is the charming sight.  
The fragrant herbs give forth their scent,  
here shoots the healing plant.  
With copious fruit the spreading boughs are hung.  
In leafy arches twine the shady groves.  
O'er lofty hills majestic forests rise.

**Recitative**

URIEL

And the heavenly host the third day proclaimed,  
praising God, and saying:

**Chorus**

CHORUS

Awake the harp, the lyre awake!  
With shouts of joy, your voices raise!  
In triumph proclaim the might of the Lord!  
For all the heav'ns and the earth  
has he clothed in glorious attire.

**Recitative**

URIEL

And God said:  
Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven  
to divide the day from the night,  
and to give light upon the earth;  
and let them be for signs, and for seasons,  
and for days, and for years.  
He made the stars also.

**(\*12) 13. Recitative**

URIEL

In splendour bright  
 is rising now the sun and darts his rays;  
 an amorous, joyful, happy spouse,  
 a giant proud and glad  
 to run his measured course.  
 With softer beams and milder light  
 steps on the silver moon through silent night.  
 The space immense of the azure sky  
 innumerable host of radiant orbs adorns,  
 and the sons of God announced the fourth day  
 in song divine,  
 proclaiming thus his power:

**(\*13) 14. Trio and Chorus**

CHORUS

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
 the wonder of his works displays the firmament.

GABRIEL, URIEL and RAPHAEL

The day that is coming speaks it the day;  
 the night that is gone to following night.

CHORUS

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
 the wonder of his works displays the firmament.

GABRIEL, URIEL and RAPHAEL

In all the lands resounds the word,  
 never unperceived, ever understood.

CHORUS

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
 the wonder of his works displays the firmament.

**Recitative [accompagnato]**

URIEL

In brightest splendour  
 rises now the sun, and darts his rays;  
 an eager, joyful bridegroom,  
 a giant, glad and proud,  
 to run his measured course.  
 With gentle steps, and softer, silv'ry beams,  
 steals the moon, through still and silent night.  
 The boundless span of heaven's vault  
 is now adorn'd with numberless golden stars,  
 and the sons of God announced the fourth day thus,  
 in song divine,  
 with joy proclaiming his might:

**Trio and chorus**

CHORUS

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
 the firmament displays the wonder of his works.

GABRIEL, URIEL and RAPHAEL

As day after day his power declares;  
 And night after night his honour affirms.

CHORUS

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
 the firmament displays the wonder of his works.

GABRIEL, URIEL and RAPHAEL

In all the lands resounds the word,  
 never unperceived, ever understood.

CHORUS

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
 the firmament displays the wonder of his works.

Second Part**(\*14) 15. Recitative**

GABRIEL

And God said: Let the waters bring forth abundantly  
the moving creature that hath life,  
and fowl that may fly above the earth  
in the open firmament of heaven.

**(\*15) 16. Aria**

GABRIEL

On mighty pens uplifted soars the eagle aloft,  
and cleaves the sky in swiftest flight to the blazing  
sun.

His welcome bids to morn the merry lark  
and cooing calls the tender dove his mate.

From every bush and grove  
resound the nightingale's delightful notes.  
No grief affected yet her breast,  
nor to a mournful tale were tuned  
her soft, enchanting lays.

**(\*16) 17. Recitative**

RAPHAEL

And God created great whales,  
and everyliving creature that moveth,  
and God blessed them, saying:

Be fruitful all, and multiply!  
Ye winged tribes, be multiplied,  
and sing on every tree!  
Multiply ye finny tribes,  
and fill each watery deep!  
Be fruitful, grow and multiply!  
And in your God and Lord rejoice!

**(\*17) 18. Recitative**

RAPHAEL

And the angels struck their immortal harps,  
and the wonders of the fifth day sang.

Second Part**Recitative [accompagnato]**

GABRIEL

And God said: Let the waters bring forth abundantly  
the moving creature that hath life,  
and fowl that may fly above the earth  
in the open firmament of heaven.

**Aria**

GABRIEL

On mighty pens uplifted soars the eagle aloft,  
and cleaves the sky in swiftest flight to the blazing sun.

The merry lark bids welcome to the morn,  
and cooing calls the tender dove his mate.

From every bush and grove  
resound the nightingale's delightful, liquid notes.  
No grief affected yet her breast,  
nor to a mournful tale were tun'd  
her soft, enchanting lays.

**Recitative [accompagnato]**

RAPHAEL

And God created great whales,  
and every living creature that moveth,  
and God blessed them, saying:

Be fruitful all!  
Multiply ye wing'd and feather'd tribes,  
and sing from every tree!  
Multiply, ye finny tribes,  
and fill each wat'ry deep!  
Be fruitful, grow and multiply,  
rejoice in him, your Lord and God!

**Recitative**

RAPHAEL

And the angels struck their immortal harps,  
and the wonders of the fifth day sang.

**(\*18) 19. Trio and Chorus**

GABRIEL

Most beautiful appear, with verdure young adorned  
the gently sloping hills.

Their narrow, sinuous veins distil in crystal drops  
the fountain fresh and bright.

URIEL

In lofty circles plays,  
and hovers through the sky  
the cheerful host of birds.

And in the flying whirl the glittering plumes  
are dyed as rainbows by the sun.

RAPHAEL

See flashing through the wet in thronged swarms  
the fry in thousand ways around.

Upheaved from the deep, the immense Leviathan  
sports on the foaming wave.

GABRIEL, URIEL and RAPHAEL

How many are thy works, O God!

Who may their number tell?

**(\*18a) TRIO and CHORUS**

The Lord is great and great his might;  
his glory lasts for ever and for evermore.

**(\*19) 20. Recitative**

RAPHAEL

And God said: Let the earth bring forth  
the living creature after his kind;  
cattle, and creeping thing,  
and beasts of the earth after their kind.

**Trio and chorus**

GABRIEL

Most beautiful appear, with verdure young adorn'd  
the gently sloping hills.

Their narrow, sinuous veins distil in crystal drops  
the fountain fresh and bright.

URIEL

In lofty circles play,  
and flutter through the sky  
the cheerful flocks of birds.

And in the flying whirl their glittering plumes  
are dyed like rainbows by the sun.

RAPHAEL

See flashing midst the waters bright  
a thousand fry that dart through rolling waves.

Upheaved from the deep, see the immense Leviathan  
sports on the foaming spray.

GABRIEL, URIEL and RAPHAEL

How many are thy works, O God!

Who may their numbers tell?

**GABRIEL, URIEL, RAPHAEL and CHORUS**

The Lord is great and great his might;  
his glory lasts for ever and for evermore.

**Recitative**

RAPHAEL

And God said: Let the earth bring forth  
the living creature after his kind;  
cattle, and creeping thing,  
and beast of the earth, after his kind.



**(\*20) 21. Recitative**

RAPHAEL

Straight opening her fertile womb,  
 the earth obeyed the word,  
 and teemed creatures numberless,  
 in perfect forms and fully grown.  
 Cheerful roaring stands the tawny lion.  
 In sudden leaps the flexible tiger appears.  
 The nimble stag bears up his branching head.  
 With flying mane and fiery look,  
 impatient neighs the sprightly steed.  
 The cattle in herds already seeks his food  
 on fields and meadows green.  
 And over the ground, as plants,  
 are spread the fleecy, meek and bleating flock.  
 Unnumbered as the sands  
 in whirl arose the host of insects.  
 In long dimensions creeps  
 with sinuous trace the worm.

**(\*21) 22. Aria**

RAPHAEL

Now heaven in fullest glory shone;  
 earth smiles in all her rich attire.  
 The room of air with fowl is filled;  
 the water swelled by shoals of fish;  
 by heavy beasts the ground is trod.  
 But all the work was not complete.  
 There wanted yet that wondrous being  
 that grateful should God's power admire,  
 with heart and voice his goodness praise.

**Recitative [accompagnato]**

RAPHAEL

Straight opening her fertile womb,  
 the earth obeys the word,  
 and teems with creatures numberless,  
 in perfect forms and fully grown.  
 Cheerfully roaring, stands the tawny lion.  
 With sudden leaps the flexible tiger appears.  
 The nimble stag rears up his branching head.  
 With flying mane, the noble steed  
 springs up and neighs, with spirit proud.  
 The cattle in herds peacefully graze  
 on fields and meadows green.  
 And o'er the leas are scattered flocks  
 of fleecy, meek and bleating sheep.  
 Unnumber'd as the sands,  
 in whirls arise great swarms of insects.  
 In long dimension creeps  
 with sinuous trace the worm.

**Aria**

RAPHAEL

Now heaven in fullest glory shines;  
 earth smiles in all her rich attire.  
 The air is fill'd with feather'd fowl;  
 the water swells with shoals of fish;  
 by heavy beasts the ground is trod.  
 But all the work was not complete,  
 there wanted yet that wondrous being  
 that God's creation should admire  
 and praise his works with heart and voice.

**(\*22) 23. Recitative**

URIEL

And God created man in his own image.  
 In the image of God created he him.  
 Male and female created he them.  
 He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life,  
 and man became a living soul.

**(\*23) 24. Aria**

URIEL

In native worth and honour clad,  
 with beauty, courage, strength adorned,  
 to heaven erect and tall he stands  
 a man, the Lord and King of nature all.

The large and arched front sublime  
 of wisdom deep declares the seat,  
 and in his eyes with brightness shines the soul,  
 the breath and image of his God.

With fondness leans upon his breast  
 the partner for him formed,  
 a woman fair and graceful spouse.  
 Her softly smiling virgin looks,  
 of flowery spring the mirror,  
 bespeak him love and joy and bliss.

**(\*24) 25. Recitative**

RAPHAEL

And God saw everything that he had made;  
 and behold, it was very good;  
 and the heavenly choir,  
 in song divine, thus closed the sixth day.

**Recitative**

URIEL

And God created man in his own image.  
 In the image of God created he him.  
 Male and female created he them.  
 He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life,  
 and man became a living soul.

**Aria**

URIEL

In native worth and honour clad,  
 with beauty, strength and courage bless'd,  
 to heav'n erect and tall he stands,  
 a man, the lord and king of nature all.

His noble, gen'rous brow sublime,  
 declares a wisdom deep within,  
 and in his eyes with brightness shines the soul,  
 the breath and image of his God.

With fondness leans upon his breast  
 the partner for him form'd,  
 a woman fair, a graceful spouse.  
 Her softly smiling virgin-looks,  
 of flow'ry spring a mirror,  
 speak love, delight and bliss.

**Recitative**

RAPHAEL

And God saw everything that he had made;  
 and behold, it was very good;  
 and the heavenly choir  
 thus closed the sixth day, in song divine.

**(\*25) 26. Trio and Chorus****CHORUS**

Achieved is the glorious work;  
 the Lord beholds it and is pleased.  
 In lofty strains let us rejoice!  
 Our song let be the praise of God!

**(\*25a) GABRIEL and URIEL**

On thee each living soul awaits;  
 from thee, O Lord, they beg their meat.  
 Thou openest thy hand and sated all they are.

**RAPHAEL**

But as to them thy face is hid,  
 with sudden terror they are struck.  
 Thou takest their breath away; they vanish into dust.

**GABRIEL, URIEL and RAPHAEL**

Thou lett'st thy breath go forth again,  
 and life with vigour fresh returns.  
 Revived earth unfolds new force and new delights.

**(\*25b) CHORUS**

Achieved is the glorious work.  
 Our song let be the praise of God!  
 Glory to his name for ever;  
 he sole on high exalted reigns,  
 Alleluia.

**Trio and chorus****CHORUS**

Achieved is the glorious work;  
 the Lord delights in all he sees.  
 In lofty strains let us rejoice,  
 our song shall be the praise of God!

**GABRIEL and URIEL**

On thee each living soul awaits;  
 from thee, O Lord, they beg their meat.  
 Thou openest thy hand, and sated are they all.

**RAPHAEL**

But when, O Lord, thy face is hid,  
 with sudden terror they are struck.  
 Thou tak'st their breath away; they vanish into dust.

**GABRIEL, URIEL and RAPHAEL**

Thou sendest forth thy breath again,  
 and life with vigour fresh returns.  
 Revived earth unfolds new force and new delights.

**CHORUS**

Achieved is the glorious work,  
 our song shall be the praise of God!  
 Glorious be his name for ever;  
 he sole on high, exalted, reigns.  
 Alleluia.

Third Part**(\*26) 27. Recitative**

URIEL

In rosy mantle appears,  
 by tunes sweet awaked,  
 the morning young and fair.  
 From the celestial vaults  
 pure harmony descends on ravished earth.  
 Behold the blissful pair,  
 where hand in hand thy go!  
 Their flaming looks express  
 what feels the grateful heart.  
 A louder praise of God  
 their lips shall utter soon.  
 Then let our voices ring, united with their song!

**(\*27) 28. Duet with Chorus**

EVE and ADAM

By thee with bliss, O bounteous Lord,  
 the heaven and earth are stored.  
 This world, so great, so wonderful,  
 thy mighty hand has framed.

CHORUS

For ever blessed be his power!  
 His name be ever magnified!

ADAM

Of stars the fairest,  
 O how sweet thy smile at dawning morn!  
 How brighten'st thou, O sun, the day,  
 thou eye and soul of all!

CHORUS

Proclaim in your extended course  
 the almighty power and praise of God!

EVE

And thou that rules the silent night,  
 and all ye starry host  
 spread wide and everywhere his praise  
 in choral songs about!

Third Part**Recitative [accompagnato]**

URIEL

In rosy mantle now appears,  
 by sweetest sounds awak'd,  
 the morning, young and fair.  
 From heav'n's eternal realm,  
 pure harmony descends on ravish'd earth.  
 Behold the blissful pair,  
 as hand in hand they go!  
 Their radiant eyes  
 shine with heartfelt joy and thanks.  
 And so with cheerful noise,  
 their God they soon will praise.  
 Then let our voices ring, united with their song!

**Duet and chorus**

EVE and ADAM

By thee with bliss, O bounteous Lord,  
 the heav'n and earth are fill'd.  
 This world, so great, so wonderful,  
 thy mighty hand has fram'd.

CHORUS

For ever blessed be his pow'r!  
 His name be ever magnified!

ADAM

Of stars the fairest, O how sweetly  
 thou crown'st the smiling dawn.  
 How brighten'st thou, O sun, the day,  
 thou eye and soul of all!

CHORUS

Proclaim in your extended course  
 the glorious pow'r and might of God!

EVE

And thou that rul'st the silent night,  
 and all ye starry host  
 spread wide and everywhere his praise  
 in joyful songs around!

ADAM

Ye strong and cumbrous elements,  
who ceaseless changes make,  
ye dusky mists and dewy streams,  
who raise and fall through the air,  
resound the praise of God our Lord!

CHORUS

Resound the praise of God our Lord!  
Great his name, and great his might.

EVE

Ye purling fountains tune his praise,  
and wave your tops ye pines!  
Ye plants exhale, ye flowers breathe  
at him your balmy scent!

ADAM

Ye that on mountains stately tread,  
and ye, that lowly creep,  
ye birds that sing at heavens gate,  
and ye, that swim the stream,

EVE, ADAM and CHORUS

Ye, living souls extol the Lord!  
Him celebrate, him magnify!

EVE and ADAM

Ye valleys, hills, and shady woods  
our raptured notes ye heard;  
from morn to even you shall repeat  
our grateful hymns of praise.

EVE, ADAM and CHORUS

Hail bounteous Lord! Almighty, hail!  
Thy word called forth this wondrous frame.  
Thy power adore the heaven and earth;  
we praise thee now and evermore.

ADAM

Ye mighty elements, by whose pow'r  
are ceaseless changes made,  
ye misty vapours and dewy steams,  
that rise and fall through th'air,  
acclaim and praise our God and Lord!

CHORUS

Acclaim and praise our God and Lord!  
Great is his name, and great his might!

EVE

Ye purling fountains, tune his praise,  
and wave your tops, ye pines!  
Ye plants exhale, ye flowers breathe  
on him your balmy scent!

ADAM

Ye that on lofty mountains tread,  
and ye that lowly creep,  
ye birds that sing at heaven's gate,  
and ye, that swim the deep,

EVE, ADAM and CHORUS

Ye living creatures, praise the Lord!  
All with life and breath!

EVE and ADAM

Ye valleys, hills and shady woods  
bear witness to our song.  
From morn to eve shall you repeat  
our grateful hymn of praise.

EVE, ADAM and CHORUS

Hail bounteous Lord! Creator, hail!  
Thy word called forth this wondrous frame.  
The heav'ns and earth thy pow'r proclaim;  
we praise thee now and evermore.

**(\*28) 29. Recitative**

ADAM

Our duty we performed  
 now in offering up to God our thanks.  
 Now follow me, dear partner of my life!  
 Thy guide I'll be,  
 and every step pours new delights into our breast,  
 shows wonders everywhere.  
 Then mayst thou feel and know  
 the high degree of bliss the Lord allotted us,  
 and with devoted heart his bounty celebrate.  
 Come, follow me! Thy guide I'll be.

EVE

O thou, for whom I am!  
 My help, my shield, my all!  
 Thy will is law to me.  
 So God, our Lord ordains,  
 and from obedience  
 grows my pride and happiness.

**(\*29) 30. Duet**

ADAM

Graceful consort!  
 At thy side softly fly the golden hours.  
 Every moment brings new rapture,  
 every care is put to rest.

EVE

Spouse adored!  
 At thy side purest joys overflow the heart.  
 Life and all I am, all I am is thine;  
 my reward thy love shall be.

EVE and ADAM

The dew dropping morn,  
 O how she quickens all!  
 The coolness of ev'n,  
 O how she all restores!  
 How grateful is of fruit the savour sweet!  
 How pleasing is of fragrant bloom the smell!  
 But without thee, what is to me  
 the morning dew, the breath of even,  
 the savoury fruit, the fragrant bloom!  
 With thee is every joy enhanced,  
 with thee delight is ever new;  
 with thee is life incessant bliss;  
 thine it whole shall be.

**Recitative**

ADAM

Our duty have we now perform'd,  
 in offering up to God our thanks.  
 Now follow me, dear partner of my life!  
 Thy guide I'll be,  
 and every step wakes new delight within our breast,  
 at the wonders all around.  
 Then may'st thou know  
 the high degree of bliss the Lord has granted us,  
 and with devoted heart confess his boundless love.  
 Come, follow me! Thy guide I'll be.

EVE

O thou, for whom I am!  
 My help, my shield, my all!  
 Thy will is law to me;  
 so God, our Lord, ordains.  
 For such obedience  
 brings me joy, contentment and honour.

**Duet**

ADAM

Graceful consort!  
 At thy side softly fly the golden hours.  
 Every moment brings new rapture,  
 every care is put to rest.

EVE

Spouse adored!  
 At thy side purest joys overflow the heart.  
 Life and all I am is thine;  
 my reward shall be thy love.

EVE and ADAM

The dew-dropping morning,  
 O how she gladdens all!  
 The cool breezy evening,  
 O how she quickens all!  
 How pleasing is the savour of the fruit!  
 How charming is the smell of fragrant blooms!  
 But without thee, what is to me  
 the morning dew, the evening breeze,  
 the sav'ry fruit, the fragrant bloom?  
 With thee is every joy enhanced,  
 with thee delight is ever new;  
 with thee is life incessant bliss;  
 thine it all shall be.

**(\*30) 31. Recitative**

URIEL

O happy pair, and always happy yet,  
 if not misled by false conceit;  
 ye strive at more as granted is,  
 and more to know as know ye should!

**(\*31) 32. Chorus**

CHORUS

Sing the Lord, ye voices all!  
 Utter thanks ye all his works!  
 Celebrate his power and glory!  
 Let his name resound on high!  
 The Lord is great; his praise shall last for aye  
 Amen.

**Recitative**

URIEL

O happy pair, and always happy yet,  
 unless, by false conceit misled,  
 ye strive for more than granted is,  
 and more would know, than know ye should!

**Chorus**

CHORUS

Praise the Lord, uplift your voices!  
 Utter ceaseless thanks, all ye his creatures!  
 Celebrate his power and glory!  
 Let his name resound on high!  
 The Lord is great; his praise shall last for aye.  
 Amen.