

# Handel - composed in 1741.

## The Elements of Music

Melody



Rhythm



Texture



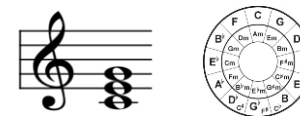
Instruments



Genre



Harmony & Tonality



Structure



### MELODY

Melody 1: outlines key of A major.



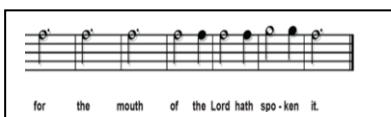
Melody 2: sequence, melisma (lots of notes per syllable)



Melody 3: repetition, simple idea.



Melody 4: long, repeated As. Emphasises the words.



### RHYTHM

Three beats in a bar - dance-like metre.

Maintains a fast tempo until the end where there is a general pause before a slower, drawn out ending.

### TEXTURE

The piece alternates between homophonic and polyphonic textures.

Very occasionally uses monophonic texture. (11-13)

Handel uses imitation (copied but overlaps)

Number of parts throughout the piece varies - texture builds up as more parts are added.

### INSTRUMENTS

Four voice types are:  
Soprano (high female)  
Alto (low female)  
Tenor (high male)  
Bass (low male)

Accompanied by strings (violins, violas) and continuo (cello and organ)

The orchestra often doubles the voices.

### HARMONY AND TONALITY

The piece is in A major. (Bright sounding key)  
Modulates to E major and B major (closely related keys)  
Harmony is diatonic (notes that belong to the key)

### GENRE

This is a famous chorus from Handel's Messiah.

The Messiah is an example of an oratorio.



Remember, we had biscuits that lesson...  
Baroque music.

Religious importance.

### STRUCTURE

Starts with an orchestral introduction.  
Based on different combinations of the four main melodies.