

## JUDAS MACCABAEUS

Judas Maccabaeus  
Jon Lackey, Tenor  
Simon, his Brother  
Aurelius Gori, Baritone

The story of Judas Maccabeus is based upon the descriptions in Maccabees I and II from the Old Testament Apocrypha. Judas was the third son of Mattathias of Modein, who had begun the revolt against the Greco-Syrian empire of Antiochus IV Epiphanes after the emperor attempted to impose the Greek religion on all subjects. Judas, a priest, led the resistance after Mattathias' death in 166 B.C. His forces subsequently won several critical battles, and in 164 B.C. they recaptured the Temple and restored it to the worship of Yahweh as prescribed in the Torah: this event is the basis for the celebration of Hannukah. They failed, however, to drive the Syrians garrison from the rest of Jerusalem, and Judas himself was killed in 160 B.C. Judas left no offspring, but his eldest brother Simon became the progenitor of a line of Judean kings.

### Overture

#### Chorus

*The Israelites lament the death of Mattathias, father of Judas Maccabeus.*  
For Sion lamentation make,  
With words that weep, and tears that speak.

#### Chorus

*The Israelites pray for a leader.*  
O Father, whose Almighty power  
The Heavens, and earth, and seas adore;  
The hearts of Judah, thy delight,  
In one defensive band unite.  
And grant a leader bold, and brave,  
If not to conquer, born to save.

### Accompagnato, Air and Chorus

*Simon calls Judas to be leader and the Israelites agree to follow.*

I feel, I feel the deity within,  
Who, the bright cherubim between,  
His radiant glory erst displayed;  
To Israel's distressful prayer  
He hath vouchsafed a gracious ear,  
And points out Maccabaeus to their aid:  
Judas shall set the captive free,  
And lead us all to victory.

Arm, arm, ye brave! A noble cause,  
The cause of Heav'n your zeal demands.  
In defense of your nation, religion, and laws,  
The Almighty Jehovah will strengthen your hands.  
We come, we come, in bright array,  
Judah, thy scepter to obey.  
Aurelius Gori, Baritone

### Recitative and Air

*Judas accepts the call to lead the Israelites.*  
'Tis well, my friends; with transport I behold  
The spirit of our fathers, famed of old  
For their exploits in war. Oh, may they fire  
With active courage you, their sons inspire:  
As when the mighty Joshua fought,  
And those amazing wonders wrought,  
Stood still, obedient to his voice, the sun,  
Till kings he had destroyed, and kingdoms won.  
Call forth thy powers, my soul, and dare  
The conflict of unequal war.  
Great is the glory of the conquering sword,  
That triumphs in sweet liberty restored.

Jon Lackey, Tenor

**Duet**

*Two Israelites sing of their longing for freedom.*  
Come, ever-smiling liberty,  
And with thee bring thy jocund train.  
For thee we pant, and sigh for thee,  
With whom eternal pleasures reign.

Michelle McHugh, Soprano; Judith Robb, Soprano

**Chorus**

*The Israelites, eager to follow Judah, long to be free.*  
Lead on, lead on! Judah disdains  
The galling load of hostile chains.

**Chorus**

*The Israelites pray for victory.*  
Hear us, O Lord, on Thee we call,  
Resolved on conquest, or a glorious fall.

**Chorus**

*The Israelites are confident the God will give them victory.*  
Fallen is the foe; so fall Thy foes, O Lord,  
Where warlike Judas wields his righteous sword!

**Duet and Chorus**

*The Israelites sing songs of praise to God.*  
Sion now her head shall raise,  
Tune your harps to songs of praise.

Nicole Derksen, Soprano; Teri LaGoe, Soprano

**Duet and Chorus**

Hail, hail, Judea, happy land!  
Salvation prospers in his hand.

Meredith Henderson, Soprano; Dorothea Kamara, Alto

**Recitative, Air and Chorus**

*Judas vows to take arms against the enemy General Gorgias, Governor of Idumean.*

My arms! Against this will I go.  
The I governor shall know  
How vain, how ineffective his design,  
While rage his leader, and Jehovah mine.  
Sound an alarm! Your silver trumpets sound,  
And call the brave, and only brave, around.  
Who listeth, follow: to the field again!  
Justice with courage is a thousand men.  
We hear, we hear the pleasing dreadful call,  
And follow thee to conquest; if to fall,  
For laws, religion, liberty, we fall.

Mr. Lackey

**Recitative and Air**

*Simon calls on the strength of God to provide victory.*

Enough! To Heav'n we leave the rest.  
Such generous ardor firing every breast,  
We may divide our cares; the field be thine,  
O Judas, and your sanctuary mine;  
For Sion, holy Sion, seat of God,  
In ruinous heaps, is by the heathen trod;  
Such profanation calls for swift redress,  
If e'er in battle Israel hopes success.  
With pious hearts, and brave as pious,  
O Sion, we thy call attend,  
Nor dread the nations that defy us,  
God our defender, God our friend.  
Dr. Gori

**Duet and Chorus**

*The Israelites vow never to worship false Gods, carved of wood or stone.*

Oh, never, never bow we down  
To the rude stock or sculptured stone.  
We worship God, and God alone.  
We never, never will bow down.

Francisco, Robles, Tenor; William Brown, bass

**Chorus**

*The Israelites fought for three years and regained control of Jerusalem and the Temple. After rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem, it was cleansed and cleared of all Greek idolatry. According to law, the eternal flame of God was to be lit at all time as a symbol of God's presence. But according to tradition, when the Temple was rededicated, there was only enough oil left in the temple to burn the flame for one day. But they went ahead and lit the eternal flame with the remaining supply of oil, and God caused it to burn miraculously for eight days, until new sacred oil was ready. This is why the feast is also called the Festival of Lights, why the Hanukkah Menorah is lit for eight consecutive nights, and the Chanukah menorah has eight candles instead of the seven of the temple menorah.*

Father of Heav'n! From Thy eternal throne,  
Look with an eye of blessing down,  
While we prepare with holy rites,  
To solemnize the feasts of lights.

**Chorus**

*The Children of Israel greet their victorious army returning from battle.*

See, the conquering hero comes!  
Sound the trumpets, beat the drums.  
Sports prepare, the laurel bring,  
Songs of triumph to him sing.  
See the godlike youth advance!  
Breathe the flutes, and lead the dance;  
Myrtle wreaths, and roses twine,  
To deck the hero's brow divine.

**March**

**Duet and Chorus**

*The Israelites sing songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.*

Sing unto God, and high affections raise,  
To crown this conquest with unmeasured praise.  
Ellie Briscoe, Alto; Andrew Scott, Tenor

**Chorus**

Hallelujah! Amen.