A Kalmus Classic Edition

George Frideric

HANDEL

SOLOMON

An Oratorio

for Soli, Chorus and Orchestra

VOCAL SCORE

KO6808

PREFACE

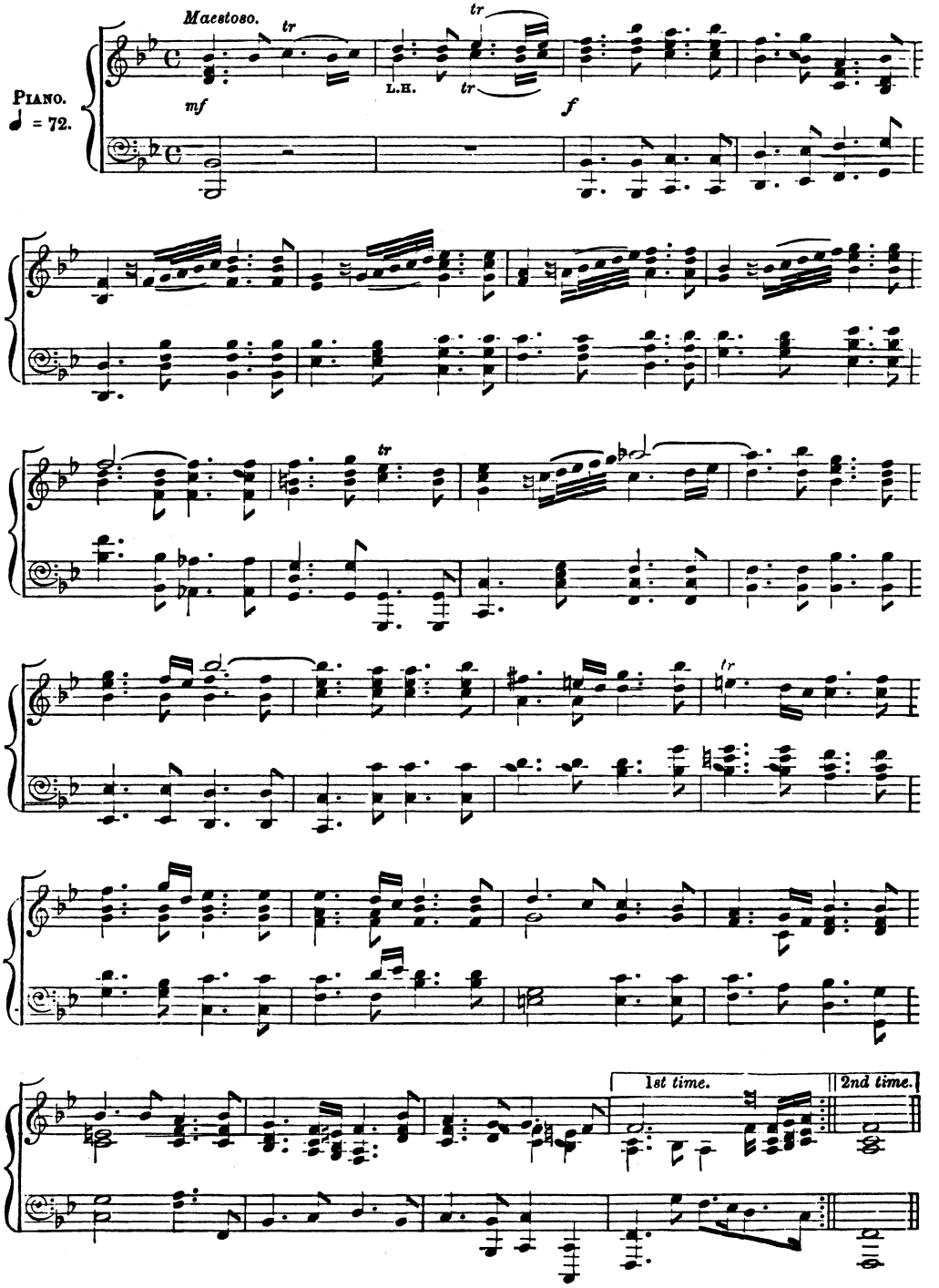
THE oratorio of *Solomon* was composed by Handel in 1748, the year after he had produced his *Joshua* and *Alexander Balus*. According to the autograph score, preserved in the Royal Musical Library at Buckingham Palace, the composition of the work occupied Handel a little more than a month. He began it on May 5, 1748, and the memorandum at the end of the manuscript is "G. F. Handel, Juin 13, 1748, ætatis 63. Völlig geendiget."

The words of the oratorio are supposed to be by Dr. Morell, but this is not certain. In a few instances the original words have been altered.

Solomon was produced at Covent Garden Theatre, on Friday, March 17, 1749, "with a Concerto," under Handel's direction. The oratorio was revived by Sir George Smart at Exeter Hall, April 14, 1836, and by the Sacred Harmonic Society, December 3, 1838. Costa's additional accompaniments were used at the Sacred Harmonic Society's performance after he became conductor.

The present abridged edition contains only those numbers of the oratorio that are usually performed, the selection being the same as that used by the late Sacred Harmonic Society, and at most of the provincial Festivals.

PART I.

No. 1.

OVERTURE.