

After listening to one or two excerpts from the Messiah and reading the webpage, here are some jumping off points for your discussion.

- When the librettist, Jennens, wrote the text for Handel's Messiah, was he plagiarizing?
Why or why not?
- From Handel's life, what positive character qualities do you observe? (perseverance, practice, work ethic, adaptation)
- When you read that Handel did not attach himself to a Patron, but took an entrepreneurial approach to his music, what character qualities does his behavior display? (independence, adaptation) Note: he was a contemporary of the American Revolution and was responding to a more open time when business began to be a path to wealth. He was one composer who died rich (and bequeathed his money to charity).
- What did Handel do that showed his concern for others? (donations and benefit concerts)
- What did other great composers say about Handel?
- Did Handel have to write his music about biblical themes? Though in this time period there was a turn toward atheism, Handel wrote about biblical subjects and uplifting themes.
- If you became famous, what would you do to help yourself remember to serve others? (Handel became a governor --or board member-- of the Foundling Hospital. When Handel died, he left his wealth to charity.)
- Though Handel was extremely talented, he continued to practice throughout his life, and kept a schedule, composing continually. Do you think talented people need to work as hard as others? Handel suffered some medical setbacks, but always returned to compose

and perform, showing his "grit". Even though he was blind in his later years he continued to perform until the last week of his life.

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