

After the Recording

Questions to ask:

- Which scenes do you like best? Are they the lively funny sections, or the sad heart-tugging moments? Who is your favorite character? Which music did you like best?
- Listen to Handel's music during quiet time or other activities. Recommended works include the Water Music, Music for the Royal Fireworks and *Messiah*. Even better, invite some musicians in to play some of his music!
- Pretend you are a newspaper entertainment reporter who has just received *Hallelujah Handel!* Write a review commenting on the script, the quality of the acting, the use of music and the effectiveness of sound effects.
- Be reporters and interview Handel about some of the true stories from the recording: How did he name his Water Music? What happened at the end of the Fireworks Music? How did the music and staging of *Julius Caesar* bring the story alive? Why did Handel threaten to throw the soprano out the window?
- If you were a movie producer, which sections would you emphasize? From whose point of view would you tell the story? What music, sound or lighting effects would you include? Would you use a prologue and epilogue?
- Although Thomas's story is told from Katarina's point of view, discuss other ways this story could have been written. [Suggestions: biographical fiction (third person), diary (first person) or illustrated book.]
- Make a storyboard of the plot. Use different colored inks to represent fictional and true events.
- If your classroom has other Classical Kids recordings, try to name similarities and differences between the composers, their times and the role of the fictional child.
- Show your class movies with similar themes: *House of Cards*, *Into the West*, *The Secret Garden*, *Cleopatra*, *Farinelli*, *The Madness of King George*.
- Make a chart of musical excerpts, their instrumentation and tempo/mood. Start at the beginning of Scene 1 and proceeding through to the end. For example:
 - Sarabande, low strings, slow and dark
 - Hornpipe, strings and trumpet, festive and fast
 - Harp Concerto, harp and strings, moderato and polite... etc.
- Make your own Baroque production. Use the songs, dances, sets, and tableaux described here as a starting point.
- Do a research project on England and Handel. Make a comparison with the two other Baroque composers: Bach and Vivaldi.

