

UMS Messiah history

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First Choral Union Concert: December 16, 1879

“Complete” Messiahs before it became an annual event: May 21, 1886 [accompanied by a double string quartet and two pianos]; December 21, 1892; December 19, 1893; December 16, 1896; May 5, 1907 [May Festival]; December 7, 1908; May 14, 1914 [May Festival]; December 17, 1935

Christmas portion only [Parts 1 & 2]: 1929-1940 except 1935, 1937, 1938; 1935 Messiah was performed complete; 1937 Haydn’s Creation was performed in December; 1938 Mendelssohn’s Elijah was performed in December.

1941 marked the start of annual complete performances of Messiah; however the final chorus “Worthy is the Lamb...Amen” was omitted and the “Hallelujah Chorus” was moved from the end of Part 2 to the end of Part 3 for the first several years

Number of performances: 1941-1945	1 performance each year
1946-1964	2 performances each year
1965-1988	3 performances each year
1989-	2 performances each year

Conductors	1941	Thor Johnson
	1942-1946	Hardin Van Deursen
	1947-1962	Lester McCoy
	1963	Harold Haugh
	1964-1968	Lester McCoy
	1969-1989	Donald Bryant
	1990-1992	Thomas Hilbish
	1993-2002	Thomas Sheets
	2003-	Jerry Blackstone

Orchestras	1941-1942	University Symphony Orchestra	
	1943-1960	UMS Orchestra/Musical Society Orchestra	
	1961-1964	University Symphony Orchestra	
	1965	Member of Detroit Symphony	
	1966-1976	Interlochen Symphony	
	1977-1987	University Symphony Orchestra	
	1988-	Ann Arbor Symphony	
Chorus size	1942	1963	2011
Sopranos	126	99	54
Altos	103	107	67
Tenors	34	31	28
Basses	63	61	37
Orchestra size	1942	1963	2011
1 st Violin	23	8	8 (1942: 1 st & 2 nd violins not separated)
2 nd Violin		7	8
Viola	6	6	5
Cello	5	6	4
Bass	5	4	3
Flute	2		
Oboe	2	2	2
English horn			1
Clarinet	2		
Bassoon	2	2	3
Contrabassoon			1
French horn	4		
Trumpet	2	2	2
Tympani	1	1	1