



(Pronounced Hen-del)

Halle, Germany, was the birthplace (1685) of this famous composer whose father, a barber, intended him to become a lawyer.

At the age of seven, he could play the harpsichord and the oboe which he had secretly taught himself. He became noted as an organist before he was twenty years old.

Nobles and musicians welcomed him when he visited Italy. When he went to England he won the favor of Queen Anne and became the music teacher to the Prince of Wales' daughters. He wrote for Princess Anne *The Harmonious Blacksmith*.

During the years that he spent in London, he wrote many grand operas and some of the greatest oratorios.

Entire audience arose enthusiastically when the *Messiah*, his greatest oratorio, was sung for the first time.

Lived until 1759 and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Theme on an Air (Andante)

Handwritten signature

Andante

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The musical score consists of four systems of piano accompaniment. Each system has a treble and bass clef staff. The tempo is marked 'Andante'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents (>), and dynamic markings. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 below the notes. The first system starts with a '2' in the left margin. The second system has a '3' above the first measure. The third system has a '2' above the first measure. The fourth system has a '3' above the first measure. The bass line is mostly chordal accompaniment with some moving lines.

*This air has been used by Brahms as the theme of his "Variations and Fugue on a theme by Handel."