

*Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas*

By Ace Collins

Did you ever wonder where or how some of the oldest Christmas traditions started? This sweet small book is not a new one, but full of interesting facts and stories about some of our oldest holiday traditions?

Do you know why the audience stands to hear the Hallelujah Chorus in Handel's *Messiah?* In 1742 Handel was marking the debut of his newest work. On the second night, King George II was so moved by the chorus that he stood to show his appreciation. Of course, when the monarch stood, everyone had to follow his actions, and thus a tradition began. It was originally performed mainly during the Easter season, but the story highlighting the birth of Jesus gradually moved to be a Christmas-time tradition when retailers and charities realized that the music moved the audiences to greater acts of giving.

You'll learn the origin of *Christmas Seals*, candy canes, a birthday cake for Jesus, the exchanging of Christmas cards, and many other familiar parts of our holiday history. I highly recommend this book for the season to bring even more meaning to your family traditions.