

George Frideric

HANDEL

SEMELE

AN ORATORIO

MINIATURE SCORE

K 01305

P R E F A C E.

SEMELE was composed in 1743 in the course of four weeks, viz. commenced June 3^d and completed July 4th. The first performance took place Feb. 10th, 1744. The Libretto bears the somewhat peculiar title:

The | Story | of | **SEMELE**. | As it is Perform'd at the | Theatre-Royal in Covent-Garden. | Alter'd from the Semele of Mr. *William Congreve*. | Set to Musick by Mr. **GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL**. | London: | Printed for J. and R. Tonson in the Strand. | M. DCC XLIV. | [Price One Shilling.]

The designation »Story of Semele« was chosen because it was not considered suitable to call it an Oratorio on account of its secular subject, nor an Opera on account of its treatment in the manner of an Oratorio.

Semele was, however, written by Congreve as an Opera (1707), but was found to be unsuitable for the stage on account of the undramatic conclusion, and lay unused till Handel worked up the poem as an Oratorio with some alterations. We have called it an *Oratorio*, in the same sense as this name has been applied also to Hercules.

The Pianoforte arrangement is due to E. F. Richter.

LEIPZIG, July 1st, 1860.

CONTENTS.

ACT I.

	Page.
<i>Overtura</i>	1
<i>Priest.</i> Behold! auspicious flashes rise.	10
<i>Chorus.</i> Lucky omens bless our rites.	11
<i>Cadmus.</i> {Daughter, obey }	23
<i>Athamas.</i> {O hear a faithful lover's prayer }	25
<i>Semele.</i> Ah me! what refuge now is left me.	26
<i>Air.</i> O Jove! in pity teach me which to choose	28
<i>Air.</i> The morning lark	26
<i>Athamas.</i> See, she blushing turns her eyes	36
<i>Air.</i> Hymen, haste! thy torch prepare.	—
<i>Ino.</i> Alas! she yields	39
<i>Cadmus.</i> {Why dost thou thus untimely grieve	40
<i>Ino.</i> {Of all; but all, I fear, in vain. }	40
<i>Athamas.</i> {Can I thy woes relieve }	46
<i>Semele.</i> {Can I assuage thy pain }	46
<i>Chorus.</i> Avert these omens, all ye pow'rs	56
<i>Cadmus.</i> Again auspicious flashes rise	57
<i>Athamas.</i> Thy aid, pronubial Juno	—
<i>Chorus.</i> Cease, cease your vow's	—
<i>Ino.</i> Oh Athamas; what torture	60
<i>Air.</i> Turn, hopeless lover, turn thy eyes	61
<i>Athamas.</i> She weeps.	64
<i>Air.</i> Your tuneful voice my tale would tell	65
<i>Ino.</i> Too well I see	68
<i>Ino.</i> {You've undone me }	—
<i>Athamas.</i> {With my life I would atone }	—
<i>Cadmus.</i> Ah, wretched prince.	73
<i>Athamas.</i> Wing'd with our fears and pious haste	—
<i>Athamas.</i> Oh prodigy	75
<i>Cadmus.</i> See, see! Jove's Priests	—
<i>Chorus.</i> Hail Cadmus, hail	76
<i>Semele.</i> <i>Air.</i> Endless pleasure, endless love	82
<i>Chorus.</i> Endless pleasure, endless love	86
ACT II.	
<i>Sinfonia.</i>	91
<i>Juno.</i> Iris, impatient of thy stay	94
<i>Iris.</i> <i>Air.</i> There, from mortal cares retiring.	95
<i>Juno.</i> No more	98
<i>Iris.</i> Awake, Saturnia	—
<i>Iris.</i> Hear, mighty queen	101
<i>Juno.</i> <i>Air.</i> Hence, Iris, hence away	103
<i>Semele.</i> <i>Air.</i> Oh sleep	107
<i>Semele.</i> Let me not another moment.	109
<i>Jupiter.</i> <i>Air.</i> Lay your doubts and fears aside	—
<i>Jupiter.</i> You are mortal.	112
<i>Semele.</i> <i>Air.</i> With fond desiring	—
<i>Chorus.</i> How engaging, how endearing	116
<i>Semele.</i> Ah me	121

<i>Jupiter.</i> <i>Air.</i> I must with speed amuse her	Page. 122
<i>Chorus.</i> Now Love that everlasting boy invites	126
<i>Jupiter.</i> By my command	135
<i>Air.</i> Where'er you walk	136
<i>Semele.</i> Dear sister	138
<i>Ino.</i> <i>Air.</i> But hark! the heav'nly sphere turns	139
<i>Semele.</i> round.	139
<i>Ino.</i> <i>Duet.</i> {Prepare then, ye immortal choir. }	142
<i>Chorus.</i> Bless the glad earth with heav'nly lays.	144

ACT III.

<i>Juno.</i> Somnus, awake.	154
<i>Somnus.</i> <i>Air.</i> Leave me, loathsome light	155
<i>Iris.</i> Dull God	158
<i>Somnus.</i> <i>Air.</i> More sweet is that name	—
<i>Juno.</i> My will obey	161
<i>Juno.</i> <i>Duet.</i> {Obey my will }	162
<i>Somnus.</i> {All I must grant. }	162
<i>Semele.</i> <i>Air.</i> My racking thoughts.	165
<i>Juno.</i> Thus shap'd like Ino	167
<i>Semele.</i> <i>Air.</i> Myself I shall adore	168
<i>Juno.</i> Be wise, as you are beautiful	174
<i>Semele.</i> Conjure him by his oath	175
<i>Juno.</i> <i>Air.</i> Thus let my thanks be pay'd	177
<i>Juno.</i> Rich odours fill the fragrant air	180
<i>Jupiter.</i> <i>Air.</i> Come to my arms, my lovely fair.	—
<i>Semele.</i> Oh Semele	183
<i>Jupiter.</i> <i>Air.</i> I ever am granting	—
<i>Semele.</i> Speak, speak your desire	185
<i>Jupiter.</i> By that tremendous flood, I swear	186
<i>Semele.</i> You'll grant what I require	—
<i>Jupiter.</i> Then cast off this human shape	187
<i>Semele.</i> <i>Air.</i> Ah, take heed what you press	—
<i>Jupiter.</i> <i>Air.</i> No, no, I'll take no less	191
<i>Jupiter.</i> Ah, whither is she gone	196
<i>Juno.</i> <i>Air.</i> Above measure is the pleasure.	198
<i>Semele.</i> Ah me! too late I now repent.	200
<i>Ino.</i> Of my ill-boding dream.	201
<i>Chorus.</i> Oh terror and astonishment	202
<i>Ino.</i> How I was hence remov'd	209
<i>Athamas.</i> <i>Air.</i> Despair no more shall wound me.	—
<i>Cadmus.</i> See from above the belying clouds	215
<i>Sinfonia.</i>	—
<i>Apollo.</i> Apollo comes.	216
<i>Chorus.</i> Happy, happy shall we be	217

S E M E L E.

Dramatis personae.

JUPITER. Tenore.
CADMUS, king of Thebes. Basso.
ATHAMAS, a prince of Bœotia. Alto.
SOMNUS. Basso.
APOLLO. Tenore.
JUNO. Alto.
IRIS. Soprano.
SEMELE, daughter to Cadmus. Soprano.
INO, sister to Semele. Alto.
Chorus of Priests and Augurs.
Chorus of Loves and Zephyrs.
Chorus of Nymphs and Swains.
Attendants.

ZEUS. Tenor.
KADMOS, König von Theben. Bass.
ATHAMAS, ein Prinz von Bœotien. Alt.
Der Gott des Schlags. Bass.
APOLLON. Tenor.
HERE. Alt.
IRIS. Sopran.
SEMELE, Kadmos' Tochter. Sopran.
INO, ihre Schwester. Alt.
Chor der Priester und Auguren.
Chor der Liebesgötter und Zephyre.
Chor der Nymphen und Schäfer.
Begleiter.

ACT I.

Scene 1.

The scene is the temple of Juno. Near the altar is a golden image of the Goddess. Priests are in their solemnities, as after a sacrifice newly offer'd; flames arise from the altar, and the statue of Juno is seen to bow.

CADMUS, ATHAMAS, SEMELE, INO, and Chorus of Priests.

Priest. Behold! auspicious flashes rise,
Juno accepts our sacrifice;
The grateful odour swift ascends,
And see, the golden image bends!

CHORUS.

Lucky omens bless our rites,
And sure success shall crown your loves;
Peaceful days and fruitful nights
Attend the pair that she approves.

Cadmus. Daughter, obey,
Hear and obey!
With kind consenting
Ease a parent's care;
Invent no new delay!

Athamas. O hear a faithful lover's prayer!
On this auspicious day
Invent no new delay!
O hear —

Cadmus. And obey —

Both. Invent no new delay
On this auspicious day!

1. Scene.

Scene: Tempel der Juno. Nahe dem Altare steht ein goldenes Bild der Göttin. Die Priester befinden sich in feierlicher Stellung, wie nach einem so eben dargebrachten Opfer; Flammen steigen auf vom Altar, und die Statue der Juno besengt ihr Wohlgefallen durch gnädiges Neigen.

KADMOS, ATHAMAS, SEMELE, INO und Chor der Priester.

Priester. O seht! die heil'ge Glut flammt auf!
Seht, Here nimmt das Opfer an!
Der Duft des Weihrauchs walt empor;
Gewährung winkt ihr gold'nes Bild.

CHOR.

Heil und Segen spendet euch Here's
Macht!

Der Wünsche Ziel habt ihr erreicht.
Fried' am Tag und Freud' zur Nacht
Harrt dein, o Paar, dem sie sich neigt.

Kadmos. Tochter, gib nach,
Hör' und gib nach,
Und liebreich wende deines Vaters Schmach!
Nicht spähe nach Verzug,
Nicht sinn' auf neuen Trug!

Athamas. O hör' der treuen Liebe Fleh'n!
An diesem frohen Tag
Sinn' nicht auf neuen Trug!
O hör' —

Kadmos. Und gib nach —

Beide. Nicht sinn' auf neuen Trug
An diesem frohen Tag!