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Handel's Secular Oratorio

# “SEMELE”



TUESDAY

MAY

2

1939

8:15 P. M.



PUBLIC  
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Conductor

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### CONTRALTO

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### TENOR

Ted Roy

### BARITONE

Mark Daniels

### DRAMATIC PERSONAE

[In order of appearance]

Chief Priest of Juno . . . Baritone

Semele, Daughter of Cadmus . . . Soprano

Cadmus, Mighty King of Thebes . . . Baritone

Juno, Wife of Jupiter . . . Contralto

Jupiter, Greatest of All Gods . . . Tenor

Ino, Sister of Semele . . . Contralto

Somnus, God of Sleep . . . Baritone

Apollo, God of Youth . . . Tenor

Chorus of Priests and Augers

Chorus of Loves and Zephyrs

Chorus of Nymphs and Swains

## Chorus

[Combined Federated Chorus]

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Amacher, Maxine Miss

Barendrecht, Mary M. Mrs.

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Eggleston, M. M. Mrs.

Emerson, Amo, Mrs.

Gildersleve, Olga W. Mrs.

Greenwell, Eliz. Miss

Hroun, Vera M.

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Iles, Florence, Miss

Jenkins, Helen, Mrs.

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Jones, Mildred B.

Keller, Adele, Mrs.

Langoe, Constance, Miss

Meyer, Daisy, Mrs.

Meyer, Frank J., Mrs.

Murphy, Eliz., Miss

McCurry, Will, Mrs.

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Goodwin, Phila. M., Mrs.

Hagen, Elizabeth, Miss

Henderson, Mrs. C. C.

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Isbell, Beth, Mrs.

Jacot, Edna, Miss

Landers, Esther

Langoe, Francis R., Miss

Lehl, Louise, Miss

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Miller, Louise, Miss

Munger, Nellie, Miss

Morandy, Alice

Penrose, B., Mrs.

Pickard, Gladys L., Mrs.

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Zander, Jessie A.

### TENORS

Dietz, Don

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Hergert, Alex

Littlehales, R. C.

Murray, R. M.

Smith, J. G.

Smith, Fay O.

Smith, Wm. A.

Starr, Stanley

Strahl, R. F.

Teisinger, Kendall

Wilhelm, Phillip F.

### BASS

Allin, Jim

Barendrecht, M. J.

Bargmann, John

Blenkinsop, P. M.

Bown, Frank

Byers, V. A.

Eggleston, S. W.

Emerson, A. M.

Emerson, Chas. L.

Frost, G. B.

Gault, Philip

Hansen, A. R.

Ingham, Clifford

Ingham, Fred

Johnson, Knut

Johnson, McDonald

Jones, J. W.

Judson, H. T.

Junkerman, Otto

Kron, J. E.

Lawrence, K. W.

McCracken, Mark

Meyer, A. W.

Meyer, Richard

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Written in 1743, “SEMELE” is adapted from an old Greek Myth.

ACT I

Semele, beautiful daughter of Cadmus, King of Thebes, is betrothed to Athamas, a Prince of Boeotia, but is loved by Jupiter, whose love she returns. Sacrifices are offered and the omens are consulted in the Temple of Juno. Semele appeals for help to Jupiter, who causes the altar flames to be extinguished; and descends in the form of an eagle to snatch her away to his secret retreat.

ACT II

Juno, immortal wife of Jupiter, discovers Semele's retreat and vows to destroy her. Semele pines for Jupiter who is often absent, and tells him that she, too, would be immortal. Jupiter troubled at this dangerous ambition, seeks to divert her. He summons Ino to her sister and changes the scene to Arcadia.

[TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION]

ACT III

Juno arouses Somnus, God of Sleep, from his slumbers. She persuades him to charm to sleep the dragons guarding Semele's door. Then in the guise of Ino, Juno appears before Semele and tells her she can obtain immortality if Jupiter comes to her as the God of Tunder. Jupiter reluctantly consents; and Semele is consumed by fire.

Apollo comforts the mortals with the promise that:

“From Semele's ashes a Phoenix shall rise  
The joy of this earth and delight of the skies  
A God he shall prove  
More mighty than Love,  
And sighing and sorrow forever prevent”.

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