

Handel's oratorio *Semele* was composed in 1743 and tells of a beautiful mortal (Semele), whose short but spectacular love affair with Jupiter, King of the Gods, comes to a terrifying end in consequence of both her own vanity and the scheming of Jupiter's insanely jealous wife Juno. Written at the peak of Handel's powers, it is crammed with his most sparkling and dramatic music: spectacular orchestral numbers and powerful choruses combine with heart-stopping arias, including the popular *Where'er you walk* and the coloratura showpiece *Mysel I shall adore*.

George Frideric
HANDEL
(1685–1759)
Semele
(Secular Oratorio in Three Acts)

Semele, daughter of Cadmus	Elisabeth Scholl, Soprano
Iris, attendant of Juno / Cupid	Julla Schmidt, Soprano
Athamas, Prince of Boeotia	Ralf Popken, Countertenor
Ino, sister to Semele	Britta Schwarz, Alto
Juno	Annette Markert, Alto
Jupiter / Apollo, God of Prophecy	Knut Schoch, Tenor
Cadmus, King of Thebes / Somnus, God of Sleep /	
Chief Priest of Juno	Klaus Mertens, Bass

Junge Kantorei • Frankfurt Baroque Orchestra
Joachim Carlos Martini

CD 1	60:14	CD 2	51:39	CD 3	69:29
1-24 Act I	60:14	1-21 Act II	51:39	1-32 Act III	69:29

Includes Free Downloadable Bonus Track available at www.classicsonline.com

Please see inside booklet for full details

Recorded live at Kloster Eberbach, Rheingau, Germany, on 27th May, 2007

Editor: Joachim Carlos Martini • Booklet Notes: Keith Anderson

Please see the booklet for a detailed track list • Cover Picture: *Jupiter and Semele* by Gustave Moreau (1826–1898) (Musée Gustave Moreau, Paris, France / Bridgeman Art Library)

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Playing Time
3:01:22

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