

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Phaedra

Dramatic cantata for mezzo-soprano and
small orchestra

Op. 93

Words from a verse translation of Racine's *Phèdre*

by

ROBERT LOWELL

Vocal score by Colin Matthews

FABER *ff* MUSIC

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PHAEDRA

DRAMATIC CANTATA FOR MEZZO-SOPRANO
AND
SMALL ORCHESTRA

Words from ROBERT LOWELL'S
translation of Racine's *Phèdre*

Music by
BENJAMIN BRITTEN
Op. 93

PROLOGUE

Broadly flowing (♩ = 54)

Orchestra

bell

str. $\frac{12}{8}$ *f*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the Prologue. It features a single staff for the orchestra, which is a 12/8 time signature. The music is marked 'bell' and 'str. f'. The melody is broad and flowing, with a tempo of ♩ = 54. The score includes a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (D major).

PHAEDRA *freely* (♩ = ♩ approx. of orchestra)

In May, in bril - liant A - thens,

(p) *p*

timp. *mf*

* cym. *mf dry* *p*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for Phaedra's first vocal line. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The lyrics are 'In May, in bril - liant A - thens,'. The music is marked 'freely' and 'approx. of orchestra'. The tempo is indicated as ♩ = ♩. The score includes a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The piano accompaniment is in a bass clef with a key signature of two sharps. It features a timpani part marked 'mf' and a cymbal part marked '* cym. mf dry' and 'p'. The piano part is marked '(p)' and 'p'. The score includes a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps.

on my mar - riage day.

1

f

(cym.)

6/8 12/8

8 8

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for Phaedra's second vocal line. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The lyrics are 'on my mar - riage day.'. The music is marked '1' and 'f'. The tempo is indicated as 6/8 and 12/8. The score includes a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The piano accompaniment is in a bass clef with a key signature of two sharps. It features a cymbal part marked '(cym.)'. The piano part is marked 'f'. The score includes a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps.

* In order to suggest the cymbals the pianist should play a cluster of 3 or 4 of the top notes of the piano.

f (♩ = ♩)

I turned a-side for shel-ter from the smile — of Theseus.

12 (p) 15

(timp.) *mf* 12 8

(cym.) 8 *mf* *p* 8

2

f (♩ = ♩)

Death —

15 *f* (pizz.) 4 12 (p dim.) 8

mf 12 8 cym. *mf*

p 3

was frowning in an aisle- Hip - po-ly-tus! I saw his face, turned

p *dying away* (4)

(cym.) *p*

3 RECITATIVE
(agitated crotchets) (♩ = 80)

pp (4) *animated*

white! My lost and daz-zled eyes saw on - ly

hps. (+solo vc.) (4) *p* *cresc.* *mf*