

Handel Samson

Dramatis personae:

Samson	Tenor	
Micah, his friend	Mezzo Soprano	Priests of Dagon
Manoa, his father	Bass	Chorus of Virgins
Dalila, his wife	Soprano	Chorus of Israelites
Harapha, a giant of Gath	Bass	Chorus of Philistines
Israelite messenger	Tenor	
Israelite woman	Soprano	

Soloists:

Anna Gregg	Soprano
Myrna Tennant	Mezzo Soprano
Richard Jackson	Tenor
Fionn O hAlmhain	Bass

Organ	Richard Dunster-Sigtermans	
Cello	Corinne Malitskie	
Trumpets	Nick Bunker,	
Harpichord and Musical Director		Ian Clarke

Musical numbers

Overture (*bars 1-13, 46-59, then Minuet 1-36 (to Fine)*) **STAND**

Act One

Recit.	This day	Samson (blind, and in chains)
Chorus	Awake the trumpet's lofty sound SIT	Priests of Dagon
Air	Ye men of valour STAND at F	Philistine Woman
Chorus	Awake the trumpet's lofty sound (reprise) SIT	
Recit.	Why by an angel was my birth foretold	Samson
Recit.	Matchless in might	Micah & Samson
Air	Total Eclipse STAND 3 bars before end	Samson
Chorus	O first created beam...Let there be light	Israelites
Recit.	SIT You see, my friends	Samson & Micah (<i>*extra sheet, after p.28</i>)
Recit.	Brethren and men of Dan	Manoa & Micah (<i>in C as in score</i>)
Recit.	The good we wish for	Manoa (<i>segue</i>)
Air	Thy glorious deeds inspir'd my tongue	Manoa
Recit.	Justly these evils have befall'n thy son	Samson
Recit.	My grief for this forbid mine eyes to close STAND 5 bars before end	Samson (<i>p.37-44, cut</i>)
Chorus	Then shall they know SIT	Israelites
Recit.	For thee, my dearest son	Micah & Samson
Recit.	My genial spirits droop STAND	Samson
Chorus	Then round about the starry throne SIT	Israelites

Act 2

Recit.	My evils hopeless are	Samson & Micah
Air & Chorus	Return, return, O God of hosts STAND at D (Air)	Micah & Israelites (<i>p.59, no D.C.</i>)
Recit.	SIT But who is this?	Micah, Samson & Dalila (<i>b. 1-4 semitone lower</i>)
Air	With plaintive notes	Dalila
Air & Chorus	S STAND (p.70) My faith and truth/O Samson prove SIT	Dalila & Chorus of Virgins (<i>b. 1-8 then p.72 end</i>)
Recit.	Ne'er think of that/Let me approach	Samson & Dalila (<i>*extra sheet, p.75</i>)
Duet	Traitor/Traitress to love	Dalila & Samson
Recit.	She's gone/ STAND Favour'd of heaven	Micah & Samson (<i>*extra 3 bars, after duet</i>)
Chorus	To man God's universal law SIT	Israelites
Recit.	No words of peace	Micah, Harapha, Samson
Air	Honour and arms scorn such a foe	Harapha (<i>No D.C., finish at the end, p.91</i>)
Recit.	Cam'st thou for this, vain boaster?	Samson & Harapha
Duet	Go, baffled coward, go/Presume not	Samson & Harapha
Recit.	Here lies the proof STAND 4 bars before end	Micah
Chorus	Hear, Jacob's God	Israelites
Recit.	Dagon, arise!	Harapha
Chorus	To song and dance	Priests of Dagon
Chorus	Fix'd in his everlasting seat SIT	Samson, Micah, Israelites (<i>All soloists join in!</i>) Dalila & Virgins, Harapha

Act 3

Recit.	More trouble is behind	Micah, Samson, Harapha (<i>p.120-122 cut</i>)
Recit.	Reflect then, Samson STAND	Micah & Samson (<i>alter first word 'consider'</i>)
Chorus	With thunder arm'd SIT	Israelites
Recit.	Be of good courage	Samson, Micah, Harapha
Air	Thus when the sun	Samson
Recit.	With might endued	Micah
Air & Chorus	STAND 6 bars before end of Air The Holy One of Israel be thy guide	Micah & Israelites
Recit.	SIT Old Manoah, with youthful steps	Micah & Manoa
Chorus	STAND Great Dagon has subdued our foe SIT	Philistines (<i>8 bar intro, then begin p.143</i>)
Recit.	What noise of joy was that?	Manoa & Micah
Air	How willing my paternal love	Manoa
Recit.	Your hopes of his delivery	Micah & Manoa
	A Symphony of Horror and Confusion STAND	
Recit.	Heav'n! What noise?	Manoa
Chorus	Hear us, our God! SIT	Philistines
Recit.	Noise call you this?	Micah & Manoa (<i>*extra page after p.155</i>)
Recit.	Where shall I run	Messenger, Micah & Manoa (<i>*3 extra pages</i>)
Air & Chorus	Ye sons of Israel STAND at A /Weep, Israel, weep SIT	Micah & Israelites
	Dead March (<i>No.2, omit no.1</i>)	
Recit.	The body comes	Micah, Manoa (<i>*extra page</i>)
Air & Chorus	A+T STAND Glorious hero	Manoa, Israelites, woman & Virgins
	Bar after A: T SIT, S STAND. At D: T+B STAND. SIT at end.	
Recit.	Come, come; no time for lamentation	Manoa
Air &	Let the bright Seraphims STAND 3 bars before end	Israelite woman
Chorus	Let their celestial concerts all unite	Israelites