

DIDO AND AENEAS

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An opera perform'd at Mr. Josias Priest's
Boarding School at Chelsey by Young
Gentlewomen.

The words made by Mr. NAT. TATE

The music composed by Mr. HENRY
PURCELL

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BEGIN CONTENT

Dramatis Personae

DIDO

BELINDA

TWO WOMEN

AENEAS

SORCERESS

ENCHANTRESSES

SPIRIT of the Sorceress (Mercury)

Dido's train, Aeneas' train, Fairies,

Sailors

OVERTURE

ACT THE FIRST

Scene: The Palace

[enter Dido, Belinda and
train] BELINDA Shake the
cloud from off your brow,
Fate your wishes does allow;

Empire
growing,
Pleasures
flowing,

Fortune smiles and so should
you. CHORUS Banish sorrow,
banish care, Grief should
ne'er approach the fair.

DIDO

Ah! Belinda, I am prest
With torment not to be
Confest, Peace and I are
strangers grown. I
languish till my grief is
known, Yet would not have
it gnest.

BELINDA

Grief increases by
concealing, DIDO Mine
admits of no revealing.

BELINDA

Then let me speak; the Trojan
guest Into your tender
thoughts has prest; The
greatest blessing Fate can
give Our Carthage to secure
and Troy revive.

CHORUS

When monarchs unite, how happy their
state, They triumph at once o'er their
foes and their fate.

DIDO

Whence could so much virtue spring?
What storms, what battles did he
sing? Anchises' valour mixt with
Venus' charms How soft in peace,
and yet how fierce in arms!

BELINDA

A tale so strong and full of
woe Might melt the rocks as
well as you. What stubborn
heart unmov'd could see Such
distress, such piety?

DIDO

Mine with storms of care
opprest Is taught to pity
the distress. Mean
wretches' grief can touch,
So soft, so sensible my
breast, But ah! I fear, I
pity his too much.

BELINDA AND SECOND WOMAN

[Repeated by Chorus] Fear
no danger to ensue, The
Hero Loves as well as
you, Ever gentle, ever
smiling, And the cares of
life beguiling, Cupid
strew your path with
flowers Gather'd from
Elysian bowers.

DANCE THIS

CHORUS THE

BASKE

[Aeneas enters with his

train] BELINDA See, your
Royal Guest appears, How
Godlike is the form he
bears!

AENEAS

When, Royal Fair, shall I be
blest With cares of love and
state distress?

DIDO

Fate forbids what you
pursue. AENEAS Aeneas
has no fate but you!
Let Dido smile and I'll
defy The feeble stroke
of Destiny.

CHORUS

Cupid only throws the dart
That's dreadful to a warrior's
heart, And she that wounds can
only cure the smart.

AENEAS

If not for mine, for
Empire's sake, Some pity on
your lover take;
Ah! make not, in a hopeless
fire A hero fall, and Troy
once more expire.

BELINDA

Pursue thy conquest, Love;
her eyes Confess the flame
her tongue denies.

A DANCE. GITTARS

CHACONY. CHORUS

To the hills and the vales, to the rocks
and the mountains To the musical groves and
the cool shady fountains. Let the triumphs
of love and of beauty be shown, Go revel,
ye Cupids, the day is your own.

THE TRIUMPHING DANCE

ACT THE SECOND

Scene [I]: The
Cave [enter
Sorceress]

[PRELUDE FOR THE WITCHES]

SORCERESS Wayward
sisters, you that fright
The lonely traveller by
night Who, like dismal
ravens crying, Beat the
windows of the dying,

Appear! Appear at my call, and share
in the fame Of a mischief shall make
all Carthage flame. Appear! [enter
Enchantresses]

FIRST WITCH

Say, Beldam, say what's
thy will. CHORUS

Harm's our delight and mischief all
our skill. SORCERESS The Queen of
Carthage, whom we hate, As we do
all in prosp'rous state, Ere
sunset, shall most wretched prove,
Depriv'd of fame, of life and love!

CHORUS

Ho, ho, ho, ho, ho, ho!

[etc.] TWO WITCHES

Ruin'd ere the set of
sun?

Tell us, how shall this be
done? SORCERESS The Trojan
Prince, you know, is bound
By Fate to seek Italian
ground;
The Queen and he are now in

chase. FIRST WITCH Hark!
Hark! the cry comes on
apace.

SORCERESS

But, when they've done, my
trusty Elf In form of Mercury
himself As sent from Jove
shall chide his stay,
And charge him sail tonight with all
his fleet away. CHORUS Ho, ho, ho, ho,
ho, ho! [etc.] [Enter a Drunken Sailor;
a dance]

TWO WITCHES

But ere we this
perform, We'll conjure
for a storm To mar
their hunting sport
And drive 'em back to
court.

CHORUS [in the manner of an echo.]
In our deep vaulted cell the charm we'll prepare,
Too dreadful a practice for this
open air. ECHO DANCE [Enchantresses
and Fairies] Scene [II]: The Grove
[enter Aeneas, Dido, Belinda, and
their train]

RITORNELLE [Orchestra] BELINDA
[Repeated by Chorus] Thanks to
these lovesome vales, These
desert hills and dales, So fair
the game, so rich the sport,
Diana's self might to these
woods resort.

GITTER GROUND A

DANCE SECOND

WOMAN

Oft she visits this lov'd
mountain, Oft she bathes her

in this fountain;

Here Actaeon met his
fate, Pursued by his
own hounds, And after
mortal wounds

Discover'd, discover'd too late.

[A Dance to entertain Aeneas by
Dido's women] AENEAS Behold, upon
my bending spear A monster's head
stands bleeding, With tushes far
exceeding Those did Venus'
hunter's tear.

DIDO

The skies are clouded, hark!
how thunder Rends the mountain
oaks a sunder.

BELINDA [Repeated by Chorus]

Haste, haste to town, this
open field No shelter from
the storm can yield. [exeunt
Dido and Belinda and train]

[The Spirit of the Sorceress descends to
Aeneas in the likeness of Mercury]

SPIRIT

Stay, Prince and hear great Jove's
command; He summons thee this
Night away.

AENEAS

Tonight?

SPIRIT

Tonight thou must forsake this
land, The Angry God will brook
no longer stay. Jove commands
thee, waste no more In Love's
delights, those precious hours,
Allow'd by th'Almighty Powers
To gain th' Hesperian
shore And ruined Troy
restore.

AENEAS

Jove's commands shall be
obey'd, Tonight our anchors
shall be weighed. [Exit
Spirit.] But ah! what
language can I try My
injur'd Queen to Pacify:
No sooner she resigns her
heart, But from her arms I'm
forc'd to part. How can so
hard a fate be took?
One night enjoy'd, the next
forsook. Yours be the blame, ye
gods! For I Obey your will, but
with more ease could die.

THE SORCERESS AND HER
ENCHANTRESSES (CHORUS) Then since
our Charmes have sped, A Merry
Dance be led By the Nymphs of
Carthage to please us. They shall
all Dance to ease us, A Dance that
shall make the Spheres to wonder,
Rending those fair Groves asunder.

THE GROVES DANCE

ACT THE THIRD

Scene: The Ships

[enter the Sailors, the Sorceress, and her
Enchantresses] PRELUDE FIRST SAILOR

[Repeated by Chorus] Come away, fellow
sailors, your anchors be weighing. Time
and tide will admit no delaying.

Take a bouzy short leave of your nymphs
on the shore, And silence their mourning
With vows of returning But never
intending to visit them more.

THE SAILORS'

DANCE SORCERESS

See the flags and streamers
curling Anchors weighing,
sails unfurling.

FIRST WITCH

Phoebe's pale deluding
beams Guilding more
deceitful streams.

SECOND WITCH

Our plot has
took, The Queen's
forsook.

TWO WITCHES

Elissa's ruin'd, ho,
ho! Our plot has took,
The Queen's forsook,
ho, ho!

SORCERESS

Our next Motion
Must be to storne her Lover on the
Ocean! From the ruin of others our
pleasures we borrow, Elissa bleeds
tonight, and Carthage flames tomorrow.

CHORUS

Destruction's our
delight Delight our
greatest sorrow!
Elissa dies tonight and Carthage flames
tomorrow. [Jack of the the Lanthorn
leads the Spaniards out of their way
among the Enchantresses.]

A DANCE

[Enter Dido, Belinda and
train] DIDO Your counsel
all is urged in vain To
Earth and Heav'n I will
complain! To Earth and

Heav'n why do I call? Earth
and Heav'n conspire my
fall.

To Fate I sue, of other means
bereft The only refuge for the
wretched left.

BELINDA

See, Madam, see where the Prince
appears; Such Sorrow in his
looks he bears As would convince
you still he's true. [enter
Aeneas]

AENEAS

What shall lost Aeneas do?
How, Royal Fair, shall I impart
The God's decree, and tell you we
must part? DIDO Thus on the fatal
Banks of Nile, Weeps the deceitful
crocodile Thus hypocrites, that
murder act, Make Heaven and Gods
the authors of the Fact.

AENEAS

By all that's good ...
DIDO By all that's good,
no more! All that's good
you have forswore. To your
promis'd empire fly
And let forsaken Dido
die. AENEAS

In spite of Jove's command,
I'll stay. Offend the Gods,
and Love obey.

DIDO

No, faithless man, thy
course pursue; I'm now
resolv'd as well as you. No
repentance shall reclaim The
injur'd Dido's slighted
flame.
For 'tis enough, whate'er you

now decree, That you had once a
thought of leaving me.

AENEAS

Let Jove say what he will:
I'll stay! DIDO Away, away!
No, no, away!

AENEAS

No, no, I'll stay, and
Love obey! DIDO To Death
I'll fly If longer you
delay; Away, away!.....
[Exit Aeneas] But Death,
alas! I cannot shun;
Death must come when he
is gone.

CHORUS

Great minds against themselves
conspire And shun the cure
they most desire.

DIDO

[Cupids appear in the clouds o're
her tomb] Thy hand, Belinda,
darkness shades me,
 On thy bosom let me rest,
 More I would, but Death
invades me; Death is now a
welcome guest.

 When I am laid in earth, May my
 wrongs create No trouble in thy
 breast;

 Remember me, but ah! forget my fate.

CHORUS

With drooping wings you
Cupids come, To scatter
roses on her tomb. Soft and
Gentle as her Heart Keep
here your watch, and never
part.

CUPIDS

DANCE

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