

Lascia ch'io pianga, Let me weep, Lass mich weinen

Opera Rinaldo, HWV 7, Act 2, Scene 4, Aria Almirena, London 1711
Oratorio Il trionfo del tempo e del disinganno, HWV 46a, Rome 1707

Largo

Georg Friedrich Händel

Trumpet in C

Intro ad lib.

Piano

mf

5 (% ad lib.)

C Tpt.

p

Pno.

p

11

C Tpt.

Pno.

mp

Source p. 61:

http://hz.imslp.info/files/imglnks/usimg/f/fa/IMSLP18971-PMLP44807-HG_Band_58.pdf

16

C Tpt.

Pno.

p (ad lib. 2x *mf*) (ad lib. Fine)

21

C Tpt.

Pno.

mf *cresc.* *f*

27

C Tpt.

Pno.

mp

32

C Tpt.

Pno.

f

37

C Tpt.

Pno.

42

C Tpt.

Pno.

(ad lib. D.S. al Fine)

47

C Tpt.

Pno.

mp

53

C Tpt.

Pno.

mf

58

C Tpt.

Pno.

3

3

f

f

rit.

Lascia ch'io pianga mia cruda sorte,
e che sospiri la libertà.

Il duolo infranga queste ritorte
de' miei martiri sol per pietà.

Let me weep over my cruel fate,
and let me sigh for liberty.

May sorrow shatter these chains,
for my torments just out of pity.

Translation:

Lass mich beweinen mein grausames Schicksal
und beseufzen die [verlorene] Freiheit.

Der Kummer zerbreche diese Qualen
meiner Martern allein aus Erbarmen.

Singfassung:

Lass mich mit Tränen mein Los beklagen,
Ketten zu tragen, welch hart Geschick!

Ach, nur im Tode find ich Erbarmen,
er gibt mir Armen die Ruh zurück.

The Melody is first found in Act III of Handel's first opera *Almira* HWV 1 as a Sarabande composed and successfully performed in Hamburg 1705

(see <http://www.free-scores.com/sheetmusic?p=aaplRVAgIw>).

Handel then used the tune for the aria *Lascia la spina, cogli la rosa*, or *Leave the Thorn, Take the Rose*, for the character *Piacere* in Part II of his 1707 oratorio "*Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno*" HWV 46a in Rome and of his London oratorios "*Il trionfo del Tempo e della Verità*" HWV 46b in 1737 and "*The Triumph of Time and Truth*" HWV 71 in 1757. Moreover, the tune was used with the foregoing text for the well known aria *Lascia ch'io pianga* in his opera *Rinaldo* HWV 7 in London 1711.

The text for the first version of the aria (oratorio "*Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno*", 1707):

Lascia la spina, cogli la rosa;
tu vai cercando il tuo dolor.
Canuta brina per mano ascosa,
giungerà quando nol crede il cuor.

Leave the thorn, take the rose;
you go searching for your pain.
Gray frost by hidden hand
will come when your heart doesn't expect it.

Lass die Dornen, pflücke die Rose;
du bist auf der Suche nach deinem Schmerz.
Weißer Reif von verborgener Hand
stellt sich ein, wenn es dein Herz nicht erwartet.