SUSANNA

AN ORATORIO

As it was perform'd at the

THEATRE-ROYAL in Covent Garden, London

1749

Set to Musick by GEORGE-FREDERICK HANDEL, Esq.

Edited by

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CONTINUO

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2. Chorus

Largo
3. Recitative

Our crimes repeated have provok'd his rage, and now he scourges a degenerate age. My wife, my fair Susanna, come, and from my bosom chase its gloom.

4. Air

Andante larghetto

Adagio

Fine
5. Recitative

*SUSANNA*

Oh Jo-a-cim! when thou art by, my soul dilates with new-born joy;

down my pale cheeks' the tears no longer run, but fly like dew before the morning sun.
6. Duet

Allegro moderato

Continuo - 6
7. Recitative

CHELSIAS

Lives there in Bab-y-lon so bless'd a pair? Soft roll my

Contino

age, un-known to pain or care: My vir-tuous daugh-ter learnt the words of truth; to fear the

Lord, I taught her pi-ous youth.

8. Air

A tempo giusto

Contino - 7
9. Recitative

JOACIM

A flame like mine, so faithful and so pure, shall to the length, of

Continuo

lastest time endure, for heav'n-born virtue doth the warmth in-spire,
and smiling angels fan the god-like fire.

10. Air

Grazioso

Fine

Dal segno §
11. Recitative

*SUSANNA*

Let me con-fess, I hear my prais-es sung with match-less plea-sure

by the tune-ful tongue; and ne'er this bo-som felt the sharp-en'd dart, till from your lips I

caught the am'-rous smart.

12. Air

Andante

*Continuo - 11*
13. Recitative

CHELSIAS

Down my old cheeks the tears of transport roll, and balm-y comfort

Continuo

opens on my soul; your wed-ded truth each wond’ring hus-band know, catch the bright pat-tern

and with fond-ness glow; from thee, Sus-an-na, may each wed-ded wife to faith con-nu-bial

de-di-cate her life; peace crown’d with roses on your slum-bers wait, and joy-ous plen-ty

Continuo - 12
14. Air

Larghetto e mezzo piano

15. Recitative

SUSANNA

Oh pi-ous Chel-sias! thy pa-ter-nal care has taught my steps, to

Continuo

shun the gild-ed snare, where er-ror lies con-ceal’d; too great my thanks to be in words ex-press’d,
17. Recitative

JOACIM

Source of each joy, thou comfort of my life, my fair Susanna,

SUSANNA

Continuo
my un-spotted wife!  A-while I'm summon'd from the town a-way, yet think not long I'll

from thy presence stay. Meanwhile be't thine each friend to entertain, with converse sweet make

light their gall ing chain; each true believer shall be welcome here, and

nourish pious hopes without a fear.

In this alone with sorrow I obey; what joy have
I, when Jo-a-cim's a-way? Forgive the tears that trickle from my eyes; be dumb my
sorrows and un-heard my sighs.

Ere round the sphere the sun has urg'd his wain and six times
rested in the western main, depend, my fair, to see your Lord re-turn.

Till then, Sun-

sanna, 'tis thy lot to mourn!
18. Air

Larghetto

Adagio

Fine

Dal segno
19. Recitative

SUSANNA

On Jo-a-cim may ev'-ry joy at-tend, at once a hus-band,

Continuo

lover, and a friend.

20. Recitative (accompained)

SUSANNA

What means this weight that in my bo-som lies? What mean these

Continuo

shades that swim be-fore my eyes? If ought pro-phet-ic in this breast I

feel, por-tend-ing good, oh quick the same re-veal. Let Jo-a-cim, my hus-band, find it all,

if bad, on me a-lone the dan-ger fall.
21. Air

Largo

Fine

Dal segno

22. Recitative (accompained)

1st ELDER

Ty ran nic love! I feel thy cru el dart,

Continuo

nor age pro tects me from the burn ing smart.

What,
seated with the elders of the land
to guide stern justice, unrelenting hand, shall I submit,
shall I submit to feel the raging fires? Youth pleads a warrant for his hot desires; but when the blood should
scarce attempt to flow, I feel the purple torrents fiercely glow. Love conquers all; alas! I find it so.
Bear me restless down the rapid tide,
no faithful pilot shall my vessel
guide, no friendly star her gentle light supplies, but pitch-y
clouds in-voke the dark-en'd skies, the tem-pest howls, the foam-ing sur-ges
roar, while I, un-hap-py, quit the saf-er shore.

23. Air

Larghetto

Dal segno %
Fine
24. Recitative

1st ELDER

2nd ELDER

Say, is it fit that age should drop his pride to soothe and fondle at a woman's side?

Was it for this the faithful spoke my fame, nor fear'd injustice, when they heard my name?

Now approbation shall withdraw her praise, and dark reproach attends my setting sun.

Hail, rev'rend Brother! By that pensive face, methinks, some long disputed dubious days.

Continuo - 23
case waits the decision of thy blameless tongue.

Who judge too rashly, will be often wrong.

Then tell your friend, why thus you thoughtful stand, purse your arch'd brow and cross each folded hand?

A-лас! I suppose 'twere love, could'st thou prescribe a cure?

I cannot, I those pangs endure; the shafts that fly from fair Susanna's eyes wound the grave
states-man and un-man the wise; her beau-teous im-age fills up all my heart; is't for her

charms you like-wise feel the smart?

Yes, 'tis her beau-ty like a ma-gick spell that fires my

blood, and bids my years re-bel; love, fran-tic love does all this bo-som rule, to its hot

rage, the burn-ing dog-star's cool.
25. Air

Fagotto

Continuo
26. Recitative

1st ELDER

Ye wing-ed gales, con-vey these whis-p’ring sighs, and tell Su-

2nd ELDER

san-na, that her lov-er dies, but soft-ly mur-mur when you speak my name, un-fold my pas-sion,

Continuo

but con-ceal my shame.

See, where a-round the qui-v’ring pop-lars twine the rud-dy clus-ters

of the man-tling vine, the charm-er sits. With wing-ed haste we’ll fly, and, close con-
27. Air

Andante

Continuo - 29
28. Chorus

Grave

Andante

Ve.
Grave

A tempo ordinario

senza Violone

Continuo - 32
PART TWO

29. Recitative

JOACIM

Frost nips the flow'rs, that would the fields a-dorn, and tainting mildews

Continuo

waste the beard-ed corn, un-time-ly storms the ver-nal grove de-stroy, and ab-sence, cru-el

ab-sence mur-ders joy.

30. Air

Larghetto

Continuo - 34
31. Recitative

*SUSANNA*

Lead me, oh lead me to some cool retreat, my spirits faint be

*Continuo*

neath the burning heat.

Continuo - 35
33. Recitative

SUSANNA
Too lovelily youth, for whom these sorrows flow, when will thy presence

ATTENDANT

Continuo

abanish ev’ry woe?

Soon will thy Lord, thy Jo-a-cim return; cease then so short an

A-las! who-er has felt the subtle fire, the pleasing an-guish

ab-sence thus to mourn.

Continuo
of a chaste desire, knows that an hour swells out into a day, the love-ly ob-Ject
of our vows a-way, but when the dar-ling of our soul is near, time clothes with ea-gle’s wings
the roll-ing year. But thou art kind, nor think thy mis-tress vain, if now I wish to hear the ten-der
strain, which Jo-a-cim com-pos’d, e’er yet he led these hum-ble beau-ties to the brid-al bed.
34. Air (with three verses)

Non troppo presto

35. Recitative

SUSANNA

In vain you try to cure my rising grief, my wounded bosom

ATTENDANT

Continuo

spurns at all relief.

I know the pangs that cleave the bleeding heart, still in my breast I
feel the point-ed dart. An humble swain did all my pains cre-ate, an humble swain best suit-ed with my state; but death soon seiz'd him, an un-time-ly prize! and tore the youth for ev-er from my eyes.

36. Air

Alla Siciliana Largo
37. Recitative

SUSANNA
Thy plaintive strains my in-most sorrows move, for well Susanna

ATTENDANT
knows the pangs of love.

Continuo
Excuse th' in-voluntary tears that flow, but my sad heart must

I was to blame to wake thy in-most smart. Compose, sweet maid, com

vent its secret woe.

pose thy beating heart. But haste, good virgin! hither unguents bring and all the spic-es
that em-balm the spring; to shun the scorch-ing day
I mean to lave my faint-ing limbs in
yon-der sil-ver wave.

38. Recitative

But hark! what sud-den noise in-vades my ear?
De-fend me, Heav’n, from ev’ry wrong I
fear! What mean ye both? Say, why do ye in-vade the aw-ful gloom of this se-ques-ter’d shade?
39. Air

Larghetto

\[ \text{Music notation image} \]

Fine

Dal segno
40. Recitative

SUSANNA

2d ELDERS

We long have languish'd, and now mean to prove the match-less sweets of

Continuo

You wrong your-selves to plead so foul a cause; are

long ex-pect-ed love.

these the boast-ed guar-dians of our laws? But sure in sport ye both to-geth-er came, for may I

doubt your yet un-spot-ted fame? Hence, pi-ous Elders, lest some jea-lous spy be-hold your

con-duct with an en-vious eye.
42. Recitative

SUSANNA

Deceitful wolves! who left in truth's defence,

2d ELDER

wrong the high trust, and prey on innocence. Desist, rash men! Nor press my trembling hand, lest I awake the vengeance of the land.

Continuo

Thou foolish woman! will thy plaints a-
vail, when our grave tongues repea't the well forg'd tale? Will those sus-pect, to whom your grief com

plains, that blood could ri-ot in an El-der's veins?

43. Trio

Andante

un poco f
tutti

Continuo - 47
44. Recitative

SUSANNA

A-лас! I find the fatal toils are set, turn as I will, I struggle in the net; yet

2nd ELDER

hear the in-most purpose of my soul, which wrongs shall ne'er suppress, nor fears con

trol; by false-hood's aid, appearing truth be thine, self conscious virtue shall be ev-

Continuo
That shall be try'd. Who waits there? Ho within!

45. Recitative

1st ELDER

2nd ELDER

Continuo

[Enter chorus]

of her stol'n embrace broke from our feeble arms, and fled the place. Ourselves beheld with

To

in the mazy grove their guilt-y pleasures, and adul'trous love.
judgment soon th'ill-fated beauty lead, ah! would these eyes had ne'er beheld the deed.

46. Air

Andante

Continuo - 50

Fine
47. Recitative

1st ELDER

Quick to her fate the loose adul'tress bear, fair to the eye, yet

Continuo

fals'er than she's fair.

Da capo #46
48. Chorus

Andante
49. Recitative

JOACIM

Is fair Susanna false? It ne'er can be. De-tested

Continuo

scroll ne'er gain belief from me. Is she not softer than the breath of love, fair as the

roe, and constant as the dove? Hence let me speed to Babylon's proud walls, where danger

threatens and Susanna calls.

Continuo - 53
50. Air

Allegro ma non troppo
PART THREE

52. Chorus

Allegro

Continuo - 56
53. Recitative

SUSANNA

I hear my doom, nor yet the laws accuse the

Continuo

witnesses your much wrong'd ears abuse.

Then welcome death! I meet you with de

light, and change this earth for realms of endless light.

54. Air

Largo

Continuo - 57
55. Recitative

1st ELDER

\[\text{Permit me, fair, to mourn thy fate severe, and join thy sorrows} \]

Continuo

\[\text{with one pious tear.}\]

56. Air

\[\text{A tempo ordinario}\]

\[\text{Continuo - 58}\]
57. Recitative

SUSANNA

Tis thus the cro-cro-dile his grief dis-plays, sheds the false dew,

Continuo

and, while he weeps, be-trays. Ah! when I think what Jo-a-cim must feel, this tor-tur'd

heart can scarce its pangs con-ceal.

58. Recitative

SUSANNA

But you, who see me on the verge of life, I charge you, greet him

Continuo

from his dy-ing wife. Tell him, how-e'er the Eld-ers have de-creed, their im-pious lust pro-
vok'd the bloody deed, and had Susanna plight-ed vows betray'd, beneath the cover

of yon conscious shade, their venal tongues had spar'd her much wrong'd name,

nor mark'd her actions with the brand of shame.
59. Recitative

DANIEL

1st ELDER

2nd ELDER

The sentence now is past: the wretch convey to instant death;

Continuo

The blood of innocence, with ceaseless cries, shall cleave the womb of

I'll hear no more. Away!

Continuo

earth, and reach the skies.

What voice is that so clamorous in the crowd, that censures judgment

Continuo - 61
Fools that ye are, too forward to believe a varnish'd tale, in
in a tone so loud?

vented to deceive, reverse, reverse the stern decree, and set the chaste Susanna free.

Presumptuous boy! art thou to dictate here? Think of thy youth and shake with awful fear.
60. Air

Allegro

Fine

Continuo - 63
61. Recitative

DANIEL

A JUDGE

Oh won-d'rous youth! re-ju-dge the cause, and from thy tongue pro-nounce the

Continuo

If you de-

laws. As she ap-

pears to thy dis-
cern-ing eye, the fair we will ac-

quit, or doom to die.

mand that I the cause de-
cide, her old ac-
cus-ers for a while di-

vide. Let not the

one the o-

ther's ques-
tions hear, for truth will ne'er in dif-

f'rent garbs ap-

Continuo - 64
62. Chorus

Larghetto

Forte e staccato

Allegro

tasto solo

Continuo - 65
63. Recitative

DANIEL

Thou art-ful wretch! in vi-ce's prac-tice grey, who sav'st the guilt-y,

1st ELDER

2d ELDER

Continuo

and the just would'st slay; thou say'st that late-ly, with a wan-ton youth, the fair Su-san-na

broke her vows of truth. If so, what tree, de-clare, at once de-clare, stretch'd forth her boughs to

Continuo - 66
screen the guilty pair?

A verdant len-tisk, pride of all the grove, stood the gay wit-ness

False is thy tale, thy lips have ut-ter'd lies, and heav'n shall scourge you for your

of their law-less love.

blas-phe-mies.

And say, thou part-ner
in the impious deed, of Canaan's, sure, and not of Israel's seed, beneath what tree you

chaste Susanna saw, embrace her lover, and transgress the law?

Far to the west directing your straining eyes, where yon tall holm-tree darts into the skies, see his large
Vain is deceit when boughs an ample shade afford, there, there Susanna wrong'd her wedded Lord.

Justice holds the scale, the falsehood's flagrant by the varied tale. Susanna! from thy captive dungeon go, thy fame is whiter than unsullied snow. For you an igno-
minious death's decreed, virtue is clear'd, and impious guilt shall bleed. And hence be taught, who

justice would dispense, to stop the ear to ev'ry soothing sense; your mind be steel'd a-

gainst each flatter'sing call, for if you stumble you as surely fall. In-stant con-duct them to their
fate, and rid my presence of a sight I hate; and hence let virtue never know a fear, for in her
dangers a kind help is near.
Andante larghetto

Fine

Dal segno %

Continuo - 72
SUSANNA

But see! my Lord, my Jo-a-cim appears, with the kind tu-tor

Continuo

of my in-fant years.
67. Recitative

SUSANNA

CHELSIAS

The joyful news of chaste Susanna's truth wakes me to comfort,

Continuo

Receive my thanks, they're all that I can pay. If I deserve, you

and recalls my youth.

pointed out the way.
69. Chorus
70. Recitative

SUSANNA

Hence ev'ry pang, which late my soul oppress'd. Comfort, return and

Continuo

harbour in this breast. Nature, lest blessings should too quickly cloy, blends good with bad, and

mixes tears with joy.

71. Air

Allegro

un poco f

p

pp

Continuo - 79
72. Recitative

**SUSANNA**

Sweet are the accents of thy tuneful tongue, less sweet the lark begins his morning song.

**JOACIM**

Malice shall strive thy spotless fame to stain and raise her voice against my Fair in vain.

Continuo

Lord of my heart and of each warm desire, with thee the flame began, and shall expire.
73. Duet

Andante

Adagio