**ACIS AND GALATEA (Georg Friedrich Händel)**

In 1718 zette Friedrich Händel het verhaal van Acis, Galatea en Polyphemus op muziek

in zijn pastorale opera *Acis and Galatea*. Het Engelstalige libretto werd geschreven

door John Gay.

**13. Chorus**

Wretched lovers! Fate has past   
This sad decree: no joy shall last.  
Wretched lovers, quit your dream!  
Behold the monster Polypheme!  
See what ample strides he takes!  
The mountain nods, the forest shakes;  
The waves run frighten'd to the shores:  
Hark, how the thund'ring giant roars!

**14. Accompagnato**

*Polyphemus*  
I rage — I melt — I burn!  
The feeble god has stabb'd me to the heart.  
Thou trusty pine,  
Prop of my godlike steps, I lay thee by! prop: steun  
Bring me a hundred reeds of decent growth reed: rietstengel  
To make a pipe for my capacious mouth; capacious: groot  
In soft enchanting accents let me breathe   
Sweet Galatea's beauty, and my love.

**15. Air**

*Polyphemus*  
O ruddier than the cherry, ruddy: blozend   
O sweeter than the berry,  
O nymph more bright  
Than moonshine night  
Like kidlings blithe and merry. kidling: jong bokje  
Ripe as the melting cluster, blithe: blij; cluster: tros  
No lily has such lustre; lustre: glans, schittering  
Yet hard to tame  
As raging flame,  
And fierce as storms that bluster! fierce: woest  
O ruddier. . . *da capo*

**16. Recitative**

*Polyphemus*  
Whither, fairest, art thou running,  
Still my warm embraces shunning?

*Galatea*  
The lion calls not to his prey,  
Nor bids the wolf the lambkin stay.

*Polyphemus*  
Thee, Polyphemus, great as Jove,  
Calls to empire and to love,  
To his palace in the rock,  
To his dairy, to his flock, dairy: zuivel; flock: kudde  
To the grape of purple hue, hue: kleur  
To the plum of glossy blue, plum: pruim  
Wildings, which expecting stand, wilding: wilde vrucht  
Proud to be gather'd by thy hand.

*Galatea*  
Of infant limbs to make my food, limbs: ledematen  
And swill full draughts of human blood! to swill: spoelen  
Go, monster, bid some other guest!  
I loathe the host, I loathe the feast. to loathe: verafschuwen