**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