

# A Iceste



Musica di

George Frederick Handel

HWV 45

A cura di

<http://www.haendel.it>

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**Ouverture**

**Act One**

**Grand Entrée**

**Recitativo Accompagnato (Tenore)**

Ye happy people, with loud accents speak  
Your grateful joy in Hymenean verse;  
Admetus and Alceste claim the song.

### **Soli e Coro**

Triumph, Hymen, in the pair;  
thus united, thus delighted,  
brave the one, the other fair.

### **Solo e Coro**

Still caressing, and caress'd,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
live the royal happy pair.  
This is, valour, thy reward,  
this, oh beauty, the regard  
kind Heaven pays the virtuous fair.

### **Aria (Tenore)**

Ye swift minutes as ye fly,  
crown them with harmonious joy!  
Let soft quiet, peace and love  
still each happier hour improve.

While as day each day succeeds,  
lovely and heroic deeds  
in fair virtue's path alone  
add a lustre to the throne.  
Ye swift minutes as ye fly,  
crown them with harmonious joy!

### **Coro**

O bless, ye powers above,  
the bridegroom and the bride,  
whose willing hands

hath Hymen tied  
in love's eternal bands.  
Ye little gods of Love,  
with roses strew the ground,  
and all around  
in sportive play  
proclaim the happy day.

### **Aria (Soprano)**

#### **(Il Canto di Calliope. Admeto dorme)**

Gentle Morpheus, son of night,  
hither speed thy airy flight!  
and his weary senses steep  
in the balmy dew of sleep.

That when bright Aurora's beams  
glad the world with golden streams,  
he, like Phoebus, blithe and gay  
may retaste the healthful day.

### **Atto Quarto**

#### **(Le rive dello Stige)**

### **Aria (Basso)**

#### **Caronte**

Ye fleeting shades, I come  
to fix your final doom!  
Step in both bad and good,  
and tilt it o'er the flood;  
in Pluto's dreary shore  
I'll waft you safely o'er  
with this my ebon pole  
though high the waters roll.



The monarch and the slave  
alike admission have,  
nor can I brook delay;  
haste, haste, ye shades, away!.

**Coro**

**(Nel Palazzo di Plutone)**

Thrice happy who in life excel,  
hence doom'd in Pluto's courts to dwell,  
where ye immortal mortals reign,  
now free from sorrow, free from pain.



**Aria (Tenore)**

**(ad Alceste)**

Enjoy the sweet Elysian grove,  
seat of pleasure, seat of love;  
pleasure that can never cloy,  
love the source of endless joy.

Thus, thou unpolluted shade,  
be thy royal virtues paid.

**Coro**

Thrice happy who in life excel, etc.

**Aria (Soprano)**

**(Calliope canta ad Admeto)**

Come Fancy, empress of the brain,  
and bring the choicest of thy train  
to sooth the widow'd monarch's pain!

Close by his side  
in mimic pride  
let fair Alceste still display

her charms, as on the bridal day.

### **Sinfonia**

**(prima e dopo l'entrata di Alcide)**

### **Recitative (Tenore)**

**(In attesa)**

He comes, he rises from below,  
with glorious conquest on his brow.

### **Coro**

All hail, thou mighty son of Jove!  
how great thy pow'r! how great thy love!  
Fiends, Furies, Gods, all yield to thee,  
and Death hath set his captive free.  
All hail, thou mighty son of Jove!  
how great thy pow'r! how great thy love!

### **Sinfonia**

### **Recitativo (Tenore)**

**Apollo**

From high Olympus' top, the seat of God,  
descend Apollo and his tuneful choir,  
with all their sportive train, to celebrate  
thy great and gen'rous triumph, son of Jove,

and hail Admetus with his happy bride.

Sing ye, ye shepherds, sing, and tread the ground  
In mazy dances, and let shouts of joy  
return in echo from the vaulted sky.

### **Aria (Tenore)**

Tune your harps, all ye Nine,

to the loud-sounding lays,  
while the glad nations join  
in the great victor's praise!  
Sing his praise, sing his pow'r,  
that in this joyful hour  
bless'd our monarch's arms  
with the fair in all her charms.

### **Prima Danza**

### **Seconda Danza**

### **Coro**

Triumph, thou glorious son of Jove,  
triumph, happy pair, in love!  
Valour's prize, virtue's claim,  
endless love, eternal fame!

**FINE**