

Ombra mai fu

Recitative and Aria
from "Serse"

English version by
Mrs. O.B. Boise

George Frideric Handel
(1685 - 1759)

Recitative Serse

First system of the recitative, featuring a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a *p* (piano) dynamic. The lyrics are: "Fron - di te - ne - re e bel - le del mio / Clad in ver - dure green thy branch - es As once".

Second system of the recitative. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "pla - ta - noa - ma - to, per voi ri - splen - de il fa - to; / more, friend, I greet thee, my fate now thou shalt read me." The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support.

Third system of the recitative. The vocal line starts with a *f deciso* (forte, decisive) dynamic. The lyrics are: "tuo - ni, lam - pi e pro - cel - le non vol - trag - gi - no mai la ca - ra pa - ce, nè / Thun - der, light - ning, brood - ing tem - pest, come not here to dis - turb thy peaceful shadows. The". The system concludes with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic.

Fourth system of the recitative. The vocal line begins with an *energico* (energetic) dynamic. The lyrics are: "giun - ga a pro - fa - nar - vi, au - stro ra - pa - ce! / north's sav - age cruelties Long may they spare thee!". The system ends with a *f* (forte) dynamic.

Largo

p

mf

dolce

Om - - - bra mai fu
Thy - - - blos-soms fair,

cantabile

p

di ve-ge - ta-bi - le, ca-rae-da - ma - bi - le, so-a - ve più; om-Shed-ding rare - ra-di-ance, Waft-ing soft fra - grance, Per-fume the air. Thy

p

cresc. *p*

- bra mai fu di ve-ge - ta - bi - le, ca-rae da - ma - bi - le, so - a - ve
 - blos-soms fair, Shedding rare ra - di - ance, Wafting soft fra - grance, Per-fume the

cresc. *p*

mf

più, ca - - ra ed a - ma - bi - le, om - bra mai fu di ve-ge-
 air. Waft - - ing soft fra - grance, Thy blos-soms fair, Shedding rare

mf

p allarg.
 3

ta - bi - le, ca-ra ed a - ma - bi - le so - a - ve più, so - a - ve
 ra - di - ance, Waft-ing soft fra - grance, Perfume the air, Per-fume the

p col canto

più.
 air.

a tempo f *p*