

CARTHAGO, or the tragic love story of Dido and Aeneas (opera by J.-Ph. Mogenet,
based on Virgil's Aeneid)

1. Overture (orchestra)

2. Virgil invoke the Muse

Please, help me,
Muse of the woods,
Inspire me,
Guide my voice,
Otherwise,
Deprived of the fire
That provides to the poet,
In his heart and his head,
A torrent of images and words,
White will remain my rolls...
Oh, tell me
By which devious god
Was forced
The Prince of Troy
Over so many years
By the lands and by the seas
To face lightning and iron;
Was this the wish of Jupiter?

3. Full sail to Italy

(Aeneas) Trojan people,
We'll set sail early tomorrow
At the shores of Italy,
The wind blows us to our destiny!

(choir) Prince of Troy,
Let's take control of our destiny !
We need to build for tomorrow
Just as a new Trojan empire !

(Aeneas) We're finally at the end !
So many hardships laid end to end
Have not dented our pride,
Nor put limits on our wishes !

(Achates) Yet so many times,
It was not long before, along these windy, foamy roads
Our hopes were reduced to nothing...

(choir) Yet so many times,
It was not long before, along these windy, foamy roads
Our hopes were reduced to nothing...

2. Trojan people
Take control of our destiny
We must found for tomorrow
Just as a new Trojan empire !
It's in Italy that the Queen of all humanity
Must be born, this vast city
Will guide the nations of all the world !
People of Troy

(choir) We're all with you !

(Aen.) What shall we do tomorrow ?

(choir) We will be campaigning
For our glorious people,
So that he may settle there !
For here is the end
Of our abundant torments,

Yes, this is the end
Of all our abundant torments,
Of all our abundant torments,
Of all our abundant torments !

4. Virgil explains the context

Oh that enthusiasm
Of all these Trojans
To finally reach the port
Of their forgotten hopes
In so much time...

So much time devoted
To trying to escape
The eternal resentment
Of the Queen of the Heaven
And (of) the immortals

To try and explain
This cruel resentment,
We need to go back in time
To that famous moment,

Until this beauty contest
Between three goddesses,
Including the one
I mentioned above...
And to award the prize
For so much beauty
-A golden fruit, an apple-
One judge was appointed,
A young shepherd.
He was a prince of sheperds,
Son of the King of Trojans,
And with this single detail
We can guess how it will end,
Or the sequel...

Hints at the end,
The rest, at last...
He offered immediatly
The coveted apple
To the divine mother of
Cupid and Aeneas, another Trojan...
And then the Queen of the gods, with her scorned beauty,
Saw it as an heinous crime of her outraged majesty,
And since that day on in the depths of her heart

Full of resentment,
Hates every Trojan man, and woman...

5. Juno outraged by the Trojans

By so many years,
This Aeneas,
I have not ceased to overwhelm him
With my wrath,
But always,
I confess,
He was able to ward off all my blows,
And here he is, and here he is,
About to set foot on the shore of his dreams.
I can't wait to accept
Without reacting the succes of his venture,
Nor that all destinies come to pass
And Troy reborne in promised land.
Athena proved to be more powerful than me :
Under fire, she avenged her dishonoured priestess !
And if I can do nothing to oppose this destiny,
Who will still want to pray to me, to worship me ?
This Aeneas, so many years,
I never stopped beating him with a thousand blows,
But this time, I'm not going to miss again,
Soon all his ships will be submerged, oh yes, submerged !

6. Juno at Aeolus

(Juno) Under the weight of these huge rocks,
In those vast cavities, the winds are subject to you...
I would gladly offer you the hand of my most beautiful daughter,
Eolus my friend...
This is the mission I entrust to you :
Over the sailors just about to reach the calm shores of Italy,
Oh, let go the madness of all your furious winds !
I want all that remains of them to be
But the echo
Of their cries,
But their bones
Swallowed by the waters !

7. The storm

(Aeneas) In the wind, like elegant seagulls, all our boats
Spread their wings of white cloath, wide open.
But then, leaning on the horizon - no reason -
Rises a gigantic mass of clouds, threatening.
Which god mingles his fires with the great hurricane ?
What harm has he suffered to desire us to die ?
What kind of god could want us dead ?
King of gods and heavens, have mercy, mercy !
Why did we escape the lances of enemy warriors ?
Dying in Troy, near the ramparts : glory ! But losing your life here...
O Venus, my mother, come, help us, where are you ?

(Venus) Silent your fear, my dearest son,
For I will not allow
That, beyond all the destinies,
You perish in the waves !
Master of the waters, my brother,
Oh, why let you the Prince of the winds,
Shaking up the ocean,
Unleash the hurricane,
He' going to slaughter everyone !

(Neptunius) I know, I hear, I feel,
I feel he's going to slaughter everyone !
Oh you, who reign in Aeolia
Over the moving winds,
You must, you must remember :
It's me, the King of the ocean,
And so, go back to your homeland,
And take away the hurricane,
Far from here !

8. Castaways

(Aeneas) What is this place, what are these unknown shores ?
Has any man, on this bare sand, put his feet down ?
Or are we first, and all alone ?
Where are the ships of all our companions,
Has some god dragged them to the bottom of the sea ?
Where to find them ? Where to find them ?
Where can we look ?

9. Meeting between Aeneas and Venus

(Aeneas) How many beasts in all these dark woods,
Achates, ô my friend !
Out of the undergrowth
Leap up the tender doe, or the stag at bay...

(Achates) Stop right there, and don't move
Because the animal I see
Has a fearless thigh,
And a quiver flutters on her hips, so light and round...

(Venus) Have a very good day,
O you, strangers, who are walking here,
Have you seen by any chance,
A few girls all dressed up like me ?
We are from the country,
And our footsteps take us at random
Through the forests from which flee
A few hinds or a small roe deer,
A few hinds or a small roe deer...

(Aeneas) O huntress with eyes full of brilliance,
I see nothing in you
That doesn't evoke a goddess,
Or at the very least
The daughter of a king !
Perhaps you could have some news
Of some of my faithful friends,
If the calmed waters pushed their battered boats
Onto some golden sand ?

(Venus) Have a very good day,
For you will find your friends safe and sound,
In the shining city,
In Carthage, with its great standing walls !
Dido, of this country
Sovereign everywhere beloved,
Having fled Phoenicia,
Founded brilliant colony,
Founded brilliant colony.

(Dido and Aeneas, final chorus, twice)

He, I recognize you,
How did you recognize me ?

O Venus, o my adored mother !
I had disguised myself, like every divinity...

But why do you so shy away
... when we have to mingle with a few mortals.

From my arms and from the slightest kiss ?

Yes, I recognize you,
Yes, you recognized me,

O mother whom I knew so little...
You, my son, whom I knew too little...

Stop hiding, oh, stop hiding,
This time I want to stop hiding, oh, stop hiding

From my arms, from all my kisses,
From your arms, from all your kisses...
From my arms, from all my kisses...

10 . Dido welcomes Aeneas.

(Dido) Is this really you, the great Prince of troy ?
Who was born of Venus, and of beautiful Anchises ?
Your valiant exploits
Are well known to us,
See how they are depicted on temple pediments :
Recognise yourself, brilliant in the fray ?

(Aeneas) O you, Queen Dido,
Your admiration
Touches the depths of my soul, the depths of my soul,
And on your knees, I beg to you,
Grant us some help in such great need,
In such lack of everything...

(Dido) Don't worry ô Prince Aeneas,
To all your friends, in their ships,
I'll have brought as soon as possible
Quarters of meat and plenty of good wine !
I know too well what exile sickness :
Let me tell you how I was affected by it...
I fled my country
When it's cursed king
-Shame on me who was born of the same bed –
He had my husband assassinated !
Faithful I will be to him for the rest of my life,
So dear was he to my heart...

11. Venus to Cupid

O Cupid, my little devil,
With such adorable features,
Oh, I need
Your good care :
Aeneas in in danger !
He certainly received
All the respect due to him,
But my dear Juno,
Who loves Carthage,
Is sure to make her city
To change it's mind...
But don't be a good boy,
And go to Dido.
You will have, my little devil
The look of Aeneas charming child ;
In the arms of Dido,
You can, my demon,
Distill your poison !

12. Banquet at Dido's

(Achates) Let us, my friends, drink to the health
Of our good Prince and of the Queen,
In this meal that invigorate,
Let us all drink to their health !

(choir) Let us, my friends, drink to the health
Of our good Prince and of the Queen,
In this meal that invigorate,
Let us all drink to their health !
For there is no
Greater good
In our world than the sweetests bonds
Of our friendship, shared here,
Over a cup of excellent wine !
Let us, my friends, drink to the health
Of our good Prince and of the Queen,
In this meal that invigorate,
Let us all drink to their health !

(Aeneas) Our travels are very difficult,
On the often hostile seas,
But here is a peaceful haven,
It's no longer time to be upset...

(Choir) Let us, my friends, drink to the health
Of our good Prince and of the Queen,
In this meal that invigorate,
Let us all drink to their health !

(Achates) We have sailed from island to island
Into useless wanderings,
But in this very happy home,
It's no longer time to be upset...

(Choir) Let us, my friends, drink to the health
Of our good Prince and of the Queen,
In this meal that invigorate,
Let us all drink to their health !
For there is no
Greater good
In our world than the sweetests bonds

Of our friendship, shared here,
Over a cup of excellent wine !

13. Tell me about Troy

(Dido) Tell me, you, the Prince of Troy,
Some of your famous exploits,
And tell me more
All that endured
The haughty city of Troy,
How it finally fell,
By what cunning, at last,
The Greeks hastened it's end...

(Aeneas and Achates) It is a very painful duty that you are asking me ;
All those memories, I would like to flee.
Who could hold back
The tears and sobs, by
Reliving these feats of arms ?
Not a soldier, not one of the warriors !
But to please you, ô my Queen,
I'll overcome my sorrow...

14. The Trojan Horse

In the secret of the night,
Soundlessly, immense and black,
Glides the accursed stallion
Right up to the foot of our ramparts.
And beyond the animal
Which will do us so much harm,
Dawn reveals to our astonished eyes
A beautiful beach, emptied of enemies...
The pleasure is total of running to the shore,
And the big horse is praised, we will pay him homage.

(Choir) It's a gift to the deities,
Let's take it high
In the city,
And our Troy,
Great Ilion,
Will become
Queen of the nations !
Venerate the immense gift
Let's take it up into the city,
In order to avoid infinity
Of calamities,
A thousand cruelties,
For the divine wrath
Would fall on us.
This image is sacred,
Let's take it into town.
This image is a sacred thing,
Let's take it into the city !

15. Laocoon

Laocoon, played by Achates (he can first shout, several times: 'timeo Danaos et dona ferentes', 'I fear the Greeks, and especially when they bring gifts!')

O Trojans, have you gone crazy?
How can you imagine
That the Greeks have change their minds,
And are far from here ?
Don't trust, oh, don't trust this horse,
He conceals some great evil,
And mainly do not allow him,
Don't let it go up into the city :
Soldiers may have hidden there,
Or by its size
He will brake down our portals
And our city walls !
This horse, he must be probed,
This horse, he must be burned,
Or even drowned !

(Virgil) But then, far on the horizon
-Terrible apparition !-
Two dragons guide their swim towards the shore ;
Approaching, the two giant dragons
Fend the waters proudly,
With blood shot eyes,
Yes, with the eyes full of blood !
At the beach, these two twin snakes
Undulate their mighty rings
Straight towards the man who had just been so suspicious.
First it was it's two children
That devoured the two dragons
With all their teeth !
And it's said, seeing his body crushed,
That Laocoon paid the price,
Paid the price of his empiety, of his impiety...

16. Hymn to Athena

(choir : young Trojan girls, touching the cable that pulls the horse)

Let us celebrate
The good-hearted goddess,
And let us offer her this tribute...
In Troy delivered,
All the relieved people
Are honouring her image !
Let's open our Troy,
And let's make it enter
The offering she deserved !
O divinity, goddess in majesty,
Receive from us this beautiful gift !
Of our fidelity,
This sacred image
Will always be the sign.
Yes, of our fidelity,
This sacred image
Will always be for you
The sign ;
Of fidelity, this sacred image
Will always be for you the sign !

Aaaaa... (last line sung without words)

17. Orchestral= destruction of Troy.

possible intermission.

18. Dido and her sister Anna

(Dido) Sister Anna,
Oh my dear soul,
I have to tell you the strange evil
That consumes me,
And tears my heart.
All the good resolutions
I had anchored deeply in my reason,
I feel them become fragile...
I had sworn on my great gods
To remain faithful to my dear husband
Above all else, and even in death...
Never again, this body wanted to know by it's side
The happiness, the happiness of a shared bed.
But if ever – I never knew –
I had had to break this virtuous oath
Between the arms of a new lover,
It would surely be those
Of that famous Trojan Prince !
Yes, but I know
That I'm not going to let go.

(Anna, played by Venus) O my Dido, my dear Dido,
Why do you want to deprive your young years
Of the pleasures of an exciting love ?
Isn't that quite enough
To have this moving memory
Of this husband
Who first offered you his mouth,
Who first offered you his mouth ?

19. Dido's wanderings

(Dido) I feel my soul wounded,
I am just as a deer
Trailing the arrow that pierced her...
But I dare not tell him
The passions he inspires in me,
And I know
That I have lost my mind...

(choir) What kind of sorrow is this,
That possesses the Queen,
And seems to have taken away her reason?
We are feeling helpless,
We don't know how to help her...
And see how she leaves all her tasks to be done...

(Dido) I know, that I have lost my mind,
I feel, that my distress is growing...

20. Juno outlines her plan to Venus

(Juno) What a glorious battle you are winning here !
Your Cupid did the right thing and now she is struggling...
But what do you have to fear from my good Carthaginians ?
And didn't they welcome your children from Troy ?
But why are you content with an unfinished work ?
Why don't we go so far as to get them married ?
Let us unite, my dear, and from our combined labours
Will arise the Empire of two united nations !
The Queen has decided to invite tomorrow
The nobles Trojans to a great hunting party ;
Under the raging storm, Dido with Aeneas
In some well hidden cave, will find refuge...

21. The hunting party, the thunderstorm

(Virgil) The queen has dressed herself,
-She's ready for the hunt-
With precious fabrics and gilded textiles.
With their refined appearance, the noble guests
Ride their fiery steeds with elegance and pride.
From the summits, we see, moving away in frightened troops,
The light-footed stags, or, in the woods,
The roe-deer on their guard...
The Prince of the Trojans follows them.
It's he, who leads the game, his cheeks on fire :
He' handsome as a god !
But now, tearing the summer sky,
Just as the son of a volcano,
Rises a dark cloud...
In an instant a night spreads over all the country :
Surely, this is the act of a god !
Tremors of water fall, and vast fires explode in the skies !
People are gripped by terror,
They retreat under some giant tree,
Some people here, the others there, looking for a shelter.
The Queen and the Trojan, both moved out of the way ;
They spotted the narrow entrance to a secluded cave.
The ground is covered with soft sand, white as silver,
Covered with soft sand, white as silver...
The Queen and her handsome Prince are feeling well, they're feeling very
well...

22. The cave, the rumor

(Juno) Have you heard the cry of the nymphs high up, high up in the mountains?
That's how they celebrated the noblest of unions!
Did you see how the sky lit up with thousand of flames,
When both, drunk with voluptuousness, loved each other madly ?
Has there ever been, before, such a wedding procession,
Illuminated by more numerous and brighter torches ?

(choir) Day o sorrow than this day, day of false joy !
So unfortunate Dido, where do you wander ?
Where do you wander ? Where do you wander ? Where do you wander ?

(Juno, Venus) The Prince has now really entered everyday life and Dido's bed.
He wears a fine gilded garment - it was she who gave it to him -,
And a magnificent sword inlaid with enamel.
From the top of the walls in construction he gives his instructions.

(Choir) So unfortunate Dido, where do you wander ?
Where do you wander ? Where do you wander ? Where do you wander ?

23. Mercury's warning

(Mercury, played by Virgil) Tell me, Mister noble Trojan,
Have you lost sight of your destiny?
And that, on the other side of the water,
Another job awaits you?

Jupiter asked me to remind you
That the place where the Aeneas is due to land
Is not on the coast of Libya,
And you must go to Italy!

Forget the sweet rest of Carthage
You must now turn the page, yes, turn the page.
The place which to your glory is promised
Is not to be found here... (bis)

24. Let's move away !

(Aeneas) What is this strange apparition?

It made my hair stand up on end !

I have to listen to the fates:

We have to go tomorrow.

I will leave

Without looking back,

But I feel my soul is shattered...

Now, let's get the ships in water,

Let's prepare without saying a word.

And for my part

I will watch for the right time,

And also the right words,

To not upset the Queen too much,

Or do her too much, too much harm!

25. Dido's reaction

How so, villain,
Did you think you could hide from me
That tomorrow you will be far, so far away...
Nothing can take away this perfidious plan,
No, nothing will hold you back!
Nor the passion I'm feeling for you,
Nor the oaths that you proclaimed to me
In the heat of our so sweet lovemaking,
Nor the sorrow that takes hold of me,
Nor the darkness where I am going to go,
Nothing, really, can shake you or move you,
Nothing, really, can shake you or move you,
Nothing, really, can shake you or move you...

26. I love you, but I must leave

Oh, if you knew, you, so precious to my heart,
How much your pain weighs on me!
Oh if you knew all the regrets in my soul
I feel rising before your tears...

(chorus) I will go, pushed by the winds,
To meet the immense destiny
That the gods have decided for me,
But deep inside me,
But deep inside me,
I know
That my life from now on
Would be much happier
If I could spend this life here with you, in your arms...

2. Forgive me, oh, I beg you on my knees,
Oh, spare me
The flames of your wrath!
In spite of me,
I can only leave you
An image of myself deep in your memory engraved.

(chorus) ... if I could stay...*(chorus, a half-tone higher)* ... in your arms... (3 times)

27. Dido's harsh reply

(Dido) Have you lost
In just one day
All memory
Of our great love?

How easily,
So easily,
Fled all your oaths
From your memory?

Naively, I imagined
That you were really grateful
For this goodness, these benefits
I have bestowed on you
From the very first day
When you came to me!
Did you forget how I fed you,
How I welcomed everyone of you,
From the first day you came here?
Progressively, I've had eyes for Aeneas alone...

-I promised myself I would never love again,
I liked everything about you, your voice, your laugh,
I would have liked to associate you with my empire,
I would have liked to live my life close to you!

Have you lost
In just one day
All memory
Of our great love ?

How easily,
So easily,
Fled all your oaths
From your memory ?

So go away, so go away, so go away, since now, that is your plan,
And enjoy this good wind,
So go away,
And may the gods make you suffer a thousand torments

On the ocean!

So go away,

And may your mighty ships smash against huge waves and merciless rocks,

May the waters submerge you...

And my soul will hear the cries of your regrets... *(3 times)*

28. Second warming

You must not delay here any longer, Prince of Troy !

Don't wait for the end of the night

To launch all your boats :

The Queen against you

Prepares for the fight!

Come on, get away!

29. Dido's last words

Far, far,
He's already so far...
And I am going
Where there are no more happinesses dreamed of and lost,
No more oaths betrayed,
In this country
Where time has stopped running away...
Oh, unhappy Dido,
Will you leave your great name
In your city, engraved on some stone ?
Or far, far away,
Far from your memory,
Will you pass through
The gates of oblivion? *(she drops on Aeneas' sword)*

30. Dido's death

(Virgil) When the Queen had uttered these fiery words,
Filled with pain, hatred and cruelty,
She did not want to delay any longer
The fatal moment she has decided.
She had pretended, by having this pyre built,
To wish to free herself from his memory,
Throwing in everything he could lay his hands on,
Up to this bed where they had so much love.

(choir) On Aeneas's sword she hurled herself,
See: the blade is stained with her blood.
And they cry out 'O day of woe!
For our queen is dying!'

(Virgil) Upon hearing the terrible news
That is spreading through the palace,
Anna, her sister, staggers,
And then she runs to the pyre,
She's trembling, weeping.
Dido's still alive,
So she speaks to her:

(Anna, played by Venus, and the choir) Why have you deceived me, so deceived me, my sister? Why have you deceived me, so deceived me, my sister?

(choir) Why have you deceived me, so deceived me, my sister?

(Virgil) Then, approaching her expiring sister
And bathing her in abundant tears,
She tries a little longer to stop all this blood, all this blood.
Three times Dido rises panting,
And every time she falls back again fainting.
Her gaze, slipping beneath her eyelids,
Still seeks the light, yes, the light...

(choir) And then Juno, taking pity
On an unfortunate princess,
Sends from the heights of Olympus,
The fatal goddess.
And then Juno, taking pity
On an unfortunate princess,

Sends from the heights of Olympus,
The fatal goddess.

(Choir) And then the divinity, in the guise of a rainbow,
Takes Dido to her home,
She takes the Queen up to Heaven...

31. Funeral Waltz

32. Final song: between sadness and enthusiasm

(Aeneas) It is as if a sword, from side to side,
Had split my will, yes my will, into some equal parts;
Some are already in Italy,
But a part remains in Libya...

(choir) What is this fire there,
In the middle of Carthage ?

(Aeneas) This kind of shining flame, in the night,
Burnts my heart, and the fear
Fulfills me all over !

(choir) Turn elsewhere, O Prince of the Trojans,
By now your gaze, for where is the use
Of shedding over the past
Abundant tears that won't change a thing?

(Aeneas) Oh yes you are right, my companions,
I will only, by now, think about my mission !

(choir) O Prince of the Trojans, we understand
Why this sorrow is so profound,
But now, it's time to turn your gaze
Towards the humble shore
We have been promised,
But now it's time to turn your eyes to the huge
Project that's opening for you today !
Tomorrow on an Italian beach,
The golden sand will preserve
The traces of our feet,
And then we will go through the country,
Looking for the site of our future city !
Tomorrow, on an Italian beach,
The golden sands will preserve
The traces of our feet,
And afterwards, through the country we will go
In search of the fixed place, to found a new city there.
That is how our ancient Troy
In other lands will be reborn,

And from the blood of our kings
A new people will arise !
Tomorrow on an Italian beach,
We will go and imprint
The traces of our feet !

Tomorrow on an Italian beach,
We will go and imprint
The traces of our feet !

Tomorrow on an Italian beach,
We will go and imprint
The traces of our feet !

Tomorrow on an Italian beach,
We will go and imprint
The traces of our feet,
The traces of our feet,
The traces of our feet.

Then our city will be reborn !
