# GEORG BEND AND HIS MELODRAMA Ariadne Aus Naxos 

THESIS

# Presented to the Graduate Council of the North Texas State University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements 

For the Degree of

MASTER OF MUSIC

By

Doris J. Richards, B.A.
Denton, Texas
June, 1970

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The eighteenth century composer, Georg (Jiří) Benda was born in Bohemia and is claimed by both Czechs and Germans. The former base their claim on the accident of birth, while the latter point out that he moved to Germany as a young man and wrote all of his music there. There are also conficting reports concerning Georg's birthplace. One Czech source ${ }^{l}$ Iists Mlada Bolesláv, near where Georg went to school, as the town in which he was born. Another Czech source ${ }^{2}$ indicates that Staré Benatky was his birthplace. Such an eminently authoritative source on music and musicians as Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart ${ }^{3}$ agrees with Helfert's account. Regardless of his birthplace, there is general agreement that Georg Benda was born in 1722, and died at Kostrice in 1795, having written most of his important works after the age of forty.

Georg came from a musical family, one of a whole group of prominent composers and/or performers, which came to be known as the Benda-Brixi family. The first records of the Bendas, in the area of Stare Benatky, date from 1682. 4 About this time Jan Jiri Benda married Dorothy Brixi and of their ten children, four died in infancy. The ceventh child was born in June of 1722 and was christened Jiri (Georg) Antonin Benda.

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    \({ }^{1}\) B. Blanch1, "Benda," Ottů Slovnik Naučný, edited by J. Otto (Prague,
1890), III, pp. 728-729.
    \({ }^{2}\) Vladimir Helfert, "Jirúi Benda," Spisy Filosofické Fakulty Masaryk
University (Brnó, 1929), XXVIII, p. 29.
    \(3_{\text {Helmut Wirth, }}\) "Benda Familie," Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart,
edited by Friedrich Blume (Kassel und Basel, 1949-1951), I, p. 1622.
    \({ }^{4}\) Helfert, op.cit., p. 27.
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Music played an important part in the lives of the Bendas. Georg's grandparents were musicians, as were his parents. Helfert points out that:

From his father, Georg inherited the natural musicianship
of the country musician; from his mother, the more cultivated and traditional ability of a genuinely musical family. . . . . He brought music with him into the world and was constantly surrounded by it. 5

In the eighteenth century bands of traveling musicians were common and Georg's father was a member of one of these groups. Frantisek, the older brother, felt that Georg assimilated "rhythmic definiteness and relevancy" ${ }^{6}$ from his proximity to these groups. The sons of Jan Jiří surpassed their father in musical stature and prominence. Both František and Jan became violin virtuosi, while Josef attained the position of royal concert master. Georg achieved great success with his melodramas and singspiele and his oldest son, Bedrich, was a violinist, composer, and conductor.

As a young man, Georg went to a Jesuit school. In his later years he lived in Berlin and Gotha, spent a year in Italy, and returned to Germany. These separate phases of his life will be dealt with at. greater length below.

There is little information available concerning Georg's physical appearance or his personality. For what little we do know, we are indebted to Schlichtegroll who tells us that, "Georg had an enduring and strong body and with his regular diet, he lived a long life without the affliction of dysentery." ${ }^{7}$ Schlichtegroll goes on to say that in his younger years
${ }^{5}$ Ib1d.
${ }^{6}$ Ib1d., p. 31.
$7_{\text {Friedrich von Schlichtegroll, Musiker-Nekrelog (Kassel und Basel, 1795), }}$ p. 24.

Georg drank much wine, but as he grew older and suffered from hemorrhoids, he drank only beer. ${ }^{8}$ In addition, we know that throughout his life he was characterized by his absent-mindedness and his fondness for the table. ${ }^{9}$

His biographers agree that Georg was basically self-taught in the intricacies of composition, although he obtained some training at the Jesuit school. One of the dominant influences in the formative years of Georg's musical career seems to have come from the church and its cantor, Alexius, at Nové Benatky, across the Jizera River from Staré Benatky.

Church music in Nové Benatky was at the crossroads, as was generally the case with religious music during this period. English oratorios bore the marks of the theater and the Italian church cantatas were being invaded by the da capo aria. These innovations were not without influence on the remainder of the continent, especially in places such as Nové Benatky where the local citizens were assuming the responsibility for the musical portions of the services. It is possible to assume that Georg, who attended church regularly, was affected by liturgical experimentations with forms of opera and musical accompaniment. Outside the church, Benda's contact with Count Sporck and other members of the nobility, who employed such musicians as Vivaldi, Albinoni, Alberti, Romano, and Valentini, broadened and deepened h1s appreciation of musical forms.

Georg's first acquaintance with opera probably came through his older brother, Frantisek, who had been involved in opera when Georg was still an infant. In 1723, when Georg was only one year old, Frantisek had gone to Prague to sing in Fux's opera, costanza e Forteza, on the occasion of the coronation of Charles VI. In 1724, and in the years after, the impresario Antonio Denzio, brought his troupe to Nove' Benatky where their productions

[^0]were staged in the castle of Count Sporck. The Denzio-produced operas were completely different from anything previously performed in the casties or on the estates of the nobility in Bohemia. Operas presented were by Porta, Gasparini, and Fiore, all contemporary Venetian composers. As young Georg grew older, the opportunity to attend such performances provided invaluable training for him. He was also influenced by such teachers as Hasse and Graun; it was the latter who is said to have brought him an appreciation of the oboe. Istel writes, however, that "He (Georg) probably at this time never came face to face with the full score of . . . these composers. ${ }^{10}$ (Hasse and Graun)

## Benda's Jesuit Years

Throughout his early years, Georg seemed destined for a scholarly career rather than that of a musician; music was slated to be a secondary aspect of his career. He was educated in the Piarist College in Kosmonosy and the Jesuit school in Jicin. Although they both greatly influenced his later efforts, the Jesuit school had the most profound effect on his musical philosophy

Georg was a seminarian at Jicin from 1739 to $1742,{ }^{l 1}$ during the time the Jesuit school was going through an anti-Reformation period, with which Benda did not sympathize. The school's program, however, was aimed at providing the fullest education and cultural enrichment possible. Georg received a classical education in the Greek and Roman tradition, in which the stress was placed on the study of Latin.

[^1]Benda was fortunate in being able to attend the Jesuit school at the time he did, for previous to 1625 music of any kind was forbidden in churches served by Jesuits. This position, however, was untenable because of the intense musical development coming to flower in Italy and then spreading to the rest of Europe. Benda was at the Jesuit school when dramas with music, oratorios, and baroque church music were at their zenith. It was important, therefore, that seminarians be trained as competent instrumentalists and singers. There were many feast days and church celebrations when musical performances were needed, and instrumental music was dominant in those performances. Vocal presentations of the mass and litany were often accompanied by instruments.

The greatest influences on Benda during his years of study with the Jesuits were probably those of declamation and drama. Jesuit dramatic plays had their own dramaturgy, their own peculiar content and dramatic style. The leading Jesuit dramatists of the period were Avancini, Masenius, and Balde. The plays were of two types: one was the pageant play in tribute to the Eggenberg and Schwarzenberg noble families, based on Catholic and anti-Reformation themes. The other was based on ancient mythology, biblical events, ancient history, or events from the Middle Ages. Historical fact in these plays was under the influence of baroque thinking with its highly stylized patterns of thought and behavior and the idea of absolutism characterized by the acceptance of the theory of "Divine Right" monarchy.

A11 of these plays had one common feature..... tragic ending. In a time when the "happy ending" dominated, Jesuit plays emphasized austerity and tragedy. This theme was consistent with the Jesuit concept of the struggle in life, and the dire and tragic consequences of the after-life, which frightened, and thereby attracted, adherents and believers. Death, as the
end result of faith, was necessary in the content of these plays. This dramatic theme of sadness, tragedy and self-denial was never to be forgotten by Benda. ${ }^{12}$

Georg's idea of drama was the basis of his artistic development. The foundations in his drama, acquired with the Jesuits, came through in his later church cantatas, and especially in his melodramas, Ariadne auf Naxos and Medea. ${ }^{13}$ Here Benda found a chance, more than thirty years after leaving Jičin, to develop tones in combinations of instruments and homophonic patterns, which aroused tragedy. This desire on his part, to relate music to tragedy, had its roots deep inside Benda and reached from Gotha back to his youth. ${ }^{14}$

Another one of Benda's artistic talents, also based on his experience in Jicin, was his sense of tragic pathos in dramatic declamation. ${ }^{1.5}$ The basic characteristic of this form is the special attention and emphasis on speech effect and how to achieve it. This "effect" theory crystallized in the second half of the eighteenth century in French and German arts and almost completely dominated music at this time. Textbooks of the period defined "effect" as "the yearning for something like emotion, with a strong will factor. It is the blood and soul of speaking. . !in Benda stood in the midst of these theories and the form of his melodrama resulted directly
${ }^{12}$ Ibid.
$13_{\text {Ibid. }}$, p. 95.
14 Ibia.
${ }^{15}$ Ib1d.
${ }^{16}$ Ib1d., p. 97.
from them. In his later works, Benda implemented the effect theory which he had experienced in the field of drama and declamation in the Jesuit school. Helfert feels that, "Ariadne auf Naxos is structured on this effect theory." 17

Benda's Jesuit experiences also taught him the importance of speech rhythm and acoustical impressions of the spoken word, as well as careful and sensitive attention to speech mimicry. Clear and distinct speaking was a requirement that went along with the rhythmic division of speech. The next requirement was proper voice modulation, to be used according to the content of the speech, for the purpose of strengthening the desired effect. Jesuit declamatory practices rejected monotone or "sung speeches."18 According to the Jesuits, the true declamation concerned itself with the spoken word, even though grammatical requirements did not always coincide with the declamatory requirements.

This emphasis on rhythmic divisions of the spoken word and distinctness of speaking, left in Georg's mind, valuable lessons which he retained in later years. ". . . This foundation became his most valuable trademark and distinguished him from other composers of that time. ${ }^{19}$ In Helfert's estimation, Benda's sung verse is an outgrowth of the declaimed word:

> tion or declamation. creates the impression of musical recitadeclaimed word caused Benda to end the requirement about the and substitute the spoken word.

The root and basis of Benda's melodramas is a combination of understanding and declamation of the spoken word with the expressions of the rendered

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\begin{aligned}
& { }^{17} \text { Ibid., p. } 100 . \\
& { }^{18} \text { Ibid., p. } 101 . \\
& { }^{19} \text { Ib1d., p. } 102 . \\
& { }^{2 \theta} \text { Ibid., p. } 103 .
\end{aligned}
$$

music, all of which Benda acquired with the Jesuits. Jesuit textbooks also went into detail about what to do with certain portions of the body, although the face, eyes, and lips were said to be the principal repositories of dramatic effect. Benda heard, at Jicin, many dramatic monologues combined with distinct declamation and mimicry. "His Ariadne auf Naxos is, from beginning to end, one long dramatic monologue and lament."21

In the Jesuit plays, the spoken word alternated with sung insertions. These were spoken plays with interpolated arias, recited parts, and choruses. They were midway between opera and pure spoken plays. This was important for Benda, since he later encountered the Singspiel form in Germany, the difference being only that the Jesuit plays had the spoken word alternated with recitative portions and the aria, while the Singspiel had no recitative in the beginning. Prior to the Singspiel, Benda's only acquaintance with opera had been the Italian works heard at Sporck's productions. 22

## Benda's Berlin Years

Georg was in Berlin from 1742 until $1749^{23}$ where he held a position as violinist in the court orchestra of Friedrich II. It was there that he came in contact with Italian opera, Friedrich's favorite. Berlin opera was dominated by $K . H$. Graun from whom Benda learned of the recitative. The simple accompaniment of the recitative secco in which the rhythm follows the verbal accentuation, revealed to Benda the possibiltty of implementing the dramaturgy of his Jicin experiences with music which not only supported its dramatic aspects, but enchanced the total production as well. From Hasse, the eminent dramatic composer, Benda recognized the great effective-

[^2]ness of the accompagnata and the dramatic life of entire scenes and arias. In Helfert's opinion, Benda's style came closer to that of Hasse than to that of Graun. 24

If Benda's later melodramas are to be understood, it must be noted that he saw pantomime ballet for the first time in Berlin. Here he met with the theme which was later employed by Rousseau in melodrama form and which Benda used in his melodrama, Pygmalion. 25 In addition to his other Berin experiences, Benda came in contact with French and German spoken dramas. From Crebillon's tragedy to Moliére's satires, Benda acquired knowledge of drama, which he later used in his own melodramas.

The important years in Berlin for Benda, however, were those that shaped his "aesthetic direction." Batteux's treatise, in which he wrote of nature not as an actual perceptible phenomenon, but as it could be, had a great effect on German musical-aesthetic ideas of the time. This added a new sense to Mattheson's theory, which did not consider music a science of harmony and measurements, but as the artistic expression of sentiments which must not be used to excess. This naturalism called for the creation of effects and the depicting of nature, and to "tone painting, "26 whether painting natural scene or tone painting of effects.

Mizler's periodical, Neu eröffruc musikalische Bibliothek, published in Leipzig from 1739 to 1754 , explains, "Music is a portrayal of nature and effects. If music is to accomplish this, however, the composer must know what he is doing."27 Mizler seems to be saying that the prerequisite of

[^3]composing is the knowledge of nature and effects; hence, of logic, metaphysics, mathematics, and the natural sciences. Helfert writes that Benda was not far removed from this theory, since Graun was a member of Mizler's society, and the theory thus found its way to Benda. 28 Benda's association with musicians versed in new aesthetic ideas, and his acquaintance with the accompanied recitative which he heard in Berlin, helped to shape his thinking for the productive years he spent later in Gotha.

Benda's Gotha Years
On May 1,1750 , Benda was appointed Kapellmeister at the Th: ringian court of Gotha as successor to G.H. Stizel, and in preference to his Berlin colleague, J.F. Agricola, who had also applied for the post. 29 Benda remained in Gotha for twenty-eight years, where he married in 1751. It was here that he raised his family and where, about 1775 , he began the most fruitful period of his life, in terms of musical composition. It was during this time that he wrote his melodramas and Singspiele. His melodrama, Ariadne auf Naxos, presented on all the major stages of Europe and translated into Italian, French, and Russian, dates from early in this period. 30

After some disagreements in Gotha he spent time in Hamburg, in 1778 , as musical director in Schroeder's Theater and travelled to various music centers such as Vienna, Paris, and Mannhei!. About 1785 , Benda retired with a small pension, presumably from his former post in Hamburg, and lived at the little Thuringian villages of Ronneburg, Ohrdruff, and Georgenthal.

[^4]Finally in 1792, he took up residence in a convalescent home in Kostrice, near Gotha, where he died. ${ }^{31}$

Benda's Italian Sojourn
On October 10, 1765, Benda asked for permission to leave Gotha in order to travel to Italy for further study and experience. He remained there a little over half a year, returning to Gotha on June 5, 1766. ${ }^{32}$ His most personal contact and acquaintance in Venice was with J.A. Hasse, but certain musical experiences were even more important to his development. 33 He was impressed by the popular women's choruses in church hospitals, especially those of dei Orfelini and della Pletà. His friend, Berenhorst, described these experiences, and both he and Benda marvelled at the solo voices of Luise Bertolotti and Magdalen Lombardini.

Although Benda did not have the good fortune of attending serious opera In Venice as he had in Rome, he did come to know comic opera as it was played in the St. Moise Theatre. Which comic operas he saw is not known, but they were most probably Martinelli-Guglielmi's, Il Ratto della sposa, and Palomba-Avo's, Il ciarlone, since these were presented in that theatre In the fall of 1765 . Other comic operas known to have been presented there were, L'amora industrioso and Le villegiatori ridicole, which were of the buffa type. ${ }^{34}$ Traëtta's opera, Antigone, was also very important to him since it employed dramatized Italian opera accompanied by recitative portions. 35

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\({ }^{31}\) Ib1d.
\(32_{\text {Helfert, op. cit., XXXIX, p. } 222 .}\)
\(33_{\text {Ibid., }}\) p. 224.
\({ }^{34}\) Ib1d., p. 226.
\({ }^{35}\) Ib1d.
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Italian comic opera was enjoying great popularity at the time of Benda's visit. Piccini and Traëtta were the most popular comic opera composers and proponents of buffoonery in comic opera. Others were Galuppi and Paisiello. Scarlatti's Lisola disabitata, was one of the buffa operas most enjoyed at the time. The main center of buffa opera in this period was the Goldoni Theatre in Venice.

On one occasion, Benda was said to have become disappointed with the "empty music" of one of Galuppi's operas and left after the first act. His friend, Rust, persuaded him to hear it again and it is said to have been from this time that Benda acquired a love and appreciation for the real significance of dramatic music. ${ }^{36}$ Helfert indicates that, "this episode probably proves that Benda was irked by Italian lackadaisicalness, with which they could listen to opera as a mere form of entertainment." 37 There is no doubt, however, that Benda fell under the spell of the type of comic opera composed by Galuppi, which, in turn, greatly influenced his Singspiel form.

Benda returned to Gotha from Italy as an artist who had broadened his musical experiences and horizon. His Italian trip greatly influenced the direction of his interests, and thereafter, he concentrated his efforts on intermezzos and buffa opera with little interest in serious opera. He returned with a large collection of music, and in a sense, brought comic opera to Gotha through his newly found acquaintance with the works of Perez, Zopis, and Jomelli.

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\({ }^{36}\) Ib1d., p. 227.
\(37_{\text {Ib1d. }}\)
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The influence of the French Enlightenment was being slowly replaced by German culture, and music found many new forms. German spoken drama and the Singspiel found their way to Gotha through Benda; these were among the first signs of the truly German form in opera. Singspiel, in turn, established a firm basis for Benda's melodramas in which he combined his dramatic experiences at Jicin with musical knowledge gained from personal experience and effort, and also enabled him to use the German folk song and local airs in his Singspiele.

## CHAPTER II

## gEORG BENDA AND THE MELODRAMA

## Explanation of the Melodrama

In the past three centuries, the success of new musical productions in achieving wide and lasting acceptance has depended upon the development of the proper combination of music and voice to create a desired effect. The melodrama, introduced in the eighteenth century, was a specific experiment that sought to achieve a more satisfactory combination of music and voice than then existed in opera.

As defined in a standard English dictionary, a melodrama is

1. a play form that does not observe the dramatic
laws of cause and effect and that intensifies sentiment and exaggerates emotion. 2. (in the $17 \mathrm{th}, 18 \mathrm{th}$, and
l9th centuries) a rpmantic dramatic composition with music interspersed.

While the form of dramatic musical stage production pioneered by Georg Benda fits both of these definitions, the principal object at this point is an examination of those compositions specifically described by the second definition.

A survey of standard dictionaries of musical terms reveals little consistency in the definition of melodrama. For example, Thompson, in defining melodrama, says that it is: "In opera, a scene in which the actor recites his part while the orchestra comments upon the situation. . ." ${ }^{2}$ The Harvard Dictionary of Music defines melodrama as, "music designed as an instrumental

[^5]accompaniment to a spoken text. ${ }^{3}$ Moser's Musik Lexikon gives the first definition of melodrama as simply: "Oper. $"^{4}$ The Oxford Companion to Music defines melodrama as: "A play, or a passage in a play, or a poem, in which the spoken voice is used against a musical background. . ."5 Grove's says that melodrama is: "A kind of dramatic composition, or portion of a work, in which the actor recites his part while the orchestra plays a more or less elaborate commentary on the situation of the moment. . ." ${ }^{6}$ The list of variant definitions could be extended by the simple expedient of consulting more dictionaries of musical terms. Such extension is less than necessary in order to determine the specific musical form with which we are concerned here.

Thompson and Moser equate melodrama with opera. The definition in The oxford Companion to Music is virtually as inclusive as the generic dictionary definition. The definition in Grove's is more to the point. Apel, in the Harvard Dictionary of Music, after discussing numerous experiments in the melodramatic style, concludes: ". . . the term melodrama (also monodrama, duodrama), applies to complete plays written in this style, as was repeatedly done in the eighteenth century; . . ." 7 It is this last observation that precisely defines the type of composition that is the subject of our interest.

Encyclopedists of musical terminology and/or musicologists have further refined definitions of the melodramatic style by using the terms

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\(3_{\text {Willi Apel, Harvard Dictionary of Music (Cambridge, Mass., 1947). }}^{\text {( }}\)
\({ }^{4}\) Hans Joachim Moser, Musik Lexikon (Hamburg, 1955), v. 2, p. 759.
\({ }^{5}\) Percy A. Scholes, The Oxford Companion to Music (London, 1955), p. 624.
\({ }^{6}\) George Grove, "Melodrama," Grove's, op. cit., \(V\).
\({ }^{7}\) Apel, op. cit., p. 435.
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monodrama and duodrama to describe the type of work associated with Benda. Thompson defines monodrama as: "The word used for melodramatic stage presentations in the $18 t h$ century which consisted largely of monologues on the part of the heroine, to the accompaniment of the orchestra, " ${ }^{8}$ while duodrama is: "A sort of musical melodrama, in which the words were spoken and not sung, to the accompaniment of the orchestra. . ."9 The Oxford Companion to Music states, more succinctly, "Melodrama for one speaker is Monodrama; for two, Duodrama."l0 Brückner prefers the term monodrama since the music plays a side role with the production taking on one entire dramatic shape. ${ }^{1 I}$

The reference to melodrama, "in opera," quoted above, is supported by Brückner's comment on the relationship between melodrama and opera when he notes that: "Melodrama per musica is nothing but the designation for opera."l2

Prior to experimentation with the melodramatic style of musical production, composers of opera had tried various methods of reconciling the combination of music and voice which would produce the desired effect, both musically and dramatically. The operatic development most closely related to the spoken dialogue of the melodrama was the recitative. This vocal style imitates and emphasizes the natural inflections of speech; its

[^6]rhythm is curved to fit the rhythm of the language. Instead of a purely musical line, recitative is often characterized by a rapid patter on the same pitch. The recitative also uses a rapid question and answer dialogue that serves to build tension in a dramatic situation. In short, recitative constitutes a style in which the purely musical factors of the composition are subordinated to a speech substitute.

Eighteenth century opera developed two types of recitative. One was the secco or dry recitative that had a very slight instrumental support in the form of chords. The other was called accompagnato and was a more elaborate type of recitative with an expressive orchestral accompaniment. The spoken dialogue of the subsequent melodramatic style might be considered simply the carrying of the recitative of opera to its logical extreme. In fact, in opera of a less serious variety, the sung recitative was often replaced by dialogue - an obvious extension of this experimental trend resulted in the melodramatic style in which the entire dialogue of the production is spoken.

While the search for adequate music-voice combinations might seem to be reason enough for the development of melodrama, this style of dramatic musical stage production was also designed to compensate for other inadequacies that existed at the time. Brückner explains that certain lack of facilities in the eighteenth century theater helped to foster the popularity of melodrama. Many theaters, particularly on the estates of the nobility where many dramatic and musical works were produced, were small and could not accommodate large orchestras. As a result, the orchestras
tended to be small and the music was used mainly as a support for the part of the heroine. ${ }^{13}$ The monodrama or duodrama form of the melodramatic style was more adapted to the limitations of the physical environment than were the more ambitious productions of opera.

Melodrama, as an eighteenth century attempt to revive Greek tragedy, attracted large audiences but met with little lasting success. The shortIived enthusiasm for this form of musical-dramatic composition is, perhaps, best explained by Apel when he tells us that this was:

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    . . . because of the acoustic incongruity of the spoken word
    and music. In the Greek drama, which made ample use of melo-
    dramatic performance, this contrast was less noticeable be-
    cause of' the more 'musical' character of the Greek language
    and the more 'speech-like' nature of Greek music. Modern
    speech, with its monotonic pitch, and modern music with its
    richness of harmonies do not combine very well.14
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Background of the Melodrama
Vast social changes taking shape in the eighteenth century greatly affected both the form and content of the lyric theater. Baroque opera seemed to be geared to an era of absolute monarchy and, therefore, found little place in a time of burgeoning nationalism and republicanism. Men of letters all over Europe, adapting to the emerging styles and patterns of social and political development, satirized the Baroque for its pretensions. This trend led to the downfall of opera seria in London with the production of the Beggars Opera in 1728, followed by a similar occurrence in 1752 in Paris,

[^7]when a troupe of Italian singers presented Pergolesi's comic opera
La Serva Padrona. Shortly thereafter, a curious conflict arose between proponents of Italian comic opera and French partisans of traditional court opera. Those who favored the latter form of musical expression found support from Louls XIV, Mme. de Pompadour, and the French aristocracy in general. Those who saw in the Italian opera buffa a new realistic art form were led by the French queen, the Encyclopedists, d'Alembert and Diderot, and Rousseau, who hailed the comic form because of its natural sentiment, and because they believed it had thrown off the outmoded "fetters of counterpoint."15 This development was particularly important, because the opera house was a focal point of musical actlvity and experimentation in the Classical era. The most important branch of musical entertainment was the opera, and it reached the widest public. 16

One of the consequences of the "War of the Buffoons" was Rousseau's Letter on French Music (1753) in which he bitterly attacked French music. He had previously put theory into practice by composing an opéra comique, Le Devin du village, in 1752 , to 111 ustrate his argument. 17 This little operetta gave impetus to the trend toward simplicity and naturalness for which critics of traditional French opera were striving. These were qualities that were to play a central role in the new midaleclass art that was developing, of which the melodrama became a part.

Indeed, Einstein feels that melodrama owed its existence to Rousseau, through his production, Pygmalion, in 1762 , in which spoken discourse was bound with music. 18 He goes on further to say that, ". . . melodrama was

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15Joseph Machlis, The Enjoyment of Music (New York, 1963), p. 464.
    16 IbId., p. 295.
    17 Ib1d., p. 464.
    18Alfred Einstein, Ariadne auf Naxos, (Leipzig, 1920), p. 5.
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the most fashionable of everything modern in the eighteenth century."19 The period of the popularity of the melodrama did not, however, follow immediately upon the heels of Rousseau's Pygmalion. A decade of musical experimentation in music and voice combination elapsed between the production of Pygmalion and Benda's Ariadne auf Naxos. It was probably Gluck, a German-born composer, who led the return to the ideal fusion of musical and dramatic elements which had been established by Monteverdi as the valid goal of the lyric theater. The new German opera appeared briefly when Anton Schweitzer and Christoph Wieland collaborated in writing Alceste, produced in 1773. It was the first German five-act opera sung from beginning to end. This compromise of styles did not last and German grand opera fell by the wayside.

During this period an anti-Italian feeling permeated Germany. The Germans wanted to reserve the use of music for the highpoints of the action, restoring the spoken dialogue for the animated exchange of ideas. This technique resulted in the development of the Singspiel. The first ones were imitations of English models. Hiller and Weisse created truly German Singspiele, writing vocal parts for actors who were not outstanding singers, but who, nevertheless, overcame this handicap beautifully. The melodrama went even further in utilizing the dramatic rather than the vocal element. As an attempt to present a musical drama without the distortion of the voice by orchestral interference, the melodrama was shortlived. But in reviving the form, the developments in opera of this period can best be studied, for this history is largely the story of a struggle for hegemony between music and drama.

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19Ib1d.
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## Contributing Composers

Other composers and authors experimenting with the new form were J.E. Eberlin, who wrote Sigismundus, and Mozart, who introduced two long melodramatic monologues in his Zaida, in 1780. Goethe also wrote various plays for melodramatic performance, one of which was Proserpina, written in 1776.

The German-born composer-conductor, Anton Schweitzer, is credited in Grove's with having produced the first German melodrama, Pygmalion, in Weimar in $1772^{20}$ which was based on the well-known text by Rousseau. Of Schweitzer's ability, Mozart said that he would never learn to write for the voice. ${ }^{21}$ With regard to Rousseau's philosophy of music it might be said that he juxtaposed the naturalness of Italian buffo style to the archaic splendors of Rameau. ${ }^{22}$ Rousseau felt that, in the melodrama, words and music should never go together, but should be heard alternately. In this way, the spoken word would be announced or prepared for by the music. In reality, he was probably trying, through this medium, to support his claim of the unsuitability of the French language for operatic purposes. ${ }^{23}$ Because of the impact of his Pygmalion and Le Devin du village on the development of classic opera, he can hardly be omitted from any list of contributing composers, in the genre of the melodrama.

Johann F. Reichardt, German composer and writer on music, attained proficiency under Viechtner, a pupil of Benda. He wrote two melodramas:
${ }^{20}$ Grove's, op. cit., VII.
${ }^{21}$ Ib1d.
${ }^{22}$ Alec Harman and Wilfrid Mellers, Man and His Music (New York, 1962), p. 712.
${ }^{23}$ Lang, op. cit., p. 583.

Cephalus and Prokris, with a text by Ramler, produced in 1777; and Ino, with a text by Brandes, produced in 1779. He also used Gerstenberg's text for a dramatic cantata, Ariadne auf Naxos, produced in $1779 .{ }^{24}$

Christian $G$. Neefe, who married Georg Benda's foster daughter, Suzanne Zink, a member of Sayler's Company, subsequently assumed direction of the Company, succeeding Hiller. Neefe wrote one monodrama, Sophonisbe, with a text by Meissner, which was produced in Mannheim in 1778.25

The Abbé Vogler became a priest in 1773, after his disillusionment with his teachers of composition. He felt that Vallotti and Martini were using erroneous methods, and later started schools of his own. He is considered to have been an outstanding teacher, particularly of singing and composition. He wrote one melodrama, Lampedo, in $1779 .{ }^{26}$

Peter von Winter, according to Thompson, wrote melodramas but their names seem to be unobtainable. ${ }^{27}$ Another melodrama, entitled Andromeda, was said to have been set by a dilletante who was an officer in the Prussian service. The most ambitious later practitioner of the melodrama, according to Ewen, was Zděnek Fibich (1850-1900) who wrote Hippodameia (1890-92), a trilogy. He tried to realize a closer unity between poetry and music than had previously been achieved. ${ }^{28}$ There were, undoubtedly, others who experimented with the new dramatic musical form; but with the exception of Benda, they concentrated their efforts on types of musical
${ }^{24}$ Ibid.
${ }^{25}$ Ib1d., VI, p. 42.
${ }^{26}$ Ib1d., IX, pp. 38-40.
${ }^{27}$ Ibid., p. 318.
${ }^{28}$ David Ewen, Encyclopedia of the Opera (New York, 1963).
composition other than the melodrama.

## Opinions Concerning Benda's Melodrama

Georg Benda was admired by many other musicians, both during his lifetime and after his death. Einstein writes:
. . . The achievements of Benda had a great effect on the dramatic and lyrical musical production of the following times, not in the unfortunate and impossible type itself, which after a short time of sensation. . . almost disappeared, but in Schubert's songs, in Haydn's oratorios, whose artistic drawings without the melodrama are not entirely conceivable, and finally in the opera, in which melodrama became one of its components. 29 Of Ariadne auf Naxos specifically he says that, "it has not only historical interest but is a strong authentic work which is characteristic of German musicians." 30

According to Grove's, we find that, "Benda was much admired by his contemporaries; Gerber calls him in 1790 'the pride of the Germans amongst living musicians which he will remain as long as true expression coupled with the noblest melody and the purest harmony will be considered essential for a vocal composer'." 31

Istel states that Benda gave rise to the enhancement of the musical and specific picturesque expressions in the works of his great successors, particularly Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven and to Schubert and Loewe. ${ }^{32}$ With regard to the text of Benda's melodrama, Brückner pointed out that "it is the essence of the study, of monologue. The effect in this direction on the Schauspiel poet has become very great." 33

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\({ }^{29}\) Einstein, op. cit., p. 5.
30 Ibid.
\(3^{3 l_{\text {Grove's }}}\), op. cit.
\({ }^{32}\) Istel, op. cit., p. 47-48.
\(33_{\text {Brückner, op. c1t., p. }} 581\).
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[^8]${ }^{34}$ Einstein, op.cit., p. 5.

## BACKGROUND AND STORY OF BENDA'S Ariadne auf Naxos


#### Abstract

The subject of Arladne has been treated often and by great masters both before and after Benda, seriously as well as in parody versions. One of the earliest settings of the story was Monteverdi's Arianne of 1608, of which only the Lament remains. The latest version of Ariadne auf Naxos was composed by Richard Strauss, in 1916 , to a libretto written by Hugo von Hofmannsthal. The Benda setting of the text was done in 1775.

Rousseau's treatment of the Pygmalion myth has been suggested as the source of inspiration for Benda's Ariadne auf Naxos. Although there is some controversy about the dates of Pygmalion, it seems certain that Benda heard this work before he composed Ariadne auf Naxos. The first production of Pygmalion caused quite a sensation because of its novelty. There is no singing and the only music consisted of orchestral pieces In the intervals of the declamation. Rousseau has been accused of stealing the greater part of Pygmalion from a Lyonnais named Coignet. ${ }^{1}$ However, there seem to have been two different pygmalions produced in 1772. One was produced in Weimar with music by Schweitzer while the other took place in Vienna. The music for the latter work was by Franz Asplmayr.? Since both of these scores are now lost, it is impossible to determine the correctness of this conjecture.

Benda was not in sympathy with Rousseau's aesthetic ideas of dramatic production, and attempted to create a vibrant drama in Ariadne. Where Rous-


[^9]seau used detached instrumental numbers in support of the pantomime of the actors, Benda interrupted the speech with short musical interludes, which served as commentary to the words, but not necessarily accompanying the pantomime. As the emotional quality of the words grows, the treatment of these musical motives increases in intensity. ${ }^{3}$

Benda's treatment of the spoken word and the music is said, by Lang, to be simultaneous while he goes on to say that Rousseau used them consecutively. 4 The word that would be more appropriate than "simultaneous" would be the word "alternately." There are many instances in Ariadne where one or more measures of music interrupt a speech, especially in Arladne's long lament. The orchestra, in these interruptions, depicts the sentiments and feelings which the words alone could not do.

About the comparison of Ariadne and Pygmalion, Christian Gottlieb Neefe said, "Benda had made an epic achievement. Rousseau had already instigated the idea but did not develop it. His play is mere pantomime." 5 Benda conceived the idea of confining the whole musical part of the opera to the orchestra, while the dialogue was all spoken, partly because the alternation of set musical forms and spoken dialogue in Hiller's Singspiele and Reichardt's Leiderspiele seemed to be inartistic and dramatically false to him. Benda also felt that the musical recitative of the Italian and French grand opera was incompatible with a national German form of musico-dramatic art.

After 1783, Benda himself wrote an article stating his principles "about the recitative," ${ }^{6}$ and dialogue for the Singspiele. Later Benda turned entirely away from the theater after he could no longer reach agree-

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\(3_{\text {Einstein, op. cit., p. } 7 .}\)
\({ }^{4}\) Lang, op. cit., p. 583.
\({ }^{5}\) Istel, op. cit., p.10.
\(6_{\text {Bruckner, op. cit., p. }} 578\).
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ment with Gotter, his librettist, concerning their working relationship. Toward the end of his life, Benda became inconsistent in his principles and wanted his Julie und Romeo translated into Italian and provided with recitative, a last proof to Brückner that the German Singspiele period had drawn to a close in an intellectual decline. ${ }^{7}$

Of the dramatic poet, Brandes, who did the text for Ariadne, Schlichtegroll mentions, that, "while Brandes had no talent for song, Benda was a great admirer of his declamation and his pantomiming." 8 Benda thought he could easily combine the skill of the dramatic poet with his music.

Einstein presents, in Brandes' own words, an account of how the writing of Ariadne came about. Brandes wrote Ariadne, published as the third work in his first volume, in Weimar in 1774. Many of his friends, one of whom was Schweitzer, had often requested him to write a Singspiel or a play with musical accompaniment. Brandes made several attempts but found that he was never able to complete a piece, mainly due to lack of musical knowledge. Because he wished to provide an outstanding role for his wife, Charlotte, who was an approved reciter and pantomimist, he finally wrote the duodrama, Arladne. The subject of the duodrama was based on the well-known cantata of the same title by Heinrich von Gerstenberg, with additions from Antoine Bannier's Explication historique des fables, probably translated by Johann Schlegel. The widowed Duchess Anna Amalla, of Weimar, encouraged Brandes, and he then gave the small drama to Schweitzer for composing. Schweitzer played it in the presence of music critics at Weimar, but an unfortunate fire at the palace made an end to
${ }^{7}$ Ibid.
${ }^{8}$ Schlichtegroll, op. cit., p. 18.
performances. Schweitzer's musical masterpiece remained incomplete. ${ }^{9}$
Brandes met Benda "owing to the transfer of the theater productions from Weimar to Gotha, "10 where Benda was the ducal conductor. They became friends and since Schweitzer was occupied with his opera Alceste, Benda took over the composing of the Music for Ariadne. It was the duke of Thuringia's idea to do the melodrama after the old Greek style. In a week Benda had finished the composition and it was produced on January 27, 1775. According to Einstein, the production was well received. Ariadne was also performed in Germany, France, Bohemia, and Russia. ${ }^{11}$ In 1781, Benda went to Paris to superintend the production of a French version of the melodrama, but he returned to Georgenthal, a village about nine miles from Gotha, disappointed at the failure of his work. ${ }^{12}$

Ariadne was also translated into Italian, with sung recitative added. Theseus was sung by a castrato and Ariadne and the Voice of the nymph were altos. Istel writes that an unknown Italian wrote the music, probably Altistin Bianca Sacchetti, whose name appears on the corner of the title page. ${ }^{13}$

With the popularity of the melodrama, there were illegal productions and Benda made every effort to stop them. Indeed, in comparing Einstein's piano score ${ }^{14}$ and the manuscript used for the orchestral transcription accompanying the present work, ${ }^{15}$ one finds an omission of a part of the text

[^10]which is included in the former. ${ }^{16}$ one might conclude that the manuscript is possibly not authentic, especially since one oboe part and one tympani part have been omitted from the orchestration. ${ }^{17}$

There are several parodies written on Ariadne auf Naxos. One originated in Vienna by Joachim Perinet and the composer, Satzenhoven and was called a travesty or travestiert. Although an offspring of the legitimate Vienna comedy, the melodrama is intentionally made to look ridiculous and exaggerated. The slow country waltz and popular song are used for the musical parts which are then interspersed with couplets. The drama does not end tragically, for, following the last words of Arladne, she dances down off the mountain and lies in the water. Then there is a frantic burlesque epilogue after which Theseus comes with the Greeks who have grasped him by the forelock. Ariadne lifts herself out of the water and, after a great reconciliation scene, she is assured she is to be "eternally a human being and lover." Perinet very wittily mocks the defects of the play. The Greeks let forth a lusty drinking song, the trumpets sound, and Theseus proclaims he has no courage and is therefore no hero. Istel feels that Perinet's libretto is very well done and that it resembles the style of Offenbach. Concerning the August von Kotzebue version (Gratz, 1805), he adds, "It is foolish and lascivious and should not be produced." There is a further anonymous parody entitled, Theseus ohne Ariadne auf Naxos, which is unobtainable.

[^11]The old text or plot of the story of Ariadne was not strictly foilowed by Brandes. Brückner writes that Brandes' monodrama breaks down into three parts: (I) Theseus bids farewell to the sleeping Ariadne; Ariadne awakens, reminisces, is frightened, and searches for Theseus; and (3) Ariadne jumps into the sea. ${ }^{18}$ In the preface to his piano reduction of the orchestral score, Einstein elaborates on this brief outline by going back into the events previous to those occurring on Naxos. At one time, Minos, the King of Crete, laid seige to Athens, oppressing the Athenlans. They asked for advice from the oracle about deliverance on their behalf. The answer was that the gods would not end their misfortune until the Athenians had given total statisfaction to the King of Crete. They then requested peace from the King, and Minos said he would forgive them under the condition that every seven years, fourteen Athenian youths, seven males and seven females, be given him. By the time Theseus, who had been living with his grandfather, Pitheus, in Troezen, was old enough to go to Athens, the Athenians had already paid this tribute three times. Theseus was the son of Aegeus, King of Athens, and after receiving permission from his grandfather, he started his fourney, enduring many misfortunes on the way. Upon his arrival, he was taken off to Crete by Minos, as were his predecessors. There he was put in the Labyrinth of Daedalus, to fight the Minotaur. Ariadne, the daughter of Minos, with whom Theseus fell in love at first sight, marked a path through the Labyrinth for Theseus with a length of thread.

18 Brückner, op. cit., p. 582.

Ariadne was so overcome with love that she decided to leave her parents and fatherland and go with Theseus to the island of Naxos. After staying for a few days, Theseus left Ariadne, not out of thoughtlessness, but mainly to safeguard her life against the Greeks who had landed on Naxos. He returned with them to his homeland. 19 Einstein mentions that this tale follows that of Diodor, with the exception that the Diodor tale ends with Theseus' completely abandoning Ariadne with no thought for her safety. 20 The events occurring on Naxos have many variations. Some historians and poets relate that Ariadne, after being deserted by Theseus, hanged herself. Others say that, because Theseus had fallen in love with another and had left her, Ariadne was carried to Naxos by sailors, where she married Oenarus, priest of Bacchus. Still another version is that Ariadne and Theseus had two sons, Oenopion and Styphylus. The poet, Ion of Chios, writes of his native city, "Which one Cenopion, son of Theseus built." 21

Paeon, the Amathusian, gives a story differing from the rest. He writes that Theseus and Ariadne were in a ship, which was driven by a storm to the isle of Cyprus. Theseus left Ariadne and went to help the ship. A sudden violent wind carried him out to sea again. Ariadne, who was expecting a child, was cared for by the women of the island. She died, however, before her baby could be delivered. When Theseus returned, he was greatly saddened by his loss. He left a sum of money with the people of the island, asking them to make images and dedicate them to Ariadne.

[^12]Some of the Naxians write that there were two Kings named Minos, and two Ariadnes. One of the latter married Bacchus on the isle of Naxos and bore two sons, one of whom was Styphylus. The other Ariadne, of a later time, was carried off by Theseus, who later deserted her. She then retired to Naxos with her nurse, Corcyna, and remained there until her death and burial, after which she was worshipped by the islanders. ${ }^{22}$
${ }^{22}$ Ibid., p. 13.

## ORCHESTRAL ANALYSIS OF Ariadne auf Naxos

The orchestral interpolations in this melodrama are written to support and enhance the spoken parts rather than compete with them. The alternating music and speech result in an intricately woven pattern which presents, ultimately, one dramatic picture. While the fragmented quality of the production could present many problems to a composer, Benda has woven the dramatic and the musical aspects of the composition together so well that one does not detract from the other.

Only three times do the spoken parts coincide with the music (measures 356-357; 468-471; and 639-648); at these points the composer was emphasizing the high points of the drama. There are many moods shown by the two characters, but these moods are rarely sustained; the many sections of the music are meant to parallel these diversified moods. Occasionally recurring motifs are used as reminders of people and events.

The overture of twenty-nine measures presents all three of the main motifs in the melodrama. These motifs, and fragments of them, reappear at various times. Ariadne's motif appears at the very beginning of the overture. (Ex. l, Ariadne's motif, meas. l-2.)


The motif for the departure of Theseus with the Greeks, and for Theseus himself occurs in measure three. (Ex. 2, Theseus' motif, meas. 3.)


Motif $C$, or the "storm and resolution" motif, which bears a strong relationship in its beginning to Ex. 2, appears in measures eight and nine. (Ex. 3, Storm and resolution motif, meas. 8-9.)


There are frequent changes in meter and many varieties of tempo. The shortest section is two measures in length, while the longest is seventy-one. The key is changed frequently, both with accidentals and with the more regular signature changes. E flat occurs more frequently than any other key.

Tonal relationships in this composition are conservative and dissonance is not a distinctive quality. The most common rhythm used is that of a dotted eighth followed by a sixteenth. Thirty-second and sixty-fourth notes are employed quite frequently, in different tempos.

Dynamics are rarely shown on the manuscript. In places where they do occur there are many sudden changes in contrast. Plano (p) and forte (f) are the predominant instructions used by Benda. Sequences are used abundantly and transitional periods frequently contain these passages. Phrases are usually four measures in length except where the orchestra and speaker seem to engage in dialogue; there the musical portion is sometimes only one measure.

In Ariadne auf Naxos, it is obvious that the dramatic qualities were the most highly sought after and the music was a secondary consideration. Musically the work is difficult to judge because of its fragmented nature. In any case, Benda was not up to the musical genius of his contemporaries, Haydn and Mozart. Benda's main contribution to music stemmed from his unique combination of musical elements - a striving after the same balance between the arts that Wagner achieved almost a century later.
(Table 1.) Diagrammatical analysis of Benda's Arladne auf Naxos ${ }^{1}$

| Section | Measures | Number of Measures | Motif | Tonal <br> Center | Time | Characteristics |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Un poco grave | $1-43$ | $44$ | A - Ariadne <br> B - Theseus \& departure <br> C - Storm \& $\qquad$ | $E^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | dotted eighth, sixteenth notes, presentation of all motifs |
| Allegro | 44-54 | 11 |  | d | $\begin{aligned} & 4 \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | Theseus has forlorn and reminiscent feelings |
| Andante moderato | 55-56 | 1. 2 |  | d | $\frac{4}{4}$ | agitated rhythm, Theseus asks himself if he can leave Ariadne |
| Allegro | 57-63 | 7 |  | Fluctuating | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Theseus tries to convince himself that he can't leave Ariadne |
| Allegro moderato | 64-86 | 23 |  | C | $\frac{3}{4}$ | flowing rhythm in strings later supported by winds, bassoon - Ariadne begins to awaken |
| Andante | 87-94 | 8 |  | C | $\frac{3}{4}$ | Ariadne calls to Theseus in her sleep |
| Allegro assai | 95-114 | 20 |  | Fluctua- <br> ting | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne (while sleep ing) volces thoughts of Theseus leaving |
| Andante | 115-117 | 3 | Motif B after <br> fanfare | $E^{b}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | trumpets are heard behind curtain |
| Allegro | 118-120 | 3 |  | $E^{\text {b }}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4 \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | Theseus asks the god: to help him decide whether to leave or stay |
| Andante | 121-123 | 3 |  | $E^{6}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | trumpets heard again |
| Allegro | 124-129 | 6 | Motif B | $E^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Theseus asks how the Greeks knew of their presence on Naxos |
| Andante con moto | 130-132 | 3 |  | A | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Theseus remembers how the island seeme a refuge for them |
| Allegro | 133-147 | 15 | Modified B | A to D | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Theseus regains <br> control of his emo- <br> tions - Decides to <br> go with Greeks |
| Allegro moderato | 148-180 | $34$ |  | D | $\frac{3}{4}$ | Theseus reveals his guilty feelings and his undying love |


| Section | Measures | Number of Measures | Motif | Tonal Center | Time | Characteristics |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Andante | 181-183 | 3 |  | $E^{b}$ | 4 | trumpets are heard |
| Allegro | 184-188 | 5 |  | $E^{b}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Theseus feels that Ariadne will be harmed if he doesn't leave |
| Adagio | 189 | 1 |  | $E^{\text {b }}$ | 4 |  |
| Allegro | 190-200 | 11 |  | $E^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Theseus asks the gods to send Ariadne a deliverer |
| Andante quasi allegretto | 201-209 | 9 |  | $A^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{12}{8}$ | Theseus observes Ariadne stirring in her sleep |
| Allegro | 210-214 | 5 | D - Lamentation | D | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Theseus states that the gods will determine Ariadne's fate |
| Andante sostenuto | 215-234 | 20 |  | D | $\frac{3}{4}$ | Theseus leaves with the Greeks |
| Andante con moto | 234-237 | 4 |  | A | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Arladne awakens |
| Andante | 238-249 | 12 |  | D | $\frac{6}{8}$ | Ariadne greets the beautiful day |
| Allegro | 250-264 | 15 |  | C | $\frac{4}{4}$ |  |
| Allegretto | 265-268 | 4 |  | C | $\frac{12}{8}$ | Ariadne reminisces |
| Andante | 269-271 | 3 |  | d | $\frac{12}{8}$ |  |
| Allegretto | 272-281 | 10 |  | d | $\frac{12}{8}$ | Ariadne thinks about her home $\qquad$ |
| Allegro | 282-289 | 8 | E - Raging sea | $E^{b}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne is frightened of the ocean |
| In poco grave | 290-294 | 5 | F - Lion motif | $\square$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne hears the lion |
| dagio | 295-298 | 4 |  | F | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne wonders where Theseus is |
| Indante con moto | 299-210 | 12 |  | F | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne thinks about Theseus with longing |
| Allegro | 311-316 | 6 |  | $g$ to $E^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne thinks about <br> the dangers for <br> Theseus on the <br> 1sland |
| indante quasi allegretto | 317-328 | 12 |  | $A^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{12}{8}$ | Arladne weeps for Theseus |


| Section | Measures | Number of Measures | Motif | Tonal Center | Time | Characteristics |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Allegro | 329-331 | 3 |  | $A^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ |  |
| Andante | 332-361 | 30 |  | $E^{6}$ | $\frac{3}{8}$ | Ariadne (with orchestra) asks about turmoil in the forest |
| Allegro | 362-365 | 4 |  | $E^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ |  |
| Allegro | 366-404 | 39 | F-Lion Motif | $g$ to $E^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{6}{8}$ | Nymph speaks to Ariadne, tells her Theseus has left her; Iion motif is heard |
| Adagio | 405-413 | 9 |  | c | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne asks gods if Theseus could forsake her |
| Allegro | 414-422 | 9 |  | $E^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne sees a ship on the horizon |
| Adagio | 423-427 | 5 |  | $E^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ |  |
| Piu andante | 428-440 | 13 |  | $E^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne remembers how she saved Theseus from the Minotaur |
| Un poco largo | 441-444 | 4 |  | G | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne remembers when she met <br> Theseus |
| Allegro moderato |  | 2 |  | G | $\frac{4}{4}$ | one and two measure orchestral interpolations interrupt Arladne's recollections |
| Allegro assai | 447-456 | 10 |  | G | $\frac{4}{4}$ |  |
| Un poco grave | 457-470 | 14 | Motif A \& Motif B | $E^{6}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | over orchestra, Ariadne asks for a quick death |
| Allegro | 471-510 | 40 | G - Lightning motif | d | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne thinks again of revenge |
| Adagio | 511-513 | 3 |  | $B^{6}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne repents and declares her love for Theseus |
| Allegro | 514-515 | 2 |  | d | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne thinks about her fate |
| Andante moderato | 516-527 | 12 |  | a | $\frac{3}{4}$ |  |
| Andante con moto | 528-530 | 3 |  | a | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne bemoans her fate |


| Section | Measures | Number of Measures | Motif | Tonal Center | Time | Characteristics |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Andante moderato | 531-535 | 5 |  | $E^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ |  |
| Adagio | 536-554 | 19 |  | $E^{\text {b }}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | Ariadne thinks about her childhood |
| Allegro | 555-581 | 27 |  | C | $\frac{3}{4}$ | Nymph tells Ariadne she has an avenger |
| Allegro assai | 582-652 | 71 | Motif G | d | $\frac{4}{4}$ | storm grows worse nymph advises Ariadne to jump into ocean as her only deliver-ance--dntin heard unison passages lead to climax-- <br> jumps into ocean |

$I_{\text {Benda, }}$ Georg, Ariadne auf Naxos, Microfilm of MSS, Sibley Library, Eastman School of Music, Rochester. New York. (no. 302322)

CHAPTER V

ORCHESTRAL SCORE OF
ARIADNE AUF NAXOS ${ }^{1}$
${ }^{\text {l Georg Benda, }}$ Ariadne auf Naxos, Microfilm of MSS, Sibley Library, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, Microfilm No. 302322.

Ariadne auf Naxos Geor $\xi$ Benda ${ }^{41}$








Oboe $\frac{t^{\frac{b}{b-6}}+\cdots}{t^{-1}}$

















You believe that you are still in my arms;

Du glanbst dich noch in moinen Armen;


Hold me again on your bosom.
druckst mich noch an deinen Busen,
$3 \%$



Would I dare -
Und ich wag ${ }^{\text {f }}$ -


Dare I think . . . darf ich ihn denken den Gedanken?

of learing ypu?
1ch wag' es, dich mu vorlessen?




Ha , miscreant! Could hell produce such a detestable monster as you?

Ha g Bósewicht
Zougte jo die Holle ein
abscheuliches Ungeheuer?



She snatched me away from the vengeance of Minos

Sie entriss mich der Rache des Minos
saved me from the Labyrinth
rettete mich aus dem Labyrinth


gave the Minotaur Into my hands;
gab mir den Minotauru* in die Hände




Leave ber to the draadful despair, the hunger, to the tearing animals of the forest?

Sie der schrecklichaten verm sweiflung, dem Hunger, den reissenden Thieren des Weldes Preis geben?



I have freed my homeland from the disgraceful tribute, fulfilled the duty of the citisens.

Ich habe moin Vaterland von ders achimpflichen Tribut befeut, die Pfilichten des Búrgers erfullt;


Also love has its duties; they are no less sacred to me.
auch die Liebe hat ihre Pflichten; sio sinde mir nicht minder heilig。


70.
71.
72.






## XXIIII




iriadne:
Theseus:
Oh, Theseus:
Theseus $f$
Ach, Theseus!


The seus:
She calls med Even in a dresin

Sie ruft mich! Auch im Traumem


Ariadno:
Helpy Save, save your Ariadne

Hilfi Rette, rette deine Ariadneg


XXVII



## xxDx



## ne seus:

Forsake: What God betrays your fate to you, unlucky one?

Verlassen? Wolcher Gott verrath dir dein Geschick, Ungluickliche?

$X X X$


Ariadne:
He flees? Barbarianf Oh!

Er flicht? Barbar! Ach?




Which power, which irresistible spell pulls me back?

Wolche Gewalt, welche unwiderstehbare Zauberkraft reisst mich Euruck?





$X X X V$




What hastile demon led you to Naxos?

Welcher foindselige Damon fuhrte Euch auf Naxos?


What fury revealed our presence to you?

Helche Furie entdeckte Euch unsern Aufenthaltl


XXXIX

This cliff inhabited by the lions and surrounded by the sea, was a haven for our love.

Dieser von den Ungehouern des Meers, belagarte Felsen, dieser von Lowen bewohnte Wald, war fur unare Liebe ein Elysiumd


xL



Ha, shamel Theseus, the darling, the pride of Athens, the Saviour of his Fatherland, the conqueror of the Minotaur, sighs at the feet of a woman.

Ha Schande: Theseus, der Liebling, der Stolz Athens, der Befreyer seines Vaterlandes, der Uberwinder des Minotaurus soufst gu den Fuscen oines Weibes
-



## XIIIII














Your avengers are remorse, fright, pangs of consciencel They will follow merywhere.

Reve, Angat, Cowisaenbisse, sind Doine Rëchorl sie werden mur uberall folgen:





Ahy Once againf Ye Gods \& Ah! Noch oinmall Götter!



They are coming! I see themp they are uncompronising.

Sie komen selbsti Ich sehe sie die Unerbittilcheng-



They are beckoning They threatend Ha! One moment more, and Ariadne will be sacrificed to their anger.

Sie winken! Sie drohen! Ha! Noch oinen Augenblick, und Ariadne wird ihrer Wuth geopfert






Godsi Have pityi Sond her a delivererl






She stirsm
Sie bewegt sich-




## LVIII



Stand back, 0 Greeks! Stand back\& Hold your lives sacred She saved my own, the Gods determine her fate! I follow youl

Zurúck, Thr Griechen! Zuruck Im Leben sey Euch heilig! Sie rettete das meinige; die Gotter bestimnen ihr Ceschick! Ich folg ${ }^{0}$ Euch!







## Ariadne:

Theseus! Are you calling, my Theseus? Did you not spesk my name?

Theseus! Riefst Du nicht mein Thesous? Nanntest Du niclit moinen Naman?


236.

No, it was a dream. The beautiful morn has taken it away from me.

Nein, es war sin Trauml Der schóne Morgen hat mir ihn entführt.



## 237







I have never seen you so lovely, so fervent

Noch nie sah ich es so schón, so glufhend I



## LXIV



The sun rises with such splendour!

Jetzt steigt die Sonne herauf, mit welcher Pracht!







For three happy days on the sureait of Naxos it surprised win your aris, wy theseusf Only today have you arrived before it?

Soit don drey glücklichen Tagen auf Naxos Hóhen ưborraschte sio mich in Deinen Armen, moin Theseus! Nur heute bist Du ihr zuvor gekommen



It blushed not without reason, the betrayer of our joy:

Sie erröthet nicht umsonst, die Verrátherinn unsrer Freudeng


## LXVII




Without you, beloved, what a dreadful placel

Ohne Dich, Seliebterl Welch schauervoller Aufenthalt:




No quiet sumperday gleams here, as in the royal gardens of my father: no rose bushes, under whose shadows love concealed us, bloom here; no breeze plays with our locks, no minstrel of the night wakens us to new joy!

Hier glänzt kein stiller Somero teg, wie in den kóniglichen Gärten meines Vaters: hier blühen keine Rosenstrauche, unter deren Schatten uns die Liebe verbarg; kein 7ophyr spielt mit unsern Locken, keine Sangerinn der Nacht weckt uns zu neuen Freudeng



All is wild here, frightening?

Alles ist hier wild, fürchterlich!



The ocean rages against this cliff, desires to remove it

Das Merer tobt gegen diesen Folsen, will ihn verdréngen!



The cliff is bending dreadfully, threatealng to collapse.

Schrecklich beugt sich der Folsen, droht inzustifzen!


IXXIII


Oh, Theseus !
Theseus! Come, I am awake !
Ach Theseus
Theseus, korm, ich bin orwacht!

LXXV


Where are you?
Wo bist Du?


LXXVI


LXXVII



How I have mourned for his this night!

Wie habl ich ihm diese Nacht boweint!


LXXIX
$!$
306.


I have never had such a frightening dreaml

Noch nie hatt' ich oinen so schrecklichen Traumd

He wanted to leave ; in vain I stretched out my hand to him, callod him in vain, sought him in vain on this peak\&

Er wollte mich verlassen; umsonst streckt ich die Hénde nach tha aus, rief ihn unsonst, sucht' ibn unsonst suf dieser Hohe?


## LXXXI I

Heavent If his brapery has led him too far afieldy

Himmelf Wenn aein muth ihn zu weit verleitete:


Not only the Minotaur was formidable to his cherished life. There are more threats to him in nature \&

Nicht der Minotaurus allein war einen theuern Loben furchtbar; es giebt mehr Schrecken der Natur:




## LXXXV



LXXXXVI


You know how tenderly I loo you, know my feminine, anxious heart, and can frighten so?

Du woisst, wie zärtlich ich Dich Liobe; kennst nein weibo liches, zur Furcht geneigtes ferz, und kannst meh so ängstigen!

322 181







Thoseus!
Theseus !





What a frightening -chol

Welch ein
fürchterlichor Wiederhalld








Thunderclouds ascend-m the stora is closen and Theseus still does not come 3

Gewitterwolkan steigen auf-dor Sturm ist nicht forne-und Thesous komant noch nichtl






The voice of the nymph:
Too far hes asiled the villain out to sea: He is forever gone from thee!

Die Stimme der Oreade:
Zu weit entfornt das
Meor den Frevler schon;
Er ist auf ewig Dir entflohns


Ariadne:
Escaped? Gone? Whose voice? Where?

Entflohn? Entflohn? Welche Stime? Wer?


## The voice of the nymph:

I, nymph of this high view, Have seen him in the storm take flight from you; He greatly feared the plight, Of your imploring eight; And tear-filled eyes; yot faced the crashing waves with might!

## Die Stimme der Oreade:

Ich, Nymphe dieser Hoh ${ }^{\text {in }} \mathrm{n}$, Hab inn im Sturme Dir ontfiliohen sehn; Er furchtete das Licht, Dein bitten Angesicht, Doin weinend Auge; nur den Sturm der Wogen nicht!

XCVI





XCVIII


XCIX


Bassons


Viola

Basso



Hal What do I see? Who rescues me A ship on the horizon! It flies!

Ha: Was orblick' ich? Wer retted mich En Schiff am Horizons: Es fliegt

418





Ah, betrayer! My unhappiness is assured!

Ah Verräthar $\begin{gathered}\text { Moin Ungluck } 1 \text { ist }\end{gathered}$ gewiss!



CII


CIII



Alas! Alas! Why did I have to see him?

Weh mirj Weh mird Warum munst ich 1 hn sehn?




How my breast heaved How it fluttered 8 How it trerabled with love and compassion.

Wie hob sich diese Brust $\delta$ Wie wallte sie, wie bebte sie voll Lieb ${ }^{0}$ und Mitleid


Chastity and understanding spoke in vain I hurried, flew to his arms, threw myself at him, and sighed.

Unsonst sprach Tugend und Vermunft Ich oilte, floh seinem Arme zu, schlang mich on ihn, und seuftze.



Fly away, beloved


See here the way of escape. The 低notaur falls by your hend -

Sich hier den Ausgang; der Minotaurus fällt von Deiner hand -









CXX I




CXXII


Has Is this not the bank of
the Cocyt? This the Sea of
the Phlegeton? Is this abyss
the Hell of the Furies?
Ha? Ist diess nicht das Ufer des Cocyt? Diess Moer der Pblegeton? Dor Abgrund dort, die Holle der Purien?













Away: Dreadful Vision! Away:

Fort, entsetzliches Gesicht! Fort von mir!




## CXXXIII



Where am I? An I yet alive? Ha! This rugged barren cliff of Naxos announces to ma my fate! I am alive nowbut will slowly perish!

Wo bin icts? Leb' ich noch? Hal Dieser schroffe nackt Felsen Naxos ver'xíndigt mair wein Schicksal! Ich lebe noch-ana langsam zu verschmachton!





## cxXXV



Once it was so! My youth bloomed serene and free, without sorrow, without tears - love was yet unknown.

Einst war ich es! Ohn Kummer, ohne Thrànen, heiter und froh blưhte mein Frưhling - noch unbekannt der Liebe:


[5] Interpolated notes in oboe part.
(6) Interpolated notes in oboe part.


On my mother 's bosom resting, her pride, her beloved Ariadnel Covered by her kisses, sheitered in her arms mus passed the best, the golden time.

An moiner Mutter Busen ruhend; ihr Stolz, ihre gellebte Ariadne\& Von Ihren Kússen Bedeckt, von ihren Armen ump schlungen - so entfloh sio mir, die beste goldne Zeit!


## CXXXVII

heartf
pleas bring those days back once more?

Kann sie mir nichts zuruck erflehen?


CXXXVIII

An I forsaiken without help?

Bin ich ohne Rettung verloren?



CXI

An I to be rejected by Man and the Gods because of a single mistake?

Un eines einz ogen Fehltritts willen von Göttern und
Monschen verstossen?



Must I forever languish in distress, without a compassionate being to comfort me in my last hour and bear my final utterance to my mother?

Mass ich in gránzenlosem Jammer verschmachten ohne dass irgend ein mitleidiges Wesen mich in der Stunde des Todes troste, und melne letzten Seufzer meiner Mutter bringe?




CXIIII

Don ${ }^{1}$ t you recognize me? Your thankless, unfaithful, remorsos ful daughter?

Kennst Du mich nicht mehr? Deine undankbare, pflichvergessene, Deine reuige Tochter?







The voice of the nymph:
He comes $f$ He comes To save you from the pain! He hurried through the wind and rain,
To quickly set you free. And now you must your fate fulfill,
In order Heav ${ }^{\text {ins }}$ wrath to still,
and you must Neptune is offiring be!

Die Stinue der Oreade:
Er komut! Er kómat Dein Racher, Dein Erretter:
Er eilt herab in Donnerwetter, Dich schleunig zu befreyn. Allein, der G'otber Zorn zu stillen,
Musst Du Dein Schicksal ganz erfüllen,
Musst Du Neptunens Opfer seynd



Ariadne:
In whet way? For me a saviour - an avenger? Do you decelve me, Goddess of this cliff?

Wie? Fír mich oin Rächer? Ein Erretter? Täuschest Du mich, rottin dieser Felsen?





Allequrs assai









The thunder echoes from the cliffs?

Der Donner hallt vom Felsen wieder!



Who stands beside me? Wer stent mir bey? -








## CLXI



## CLXII

It follows me everywhere, from everywhere assails its power! Who saves me? Alas!

Von allen Seiten verfalgt, von allen Mehten bestillmis Wer rettet mich? Weh mir!











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[^0]:    ${ }^{8}$ Ibid.
    $9 "$ Georg Benda," Cyclopedia of Music and Musicians, edited by John D. Champlin, Jr., (New York, 1888), I.

[^1]:    ${ }^{10}$ Edgar Istel, Die Entstehung des deutschen Melodrams (Berlin, 1906), p. 40 .
    ${ }^{11_{\text {Ibid }}}$, p. 83.

[^2]:    ${ }^{21}$ Ibid., p. 108.
    ${ }^{22}$ Ib1d., p. 121.
    ${ }^{23}$ Otto, op. cit., p. 729.

[^3]:    ${ }^{24}$ Ib1d., p. 176.
    ${ }^{25}$ Ibid., p. 179.
    ${ }^{26}$ Ib1d., p. 183.
    ${ }^{27}$ Ib1d., p. 189.

[^4]:    ${ }^{28}$ Ibid.
    ${ }^{29}$ Alfred Loewenberg, "Georg Benda," Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians, edited by Eric Blom (New York, 1954), I.
    $3^{30}$ otto, op. cit., p. 729.

[^5]:    ${ }^{l_{\text {Jess }}}$ Stein (Editor in Chief), The Random House Dictionary of the English Language (New York, 1966).
    ${ }^{2}$ "Melodrama," Thompson, op. cit., p. 1319.

[^6]:    $8_{\text {Thompson, op. cit., p. }} 1368$.
    ${ }^{9}$ Ibid., p. 570.
    ${ }^{10}$ Scholes, op. cit., p. 625.
    ${ }^{1 l_{\text {Fritz }} \text { Brückner, "Georg Benda und das deutsche Singspiel," Sammelbände }}$ der internationalen Musikgesellschaft, IV, Pt. iv, 1904, p. 581.
    ${ }^{12}$ IbId.

[^7]:    ${ }^{13}$ Ibid.
    14 Apel, op. cit., p. 435.

[^8]:    Mozart was particularly impressed with two of Benda's melodramas.
    In a letter to his father on November 12, 1778, he wrote:
    . . . I do not know the extent to which I wrote you about this type of composition the first time $I$ was here. I have seen such a composition twice with the greatest pleasure. This achievement was beyond my expectations. I had always assumed that it would not impress me. You knew that there would be no singing, but it would be declaimed. The music in that way seemed bound to the recitative, occasionally being spoken under the music, in which way the most magnificent work is done. What I have seen was Benda's Medea. He had produced only one other, Ariadne auf Naxos, both genuinely excellent. You know that Benda was always my favorite among the Lutheran Kapellmeisters and I love these two works so that I carry them with me. 34

[^9]:    $l_{\text {Grove's, }}$ op. cit., $V I$.
    ${ }^{2}$ Lang, op. cit., p. 583.

[^10]:    ${ }^{9}$ Lang says that Schweitzer used the music for his own opera Alceste. Lang, op. cit., p. 583.
    ${ }^{10}$ Einstein, op. cit., p. 7.
    ${ }^{11}$ Bol'shaia Sovetskaia Entsiklopediia (Moskva, 1951), IV, p. 594.
    ${ }^{12}$ Champlin, op. cit.
    ${ }^{13}$ Istel, op. cit., p. 16.
    14 Einstein, op. cit.
    ${ }^{15}$ Georg Benda, Ariadne auf Naxos (Microfilm of MSS, Sibley Library, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York).

[^11]:    $16_{\text {Einstein mentions only two manuscripts in the commentary accompany- }}^{\text {m }}$ ing his piano version. This omitted section:

    Umsonst sträubt sich mein Stolz: Ich war's, die sundigte; ich bin's die bussen muss. Verz weiflung ist mein loos, ich kann ihm nicht entrinnen. 0 war ich schuldlos! -
    does not occur in one manuscript used by Einstein (Berlin, Statsbibliothek, Music Manuscript $1352 / 1$ and the other (Music Manuscript 1352) was unobtainable. Nor does this section occur in the two printed copies held by the Library of Congress (LC M1510. B45A6; M1513. B48A7) nor the remaining copies in the Berlin Staatsbibliothek (Music Manuscript Nos. 1352/2; 1352/3; 1352/5; 1352/7; 1352/8; 1352/9; 1352/10; 1352/11; 1552; MDS.0. 65040 ; and Mus. Tb 512).
    ${ }^{17}$ Istel, op. cit., p. 13.

[^12]:    ${ }^{19}$ Einstein, op. cit., p. 11.
    ${ }^{20}$ Ibid.
    ${ }^{21}$ Plutarch, The Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans, translated by John Dryden and revised by Arthur Hugh Clough (New York, n. d.), p. 12.

