

# Lascia ch'io Pianga (Let me weep, Lass mich weinen)

Georg Friedrich Händel

Lascia ch'io pianga mia cru- da sor-te e che so - spi-ri la li - ber - tà.

Musical score for measures 1-8. The vocal line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, primarily in the soprano range. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords. Measure 8 concludes with a fermata over the vocal line.

e che so - spi - ri e che so - spi - ri la li - ber - tà.

Musical score for measures 9-16. The vocal line continues with eighth and sixteenth-note patterns. The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings like *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano). Measure 16 concludes with a fermata over the vocal line.

15 Lascia...

Musical score for measures 17-23. The vocal line and piano accompaniment continue their respective patterns. Measure 23 concludes with a fermata over the vocal line.

Il duo'lo in - fran - ga que-ste ri - tor - te de' miei mar - ti - ri sol

Musical score for measures 24-30. The vocal line and piano accompaniment continue. Measure 30 concludes with a fermata over the vocal line.

per pie - tà. de' miei mar - ti - ri sol per pie - tà

Musical score for measures 31-37. The vocal line and piano accompaniment continue. Measure 37 concludes with a fermata over the vocal line.

35 Lascia ch'io pian-ga...

Musical score for measures 38-44. The vocal line and piano accompaniment continue. Measure 44 concludes with a fermata over the vocal line.

(da capo)

43

47

rit.

Lascia ch'io pianga mia cruda sorte,  
e che sospiri la libertà.

Il duolo infranga queste ritorte  
de' miei martiri sol per pietà.

Let me weep over my cruel fate,  
and let me sigh for liberty.

May sorrow shatter these chains,  
for my torments just out of pity.

Translation:

Lass mich beweinen mein grausames Schicksal  
und beseufzen die [verlorene] Freiheit.

Der Kummer zerbreche diese Qualen  
meiner Martern allein aus Erbarmen.

Singfassung:

Lass mich mit Tränen mein Los beklagen,  
Ketten zu tragen, welch hart Geschick!

Ach, nur im Tode find ich Erbarmen,  
er gibt mir Armen die Ruh zurück.

The Melody is first found in Act III of Handel's first opera Almira HWV 1 as a Sarabande composed and successfully performed in Hamburg 1705. Handel then used the tune for the aria Lascia la spina, cogli la rosa, or Leave the Thorn, Take the Rose, for the character Piacere in Part II of his 1707 oratorio "Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno" HWV 46a in Rom and of his London oratorios "Il trionfo del Tempo e della Verità" HWV 46b in 1737 and "The Triumph of Time and Truth" HWV 71 in 1757. Moreover, the tune was used with the foregoing text for the well known aria Lascia ch'io pianga in his opera Rinaldo HWV 7 in London 1711.

The text for the first version of the aria (oratorio "Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno", 1707):

Lascia la spina, cogli la rosa;  
tu vai cercando il tuo dolor.  
Canuta brina per mano ascosa,  
giungerà quando nol crede il cuor.

Leave the thorn, take the rose;  
you go searching for your pain.  
Gray frost by hidden hand  
will come when your heart doesn't expect it.

Lass die Dornen, pflücke die Rose;  
du bist auf der Suche nach deinem Schmerz.  
Weißer Reif von verborgener Hand  
stellt sich ein, wenn es dein Herz nicht erwartet.