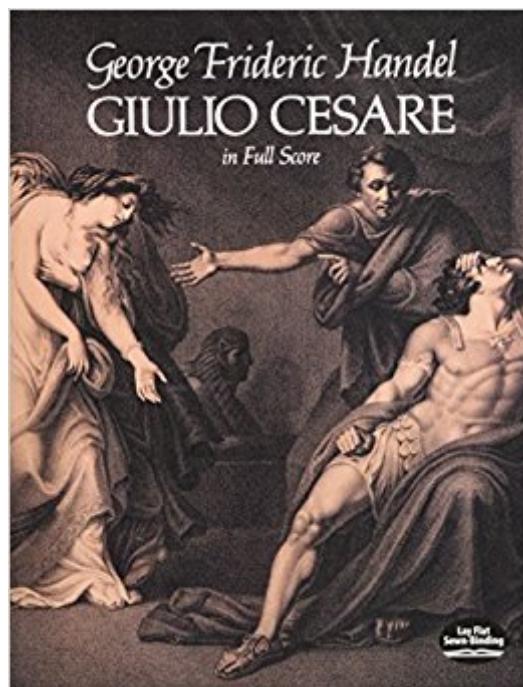


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Giulio Cesare In Full Score (Dover Music Scores)



Synopsis

Giulio Cesare in Egitto (Julius Caesar in Egypt), to give the opera its rarely used full name, was composed by Handel in 1723-24 and first performed at the King's Theatre, Haymarket, London, in 1724. It remains one of the most popular of Handel's Italian-language operas, enjoyed for its many gorgeous melodies, inspired orchestration, and exciting plot: the time-honored story of Caesar and Cleopatra in Egypt. One of the composer's mature works, Giulio Cesare offers an impressive stage spectacle, punctuated with scenes of great dramatic power. However, it is also a work in which Handel began to expand the operatic conventions of the day. Thus we find greater clarity and depth of characterization, more effective use of orchestral color, and the use of recitatives both to carry the action forward and to provide a more forceful vehicle of expression. Musicians, music scholars, and music lovers will welcome this handsome reprint of the full score of Giulio Cesare, reproduced complete and unabridged from the definitive Deutsche Handelgesellschaft edition. Moreover, the affordability of the Dover volume brings a baroque masterpiece within reach of all music lovers.

Book Information

Series: Dover Music Scores

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (April 1, 1986)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486250563

ISBN-13: 978-0486250564

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.9 x 12.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #247,354 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Handel #42 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Historical Period > Baroque #446 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Opera

Customer Reviews

Accurate, easy to read, reasonably priced.

Nicely crafted easy to read full score

Giulio Cesare in Egitto is one of several Opera Serias Handel wrote in Italian on a Roman Historical subject. As you can probably guess, it deals with Julius Caesar's affair with the femme fatale of all femme fatales, the Egyptian Queen Cleopatra. For those few who don't know, Caesar's affair predates her more famous liaison with Marc Antony. It's a fascinating subject, and no less a writer than Bernard Shaw wrote a play about it. In the Opera, Handel executes an interesting bit of gender bending that probably delighted Shaw. Caesar is a contralto, Ptolemy, Cleopatra's husband and King of Egypt, an Alto. Pompey the Great's wife is also an alto, as is the royal Egyptian advisor, Nireno. Cleopatra, of course, is a soprano, as is Sextus Pompeius, the son of Pompey the Great. In short, there are six male characters, and only two female characters, but they are sung by six women and only two men. Now, this is the subject for a book or a doctoral dissertation, hardly to be sucessfully addressed in a 1000 word .com review, but it brings to mind a professor of Shakespeare studies I had in college. Despite well established Elizabethan casting practices, this professor used certain speeches of Rosalind's from *As You Like It* to suggest that Shakespeare was, in fact, gay. Now, given this Opera's quite normal rococo casting practice, I wonder what my professor would've said about Handel? At any rate, Dover's complete score of *Giulio Cesare* is an extraordinary bargain. It is a reprint of the 1875 Deutsche Handelgesellschaft edition, edited by renowned Handel scholar, Friedrich Chrysander. The score is basically for string orchestra, with winds used for extra color. There are alternates to several numbers, and they are conveniently placed behind the numbers they would replace. The book is easily read, and large enough to accommodate all orchestration. In spite of the occassional tendency to place wind lines below string lines, it's perfect for podium use. It's crafted beautifully, as usual for Dover, and at Dover prices, it's not a bargain really; it's a steal.

This score of Handel's second part of his own "Ring" is well suited for baroque and Handel lovers. Handel's score is very simple containing a few "Basso Continuo" arias; beatiful, and arias! Arias that are so beautiful, it makes you say that Handel was the best opera composer of the baroque and the morcoco. This score contains all arias the recitatives, and a table of contents. The score is only 156+ pages long yet is more than three Hours long! This score cannot stay flat yet is a good study score. Buy this book all you Handel Lovers!

This great to have in the FULL score. However, I wish it would have been more clear that this was not a piano reduction in full score, rather, it contains the instrument lines instead of piano. This makes a piano accompaniment much more difficult to read. Instead of reading just the piano

reduction, one must be able to read like a conductor. For a singer's use, I would have preferred a piano reduction score with the vocal line instead of all the instruments. Nonetheless, I am glad to have made this purchase.

Product received on time and in great condition. I was satisfied with service and product overall

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