

ACT TWO

Scene One

The stage shows a palm grove; all the trees are wrought of silver, their leaves golden. Eighteen seats made of palm fronds beside each stage stands a pyramid and a large black horn bound with gold. In the centre are the largest pyramid and also the largest trees. SARASTRO and other Priests enter in solemn procession, each of them with a palm branch in his hand.

Nº 9 Marcia

Flauto
Corno di Bassetto I, II
Fagotto I, II
Corno I, II
Trombone I-III
Archi

Tutti sotto voce

7

13

Fl.
Cor. di B.

19

Fl.
+ Archi + Trbni.
sfp
+ Fag.

24

sfp

There are word changes - see Mark

SARASTRO (after a pause)

~~He initiates in the Temple of Wisdom, servants of the great gods Osiris and Isis! - With a pure soul I devote to you that our assembly today is one of the weightiest occasions. - Tamino, the son of a king, sweetest years of age, is wandering at the north gate of our temple, and with the sacred signet-ring that attains what all youth wishes with toil and application. - In short, this youth would tear away the veil of the night that blinds him, and bring into the holiness of supernal light. Today, let it be one of your solemn duties to watch over this precious youth and extend towards him the hand of friendship.~~

SARASTRO
He is!

SECOND PRIEST
Can he be silent?

SARASTRO
He can.

THIRD PRIEST
Is he filled with good will?

SARASTRO
He is! - If you hold him worthy, then follow my example. (Thrice, they blow their horns.)

FIRST PRIEST (rises.)
Is he virtuous?

Adagio

Flauto I, II
Oboe I, II
Corno di Bassetto I, II
Fagotto I, II
Corno I, II
Clarino I, II
Trombone I-III

SARASTRO

~~Stirred by the unanimity in your hearts, Sarastro thanks you in the name of humanity. - Though prejudice may ever vent its scorn on us initiates, wisdom and reason shatter it like a cobweb. - Our pillars do not tremble. Moreover, base prejudice will vanish; it will vanish as soon as Tamino himself attains to the greatness of our arduous craft. - Pamina, the gentle, virtuous maiden, has been designated by the gods for the noble youth; that was the principal reason that I removed her from her arrogant mother. - That woman thinks herself great; she hopes by glamour and superstition to delude the people and destroy our firmly founded temple. But she shall not succeed! Tamino, that noble youth himself, will join us to fortify our temple; and as an initiate he will be the recompense of virtue, and the scourge of wickedness.~~

SPOKESMAN (rises.)

~~Great Sarastro, we mark and marvel at your words of wisdom. But, will Tamino be able to withstand the severe trials that await him? - Forgive me, if I make so free as to reveal my doubts! I fear for this youth.~~

~~What if, sunk in sorrow, his spirit failed him and he succumbed in the arduous strife. - He is a prince. -~~

SARASTRO
Nay, more -- he is a man!

SPOKESMAN
And what if, still in his flower of youth, he were to fade and die?

SARASTRO
~~Then he would be given to Osiris and Isis; they would know the joy of the gods sooner than we do. (The threefold chord is sounded again.) Let Tamino and his travelling companion be led into the forecourt of the temple. (To the SPOKESMAN, who kneels before him) And you, friend, whom the gods, through us, appointed to be the spokesman of truth - do you now accomplish your sacred office and through your wisdom teach them both what the duty of humanity is; teach them to acknowledge the might of the gods! (The SPOKESMAN and one Priest leave; all the [other] Priests join together with their palm branches.)~~

cut to scene 2

Nº 10 Aria con coro

Adagio

SARASTRO

Corno di Bassetto I, II
Fagotto I, II
Trombone I-III
Viola I, II
Violoncello

8

Sar. hear me and grant your grace to this new pair! You who pro - tect each

15

Sar. wand-ying stran-ger, shield them in dan - ger and de - spair, shield them in

22

Sar. dan - ger and de - spair!

Tenore I, II *p* Shield them in dan - ger and de - spair!

Coro Basso I, II *p*

29 SARASTRO

Sar. May we with joy as vic - tors name them; but if they fail, and

35

death should claim them, then for their vir-tue, truth and love, lead them to

42

dwell with you a - bove, lead them to dwell with you a - bove!

49 Tenore I,II (SARASTRO leads the way out, and they all follow him.)

Lead them to dwell with you a - bove!

49 Basso I,II

Night. The stage is transformed into a shallow temple forecourt, where the ruins of fallen columns and pyramids are visible, also some thorn bushes. On both sides there are practicable tall Ancient Egyptian portals, through which further out-buildings can be seen.

Scene Two

TAMINO and PAPAGENO are led in by the SPOKESMAN and the other PRIEST; the Priests remove the sacks from their heads, and then leave.

TAMINO
A fearful night! – Papageno, are you still with me?

PAPAGENO
Where? If it wasn't so dark, I might be able to tell you –
But as it is – (Thunderclap) Oh dear! –

PAPAGENO
Sure, I'm with you!

TAMINO
What's the matter?

TAMINO
Where do you think we are now?