

# KING SAUL

An Oratorio in Four Acts For Soloists, Mixed Chorus & Orchestra

Words by Hubert Parry and the Holy Bible (Old Testament)

Music by

C. Hubert H. Parry Composed for the Birmingham Musical Festival - 1894

## VOCAL SCORE

#### COVER IMAGE

**"David Playing the Harp before Saul"** Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, c.1629 Stadelesches Kunstinstitut, Frankfurt



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The "renaissance" in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880. Public demand for major works in support of the annual choral festivals held throughout England at that time was considerable which led to the creation of many large scale works for orchestra with soloists and chorus.

Although a number of those works were engraved, printed and are regularly performed today, performance scores for a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works were either never engraved or were engraved and printed but are no longer available in the publishers' catalogues. While the existence of these works is documented in biographies of the composers, the ability to study and, most importantly, to perform these compositions is not possible.

Changes in the International copyright laws, coupled with changing musical tastes, played a pivotal role in creating this void. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. In 1964, holograph and copyist scores from both Novello and from publishers it represented were offered to the British Library and the Royal College of Music Library (see The RCM Novello Library – The Musical Times, Feb. 1983 by Jeremy Dibble ).

These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of engraved vocal scores, widely available through various online library sources, are now the only resources available for studying and performing these works.

The English Heritage Music Series has been created to ensure that these compositions are preserved, are accessible for scholarly research and, most importantly, are available for performance by future generations. Its mission is to:

- Source non-engraved/out-of-print English composer compositions that are in the U.S. public domain
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In preparing the English Heritage Music Series editions, every effort has been made to adhere strictly to the notation contained in the manuscripts. Because of the passage of time and its effect on the condition of the manuscript, the absence of clear information often times by the composer in notating divided instruments, and with emendations in the composer and other hands resulting from use of the manuscript in performance, there were numerous circumstances which required interpretation and decisions for notes, accidentals, dynamics, articulations and tempi. Should questions arise in the use of these editions, the composers' autograph manuscripts and the Novello vocal scores should be consulted for clarification.

Matthew W. Mehaffey Editor

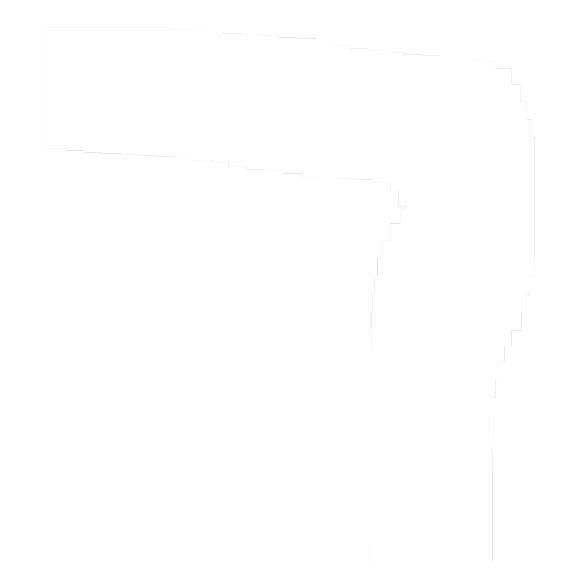
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## KING SAUL.

## ACT I.-Scene I.

Israelites and Samuel.

#### INTRODUCTION.

Chorus of Israelites. Toil and weariness! Hunger and want; Barren is the earth, Burning the sky. The fruits of our labours are perishing; Our life is nought but woe unending; Forsaken is Israel, forsaken!

The Gentiles oppress us And we have no leader; Ammon and Amalek, Moab and Philistine, Swarm o'er our borders And slay without hindrance. They that should help us Rob and despoil us; They that judge us take bribes, Take bribes against the innocent ! Forsaken is Israel, forsaken !

Samuel, thou prophet of God, grant us a king !

#### Samuel.

Ye stiff-necked and perverse generation, hearken! Thus saith the Lord, the God who brought forth Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hands of them that oppressed you.

Have ye not turned unto Baal and Ashtaroth? Have ye not worshipped all the gods of the Philistines? How have they helped you in the time of need?

But when ye cried unto the Lord in your affliction, He delivered you from all your enemies on every side.

Is not the Lord Himself your king? is He not strong to help in time of need?

But ye have forsaken Him, forgetting His loving kindness, and ask a king of mortal mould.

And this shall be the manner of the king that shall reign over you!

He shall take of your sons and appoint them to his chariots. He shall take your daughters to do him menial service. He shall take your fields and your vineyards, your flocks and your goodliest herds, and ye shall be his slaves. And in that day shall ye cry unto God because of the king that ye have chosen, and the Lord shall not hearken.

#### Chorus of Israelites.

Vain words thou speakest, Prophet of Israel! Give us a leader Strong to deliver us ! Him will we trust in, King will we call him. He shall do justice. Him will we follow. Death shall he deal To those that oppress us. Samuel, thou prophet of God, grant us a king!

#### Samuel.

Lo! from the hills of Ephraim he cometh, and from the land of Shaalim! His face is as the sun for brightness, his presence like the cedar on the mountain. Him shall ye serve, through good and evil days; for God hath called him to be your lord!

#### Scene II.

The Maidens at the Well.

Come, where the purling, whispering rill Flows and ripples to the shady pool;

Come and all your pitchers fill,

With sparkling crystal, clear and cool, Water, welling from the hill.

Blessedest gift of God to man, Reviving the travel-worn,

Restoring the toil-forlorn;

E'er since the world began

From earth's depths it sprang, And springeth still.

Stay, sisters! see the comely youth who hither comes

Across the plain,

And hear him singing on his way A joyous strain. Saul.

The heavens are full of radiant light, And gladness fills the air; My spirit soars on wings of delight, Forgot is every care. Free on my way, Free as the day, Through Israel's joyous land I fare.

No hero's rank is mine to gain, Nor plenteous wealth's repose;

For me the spacious freedom of the plain,

For me the mountain heights where sunrise glows.

What though unknown, Poor and alone, With joy of life each passing day o'erflows.

Tell me, fair daughters of Israel, Where dwells the prophet of God?

#### Maidens.

Whence comest thou, O stranger youth, That knowest not where dwells the seer, The prophet of the Lord?

See, where the white walls gleam upon the hill, The path goes winding up and upward still; Follow thou where it leads thee, And in thy quest, God speed thee!

#### INTERLUDE.

#### Samuel.

Hail to thee, Saul! that comest from afar! The Lord hath need of thee. On thee is all the desire of Israel, On thee and on all thy father's house.

#### Saul.

What words are these, thou aged seer? What would the God of Israel with me?

#### Samuel.

Though thou wert least among the sons of Benjamin,

Yet shall thou be set on high;

Though thou wert lowliest among the lowly, To thee the vanquished shall cry!

Lo, by this vial of oil, which I pour upon thine head; the Lord God anointeth thee to be king over His inheritance. Go thou, deal justice, and destroy the heathen who serve not the Lord Jehovah.

#### Chorus of Israelites.

The Lord hath regarded the prayer of His people; by the mouth of His prophet hath He spoken. Behold the anointed of the Lord!

Hail Saul, thou King of Israel! All hail great chief, elect of God!

Through thee will we overthrow our enemies, and in thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us!

The Lord hath regarded the prayer of His people, and hath granted unto Israel a king!

### ACT II.-Scene I.

#### Samuel.

Lo, the Lord hath sent me to anoint thee king over Israel: Now, therefore, hearken, O Saul, unto the word of the Lord!

I remember that which Amalek did unto Israel, how he laid in wait for him by the way, when he came up from Egypt.

Now, therefore, go, smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all he hath! Slay both man and woman! Slay both infant and suckling, ox and sheep! Smite them from Havilah even unto Shur. It is the will of the Lord!

#### Saul.

Come forth, ye that hide from the fierce hate of Amalek! Take heart, ye that tremble at the rage of the Philistine!

Lift up your eyes, and be glad; for the deliverance that cometh of God.

No more shall the Gentiles lay a reproach upon Israel; no more shall they ravage the land ye have made your home.

For ye shall trample them under your feet, and they shall be your slaves.

Though they come in their thousands, with chariots and horsemen, their might shall be vain at the will of the Lord.

Your speed shall be as the flight of eagles who sight their prey from afar.

Your strength shall be as the strength of lions when the lions' whelps cry for food.

Ye shall not faint nor falter, nor shall your hands be slack.

Jehovah shall fight for you. In Him put ye your trust,

And they that seek the hurt of Israel, shall bow before you in the dust.

#### CHORUS.—The Men of Israel.

We come, we come from the mountains of Judah;

We come from the plains, from the forests and caves ;

We come from the cities in armies of warriors;

Who heed not thy clarion call are but slaves. Great king! mighty Saul,

We come at thy call;

Before thy conquering arm the proudest foe shall fall.

#### Women of Israel.

They speed, they speed; from the heights we behold them!

They sweep o'er the plain with the roar of a storm.

They fall on the foemen, like waves of the ocean,

With flashing of weapons and shrill cry of shaulm.

When the king, mighty Saul,

On our heroes shall call,

Before their onward rush the proudest foe shall fall.

#### FULL CHORUS.

Bow thine head, Amalek! Nought is thy mightiness!

But vainly thou spreadest thy hosts wide and far;

With crashing of chariots and riot of war.

Thy heroes turn cravens and seek but to fly,

Thy captains are helpless; and have nought but to die.

From heathen yoke have we won our liberty ! The land shall resound with the song of victory.

Glory to Saul! Israel's fearless king.

Mighty his arm, great shall be his fame! The joyous land of Israel his triumph shall sing! Glory to Saul! let vale and mountain ring! Glory to Saul! to Israel's chosen king!

#### Scene II.

#### The Evil Spirit.

Saul, thou art king indeed ! Great is thy might ! Who shall contend with thee, In word or in fight ? Who shall dare hinder thee From what is thy right ?

Knowest thou nought Of the ransom of kings? Heedest thou nought Of the wealth that it brings?

Sparest thou nought Of the sheep and the oxen ? Carest thou nought For the gold and the treasurc?

These are the prizes of war, The meed of thy power!

Saul ! art thou king indeed ? Where is thy might ? Who shall dare hinder thee From what is thy right ?

#### Saul.

Stay ye the slaughter of the helpless flock and herds,

Mine are they and none others !

#### CHORUS.—The Soldiers of Saul.

The word of the king is as the will of God His the victory; his also the fruits thereof.

Let us go unto the house of the Lord. Le us praise His Name, and offer unto Him the sacrifice of thanksgiving.

For it is He that hath trodden down ou enemies. It is He that executeth vengeancy on them that rise up against us.

#### Samue'.

What meaneth the bleating of sheep in minears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear What is the spoil the people bear upon thei heads? Hath the Lord need of these?

#### Saul.

The people took of the spoil—the sheep and the oxen—to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in Gilgal.

#### Samuel.

Thou hast transgressed against the word o the Lord; in that thou hast spared them tha have vexed His people; and He shall rend the kingdom from thee, and give it to him tha keepeth His commandments.

And behold the Philistines shall come, and the people shall quail before the might of them And he that shall overcome them shall not be of thine house.

#### CHORUS.—The People of Israel.

Lo! the Philistines! and he of Gath, whose height is as the giants of old, and whose spear is like a weaver's beam !

What man among us shall withstand him? God, who didst bring Thy people out o Egypt, and didst lead them in safety through the depths of the sea, send us help!

#### David.

Who is this Philistine, that defieth the armies of the living God?

This day will the Lord deliver him intermine hand.

With my round stone from the brook, with my sling that is in my hand, will I deal with him as with a lion that hunteth among the sheep.

The dead bodies of the Philistines shall be given to the fowls of the air. The wild beast of the field shall devour them. That all nations may know there is a God in Israel, that saveth not by sword and spear alone.

For the battle is the Lord's, and He shall deliver our enemies into our hands.

#### The People of Israel.

See where the helmed giant strides And mocks his swordless foe ! See where with light and eager step The fearless youth does go ! Lo ! quick as light the sling he wields, The stone spins through the air, The giant reels, his might is vain, For low he lies, by David slain !

> The heathen are scattered; They stay not to fight. Their mighty champion fallen, Their hope is in flight. Israel, requite them now, Free all the land ! Pursue and smite them now ! Vengeance is here at hand !

#### Michal.

Arise and sing, ye daughters of Israel! Let all the people rejoice in the noble acts of the Lord.

For He hath come down for us against the mighty; against them that vaunted themselves against us.

By the hand of the stripling, by the hand of the shepherd, by the hand of one that knew not shield nor spear, hath the Lord o'erthrown the mighty one that made us afraid.

The shepherd came up from the care of the sheepfold: the stir of the armed thousands made him not afraid.

He put his right hand to the sling, and his left hand to the smooth stone from the brook. And with that stone he slew the Philistine. At his feet he bowed, he fell; where he bowed there he fell dead.

The women of Gath shall cry at the gate : "Why linger the feet of the warriors?"

The children shall wait for the host that went forth : "Why come not the chariots from the battle ?"

The day shall come and yet shall they wait; They shall gaze from the watch towers across the plain.

But they that went forth will come not again, for the sound of their boasting is silenced; and their courage is quenched in the dust.

Arise and sing, ye children of Israel; for they that disquieted you are fallen and brought to nought.

#### Chorus of Israelites.

Lift up your voices, ye children of Israel! Saul hath slain his thousands; David his ten thousands.

Lo! the Lord hath led the shepherd from the sheepfold; he came unarmed save for sling and stone.

The armies of the Philistines stood waiting in their thousands, and he of Gath whom no man would fight.

Though his step shook the earth as he vaunted there,

The shepherd feared not, nor wavered;

Though his voice was as the thunder that shaketh the mountains,

He trembled not, nor stayed his course.

He put his right hand to the sling, and his left hand to the smooth stone from the brook.

And with that stone he slew the Philistine ! At his feet he bowed down, he fell; where

he bowed there he fell dead!

In the houses of Gath shall be mourning; there shall be mourning and desolation.

But the land of Judea shall be a land of rejoicing!

Arise, O Israel, and sing.

Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

#### The Evil Spirit.

Saul! art thou king indeed? Say they nought of thee but thousands? And of David say they ten thousands? What shall he have more, but thy kingdom?

### ACT III.—Scene I.

#### THE EVENING AFTER THE BATTLE.

#### CHORUS.

Rest, rest! ye that are weary with warfare ! Sleep, sleep! ye that are faint with pursuing ! Saved are our homes and our children ! Saved from the hands of a merciless foe !

Now may ye rest!

Now may ye sleep !

#### PSALM.—David.

Let us lift up our eyes unto the mountains, from whence cometh our help.

Our help cometh of God, that made heaven and earth.

The Lord will not suffer thy foot to be moved; He that keepeth thee will not sleep.

He that watcheth over Israel, shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord shall overshadow thee, so that the sun shall not smite thee by day, neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall keep thee from all evil, He shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall keep thy going out and thy coming in, from this time forth, even for evermore.

#### CHORUS.

He that watcheth over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

He shall keep thy going out and thy coming in, from this time forth, even for evermore.

#### David.

From this time forth, even for evermore.

#### Michal.

The voice of my beloved ! Behold, he cometh ! Behold, he standeth at the door !

#### David.

Michal! beloved! Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come!

The winter is past, and the rainstorms are over and gone, and the flowers appear on the earth.

The time of the singing birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in the land.

O my dove that art in the clefts of the rock, let me hear thy voice, let me see thy face !

#### Michal.

I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine. He is chiefest among the thousands; he is great as an army with banners. His head is like most fine gold, and his eyes are like doves beside the waterbrooks. Come, my beloved, come!

#### David.

Who is this that looketh forth as the morning; fair as the morn, clear as the sun, terrible as an army with chariots.

Turn away thine eyes, for they have overcome me. They are like to the pools in Heshbon, and deep as the depths of the waters.

The hair of thine head is like purple, in the tresses thereof I am captive.

#### Michal and David.

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm. For love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.

The flashes thereof are flashes of fire, a very flame of the Lord.

For love is strong as death!

### SCENE II.

#### The Evil Spirit.

Saul! doth thy power decline Even in thine own house?

Heedest thou Michal, Thy soul's delight, How her faith waneth?

She who adored thee Forgetteth thy worth; To her now is David Kingliest on earth, And thee she disdaineth.

Heardest thou her triumph song? Lauded she thy might? Whom did she loud proclaim Victor in fight? Thee or another?

Whom did thy people's voice, Answering, praise ? Whom to the kingly throne Now would they raise ? Thee or her lover ?

Saul.

Death to the traitor ! Death to David !

Shall there be two kings in Israel? Shall a stripling dim the glory of Saul? Shall a shepherd raise his head among princes: Shall a slinger shame the leader of armies? Death shall be his portion,

He shall not triumph more.

#### Michal's Maidens.

Save ye David! Save the sweet singer o Israel. The king's men seek him to slay him Save him, Michal; he must fly to the wilder ness.

#### Michal.

Fly, O beloved ! The king doth seek the life. Even now his messengers are come. I thou save not thy life this night, to-morrov shalt thou be slain.

#### David.

In the Lord put I my trust; I will not fea what man can do unto me.

Though I wander in the wilderness out of the way, and find no city to rest in;

He shall hide me under the shadow of Hi wings; His arm shall be my shield and buckler

He is a strong tower unto the oppressed, and never faileth them that put their trust in Him

#### Michal and her Maidens.

The Lord go with thee, and deliver thy soul in the day of trouble.

He never faileth them that put their trust in Him.

Saul.

Fled is mine enemy! As a bird from the fowler, as a hind from the leopard; free and unscathed.

They of mine household my purpose have thwarted. They whom I trusted have basely betrayed me; and they shall perish in their treachery.

> Arise, ye men of the sword, Ye warriors of my guard, Who wield the deadly battle spear And Israel's people ward.

Ye, who in many a fight Have done my bidding well, Before whose onset heathen hordes Stricken and vanquished fell!

Forth and pursue ! Shall the king's foe go scatheless ? Shall the wiles of the traitor prosper unchallenged ?

> Though he hide in the desert, Though the forest conceal him, My hand shall o'ertake him, My wrath shall o'erwhelm him— Marked for destruction !

#### SCENE III.

#### Soldiers of Saul.

The word of the king is as the will of God; To hearts that are his alone rings forth his call:

No faint heart among us, no arm slow to smite, None linger or falter when he leads to fight,

For defeat comes not nigh them who follow King Saul.

Wheresoe'er the king's enemy abideth;

- Though he hide in the mountains, or forests, or caves,
- Though he fly to the untrodden waste of the wilderness,
- The warriors of Saul shall track out his lair,
- And the king shall requite him in measure full and fair.
- Though the sun be fierce with full noonday heat,
- And the plains be scorching for man and for beast,
- Our march is still onward through flood or through fire,

Our sinews are iron, our limbs never tire;

- What reck we of danger? whate'er chance befall,
- No hardship dismays them who follow King Saul!
- But when soothing night comes down on the earth,

And the stars shine out in the sky;

When cities are silent, and waysides are still, And the plough and the spade are laid by :

- In a sheltered vale, with our king in our midst, With our guards set and watches made sure,
- We rest in slumber-in slumber deep and secure.

#### Saul.

In the still watches of the night,

There came into the chambers of my soul A spirit, grim and baleful.

Oft had I dimly felt it near,

A phantom only; vague, impersonal, Breathing mere veiled omens.

But now it holds my inmost self,

My being vibrates with its mocking leer, And strives in vain to banish it.

See how it sneers and glares at me ! Even through the grey light of dawn it looms, Unvanquished, blackening the world.

What did it whisper to my soul? Mine enemy was here close to mine hand; Mine enemy; the man I love, and hate; And I lay helpless, bound by spells More potent than a threefold chain of steel.

Through all the host he passed unscathed, And gazed upon me as I, spell-bound, slept; And yet he spared and smote not.

Was it the spirit held his hand,

That I might live and sink to blacker night, And know yet lonelier depths of anguish;

That I might writhe within his power,

And hear the whispered evil word— What wert thou, and what art?

Away, thou hideous source of hate !

I will not heed thy whispers more.

Let David rise, let me decrease,

Let me be lone, unloved, discrowned, disowned.

Not man, nor God shall change what once has been,

Nor dim the glory of the name I bear.

In Israel the first of kings Was Saul !

Of all God's people chosen he,

Alone.

For countless ages shall his fame be known.

Next unto God; first among men, King Saul!

#### The Soldiers of Saul.

Who calls? Awake, awake! Bestir yourselves! What heavy slumber bound us? living death! Like spells of evil. Awful was the voice

That broke them. It was the king. See how his staring eyes

Are fixed on vacancy! His face is drawn And rigid as in death. What seeth he In earth or sky? Let no man waken him!

#### David.

Ho! ye that guard your mighty king, in sleep!

#### Soldiers of Saul.

A voice from the mountains; 'tis David, him we seek.

#### David.

Ho! ye that slumber at your watch, awake !

#### Saul.

'Tis David, him we seek ; Pursue and take him. He shall be slain !

#### David.

My lord and king, give ear unto my voice, and hearken to the prayer of thy servant!

What evil have I done? Why art thou come out against me with a host of men?

Why dost thou pursue me, as a wolf that ravened amongst the flock; or as a thief that cometh in the night time?

How have I sinned against thee?

#### Saul.

I have sinned—I have sinned. Return, my son David; return, for I will no more seek thy hurt.

Because my life was precious in thine hand this day, and thou hast spared to do me harm.

The Lord shall deliver thee from all tribulation, and thou shalt surely prevail.

#### David.

It is not the Lord's will that I return with thee this day. I will sojourn in the land of Ziklag until the time appointed; and I will look upon thy face, O king, no more!

#### INTERLUDE.

#### CHORUS.

Gone is the hero who saved us from oppression ! Gone is the singer who soothed us in affliction ! Gone is the face that smiled on us ! Gone is the voice that charmed us ! In the land of strangers he wanders ! David, beloved of the people !

#### Michal.

Saw ye him whom my soul loved; saw ye him? I seek him and I find him not.

In the streets and in the broadways, I seek him whom my soul loveth.

I seek him, but I find him not.

My beloved is chiefest among ten thousand,

His head is as the most fine gold,

- His eyes are like doves beside the waterbrooks;
- His lips are like lilies dropping liquid myrrh,
- His aspect like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.
- This is my beloved ! This is my friend, O ye daughters of Israel.

I call him but he giveth me no answer.

Whither is my beloved gone?

#### CHORUS.

Thy beloved is in the hand of the Lord, there shall no evil touch him.

The Lord shall preserve him and keep him alive that he may be blessed upon earth.

Though he fall he shall not be utterly cast away, for the Lord upholdeth him with His hand.

He shall not be afraid for ten thousands of the people, that set themselves against him round about.

His enemies shall be brought to shame, and the seed of them that hate him shall perish.

But he shall return again in the time appointed, and Israel shall triumph in his name!

#### ACT IV.—Scene I.

#### The Evil Spirit.

Saul ! is thy will attained ? Gone from thy sight, Is he who surpassed thee In word and in fight. Now art thou king indeed ! Lone in thy might.

Hearken! a sound as of arms comes from far, The sound of an host of men marching to war. The land shall be waste through them;

Men's hearts shall be faint through them. And who shall go forth their onset to bar?

Ill hath o'ertaken thee!

God hath forsaken thee ! Man doth but fear thee !

Friend! none is near thee!

Saul! Saul! the hour of thy doom is here!

#### Chorus of Israelites.

War at our gates ! Hosts of dark foemen ! Dreadfully threatening, Round us they gather ! On like a whirlwind, Crushing, destroying !

Israel, arm ! Gird ye for battle ! Haste ye to meet them, Merciless heathen. Deal them destruction !

Saul, do thou lead us, Hero of old time ! Victor of Amalek ! King of God's own choosing !

Take now thy spear in hand ! Raise the old war cry ! Thee will men follow, Mighty king and warrior, Saul the unvanquished !

#### Saul.

Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, An horrible dread hath overwhelmed me; I am become as a man that hath no strength, And my life draweth nigh unto the grave.

I cry unto God, unto God that dwelleth in the heavens, but He heareth not; I cnquire of Him, but He giveth me no answer.

#### The Evil Spirit.

Thou enquirest of Him but He giveth thee no answer!

Is there no other path? Can none reveal the secret of the future save Israel's vengeful Lord?

Go thou to Endor ! There a woman dwells

Who holdeth converse with the spirits of the dead.

She shall reveal to thee what God withholds. Farewell, O Saul! my mission is accomplished!

#### Scene II.

#### AT ENDOR.

#### Saul.

Art thou she that holdest converse with the souls departed?

#### Witch.

By Saul's commands are all they that practised divination perished. I now alone in all the land from Sheol's depths can call the dead.

#### Saul.

Divine unto me, and bring up whomsoever I shall name.

Witch.

Whom wilt thou that I bring up unto thee?

#### Saul.

Bring up for me Samuel!

Witch.

Saul!

#### Saul.

What seest thou ?

#### Witch.

I see as it were a god coming out of the earth. An old man, covered with a robe.

#### Samuel.

Why hast thou disquieted me to bring me up?

#### Saul.

I am sore distressed. The Philistines make war upon me, and God hath departed from me. He answers me no more, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore have I called thee; that thou mayest make known to me what I shall do.

#### Samuel.

Wherefore then dost thou ask of me? seeing the Lord is departed from thee, and is become thine adversary.

Thou hast done evil in the sight of the Lord,

Thou hast spared those thou should'st have smitten;

- Thou hast smitten those thou should'st have spared.
- Thou hast rebelled against the word of the Lord.

Therefore hath He rent the kingdom from thee,

And hath given it to thy neighbour, even to David.

Moreover, the Lord will deliver Israel with thee into the hands of the Philistines :

And to-morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me in the grave !

#### INTERLUDE.

#### Witch.

- Wilt Thou take vengeance, O Almighty !
- Wilt Thou destroy them whom Thou hast chosen?
- Shall the flower of Thy people perish?
- Shall the gods of the heathen triumph?
- Terrible is Thy wrath, O Jehovah!

I see, as in a swoon, The hated heathen host; I see, as in a cloud, Dim surging, swaying crowds; I hear the shout of striving mcn, I scent the deadly breath of war, As in a dream.

I see upon a lonely hill A band of warriors standing, Amidst them towers a kingly chief, Their scant array commanding.

His face is knit with fierce resolve, High swings the deadly spear; The swarming foe he sees unmoved, Nor heeds that death is near.

The heathen horde spread o'er the plain, The fated band surrounding; Now sweep they headlong up the hill, With shout and trumpet sounding.

Though beaten back they come again, Trampling o'er heaps of slain; Like ravening wolves upon their prey, Reckless of death and pain!

Strike, thou great king !
Strike yet again !
Let thy white weapon ring !
Sweep them away
Like wind-blown chaff;
Their death-song let them sing.

In vain—in vain the mighty spear is swung, Fruitless the sheltering shield !

The heathen wolves have snatched their prey, Theirs is the wreck-heaped field !

> Fallen, and trampled in the dust ! Dead, the unvanquished king ! Stilled is the heart that beat so high, Sightless the keen and piercing eye,

The first of Israel's kings on battlefield o'crthrown doth lie!

Thou hast taken vengeance, O Almighty ! Thou hast destroyed them whom Thou hadst chosen !

The flower of Thy people have perished, And the gods of the heathen triumph. Terrible is Thy wrath, O Jehovah!

### SCENE III.

#### THE LAMENTATION FOR SAUL.

#### CHORUS.

Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no rain nor dew upon you!

For there the shield of the mighty was vilely cast away; the shield of the mighty, even the shield of Saul.

How are the mighty fallen ! and the weapons of war perished !

#### Michal and Chorus.

The beauty of Israel is slain in thy high places!

How are the mighty fallen ! and the weapons of war perished !

#### David and Chorus.

From the blood of the slain, from the necks of the mighty, the sword of Saul returned not empty.

He lifted his spear against a thousand, and his arrows sped abroad.

The men of Israel were stronger than lions, they were swifter than eagles.

The kings of the Gentiles bowed down before them, the gods of the heathen trembled.

Michal, David, and Chorus.

How are the mighty fallen ! and the weapons of war perished !

#### Michal and David.

Ye daughters of Israel, weep for the slain! For their voices shall be heard no more in the land.

#### Michal, David, and Chorus.

In death they sleep together, but their deeds shall live in men's remembrance.

Weep for the slain ! Weep ye for Saul !

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## KING SAUL.

ACT I. INTRODUCTION.



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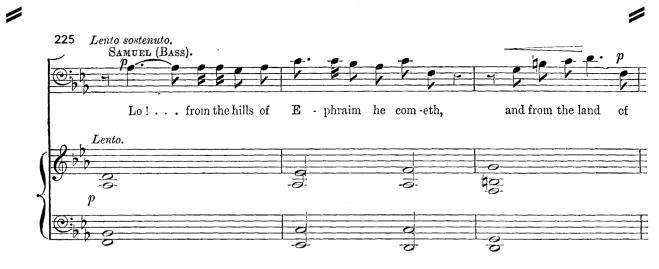




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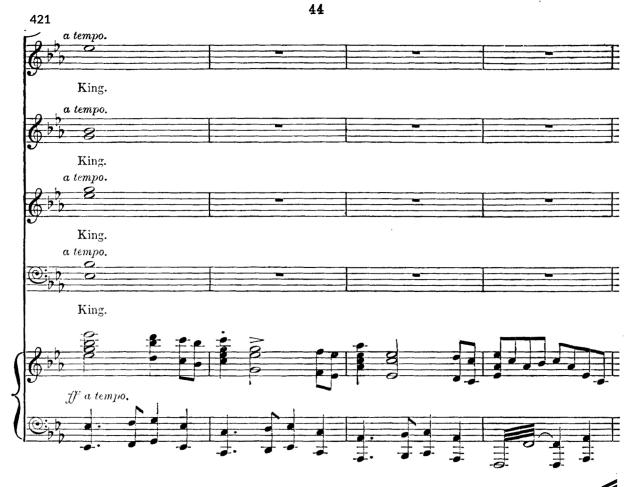








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## ACT II.

















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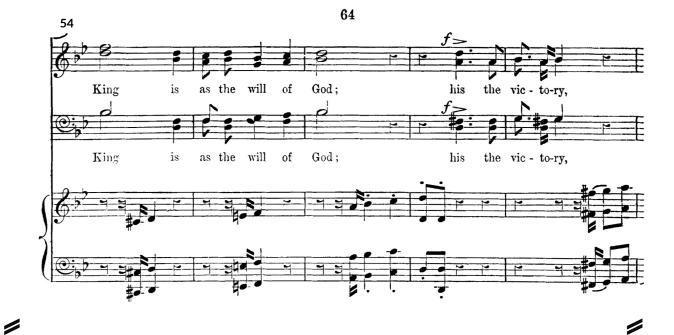




































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## ACT III.









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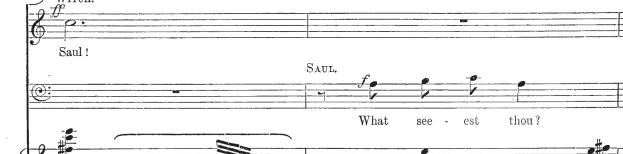
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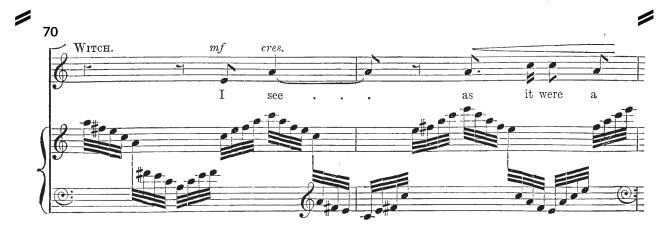


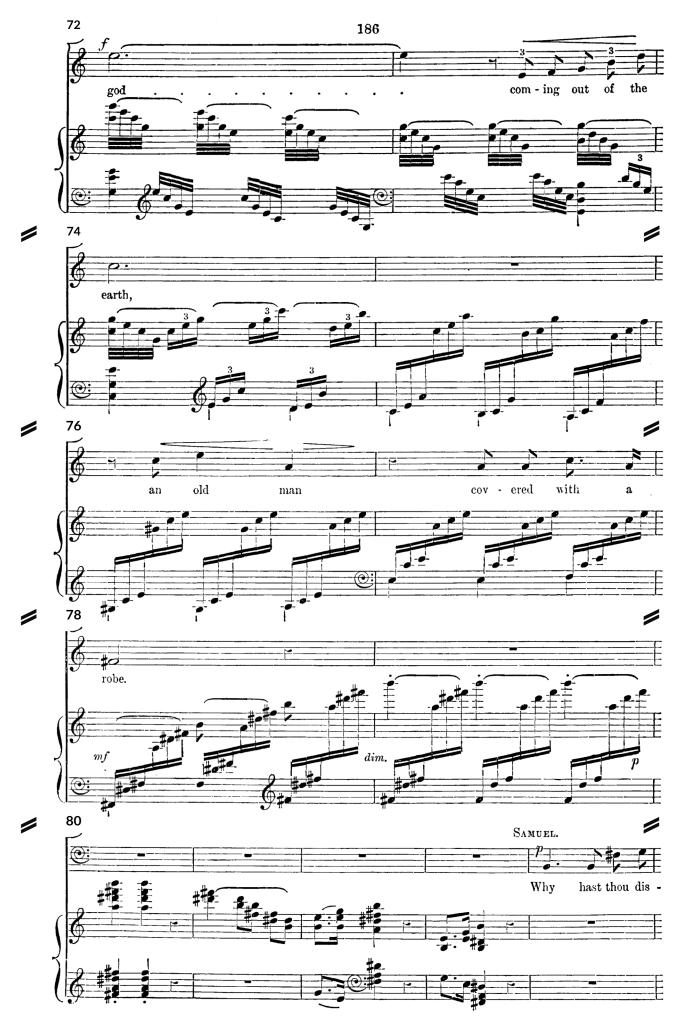












































































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