

SEMELE

George Fredrick Handel

Our heroine, the daughter of King Cadmus of Thebes, is faced with the prospect of marrying a mortal prince and calls upon her lover, the mighty god Jupiter, to protect her. The cloud-thunderer, in the form of an eagle, ensconces Semele in a palace protected by two dragons. After learning of her husband's latest conquest, the goddess Juno enlists the help of Somnus, the god of sleep, to take advantage of Semele's vain aspirations which leads to Semele's fiery destruction and ultimate immortality. You will immediately recognize the beautiful aria "Where'er you walk," sung by Jupiter to his frightened lover.