

The Magic Flute

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

In these two selections from The Magic Flute by Mozart (1756- 1791) he and his librettist, Emanuel Schikaneder (1751-1812), distill the intellectual spirit of the Enlightenment. In the first, Tamino has just arrived at the Temple of Wisdom, which is flanked by the Temple of Reason and the Temple of Nature. In the second, Sarastro and his fellow secular priests proclaim first from their holy pyramid and then from the Temple of the Sun their triumph over the Queen of the Night, the victory of light over darkness.

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