SEMELE Margarita Slepakova & Le Sommeil

HANDEL · MARAIS · ECCLES



Nights through dreams tell the myths forgotten by the day.
C. G. Jung

SEMELE

Gabriel Smallwood (b. 1997)
1 **Gabe's Piece** 0. 56

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)
Semele, HWV 58
2 Overture 4. 48

John Eccles (1668–1735)
Semele
3 Act III: Somnus, Awake / Leave Me, Loathsome Light 2. 50

George Frideric Handel
Semele, HWV 58
4 Act III: No, No! I'll Take No Less 5. 33

John Eccles
Semele
5 Act II: Symphony 2. 01

Pablo FitzGerald (b. 1994)
6 **Pablo F's Piece** 0. 57

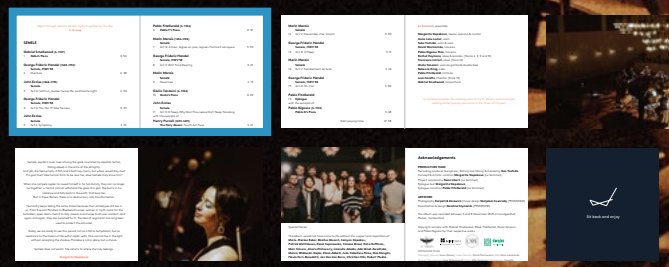
Marin Marais (1656–1728)
Sémélé
7 Act III: Amour, régnez en paix, régnez charmant vainqueur 3. 50

George Frideric Handel
Semele, HWV 58
8 Act II: With Fond Desiring 3. 01

Marin Marais
Sémélé
9 Ouverture 2. 15

Giulio Tanasini (b. 1994)
10 **Giulio's Piece** 0. 49

John Eccles
Semele
11 Act II: O Sleep, Why Dost Thou Leave Me? / Sleep Forsaking
with the excerpts of
Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
The Fairy Queen: Fourth Act Tune 3. 27



Marin Marais
Sémélé
12 Act V: Descendez, cher amant 3. 30

George Frideric Handel
Semele, HWV 58
13 Act III: O Sleep 3. 13

Marin Marais
Sémélé
14 Act V: Tremblement de terre 3. 24

George Frideric Handel
Semele, HWV 58
15 Act III: Ah, me! 3. 06

Pablo FitzGerald
16 **Epilogue**
with the excerpts of
Pablo Gigosos (b. 1992)
Pablo G's Piece 3. 48

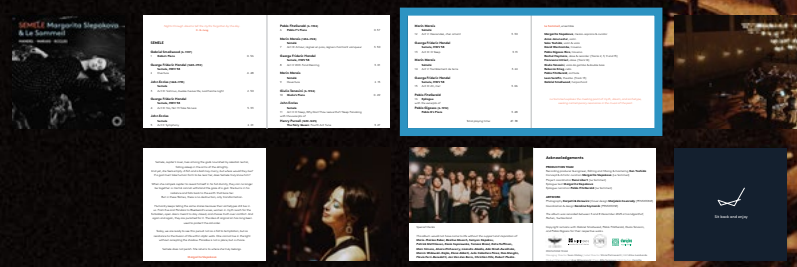
Total playing time: 47. 38

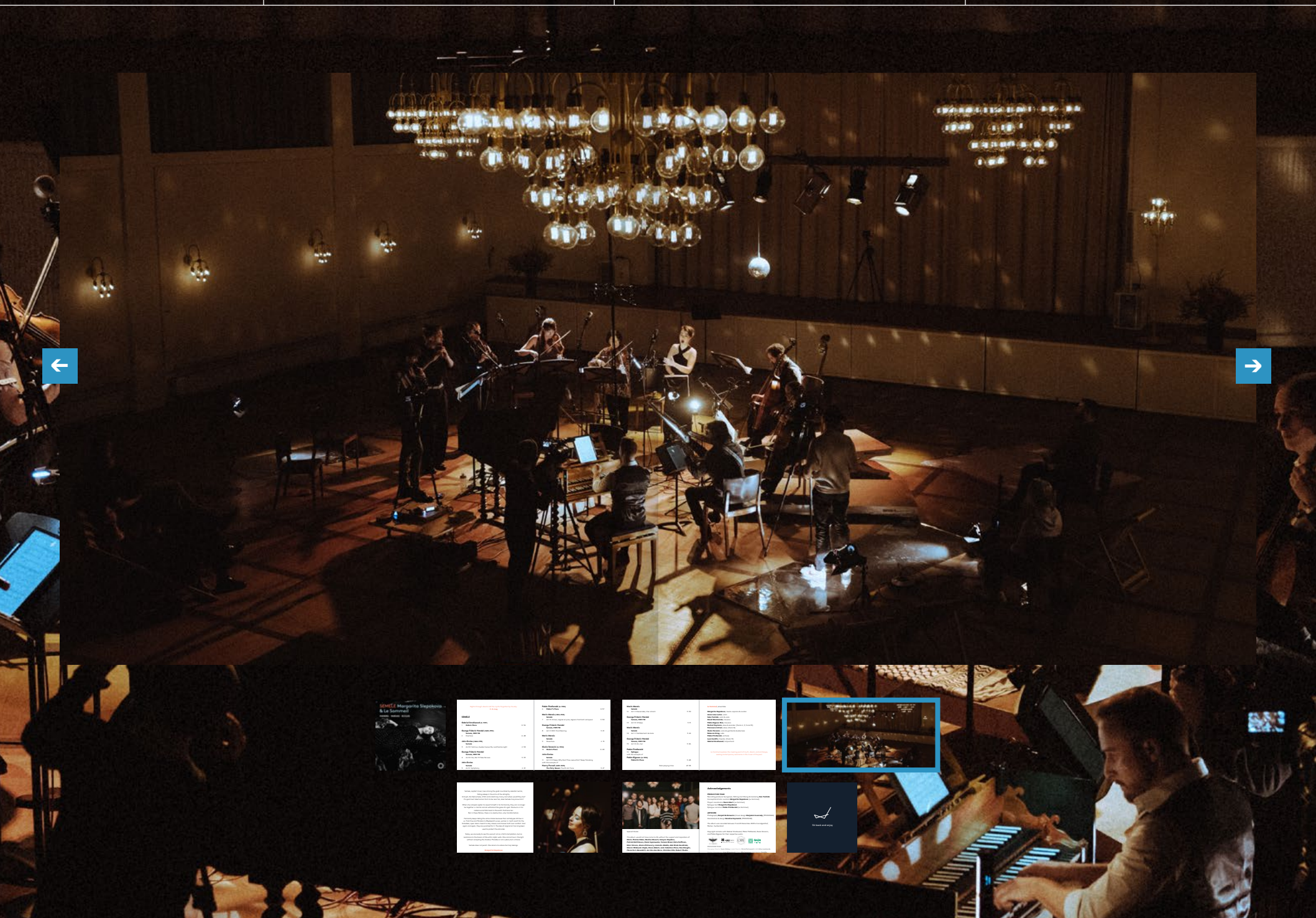
Historical works – arranged by Le Sommeil,
except tracks 5 and 9 – arranged by Flavio Ferri-Benedetti.

Le Sommeil, ensemble

Margarita Slepakova, mezzo-soprano & curator
Anna Jane Lester, violin
Soko Yoshida, violin & viola
David Westcombe, traverso
Pablo Gigosos Rico, traverso
Rachel Heymans, oboe & recorder (Tracks 2, 3, 9 and 15)
Francesco Intrieri, oboe (Track 14)
Giulio Tanasini, viola da gamba & double bass
Rebecca Krieg, cello
Pablo FitzGerald, archlute
Leon Serafin, theorbo (Track 13)
Gabriel Smallwood, harpsichord

Le Sommeil explores the meeting point of myth, dream, and archetype, seeking contemporary resonance in the music of the past.





Semele, Jupiter's lover, lives among the gods nourished by celestial nectar, falling asleep in the arms of the almighty.
And yet, she feels empty. *A fish and a bird may marry, but where would they live*?
If a god must take human form to be near her, does Semele truly know him?

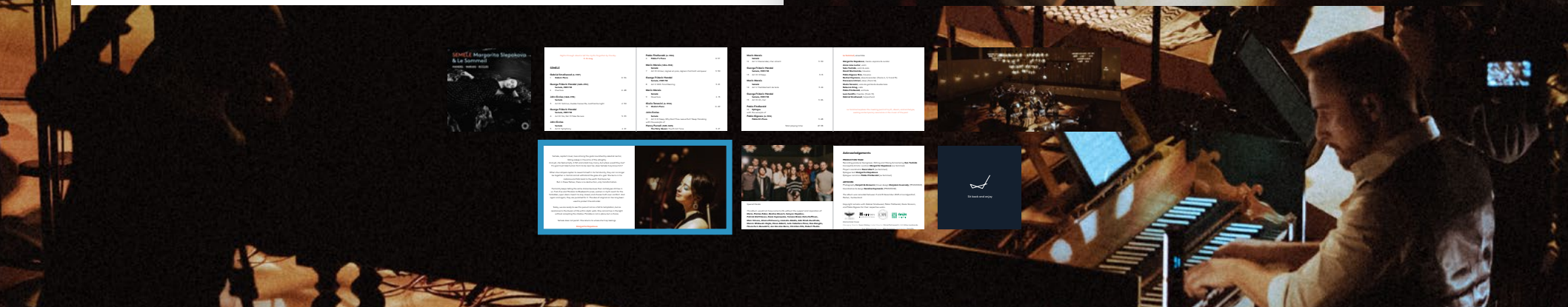
When she compels Jupiter to reveal himself in his full divinity, they can no longer be together: a mortal cannot withstand the gaze of a god. She burns in his radiance and falls back to the earth that bore her.
But in these flames, there is no destruction, only transformation.

Humanity keeps telling the same stories because their archetypes still live in us. From Eve and Pandora to Bluebeard's wives, women in myth reach for the forbidden, open doors meant to stay closed, and choose truth over comfort. And again and again, they are punished for it. The idea of original sin has long been used to protect the old order.

Today, we are ready to see this pursuit not as a fall to temptation, but as resistance to the illusion of life within idyllic walls. One cannot live in the light without accepting the shadow. Paradise is not a place, but a choice.

Semele does not perish. She returns to where she truly belongs.

Margarita Slepakova





Special thanks

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Project coordinator **René Libert** (Le Sommeil)
Epilogue text **Margarita Slepakova**
Epilogue narration **Pablo FitzGerald** (Le Sommeil)

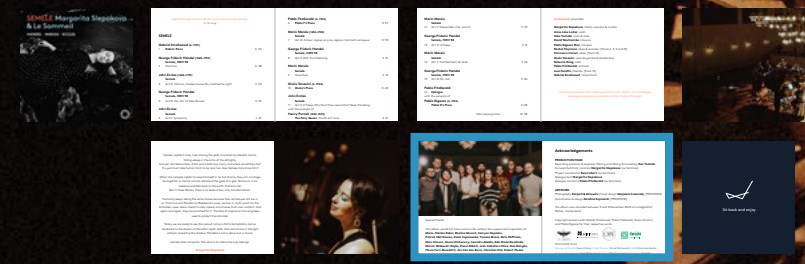
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