

# Polyxena

## 1. A sky of lambent red

for female choir and dancers, with wind & brass octet, or with piano

**Dance 1:** The captives are led aboard the priests' ship. They show sorrow at leaving their homeland. Among them them is the queen (Polyxena's mother) who is grief-stricken at her loss.

Philip Armstrong

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 82. It begins with a piano introduction (measures 1-8) featuring a complex rhythmic pattern in the right hand and a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand. Dynamics range from *mf* to *p*. A trill is marked in measure 8.

Measures 9-12 introduce the vocal parts for Soprano (Sop.) and Alto (Al.). Both parts begin with a *div.* (divisi) instruction. The lyrics are:  
A sky of lam-bent red is lit By bur-nings with-out a-  
The breast of pre-cious youth is pierced And man-gled\_ be-yond re-

Measures 13-16 continue the vocal parts with lyrics:  
quitt - al, Em-bers from the ci - ty of Troy. The anc - ient ways have passed;  
mi - ssion, Rup-tured by the a - rows of war. The sca - ttered bones have scorched

The piano accompaniment continues throughout, with dynamics of *p*, *f*, and *p* in measures 13-16. A trill is also marked in measure 14.

17 **B** *f*

Sop. They are worth-less. The wind ri - ses to  
And are flesh - less. The ships rea - dy the

Al. They are worth-less. The wind ri - ses to  
And are flesh - less. The priests' rea - dy the

Pno. *mf* *f*

21 **C** *mp*

Sop. roar - ing gale And whips up the brea - kers. an - chors. The  
bill' - wing sails And haul in the Re

Al. roar - ing gale And whips up the brea - kers. an - chors. The  
bill' - wing sails And haul in the Re -

Pno. *mf* *p*

26

Sop. spoils of crush - ing vic - try, Spared the bloo - dy slaugh - ter, Bid fare - well with so - row To the  
cast as bon - ded va - ssal, Claimed for na - ked in - dul - gence, Mur - m'ring la - men - ta - tion As they

Al. spoils of crush - ing vic - try, Spared the bloo - dy slaugh - ter, Bid fare - well with so - row To the  
cast as bon - ded va - ssal, Claimed for na - ked in - dul - gence, Mur - m'ring la - men - ta - tion As they

Pno.

**D**

30

Sop. na - tive land they a - dore.  
make to em - bark the shore.

Al. na - tive land they a - dore.  
make to em - bark the shore.

Pno. *p* *f* *p* *mf*

34

Sop. *f* Last a - board is with the queen Croak - ing gruff - ly, A gutt - ral rasp  
Lin - ger - ing with her grief, Har - b'ring mi - s'ry, A fee - ble gasp,

Al. *f* Last a - board is with the queen Croak - ing gruff - ly, A gutt - ral rasp  
Lin - ger - ing with her grief, Har - b'ring mi - s'ry, A fee - ble gasp,

Pno. *f*

38

Sop. 1. *p* Thick in the throat. 2. Pi - ti - ful woe. Pi - ti - ful woe.

Al. 1. *p* Thick in the throat. 2. Pi - ti - ful woe. Pi - ti - ful woe.

Pno. *p*

## 2. The wind is assuaged

for female choir and dancers, with wind & brass octet, or with piano

**Dance 2:** The calm sea is disturbed by a squall of wind. The voice of a ghost is heard. The captives are shocked that this otherworld visitant must receive a human sacrifice. Polyxena is stunned when she realises it must be her.

Phaedimus

43  $\text{♩} = 80$  *mp* *unvoiced (whisper)*

Sop. The win - d-d-d-d-d-d-d-d

Al. *unvoiced (whisper)*  
*p* win - d

*stroke strings inside piano with fingers*

Pno. *p*

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48 *mp* *p*

Sop. is a - ssua - g-ed-d-d-d-d-d-d, a - ssua - - ged,-

Al. *p* The win - d-d-d-d-d-d-d-d,

Pno.

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52 **E** *mp* *mp*

Sop. the sea be - calm - ed-d-d-d-d-d-d; The ships shall be

Al. *p* win - d

**E**

Pno.

57 *mp* *p* unpitched whistling (like the wind) *p*

Sop. moor - ed-d-d-d-d-d-d un-til a breeze is re - turn - ed-d-d-d-d-d-d. re - turn - ed.

Al. *p* *p* unpitched whistling (like the wind) *p*

win - d breeze re - turn - ed-d-d-d-d-d-d,

Pno.

64 *mf* **F**

Sop. But then a tem - pes-tuous flu-rry at the

Al. *mf* But then a tem - pes-tuous flu-rry at the

Pno. *p* *mf* **F**

70

Sop. wa - ter's edge, A su-dden squall of fire As if the bla - zing rage of A -

Al. wa - ter's edge, A su-dden squall of fire As if the bla - zing rage of A -

Pno.

75 **G**

Sop. *f*  
chi - lles \_\_\_\_\_ is re - kind - led from the dead, Fierce - ly a - da - mant,

Al. *f*  
chi - lles \_\_\_\_\_ is re - kind - led from the dead, Fierce - ly a - da -

Pno. *f*

80 **H**

Sop. *mf* *mp*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Like the day he claimed the skin of Bri - seis. This

Al. *mf* *mp*  
mant, Like the day he claimed the skin of Bri - seis. This

Pno. *mf* *mp*

85 **I** *mf*

Sop. *mf*  
o ther world - er vi - si - tant, Vi - sion of the re - mo - te, Of a - stral realms, He in - tones of a shared de - sire, \_\_\_\_\_

Al. *mf*  
o ther world - er vi - si - tant, Vi - sion of the re - mo - te, Of a - stral realms, He in - tones of a shared de - sire,

Pno. *mf*

91

Sop. — And of mu - tual as - pir - a - tion to thrive and flour - ish, Of a ban - dy, Of a fan - cy, An

Al. And of mu - tual as - pir - a - tion to thrive and flour - ish, Of a ban - dy, Of a fan - cy, An

Pno.

97

Sop. ea - ger - ness for give and take, Pro - ffer - ing the winds of fer - ti - li - ty and a bur - geo - ning pros -

Al. ea - ger - ness for give and take, Pro - ffer - ing the winds of fer - ti - li - ty and a bur - geo - ning pros -

Pno.

102

Solo Soprano (*a younger singer can be amplified*) *mf* He says the

Sop. *f* pe - ri - ty In e - xac - tion for a por - tion of the pure and seem - ly. *mf*

Al. *f* pe - ri - ty In e - xac - tion for a por - tion of the pure and seem - ly. *mf*

Pno.



### 3. The call from beyond

for female choir and dancers, with wind & brass octet, or with piano

**Dance 3:** Polyxena is removed from the grasp of the queen. She steps forward bold and fearless. She indicates to the priests that she accepts her fate and is willing. She walks bravely to the altar.

Phaedimus

121  $\text{♩} = 76$

Sop. *f* The call from be - yond — is o - beyed, Po - ly - xe - na

Al. *f* The call from be - yond — is o - beyed, Po - ly - xe - na

Pno. *f*

130

Sop. pulled from her mo - ther's clutch. The beau-teous girl — in dis-rob ed glo-ry —

Al. pulled from her mo - ther's clutch. The beau-teous girl — in dis-rob ed glo-ry —

Pno. *L*

139

Sop. — Per - ceives — the sa - cred blade And walks brave-ly to the al - tar. —

Al. — Per - ceives — the sa - cred blade And walks brave-ly to the al - tar. —

Pno.

148

**M**  
*mf*

Solo  
Po - ly-xe - na Here... shall be no doom.

Sop.  
*mp*  
sets a fine pre - ce - dent. no doom and de - spair.

Al.  
*mp*  
sets a fine pre - ce - dent. no doom and de - spair.

Pno.  
*mp*

156

**N**

Sop.  
She shall be bold be - fore this ob - li - ga - tion, this

Al.  
She shall be bold be - fore this ob - li - ga - tion, this

Pno.

162

**N**

Sop.  
ske - wer - ing. She shall be fear - less as chan - tage for this a - ppa - ri - tion.

Al.  
ske - wer - ing. She shall be fear - less as chan - tage for this a - ppa - ri - tion.

Pno.

**O**

167

Sop. She shall be va - lour - ous when devoured by this pan-tas-m from the stars.

Al. She shall be va - lour - ous when devoured by this pan-tas-m from the stars.

Pno.

**P**

174

Sop. She shall be un - wav - er - ing be - fore the

Al. She shall be un - wav - er - ing be - fore the

Pno.

**P**

178

Sop. gusts im-pell-ing this pass - age to a mag - ni - fi - cent pro-mise.

Al. gusts im-pell-ing this pass - age to a mag - ni - fi - cent pro-mise.

Pno.

183

Solo *mf*  
The\_\_ cut, the diss-e - ver,\_\_ the\_\_

Sop. *f*  
Her\_\_cou-rage\_\_ andde-vo-tion to du - ty, Tothe cleav-ing blows,\_\_

Al. *f*  
Her\_\_cou-rage\_\_ andde-vo-tion to du - ty, Tothe cleav-ing blows,\_\_

Pno. *f* *mp*

191

Solo  
sun - der,\_\_

Sop. *f*  
Her de-fe-rence to\_\_ the ble-ssed in - cur-sion Shall in - spire, shall in - spire all her kin-dred

Al. *f*  
Her de-fe-rence to\_\_ the ble-ssed in - cur-sion Shall in - spire, shall in - spire all her kin-dred

Pno. *f*

198

Sop. *f*  
To the same path. She in - tones\_\_ the con - se - cra - ted blade be wield - ed. \_\_

Al. *f*  
To the same path. She in - tones\_\_ the con - se - cra - ted blade be wield - ed. \_\_

Pno. *f*

Q

207

Sop. — Take this re - vered ob - la - tion, — Strike and spill this ga-llant

Al. — Take this re - vered ob - la - tion, — Strike and spill this ga-llant

Pno.

216

Sop. blood! — Sheath the da - gger deep — in this

Al. blood! — Sheath the da - gger deep — in this

Pno.

221

Sop. *mf* gen - rous neck and throat. *mp* *pp*

Al. *mf* gen - rous neck and throat. *mp* *pp*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

# 4. Polyxena turns one last time

for female choir and dancers, with wind & brass octet, or with piano

**Dance 4:** Polyxena turns to her weeping mother and conveys her determination and pride. She becomes angry and contemptuous at the queen's wallowing in despair.

Phaedimus

229  $\text{♩} = 78$

Solo *mp* Do not weep for me, mo-ther.

Sop. *mp* Po-ly-xe-na turns one last time: mo-ther.

Al. *mp* Po-ly-xe-na turns one last time: mo-ther.

Pno. *p* *mp* *p*

235 **R** *mp*

Solo Your own wre-tched life de-serves tears more than this off-ring. I do not.

Sop. this off-ring.

Al. this off-ring.

Pno. *mp* *p*

241

Solo go to the sharp point a-gainst my will. I am no vic-tim. I am no

Pno.

247 *mf*

Solo

slave. I am a proud daugh-ter of man. I am of great-er va-lue than

Pno. *mf*

253

Solo

an - y of your he-roues. I was\_ born\_ and su-ckled by you for this blade. I long for this.

Pno.

**S**

259 *mf*

Sop.

What o - ther than con - tempt for your state, Tar-nished with mi-se-ry, I ab - hor this dis - dain.  
For me there is con - tent with this fate, Thrilled by the e - ffi - ca - cy, And no stooge of fair game.

Al. *mf*

What o - ther than con - tempt for your state, Tar-nished with mi-se-ry, I ab - hor this dis - dain.  
For me there is con - tent with this fate, Thrilled by the e - ffi - ca - cy, And no stooge of fair game.

**S**

Pno. *mf*

264 **T** *mp* *mp* *mp*

Sop. Yours is the cringe of the loath-some, A wa-llo-wing so shame-ful, A wa-llo-wing in self ob-  
Mine is the blade of be-ne-fac-tion, A dedi-cation so de-light-ful, A de-sti-ny of ab-ne-

Al. Yours is the cringe of the loath-some, A wa-llo-wing so shame-ful, A wa-llo-wing in self ob-  
Mine is the blade of be-ne-fac-tion, A dedi-cation so de-light-ful, A de-sti-ny of ab-ne-

Pno. **T** *mp* *mp*

269 *mp* *mf* 1.

Sop. se-ssion, Be-smirched by de-ni-gra-tion, Ob-sessed with the pe-tty.  
ga-tion, Re-vered as mighty ob-la-tion, Tri-

Al. se-ssion, Be-smirched by de-ni-gra-tion, Ob-sessed with the pe-tty.  
ga-tion, Re-vered as mighty ob-la-tion, Tri-

Pno. *mf* 1.

273 2. **U** *mp*

Solo Will you send me la-den with such de-  
Will you see the me-rit of al-tru-

Sop. um-phant in this for-tu-i-ty. de-  
tru-

Al. um-phant in this for-tu-i-ty. de-  
tru-

Pno. 2. **U** *p* *mp*

278

Solo  
 ri - sion, \_\_\_ With the me - lan - cho - lic of un - just be - li - tling? \_\_\_ You can - not \_\_\_  
 i - sm, \_\_\_ The pro - found \_\_\_ pur - pose of this thank - off - 'ring? \_\_\_ Will you see \_\_\_

Sop.  
 ri - sion, \_\_\_  
 i - sm, \_\_\_ of un - just be - li - tling? \_\_\_  
 of this thank - off - 'ring? \_\_\_

Al.  
 ri - sion, \_\_\_  
 i - sm, \_\_\_ of un - just be - li - tling? \_\_\_  
 of this thank - off - 'ring? \_\_\_

Pno.  
*p* *mp*

283

Solo  
 \_\_\_ now trade my youth - ful - ness \_\_\_ for gold. And sec - tioned, \_\_\_ de - voured?  
 \_\_\_ at last \_\_\_ af - ter I \_\_\_ am cold

Sop.

Al.

Pno.

# 5. With gladsome mind

for female choir and dancers, with wind & brass octet, or with piano

Dance 5: Polyxena is sacrificed in sacred ritual.

Phaedimus

290  $\text{♩} = 56$

Sop. *f* With glad - some mind,

Al. *f* With glad - some mind,

Pno. *f* *mf* *f*

299

Sop. With tears of good cheer The a - ssem - blageweeps withde-light at the mar-vel, Ov-er

Al. With tears of good cheer The a - ssem - blageweeps withde-light at the mar-vel, Ov-er

Pno.

310 **V**

Sop. joyed with won-der as the da - gger is raised, Im - pelled u - pon di - vine sa - cri -

Al. joyed with won-der as the da - gger is raised, Im - pelled u - pon di - vine sa - cri -

Pno. **V**

320 W

Sop. fice, E - xu - be - rant at the bent of the blade, And gasps in awe as

Al. fice, E - xu - be - rant at the bent of the blade, And gasps in awe as

Pno. *f*

331 *mp*

Sop. steel is plunged to the breast, thrust to the heart, The flesh un - re -

Al. steel is plunged to the breast, thrust to the heart, The flesh un - re -

Pno. *mp*

342 X *f*

Sop. sis - ting, — And plunged, and thrust, And gasps as a ghost par - takes u - pon the

Al. sis - ting, — And plunged, and thrust, And gasps as a ghost par - takes u - pon the

Pno. *f*

353

Sop. *mp*  
mi - ra - cle \_\_\_\_\_ of this a - llure, As the cos - mos \_\_\_\_\_ in - gests u - pon sweet

Al. *mp*  
mi - ra - cle \_\_\_\_\_ of this a - llure, As the cos - mos \_\_\_\_\_ in - gests u - pon sweet

Pno. *mp*

**Y**

363

Sop. *p*  
ra - di - ance, Gor - man - dis - es \_\_\_\_\_ on pre - tti - ness, \_\_\_\_\_ And con - sumes \_\_\_\_\_ the

Al. *p*  
ra - di - ance, Gor - man - dis - es \_\_\_\_\_ on pre - tti - ness, \_\_\_\_\_ And con - sumes \_\_\_\_\_ the

Pno. *p*

374

Sop. *f* **Z** *mf* **AA**  
blood, Feed for a car - ni - vor - ous \_\_\_\_\_ hun - ger. \_\_\_\_\_ Jaws

Al. *f* **Z** *mf* **AA**  
blood, Feed for a car - ni - vor - ous \_\_\_\_\_ hun - ger. \_\_\_\_\_ Jaws

Pno. *f* **Z** *mf* **AA**

(b) 5

384

Sop. re-lish this vic - tual, The de - light of the lips, En -

Al. re-lish this vic - tual, The de - light of the lips, En -

Pno.

393

Sop. chant - ment of the teeth, Rap - ture of the maw, Gu - zzled

Al. chant - ment of the teeth, Rap - ture of the maw, Gu - zzled

Pno.

**BB** *mp*

*f* *mf* *mp*

402

Sop. and in - gur - gi - ta - ted, the love - ly throat, E - la - tion of the

Al. and in - gur - gi - ta - ted, the love - ly throat, E - la - tion of the

Pno.

*p* *mf*

*p* *mf*

411

Sop. gu - llet, A bliss - ful be - lly,

Al. gu - llet, A bliss - ful be - lly,

Pno.

CC

417

Sop. *mp* Fa - ding mind, *p* The void \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ ob - li - vi -

Al. *mp* Fa - ding mind, *p* The void \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ ob - li - vi -

Pno.

426

Sop. on. \_\_\_\_\_ **DD** The pledge\_ is\_ hon - oured The a -

Al. on. \_\_\_\_\_ *f* The pledge\_ is\_ hon - oured The a -

Pno.

**EE**

435

Sop. vo - wal made true, The bond is re - newed. We must *mf*

Al. vo - wal made true, The bond is re - newed. We must *mf*

Pno. *mf*

**EE**

444

Sop. feed this de - light With the fer - ti - li - ty of our bed. The

Al. feed this de - light With the fer - ti - li - ty of our bed. The

Pno.

452

Sop. a - ppe - ten - cy shall be e - - ter - nal.

Al. a - ppe - ten - cy shall be e - - ter - nal.

Pno. *mf* *f*

461

Sop.

Al.

Pno.

465

Sop.

Al.

Pno.

*p* *pp*

e - - ter - nal.

*p* *pp*

e - - ter - nal.

*pp*