

Editor's Note

Jean Baptiste Lully (1632-1687) was a leading musician in France during the Baroque era and the founder of French opera. Born in Florence, Italy, Lully was taken to Paris early in his life where his musical talents were soon developed, and where he became a successful composer, dancer, and violinist. Because of his exceptional musical ability and tremendous ambition, Lully became quite powerful in the musical venues of Paris, composing music for ballets and theatrical productions as well as conducting orchestras and choral presentations. He eventually composed and conducted in the court of Louis XIV.

Lully composed a number of works for the musical theater, although he also wrote motets and secular vocal pieces. He became especially famous for his work in operas, in which he replaced the Italian recitativo secco with recitatives that had accompaniments and proper text accentuations. He also established the French overture with three contrasting slow-fast-slow movements and wrote ballets incorporating quicker dances.

"Chantons" is found in the opening portion of *Armide*, a serious opera known as a "tragédie en musique." The original French words are by his longtime collaborator, the playwright Philippe Quinault, who together with Lully invented this new form of opera, based on complicated tales from ancient or Renaissance authors and incorporating music and dancing in large scale theatrical productions. Revered in the eighteenth century as a masterpiece, *Armide* was first performed in 1686 at the Paris Opéra. This highly successful production was Lully's last tragédie en musique, for he died a year later.

"Chantons" is performed by the chorus and orchestra at the end of the prologue, as a unifying theme of praise to the hero, with the customary reference to the King and Lully's patron, Louis XIV. The sonorous chorus extoles the glory of the king with these words: "Chantons la douceur de ses loix. Chantons ses glorieux exploits." (Sing the sweetness of his laws. Sing his glorious exploits.)

This chorus was originally set for S.A.T.B. voices with an instrumental accompaniment of strings and continuo in the key of C major. This arrangement for S.S.A. voices with piano is based on the first edition published by Christophe Ballard in Paris in 1686. English words, the eight-measure introduction, optional parts for flutes and hand drum, and tempo and dynamic indications have been added to this shortened version of the original score. Although a performance of this piece would be acceptable with the accompaniment provided here, the use of additional instruments, such as strings, would also be quite effective for the enhancement or support of the vocal parts.

This work should be performed very lightly and rhythmically with an emphasis on the first beat of each measure. Additionally, performers should emphasize the normally stressed syllables of the French words, which are underlined in the following pronunciation guide.

Pronunciation Guide

Chan-tons la dou-ceur de ses loix.

ʃā-tō̃ la du-sœr də se lwa

Chan-tons ses glo-ri-eux ex-ploits.

ʃā-tō̃ se glo-ri-jø ɛks-plwa

Al-le-lu-ia!

a-lɛ-lu-ja

Please see *Alfred's IPA Made Easy* (42789) for further explanation of the International Phonetic Alphabet.

CHANTONS

(O Sing)

from *Armide*

for S.S.A. voices and piano

with optional flutes, hand drum, and PianoTrax CD*

French Words by
PHILIPPE QUINAULT (1635-1688)

Music by JEAN-BAPTISTE LULLY (1632-1687)
Edited and Arranged, with English Words, by
PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

Lightly and energetically (♩ = ca. 138-152)

PIANO

8

SOPRANO I *mf* 9

Chan - tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses
O sing! O sing out this day, lift your

SOPRANO II *mf*

Chan - tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses
O sing! O sing out this day, lift your

ALTO

*PianoTrax 7 Accompaniment CD available (43182).

Please visit alfred.com/choralparts to download free parts for 2 Flutes and Hand Drum.

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12

loix. Chan - tons! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex -
 voice! O sing! O sing we to - geth - er, re -

loix. Chan - tons! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex -
 voice! O sing! O sing we to - geth - er, re -

16

17
 ploits. Chan - tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses
 joice! O sing! O sing out this day, lift your

ploits. Chan - tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses
 joice! O sing! O sing out this day, lift your

Chan - tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses
 O sing! O sing out this day, lift your

20

loix. Chan - tons! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex -
 voice! O sing! O sing we to - geth - er, re -

loix. Chan - tons! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex -
 voice! O sing! O sing we to - geth - er, re -

loix. Chan - tons! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex -
 voice! O sing! O sing we to - geth - er, re -

24

mp 25
 ploits. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Al - le -
 joice! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing! Al - le -

mp
 ploits. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Al - le -
 joice! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing! Al - le -

mp
 ploits. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Al - le -
 joice! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing! Al - le -

mp

lu! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Al - le -
 lu! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing! Al - le -

lu! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Al - le -
 lu! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing! Al - le -

lu! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Al - le -
 lu! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing! Al - le -

33 *cresc.* Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Al - le -
 lu! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing! Al - le -

cresc. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Al - le -
 lu! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing! Al - le -

cresc. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Al - le -
 lu! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing! Al - le -

cresc. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Al - le -
 lu! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing! Al - le -

36

mp

lu! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses loix. Chan -
 lu! O sing out this day, lift your voice! O

mp

lu! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses loix. Chan -
 lu! O sing out this day, lift your voice! O

mp

lu! Chan - tons!
 lu! O sing! Chan -

mp

40

mf 41 *f*

tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses loix. Al - le -
 sing! O sing out this day, lift your voice! Al - le -

mf *f*

tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses loix. Al - le -
 sing! O sing out this day, lift your voice! Al - le -

f

tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses loix. Al - le -
 sing! O sing out this day, lift your voice! Al - le -

mf *f*

44

lu - ia! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex - ploits.
 lu - ia! O — sing we to - geth - er, re - joice!

lu - ia! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex - ploits.
 lu - ia! O — sing we to - geth - er, re - joice!

lu - ia! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex - ploits.
 lu - ia! O — sing we to - geth - er, re - joice!

The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and moving lines, and a left-hand part with a steady bass line.

48

Measures 48-51 show the vocal parts with rests, indicating a pause in the vocal line. The piano accompaniment continues with a right-hand part featuring chords and a left-hand part with a steady bass line.

52

mf

Chan -
O

mf

Chan -
O

mf

Chan -
O

mp *mf*

56

tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses loix. Chan -
sing! O sing out this day, lift your voice! O

tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses loix. Chan -
sing! O sing out this day, lift your voice! O

tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses loix. Chan -
sing! O sing out this day, lift your voice! O

60

tons! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex - ploits. Chan -
 sing! O — sing we to - geth - er, re - joice! O

tons! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex - ploits. Chan -
 sing! O — sing we to - geth - er, re - joice! O

tons! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex - ploits. Chan -
 sing! O — sing we to - geth - er, re - joice! O

mp
 mp
 mp
 mp

64

tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses loix. Chan -
 sing! O — sing out this day, lift your voice! O

tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses loix. Chan -
 sing! O — sing out this day, lift your voice! O

tons! Chan - tons la dou - ceur de ses loix. Chan -
 sing! O — sing out this day, lift your voice! O

68

tons! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex - ploits. Chan -
 sing! O — sing we to - geth - er, re - joice! O

tons! Chan - tons ses glo - ri - eux ex - ploits. Chan -
 sing! O — sing we to - geth - er, re - joice! O

tons! Chan - tons — ses glo - ri - eux ex - ploits. Chan -
 sing! O sing — we to - geth - er, re - joice! O

f

f

f

f

72

tons! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Chan - tons!
 sing! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing! O — sing!

tons! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Chan - tons!
 sing! Al - le - lu - ia! O — sing! — O sing!

tons! Al - le - lu - ia! Chan - tons! Chan - tons!
 sing! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing! — O — sing!

rit. to end *cresc.* *ff*

rit. to end *cresc.* *ff*

rit. to end *cresc.* *ff*

rit. to end *cresc.* *ff*