

ANTIGONE

by Sophocles

Translated by Leo Aylen

Musical Numbers

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## **PARODOS**

SHOUT'S OP VICTORY. TRIUMPHAL MUSIC. THE CHORUS MARCH ON TO  
WORDLESS CRIES OF JOY. MUSIC 1 A  
SYSTEM I.\_STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 2.A,

1. Hey! you light of the sun, you bright
2. Rising over our seven gates,
3. Greatest sunrise that ever shone.
4. At last golden light, day at last,
5. Peeping out with a wink, climbing
6. Up the sparkle and streams of Dirce.
7. Look, white shields — those men we faced —
8. Argive soldiers armed to the teeth,
9. Galloping, scurrying panic and flight,
10. Whipped back home by you, sunrise,

ANAPAESTS MUSIC 1.B. MARCH

1. Down on our farmland swoops Polyneices.
2. Family quarrels let loose an eagle
3. To scream and hover over our homesteads.
4. Piercing the shrieks. The talons will strike.
5. White as a glacier the eagles's armour,
6. Thousands of spearpoints,
7. Thousands of waving horsehair plumes.

SYSTEM I. ANTISTROPHE DANCE AND MUSIC 2.A.

1. Loomed above our homes with death
2. Gaping murderous monster mouth
3. Stabbing spears at our seven gates -
4. He's gone, all his gnashing of jaws
5. Couldn't champ on our blood, our flesh,
6. Couldn't throw on our crown of towers
7. Blazing pinetorch fire of God.
8. No, behind his back with a crash
9. Clattering battle that battered him back.
10. Great Thebes fought as a dragon.

ANAPAESTS. MUSIC I.B. MARCH. REPEATED.

1. God abominates big-mouthed boasting.
2. God looked down on that flooding river
3. Of soldiers marching against our city

4. Gigantic and clanging and proud as gold.
5. As they grabbed at our battlements God shot lightning
6. Down on their triumph.
7. Fire struck their victory war-dance.

SYSTEM 2. STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 2.B.

1. Crack to the hard-hitting earth he was hurled, sent flying,
2. Fire in his hand, and his mind set on fire with anger,
3. God-berserk in his rage,
4. Whirls nine winds of hate at his foes.
5. Not for him — victory.
6. All in a mess, spirits of war,
7. Confused and crashed shaking, as God's
8. Spear-arm gives a flourish.

ANAPAESTS. MUSIC I.C. MARCH

- 1, Seven champions for seven gateways,
2. Each of their champions killed by a Theban.
3. God the Disposer claims their amour.
4. Only the brothers, both demented,
5. One father, one mother, one fight to the last,
6. Two spears on guard to stab for power,
7. One death shared between them.

SYSTEM 2. ANTISTROPHE, DANCE AND MUSIC 2.B. REPEATED

1. Now she has run to us, Victory, glory-giver,
2. Shouting for joy like a chariot race round Thebe.
3. No more fighting and death.
4. Put all that time out of your mind.
5. Dance the gods, through their shrines —
6. All of the night, all of the gods —
7. Running through Thebes, spinning with joy,
8. Lead us, Dionysus.

ANAPAESTS. MUSIC I.C. MARCH

1. Here is the country's latest ruler.
2. Welcome Creon, son of Menoikeus.
3. In the present troubles that God has sent us
4. Creon comes with a plan of action.
5. Here we are, your council gathered.
6. Waiting for orders.
7. Here on time, as you summoned us.

STASIMON 1. SYSTEM 1. STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 3.A. (*cf Appendix*)

1. Miracle nature, then a man,
2. Rarest miracle nature owns.
3. Watch him crossing the sea's expanse,
4. Oceans grey with the winter wind,
5. Row, sail, on depth-tossing rollers
6. Beyond, beyond the waves. Then first

7. Of gods, and womb of gods, Earth,
8. Ageless, invincible earth he is grinding at
9. Year after year shoving plough-furrows into her
10. Horse-plod turning loam-clods over.

SYSTEM 1. ANTISTROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 3.A. REPEATED

1. Light-witted species, chirping birds,
2. The noose whirling, he runs, he traps,
3. Hunts down beasts of the woods and hills,
4. Drags sea fish in a swarming catch.
5. Those nets, that well-twisted rope-work,
6. The master-mind — a man, who rides
7. With harness well-devised, wild
8. Beasts of the mountain, obliges the mane-tossing
9. Stallion to stoop to a collar that breaks him in,
10. Yokes hill bulls' untamed endurance.

SYSTEM 2. STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 3.B.

1. And words, and the winds of a plan,
2. And codes of behaviour with rules,
3. All this he has taught to himself, with hearthstones,
4. Walls, rooves, to arch skies away
5. That threaten rain, sleet, and hail,
6. Omnisufficient. Insufficient never, caught off guard
7. No, never. Death, death alone,
8. That one never lets you go.
9. Although incurable disease
10. Has been treated.

SYSTEM 2. ANTISTROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 3.B. REPEATED

1. Some wisdom, some technical sense
2. Beyond what a man can expect —
3. Progress can be evil, but *can* be noble
4. When law's obeyed, contracts kept,
5. In awe of God's Natural Law,
6. Citizenship. Citiless away, away with you.
7. You love the wild life for kicks.
8. You shall never share my hearth,
9. Nor ever share my thoughts, my dreams.
10. 'Ware such people.

ANAPAESTS. MUSIC 4. MARCH

1. Look, a spirit, a sign, a portent.
2. What can I say? We recognise her.
3. That girl, it is ..... It is Antigone.
4. Poor girl...
5. Poor family. Oedipus, Oedipus!

6. What does this mean? Is it you who's broken
7. The king's laws? Not you, surely.
- 8, Madness. Madness. Caught in the act... ?

## STASIMON 2

### SYSTEM 1. STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 6.A.

1. So happy these people who've never tasted trouble.
2. Once your home is shaken by God you will always
3. Bear his doom like rot in your family, spreading inwards.
4. Imagine waves and tossing seas,
5. Storming blasting breaking waves,
6. North winds uprushing from bottomless dark-as-hellish depths
7. Of ocean bed pitch-black with swirling
8. Turbulence and clouds of mud
9. And cliffs, that thwacked by wind and breakers, splatter.

### SYSTEM 1. ANTISTROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 6.A, REPEATED

- 11 So Oedipus' family, all struck down we see them,
2. Broken by yet a worse and a worser destruction.
3. No reprieve. No. None. Generations have passed. Some power
4. Still hounds them, will not let them rest.
5. Now at last the final branch,
6. Final flickering glimmer to arise in all the clan,
7. Again some murderer, some hellish
8. Axe of God has chopped them down,
9. Some Fury smashed their wits and cracked their judgement.

### SYSTEM 2. STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 6B.

1. Thy might, lord, not a man alive,
- 2 No transgression, can ever touch Thee.
3. Thee sleep the subduer never dares lay hand on.
4. Thee time inexhaustible
5. Cannot subdue, years cannot mark, Almighty
6. With your grip on Heaven
7. Glinting in marble sunshine.
8. For the moment and the future,
9. *And* the past, this is thy law —
10. Not an exception ever —
11. Man's moment of life cannot escape disaster.

### SYSTEM 2. ANTISTROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 6.B. REPEATED

1. Far off course can a man be led.
2. Hope may bring you a welcome fortune;
3. Hope may be a trick, love on an empty judgement.
4. Always the unexpected.
5. "Now" is a fierce heat and a fire you're treading.
6. What about the proverb,
7. Telling, repeating, warning,
- 81 "When you treat what's good as evil,
9. Then you are a man whom God
10. Is of a mind to ruin."

11. Your moment of life will not escape disaster.

ANAPAESTS. MUSIC 7, MARCH

1. Here comes Haemon, last of your children.
2. Is it sorrow for the death of his bride Antigone?
3. Or anger at having been tricked of his marriage?

**STASIMON 3. (followed by KOMMOS)**

SYSTEM 1. STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 8.A,

1. Unconquered love, toppling estates,
2. Unconquered love, slackening armies.
3. As soft as a dream of kissing
4. The cheek of a virgin sleeping,
5. You stride across oceans or strike
6. Shepherds in small, far huts.
7. No power, even immortal, can escape you,
8. No man with his life of moments.
9. Love you can crack your mansions.

SYSTEM 1. ANTISTROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 8A. REPEATED

1. You tempt the good, baffle the wise
2. And drag the just down to injustice.
3. This quarrel of son with father
4. Is passion at war with kinship.
5. Who'll fight a clear yes in the eyes
6. Opening a girl 's soft bed?
7. Love, sex, passion, what force, depths, elementals,
8. Love, sex, what a game, what battles.
9. Love, what a god unconquered.

ANAPAESTS. MUSIC 9 A. MARCH

1. Is there anyone here who can stop himself weeping?
2. That force is cracking us all into madness.
3. Look, look, look at this: Antigone's ending —
4. Going to bed for ever.

SYSTEM 2. STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 8B.

ANTIGONE SOLO

1. Look citizens, my countrymen, my people:
2. Me on my final trip.
3. One last pause for a final gaze,
4. One last sunlight warming my eyes —
5. No more sunlight. Now for the deep
6. Sleep eternal. I'm so alive.
7. I am a dying...
8. No songs fit for a wedding.
9. No one to chant for the bride.

10. No long wedding processional.
11. Now my husband approaches ... dark, dark death.

ANAPAESTS. MUSIC 9.B. MARCH

CHORUS

1. It's a glorious end. You deserve high praise
2. As you leave for the depths of the dead, not sick
3. With a wasting disease, not scarred with wounds,
4. No, you, of yourself, alive, alone,
5. Walk down without aid to oblivion.

SYSTEM 2. ANTISTROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 8.B. REPEATED.

ANTIGONE SOLO

1. Remember the' old story of that pathetic
2. Niobe queen of Thebes.
3. Weeping high on a far—off hill.
4. Rock like ivy groped up her limbs.
5. Stony growth enshrouded her flesh.
6. Now the rainfall wears her away —
7. She is a poem —
8. And snow covers her always.
9. Her tears will never be dry
10. Her stone breasts will be always wet.
11. God is sending me likewise rock-deep sleep.

ANAPAESTS. MUSIC 9C, MARCH

CHORUS

- 1, She was immortal, the child of gods.
- 21 We are mere mortals, the children of men.
3. It's a matter for praise if a girl does die
4. Meeting the fate of a child of gods,
5. In her life and then in her ending.

SYSTEM 3. STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 8C ANTIGONE SOLO

1. No! No No laughter. In the name
2. Of God, no laughter.
3. Then, after I'm gone, insult me.
4. Leave me in peace now.
5. Hey city, hey citizens,
6. You proud people of substance.
7. Aiyoh! Cool Dirce's stream,
8. Sacred wood where chariots gallop,
9. I call, call upon you, stand by me now, and testify
10. How, without friends to mourn me, I must submit,
11. Follow the path to prison, choked
12. With stones, to my surprise a grave.
13. Aiyoh! Watch me pass, without
14. Even a place as spirit.
15. Not classified, just — alive-departed.

ANAPAESTS. MUSIC 9D MARCH

CHORUS

1. You went as far as daring dared,
2. Stumbled on the seat of Natural Law.
3. How terribly you fell, my child.
4. In expiation for your father.

SYSTEM 3. ANTISTROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 8C REPEATED

ANTIGONE SOLO

1. You've touched the most painful of all
2. My tortured memories —
3. My father and his destruction.
4. Family history.
5. All of our doom-clogged house,
6. Famous Labdacus children.
7. Aiyoh! My mother's bed,
8. Where she made love, made love, slept with
9. With *her own*... with *my* father ... Oh my doomed, doomed mother.
10. Oh what a genteel stock, what parents I had.
11. Mother, I'm home, but not as a bride.
12. I'm newly wed ... to loss of rights.
13. Aiyohl. Fear, doom, death, you brought,
14. Brother, when you were married.
15. Though you are dead, you have killed me, brother.

ANAPAESTS. MUSIC 9.D, MARCH.

CHORUS

1. We reverence those who show reverence.
2. But power, so it seems to the man in power,
3. Must never be crossed in any way.
4. Your own temper's your own destruction.
5. Self—willed entirely,

EPODE. DANCE AND MUSIC 8 D.

ANTIGONE SOLO

1. No tears, no friends, no marriage song.
2. Down I am dragged, down, down that path
3. That will wait no longer.
4. Never again the blessing of light,
5. Holy sunlight feeling my eyes.
6. None of my friends shedding a tear
7. For my despair.

EPODE. MUSIC 11. ANTIGONE SOLO.

1. Buildings and soil of Thebes,
2. Gods of my fatherland,
3. His orders are, "No more delay.
4. Drag her away."
5. Look at me, princes of Thebes.

6. I am the last of the kings.
7. Look at my sufferings.
8. Look at the man my sufferings please.
9. Reverence demands obedience, and I obeyed.

## STASIMON 5

### SYSTEM 1. STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 12.A.

1. Patient Danae waits. Heavenly sunshine
2. Darkened. Prison has shut. Bronze-fitted chains.
3. Walls, walls, There on the bedrock
4. Secret forging of links occurred. Couplings.
5. Oh There! Family honour!
6. What a thing! Child! Child!
7. She took charge of the golden ...
8. Of the seed raining from Zeus.
9. Oh how destiny takes you
10. With its awesome strength.
11. Neither by fighting nor b37 wealth,
12. Nor castles, nor black ships that pound
13. The oceans, may you flee what's fated.

### SYSTEM 1. ANTISTROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 12.A REPEATED

1. Second forging of links. Easily angry
2. King Lycurgus of Thrace. Mocking the god.
3. Struck mad by Dionysus.
4. Walled up right in a rocky, dark, blind hole.
5. Now his madness dispersed, trick-
6. -ling away his strength,
7. His fine flourishing strength. He
8. In his madness had a feel —
9. God felt back, and he crumbled,
10. And his laugh choked dead.
11. For he'd checked girls possessed by God,
12. Put out the holy Bacchic fire,
13. And angered all the dancing Muses.

### SYSTEM 2. STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 12.B.

- 1 And by the dark-coloured rocks that are dashed by the twin-channelled
- 2 Sea where Bosphorus shore and the Thracian cliffs confront
- 3 Salmydessus, the War-God was on guard
- 4 Watching the curse and the wound
- 5 Strike the two sons of Phineus.
- 6 That blinding Wifel Newly-bedded wonan!
- 7 Savage as the hollow socket holes that once were eyes,
- 8 The bloodstained blind revenge in darkness.
- 9 Hands feel for blood. Blood in on the needle.

### SYSTEM 2. ANTISTROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 12.B REPEATED

1. Nothing but melting in tears and a sob for the death-sob.
2. Cry, Birth *not* to be born, and a marriage *not* a marriage.
3. Though she boasted a lone, family tree,
4. Athenian royal descent,
5. Far from her home, in stone caves

6. She learns the snow-clouds her father handled,
7. Gallops up the wind and hurtles down the crags, a storm,
8. A storm-god's child. At last however.
9. Th'abiding Fate ends her story, Child! Child!

### **STASIMON 5**

#### **SYSTEM 1. STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 13 A.**

1. Many names we may call thee, joy of Theban mother,
2. Born to Zeus, our thundering lord.
3. Thou watehest over Italy,
4. Reignest as people gather,
5. Crowds throng round the mysteries where
6. Our Great Mother greets all, lord god
7. Bankeus, dweller in Thebes that breeds
8. Bacchants by the Ismenus'
9. Deep, cool water, by the soil
10. Once sown with teeth of dragons.

#### **SYSTEM 1. ANTISTROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 13 A REPEATED.**

1. Up and over the twin-peaked mountain — flames and torches,
2. Nymphs and Bacchants dancing up wild
3. Parnassus past Corycian cave,
4. Past the Castalian fountain.
5. Over Nyse's ridges appear,
6. Hills twined with ivy and shore pale green
7. Sprouting clusters of vines, where thou
8. Risest, leading immortal
9. Mysterious ecstatic cries,
10. And dancing, down our by-ways.

#### **SYSTEM 2. STROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 13.B.**

1. This land, where God struck down
2. Thy mother, hurling his black
3. Thunder blast, you prize the most.
4. So now, while the whole city is gripped
5. By this raging, pitiless disease,
6. Descend with cleansing dance from Parnassus, descend the slopes, or roll
7. Crash on our shores like breakers.

#### **SYSTEM 2. ANTISTROPHE. DANCE AND MUSIC 13.B. REPEATED.**

1. **Aiyoh! Dance-leader fire**
2. That stars breathe out in a night
3. Dense with song which Thou must lead.
4. Child of Zeus, appear, come to us Lord.
5. Come king, come with your ecstatic nymphs,
6. Who through the darkness, crazy with joy, dance and dance and all night dance,
7. Praising our lord, lankos.