

SESSION 4

Opera Synopsis:

Samson, leader of the captive Israelites in Gaza, arouses his people to active resistance against the Philistines. Dalila, young priestess of Dagon, promises the High Priest to find the secret of Samson's strength and render him helpless. Samson cannot resist her; he reveals to her his secret: his long hair. Dalila cuts his hair; he loses his power and is taken prisoner by the Philistines. Blinded, he is forced to entertain the triumphant enemy. At the height of their ceremony, he gathers all his strength and wrecks the temple, burying himself together with the Philistines.

YouTube Videos:

1.) Samson et Dalila by Camille Saint-Saens

Music AT RJU

Note: This full conventional production staged in 2022 by Bob Jones University, used professional singers in the principal roles. It is the only full production currently available with English subtitles.

2.) Samson et Dalila Choregies, 2021, R. Alagna et M.N. Lemieux

Note: This production is only in French and presented outside by the Opera de Monte Carlo.

3.) Camille Saint Saens Samson & Dalila Bertini Domingo Borodina Lefont

Note: French only and this is a contemporary staging produced by La Scala in Milan

Terminology:

Grand Opera

Oratorio

Mezzo soprano

Basse Noble

Tenor Heroique

Chromaticism