

The Flight of Icarus

Cast:
Hesiod
Euphemia
Daedalus
King Minos
Servant
Ariadne
Icarus
Poseidon
Theseus
Minotaur
Chorus Members

PLAY TRACK 1 (Preshow Music)

PLAY TRACK 2 (Entrance Music)

(ALL enter to music)

Cast stands in a large semi circle. Hesiod and Euphemia continue walking into the center of the circle carrying a large book)

HESIOD:

I am Hesiod the Greek, a simple farmer and keeper of the great myths of our people.

EUPHEMIA:

And I am Euphemia, wife to Hesiod and the teller of many ancient tales.

ALL CHORUS:

Mighty Zeus, be praised!

HESIOD:

They are the chorus, who will help this tale unfold.

EUPHEMIA:

for it is a tale of great sorrow –

CHORUS GROUP 1:

A tragedy in honor of Dionysius,

CHORUS GROUP 2:
god of ecstatic joy and savage brutality.

HESIOD:
And yet also a tale celebrating the heights of genius to which Man can
soar!

CHORUS GROUP 3:
A comedy befitting bright Apollo,

CHORUS GROUP 4:
God of truth and beauty

EUPHEMIA:
(Walk toward podium with Hesiod)
And thus it was, a very long time ago, there lived a King who ruled the
island of Crete.

PLAY TRACK 3 (King's Royal Music)

(All chorus members kneel and King Minos takes center stage)

HESIOD:
The King's name was Minos, and he was a very proud King.

(The King poses and the chorus make the sea)

EUPHEMIA:
One day he prayed to the god Poseidon, ruler of the sea, asking him for a
favor.

KING MINOS:
O Poseidon, let the people of Crete dominate the seas of the world!
Hear me, and I shall make a great sacrifice in your honor!

PLAY TRACK 4 (Thunder and Lightning crash)

HESIOD:

(Servant enters with a small statue of a bull to present to the King and backs away from him still bowing)

Poseidon agreed and sent King Minos a bull for the sacrifice.

SERVANT:

(Whispering to audience)

But Minos thought the bull so beautiful, he refused to kill it.

POSEIDON:

This mortal dares to keep what belongs to a god!

(Poseidon strikes the air with his trident)

PLAY TRACK 4 (Thunder and Lightning crash)

HALF OF THE CHORUS:

(Half of Chorus walks away from Poseidon back to their semi-circle)

Poseidon became very angry

OTHER HALF OF THE CHORUS

(Other Half walks away from Poseidon back to their semi-circle)

and he vowed to punish the arrogant King –

ALL:

By turning his next born son into a Minotaur

PLAY TRACK 5 (Minotaur Entrance music)

(Minotaur enters and freezes.)

EUPHEMIA:

A hideous beast that was half man and half raging bull!

(Minotaur runs to one side and they scream – runs to other side and they scream – then comes to the center and kneels at father's feet. King Minos raises his sword over the Minotaur)

HESIOD:

At first the King planned to kill this pathetic creature.

KING MINOS:

Mighty Zeus, your brother Poseidon has put a terrible curse on my family.
(lowers sword) But this creature is my blood and I shall not kill him.

EUPHEMIA:

Minos spared the Minotaur and ordered a special home built for the beast.

(Daedalus enters to center)

DEADALUS:

He called to the palace a great architect. Me! My name is Daedalus.

(Daedalus holds a scroll and he and King Minos meet. Chorus begin to create the labyrinth.)

HESIOD:

And Daedalus built the Labyrinth, a maze of twisting,

CHORUS:

Twisting

HESIOD:

Turning

CHORUS:

Turning

HESIOD:

Hallways from which there was no escape!

ALL CHORUS:

No escape!

MINOTAUR:

Am I to be confined like a monster?

ALL CHORUS:

Yes! Monster!

MINOTAUR:

(Growls loudly) Aaarruugggghhhh!

KING MINOS:

If Poseidon wants a sacrifice then every year seven young men and seven young maidens will be taken from the neighboring kingdoms. I will have my revenge! They will enter the Labyrinth and face the Minotaur!

CHORUS:

Minotaur!

MINOTAUR:

(Growls loudly) Aaarruugggghhhh!

ALL CHORUS:

And meet their final doom!

KING MINOS:

(Laughs evilly)

(Theseus and Ariadne enter from opposite sides of the stage or from the audience)

EUPHEMIA:

When it was time for the sacrifice, a young man from Athens volunteered to enter the Labyrinth and face the Minotaur.

ALL CHORUS:

His name was Theseus, cousin to Hercules.

THESEUS:

I come to Crete as a conqueror. I will slay the Minotaur and free our people of this curse!

EUPEHMIA:

Ariadne, daughter of King Minos, saw fair Theseus and fell in love with him!

PLAY TRACK 6 (Love Theme)

ARIADNE:

Theseus must not die!

I will seek out Daedalus and beg for his help!

(She runs toward Daedalus)

You built the labyrinth. Surely there must be a way to escape!

(Daedalus hands her a ball of twine)

DAEDELUS:

Take this ball of twine and give it to Theseus. Tell him to fasten it to the inside of the door and unwind it as he walks through the Labyrinth. This way he can retrace his steps and find the way out.

EUPHEMIA:

Theseus entered the Labyrinth, trailing the twine behind him as he crept through the maze.

ALL CHORUS:

Finally, he came upon the Minotaur and surprised him!

(take three steps then turn facing the center)

PLAY TRACK 7 (Fight between Theseus and the Minotaur)

ALL CHORUS:

(Cheer) The Minotaur is dead! Theseus has won! The Minotaur is dead!
Theseus has won!

(All leave except of Theseus who stays stage center)

THESEUS:

Thanks be to the goddess Pallas Athena, daughter of Zeus and protector of Athens!

HESIOD:

But our tale does not end here. For King Minos, still had a thirst for vengeance!

(Daedalus and King Minos meet in the center)

KING MINOS:

(evil laugh)

You are a clever man, Daedalus. But since you helped Theseus you shall now spend the rest of your life in the Labyrinth! And you shall not have a ball of twine to help you escape!

(with a pair of scissors he cuts the twine into little pieces)

ALL CHORUS:

Imprisoned with Daedalus was his son Icarus.

ICARUS:

Father, it is hopeless! We are doomed to rot and die in this Labyrinth!

DAEDALUS:

You are correct, my son. We will never walk out of here. But what prevents us from flying?

(Daedalus points skywards. He and Icarus laugh.)

CHORUS GROUP 1:

The Labyrinth had high walls but the top was not sealed.

(Icarus and Daedalus look up and point to the sky)

CHORUS GROUP 2:

Daedalus designed wings for himself and his son.

(Icarus and Daedalus start gathering the twine from the floor)

CHORUS GROUP 3:

Daedalus worked hard, sewing each feather with string.

CHORUS GROUP 4

He held the wings together with wax.

(Chorus presents two sets of wings which they fit upon each other's shoulders.)

ICARUS:

You are truly a genius father! With these wings we will sail through the sky like birds!

HESIOD AND EUPHEMIA:

But Daedalus had a warning for his son.

HALF CHORUS:

(half of chorus form water)

Tomorrow, do not fly too close to the water,

DAEDALUS:

Or the dampness will make your wings heavy.

HALF CHORUS:

(half of chorus form the clouds, sun, and sky)

And do not fly too close to the sun,

DAEDALUS:

Or the heat will melt your wings. Make sure to follow me, and everything
will be fine.

HESIOD:

The next morning, Daedalus flew a safe path between the sea and the sun.

EUPHEMIA:

Icarus was following his father but flew --

ALL CHORUS:

-- Higher and higher and higher.

ICARUS:

Look how high I can fly!

PLAY TRACK 8 (I Believe I can Fly)

HESIOD:

He didn't notice that the sun was melting the wax on his wings.

DAEDALUS:

Icarus, where are you going!

EUPHEMIA:

But Icarus was too high to hear him. He flew --

ALL CHORUS:
--Higher, and higher, and higher.

DAEDALUS:
Icarus, my son! Your wings! They're melting!

ICARUS:
Oh, no! Help! I'm falling! Falling!

ALL:
Icarus!!!!!!
Icarus fell into the sea,
and the waters of Poseidon closed above him.

EUPHEMIA:
Though Daedalus freed his son from the labyrinth, he could not free him
from his recklessness.

HESIOD:
Daedalus arrived safe in Sicily, where he built a temple to Apollo, and
hung up his wings as an offering to the god.
And due to Icarus' bold folly we have his story to tell today.

ALL CHORUS:
The flight of Icarus

PLAY TRACK 9 (Bows and Exit)