

Performance Note

The role of Arion is written for countertenor, and if at all possible, that is how it should be performed. Where no countertenor is available, the role may be sung by contralto or baritone soloist.

Pronunciation Guide

The sequence of vowels sung by the children's chorus (representing the dolphins) is to be pronounced as in sung Italian, i.e., pure vowels, not diphthongs.

Rough English equivalents would be:

A = ah

E = eh

I = ee

O = oh

U = oo

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Duration: 25 mins approx

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1. Arion Triumphant

Listen!
Arion!
Look!
Arion!
Look!

Arion, Arion, a famous musician,
Wins the Sicilian singing competition.

Listen! Arion! Listen! Arion!

Arion sang
And
Around the Arena a silence fell
Arion sang
As pure as a sacred, silver bell

Arion sang
And
The pious danced,
The carefree wept,
The mourners smiled
The squalling baby shushed and slept,
Beguiled.

Arion sang
And
Nature stopped,
Heaven stooped,
Kneeled
To catch each word.
In Hell each demon blushed and reeled
At what it heard.
Arion sang
And
Around the Arena a roaring rang
As one they roar and as one they rise,
Roaring – ‘Arion’s the winner! Give Arion the prize’

And the prize money falls on Arion’s head,
Like golden-haired comets, in glittering showers
And hoisted on shoulders and crowned with flowers,
He’s down to the harbour in victory led.

Arion, Arion heads down to the bay
To charter a ship to take him away;
But the sailors he picks are a murderous lot
Who are greedy for gold and the prize that he got.

ARION AND THE DOLPHIN

1. Arion Triumphant

Alasdair Middleton

Jonathan Dove

Lively ♩ = 96

The score is in 2/2 time and consists of several systems. The first system is a piano introduction with a treble clef staff marked *8va* and a bass clef staff. Dynamics include *pp*, *mf*, and *pp*. The second system features the Soprano (S.) and Alto (A.) vocal parts. The Soprano part begins at measure 9 with a first ending bracket. The Alto part has lyrics: "Lis-ten! A-". The piano accompaniment continues with a *p* dynamic. The third system includes Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), and Bass (B.) parts. The Soprano part has lyrics: "Look! A-ri-on!". The Alto part has lyrics: "-ri-on!_". The Bass part has lyrics: "Lis-ten! A-ri-on!". The piano accompaniment continues. The fourth system features the Tenor (T.) part with lyrics: "Look! A-ri-on!". The piano accompaniment concludes with a *pp* dynamic.

23 *f* **2**

S. Look! *f* A - ri - on, A - ri - on, a

A. Look! *f* A - ri - on, A - ri - on, a

T. Look! *f* A - ri - on, A - ri - on, a

B. Look! *f* A - ri - on, A - ri - on, a

28

S. fa-mous mu-si-cian, Wins the Si-ci - lian sing-ing com-pe-ti-tion.

A. fa-mous mu-si-cian, Wins the Si-ci - lian sing-ing com-pe-ti-tion.

T. fa-mous mu-si-cian, Wins the Si-ci - lian sing-ing com-pe-ti-tion.

B. fa-mous mu-si-cian, Wins the Si-ci - lian sing-ing com-pe-ti-tion.

mf

5. Safe and Sound

Flowing ♩ = 88 *mp*

S. To

A. *mp legato*
In the gold af-ter-noon _____ we went down_ to the har- bour,

p

4 *legato con ped.*
S. watch all the fish-er-men sell-ing their ware, _____

B. *mp*
As we

6 *legato*
T. *mp*
We

B. looked out to sea _____ out to - wards _____ the ho - ri - zon

8
T. saw some-thing shim-mer-ing, glim-mer-ing there. _____

6. The Death of the Dolphin

Slow ♩ = 72
ff

S.
A - ri - on's safe - all dan - ger past. But oh! the dol - phin breathes its last.

A.
A - ri - on's safe - all dan - ger past. But oh! the dol - phin breathes its last.

T.
A - ri - on's safe - all dan - ger past. But oh! the dol - phin breathes its last.

B.
A - ri - on's safe - all dan - ger past. But oh! the dol - phin breathes its last.

50

5 **Slower** ♩ = 63

Ar.
Oh dy - ing dol - phin, white and brave Who bore me safe a - cross the waves,

7
Ar.
You danced a - cross the sea to death, And saved my life with your last breath.