



Listening Guide

Handel: *Molto voglio, molto spero* (I have great desires and great hopes),
Armida's aria from *Rinaldo*, Act I

DATE OF WORK: 1711; rev. 1731

GENRE: Italian opera seria

BASIS: Libretto adapted from *Gerusalemme liberata*, by Torquato Tasso

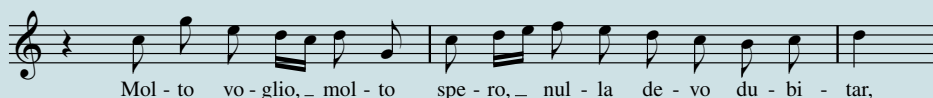
FORM: Da capo aria (**A-B-A'**)

CHARACTERS: Goffredo, Captain of the Christian armies (castrato role)
 Rinaldo, Christian knight (castrato role)
 Almirena, daughter of Goffredo, betrothed to Rinaldo (soprano)
 Armida, Sorceress and Queen of Damascus (soprano)
 Eustazio, Goffredo's brother (castrato role)

WHAT TO LISTEN FOR: Oboe/bassoon duet in ritornello; presents opening vocal theme.
 Dramatic, forceful quality and strong dotted rhythms, depicting dangerous character (Armida).
 Text repetition for emphasis.
 Mostly syllabic singing style, contrasted by several long melismas.
 Clear 3-part da capo structure (**A-B-A'**), sections separated by orchestral ritornelli.
 Vocal and instrumental elaborations on repeat of **A** (da capo).

| SECTION | TEXT | TRANSLATION |
|----------|--|---|
| A | Orchestral ritornello Molto voglio, molto spero, nulla devo dubitar. (repeated text) Orchestral ritornello | I have great desires and great hopes, I must doubt nothing. |
| B | Di mia forza all'alto impero Saprò il mondo assoggettar. | With the strength of my imperil power, I will conquer the world. |
| A | Orchestral ritornello Molto voglio . . . Closing ritornello | |

Opening of **A** section, with voice in marked, syllabic style:



Rising melismatic line on “assoggettar” (conquer), in **B** section:

