

Synopsis of King Arthur

Adapted from the semi-opera of the same name, *King Arthur* is a two-act play with music by Henry Purcell and a libretto by John Dryden. The plot of *King Arthur* is based on the battles King Arthur's Britons and the Saxons, and centres on Arthur's rescue of his queen, Emmeline, who has been abducted by Saxons Oswald's the evil spirit, Philadell. The story begins with King Arthur securing his kingdom in the decisive battle against the Saxons led by Oswald, who has set out to win not only his throne but his love, Emmeline, daughter of Conon, Duke of Cornwall. Notwithstanding Arthur successfully defeats Oswald and wins Emmeline's heart, Oswald's evil spirit Philadell escapes in the battle and later takes revenge against Arthur by abducting Emmeline. Chasing after Philidel to the enchanted wood, Arthur almost falls prey to Philadell's magic and goes astray in the deep wood. Upon his success to find the way back, Arthur is then trapped in the frost spell cast by Philadell. With the help of Genius and Cupid, the hard frost ultimately melts. Arthur defeats Philadell with his men in a duel and is reunited with Emmeline. The work eventually ends celebration of their triumph

《亞瑟王》故事大綱

改編自約翰‧德萊頓的同名作品,《亞瑟王》是浦賽爾的半歌劇,全劇兩幕,劇本由詩人約翰‧德萊頓所寫;故事環繞亞瑟王的不列顛王國與薩克森人之間的戰爭,主線在於亞瑟王追尋被薩克森王及妖精費里德爾擄走的亞瑟王后艾梅琳。故事開始薩克森王歐斯瓦領軍的軍隊與亞瑟王進行決定性的戰役,歐斯瓦王除了希望贏得王權外,還希望奪得亞瑟王的愛人--康沃爾公爵康儂的女兒艾梅琳公主。雖然亞瑟王在戰事中勝出,並贏得艾梅琳的芳心,但歐斯瓦王的妖精費里德爾在戰爭中逃了出來,還把艾梅琳擄走,要向亞瑟王報復。亞瑟王追捕費里德爾,走到一個魔法森林,險些被魔法擊倒,在森林中迷路。走出森林後,亞瑟王又中了費里德爾的寒冰咒語,幸好得到精靈和愛神的協助,寒冰溶化了,亞瑟王的軍隊打敗了費里德爾。艾梅琳終於可以和亞瑟王在一起,慶祝勝利。