

# Samson et Dalila

By Camille Saint-Saens

Libretto by Ferdinand Lemaire



# Cast

- **Dalila**
  - Priestess of Dagon
  - Mezzo Soprano—Elina Garanca
- **Samson**
  - Leader of the Hebrews
  - Tenor—Roberto Alagna
- **High Priest of Dagon**
  - Baritone—Laurent Nouri
- **Abimelech**, Satrap (Provincial Governor) of Gaza
  - Bass—Dmitry Belosselskiy

# Performance Notes

- 11 operatic treatments of this story before Saint-Saens
- Including one by Rameau with a libretto by Voltaire
- The librettist, Ferdinand Lemaire, was Saint-Saens' cousin

# Performance Notes, continued

- First performed at Weimar (in German) in 1877 thanks to the support of Franz Liszt
- Finally performed at the Paris Opera in 1892
  - 500 performances over the next 30 years
- No operatic production in England until 1909
- Entered the repertoire at the Met in 1915, starring Enrico Caruso

# Aria Highlights

- Act I

- Arretez ô mes frères

Placido Domingo at the San Francisco Opera 1981

DVD: Chapter 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNGdlabqpYs>

Placido Domingo









# La Scala 2002

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGLZZz61aOM>

5.00-6:30

# Le Printemps qui Commence

- End Act I
- Maria Callas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvBOaaFGtwU>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WowAzVshlgU>

# Amour! Viens Aider Ma Faiblesse

- Act II
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwxKeLnp56Q>
- Anita Rachvelishvili in concert. Published 2017

# Mon Coeur S'ouvre à ta Voix

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxY3gYX6mVs>
- Elina Garanca—opening night at the Met 2018
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3so7ElhJxA>
- Elina Garanca and Roberto Alagna, Vienna, May, 2018

# Act III—Vois ma misère, hélas!

- DVD Chapter 26
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzS0iHso4zs>
- Roberto Alagna in rehearsal in Paris 2018

# Bacchanale

- DVD 29
- San Diego Opera 2013—suggestive movements, decorous clothes, Samson mocked at frantic end  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBRGUmmEfk&t=16s>
- Roberto Alagna—May 2018—Vienna
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7Ef1sDqj\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7Ef1sDqj_I)

# Bringing Down the Temple

- DVD Chapter 31
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOqTx4\\_3xv4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOqTx4_3xv4)
- 1998 Palacio de Bellas Artes

Placido Domingo and Barbara Dever

# Backstage in San Diego

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2x1y\\_iLqOE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2x1y_iLqOE)