

TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Aria: “Ombra mai fu” from Serse, HWV 40 (1738)

SERSE

Ombra mai fu
di vegetabile
cara ed amabile
soave più.

SERSE

There never was a shade
of any verdure
dearer and lovelier
nor more sweet.

Duetto: “Son nata a lagrimar” from Giulio Cesare, HWV 17 (1724)

CORNELIA

Son nata a lagrimar,

CORNELIA

I was born to weep,

SESTO

Son nato a sospirar,

SESTO

I was born to sigh,

CORNELIA & SESTO

e il dolce mio Conforto,
ah, sempre piangerò.
Se il fato ci tradì
sereno e lieto di
mai più sperar potrò.

CORNELIA & SESTO

And I will ever mourn
for my sweet comfort.
If fate betrays us,
no more can I hope
for days of tranquility
and happiness

Translation by Veronika Muggeridge