

JEANNE D'ARC AU BUCHER

Music by Arthur Honegger

Libretto by Paul Claudel

First Performance: Basel, May 12, 1938

The most nearly intelligible description, according to Charles O'Connell in a Philadelphia Orchestra program booklet, was by Roger Secretain in Brussels in 1946.

As abridged: Various representations of Jeanne's own life can be observed, as through her own eyes. Past and present are not differentiated. Jeanne exists at one and the same time in different parts of the world; she is in control of time and space. She sees the people disguised as beasts; there are strange kings, queens, and knaves. She herself is the pawn. She hears the voices of saints and giants; recalls her childhood in Lorraine when she hears the May Day song "Trimazo"; and ends her spiritual conflict in the flames.