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George Frideric Handel: Acis and Galatea

George Frideric Handel, born on 23 February 1685 in the city of Halle in Saxony, has gone down in musical history as a composer of operas and oratorios. Of his more than 50 operatic works, many are still part of the repertoire of opera companies all over the world. One of his less serious stage works is the pastoral opera **"Acis and Galatea"**, a classical piece based on the Roman poet Ovid. Acis the shepherd loves Galatea the nymph, but he has a rival, the one-eyed cyclops Polyphemus. Acis loses a duel with Polyphemus and dies. But Galatea's love makes Acis immortal and transforms him into an everlasting spring of water. The work underwent many alterations, some by Handel himself. Even Mozart, who published a number of Handel's works, re-orchestrated and enlarged the piece.