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& \text { Orffeus, } \\
& \text { with his lute }
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Genge R. Anactarren (1813-1887)

## Ordheus, witf his lute

G. A. Macfarren



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Novello, Ewer, \& Co.
(1880)

Sir George Alexander Macfarren (1813-1887) was born in London. From early youth, he suffered from poor health and weak eyesight. His eyesight continually deteriorated until he became totally blind in 1860 . However, his blindness had little effect on his productivity. Macfarren began to study music when he was fourteen and, at sixteen, entered the Royal Academy of Music. Because of his eyesight, he abandoned performance and concentrated on composition. He later taught at the Academy, eventually becoming a principal. He was also appointed professor of music at Cambridge University in 1875. He was conductor at Covent Garden, London; founder the Handel Society; program note writer for the Philharmonic Society; and editor of Handel and Purcell. He wrote 18 operas, 13 oratorios and cantatas, 9 symphonies, and 162 songs. He was active as writer of part-songs, literature for the many amateur choirs appearing throughout the country. He was knighted in 1883 on the same day as Arthur Sullivan and George Grove. His brother Walter Macfarren (1826-1905) was a pianist, composer and professor of the Royal Academy.

Orpheus, with his lute, made trees And the mountain tops that freeze Bow themselves, when he did sing; To his music plants and flowers Ever sprung, as sun and showers There had made a lasting spring; Every thing that heard him play, Even the billows of the sea, Hung their heads and then lay by. In sweet music is such art, Killing care and grief of heart. Fall asleep, or, hearing, die.

King Henry VIII
Act 3, Scene 1
William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

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