

Female Soprano Roles in Handel's 39 Operas

compiled by Jennifer Peterson, [operamission](#)

a recommended online source for [plot synopses](#)

Key

Character

Singer who originated role

of Arias/Ariosos/Duets/Accompagnati

Opera, HWV (Händel-Werke-Verzeichnis)

Almira, HWV 1 (1705)

Almira

unknown

8/1/1/2

Edilia

unknown

4/1/1/0

Bellante

unknown

2/2/1/1

NOTE: libretto in both German and Italian

Rodrigo, HWV 5 (1707)

Esilena

Anna Maria Cecchi Torri, "La Beccarina"

7/1/1/1

Florinda

Aurelia Marcello

5/1/0/0

Agrippina, HWV 6 (1709)

Agrippina

Margherita Durastanti

8/0/0 (short quartet)/0

Poppea

Diamante Maria Scarabelli

9/0/0 (short trio)/0

Rinaldo, HWV 7 (1711)

Armida

Elisabetta Pilotti-Schiavonetti, "Pilotti"

3/1/2/1

Almirena

Isabella Girardeau

3/1/1/0

Il Pastor Fido, HWV 8 (1712)

Amarilli

Elisabetta Pilotti-Schiavonetti, "Pilotti"

3/0/1/1

Eurilla

Francesca Margherita de l'Épine, "La Margherita"

4/1/0/0

Teseo, HWV 9 (1712)

Agilea

Francesca Margherita de l'Épine, "La Margherita"
7/0/1/0

Medea – Elisabetta Pilotti-Schiavonetti, "Pilotti"

5/1/1/2

Clizia – Maria Gallia

2/0/2/0

Silla, HWV 10 (?1713)

Metella

unknown
4/0/0/0

Flavia

unknown
3/0/2/0

Celia

unknown
2/0/0/0

Amadigi di Gaula, HWV 11 (1715)

Oriana

Anastasia Robinson
6/0/1/0

Melissa

Elisabetta Pilotti-Schiavonetti, "Pilotti"
5/1/1/0

Radamisto, HWV 12 (1720)

Polissena

Ann Turner Robinson
4/1/0/0

Muzio Scevola, HWV 13 (1721)

Clelia

Margherita Durastanti
2/0/1/1

Fidalma

Maddalena Salvai
1/0/0/0

Floridante, HWV 14 (1721)

Rossane

Maddalena Salvai
5/1/1/0

Ottone, HWV 15 (1722)

Teofane

Francesca Cuzzoni
6/0/1/1

Gismonda

Margherita Durastanti
4/1/1/0

Flavio, HWV 16 (1723)

Emilia

Francesca Cuzzoni
5/0/1/1

Giulio Cesare, HWV 17 (1724)

Cleopatra

Francesca Cuzzoni
8/0/1/2

Tamerlano, HWV 18 (1724)

Asteria

Francesca Cuzzoni
6/1/1 (+ trio)/2

Rodelinda, HWV 19 (1725)

Rodelinda

Francesca Cuzzoni
7/1/1/1

Scipione, HWV 20 (1726)

Berenice

Francesca Cuzzoni
6/2/1/2

Armira

Livia Costantini, "La Polacchina"
2/0/0/0

Alessandro, HWV 21 (1726)

Rossane

Faustina Bordoni
6/2/2/4

Lisaura

Francesca Cuzzoni
6/2/2/2

Admeto, HWV 22 (1726)

Alceste

Faustina Bordoni
6/1/0/0

Antigona

Francesca Cuzzoni
7/0/1/1

Riccardo Primo, HWV 23 (1727)

Costanza

Francesca Cuzzoni
7/2/1/2

Pulcheria

Faustina Bordoni
7/0/0/1

Siroe, HWV 24 (1728)

Emira

Faustina Bordoni
6/0/0/0

Laodice

Francesca Cuzzoni
6/0/0/0

Tolomeo, HWV 25 (1728)

Seleuce

Francesca Cuzzoni
5/1/2 (Act II arioso turns into an "echo scene" with Tolomeo)/0

Elisa

Faustina Bordoni
6/1/0/0

Lotario, HWV 26 (1729)

Adelaide

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
5/0/1/2

Partenope, HWV 27 (1730)

Partenope

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
7/1/0 (trio, quartet)/0

Porò, HWV 28 (1731)

Cleofide

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
4/1/3/0

Ezio, HWV 29 (1732)

Fulvia

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
5/0/0/2

Sosarme, HWV 30 (1732)

Elmira

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
4/1/2/0

Orlando, HWV 31 (1732)

Angelica

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
5/0/2 (+ trio)/0

Dorinda

Celeste Gismondi
4/1/1 (+ trio)/1

Arianna in Creta, HWV 32 (1733)

Arianna

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
5/0/2/0

Ariodante, HWV 33 (1734)

Ginevra

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
5/3/3/1

Alcina, HWV 34 (1735)

Alcina

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
6/0/0 (trio)/1

Morgana

Cecilia Young
4/0/0/0

Atalanta, HWV 35 (1736)

Atalanta

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
4/2/2/0

Arminio, HWV 36 (1736)

Tusnelda

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
5/2/3/0

Giustino, HWV 37 (1736)

Arianna

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
5/1 (echo scene)/1/0

La Fortuna

William Savage
0/1/0/1

Berenice, HWV 38 (1736-'37)

Berenice

Anna Maria Strada del Pò
6/0/2/0

Faramondo, HWV 39 (1737)

Clotilde

Elisabeth Duparc, "La Francesina"
4/0/1/0

Seise, HWV 40 (1737-'38)

Romilda

Elisabeth Duparc, "La Francesina"
4/4/2/1

Atalanta

Margherita Chimenti, "La Droghierina"
2/4/0/0

Imeneo, HWV 41 (1738-'40)

Rosmene

Elisabeth Duparc, "La Francesina"
4/2/1 (+ trio)/1

Clomiri

Miss Edwards
3/0/0/0

Deidamia, HWV 42 (1740)

Deidamia

Elisabeth Duparc, "La Francesina"
6/1/1/0

Nerea

Maria Monza
6/0/0/0

Anna Maria Strada del Pò created thirteen roles.

Francesca Cuzzoni created eleven roles.

Faustina Bordoni created five roles.

Elisabeth Duparc, "La Francesina" and **Elisabetta Pilotti-Schiavonetti**, "Pilotti" each created four roles.

Margherita Durastanti created three roles.

Francesca Margherita de l'Épine, "La Margherita" and **Maddalena Salvai** each created two roles.

Anna Maria Cecchi Torri, "La Beccarina," **Margherita Chimenti**, "La Droghierina," **Miss Edwards**, **Maria Gallia**, **Isabella Girardeau**, **Celeste Gismondi**, **Aurelia Marcello**, **Maria Monza**, **Livia Costantini**, "La Polacchina", **Anastasia Robinson**, **Ann Turner Robinson**, **Diamante Maria Scarabelli**, and **Cecilia Young** each created one role.