



BURNING OF ROME

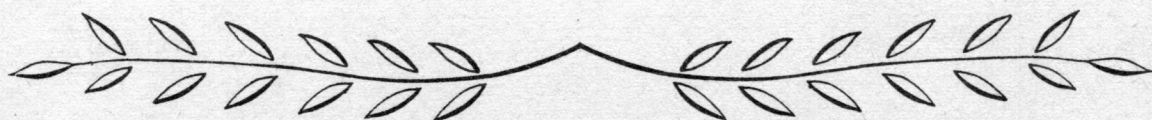
Rome is ablaze! The horror of the inferno is beyond belief. Thousands of homeless people pour through the flaming streets, while buildings crash about them.

From the balcony of his palace the pyromaniac Nero looks down on this scene of destruction, agony and death. At last he has a theme worthy of his poetical gifts. Seizing his lyre he screams forth his maniacal verses.

Soon the innocent Christians will pay the penalty of his criminal act. All these elements find expression in the music—the appalling disaster, the human terror, the suffering of Nero's victims.

The theme is based on a melody now incorporated in the Roman Gradual with the title "Omnes Sitientes" (All ye that thirst). It is one of the heterogeneous elements assembled from Greek, Hebrew and other sources by Ambrose of Milan into the first body of Christian Ecclesiastical music which was finally organized by Gregory the Great who gave his name to the Gregorian Chant.





THE BURNING OF ROME

Words by
HUGH GRAY

Music by
MIKLOS ROZSA
Based on the Gregorian
"Omnes sitientes"

Moderato

Lyre
or
Harp

Si - lence ye Spheres! Be still, ye hur- tling stars! O - pen wide, vault-ed skies a -

bove me! Now at last, lo, I see O - lym - pus, and a

light from its sum-mit doth il - lu-mine me, I am one with the Gods, Im -

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mor - tal! I am Ne - ro the art - ist who cre - ates with fire, that the

dreams of my life may come true, To the flames now I give the

past, to the flames and so: _____

rit

ff Take now this Rome, — O re - ceive her now ye flames, —

re - ceive her — as would a bride - groom. — *p* A

bride - groom — whose love con - sum - eth! — *mf* O, Roy - al

Rome! Thy bride - groom comes to Thee! This night shalt Thou feel —

— his burn - ing warmth up - on Thy mar - ble bo - som, — so

f take now this Rome! — O re - ceive her now ye flames! —

Con - sume her — as would a fur - nace — burn

on, — O an - cient Rome — Burn on! — Burn

on — Burn on!