

**ASSIGNMENT V: “You are Metastasio,”**  
**or**  
**Write Your Own *Opera Seria***

Using the guidelines about the *libretti* of *opera seria* from your handout, base your assignment on the plot of a well-known movie, such as *Star Wars*, adapting it to the requirements of the *opera seria* format.

**1. Select your characters** (no more than 10) and **cast them into role and voice types**, 1-2 sets of heroic characters (soprano/altos) designating who are the *primo/a* and *secondo/a uomini* and *donne*, patriarchal figures (basses), and confidants/servants (alto, tenor, bass)

Heroic characters (1): Protagonists	<b>Luca Cielandare</b> —mezzo ( <i>Primo uomo</i> )	<b>Principessa Leia</b> —soprano ( <i>Prima donna</i> )
Their servants:	<b>C-3PO</b> —tenor	<b>R2-D2</b> —alto
Heroic characters (2):	<b>Darturo Vadero</b> —soprano ( <i>Secondo uomo</i> )	<b>Han Solo</b> —mezzo ( <i>Seconda donna</i> )
Their servants:	<b>Grande Moffo Tarquino</b> — tenor	<b>Ciùbacca</b> —bass
Patriarchal figure:	<b>Obi-wan Chenobi</b> —bass	

**2. Write a brief “argument”** (i.e. synopsis) of the film as an *opera seria* plot **in 3 acts**, observing the:

- Unity of **Action**
- Unity of **Time**
- Unity of **Place**
- Theatrical **Decorum** (no murder depicted on stage, and the requisite *lieto fine*, or “happy ending”)

## *Combattimento dell'Astri*

### **Act I**

Principessa Leia, held captive by Darturo Vadero and the Grande Moffo Tarquino, laments her fate. In a nearby trash compactor, Luca Cielandare reveals to his servants C-3PO and R2-D2 (via his communicator) that he is secretly love Leia and has come with the magician Obi-wan Chenobi and his friends Han Solo and Ciùbacca to rescue her. Darturo Vadero and Grande Moffo Tarquino gloat to Leia over their secret weapon, the *Stella di Morte*. Chiùbacca laments the smell that the trash compactor has left on their clothes. Luca and his friends burst from the trash compactor and rescue Leia from Darturo and Tarquino. To gain time for Luca's rescue of Leia, Obi-wan Chenobi allows himself to be captured by Darturo Vadero.

### **Act II**

In the nearby fortress of Yavino, Luca and his friends realize that Darturo Vadero has tracked them and will use the *Stella di Morte* to destroy Yavino. Luca reveals that Darturo Vadero killed both his father and Obi-wan, and he wants revenge. Leia explains that though the *Stella di Morte* is large it can be destroyed by a hero using a mysterious power called *La Forza*. C-3PO and R2-D2 lament their lot as servants. Han is unconvinced by Luca and Leia's arguments about the possibility of killing Darturo and destroying the *Stella di Morte*, and expressing his regret, he bids them farewell.

### **Act III**

Leia laments the departure of Han. Meanwhile, Luca, Leia, R2-D2, and C-3PO approach the *Stella di Morte*. Luca observes that many people that have died already in their attempt to destroy the *Stella di Morte*. The ghost of Obi-wan appears telling Luca to use *La Forza*. Darturo Vadero enters with the *Stella di Morte* and challenges Luca to a duel. During the fight R2-D2 is wounded and C-3PO laments. Han enters and his abrupt reappearance causes Darturo Vadero to flee, leaving behind the *Stella di Morte*. Leia rejoices at Han's return. Luca destroys the *Stella di Morte* with *La Forza*, and all rejoice.

3. Write the **text of a da capo aria** for one of your characters, observing the typical textual conventions of the *da capo* format, i.e. a two-part text, with each consisting of 3 to 4 lines.

### *Combattimento dell'Astri*, Act III, Principessa Leia to Han Solo:

Striking like a falcon,  
You plunge through the sky,  
Causing our enemy to flee.

Thus it is, when a heart filled with disappointment  
Is met with a pleasant surprise,  
It explodes like a star in a sign of rejoicing. (*Da capo al Fine*)