

NAXOS
AudioBooks

Edward Ferrie

TALES FROM THE GREEK LEGENDS

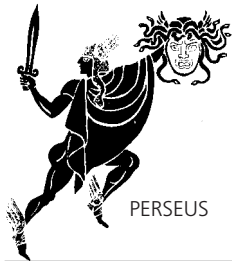
Read by **Benjamin Soames**

JUNIOR
CLASSICS



NA201912D

1	Gods and Titans	7:54
2	The creation of man	8:33
3	Perseus	6:01
4	Medusa the Gorgon	6:12
5	Andromeda on the rock	5:07
6	The most deadly weapon	5:55
7	The Labours of Heracles	4:41
8	The labours begin: The Nemean Lion	3:52
9	The Lernean Hydra	3:17
10	The Ceryneian Stag	1:28
11	The Erimanthean boar	1:34
12	The Augean Stables	2:04
13	The Stymphalean birds	2:58
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16	The Girdle of Hippolyta	1:24
17	The Oxen of Geryon	3:33
18	The Golden Apples of Hesperides	2:36
19	The Hound of Hades	3:37



PERSEUS



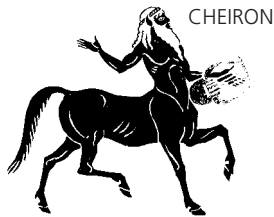
ORPHEUS



JASON

20	The Adventures of Theseus	5:43
21	Sinnis and Sciron	4:37
22	Cercyon and Procrustes	5:26
23	Medea the sorceress	6:10
24	Arrival in Crete	6:11
25	The Minotaur appears	5:28
26	Daedalus and Icarus	8:13
27	Jason and the Argonauts	6:37
28	Jason arrives in Athens	2:10
29	The heroes prepare	5:29
30	The Harpies	5:27
31	The golden fleece	4:28
32	The Argo turns homeward	6:48
33	Scylla and Charibdis	4:15

Total time: 2:38:54



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TALES FROM THE GREEK LEGENDS

The great myths of Ancient Greece have inspired mankind for centuries.

The heroes have to battle against impossible odds and a host of monsters to prove their valour.

Perseus faces Medusa the Gorgon, an evil woman whose hair is a mass of writhing serpents, and whose very appearance turns men to stone.

Heracles is forced to undergo twelve labours, including killing the Nemean Lion and the many-headed Hydra, cleaning the Augean Stables and capturing Cerberus, the Hound of Hades.

After many noble exploits on the way to Athens, **Theseus** has his famous encounter with the Minotaur of Crete – then wins and loses his beloved Ariadne.

Jason leads a band of heroes on the Argosy, a journey to gain the Golden Fleece, surviving many challenges and obstacles on the way.

And all the while, the gods watch, encourage and sometimes interfere and hinder. The gods of Greece are like superhumans – powerful, with special talents, but capable of anger, jealousy and

desires like all mankind.

Zeus, Lord of all the Gods, rules with his wife **Hera** on Mount Olympus. One brother, **Poseidon**, rules the seas while another, **Hades**, rules the shadowland of the Underworld – peopled by the dead.

And other gods and goddesses appear, using their different special gifts and displaying their particular qualities, good and bad.

Athene is the goddess of wisdom and the arts – she sprang, fully-grown, from the brain of her father, Zeus.

Apollo is the sun god and also the god of music and poetry.

Hermes is the winged messenger – fast, light, mercurial. He lent his winged sandals to Perseus.

Aphrodite is the goddess of love, said to be beautiful beyond compare.

Artemis is the virgin goddess of the hunt, swift and accurate with her arrows.

Ares is the god of war – huge, muscled, indomitable.

Hephaestus is the blacksmith of the gods. He built Olympus and, though lame, was married to Aphrodite.

Hestia is goddess of fire, and goddess of the hearth, the heart of the home.

Demeter is goddess of the earth, whose daughter, **Persephone**, visits for six months of the year (summer) and returns to her husband, Hades, for six months (winter).

Dionysus is the god of wine, which loosens the brain of man.

And then there are the monsters and the evil men and women, constantly working to cause despair, pain and death in the world.

There are a host of other characters in Greek mythology – half-men, half-beasts like **Cheiron**, the wise, old centaur who

plays the harp and taught **Orpheus**, the wonder-musician, and Jason; nymphs like **Thetis**, who take particular care of gods and men. Immortals like **Prometheus**, son of a Titan, who so loved Man that he stole fire from the gods.

Their lives and their stories, their hopes and ambitions and sadness are the myths of Greece and are as powerful and meaningful in our day, as they were when **Homer** sang of the Tales of Troy and **Alexander the Great** conquered the known world.

Notes by Nicolas Soames

Cover picture: Heracles by A.F. Gorguet
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**The music on this recording is taken from the
NAXOS and Marco Polo catalogues**

Gods and Titans

HOLST THE PLANETS (MARS) 8.550193
Czecho-Slovak RSO/Leaper

Perseus

WAGNER THE FLYING DUTCHMAN (OVERTURE) 8.550136
Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra/Halász

HOLST THE PLANETS (NEPTUNE) 8.550193
Czecho-Slovak RSO/Leaper

Heracles – The Twelve Labours

KALINNIKOV TSAR BORIS ETC 8.223135
Budapest So/Jovács

The Adventures of Theseus

CUI LE CÉDRE 8.223400
Czecho-Slovak RSO/Stankovsky

LACHNER SUITES OPP. 113 AND 190 8.223195
Polish State PO/Gunzenhauser

DEBUSSY LA MER ETC 8.550262
BRT Philharmonic, Brussels/Rahbari

Jason and the Argonauts

MENDELSSOHN SYMPHONY NO. 3 8.550222
Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra/Dohnanyi

CIURLIONIS THE SEA 8.223323
Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra/Domarkas

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TALES FROM THE GREEK LEGENDS

Read by **Benjamin Soames**

The great myths of Ancient Greece have inspired mankind for centuries. Each of the heroes has to undergo trials of strength and courage to prove his valour against a host of monsters – the Minotaur, half-man, half-bull; Hydra, the many-headed serpent; Medusa the Gorgon. Meanwhile, the gods, led by Zeus the Thunderer from his seat on Mount Olympus, watch, encourage, help – and sometimes hinder.

In this new retelling, the Tales come alive more vividly than ever with the added drama of popular music by Holst, Wagner and others.



Benjamin Soames trained at LAMDA. Since then, he has been active on both stage and screen, appearing in the popular TV series *Sharpe* and touring worldwide in the acclaimed Cheek by Jowl production of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* directed by Declan Donnellan. He also reads *Tales from the Norse Legends*, *The Tale of Troy* and *The Adventures of Odysseus* for Naxos AudioBooks.

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