



Old Myths Made New Again

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On her 'Myths of Ancient Greece' album, Helen Slater uses her singing and theater talents to bring the tales to life for kids.

Some people know Helen Slater as Supergirl. Others know her as Sutton Mercer's mother on the ABC Family show *The Lying Game*. Soon, however, mothers, fathers and children will know her as the person who created the terrific new CD, *Myths of Ancient Greece*. The actress has also had a career as a singer-songwriter, and she combines these two talents – along with her interests in Greek mythology and child education – on this charming recording.

Slater deftly navigates the line between entertaining and educating as she tells the stories of Demeter and Persephone, Perseus and Medusa, Orpheus and Eurydice, Echo and Narcissus and Cupid and Psyche. In the opening track, she explains that myths are used to "explain why things happened" (and) "help answer some really difficult questions." Slater conveys these myths in an engaging way that children can understand, without dumbing down the stories.

Slater mixes songs and narration when telling these myths, which helps to make the stories more understandable. She frequently uses a couple of songs within the telling of a myth. In "Cupid and Psyche," Slater slips in several short tunes, including a bluesy little number and another with a gypsy vibe, while "Echo and Narcissus" features a fun, fast-paced ditty along with a more Broadway-style ballad. Given her theater background, it is not surprising that several songs have a musical theater vibe, but this style suits the expository nature of telling these stories. Slater does shake up the tempo on several numbers. In "Perseus and Medusa," for instance, she performs some rapid-fire wordplay that recalls Danny Kaye's famous "Vessel with the Pestle" sequence in the film, *The Court Jester*.

In the closing track, Slater says that there are many more Greek myths to tell and, with such a successful initial effort, one hopes that Slater creates more volumes of *Myths of Ancient Greece*.