ORPHEUS BRITANNICUS

Musick for a While

FROM

Oedipus, 1692
Z583/2
COMPOS’D

By Mr. Henry Purcell

FOR

Soprano

AND

A THROUGH-BASS

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"Musick for a while" is from *Orpheus Britannicus*. The original key is C minor, here transposed down to A minor. The bass is unfigured in *Orpheus*. There is a continuo realization for keyboard, and realizations for guitar and baroque guitar. The baroque guitar part was written for a five course instrument with diapasons on the 4th and 5th string.

In Greek mythology, Alecto was one of the furies, a goddess whose job is the castigation of those guilty of moral crimes. She had snakes for hair, dogs' head, bats' wings, and blood dripped from her eyes. She wields a studded whip. In Dryden's poem, the ext for this song, music calms Alecto until she drops her whip and the snakes fall from her head.

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"Musick for a while"

all, shall all, all, all, shall all, your Cares be guile; wond-

'ring, wond -'ring how your Pains were eas'd, eas'd,

eas'd, and disdain ing to be pleas'd, till A -lec -to free the
"Musick for a while"

Dead, till A-lec-to free the Dead, from their E-ter-

nal, E-ter-

nal Band;

till the Snakes drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop


"Musick for a while"

from her Head; and the Whip, and the Whiffromout her Hand;

Mu - sick, Mu - sick for a while shall all your cares be -

guile; shall all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, yourcares be -
"Musick for a while"

guile. all, all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, your cares be - guile.
"Musick for a while"
from *Orpheus Britannicus*

John Dryden

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Henry Purcell

MU-SICK,

Mussick for a while, shall all your Cares be guile, shall all, all,

all, shall all, all, all, shall all, your Cares be guile; wond-

'ring, wond'ring how your Pains were eas'd, eas'd,

eas'd, and disdain'ing to be pleas'd, till A-lec-to free the

Dead, till A-lec-to free the Dead, from their E-

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Muskack, Muskack for a while shall all your cares be-
guile; shall all, all, all, all, all, all, all, your cares be-
guile. all, all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, your cares be - guile.
"Musick for a while"
from *Orpheus Britannicus*

John Dryden

Original in c minor

Continuo realized by W. F. Long

Soprano

Harpsichord

MUSICK, Musick for a while, shall all your Cares be-
guile, shall all, all, all, shall all, all, all, shall all, your Cares be -

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"Musick for a while"

guile; wond - 'ring, wond - - 'ring how your Pains___ were
eas'd, eas'd, eas'd, and dis-dain-ing to be pleas'd, till A - lec - to free___ the

Dead, till A-lec - - to free the Dead, from their E-ter - - -
"Musick for a while"

Eternal, Eternal Band;

till the Snakes drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop

from her Head; and the Whip, and the Whip from out her Hand;
"Musick for a while"

Musick, Musick for a while shall all your cares be-

guile; shall all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, your cares be-

guile. all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, your cares be - guile.
"Musick for a while"
from *Orpheus Britannicus*

John Dryden

Henry Purcell

Soprano

& Guitar

Original in c minor

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eas'd, eas'd, eas'd, and disdain't to be pleas'd, till A-

lec'to free the Dead, till A-lectic'to free the Dead, from

their E-ter-nal, E-ter-nal Band;

till the Snakes drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop
from her Head; and the Whip, and the Whip from out her Hand;

Musick, Musick for a while shall all your cares be-
guile; shall all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, your cares be-
guile. all, all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, your cares be guile.
"Musick for a while"
from Orpheus Britannicus

John Dryden
Henry Purcell

Original in c minor

Soprano &
Baroque
Guitar

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eas'd, eas'd, eas'd, and disdain\-ing to be pleas'd, till A-

le\-cto free the Dead, till A-llec\-to free the Dead, from

their E-ter\-nal, E-ter\-nal Band;

till the Snakes drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop,
from her Head; and the Whip, and the Whip from her Hand;

Musick, Musick for a while shall all your cares be

guile; shall all, all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all your cares be

guile. all, all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, your cares be - guile.
Soprano

"Musick for a while"
from Orpheus Britannicus

John Dryden

viola da gamba

Henry Purcell

MUSICK,

Musick for a while, shall all your Cares be guile, shall all, all,
all, shall all, all, all, shall all, your Care be guile; wond
'dain to be pleas'd, till A-lec to free the Dead, till A-lec

to free the Dead, from their E-ter nal, E-

-

nal Band; till the Snakes drop, drop, drop, drop,

drop, drop, drop from her Head; and the Whip, and the Whip from out her Hand;

Musick, Musick for a while shall all your cares be

guile; shall all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, your cares be

guile. all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, your cares be guile.

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