

ORPHEUS BRITANNICUS

Musick for a While

FROM

Oedipus, 1692

Z583/2

COMPOS'D

By Mr. Henry Purcell

FOR

Soprano

AND

A THROUGH-BASS

Copyright *William F. Long*, MMVIII

"Musick for a while" from *Orpheus Britannicus*

John Dryden

Henry Purcell

Original in c minor

Soprano

Continuo realized by W. F. Long

Harpisichord

MU - SICK,

5 Mu - sick for a while, shall all your Cares be - guile, shall all, all,

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

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

"Musick for a while"

14

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

17

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

20

- nal, E-ter-nal Band;

23

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

26

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

26

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line starting at measure 26 with a treble clef. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are positioned between the two staves.

29

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

29

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth staves of music. The vocal line continues from the previous system. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. The lyrics are positioned between the two staves.

32

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

32

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth staves of music. The vocal line features a series of repeated notes for the lyrics 'all, all, all, all, all, all, all'. The piano accompaniment continues. The lyrics are positioned between the two staves.

35

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

35

Detailed description: This system contains the seventh and eighth staves of music. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics 'guile. all, all, all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, your cares be - guile.'. The piano accompaniment concludes with a final chord. The lyrics are positioned between the two staves.

"Musick for a while" is from the incidental music to Oedipus. It is on page 126 of Book II of *Orpheus Britannicus*. The original key is c minor, here transposed down to a minor. The bass is unfigured in *Orpheus*.

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' heads, bats' wings, and blood dripped from her eyes. She wields a studded whip. In Dryden's poem, the text for this song, music calms Alecto until she drops her whip and the snakes fall from her head.

Soprano

"Musick for a while" from *Orpheus Britannicus*

John Dryden

Henry Purcell

viola da gamba

MU-SICK,

Mu - sick for a while, shall all your Cares be - guile, shall all, all,

all, shall all, all, all, shall all, your Care be - 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 - - - - nal, E - ter - - -

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

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

Mu - sick, Mu - sick 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.

"Musick for a while" from *Orpheus Britannicus*

John Dryden

Henry Purcell

Original in c minor

Soprano

Continuo

MU - SICK,

5 Mu - sick for a while, shall all your Cares be - guile, shall all, all,

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

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

14 eas'd, and dis - dain - ing to be pleas'd, till A - lec - to free the

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

20 *"Musick for a while"*

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

23

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

26

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

29

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

32

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

35

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

Harpsi-
chord

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Continuo realized by W. F. Long

The musical score is presented in five systems, each consisting of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is common time (C). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score begins with a rest in the treble staff for the first two measures, followed by a melodic line in the treble staff starting in measure 3. The bass staff features a continuous, rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes throughout. Measure numbers 5, 9, 14, and 19 are indicated at the start of their respective systems. The notation includes various chords, single notes, and rests, with some notes beamed together in the bass staff.

"Musick for a while"

23

Musical notation for measures 23-26. The system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. Measure 23 begins with a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 24 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 25 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 26 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3.

27

Musical notation for measures 27-30. The system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. Measure 27 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 28 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 29 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 30 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3.

31

Musical notation for measures 31-35. The system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. Measure 31 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 32 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 33 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 34 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 35 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3.

36

Musical notation for measures 36-39. The system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. Measure 36 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 37 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 38 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3. Measure 39 has a treble staff chord of G4, B4, and D5, followed by a quarter rest. The bass staff has a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and A3.

Viola
da
Gamba

"Musick for a while" from *Orpheus Britannicus*

Henry Purcell

4

7

10

13

16

19

22

25

28

31

34

37