

'Music for a
while'

By

Henry Purcell

1692



Purcell: Initial thoughts

Dynamics:

Rhythm and tempo:

Structure:

Melody:



Instrumentation and
sonority:

Texture:

Harmony and tonality:

Music For a While

Read pages 81 to 85 and answer the following questions:

Henry Purcell – Background

- 1) In which musical 'period' was he alive?
- 2) What Nationality is he?
- 3) What instrument did he play?.....
- 4) What types of music did he compose?
.....
- 5) Name 3 famous pieces that he's written:
.....

Music For a While - 1692

- 1) It's part of a longer piece which has 4 movements. Which movement is this piece?
- 2) It is music written to accompany a play called?
- 3) The song comes from Act 1 scene 3.

Give a brief overview of what happens in this part of the story.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Who is Alecto?



In Greek mythology, Alecto was one of the 'furies' whose job was to punish doers of moral crimes. She has snakes for hair (rather like Medusa above), dogs' heads, bats' wings, and blood dripping from her eyes.



Task

In your exam, you will be required to compare pieces of music with each other, showing an awareness of the stylistic features of the music as you draw conclusions about both pieces.

Use this worksheet to summarise your knowledge of the Baroque features in *Music for a While*, and compare this with the Baroque features you already know about in *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, movement 3*.

Questions

1) List 5 common features of music from the Baroque period

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

2) Complete the following table, giving examples of at least 5 more features of the Baroque style found in *Music for a While*.

Feature	Example	Comment
Use of ornaments	Bar 10	Purcell often uses ornaments in the harpsichord part, such as an upper and a lower mordent in the right hand in bar 10.

Music For a While

Introduction:

- 1) In which period of music is this piece from?.....
- 2) The music uses a Ground Bass. Describe what this is.
.....
- 3) Name another piece that uses a Ground Bass.....
- 4) What's unusual about the Ground Bass in this piece?

DYNAMICS

- 5) What is the dynamic?

RHYTHM

- 6) What is the Tempo of this piece?.....
- 7) The ground bass consists entirely of which rhythms?
- 8) Where can Syncopation be heard?

STRUCTURE

- 9) What is the structure of the piece?
- 10) Complete the table showing the bar no.s of the different sections.

A	B	A'

MELODY

11) Although this recording features a soprano singer, what was the original piece written for?

12) What 5 types of melodic decoration can be heard in this piece?.....

Type 1 bar no.s.....

Type 2..... bar no.s

Type 3..... bar no.s

Type 4..... bar no.s

Type 5..... bar no.s

13) Where can word painting be heard? (give 4 eg's of lyrics & an explanation.

.....
.....
.....
.....

14) Give the lyrics on which Melisma can be found?

.....

15) Where can a descending sequence be found?

16) Describe where passing notes can be found.

.....
.....

INSTRUMENTATION

17) What are the accompaniment instruments?

18) What does a viol look like?

19) What's the difference between a piano & a harpsichord?

20) What are these accompaniment instruments sometimes known as? C _ _ _ _ _ o.

TEXTURE

21. The texture throughout is known as:

M _ _ _ _ _ D _ _ _ _ _ H _ _ _ _ _ Y

HARMONY

22) What is the opening key of this piece?.....

23) What is the relative major of this key?

24) Where is there a suspension?

25) Where is there a false relation?.....

26) Give the bar no. where a tierce de Picardie can be found?

27) What Cadence does the piece end with?

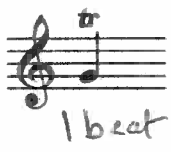
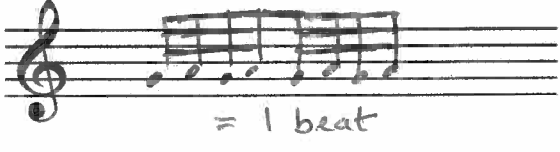




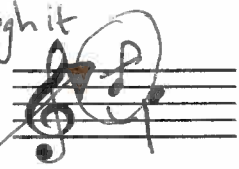







Task

Ornaments were an important part of performing music in the Baroque period. An ornament is an embellishment that is not an essential part of the melody, but merely there to decorate it. Performers would sometimes add these in on an improvisatory basis, although they were often notated.

Complete the table below, so that each row shows the name, notated symbol and sounding notation for each ornament.

Task

Name	Written	Sounding
Trill	 1 beat	 = 1 beat
Upper Mordent		
Lower Mordent		* complete * 
Acciaccatura (grace note)		
* notice the difference! Appoggiatura		
Slide		





Task

Music for a While demonstrates a number of characteristics of a style of song called a lament. Laments were songs that conveyed emotions of tragedy or sorrow. The following features are common in laments:

- falling phrases;
- minor tonality;
- slow tempo;
- ground bass.

Annotate the score below, to show examples of how Music for a While has used these musical features.

Score

Soprano

Harpichord

Bass Viol

4

S.

Mu - sic, mu - sic for a while Shall all you cares be

Hpsd.

B. Viol

This score is continued on the next page.

