



Listen & Learn Activity: Key Stage 3

Wednesday 4th November 2020 – Rachel Harland & Ian Buckle

The first piece is 'Music for a While' by English Baroque composer Henry Purcell. It was written in 1692 for John Dryden and Nathaniel Lee's play *Oedipus*. On the next page are the first twelve bars of a simplified score. Examine this score and work through the exercises below.

1. As you listen to the piece, try to follow the melody line with your finger. It starts in bar 4.
2. How would you describe the section of the melody line which is circled in bars 7-9?
3. How would you describe the melody line circled in bars 10-12?
4. Finally, how would you describe the tempo (speed) of the piece? Suggest a possible tempo marking for the piece.

MUSICK FOR A WHILE (Z.583)

Orpheus Britannicus, Book II (1702)[†]

Edited by R.D. Tennent

Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

First system of musical notation, showing a treble clef with a whole rest and a bass clef with a melodic line in G minor.

4

Musical notation for the second system, including lyrics: Mu - sick, mu - - sick for a - while, shall all your cares be -

7

Musical notation for the third system, including lyrics: guile; shall all, all, all, shall all, all, all — shall all, your cares be -

10

Musical notation for the fourth system, including lyrics: guile; won - - d'ring, won - - d'ring, how your pains — were

[†]Song in *Œdipus, a Tragedy*, by John Dryden and Nathaniel Lee (1678, 1692)

The third piece is 'Fiançailles pour rire' ('Betrothal for laughs') by French composer Francis Poulenc. It is made up of six songs and sets to music a collection of poems by Louise de Vilmorin. Below are the French titles of each of the six songs. Try to work out which of the English translation options are correct.

1. La dame d'André

- a) The name André
- b) André's lady
- c) I gave to André

2. Dans l'herbe

- a) Don't leave me
- b) In the grass
- c) Through the arch

3. Il vole

- a) It's coming
- b) The vole
- c) He flies

4. Mon cadavre est doux comme un gant

- a) My corpse is as soft as a glove
- b) My corpse is hard like a stone
- c) My corpse is as pale as a sheet

5. Violon

- a) Violence
- b) Lively
- c) Violin

6. Fleurs

- a) Flowers
- b) Rivers
- c) Flight

The fourth piece is a selection of three songs from Sir William Walton's 'Façade', which sets the words of poet Edith Sitwell to music. The pair were long-term friends and collaborators – in total, Walton set thirty-three of Sitwell's poems to music. At the public premiere of the full work, in 1923, Sitwell recited her verses through a megaphone while Walton conducted an accompanying group of six musicians. It was poorly received by the press – the *Manchester Guardian* described it as a "relentless cacophony". However, 'Façade' was soon accepted and in 1930 the BBC recorded a 'complete' broadcast of the work, including eighteen poems set to music.

We appreciate your feedback – if you have any comments or suggestions about these activities, don't hesitate to get in touch by email at concert@liverpool.ac.uk



William Walton in
1937



Portrait of Edith
Sitwell by Roger Fry,
1915