



Getting to know the music of...

HENRY PURCELL (1659-1695)

Listening Exercises

(answer on a separate sheet)

- 1 Listen to Extract One (<http://naxosmusiclibrary.com/catalogue/item.asp?cid=8.553129> / Track 10). This is a movement from the music Purcell wrote for the funeral of Queen Mary (shortly after which it was performed at his own funeral).
 - a) Describe the texture of this extract.
 - b) Identify and explain one example of word painting in this extract.
 - c) Suggest a possible source (composer, school of composition, etc.) of influence on Purcell in his writing of this work.

- 2 Listen to Extract Two (<http://naxosmusiclibrary.com/catalogue/item.asp?cid=CHAN0586> / Track 1). This is the first movement of Dido & Aeneas.
 - a) What is the general form of this movement?
 - b) Describe the principal musical characteristics of each section:
 - c) What is the scoring of this movement?
 - d) What genre of a piece is this movement?
 - e) Suggest a possible source (composer, school of composition, etc.) of influence on Purcell in his writing of this work.

- 3 Listen to Extract Three (<http://naxosmusiclibrary.com/catalogue/item.asp?cid=ABC4762879> / Track 8) – an aria from *The Fairy Queen*.
 - a) What instruments are used to accompany this aria?
 - b) What device does Purcell use to structure this piece (clue: listen to the lowest pitch instrument).
 - c) Why might this be hard to spot?