



**John Blow: Venus & Adonis**  
vs  
**Henry Purcell: Dido & Aeneas**

### LESSON QUESTIONS

Listen again to the opening of 'Venus and Adonis' (Overture & Prologue).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxpWdLXGiZk>

- 1 Characterize Blow's use of the orchestra and the chorus. Make six points.  
In each case, relate your point to its dramatic function and compare it to Purcell's approach.
- 2 Explain the difference between recitative, arioso and aria.

Listen now to Act II, scene I (score on separate handout).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIK0tuBbEi0>

- 3 Characterize Blow's style of solo vocal writing. Make six points.  
In each case, relate your point to its dramatic function and compare it to Purcell's approach.
- 4 Characterize Blow's use of structural devices. Make six points.  
In each case, relate your point to its dramatic function and compare it to Purcell's approach.

### PREP QUESTION

- 5
  - a Listen to the 'Adonis will not hunt today' scene from Act I of *Venus & Adonis*.  
The audio, as well as a text file of the words are available on:  
Public Drive > Academic Departments > Music > PAS > U6 > Venus Prep.  
How does Blow illustrate the meaning of the text in his music? [8]
  - b Now listen to the 'No no, I'll stay' scene from Act III, scene ii of *Dido & Aeneas*  
(audio and text files as above). How does Purcell's approach compare to the  
techniques you observed in part a), above? [8]
  - c Which composer's setting do you think is more effective and why? [8]

*Next week: a look at the final chorus of 'Venus & Adonis'*