



## U6 History > Dido & Aeneas > Weeks 4 & 5

### TASK 1: Scoring

- 1 List the characters in *Dido & Aeneas*, and their voice part. [18]
- 2 List the instruments in the orchestra for *Dido & Aeneas*. [5]
- 3 What is “basso continuo”? List four possible continuo instruments. [7]

### TASK 2: Performance concerns

As the original manuscripts have been lost, modern performers must make educated guesses to Purcell's intentions, using the early editions to inform their choices. There are some discrepancies between these editions (principally an edition of the libretto (1689), part books from the Academy of Ancient Music (1774) and the so-called Tenbury Manuscripts (1775)), and many aspects of performance are left unspecified (as is common to much music of this period).

Listen to the following two recordings of the start of Act II:

- a) English Chamber Orchestra / Anthony Lewis (1962)
- b) Academy of Ancient Music / Christopher Hogwood (1994)

Compare and contrast the interpretation of these two performances. [10]

### TASK 3: The plot and Purcell's tonal scheme

- 1 Construct a table similar to that below, showing each movement (use the Table of Contents), a brief summary of what happens, who participates, and its key. The first two entries are completed for you.

[160]

	<b>MOVEMENT</b>	<b>PLOT SUMMARY</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>KEY</b>
	Overture	n/a	n/a	C minor
ACT I	Shake the cloud from off your brow	Belinda, Dido's sister, urges her to cheer up!	Belinda, Chorus	C minor
	Ah! Belinda	...	...	...
	<i>etc...</i>			

- 2 Summarise your findings by generalising over Purcell's use of keys. What keys does he use in what circumstances?

[10]