



MUSIC IN SEVENTEETH CENTURY ENGLAND

Listening Exercises

(answer on a separate sheet)

- 1 Listen to Extract One (<http://naxosmusiclibrary.com/catalogue/item.asp?cid=CCLCDG1110> / Track 22), an air by Matthew Locke. It sets a poem from Shakespeare's *Henry VIII*, 'Orpheus with his lute'.
- i) Comment on the following three aspects of this piece:
a) Scoring b) Metre and phrase length c) Form
- ii) Locke was one of the foremost composers of music for masques at this time. What is a masque?

- 2 Listen to Extract Two (<http://naxosmusiclibrary.com/catalogue/item.asp?cid=SMCD5147> / Track 13). This is the 'Triumphing Dance' from *Dido & Aeneas*.
- i) In what way does this movement show the influence of popular English culture on Purcell's opera?
- ii) Comment on the following three aspects of the movement:
a) Rhythm b) Texture c) Ornamentation
- iii) This dance is based around a four bar ground bass. Complete the score below to show the complete pattern:

- 3 John Blow's *Venus and Adonis* was an important influence on Purcell in his writing of *Dido and Aeneas*.
- i) Define the following terms:
a) Melisma b) Appoggiatura c) Chromatic d) Recitative e) Aria f) Ritornello
- ii) Listen to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoKNZ3z8zis> which presents Act III of John Blow's *Venus and Adonis*. Follow the text (overleaf) as you listen and mark occurrences of the above terms onto the sheet (most terms will appear more than once).



THIRD ACT

The Curtain opens and discovers Venus standing in a melancholy posture. A mourning Cupid goes across the stage and shakes an arrow at her.

VENUS

Adonis, uncall'd-for sighs
From my sad bosom rise,
And grief has the dominion of my eyes.
A mourning Love passed by me now that sung
Of tombs and urns and ev'ry mournful thing:
Return, Adonis, 'tis for thee I grieve.
[Venus leans against the side of the stage and weeps. Adonis is led in wounded.]

ADONIS

I come, as fast as Death will give me leave.
Behold the wound made by th' Aedalian boar;
Faithful Adonis now must be no more.

VENUS

Ah, blood and warm life his rosy cheeks forsake.
Alas, Death's sleep thou art too young to take.
My groans shall reach the heav'ns; oh, pow'rs above
Take pity on the wretched Queen of Love!

ADONIS

Oh, I could well endure the pointed dart,
Did it not make the best of lovers part.

VENUS

Ye cruel gods, why should not I
Have the great privilege to die?

ADONIS

Love, mighty Love, does my kind bosom fire;
Shall I for want of vital heat expire?
No, no, warm life returns, and Death's afraid
This heart (Love's faithful kingdom) to invade.

VENUS

No, the grim Monster gains the day;
With thy warm blood life steals away.

ADONIS

I see fate calls; let me on your soft bosom lie.
There I did wish to live, and there I beg to die.
[Adonis dies.]

VENUS

Ah, Adonis my love, ah, Adonis ...
With solemn pomp let mourning Cupids bear
My soft Adonis through the yielding air ...
He shall adorn the heav'ns, here I will weep
Till I am fall'n into as cold a sleep.

OMNES

Mourn for thy servant, mighty God of Love,
Weep for your huntsman, oh forsaken grove.
Mourn, Echo, mourn, thou shalt no more repeat
His tender sighs and vows when he did meet
With the wretched Queen of Love
In this forsaken grove.

THE END.