

ORPHEUS BRITANNICUS

Let us dance,
let us Sing

FROM

Dioclesion, 1690,

Z627/37

COMPOS'D

By Mr. Henry Purcell

FOR

Soprano

AND

A THROUGH-BASS

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Let us Dance, let us Sing

Thomas Betterton

Henry Purcell

Soprano

Let us Dance, let us Sing, let us

Harpsichord

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The Soprano part is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are "Let us Dance, let us Sing, let us". The Harpsichord part consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with chords and a simple bass line.

S

5 sing whilst our Life's in the

Hpsi.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 9. The Soprano part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 5-7 and a fermata over measure 9. The lyrics are "sing whilst our Life's in the". The Harpsichord part continues with chords and a bass line.

S

10 Spring; and give all and give all, all, all, all, all to the

Hpsi.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 10 through 14. The Soprano part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 10-11 and a fermata over measure 14. The lyrics are "Spring; and give all and give all, all, all, all, all to the". The Harpsichord part continues with chords and a bass line.

S

15 great God of Love Let us Love

Hpsi.

1. 2.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 through 18. The Soprano part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 15-16 and a fermata over measure 18. The lyrics are "great God of Love Let us Love". The Harpsichord part continues with chords and a bass line. There are two endings indicated by "1." and "2." above the staff.

19

S

let us Re - vel, — let us re - vel — and — play, — let us, let us re - vel — and —

Hpsi.

24

S

play, and re - joyce

Hpsi.

28

S

— whilst — we — may: Since old Time, since old Time these de - lights

Hpsi.

33

S

will — re - move

1.

2.

Hpsi.

The image shows a musical score for a song. It is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line (S) and a piano accompaniment (Hpsi.). The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system (measures 19-23) has lyrics: 'let us Re - vel, — let us re - vel — and — play, — let us, let us re - vel — and —'. The second system (measures 24-27) has lyrics: 'play, and re - joyce'. The third system (measures 28-32) has lyrics: '— whilst — we — may: Since old Time, since old Time these de - lights'. The fourth system (measures 33-36) has lyrics: 'will — re - move' followed by two endings: '1.' and '2.'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a rhythmic bass line in the left hand.

The brief song, "Let us Dance, let us Sing" is on page 152 of Book II of *Orpheus Britannicus*. It comes from the semi-opera Dioclesian. The instrumental bass is unfigured in *Orpheus*. Performers may want to substitute dotted rhythms for some of the passages in equal quavers.

Soprano

Let us Dance, let us Sing

Thomas Betterton

Henry Purcell

gamba Let us Dance, let us Sing, let us sing

6 whilst our Life's in the Spring; and give

11 all and give all, all, all, all, all to the great God of Love Let us Love

19 let us Re - vel, let us re - vel and play, let us, let us re - vel and

24 play, and re - joyce whilst we

29 may: Since old Time, since old Time these de - lights

34 will re - move move

