HENRY PURCELL

THE FAIRY QUEEN

An Opera in Five Acts

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Libretto: an anonymous adaptation of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Music by Henry Purcell (c. 1659–1695).

First performance: London — The Queen's Theatre — 1692

INSTRUMENTS of the ORCHESTRA

2 Flutes — 2 Hautboys

2 Trumpets

Kettle-Drums

Violins I & II — Violas

Continuo

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THE FAIRY QUEEN.

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PREFACE.

HE FAIRY QUEEN, an anonymous adaptation of Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream," like its predecessors, "Dioclesian" and "King Arthur," was first produced at the Queen's (formerly the Dorset Garden) Theatre. Its preparation seems to have taken some time, for in the January number of the Gentleman's Journal (1691-2) Motteux writes: "I must tell you that we shall have speedily a New Opera, wherein something very surprising is promised us; Mr. Purcel who joyns to the Delicacy and Beauty of the Italian way, the Graces and Gayety of the French, composes the Music, as he hath done for the Prophetess, and the last Opera called King Arthur, which hath been plaid several times the last Month." In the April number of the Journal he announced that the Queen had forbidden the production of Dryden's "Cleomenes," and that "the Opera, whereof I wrote to you, will be hasten'd upon this account," and in the May number its production is thus chronicled: "The Opera of which I have spoke to you in my former hath at last appear'd, and continues to be represented daily; it is call'd The Fairy Oueen. The Drama is originally Shakespears, the Music and Decorations are extraordinary. I have heard the Dances commended, and without doubt the whole is very entertaining." account is confirmed by Downes (Roscius Anglicanus, 1708, p. 42): "About this time, there were several other new Plays Acted as . . . King Arthur an Opera, wrote by Mr. Dryden . . . the Musical Part set by Famous Mr. Henry Purcel . . . The Prophetess, or Dioclesian . . . The Fairy Queen, made into an Opera, from a Comedy of Mr. Shakespears: This in Ornaments was Superior to the other Two; especially in Cloaths, for all the Singers and Dancers, Scenes, Machines, and Decorations, all most profusely set off; and excellently perform'd, chiefly the Instrumental and Vocal part Compos'd by the said Mr. Purcel, and Dances by Mr. Priest. The Court and Town were wonderfully satisfy'd with it; but the Expences in setting it out

The play was advertised as published in the London Gazette for May 5-9, 1692. The title-page runs as follows:—

being so great, the Company got very little by it."

THE | FAIRY-QUEEN: | AN | OPERA. | Represented at the | QUEEN'S-THEATRE | By their | Majesties' Servants. | London, | Printed for Jacob Tonson, at the Judge's-Head, | in Chancery-Lane. 1692. | Where you may have compleat Sets of Mr. Dryden's Works in four Volumes; the | Plays in the order they were Written. |

In the following year there appeared a revised version of the work, also published by Tonson. The title-page is the same as that of the first edition, excepting that the date is changed and the words "With Alterations, Additions, and several new | Songs. |" are added. The changes in Act I. are considerable; Acts II. and IV. are the same in both versions, and the additions in Acts III. (the airs "Ye gentle spirit") and V. (the song "The Plaint" with the lines for Oberon immediately preceding and following it) are so slight as to be contained in two single leaves, printed on one side only, to be inserted between pp. 30 and 31, 48 and 49 of the earlier issue. In the present edition these additions have been incorporated in their proper places.

Of the music, all that was printed in Purcell's lifetime was a thin folio volume of twelve pages, entitled: "Some | Select Songs | As they are Sung in the | Fairy Queen. | Set to Musick, | By Mr. Henry Purcell. | London, | Printed by J. Heptinstall, for the Author; and are to be Sold by John Carr, at the Inner-Temple Gate near Tem- ple-Barr, by Henry Playford at his Shop in the Temple, | and at the Theatre in Dorset-Garden. 1692. |" In neither of the editions of the complete play are the names of any of the performers given, but in the "Select Songs" it is said that "Sing whilst we trip it" and "Thus happy and free" were sung by Mrs. Aliff (or Ayliff); "I am come to lock all fast" and "If Love's a sweet passion," by Mrs. Dyer; "One charming night" and "A thousand ways we'll find," by Mr. Freeman; "When I have heard young maids" and "Thus the ever grateful Spring," by Mrs. Butler, and "Here's the Summer," by Mr. Pate. A detached edition of "Now the maids and the men" was also engraved by Thomas Cross, with the information that it was sung by Mr. Reading and Mr. Pate "in Woman's habit." In the London Gazette for October 9-13, 1701, there appeared the following advertisement: "The score of the Musick for the Fairy Queen set by the late Mr. Henry Purcell, and belonging to the Patentees of the Theatre Royal in Covent Garden, London, being lost by his death, whosoever brings the said score, or a copy thereof, to Mr. Zachary Baggs, Treasurer of the said Theatre, shall have 20 guineas reward." This advertisement was repeated in the issue for October 16-20, but probably without result, for the work was never revived as a whole. The Daily Courant for January 29, 1703, announced that 'at the Desire of several Persons of Quality,' on Monday, February 1, there would be given at Drury Lane "an Extraordinary Consort of Musick, by the best Masters, part of which will be one intire Act of the Opera call'd, The Fairy Queen, compos'd by the late Mr. Henry Purcell, wherein Mr. Leveridge, Mr. Laroon, Mr. Hughes, Mrs. Lindsey and Mrs. Campion perform the chief parts." This was probably a performance of the music in the Fourth Act, the existence of more than one full score of this part of the work pointing to its having been preserved when the complete full score was lost. In the absence of this lost score the following sources were available for the present edition:—

- A. The "Select Songs," published in 1692, and already described.
- B. The "Collection of Ayres, compos'd for the Theatre," published by Purcell's widow in 1697.
- C. The five editions of "Orpheus Britannicus" (1698, 1702, 1706, 1711, and 1721).
- D. A MS. volume in the Library of His Majesty the King, at Buckingham Palace.
- E. A full score of Act IV. in a MS. volume in the Library of the Royal College of Music.
- F. Three other MS. volumes in the same collection.
- G. A MS. in the Library of St. Michael's College, Tenbury, containing a few instrumental numbers.
- H. Various MSS. in the Library of Dr. W. H. Cummings.

None of the above MSS.—except the unimportant Tenbury volume—are much older than the middle of the 18th century. The Buckingham Palace volume (**D**) contains more or less complete portions of Acts II., III., and V., and (in a different handwriting) a full score of Act IV., almost note for note the same as that in the Royal College of Music Library (S.H. Catalogue, No. 1921). The order of the pieces in the earlier part of MS. **D** does not correspond with the order of the published play; some of the songs, with unfigured bass, are fully written out, while in other cases the words are written out between the staves, so that the music could be added afterwards. Sometimes the words are given with here and

there a few notes of music: this is the case with the first three of the Songs for the Four Seasons; the Winter Song, however, is fully written out, and this version will be found printed in the Appendix.

From the above sources, so far as was possible (for reference to the libretto showed that they did not contain all the music), a conjectural reconstruction of the score had been prepared and engraved, when, by a singular piece of good luck, there was found in the Library of the Royal Academy of Music a MS. volume (I) which turned out to be none other than the longlost score advertised for two hundred years ago. The volume is a large folio, lettered on the back "Op. Faire Queen." It consists of 165 folios, 1b to 107a of which contain the score of "The Fairy Queen," 107b to 163a are blank, and 163b to 165b contain the Chaconne ("Dance for Chinese Man and Woman"), written with the volume reversed. On the inside of the cover are the names "R. J. S. Stevens, Charterhouse, 1817," and "Savage," which give a clue to the history of the MS. The latter is evidently William Savage, a bass-singer who was born about 1700, studied under Pepusch, and was Vicar-choral, Almoner, and Master of the Choristers at St. Paul's Cathedral from 1748 until 1773, when he was removed from the last two appointments owing to the harshness with which he treated the choristers (See J. S. Bumpus's Organists and Composers of St. Paul's Cathedral). He died July 27, 1789. It may be conjectured that Savage obtained the volume from Pepusch, who was for several years at the beginning of the 18th century connected with the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, and was an enthusiastic collector of musical manuscripts. From Savage the volume evidently passed to R. J. S. Stevens (1757—1837), who was educated in the choir of St. Paul's and by whom the MS. was left to the Library of the Royal Academy of Music. The score is mostly in the handwriting of one or more copyists, who seem to have put it together as Purcell completed the various numbers, leaving blanks for what was not ready. These have been partly filled in by the composer himself, but though the extra music written for Act I. in the 1693 revival is included, neither "Oft have I heard" nor "O let me weep" (the former printed in "Select Songs" and the latter in "Orpheus Britannicus"), nor the last number of the "Theatre Ayres" is to be found in it. On fol. 20a (following the chorus "Drive 'em hence") there is a blank page headed "Dance," and on fol. 47b a similar blank page headed "Dance for a Clown" follows the "Dance for the Haymakers," in Act III. Four pages (79v.—81r.), headed "Dance for the Four Seasons" are also left vacant in Act IV. after Winter's Song. It may be conjectured that this last should be filled in by the last number of the "Ayres for the Theatre," but as the point cannot be decided conclusively, this number has been printed in the Appendix to the present edition. The "Monkeys' Dance" in Act V. is written before the Symphony, but its right place is indicated by a note on fol. 93b.: "6 Monkeys dance here." The Chaconne for a Chinese Man and Woman, as already stated, is written at the other end of the volume. It is a little difficult to say with certainty what portions of the Royal Academy score are in Purcell's autograph, but (neglecting various headings and doubtful passages) the following may be taken as a minimum list:—

The latter part of the second Music, before Act I. and the Overture (end of fol. 3a to fol. 5b).

First Act Tune (fol. 20b).

Third Act Tune (fol. 54b).

Latter part of Autumn's Song in Act IV. (part of fol. 77a and all 77b).

Fourth Act Tune (fol. 81b).

Part of "Thrice Happy" in Act V. (fol. 82b and part of 83a).

"Sure the Dull God" (the autograph begins in the middle of fol. 97a and continues to 100a).

In the present edition, MS. I has been the principal authority. The two songs not included in it have been inserted in their proper places, and the trumpet parts to the Overture (Act I.), of which only the first three bars are written out, have been added from a MS. in the Royal College of Music Library. The "Composition in Imitation of Hunting," mentioned in Act V., has been found in none of the MSS.; possibly it was a mere extempore fanfare. Again, no music has been found for the "Grand Dance of Twenty-four Persons" (at the end of the same Act); in MS. I there is no break between Hymen's solo "Love ne'er had yet" and the short Trio "They shall be happy" (where, according to the Libretto, the Dance should take place), and it seems therefore possible that it was omitted in performance. Some verbal corrections have been introduced from the Libretto, and some of the names of the Dances have been added from the "Ayres for the Theatre." Besides the final number ("Air") from the latter there have been printed in the Appendix a setting of "May the God of Wit" for four voices, with slight differences of harmony and melody, and a version of the Winter Song with $\frac{3}{4}$ in the signature, and other minor differences, both from **D**. The version of the Entry Dance (Act V.) in B is so different from that in I, that it has been thought well to print it in the Appendix.

It has not been thought necessary to note the many slight verbal differences between the printed libretto and the text as given in "Orpheus Britannicus," the "Select Songs," or the MS. sources. The original time-signatures (as to the tempo signification of which the preface to Vol. VI. of the Purcell Society's edition should be consulted) have been retained, but in the pianoforte part modern equivalents are introduced. In I the Basses are very rarely figured. The figures printed in the present edition are generally derived from the other sources, both printed and manuscript. The figuring in "Orpheus Britannicus" is, however, often at variance with the notes, probably owing to careless editing. Obvious corrections of this nature are not included in the list of various readings, though the rare cases in which the figures are derived from I have been carefully noted and printed in a separate list.

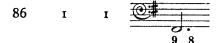
Finally, acknowledgment must be made of the kind assistance rendered by the owners of the various MS. authorities in so liberally placing them at the disposal of the editor, who also desires to express his thanks for many valuable suggestions made by Mr. G. E. P. Arkwright and Mr. J. Pointer, most of which have been adopted.

— J. S. Shedlock

FIGURES IN BASS OF MS. I.



PAGE. LINE. BAR.



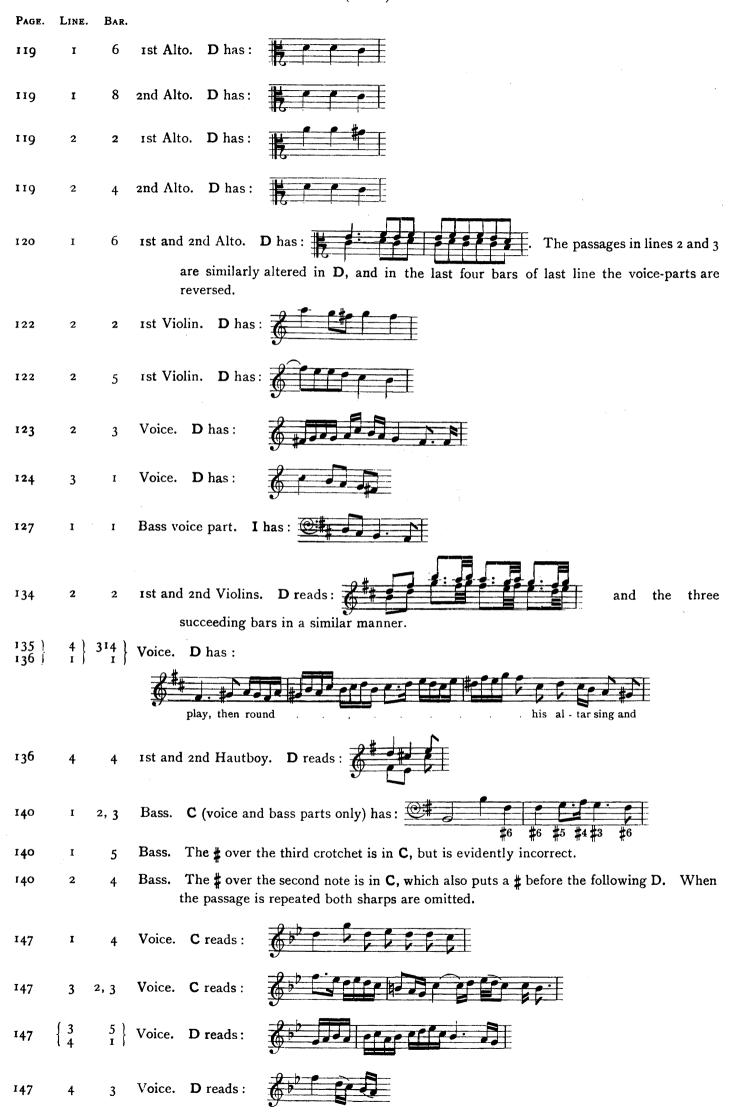
VARIOUS READINGS.

- 4 The heading "Hornpipe" is taken from B; it does not occur in I.
- 8 1 4 Bass. B reads:
- 10 In I only the first three bars of the Trumpet parts are written. They are printed from F.
- 10 2 6 1st Violin. B has:
- 14 2 6 1st Violin. F reads:
- 16 I 5 No tie in H.
- 16 2 4-6 Bass. C reads: C reads:
- The last note is apparently a copyist's mistake. It is also given thus in a copy of this number in the British Museum (Ad. MS. 22,099).
- 18 I Soprano. I has: The text adopted is from C.
- 56 I 4 Voice. D reads:
- 56 2 4 Voice. D reads:
- 56 4 r, 4 Voice. D reads:

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PAGE.
       LINE.
              BAR.
 58
                   Voice. D reads:
                   Voice. D reads:
 69
         2
 69
                   Voice. D reads:
                   Voice. D reads:
 69
 69
                   Voice. D reads:
              -6
                   The heading "Overture" occurs in Purcell's autograph in I.
                                                                                    It is possible that the
 72
                         movement may have preceded "If Love's a sweet passion."
                   I has no repeat to the first movement.
 73
        I
               5
                   B entitles this "Dance for Furies."
 75
                   1st Violin. F has:
        2
 75
 78
                   Voice. D has:
                   Voice. C and D have:
 8o
                  Voice. D has:
 90
                   Voice. D has:
 90
                   Voice. D has:
 90
        3
                   Voice. D has:
 91
                   Bass.
                           D has:
 91
                           D has:
                   Bass.
 91
                           D has:
                   Bass.
 91
        3
                   In I there are two staves left blank between the Violin and Bass lines, with clefs for 2nd Violin
 92
                         and Viola.
                   Voice. D has:
 93
        2
                           D has:
                   Bass.
93
        3
                   Voice.
                          D has:
               3
94
                   The heading "Hornpipe" is found in B; it does not occur in I.
100
                   This bar is omitted in D and E.
102
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In E this chorus is repeated.

114



			, ,
PAGE.	LINE.	Bar.	
148	I	5	Voice. D reads:
148	2	3	Voice. D reads: A quaver (A) instead of the 2 semiquavers at the end of the bar.
148	2	3	Voice. C has:
150			In F the Violin Solo is given to a Hautboy.
163	I	2, 3	Voice. D has:
163	I	7	Trumpet. D has:
163	2	3, 4	Voice. In D there are no dotted notes.
163	{ 2 { 3	8 }	Trumpet. D reads:
177 178	2	_}	Voice. In D there are no dotted quavers.
178 178	3 4	7 } 8 }	Voice. D has:
201	3	7	Viola. I has:
202, 3		_	From the last bar but one of page 202 to the last bar but one of page 203, the Viola part is left blank in I. The omission has been filled up from B.
212	2	I	In B a repeat from the end is marked to the second note of this bar in the 2nd Violin part, but in all four parts the value of the dotted minim (line 3, bar 7) does not allow of a repeat.

THE FAIRY QUEEN.

THE PREFACE.

Tis known to all who have been any considerable time in Italy, or France, how Opera's are esteem'd among 'em. That France borrow'd what she has from Italy, is evident from the Andromede and Toison D'or, of Monsieur Corneille, which are the first in the kind they ever had, on their publick Theaters; they being not perfect Opera's, but Tragedies, with Singing, Dancing, and Machines interwoven with 'em, after the manner of an Opera. They gave 'em a tast first, to try their Palats, that they might the better Judge whether in time they would be able to digest an entire Opera. And Cardinal Richelieu (that great encourager of Arts and Learning) introduced 'em first at his own expence, as I have been informed, amongst 'em.

What encouragement Seignior Baptist Luly had from the present King of France, is well known; they being first set out at his own Expence; and all the Ornaments given by the King, for the Entertainment of the People. In Italy, especially at Venice, where Opera's have the greatest Reputation, and where they have 'em every Carnival, the Noble Venetians set'em out at their own cost. And what a Confluence of People the fame of 'em draw from all parts of Italy to the great profit of that City, is well known to everyone who has spent a Carnival there. And many of the English Gentry are sensible what advantages Paris receives, by the great number of Strangers which frequent the Opera's three days in a Week, throughout the Year. If therefore an Opera were established here, by the Favour of the Nobility and Gentry of England; I may modestly conclude it would be some advantage to London, considering what a Sum we must Yearly lay out among Tradesmen for the fitting out so great a work.

That Sir William Davenant's Siege of Rhodes was the first Opera we ever had in England, no Man can deny; and is indeed a perfect Opera: there being this difference only between an Opera and a Tragedy; that the one is a Story sung with proper Action, the other spoken. And he must be a very ignorant Player, who knows not there is a Musical Cadence in speaking; and that a Man may as well speak out of Tune, as sing out of Tune. And though few are so nice to examine this, yet all are pleas'd when they hear it justly perform'd. 'Tistrue, the Siege of Rhodes wanted the Ornament of Machines, which they Value themselves so much upon in Italy. And the Dancing which they have in such perfection in France. That he design'd this, if his first attempt met with the Encouragement it deserv'd, will appear from these Lines in his Prologue.

But many Travellers here, as Judges, come, From Paris, Florence, Venice, and from Rome. Who will describe, when any Scene we draw, By each of ours, all that they ever saw. Those praising for extensive breadth and height, And inward distance to deceive the sight.—

And a little after—

Ah Mony, Mony! if the Wits would dress
With Ornaments the present face of Peace:
And to our Poet half that Treasure spare,
Which Faction gets from Fools to nourish War.
Then his contracted Scenes should wider be,
And move by greater Engines; till you see
(While you securely sit) fierce Armies meet,
And raging Seas disperse a fighting Fleet.

That a few private Persons should venture on so expensive a Work as an Opera, when none but Princes, or States exhibit 'em abroad, I hope is no Dishonour to our Nation: And I dare affirm if we had half the Encouragement in England, that they have in other Countries, you might in a short time have as good Dancers in England as they have in France, though I despair of ever having as good Voices among us, as they have in Italy. These are the two great things which Travellers say we are most deficient in. If this happens to please, we cannot reasonably propose to our selves any great advantage, considering the mighty Charge in setting it out, & the extraordinary expence that attends it every day 'tis represented. If it deserves their Favour? if they are satisfied we venture boldly, doing all we can to please 'em? We hope the English are too generous not to encourage so great an undertaking.

THE

PROLOGUE.

What have we left untry'd to please this Age,
To bring it more in liking with the Stage?
We sunk to Farce, and rose to Comedy;
Gave you high Rants, and well-writ Tragedy.
Yet Poetry, of the Success afraid,
Call'd in her Sister Musick to her aid.
And, lest the Gallery should Diversion want,
We had Cane Chairs to Dance'em a Courant.*

But that this Play may in its Pomp appear;
Pray let our Stage from thronging Beaux be clear.
For what e're cost we're at, what e're we do,
In Scenes, Dress, Dances; yet there's many a Beau,
Will think himself a much more taking Show.
How often have you curs'd these new Beau-skreens,
That stand betwixt the Audience and the Scenes?

I ask'd one of 'em t'other day—Pray, Sir,
Why d'ye the Stage before the Box prefer?
He answer'd—Oh! there I Ogle the whole Theati
My Wig—my Shape, my Leg, I there display,
They speak much finer things than I can say.

These are the Reasons why they croud the Stage;
And make the disappointed Audience rage.

Our Business is, to study how to please,
To Tune the Mind to its expected ease.

And all that we expect, is but to find,
Equal to our Expence, the Audience kind.

^{*} Probably an allusion to the Chair Dance in Dioclesian.-ED.

THE NAMES OF THE PERSONS.

The Duke.

Egeus, Father to Hermia.

Lysander, in Love with Hermia.

Demetrius, in Love with Hermia, and Betroth'd to Helena.

Hermia, in Love with Lysander.

Helena, in Love with Demetrius.

The Fairies.

Oberon, King of the Fairies.

Titania, the Queen.

Robin-Good-Fellow.

Fairies.

The COMEDIANS.

Bottom the Weaver; Quince the Carpenter; Snug the Joyner; Flute the Bellowsmender; Snout the Tinker; and Starveling the Taylor.

SINGERS and DANCERS in the Second Act.

Fairy-Spirits, Night, Mistery, Secresie, Sleep, and their Attendants, Singers, and Dancers.

SINGERS in the Third Act.

Nymphs, Coridon, and Mopsa; with a Chorus of Fawns, and Naids, with Woodmen, and Hay-makers Dancers.

SINGERS and DANCERS in the Fourth Act.

Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter, and their Attendants; $Ph\alpha bus$: A Dance of the four Seasons.

SINGERS and DANCERS in the Fifth Act.

Juno, Chinese Men and Women.

A Chorus of Chineses.

A Dance of 6 Monkeys.

An Entry of a Chinese Man and Woman.

A Grand Dance of 24 Chineses.

Аст І.

Scene: A PALACE.

[In the 1692 version the outline of Shakespeare's Play is followed fairly closely in the opening scene. The Clowns enter after Helena's exit, and part of their scene in Act III. is added. In the 1693 version the opening scene is omitted and the play begins with the entrance of the clowns. A new scene follows for "Titania, leading the Indian Boy, Fairies attending."]

Titania. Now my Fairy Coire, appear:
Sing, and entertain my Dear.
Describe that Happiness, that Peace of Mind,
Which Lovers only in retirement find.

Here the new Musick begins, 1st this Song in two Parts.

ist Song.

Come, come, come, let us leave the Town,
And in some lonely place,
Where Crouds and Noise were never known,
Resolve to spend our days.

In pleasant Shades upon the Grass
At Night our selves we'll lay;
Our Days in harmless Sport shall pass,
Thus Time shall slide away.

[Enter Fairies, leading in three Drunken Poets, one of them Blinded.

Blind Poet.* Fill up the Bowl, then, &c.

Fairy. Trip it, trip it in a Ring;
Around this Mortal Dance, and Sing.

Poet. Enough, enough,
We must play at Blind Man's Buff.
Turn me round, and stand away,
I'll catch whom I may.

2nd Fairy. About him go, so, so, so,
Pinch the Wretch from Top to Toe;
Pinch him forty, forty times,
Pinch till he confess his Crimes.

Poet. Hold, you damn'd tormenting Punck, I confess—

Both Fairies. What, what, &c.

Poet. I'm Drunk, as I live Boys, Drunk.

Both Fairies. What art thou, speak?

Poet. If you will know it, I am a scurvy Poet.

^{*} The blindfolded Poet, with his stammer, may have been meant to allude to T. D'Urfey, who was known as "Poet Stutter."

Fairies. Pinch him, pinch him for his Crimes.
His Nonsense, and his Dogrel Rhymes.

Poet. Oh! oh! oh!

1st Fairy. Confess more, more.

Poet. I confess I'm very poor.

Nay prithee do not pinch me so,
Good dear Devil let me go;
And as I hope to wear the Bays,
I'll write a Sonnet in thy Praise.

CHORUS.

Drive 'em hence, away, away, Let 'em sleep till break of Day.

[The Indian Boy falls asleep, and to hide him from Oberon, Titania causes the earth to open, into which he sinks.]

Act II.

Scene: A Wood, by Moon-light.

[The first two scenes follow the original in a compressed and altered form. After Robin-Good-Fellow has given Oberon the flower they leave the stage; then]

[Enter Titania, and her Train.

Titania. Take Hands, and trip it in a round, While I consecrate the ground.

All shall change at my Command, All shall turn to Fairy-Land.

The scene changes to a Prospect of Grotto's, Arbors, and delightful Walks: The Arbors are Adorn'd with all variety of Flowers, the Grotto's supported by Terms, these lead to two Arbors on either side of the Scene, of a great length, whose prospect runs toward the two Angles of the House. Between these two Arbors is the great Grotto, which is continued by several Arches, to the farther end of the House.

Now Fairies search, search every where, Let no Unclean thing be near. Nothing Venomous, or Foul, No Raven, Bat, or hooting Owle, No Toad, nor Elf, nor Blind-worm's Sting. No Poisonous Herb in this place spring. Have you search'd? is no ill near?

All. Nothing, nothing; all is clear.

Titania. Let your Revels now begin,
Some shall Dance, and some shall Sing.
All Delights this place surround,
Every sweet Harmonious Sound,
That e're Charm'd a skilful Ear,
Meet, and Entertain us here.
Let Eccho's plac'd in every Grot,
Catch, and repeat each Dying Note.

A PRELUDE.

Then the first Song.

Come all ye Songsters of the Sky, Wake, and Assemble in this Wood; But no ill-boding Bird be nigh, None but the Harmless and the Good.

May the God of Wit inspire,

The Sacred Nine to bear a part;
And the Blessed Heavenly Quire,

Shew the utmost of their Art.

While Eccho shall in sounds remote,

Repeat each Note,

Each Note, each Note.

CHORUS.

May the God, &c.

Now joyn your Warbling Voices all, Sing while we trip it on the Green; But no ill Vapours rise or fall, Nothing offend our Fairy Queen.

CHORUS.

Sing while we trip, &c.

At the end of the first Stanza, a Composition of Instrumental Musick, in imitation of an Eccho. Then a Fairy Dance.

Titania. Come Elves, another Dance, and Fairy Song; Then hence, and leave me for a while alone.

> . . . Sing me now to Sleep; And let the Sentinels their Watches keep.

> > She lyes down.

2.—SONG.

[Enter Night, Mystery, Secresie, Sleep; and their Attendants.

NIGHT sings.

Night. See, even Night her self is here,

To favour your Design;

And all her Peaceful Train is near,

That Men to Sleep incline.

Let Noise and Care,

Doubts and Despair,

Envy and Spight,

(The Fiends delight)

Be ever Banish'd hence,

Let soft Repose,

Her Eye-lids close;

And murmuring Streams,

Bring pleasing Dreams;

Let nothing stay to give offence.

See, even Night, &c.

Mystery. I am come to lock all fast,
Love without me cannot last.
Love, like Counsels of the Wise,
Must be hid from Vulgar Eyes.
'Tis holy, and we must conceal it,
They profane it, who reveal it.

I am come, &c.

Secresie. One charming Night
Gives more delight,
Than a hundred lucky Days.
Night and I improve the tast,
Make the pleasure longer last,
A thousand thousand several ways.

Make the pleasure, &c.

Sleep. Hush, no more, be silent all,
Sweet Repose has clos'd her Eyes.
Soft as feather'd Snow does fall!
Softly, softly, steal from hence.
No noise disturb her sleeping sence.
Rest till the Rosie Morn's uprise.

CHORUS.

Hush, no more, &c.

A DANCE OF THE FOLLOWERS OF NIGHT.

[Oberon squeezes the flower on Titania, Lysander and Hermia fall asleep as in the original, and the Act ends with Robin-Good-Fellow's speech beginning "Through the forest I have gone."]

Act III.

[Helena enters, but not Demetrius. Lysander wakes and follows her. The Clowns rehearse the play as it is given in Act V. of the original; Robin-Good-Fellow is present and disperses the actors. Bottom returns with the Ass's head and sings "The Woosel-Cock so black of hue." Titania wakes and falls in love with him. There is no change of scene, but Titania, Bottom, and the Fairies go out, and Oberon and Robin-Good-Fellow enter: Demetrius and Hermia only cross the stage. Robin-Good-Fellow is sent by Oberon to find Helena. Then:]

[Enter Titania, Bottom, and Fairies.

Titania. Come, lovely Youth, sit on this flow'ry Bed,

Shall we have Musick sweet?

Bottom. Yes, if you please.

Titania. Away, my Elves; prepare a Fairy Mask

To entertain my Love; and change this place

To my Enchanted Lake.

The Scene changes to a great Wood; a long row of large Trees on each side; A River in the middle; Two rows of lesser Trees of a different kind just on the side of the River, which meet in the middle, and make so many Arches; Two great Dragons make a Bridge over the River; their Bodies form two Arches, through which two Swans are seen in the River at a great distance.

[Enter a Troop of Fawns, Dryades, and Naides.

A SONG in Two Parts.

If Love's a Sweet Passion, why does it torment?

If a Bitter, oh tell me whence comes my content?

Since I suffer with pleasure, why should I complain,

Or grieve at my Fate, when I know 'tis in vain?

Yet so pleasing the Pain is, so soft is the Dart,

That at once it both wounds me, and tickles my Heart.

I press her Hand gently, look Languishing down,
And by Passionate Silence I make my Love known.
But oh! how I'm Blest when so kind she does prove,
By some willing mistake to discover her Love.
When in striving to hide, she reveals all her Flame,
And our Eyes tell each other, what neither dares Name.

While a Symphony's Playing, the two Swans come Swimming on through the Arches to the bank of the River, as if they would Land; these turn themselves into Fairies, and Dance; at the same time the Bridge vanishes, and the Trees that were Arch'd, raise themselves upright.

[Four Savages enter, fright the Fairies away, and Dance an Entry.

[In the 1693 version the following is "to be sung just before the Dialogue of Coridon and Mopsa."]

Song.

Ye Gentle Spirits of the Air, appear; Prepare, and joyn your tender Voices here. Catch, and repeat the Trembling Sounds anew, Soft as her Sighs, and sweet as Pearly Dew. Run new Division, and such Measures keep, As when you lull the God of Love asleep.

[Enter Coridon and Mopsa.

Coridon. Now the Maids and the Men are making of Hay,
We have left the dull Fools, and are stol'n away.

We have left the dull Fools, and are stol'n away.

Then *Mopsa* no more Be Coy as before,

But let us merrily, merrily Play, And Kiss, and Kiss, the sweet time away.

Mopsa. Why, how now, Sir Clown, how came you so bold? I'd have you to know I'm not made of that mold.

I tell you again,

Maids must Kiss no Men.

No, no; no, no; no Kissing at all; I'le not Kiss, till I Kiss you for good and all.

Coridon. No, no.

Mopsa. No, no.

Coridon. Not Kiss you at all.

Mopsa. Not Kiss, till you Kiss me for good and all. Not Kiss, &c.

Coridon. Should you give me a score,
'Twould not lessen the store,
Then bid me chearfully, chearfully Kiss,
And take, and take, my fill of your Bliss.

Mopsa. I'le not trust you so far, I know you too well;
Should I give you an Inch, you'd take a whole Ell.
Then Lordlike you Rule,
And laugh at the Fool.

No, no, &c.

A SONG by a Nymph.

When I have often heard young Maids complaining, That when Men promise most they most deceive, Then I thought none of them worthy my gaining; And what they Swore, resolv'd ne're to believe.

But when so humbly he made his Addresses,
With Looks so soft, and with Language so kind,
I thought it Sin to refuse his Caresses;
Nature o'recame, and I soon chang'd my Mind.

Should he employ all his wit in deceiving,
Stretch his Invention, and artfully feign;
I find such Charms, such true Joy in believing,
I'll have the Pleasure, let him have the pain.

If he proves Perjur'd, I shall not be Cheated, He may deceive himself, but never me; 'Tis what I look for, and shan't be defeated, For I'll be as false and inconstant as he.

A DANCE OF HAY-MAKERS.

AFTER THE DANCE.

CHORUS.

A Thousand Thousand ways we'll find To Entertain the Hours: No Two shall e're be known so kind, No Life so Blest as ours.

[After a shortened version of the scene at the beginning of Shakespeare's Act IV., Titania, Bottom, and Fairies exeunt.]

Act IV.

[Oberon and Robin-Good-Fellow enter, then Lysander and Helena, Demetrius and Hermia. Shakespeare's Act III. is followed, with omissions, till the four lovers fall asleep. Oberon then wakes Titania, and Robin-Good-Fellow takes the ass's head off Bottom.]

Oberon. Titania, call for Musick.

Titania. Let us have all Variety of Musick,

All that should welcome up the rising Sun.

The Scene changes to a Garden of Fountains. A Sonata plays while the Sun rises, it appears red through the Mist, as it ascends it dissipates the Vapours, and is seen in its full Lustre; then the Scene is perfectly discovered, the Fountains enrich'd with gilding, and adorn'd with Statues: The view is terminated by a Walk of Cypress Trees which lead to a delightful Bower. Before the Trees stand rows of Marble Columns, which support many Walks which rise by Stairs to the top of the House; the Stairs are adorn'd with Figures on Pedestals, and Rails; and Balasters on each side of 'em. Near the top, vast Quantities of Water break out of the Hills, and fall in mighty Cascade's to the bottom of the Scene, to feed the Fountains which are on each side. In the middle of the Stage is a very large Fountain, where the Water rises about twelve Foot.

[Then the 4 Seasons enter, with their several Attendants.

One of the Attendants begins:

Now the Night is chac'd away,
All salute the rising Sun;
'Tis the happy, happy Day,
The Birth-Day of King Oberon.

Two others sing in Parts:

Let the Fifes, and the Clarions, and shrill Trumpets sound, And the Arch of high Heav'n the Clangor resound.

A Machine appears, the Clouds break from before it, and Phœbus appears in a Chariot drawn by four Horses; and sings,

When a cruel long Winter has frozen the Earth,
And Nature Imprison'd seeks in vain to be free;
I dart forth my Beams, to give all things a Birth,
Making Spring for the Plants, every Flower, and each Tree.

'Tis I who give Life, Warmth, and Being to all, Even Love who rules all things in Earth, Air, and Sea; Would languish, and fade, and to nothing would fall, The World to its Chaos would return, but for me.

CHORUS.

Hail! Great Parent of us all, Light and Comfort of the Earth; Before thy Shrine the Seasons fall, Thou who givest all Beings Birth.

SPRING.

Thus the ever Grateful Spring,
Does her yearly Tribute bring;
All your Sweets before him lay,
Then round his Altar Sing, and Play.

SUMMER.

Here's the Summer, Sprightly, Gay, Smiling, Wanton, Fresh, and Fair; Adorn'd with all the Flowers of May, Whose various Sweets perfume the Air.

AUTUMN.

See my many Colour'd Fields,
And loaded Trees my Will obey;
All the Fruit that Autumn yields,
I offer to the God of Day.

WINTER.

Now Winter comes Slowly, Pale, Meager, and Old, First trembling with Age, and then quiv'ring with Cold; Benum'd with hard Frosts, and with Snow cover'd o're, Prays the Sun to Restore him, and Sings as before.

CHORUS.

Hail! Great Parent, &c.

A DANCE OF THE FOUR SEASONS.

[All go out except Robin-Good-Fellow, who applies the juice of the herb to Lysander's eyes.]

Act V.

[The Duke, Egeus, and Attendants find the Lovers asleep.]

Duke. Go bid the Huntsmen wake 'em with their Musick.

A Composition in imitation of Hunting, at the end of it a Shout, the Lovers wake.

[The latter part of Scene I. and all Scene II. from the original Act IV. are then followed. After the Clowns have gone out, the serious characters re-enter. The Duke disbelieves the "Antick Fables" and "Fairy toys" told by the Lovers.]

While a short Simphony Plays, Enter Oberon, Titania, Robin-Good-Fellow, and all the Fayries.

Duke. I hear strange Musick, warbling in the Air.

Oberon. 'Tis Fairy Musick, sent by me;

To cure your Incredulity.

All was true the Lovers told,

You shall stranger things behold.

Mark the wonders shall appear,

While I feast your eye and ear.

Titania. Sir, then cast your eyes above:

See the Wife of mighty Fove.

[Juno appears in a Machine drawn by Peacocks.

While a Symphony Plays, the Machine moves forward, and the Peacocks spread their Tails, and fill the middle of the Theater.

Juno sings:

Thrice happy Lovers, may you be

For ever, ever free,

From that tormenting Devil, Jealousie.

From all that anxious Care and Strife,

That attends a married Life:

Be to one another true,

Kind to her as she to you,

And since the Errors of this Night are past,

May he be ever Constant, she for ever Chast.

The Machine ascends.

After Juno's Song, Oberon speaks.

Oberon. Sing me the Plaint that did so Nobly move, When Laura Mourn'd for her departed Love.

THE PLAINT.

O Let me ever, ever weep,

My Eyes no more shall welcome Sleep;

I'll hide me from the sight of Day,

And sigh, and sigh my Soul away.

He's gone, he's gone, his loss deplore;

For I shall never see him more.

Oberon. Now let a new Transparent World be seen,

All Nature joyn to entertain our Queen.

Now we are reconcil'd, all things agree

To make an Universal Harmony.

While the Scene is darken'd, a single Entry is danced; Then a Symphony is play'd; after that the Scene is suddainly Illuminated, and discovers a transparent Prospect of a Chinese Garden, the Architecture, the Trees, the Plants, the Fruit, the Birds, the Beasts quite different to what we have in this part of the World. It is terminated by an Arch, through which is seen other Arches with close Arbors, and a row of Trees to the end of the View. Over it is a hanging Garden, which rises by several ascents to the top of the House; it is bounded on either side with pleasant Bowers, various Trees, and numbers of strange Birds flying in the Air, on the Top of a Platform is a Fountain, throwing up Water, which falls into a large Basin.

A Chinese enters and sings:

Thus the gloomy World
At first began to shine,
And from the Power Divine
A Glory round it hurl'd;
Which made it bright,
And gave it Birth in light.
Then were all Minds as pure,
As those Ethereal Streams;
In Innocence secure,
Not Subject to Extreams.
There was no Room for empty Fame,
No cause for Pride, Ambition wanted aim.

A Chinese Woman sings:

Thus Happy and Free,
Thus treated are we
With Nature's chiefest Delights.

Chorus. Thus happy, &c.

We never cloy,
But renew our Joy,
And one Bliss another Invites.

Chorus. We never, &c.

Thus wildly we live,
Thus freely we give,
What Heaven as freely bestows.

Chorus. Thus wildly, &c.

We were not made
For Labour and Trade,
Which Fools on each other impose.

Chorus. We were not made, &c.

A Chinese Man Sings:

Yes, Xansi, in your Looks I find
The Charms by which my Heart's betray'd;
Then let not your Disdain unbind
The Prisoner that your Eyes have made.
She that in Love makes least Defence,
Wounds ever with the surest Dart;
Beauty may captivate the Sence,
But Kindness only gains the Heart.

[Six Monkeys come from between the Trees, and Dance

Two Women Sing in Parts:

1st Woman. Hark how all things with one Sound rejoyce,

And the World seems to have one Voice.

2nd Woman. Hark how the Echoing Air a Triumph Sings,

And all around pleas'd Cupids clap their Wings.

1st Woman. Sure the dull God of Marriage does not hear;

We'll rouse him with a Charm. Hymen appear!

Chorus. Appear! Hymen appear!

Both. Our Queen of Night commands you not to stay.

Chorus. Our Queen, &c.

[Enter Hymen.

Hymen. See, see, I obey.

My Torch has long been out, I hate On loose dissembled Vows to wait,

Where hardly Love out-lives the Wedding-Night,

False Flames, Love's Meteors, yield my Torch no Light.

Six Pedestals of China-work rise from under the Stage; they support six large Vases of Porcelain, in which are six China-Orange-Trees.

Both Women. Turn then thy Eyes upon those Glories there,

And catching Flames will on thy Torch appear.

Hymen. My Torch, indeed, will from such Brightness shine:

Love ne'er had yet such Altars, so divine.

The Pedestals move toward the Front of the Stage, and the Grand Dance begins of Twenty-four Persons; then Hymen and the Two Women sing together.

They shall be as happy as they're fair;
Love shall fill all the Places of Care:
And every time the Sun shall display
His Rising Light,
It shall be to them a new Wedding-Day;
And when he sets, a new Nuptial-Night.

A Chinese Man and Woman Dance.

The Grand Chorus. They shall be, &c.

[All the Dancers join in it.

[The play ends with a kind of Epilogue, spoken by Oberon and Titania.]

THE FAIRY QUEEN.

FIRST MUSIC.









HORNPIPE.



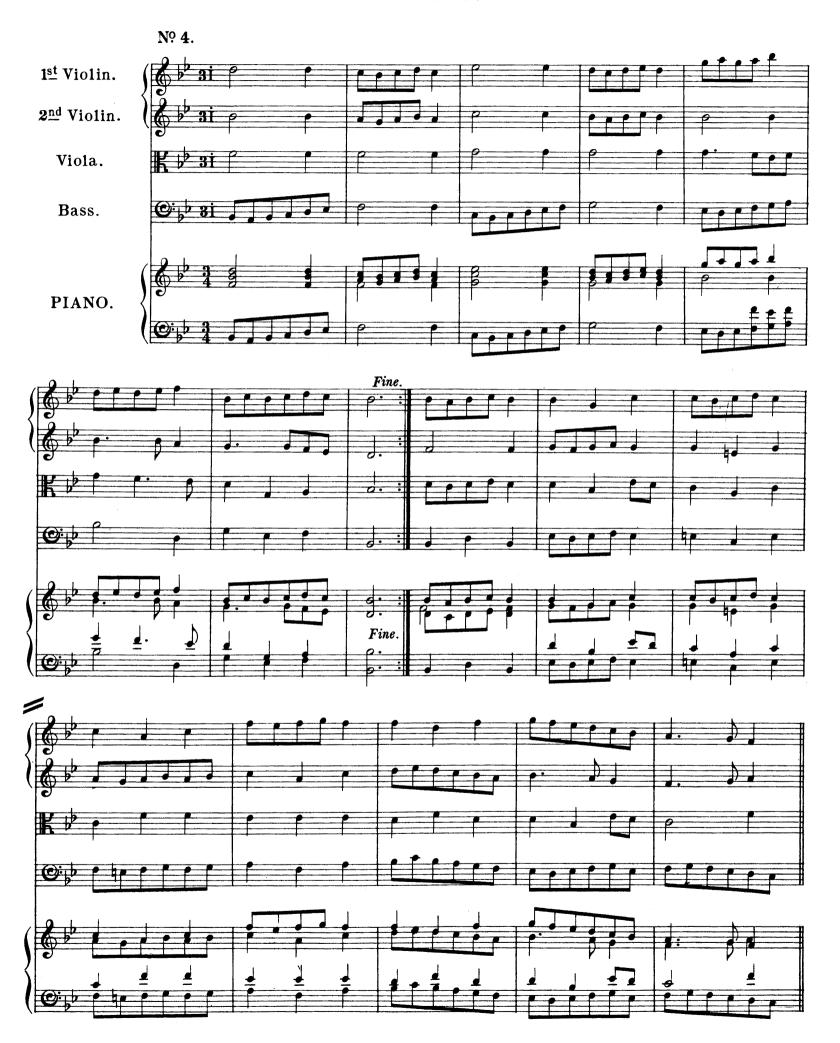


SECOND MUSIC. AIR.





RONDEAU.





ACT I. OVERTURE.











DUET. (Soprano and Bass.) COME LET US LEAVE THE TOWN.









SCENE OF THE DRUNKEN POET.

























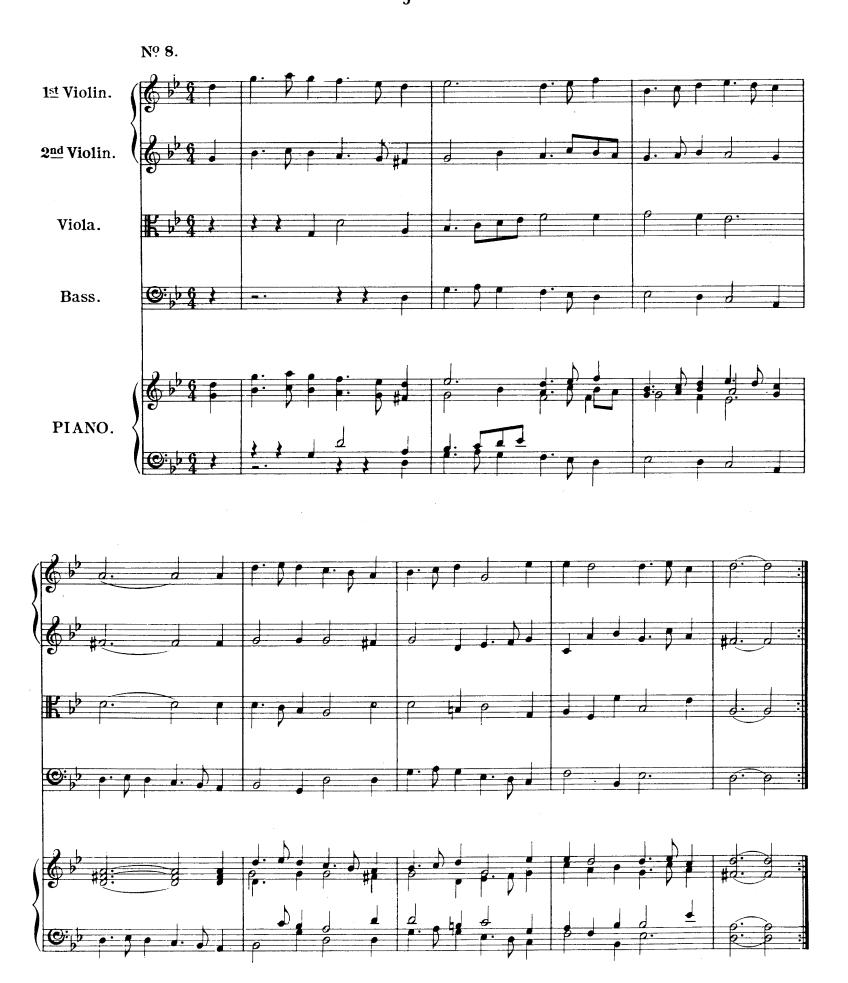








FIRST ACT TUNE. JIG.





ACT II.

SOLO (Alto) COME ALL YE SONGSTERS. TRIO (Alto, Tenor and Bass.) MAY THE GOD OF WIT. CHORUS. NOW JOIN YOUR WARBLING VOICES.

SOLO (Soprano) and CHORUS. SING WHILE WE TRIP IT.











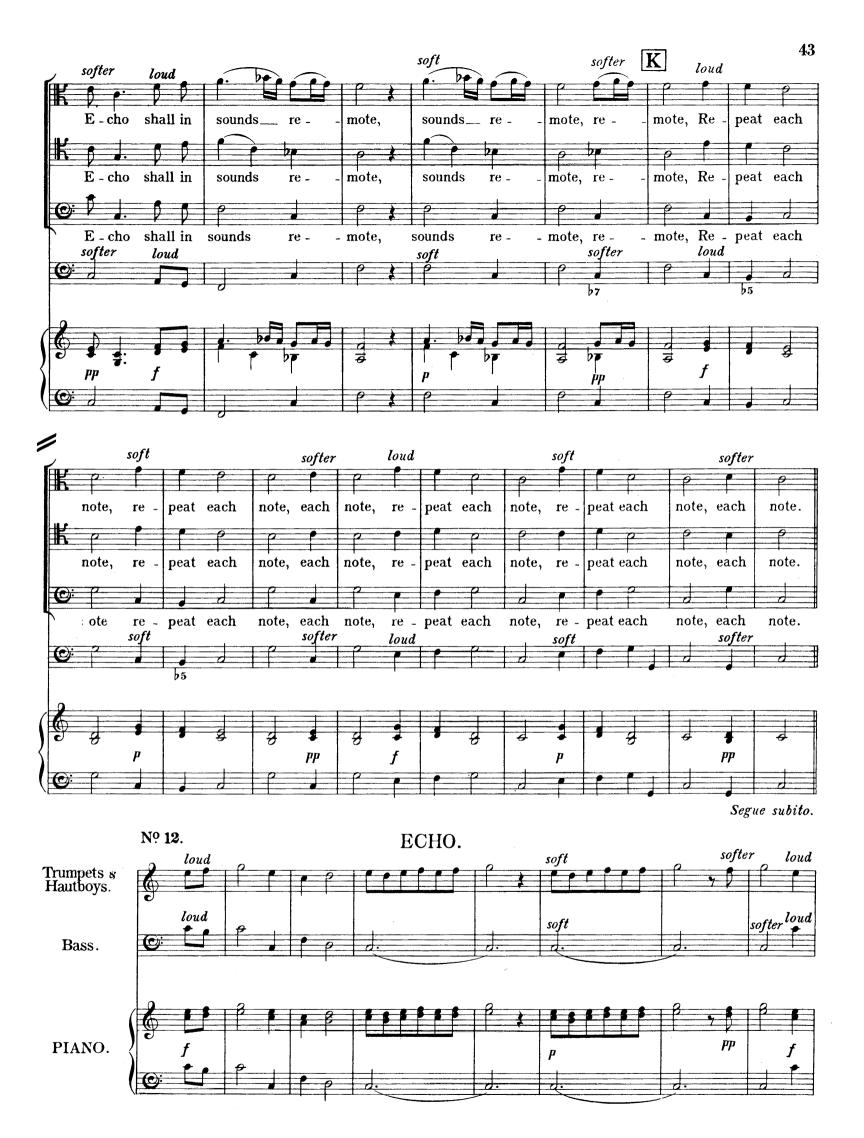






^{*}see page 205 for alternative version.















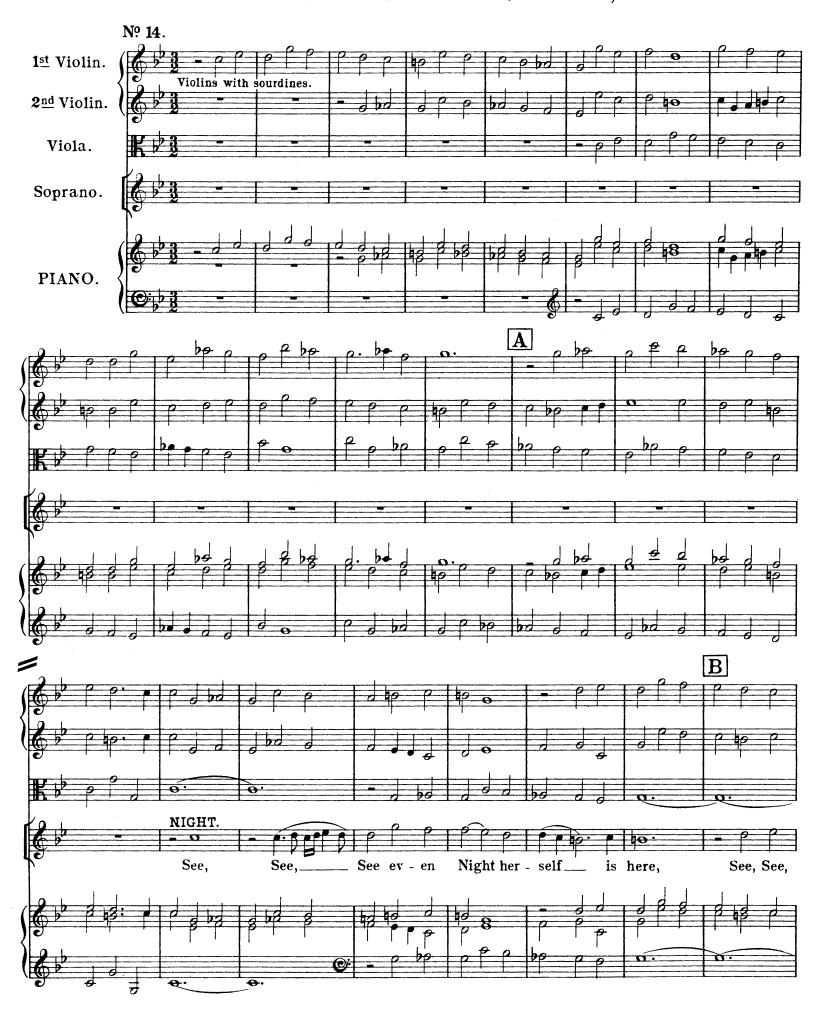






THIS CHORUS AGAIN FOR A DANCE OF FAIRIES.

SONGS (Soprano I) SEE, EVEN NIGHT; (Soprano II) I AM COME; (Alto) ONE CHARMING NIGHT; (Bass) HUSH, NO MORE; and CHORUS.











Nº 16. **57** 1st Flute. Bass. (O: b: SECRESY. One charm-ing night gives de-light, Than a hun-dred, than a hun-dred, a hun-dred luck-y days.













DANCE FOR THE FOLLOWERS OF NIGHT.





SECOND ACT TUNE.





ACT III.

SONG (Soprano) and CHORUS. IF LOVE'S A SWEET PASSION.











OVERTURE.

SYMPHONY WHILE THE SWANS COME FORWARD.

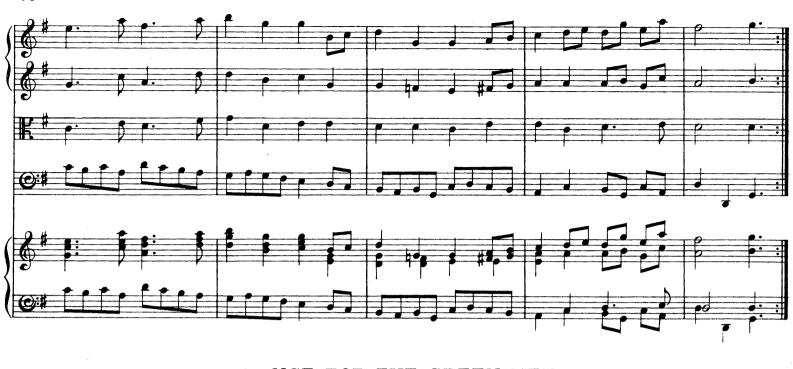


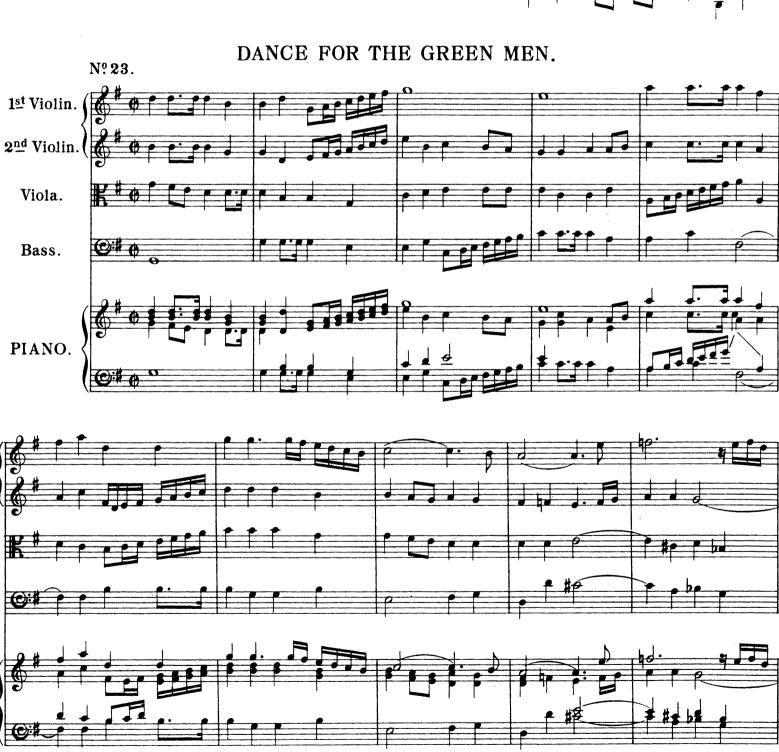




DANCE FOR THE FAIRIES.









SONG. (Soprano) YE GENTLE SPIRITS OF THE AIR.













DIALOGUE BETWEEN CORIDON AND MOPSA. (Alto and Bass.)















SONG. (Soprano.) WHEN I HAVE OFTEN HEARD.





DANCE FOR THE HAYMAKERS.



SONG. (Alto.) and CHORUS. A THOUSAND, THOUSAND WAYS.















THIRD ACT TUNE. HORNPIPE.





ACT IV. SYMPHONY.

























SOLO.(Soprano). and CHORUS. NOW THE NIGHT.













DUET. (Alti). LET THE FIFES AND THE CLARIONS.





ENTRY OF PHOEBUS.



SONG (Tenor) WHEN A CRUEL LONG WINTER. and CHORUS. HAIL! GREAT PARENT.





















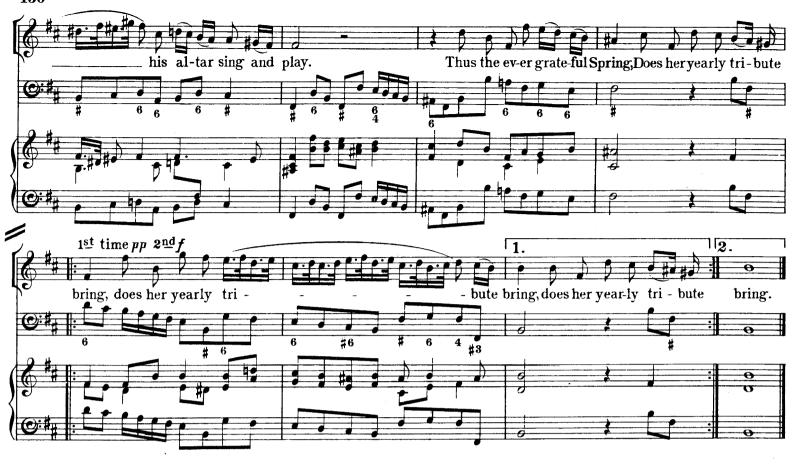












SONG. (Alto). HERE'S THE SUMMER SPRIGHTLY GAY.





SONG. (Tenor). SEE, SEE MY MANY COLOUR'D FIELDS.











SONG. (Bass) NEXT, WINTER COMES SLOWLY.







Repeat Chorus, page 130.

FOURTH ACT TUNE. AIR.



ACT V.

PRELUDE.



EPITHALAMIUM. (Soprano.) THRICE HAPPY LOVERS.







SONG. (Soprano.) THE PLAINT.







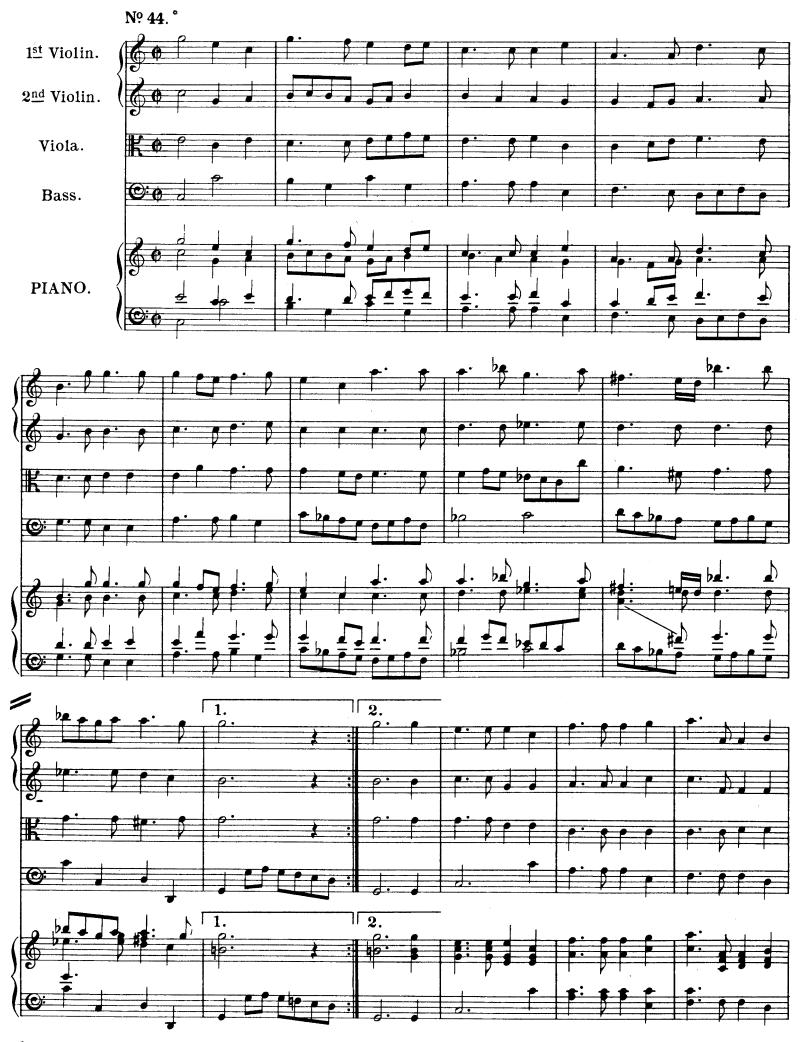








ENTRY DANCE.



^{*}see page 211 for alternative version.



SYMPHONY.









^{*}The Trumpet notes in Pianoforte part are printed in small type.















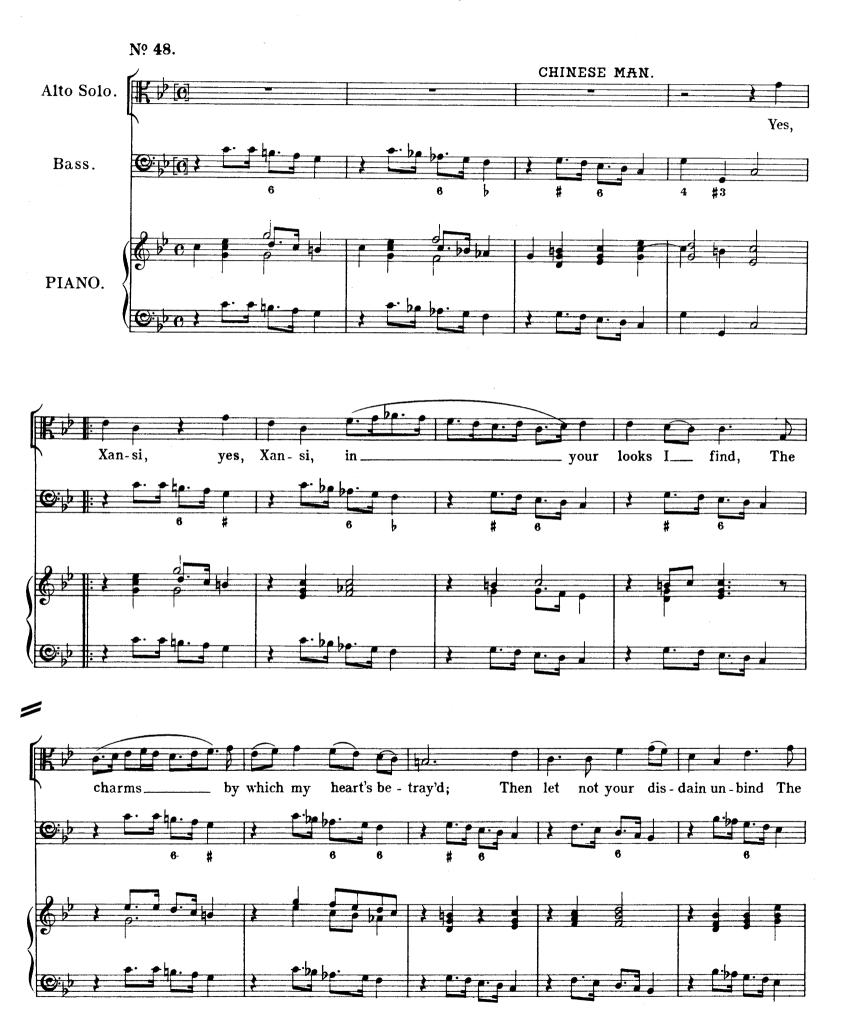


SOLO. (Soprano) and CHORUS. THUS HAPPY AND FREE.



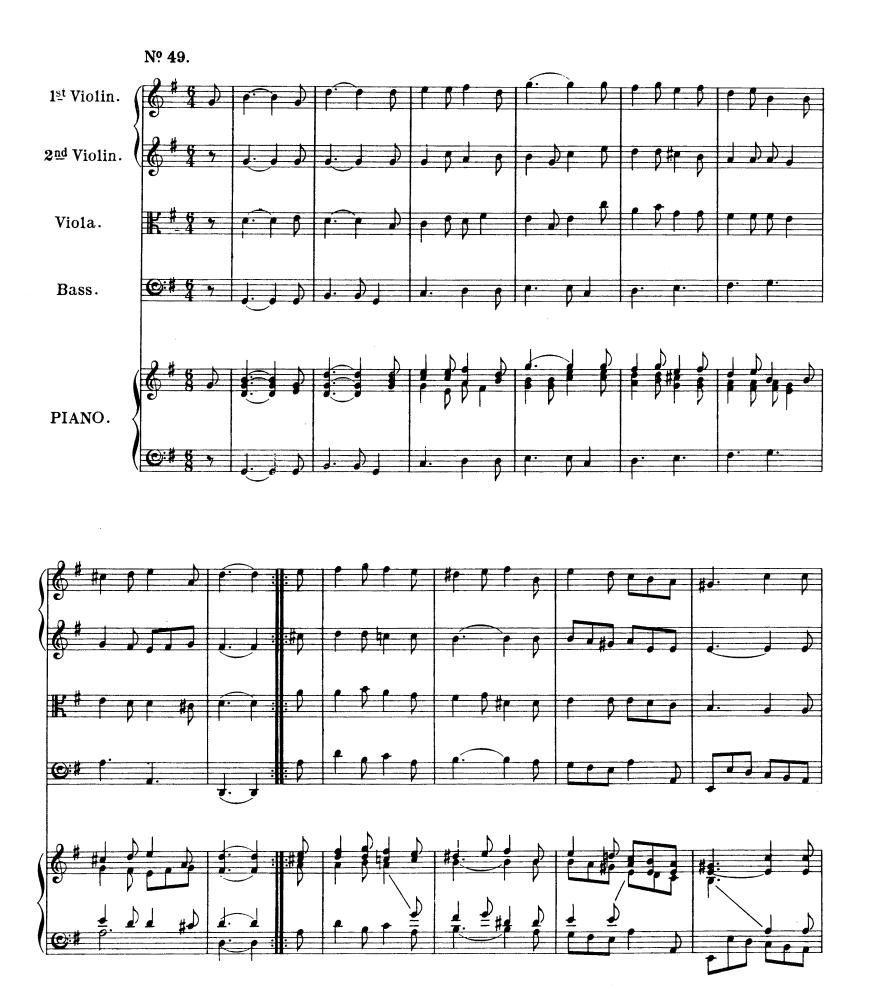


SONG. (Alto.) YES, XANSI.





MONKEYS' DANCE.





SONG. (Soprano) HARK, HOW ALL THINGS.







SONG. (Soprano) and CHORUS. HARK! THE ECHING AIR.









SOLI and TRIO (Two Soprani and Bass.) and CHORUS. SURE THE DULL GOD.









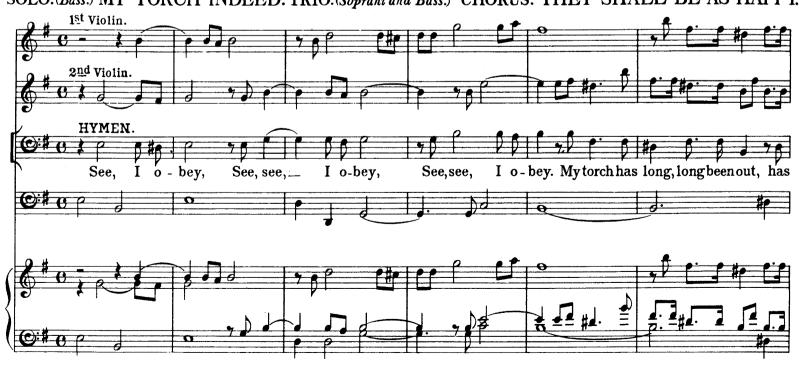




PRELUDE.



SOLO. (Bass.) MY TORCH INDEED. TRIO. (Soprani and Bass.) CHORUS. THEY SHALL BE AS HAPPY.























DANCE FOR CHINESE MAN AND WOMAN.



















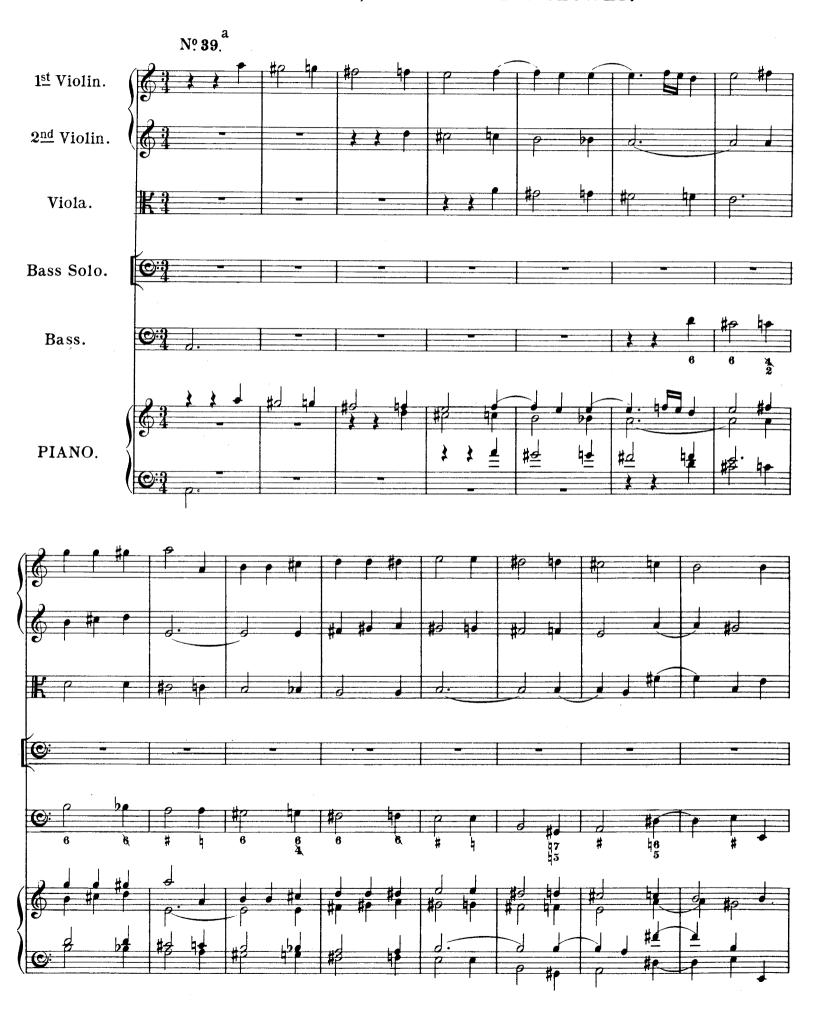






APPENDIX II.

SONG. (Bass.) NEXT, WINTER COMES SLOWLY.







APPENDIX III.

ENTRY DANCE.





AIR.*



 $^{{}^{\}bullet} from$ "Ayres for the Theatre" (see Preface, page III).





