

## Purcell – Music for a While

<b>Context</b>	1692. Oedipus story. Calming Alecto. Baroque
<b>Genre</b>	Baroque secular vocal music.
<b>Instruments</b>	Ground bass (harpsichord and bass viol (cello), voice (countertenor).
<b>Structure</b>	Ternary form – ABA1 Ground bass structure (3 bar repeating pattern in the basso continuo x12) Intro. A – 4-21 B 22-28 A1 29-38
<b>Melody</b>	Mainly conjunct / stepwise Frequent passing notes Ornaments – decorate the melody: in voice and harpsichord. <i>Trills – b.13</i> <i>Appoggiatura – b.35</i> <i>Grace notes/acciaccatura – b.6</i> <i>Upper mordent b.22</i> <i>Lower mordent b.1</i>
<b>Metre</b>	4/4 common time.
<b>Tempo</b>	Not indicated. But slow tempo is suggested.
<b>Rhythm</b>	Predominantly quavers and semi-quavers. Dotted rhythms in vocal line sometimes (and harpsichord) Ground bass = continuous quavers
<b>Tonality</b>	A minor BUT modulations: E min b.14 G major b.16 C major b.21 A maj b.23 E min b.27 Amin b.28-end All modulations are clearly defined by a perfect cadence in the new key.

## Purcell – Music for a While

<b>Harmony (chords)</b>	Functional / diatonic – basic chords within the key of the piece. Perfect cadences
<b>Texture</b>	Melody & accompaniment Polyphonic/counterpoint between right hand of harpsichord and vocal line.
<b>Dynamics</b>	N/A
<b>Key terms to remember</b>	Word setting! Mainly syllabic but some melismas on certain words: e.g Wond'ring, eternal Word painting: (the music matches the word meaning – onomatopoeia) e.g 'Drop' – short and descending in pitch b.23-25 e.g 'Pains' – dissonant chord b.12 e.g. 'pains were eased' b.13 – dissonance is resolved and melody descends.

Similarities to Bach

Baroque period

Harpsichord

Basso continuo

Ternary form

Melody conjunct and contains ornaments

Functional harmony terraced dynamics