

"Musick for a while" from *Orpheus Britannicus*

John Dryden

Henry Purcell

Original in c minor

Soprano

Continuo realized by W. F. Long

MU - SICK,

Harpisichord

5
Mu - sick for a while, shall all your Cares be - guile, shall all, all,

8
all, shall all, all, all, shall all, your Cares be - guile; wond -

11
- 'ring, wond - - 'ring how your Pains were eas'd, eas'd,

"Musick for a while"

14

eas'd, and dis-dain-ing to be pleas'd, till A-lec-to free the

17

Dead, till A-lec-to free the Dead, from their E-ter-

20

-nal, E-ter-nal Band;

23

till the Snakes drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop

26

from her Head; and the Whip, and the Whip from out her Hand;

29

Mu - sick, Mu - - sick for a while shall all your cares be

32

guile; shall all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, your cares be -

35

guile. all, all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all, your cares be - guile.

"Musick for a while" is from the incidental music to Oedipus. It is on page 126 of Book II of *Orpheus Britannicus*. The original key is c minor, here transposed down to a minor. The bass is unfigured in *Orpheus*.

In Greek mythology, *Alecto* was one of the furies, a goddess whose job is the castigation of those guilty of moral crimes. She had snakes for hair, dogs' heads, bats' wings, and blood dripped from her eyes. She wields a studded whip. In Dryden's poem, the text for this song, music calms Alecto until she drops her whip and the snakes fall from her head.