

Fairest Isle (King Arthur)

John Dryden (1631–1700)

HENRY PURCELL (1658–1695)
S.W.

The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first two lines of the song, and the second system contains the next two lines. Each line of music is accompanied by two versions of the lyrics, numbered 1 and 2. The lyrics are written in a formal, early modern style.

System 1:

S: 1. Fair- est Isle, all isles ex- cel- ling, Seat of pleas- sure and of
2. Gen- tle mur- murs sweet com- plai- ning, Sighs that blow the fire of

A: 1. Fair- est Isle, all isles ex- cel- ling, Seat of pleas- sure and of
2. Gen- tle mur- murs sweet com- plai- ning, Sighs that blow the fire of

T: 1. Fair- est Isle, all isles ex- cel- ling, Seat of pleas- sure and of
2. Gen- tle mur- murs sweet com- plai- ning, Sighs that blow the fire of

B: 1. Fair- est Isle, all isles ex- cel- ling, Seat of pleas- sure and of
2. Gen- tle mur- murs sweet com- plai- ning, Sighs that blow the fire of

System 2:

S: love, Ve- nus here will choose her dwell- ing And for- sake her Cy- prian
love. Soft re- pul- ses, kind dis- dain- ing, Shall be all the pains you

A: love, Ve- nus here will choose her dwell- ing And for- sake her Cy- prian
love. Soft re- pul- ses, kind dis- dain- ing, Shall be all the pains you

T: love, Ve- nus here will choose her dwell- ing And for- sake her Cy- prian
love. Soft re- pul- ses, kind dis- dain- ing, Shall be all the pains you

B: love, Ve- nus here will choose her dwell- ing And for- sake her Cy- prian
love. Soft re- pul- ses, kind dis- dain- ing, Shall be all the pains you

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grove. Cu- pid from his fa- v'rite na- tion Care and en- vy will re move;
 prove. Ev' ry swain shall pay his du- ty Grate- ful e- v'ry nymph shall prove;

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Jea- lou- sy that pois- nous pass- ion, And des- pair that dies for love.
 And as these ex- cel in beau- ty, Those shall be re- nowned for love.

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