

O solitude

1st and last stanzas of a poem by Katherine Phillips Henry Purcell

The musical score consists of five staves of music in common time, key signature of one flat. The vocal line is in soprano range.

Stanza 1 (Measures 1-14):

O sol-i-tude, my sweet-
est choice! O
sol-i-tude, my sweet-
est choice!

Measures 15-28:

sol-i-tude O sol-i-tude my sweet-
est sweet-est choice!
Pla-ces de-vo-ted to the sight Re-mote from tu-mult and from

Measures 29-42:

noise, How ye my rest- less thoughts de-light! O sol-

Measures 43-56:

i-tude, O sol-i-tude, my sweet- est, sweet-est choice!

Solfège notation: The vocal line uses a combination of solfège and letter notation (a, b, c) below the staff. The basso continuo line provides harmonic support with sustained notes and simple chords.

45

heav'n! What con-tent is mine, To see these trees, which have ap-pear'd From the na-ti-vi-ty of time, And which all a-ges have re-ver'd, To look to-day as fresh and green, To look to-day as fresh and green As when their beau-ties first were seen. O, how agreeable a sight These hang-ing moun-tains do appear, Which th'un-

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60

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70

75

130

pains, the pains to stu-dy it. For thy sake I in love

135

am grown With what thy fan-cy, thy fan-cy does pur-sue; But when I think up-on my

140

own, I hate it, I hate it for that rea-son too, Be-cause it needs must

145

hin- der me From see- ing, from see- ing and from serv- ing thee.

150

155

sol-i-tude, O how I sol-i-tude a-dore!

160

165

170