

O solitude

ton original

Z. 406. Musique d'Henry Purcell (1659-1695) composée en 1684-85 sur un texte de Catherine Philips, grande poétesse anglaise du XVIIème, et qui traduit ici une élégie de l'auteur français De St-Amant

Very slow

O so - li - tude, my sweet _____ est

The first system of the musical score is in 3/4 time, marked 'Very slow'. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note 'O', and then a melodic phrase starting with a quarter note 'so'. A measure rest is indicated by a box with the number '5'. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

choice, O so - li - tude, O so - li tude, my

The second system continues the vocal line with the words 'choice, O so - li - tude, O so - li tude, my'. It includes a measure rest marked with a box containing the number '10' and a plus sign '+'. The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support.

sweet _____ est, sweet - est choice: Pla - ces de - vo - ted _ to the

The third system concludes the vocal line with 'sweet _____ est, sweet - est choice: Pla - ces de - vo - ted _ to the'. It features a measure rest marked with a box containing the number '15' and a plus sign '+'. The piano accompaniment provides the final harmonic context for the phrase.

20

night, re - mote from tu - mult and from noise, How ye my rest _____

25

_____ less thoughts de - light! O so - li - tude, O

+

30

so - li tude, my sweet _____ est, sweet - est choice. O

heav'ns, what _____ con - tent _____ is mine, To see those trees which have ap -

35

- pear'd From the na - ti - vi - ty of time, and which all a - ges have re - ver'd, To look to

40

- day as fresh and green, to look to - day as fresh and green, As when their beauties first were

45

seen. O, O, how a - gree - a - ble a

50

sight These hang - ing - moun - tains do - ap - pear, Which th'un hap - py would in -

55

- vite To fi - nish all their sor - rows here, When their hard, - their hard -

60

fate makes - them en - dure Such - woes, such woes as on -

65

- ly - death can - cure. O! O! -

70

how I so - li - tude - a - dore! O! O! -

75

how I so — li - tude — a — dore ! That e - lement of

80

no — blest wit, Where I have learnt, where I have learnt A - pol - lo's lore With

85

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

90⁺

love — am grown, With what thy fan - cy, thy fan-cy does - pur - sue; But when I

95

think up on my own, I hate it, I hate it, for — that — rea - son

100

too, be - cause it needs must hin - der me From see - ing, from see - ing, and -

105

— from — ser - ving thee. O so - li - tude!

110

O! ————— how I so — li - tude a - dore!

O solitude, my sweetest choice!
Places devoted to the night,
Remote from tumult and from noise,
How ye my restless thoughts delight!
O solitude, my sweetest choice!
O heav'ns! what content is mine
To see these trees, which have appear'd
From the nativity of time,
And which all ages have rever'd,
To look today as fresh and green
As when their beauties first were seen.
O, how agreeable a sight
These hanging mountains do appear,
Which th' unhappy would invite
To finish all their sorrows here,
When their hard fate makes them endure
Such woes as only death can cure.
O, how I solitude adore!
That element of noblest wit,
Where I have learnt Apollo's lore,
Without the pains to study it.
For thy sake I in love am grown
With what thy fancy does pursue;
But when I think upon my own,
I hate it for that reason too,
Because it needs must hinder me
From seeing and from serving thee.
O solitude, O how I solitude adore!

Ah, solitude, de mes choix le plus exquis!
Vous, endroits consacrés à la nuit
Loin du tumulte et du vacarme,
Quels délices y trouvent mes pensées agitées.
Ah, solitude, le plus exquis de mes choix!
Ciel! Combien je suis heureux
De voir ces arbres, surgis
Dès la nativité des temps
Et vénérés dans tous les siècles,
Aussi frais et verts aujourd'hui
Qu'au premier jour de leur beauté.
Ah, quel plaisir de voir
Ces montagnes suspendues,
Alors que les malheureux voudraient qu'elles viennent
Mettre fin à toutes les douleurs qu'ils souffrent ici-bas,
Quand leur destin les oblige à supporter
Des malheurs tels que la mort seule y porte remède.
Ah, à quel point j'adore la solitude!
Cet aspect de l'intelligence la plus sublime
Où j'ai appris les leçons d'Apollon
Sans les efforts de l'apprentissage.
A cause de toi je suis tombé amoureux
De tout ce que poursuit ta fantaisie.
Mais quand je pense à la mienne propre
Je la hais pour la simple raison
Qu'elle m'empêche inévitablement
De te voir et de te servir.
Ah, solitude! combien j'adore la solitude!