

# John Milton's L'ALLEGRO ED IL PENSEROSO

Set to Music by

C. Hubert H. Parry Composed for the Norwich Music Festival - October 15, 1890

# VOCAL SCORE



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Cover Image: "The Bower Meadow" by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, 1872



The "renaissance" in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880, and was most notable for compositions by C.V. Stanford, C. Hubert H. Parry, Edward Elgar, Henry Walford Davies, Harold Darke and others. Public demand for major works in support of the annual choral festivals held throughout England at that time was considerable which led to the creation of many large scale works for orchestra with soloists and chorus. Although a number of those works found their way into print and are regularly performed today, a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works either were never published or were published but are no longer available in the publishers' catalogues. While the existence of these works is documented in biographies of the composers, the ability to study and, most importantly, to perform these compositions is not possible.

Changes in the International copyright laws in the mid-1970's played a pivotal role in creating this void, opening a significant number of musical compositions to public access. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. Performance score inventories of these works were eliminated. In addition, for many compositions, the only published material were vocal scores - full scores and orchestra parts were hand notated for the premiere of a work and then were 'recycled' for future performances. While full score autograph manuscripts are now accessible through the major music libraries in the UK, the hand-notated parts have long since been lost. These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of the published vocal scores are now the only resources available for studying and performing these works.

The English Heritage Music Series has been created to ensure that these compositions are preserved, are accessible for scholarly research and, most importantly, are available for performance by future generations. Its mission is to:

- Source unpublished/out-of-print English composer compositions that are in the U.S. public domain
- Preserve these compositions through the preparation of performance scores using notation software
- Provide open Internet access to the scores to facilitate study, performance and sharing of performance material (program notes, audio, reviews, etc.)

In preparing the English Heritage Music Series editions, every effort has been made to adhere strictly to the notation contained in the manuscripts. Because of the passage of time and its effect on the condition of the manuscript, the absence of clear information often times by the composer in notating divided instruments, and with emendations in the composer and other hands resulting from use of the manuscript in performance, there were numerous circumstances which required interpretation and decisions for notes, accidentals, dynamics, articulations and tempi. Should questions arise in the use of these editions, the composers' autograph manuscripts and the Novello vocal scores should be consulted for clarification.

Matthew W. Mehaffey Editor

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# Source Information

Autograph Manuscript: Vocal Score: Royal College of Music Library Oxford University, Bodleian Music Section, Weston Library Manuscript Transcription & Score Preparation Royal College of Music Library MS 4201 Novello Octavo Edition No. 8134 Michael Mullen, Ass't. Librarian - michael.mullen@rcm.ac.uk Martin Holmes, Curator of Music - martin.holmes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk David Fielding - dhcfielding@charter.net

# **Reference Material and Software**

Notation Software: Finale v. 26 Audio Software: Garritan Personal Orchestra 5 Graphic Software: Adobe Photoshop CS5 Document Software: Adobe In Design CS5 Music Notation Reference: Behind Bars by Elaine Gould, Faber Music © 2011

# L'ALLEGRO ED IL PENSEROSO

Libretto drawn from the poems L'Allegro and Il Penseroso by John Milton (1631)



# **L'ALLEGRO**

# HENCE, LOATHED MELANCHOLY Soprano Solo - page 9

Hence, loathed Melancholy! Of Cerberus and blackest Midnight born, In Stygian cave forlorn, 'Mongst horrid shapes, and shrieks, and sights unholy. Find out some uncouth cell, Where brooding Darkness spreads his jealous wings, And the night-raven sings' There, under ebon shades, and low-browed rocks, As ragged as thy locks, In dark Cimmerian desert ever dwell.

But come, thou Goddess fair and free, In Heaven yclept Euphrosyne, And by men, heart-easing Mirth.

# HASTE THEE, NYMPH

# Chorus - page 14

Haste thee, Nymph, and bring with thee Jest and youthful Jollity, Quips and Cranks, and wanton Wiles, Nods and Becks, and wreathed Smiles, Such as hang on Hebe's cheek, And love to live in dimple sleek. Sport that wrinkled Care derides, And Laughter, holding both his sides: And in thy right hand lead with thee The mountain-nymph, sweet Liberty; And, if I give thee honour due, Mirth, admit me of thy crew, To live with her and live with thee, In unreproved pleasures free; To hear the lark begin his flight, And singing startle the dull night From his watch-tower in the skies, Till the dappled dawn doth rise, Then to come, in spite of sorrow, And at my window bid good-morrow, Through the sweet-briar, or the vine, Or the twisted eglantine; While the cock, with lively din, Scatters the rear of darkness thin, And, to the stack or the barn-door Stoutly struts his dames before; Oft listening how the hounds and horn Cheerly rouse the slumbering Morn, From the side of some hoar hill, Through the high wood echoing shrill.

## SOMETIME WALKING

Soprano Solo - page 26

Sometime walking, not unseen, By hedgerow elms, on hillocks green, Right against the eastern gate, Where the great Sun begins his state, Robed in flames and amber light, The clouds in thousand liveries dight. Straight mine eye hath caught new pleasures; Whilst the landscape round it measures; Russet lawns, and fallows gray, Where the nibbling flocks do stray, Mountains, on whose barren breast The labouring clouds do often rest, Meadows trim, with daisies pied, Shallow brooks, and rivers wide; Towers and battlements it sees. Bosomed high in tufted trees Where, perhaps, some Beauty lies The Cynosure of neighbouring eyes.

# **TOWERED CITIES**

## Chorus - page 31

Towered cities please us then, And the busy hum of men, Where throngs of knights and barons bold In weeds of peace, high triumphs hold, With store of ladies, whose bright eyes Rain influence, and judge the prize Of wit or arms, while both contend To win her grace, whom all commend.

There let Hymen oft appear In saffron robe, with taper clear, With pomp, and feast, and revelry, With mask and antique pageantry; Such sights as youthful poets dream, On summer-eves by haunted stream.

### AND EVER, AGAINST EATING CARES

## Soprano Solo and Chorus - page 36

And ever, against eating cares. Lap me in soft Lydian airs, Married to immortal verse, Such as the meeting soul may pierce, In notes with many a winding bout Of linked sweetness long drawn out, With wanton heed and giddy cunning, The melting voice through mazes running,Untwisting all the chains that tie The hidden soul of harmony; That Orpheus' self may heave his head, From golden slumber on a bed Of heaped Elysian flowers, and hear Such strains as would have won the ear Of Pluto, to have quite set free His half-regained Eurydice. These delights, if thou canst give, Mirth, with thee I mean to live.



# **IL PENSEROSO**

# HENCE, VAIN, DELUDING JOYS Bass Solo - page 44

Hence, vain, deluding Joys, The brood of Folly without father bred! How little you bested, Or fill the fixed mind with all your toys! Dwell in some idle brain, And fancies fond with gaudy shapes possess, As thick and numberless As the gay motes that people the sunbeams, Or likest hovering dreams,

The fickle pensioners of Morpheus' train.

# HAIL, THOU GODDESS

Chorus - page 46

But hail, thou Goddess, sage and holy! Hail, divinest Melancholy, Whose saintly visage is too bright To hit the sense of human sight.

#### COME, PENSIVE NUN

## Bass Solo and Chorus - page 47

Come, pensive Nun, devout and pure, Sober, steadfast, and demure; All in a robe of darkest grain Flowing with majestic train.

## COME, BUT KEEP THY WONTED STATE

### Bass Solo - page 49

Come, but keep thy wonted state, With even step, and musing gait; And looks commercing with the skies, Thy rapt soul sitting in thine eyes; There, held in holy passion still, Forget thyself to marble, till With a sad, leaden, downward cast, Thou fix them on the earth as fast;

## AND JOIN WITH THEE

Chorus - page 51

And join with thee calm Peace and Quiet, Spare Fast, that oft with gods doth diet, And hears the muses in a ring Aye round about Jove's altar sing. And the mute Silence hist along 'Less Philomel will deign a song, In her sweetest, saddest plight, Smoothing the rugged brow of Night, While Cynthia checks her dragon yoke, Gently o'er the accustomed oak.

Sweet bird, that shunnest the noise of folly, Most musical, most melancholy! Thee, chauntress, oft the woods among I woo to hear thy even-song; And, missing thee, I walk unseen On the dry smooth-shaven green, To behold the wandering Moon Riding near her highest noon.

Like one that has been led astray Through the heaven's wide pathless way, And oft, as if her head she bowed, Stooping through a fleecy cloud.

## OFT, ON A PLAT OF RISING GROUND

Bass Solo - page 57

Oft, on a plat of rising ground, I heard the far-off curfew sound, Over some, wide-watered shore, Swinging slow, with sullen roar; Or, if the air will not permit, Some still, removed place will fit, Where glowing embers through the room, Teach light to counterfeit a gloom. Far from all resort of mirth, Save the cricket on the hearth, Or the bellman's drowsy charm, To bless the doors from nightly harm; Or let my lamp at midnight hour Be seen in some high lonely tower, Where I may oft out-watch the Bear, With thrice great Hermes, or unsphere The spirit of Plato, to unfold What worlds or what vast regions hold Th' immortal mind, that hath forsook Her mansion in this fleshly nook: And of those demons that are found In fire, air, flood, or underground, Whose power hath a true consent With planet or with element.

# AND WHEN THE SUN BEGINS TO FLING Chorus - page 61

And when the sun begins to fling His flaring beams, me, Goddess, bring To arched walks of twilight groves And shadows brown, that Sylvan loves, There in close covert by some brook, Where no profaner eye may look, Hide me from day's garish eye, While the bee with honeyed thigh,

That at her flowery work doth sing, And the waters murmuring, With such consort as they keep, Entice the dewy-feathered Sleep; And let some strange, mysterious dream Wave at his wings, in aery stream Of lively portraiture displayed, Softly on my eyelids laid: And, as I wake, sweet music breathe Above, about, or underneath, Sent by some Spirit to mortals good, Or the unseen Genius of the wood.

## BUT LET MY DUE FEET NEVER FAIL

### Bass Solo and Chorus - page 68

But let my due feet never fail To walk the studious cloister's pale, And love the high embowed roof, With antic pillars massy proof, And storied windows richly dight, Casting a dim religious light.

There let the pealing organ blow, In service high and anthems clear, As may with sweetness, through mine ear, Dissolve me into ecstasies, And bring all Heaven before mine eyes.





















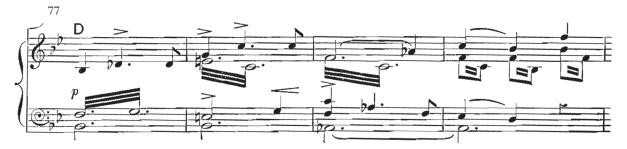


















































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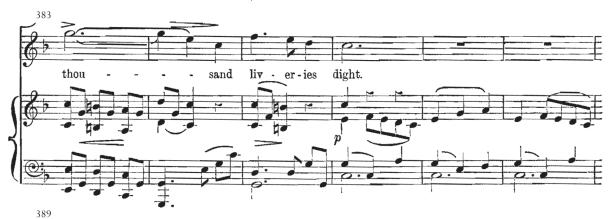




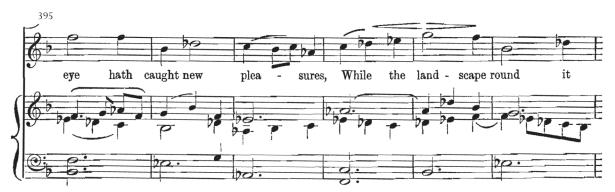












































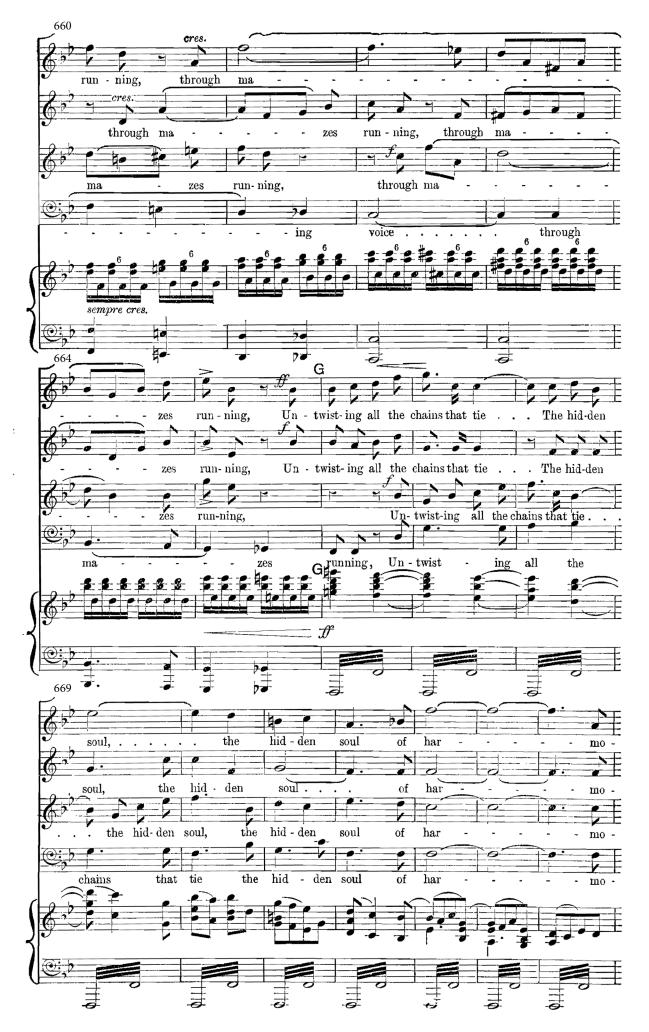






















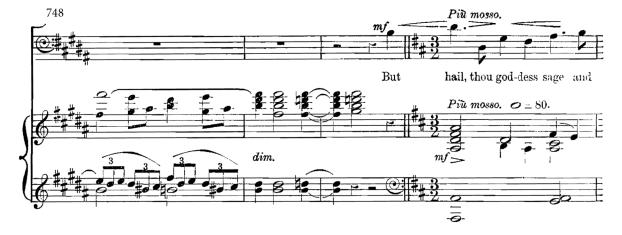


















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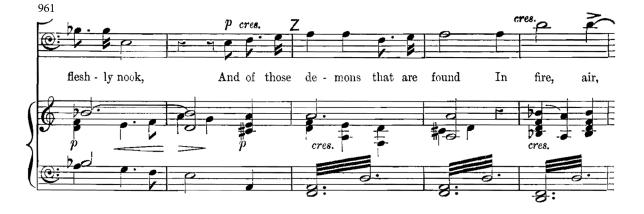


























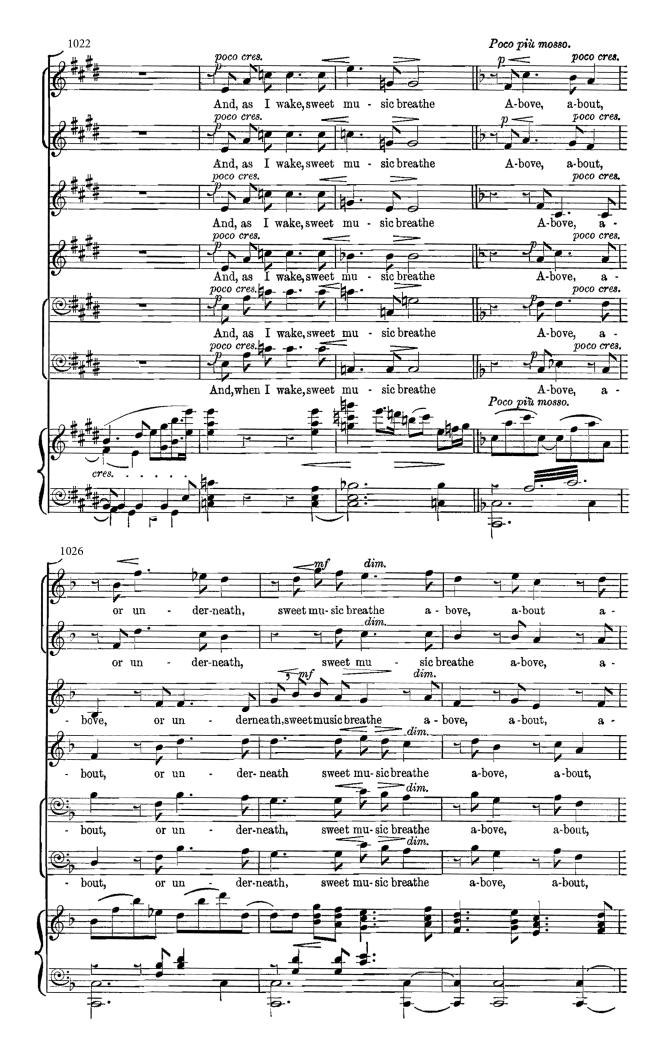












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