

ODE TO
THE PASSIONS



WRITTEN BY
William Collins

SET TO MUSIC FOR CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA BY
Frederic H. Cowen
Composed for the Leeds Musical Festival, 1898

VIOLA

COVER IMAGE

Euterpe, Érato et Uranie

by

Pierre Mignard

[1612 - 1695]

between 1600 and 1700

Louvre Museum, Paris



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The “renaissance” in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880. 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 were engraved, printed and are regularly performed today, performance scores for a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works were either never engraved or were engraved and printed 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, coupled with changing musical tastes, played a pivotal role in creating this void. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. In 1964, holograph and copyist scores from both Novello and from publishers it represented were offered to the British Library and the Royal College of Music Library (see The RCM Novello Library – The Musical Times, Feb. 1983 by Jeremy Dibble).

These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of engraved vocal scores, widely available through various online library sources, 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 non-engraved/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.

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Source Information

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Published Vocal Score

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Research & Score Preparation

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Reference Material and Software

Notation Software: Dorico Pro Version 6.2.10.6140 *Audio Software:* NotePerformer 5 *Graphic Software:* Affinity Pixel
Document Software: Affinity Layout *Music Notation Reference:* Behind Bars by Elaine Gould, Faber Music © 2011

ODE TO THE PASSIONS.



WHEN Music, heavenly maid, was young,
While yet in early Greece she sung,
The Passions oft, to hear her shell,
Thronged around her magic cell,
Exulting, trembling, raging, fainting,
Possess beyond the muse's painting:
By turns they felt the glowing mind
Disturb'd, delighted, raised, refined;
Till once, 'tis said, when all were fired,
Filled with fury, rapt, inspired,
From the supporting myrtles round
They snatch'd her instruments of sound;
And, as they oft had heard apart
Sweet lessons of her forceful art,
Each (for Madness ruled the hour)
Would prove his own expressive power.

First Fear his hand, its skill to try,
Amid the chords bewildered laid,
And back recoil'd, he knew not why,
E'en at the sound himself had made.

Next Anger rush'd; his eyes on fire,
In lightnings own'd his secret stings:
In one rude clash he struck the lyre,
And swept with hurried hand the strings.

With woful measures wan Despair
Low, sullen sounds his grief beguiled;
A solemn, strange, and mingled air;
'Twas sad by fits, by starts 'twas wild.

But thou, O Hope, with eyes so fair,
What was thy delightful measure?
Still it whisper'd promised pleasure,
And bade the lovely scenes at distance hail
Still would her touch the strain prolong;

And from the rocks, the woods, the vale,
She called on Echo still, through all the song
And, where her sweetest theme she chose,
A soft responsive voice was heard at every
close,
And Hope enchanted smiled, and waved her
golden hair.

And longer had she sung; but, with a frown,
Revenge impatient rose:
He threw his blood-stain'd sword, in thunder,
down;
And with a withering look,
The war-denouncing trumpet took,
And blew a blast so loud and dread,
Were ne'er prophetic sounds so full of woe!
And ever and anon, he beat
The doubling drum, with furious heat;
And though sometimes, each dreary pause be-
tween,
Dejected Pity, at his side,
Her soul-subduing voice applied,
Yet still he kept his wild unalter'd mien,
While each strain'd ball of sight seemed bursting
from his head.

With eyes upraised, as one inspired,
Pale Melancholy sat retired;
And, from her wild sequester'd seat,
In notes by distance made more sweet,
Pour'd through the mellow horn her pensive
soul;
And, dashing soft from rocks around,
Bubbling runnels join'd the sound;
Through glades and glooms the mingled measure
stole,
Or, o'er some haunted stream, with fond
delay,
Round an holy calm diffusing,
Love of peace, and lonely musing,
In hollow murmurs died away.

But O! how altered was its sprightlier tone,
When Cheerfulness, a nymph of healthiest hue,
Her bow across her shoulder flung,
Her buskins gemmed with morning dew.
Blew an inspiring air, that dale and thicket
rung,
The hunter's call, to Faun and Dryad known!
The oak-crown'd sisters, and their chaste-eyed
Queen,
Satyrs and Sylvan Boys, were seen,
Peeping from forth their alleys green:

Brown Exercise rejoiced to hear;
And Sport leapt up, and seized his beechen
spear.

Last came Joy's ecstatic trial:
He, with viny crown advancing,
First to the lively pipe his hand address;
But soon he saw the brisk awakening viol,
Whose sweet entrancing voice he loved the
best;

They would have thought who heard the strain
They saw, in Tempe's vale, her native maids,
Amidst the festal sounding shades,
To some unwearied minstrel dancing.

While, as his flying fingers kissed the strings,
Love framed with Mirth a gay fantastic
round:
Loose were her tresses seen, her zone unbound;
And he, amidst his frolic play,
As if he would the charming air repay,
Shook thousand odours from his dewy wings.

CHORUS.

O Music! sphere-descended maid,
Friend of Pleasure, Wisdom's aid!
Why, goddess! why, to us denied,
Lay'st thou thy ancient lyre aside?
As, in that loved Athenian bower,
You learn'd an all commanding power,
Thy mimic soul, O Nymph endeared,
Can well recall what then it heard;
Where is thy native simple heart,
Devote to Virtue, Fancy, Art?
Arise, as in that elder time,
Warm, energetic, chaste, sublime!

WM. COLLINS.

The Musical Times and Singing Class Circular,
November 1, 1898, Vol. 39, no. 669, p. 731-732

There can be little doubt that Mr. Cowen's setting of Collins' poem, "The Passions," is as a whole the strongest choral work he has yet given us. The various pictures which the poet conjures up in rapid succession afford an opportunity for varied and suggestive descriptive music that is in Mr. Cowen's very happiest vein. His success, too, is by no means partial. One would expect him to be at home with "Cheerfulness, a nymph of healthiest hue," and so indeed he is; but he is at least equally happy in his treatment of Revenge, which shows genuine power. The four-part writing marks in many places an advance, one instance being the passage in which "Pale Melancholy" appears on the scene, while the well wrought peroration that begins with the apostrophe "O Music, sphere-descended maid," brings the work to a grandiose conclusion. Mr. Cowen's graceful and appropriate use of the orchestra need not be insisted on, for it is nothing new; but it must be said that it adds greatly to the suggestiveness and charm of the work. The Ode, which is for chorus only, and takes twenty-five minutes in performance, was sung and played with really admirable spirit, and, like Stanford's Te Deum, showed what could be got out of band and chorus by a practised and energetic conductor.

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ODE TO THE PASSIONS

William Collins

Frederic H. Cowen

Andante con moto ma tranquillo (♩ = 60)

1-5
pp

8-9
11-15

16
pp

18-19
21-22
p

25
poco cresc.
dim.
p
dim.

32
pp
pp

40
pp

47
mp
p
poco cresc.

52
dim.
p
div.
unis.
dim.

98

pizz. **1** unis. arco *f*

p

103

div. **B**

108

1 unis. *sf* *ff*

114

118

$\text{♩} = 76$ **17**

122-138

139

C *sf* *p* *mf*

4 **2** **3**

146-149 *mf* 152-153 *mf* 156-158

159

p *dim.*

165 Andante molto tranquillo. ♩ = 60 poco rall. a tempo div. unis.

170

175

180

185 D

189

195 Pochissimo più lento. (♩ = 100) Come I^{ma} V.S.

200 $\text{♩} = 60$
unis.
pp *tr* *pp* *pp*

208 *pizz.* *p* *arco* *f* *f* *marcato* *f*

212 *div.*

218 *f*

222 *div.* *unis.*

227 *sf* *dim.* **3** **E** **1** *div.* *p*

230-232

235 *f* *p*

240 *p*

245

249

254

260

265

270

277

poco rall.....

Molto Lento quasi Adagio. ♩ = 40

Vc. div.

pp

4

281-284

287

con sord.

G

p

1

V.S.

334

Musical notation for measures 334-338. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The piece begins with a whole rest in measure 334, followed by a half rest in measure 335. Measures 336 and 337 contain eighth-note triplets starting on G4, with a *p* dynamic marking. Measure 338 continues with eighth-note triplets.

339

Musical notation for measures 339-343. Measures 339-342 feature eighth-note triplets with a *unis.* (unison) marking. Measure 343 contains a half note chord (G#4, C#5) with a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking. Measure 344 begins with a half rest, followed by eighth-note triplets in measure 345 with a *div.* (divisi) marking and a *p* dynamic.

344

Musical notation for measures 344-348. Measure 344 starts with a half rest, followed by eighth-note triplets in measure 345 with a *unis.* marking. Measure 346 contains a half note chord (G#4, C#5) with a *f* (forte) dynamic. Measures 347 and 348 continue with eighth-note triplets.

349

Musical notation for measures 349-354. Measures 349-353 feature eighth-note triplets with a *cresc.* marking. Measure 354 begins with a half rest, followed by a first ending bracket labeled 'I' above it. The first ending consists of a half note chord (G#4, C#5) with a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic. A second ending bracket labeled '2' above it follows, leading to a double bar line. The page number '353-354' is written at the bottom right.

355

p

359

363

cresc.

367

f

373

mf *dim.* *p*

378

pp

388

pp

395

unis.

400

Musical staff for measures 400-403. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various rests.

K

404

Musical staff for measures 404-409. The music features eighth notes with accents (^) and rests. Dynamics include *f* and *sempre f*.

410

Musical staff for measures 410-415. The music includes eighth notes with accents (^) and rests. Dynamics include *f* and *marcato*.

416

Musical staff for measures 416-419. The music features triplet eighth notes and sixteenth notes.

420

Musical staff for measures 420-423. The music includes eighth notes with accents (^) and rests. Dynamics include *ff* and *f*.

424

Musical staff for measures 424-432. The music includes eighth notes with accents (^) and rests. Dynamics include *f*. There are bracketed sections for measures 427-429 (triplets) and 430-431 (pairs). A box labeled 'L' is above the 430-431 section. The word *pizz.* is written above the final measure.

433

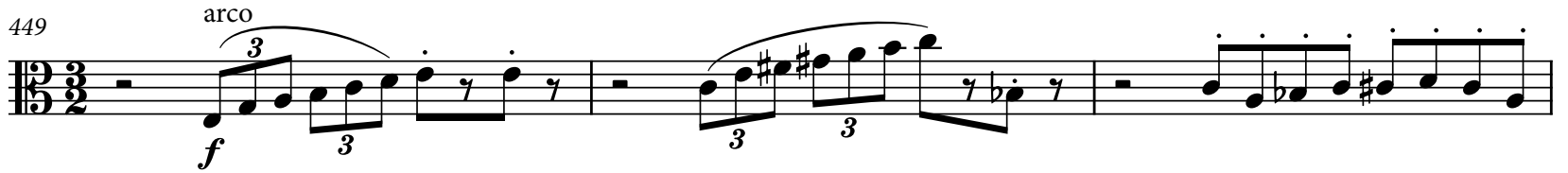
Musical staff for measures 433-442. The music includes eighth notes with accents (^) and rests. Dynamics include *mf*. There is a bracketed section for measures 436-440 (quintuplets). The word *pizz.* is written above the 436-440 section.

443

Musical staff for measures 443-447. The music includes eighth notes with accents (^) and rests. Dynamics include *f*. There is a bracketed section for measures 446-447 (pairs). The word *V.S.* is written below the staff. A tempo marking *d = d* is written above the staff.

L'istesso tempo

449 arco



452



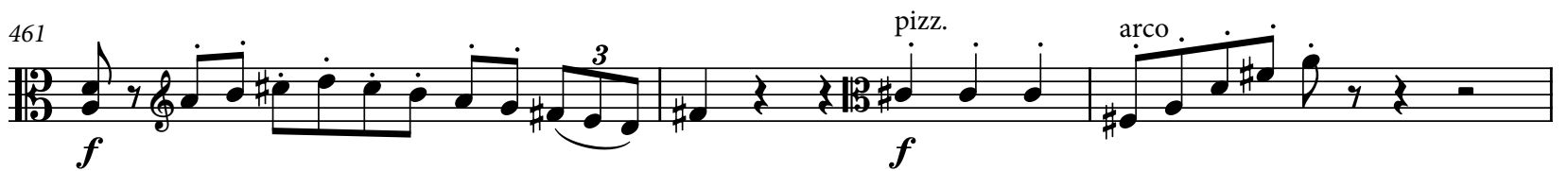
455



458



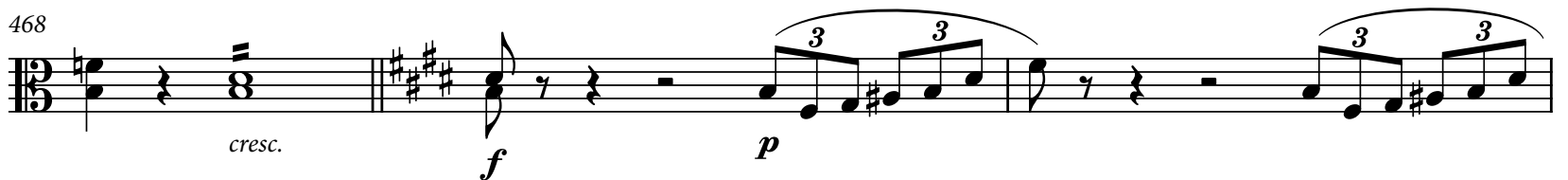
461



464



468



471



N

474

Musical staff 474: Bass clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. A first ending bracket labeled '1' spans the final two measures. Performance markings include 'pizz.' (pizzicato) and 'arco.' (arco) above the staff, and a dynamic marking 'p' (piano) below the first measure.

478

Musical staff 478: Bass clef, key signature of three sharps. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. A dynamic marking 'cresc.' (crescendo) is placed below the staff.

481

Musical staff 481: Bass clef, key signature of three sharps. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, followed by a series of chords. A dynamic marking 'f' (forte) is placed below the first measure.

484

Musical staff 484: Bass clef, key signature of three sharps. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet. Performance markings include 'ff' (fortissimo) below the first measure and 'sempre ff' (sempre fortissimo) below the final measure.

487

Musical staff 487: Bass clef, key signature of three sharps. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet. Performance markings include accents (^) above several notes.

490

Musical staff 490: Bass clef, key signature of three sharps. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet. Performance markings include 'ff' (fortissimo) below the first measure and accents (^) above several notes.

493

Musical staff 493: Bass clef, key signature of three sharps. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet. Performance markings include accents (^) above several notes.

V.S.

496

f

501

sempre f *f*

506

p 3 3 3

511

cresc. *dim.* *p*

518

mp

522

mf *cresc.*

526

f 3 3

529

f



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