

About Henry Purcell

C. 10th September 1659 - 21st November 1695

Henry Purcell lived and worked in the Baroque period of music; meaning that he was composing about the same time as other Baroque composers such as J.S. Bach, Antonio Vivaldi and George Frederick Handel.

Henry Purcell was born in Westminster and lived there his whole life, working first of all as a copyist as a young man (A copyist wrote the parts out for the musicians from the conductors score) and then as a composer and organist in His Majesty's Chapel Royal.

He is most remembered for over 100 songs, an opera; Dido and Aeneas and incidental music to a version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* - known as *The Fairy Queen*. Purcell devoted much of his early career to composing sacred music - anthems and hymns.

Purcell died in 1695 a his home in Westminster. He was only 35 - 36 years of age when he passed away. He is buried next to the organ in Westminster Abbey.

Interesting Facts:

Some of Purcell's music has been used in modern popular and film music. For example, much of his music was used as the basis for the soundtrack for the 1979 Academy award winning film *Kramer Vs. Kramer*.

In 2013, the popular group *The Pet Shop Boys* released a single **Love is a Bourgeois Construct,** based on one of Purcell's songs from *King Arthur.*

Scan this QR code to read and listen to the Violin 1 Part. Follow each note and then you can try playing along with your part.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone or tablet to listen to and read the score for all of the string parts. Find and follow your part in the score.



