

# Fairest Isle (King Arthur)

John Dryden (1631–1700)

HENRY PURCELL (1658–1695)  
S.W.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The lyrics are provided for each part, with two versions (1. and 2.) for each voice. The lyrics are as follows:

**Soprano (S):**  
 1. Fair- est Isle, all isles ex- cel- ling, Seat of pleas- ure and of  
 2. Gen- tle mur- murs sweet com- plai- ning, Sighs that blow the fire of

**Alto (A):**  
 1. Fair- est Isle, all isles ex- cel- ling, Seat of pleas- ure and of  
 2. Gen- tle mur- murs sweet com- plai- ning, Sighs that blow the fire of

**Tenor (T):**  
 1. Fair- est Isle, all isles ex- cel- ling, Seat of pleas- ure and of  
 2. Gen- tle mur- murs sweet com- plai- ning, Sighs that blow the fire of

**Bass (B):**  
 1. Fair- est Isle, all isles ex- cel- ling, Seat of pleas- ure and of  
 2. Gen- tle mur- murs sweet com- plai- ning, Sighs that blow the fire of

**Lyrics (continuation):**  
 love, Ve- nus here will choose her dwell- ing And for- sake her Cy- prian  
 love. Soft re- pul- ses, kind dis- dain- ing, Shall be all the pains you

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grove. Cu-pid from his fa-v'rite na-tion Care and en-vy will re move;  
 prove. Ev' ry swain shall pay his du-ty Grate-ful e-v'ry nymph shall prove;

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grove. Cu-pid from his fa-v'rite na-tion Care and en-vy will re move;  
 prove. Ev' ry swain shall pay his du-ty Grate-ful e-v'ry nymph shall prove;

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Jea-lou-sy that pois-nous pass-ion, And des-pair that dies for love.  
 And as these ex-cel in beau-ty, Those shall be re-nowned for love.

8

Jea-lou-sy that pois-nous pass-ion, And des-pair that dies for love.  
 And as these ex-cel in beau-ty, Those shall be re-nowned for love.