

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 presented in two systems, each with two alternative lines of text. The first system covers the first two lines of the score, and the second system covers the next two lines. The lyrics describe the beauty of the Isle of Avalon and the love of Venus.

System 1:

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

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

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

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

System 2:

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

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.