

Fairest Isle

John Dryden
from *King Arthur*, Act V

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
ed. S J Pirttijarvi

1. Fair-est Isle, all isles ex-cel-ling. Seat of plea-sure and of love,
2. Gen-tle mur-murs sweet com-plain-ing, Sighs that blow the fire of love,

Ve-nus here will choose her dwell-ing, And for-sake her Cy-prian grove.
Soft re-pul-ses, kind dis-dain-ing, Shall be all the pains you prove.

Cu-pid from his fav'-rite na-tion, Care and en-vy will re-move;
Ev'-ry swain shall pay his du-ty, Grate-ful ev'-ry Nymph shall prove;

Jea-lou-sy, that poi-sons pas-sion, And de-spair that dies for love.
And as these ex-cel in beau-ty, Those shall be re-noun'd for love.