

Music for a While

Text by John Dryden (1631-1700) and Nathaniel Lee (1653?-1692), from Oedipus
Music by Henry Purcell, from Orpheus Britannicus, Vol. II (1692?)

Text [?]

[Music,] Music for a while
Shall all your cares beguile:
Wond'ring how your pains were eas'd
And disdain'g to be pleas'd
Till Alecto free the dead
From their eternal bands,
Till the snakes drop from her head,
And the whip from out her hands.

Purcell's setting

Music, music for a while
Shall all your cares beguile,
Shall all, all, all, shall all, shall all, shall all your cares beguile:
Wond'ring, wond'ring how your pains were eas'd, eas'd, eas'd,
And disdain'g to be pleas'd
Till Alecto free the dead, till Alecto free the dead
From their eternal, eternal bands,
Till the snakes drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop, drop
from her head,
And the whip, and the whip from out her hands.
Music, music for a while
Shall all your cares beguile,
Shall all, all, all, shall all, all all, shall all your cares beguile:
all, all, all, all, all, all, all, all, shall all your cares beguile.