

# Fairest Isle (King Arthur)

John Dryden (1631–1700)

HENRY PURCELL (1658–1695)  
S.W.

The musical score is set in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It features four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The lyrics are presented in two systems, each with two numbered lines of text. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music includes various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs. A small '8' is written below the Tenor staff in both systems, likely indicating a measure rest.

**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  
T  
8  
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

**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

A  
T  
8  
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

B

16

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;

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;

8

25

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.

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.

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