***Quodlibet or Cantata? Captain Macheath’s Execution Lament in The Beggar’s Opera***

English Theatre Culture 1660-1737: Music and Musical Genres of English Restoration Theatre

Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic • 12 October 2020

Stacey Jocoy ([stacey.jocoy@ttu.edu](mailto:stacey.jocoy@ttu.edu))

Macheath’s Final Medley (tunes 58-67)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Air #** | **Meter**  **Tempo** | **Beggar’s Opera Text** | **Original Text** | **Attrib.** |
| 1/  LVIII | C  Largo | Oh cruel, cruel, cruel case! Must I suffer this disgrace? | *Happy Groves*:  Oh! Happy, happy Groves, Witness of our tender loves;  Oh! Happy, happy shade, where first our Vows were made.  Blushing, Sighing, Melting, Dying, Looks would charm a Jove;  A Thousand pretty things she said and all was Love:  But Corinna perjur’d proves, and forsakes the shady Groves;… | John Barrett  (c. 1705) |
| 2/  LIX | 3/4  Allegro | Of all the friends in time of grief, when threat’ning Death looks grimmer, Not one so sure can bring relief, as this best friend a brimmer | *Sally in our Alley*:  Of all the Girls that are so Smart, there’s none like pretty Sally;  She is the darling of my Heart, and She lives in our Alley;  There is no Lady in the Land is half so Sweet as Sally:  She is the darling of my Heart, and She lives in our Alley…. | Henry Carey |
| 3/  LX | 3/4  Andante | Since I must swing, I scorn, I scorn to wince or whine | *Britons, Strike Home*:  Britons, Strike Home: Revenge your Country’s Wrongs,  Fight and Record your selves in Druids’ Songs. | Henry Purcell |
| 4/  LXI | 6/8  Moderato | But now again my spirits sink; I’ll raise them high with wine. | *Chevy Chase* / *Flying Fame*  [Original text tells of a heroic figure who continued to fight nobly in battle even after his legs were cut off] | Anon |
| 5/  LXII | 9/4  Allegro | But valor the stronger grows, The stronger liquor we’re drinking. And how can we feel our woes, When we’ve lost the trouble of thinking? | *Old Sir Simon the King* / *Ragged, Torn and True*:  [Texts set to this tune concern the concept of loyalty; they are often Cavalier texts about abuses they have endured in the king’s name] | Anon |
| 6/  LXIII | 3/4  Largo | If thus a man can die much bolder with brandy | *Joy to Great Caesar*:  [Royalist and anti-Catholic political song written by Thomas D’Urfey during the reign of Charles II | Michael Farinelli |
| 7/  LXIV | 6/4  Allegro | So I drink off this bumper and now I can stand the test, And my comrades shall see that I die as brave as the best | *There was an Old Woman*:  There was an old Woman liv’d under a Hill,  Sing Trolly lolly, lolly, lo;  She had good Beer and Ale for to sell,  Ho, ho, had she so,… | Anon |
| 8/  LXV | 3/2  Affettuoso | But can I leave my pretty hussies, without one tear, or tender sigh? | *Did you ever hear of a gallant Sailor?* / *Ned of the Hill*:  But it grieves me far more  Than the loss of my store  That there's none  who would shield me from danger  So my fate it must be  To fare eastward o'er sea  And languish amid the stranger" | Anon |
| 9/  LXVI | 3/4  Andante | Their eyes, their lips, their busses Recall my love  Ah, must I die? | *Why are mine eyes still Flowing?*:  Why are my Eyes still flowing, Why do my Heart thus trembling move? When do I sigh when going  To see the darling Saint I love? | Anon |
| 10/  LXVII | 6/4  Allegro | Since laws were made for ev’ry degree, to curb vice in others as well as me, I wonder we ha’nt better company Upon Tyburn tree! But gold from law can take out the sting; And if rich men, like us, were to swing, ‘Twould thin the land, such numbers to string upon Tyburn tree! | *Greensleeves*:  [Originally published in 1588, this tune was associated primarily with texts about betrayal, usually of others betraying the state] | Anon |