

SUITES, LESSONS AND PIECES

VOLUME 1

FOR SOLO HARPSICHORD OR PIANO

by

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PREFACE.

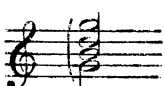
DURING the last fifty years several collections of Purcell's Harpsichord Music have appeared. Some of these contain compositions which are now known to have been ascribed to him wrongly, while from time to time various new pieces have come to light. It is believed that the following pages contain all the original compositions that at present can be attributed to him with any degree of certainty. Arrangements (though many are probably from his pen) have been excluded, with the exception of the "New Ground," from "Musick's Handmaid"—a transcription of the air, "Here the Deities approve," from the 1683 St. Cecilia Ode. This has been retained, as the harpsichord version appeared during Purcell's lifetime, though without the name of the composer.

Tempi and marks of expression have been added; but as they are not to be found in the originals, they may be varied according to the taste of the performer. It should be noted that in Purcell's time the *tempo* was supposed to be regulated by the time-signature. But, possibly owing to careless editing, the earliest editions (such as that of the "Choice Collection of Lessons," in which Purcell's Suites appeared in 1699) do not with any consistency carry out the rules laid down. It appears, however, certain that the *tempi* of the various dance-movements of the Suites (e.g., the Corants) differed considerably in England from those in use in France. With regard to the Graces, so important a feature in Harpsichord Music, the original signs have been retained. Their meaning will be easily understood by studying the following rules, which were prefixed to the "Choice Collection of Lessons" (1699) and other similar collections:—

RULES FOR GRACES.

"A <i>shake</i> is marked thus :		explained thus :	
A <i>beat</i> is marked thus :		explained thus :	
A <i>plain note and shake</i> thus :		explained thus :	
A <i>fore fall</i> marked thus :		explained thus :	
A <i>back fall</i> marked thus :		explained thus :	
A mark for the <i>turn</i> thus :		explained thus :	
The mark for the <i>shake turned</i> thus :		explained thus :	

Observe that you always *shake* from the note above, and *beat* from the note or half-note below, according to the key you play in" [*i.e.*, graces are diatonic and shakes generally begin with the upper accessory]; "and for the *plain note and shake*" [*i.e.*, appoggiatura and shake], "if it be a note without a point" [*i.e.*, undotted], "you are to hold half the quantity of it plain, and that upon the note above which is marked and shake the other half, but if it be a note with a point to it" [*i.e.*, a dotted note], "you are to hold all the note plain and shake only the point" [*i.e.*, the appoggiatura takes about half the value of the main note; if the main note is dotted, two-thirds].

"A <i>slur</i> is marked thus :		explained thus :	
The mark for the <i>battery</i> thus :		explained thus :	

In Dannreuther's "Musical Ornamentation" (to which the student may be referred who wishes to pursue further the interesting subject of obsolete graces) it is shown that the *battery* in modern

notation, would be written thus : 

HENRY PURCELL.

ORIGINAL WORKS FOR HARPSICHORD.

Vol. I.

SUITE I.

PRELUDE. Andantino. (♩ = 112.)

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ALMAND. Andantino. (♩ = 112)

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CORANT. Andante. (♩ = 112)

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