London Philharmonic Orchestra

Henry Purcell – 'Music for a While'

Find the bar (Answers)

In which bar can you find... (give beat number where appropriate, e.g. Bar 1, beat 1)

1. The first time we hear a lower mordent?	Bar 1, beat 1
2. Where the vocal line begins?	Bar 4, beat 1
3. The first time we hear paired syllables?	Bar 5, beat 4 ('for a')
4. The first time we hear a spread chord?	Bar 13, beat 1
5. The first time we hear a trill in the voice part?	Bar 13, beat 4
6. The first place where the repeating ground bass changes?	Bar 14, beat 2 (second quaver)
7. A perfect cadence in G major?	Bar 18, beats 3–4
8. An extended melisma?	Bars 20–21
9. Where the voice sings a series of offbeat quavers?	Bars 24–25 (starts end of bar 23)
10. Where the music from Bar 1 returns?	Bar 29

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Quick Quiz (Answers)

 What is the ornament in bar 1, beat 3 of the right-hand harpsichord part called? 	Grace notes
2. What is the ornament in bar 2 of the right- hand harpsichord part called?	Appoggiatura
3. What is the length of the ground bass pattern?	Three bars
4. In what year was this song written?	1692
5. The bassline is played by which instrument(s)?	Bass viol or cello, right hand of harpsichord
6. What note value does the bassline entirely consist of until the final bar?	Quavers
7. Purcell reflects the meaning of some of the words in the vocal melody. What is the technical name for this?	Word painting
8. Originally, the harpsichord player would not have had the right-hand part notated, but the harmony would have been indicated on the bassline. What is this called?	Figured bass
9. At the end of bar 20, the voice part sings a D, which is tied into the next bar, creating a brief dissonance with the bassline which plays an E on the first beat of bar 21. What is this called?	Suspension
10. In the final beat of the penultimate bar, the voice sings four notes on the syllable 'be'. What is the note value of these notes?	Demi-semiquavers