

14

when you honored me by <sup>notes</sup> ~~write~~ me to  
 talk to you about English literature  
 today - I did not know exactly <sup>how</sup> where  
 to begin you see an history of <sup>a school of</sup> ~~the~~ ~~university~~ in  
 England is a record of 500 years &  
 during that time a great many things  
 happened, it is much the largest  
 of which any nation can boast. ~~in spite of~~  
~~of all~~ England still retains her rightful  
 position in spite of having, numerically  
supposedly eclipsed beside the  
other nations

I cannot speak of our present day music  
 without telling you a little of that glorious  
 past.

It is certain that the Irish philosopher  
 Johannes Scotus Eriugena (about the  
 middle of the IX Century understood  
 two parts well - at the end of the XII  
 Century

2

Gualdus Cambrensis mentions a  
 long standing practice of popular part songs  
 transmitted from father to son in Wales &  
 Northern England -

The Welsh are famous for their musicality.  
 In 1240 we hear of that most lively  
 example of folk song "Summer is icumen  
 in" which was composed by the Monk of  
 Reading as he was called; is a remnant  
 of folk-art.

Hunstable was the next important of  
 our first composers & he is described as  
 an astrologer mathematician & a  
 musician - Some of our finest ecclesiastical  
 composers were Christopher Tye & Robert <sup>whit</sup>  
 Thomas Tallis great in noble simplicity  
 the more personal subjective & unacquainted  
 art of William Byrd (d. 1623).  
 Morley, Wilbye & Weelke gave the

3

Madrigal great intensity of their music  
 was work of the time for which Shakespeare  
 wrote - The first copy of that noble time when  
~~our~~ <sup>has now become our national</sup> ~~English~~ had same the key was  
 composed John Bull - You all know  
 about John Bull, for as "Uncle Sam" is  
 associated with America so John Bull  
 means England -  
 He is depicted as rather a portly gentleman  
 with a Union Jack across his ~~the front~~  
 his waistcoat. He was an organist  
 to Queen Elizabeth & at her recommendation  
 he was appointed professor of music  
 at Gresham College. Now in those  
 days all learning was transmitted in the  
 Latin tongue - the tradition in all our  
 universities was to deliver lectures in  
 Latin - But John Bull, all glory to him  
 said "No - My lectures shall be in English  
 "If what I have to say is not good enough  
 to be heard in our national tongue, you

need not hear it" —

John Bull did not know much Latin  
anyway & cared about it still less —

Good old John, dead these 300 years!  
well he got away with it. The Queen  
said "Go to it, John" or words to that  
effect — Give it to them in the language  
the people <sup>can</sup> understand.

That was what good Queen <sup>Elizabeth</sup> said  
& that was what good old John did —

Between 1558 & 1627 more than 40 books  
of madrigals appeared among them  
Mozley's collection "The Triumph of Guiana  
which was published as an act of homage <sup>(1601)</sup>  
to Elizabeth & intended contribution  
by 23 composers among them Farvaal,  
Tavkins & Gibbons —

In summing up the music of the Madrigalian  
period, there can be no doubt that the time  
represents the supreme flower of English art —

Henry 5-

Purcell 1659-1695 is considered the greatest genius any English born musician he had masterpiece in every department of music

It is a singular fact that the composer who has left the deepest impression on English music should have been a German who came to England as an upholder of pure Italian Art - 1685

George Frederic Handel lived in or near London for over 45 years - he was a naturalized Englishman -

The spelling of his name Handel was adopted by the composer in his later years his name Hendel is found in the MSS of the Italian period 1706 - 1710 - but rarely afterwards.

For music lovers know of the ~~work~~ music he wrote in Germany or Italy - it was exclusively for English audience that he wrote every work in virtue of which he is one of the great composers - He was first appointed to the Director of the Chapel & was written on to England where he ~~remained~~

~~felt so happy~~<sup>6</sup> He was so well received  
that he decided to remain -

When his reflected Master ascended  
the English throne as George I there was  
naturally a withdrawal of Royal Support  
but ultimately his servant was forgiven  
& his pension augmented.

Thomas was also a great composer  
of religious works. production  
he wrote no oratorios after the age of 11  
two of his works "Ruth" & "The Death of Abel"  
he wrote when he was 6 years of age.

I should mention here the name of  
Bernie to whom we are indebted  
for the most lovely songs of the time -  
and I am going to ask to do so.

to show us 3 songs

2 of which are anonymous  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> by Ray Purcell