

THE
EXCELLENT CHOICE.

BEING

A Collection of the most favourite
OLD SONG TUNES

in the Beggars Opera
Set for 3 Voices in the manner of CATCHES.

OR

for two GERMAN FLUTES and a BASS.

By D.^r Pepusch and the most Eminent English Masters.

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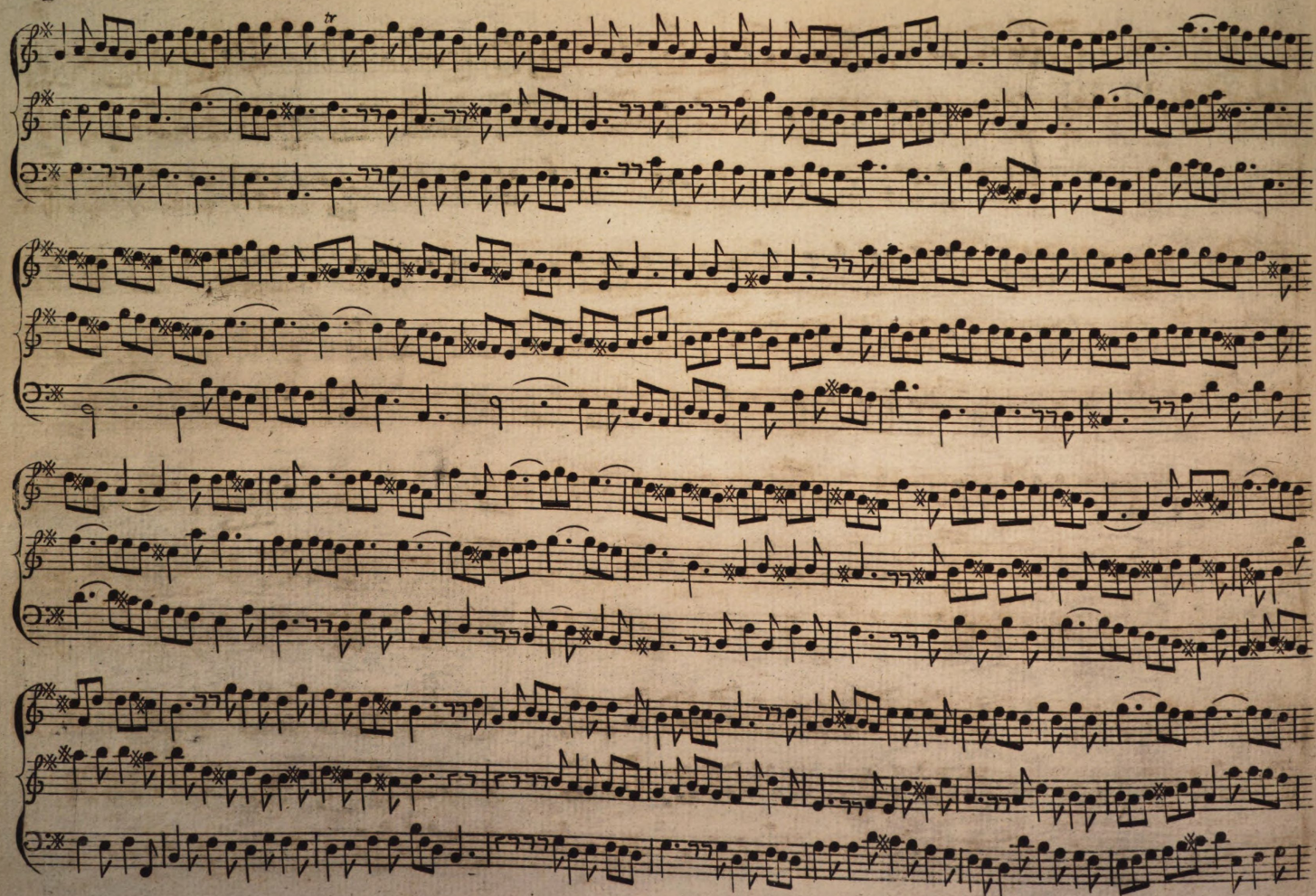
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38
12 14
241

OVERTURE

The musical score is written on aged, yellowed paper. It begins with the title "OVERTURE" in a large, bold, serif font. The notation is arranged in four systems, each consisting of three staves. The first two staves of each system are in treble clef, and the third is in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The notation includes various note values, rests, and trills (marked "tr"). The first system ends with a repeat sign. The second system also ends with a repeat sign. The third system ends with a repeat sign. The fourth system is marked "Allegro" and features a 12/8 time signature. The notation is dense and detailed, with many notes and rests. The paper shows signs of age, including discoloration and some staining.



First system of musical notation, featuring three staves (treble, alto, and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The music consists of continuous eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and dynamic markings.

Air 2

Second system of musical notation, featuring three staves (treble, alto, and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The music consists of continuous eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and dynamic markings.

A curle attends that woman's love, who always would be pleasing; the pertness of the billing Dove, like tickling, is but teasing. What

then in love can woman do? if we grow fond, they shun us, and when we fly them, they pursue, but leave us when they've won us.

4 *Air 3*

A Fox may steal your hens, fir, a whore your health and pence, fir, your daughter rob your chest, fir, your wife may steal your rest, fir, a

thief your goods and plate, a thief your goods and plate. But this is all but picking, with rest, pence, chest and chicken, it e-ver

was decreed, fir, if Lawyers hand is fee'd, fir, he steals your whole estate, he steals your whole estate.

Air 4

A Maid is like the golden oar, which has guineas intrinfical in it, whose worth is never known before it is try'd & imprest in the

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system is labeled 'Air 3' and the second 'Air 4'. Both are in 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in italics. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 and 6-8 below the notes. There are also some asterisks and a 'b' marking in the score.

mint. A Wife's like a guinea in gold, stamp'd with the name of her spouse, now here, now there, is bought or is

fold, and is current in ev'ry house.

Air 5
Among the men Coquets we find, who court by turns all wo-man kind, And we grant all their hearts de-fir'd,

when they are flatter'd, when they are flatter'd, when they are flatter'd and ad-mir'd.

6 Air 6

Before the barn door crowing, the Cock by Hens attended, his eyes around him throwing, stands for a while suspended, then one he singles from the

crew, and cheers the happy Hen, with how d'ye do, and how d'ye do, and how d'ye do again.

The musical score for Air 6 is written in C major and common time. It consists of a treble staff and a bass staff. The melody is simple and catchy, with a clear refrain. The lyrics are written below the notes, and fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 and 6-7. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Air 7

Can Love be controul'd by advice, will Cupid our mother's o-bey, tho' my heart were as frozen as Ice, at his flame 'twould have melted a-way:

when he kiss'd me, so closely he press'd, 'twas so sweet that I must have comply'd, so I thought it both safest and best, to marry for fear you should chide.

The musical score for Air 7 is written in C major and common time. It consists of a treble staff and a bass staff. The melody is more complex than Air 6, with many accidentals and a more varied rhythm. The lyrics are written below the notes, and fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 and 6-7. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Air 8

Can Love be controul'd by advice? will Cupid our mother's o-bey? tho' my heart were as frozen as Ice, at his flame 'twould have melted a-way.

when he kifs'd me, so closely he prefs'd, 'twas so sweet that I must have comply'd, so I thought it both safest and best, to marry for fear you should chide.

Air 9

Cease your funning, force or cunning, never shall my heart trapan, all these fallies, are but malice to seduce my constant man.

'tis most certain, by their flirting, women oft have en-vy shewn, pleas'd to ruin others wooing, never happy in their own.

8 *Air 10*

Come sweet Lais, let's banish sorrow 'till to morrow, come sweet Lais, let's take a chirping Glafs, Wine can clear the vapours of despair, and make us

Air 11

light as air, then drink and banish care. Fill ev'ry Glafs for Wine inspires us, and fires us with courage, love, and joy: Women &

Wine shoud' life employ, Is there ought else on earth de. firous. Fill ev'ry Glafs, for Wine inspires us, and fires us with courage, love, and joy.

Air 12

Hither dear Husband turn your eyes, bestow one glance to cheer me, think with that look thy Polly dies, O shun me not, but hear me.

'Tis Polly fues, 'tis Lucy calls, is this true love re-qui-ted; my heart is bursting, mine too breaks, must I, must I be fligh-ted.

Air 13

How cruel are the traytors, who lye and swear in jest, to cheat unguarded creatures, of virtue, fame, and rest; Who-e-ver steals a shilling, thro'

Air 14

shame the guilt conceals, in love, the perjurd villain, with boasts the theft reveals. If love the virgins heart in-vade, how like a

Moth the sim-ple maid, still plays about the flame: If soon she be not made a wife, her honour's sing'd, and then for life, she's what I dare not name.

Air 15

If the heart of a Man is depress'd with cares, the mist is dispell'd when a woman appears, like the notes of a fiddle, she sweetly, sweetly raises 'the' spirits and

charms our Ears. Roses and lillies her cheeks disclose, but her ripe lips are more sweet than those, Press her, caress her, with blisses her kisses Dissolve us in Pleasure and soft repose

Air 16

If you at an office solicit your due, and would not have matters neglected, you must quicken the Clerk with the perquisite too, to do what his duty directed,

or wou'd you the frowns of a lady prevent, she too has this palpable Failing, the perquisite softens her in to consent; that reason with all is pre vailing

Air 17

I, like a ship in storms, was tofs d, yet afraid to put into land, for seiz'd in the port the veffels loft, whose treasure is contrebant, The wayes are

lay'd my duty's paid. O Ioy beyond Expression, thus safe on shore, I ask no more my all is in my possession possession, my all is in my possession.

Air 18

I like the Fox shall grieve, whose mate has left her fide, whom Hounds, from morn to eve, chafe o'er the country wide, Where can my

lover hide, where cheat the wary pack, if love be not his guide, he never will come back,

12
Air 19

In the Days of my youth, I could bill like a Dove, fa la &c. In the days of my youth, I could bill like a Dove, like a

sparrow at all times was ready for Love. fa la la &c.

Air 20

I'm like a skiff on the Ocean tost, now high, now low, with each Billow born, with her rudder broke & her anchor lost, deserted & all forlorn, While,

thus I lye rolling and tossing all night, that Polly is sporting on seas of Delight, Revenge, Revenge, Revenge, shall appease my restless spright

Air 21

Is then his fate de-creed fir: such a man can I think of quitting: when first we met so moves me yet, O see how my heart is splitting

Air 22

Oh, Ponder, well! be not severe; to save a wretched wife! For on the rope that hangs my Dear, depends poor Pollys life,

Air 23

Let us take the road, hark! I hear the found of coaches: the hour of attack approaches to your arms brave boys and load. See the

Ball I hold! let the Chymists toil like asses, our fire their fire fur-pafs-es, and turns, all our lead to gold.

Air 24

Man may escape from rope and gun, nay, some have outlived the Doctors pill. Who takes a woman must be undone, that baselife is sure to kill.

The Fly that sips treacle is lost in the sweets, so he that takes woman, woman, woman, he that takes woman, ruin meets.

Air 25

My heart was so free, It rovd like the Bee, Till Polly my passion requited; I sipt each Flowr, I changd ev'ry hour, I

Ipt each Flowr, I changd ev'ry hour but here ev'ry Flower is united.

Air 26

O Polly you might have toy'd and kist, By keeping men off, you keep them on. But he so teaz'd me, and he so pleas'd me, what I did you must have done.

Air 27

You'll think, ere many days ensue, this sentence not severe, I hang your Husband, child, 'tis true, but with him hang your care, twang dang dillo dee.

Air 28

O what pain it is to part, can I leave thee, can I leave thee, O what pain it is to part, can thy Polly, ever leave thee; But least death my

love should thwart, & bring thee to the fa-tal cart thus I tear thee from my bleed-ing heart, Fly hence, and let me leave thee.

Alr. 29

Our girls like our geese, should be watchd from the Vermin, that girls are like geese then with ease we De-termin, Geese will gaggle and wan-der a-

Alr. 30

fray, on the Common & gaggle & wander a fray, will a woman A goose will sit quiet under Barriers & lacks but the goose of a Woman breaks thro to the fox,

Our selves, like the great, to se-cure a retreat, When matters require it, must give up our gang, And good reason why, Or, in -stead of the fry even

PEACHUM and I, Like poor petty rascals, night hang, hang, Like poor petty rascals, night hang,

Air 31

Pretty POLLY, say When I was away, Did your fancy never stray to some newer Lo-ver, With out Dis-guise, -Heaving Sighs, Doat-ing

Eyes, My constant heart dis-cover Fond-ly let me loll Fond-ly let me loll! O Pretty, Pretty Poll,

Air 32

Since laws were made for ev'ry degree, To curb vice in others, as well as me, I wonder we han't 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 Ty-burn Tree.

Air 3/3

The Charge is prepar'd; the Lawyers are met; the Judges all rang'd a Terrible show. I go undismay'd for Death is a Debt, a Debt on Demand. so, take what I owe, then

Farewell my Love, Dear Charmers, Adieu. Contented I've tis the Better for you, here ends all Disputes the rest of our lives for this way at once I please all my wives.

Air 3/4

The first time at the looking glass The mother sets her daughter, The Image strikes the smiling lass With self-love ever after.

Each time she looks she's fonder grown Thinks ev'ry charm grows stronger, But a las vain maid all eyes but your own Can see you are not younger

Air 35

The Gamesters and Lawyers are jugglers alike. If they meddle your all is in danger. Like Gypsies, if once they can finger a fouse, Your

Pockets, they pick, and they pilfer your house, And give your estate to a stranger.

Air 36

The Miser thus a shilling fees, Which he's oblig'd to pay, With sighs resigns it by degrees, And fears 'tis gone for aye, The Boy, thus when his

Sparrow's flown, the bird in silence eyes; But soon as out of sight 'tis gone, Whines, whimpers, fobs, and cries,

Air 37

The modes of the Court so common are grown, That a true friend can hardly be met, Friendship for int. rest is but a loan, which they let out for what they can get.

Tis true, you find Some friends so kind, Who will give you good counsel themselves to defend, In sorrowful ditty, they promise, they pity, but shift you for money from friend to friend.

Air 38

The Turtle thus with Plaintive crying her lover-dying The Turtle Thus with Plaintive crying, Laments her Dove, Down she

drops quite Spent with Sighing Pair'd in death as pair'd in Love,

Air 39

Thro' all the employments of life, Each neighbour abuses his brother; Whore and Rogue they call Husband and Wife: All professions be-rogue one another

The Priest calls the Lawyer a cheat, The Lawyer beknaves the Di-vine And the statesman because he's so great Thinks his trade as honest as mine,

Air 40

Thus Gamblers united in friendship are found, Tho' they know that their industry all is a cheat: They flock to their prey at the Dice box's found, And join to promote one a-

...nother's deceit, But if by mishap They fall of a chap, To keep in their hands they each other entrap, like Pikes, lank with hunger, who miss of their ends, They bilk their companions & prey on their friends

Air 41

Thus I find like the Turk with his Dossies around; From all sides their Glances his Passion confound; for black, brown, & fair his Inconstancy burns; And the different Beauties sub due him by turn.

Each tells forth her charms; to provoke his desires, tho' willing to all; with but one he retires But think of this Maxim and put off all sorrow, The Wretch of to day may be happy to morrow.

Air 42

Thus when a good huswife sees a Rat in her trap in the morning taken; With pleasure her heart goes pit a pat. In re-venge for her loss, of

h. con. Then she throws him To the Dog or Cat To be worried crushed and shaken

Air 43

Thus when the swallow seeking prey with in the fash is closely pent, his comfort with bemoaning lay, without Sits pining for th'event.

Her chattering lovers all a round her skin; She heeds them not poor bird her soul's with him,

Air 44

'Tis Woman that seduces all all mankind by her we first were taught the wheedling Arts, Her very eyes can cheat; when most she's kind, She robs us of our money with our hearts.

For her like Wolves by night we roam for prey, & practice ev'ry fraud to bribe her charms; For flirts of Love like Law are won by pay, And beauty must be feed in to her arms,

Air: 45

Virgins are like the fair flow'r, in its lustre, Which in the garden e-namels the ground, Near it the Bees in play flutter and cluster, & gaudy But for flies frolick around,

But, when once pluck'd, tis no longer al-luring, to Covent Garden tis sent, as yet sweet, There fades, and shrinks, & grows past all en-during, Rots, stinks, & dies, & is trod under feet,

Air: 46

Virgins are like the fair flow'r in its lustre, Which in the garden e-namels the ground; Near it the Bees in play flutter and cluster, and gaudy Butter flies frolick around,

But, when once pluck'd, tis no longer al-luring, to Covent Garden tis sent, as yet sweet, There fades, and shrinks, & grows past all en-during; Rots, stinks, & dyes, & is trod under feet,

Air. 47

Were I laid on Greenland's coast, & in my arms embrac'd my lass, Warm amidst eternal frost too soon the half year's night would pass, Were I hold on Indian soil, Soon as the burning day was
 clos'd, I could mock the filthy toil, When on my charmer's breast repos'd, & I would love you all the day, every night would kiss and play, If with me you'd fondly stray O'er the hills and far away

Air. 48

What Gudgeons are we Men, Ev'ry Woman's easy Prey, Tho' we have felt the Hook, agen we bite and they be-tray The Bird that has been trapt,
 when he hears his calling Mate, To her he flies, a-gain he's clapt within the Wiry Grate,

Air 49

When a wifes in her, pout, as she's sometime no doubt; The good husband as meek as a lamb; Her vapours to still first grants her her will, & the

quieting draught is a dram, Poor man, and the quieting draught is a dram;

Air 50

When he holds up his hand, arraign'd for his life, O think of your daughter, and think In his wife, What are cannons, or bombs, or clashing of fwords? For death is more

certain by witnesses words, Then nail up their lips, that dread thunder allay; And each month of my life, And each month of my life will here after be May

Air 51

When my hero in court appears, & stands arraign'd for his life, Then think of poor POLLY's tears, For ah! Poor POLLY's his wife Like the Sailor he holds up his hand, Dis-
trest on the dashing wave, To die a dry death at land, Is as bad as a watery grave, & alas, poor POLLY! Alack, & well a day! be fore I was in love, Oh! every month was May

Air 52

When you censure the age, Be cautious and sage Left the
When you censure the age, Be cautious and sage Left the Courtiers offended shoud be; If you mention Vice or bribe, 'Tis so
pat to all the Tribe, each crys that was levell'd at me,

Air 53

When young at the bar you first taught me to score, And bid me be free of my lips, and no more: I was kiss'd by the Parson, the Squire, and the Sot, When the

guest was departed,

guest was departed, the kiss was forgot, But his kiss was so sweet, and so closely he prest, That I languish'd and pined till I granted the rest.

Air 54

Which way shall I turn me, how can I decide: Wives the day of our Death are as fond as a Bride: One Wife is too much for most husbands to hear, but

two at a time, there's no Mortal can bear, This way and that way and which way I will, What would comfort the one tother wife would take ill.

Air 55

Why how now, Madam Flirt, If you thus must chatter; And are for flinging Dir - - - - - let's try who best can spar: - - - - - ter; Madam Flirt,

Why how now, Saucy Lade, Sure the Wench is Tipsey. How can you see me ma - - - - - de The scoff of such a Gip - - - - - sey? Sawcy Lade,

Air 56

Youth's the season made for joys, Love is then our Duty, She alone who that employs, Well deserves her beauty. Let's be gay, While we may beauty's a

Flower despis'd in decay Youth's the season made for joys, Love is then our duty,

30

*Air The Prison Scene**Air*

O! cruel, cruel, cruel, Case: must I suffer this disgrace! Of all the Friends in time of grief, when threatening Death looks grimmer,

The first system of musical notation for 'The Prison Scene'. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The music is in common time (C). The lyrics are written below the staves.

not one so sure to bring relief, as this best Friend a brimmer. Since I must Swig I scorn, I scorn to whince or whine

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are written below the staves.

But now again my Spirits sink, I'll raise them high with wine. But Valour the stronger grows the stronger Liquor we're drinking

The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are written below the staves.

how can we feel those woes when we've lost the trouble of thinking. If thus a man can die much bolder with Brandy

The fourth system of musical notation. It continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Air

So I drink of this Bumper and now I can stand the Test, and my Comrades shall see that I die, as brave as the Best. But can I

Air

leave my pretty Huffsies without a tear or tender Sigh! Their Eyes their Lips their Buf - ses recal my Love, ah! must I Die

Air

Since Laws were made for ev'ry degree to curb Vice in others as well as me, I wonder we hant 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.