

## Before You Rehearse ... solve the problems!

*Nymphs and Shepherds* by Henry Purcell (1659–1695) was first performed in June, 1675, as a song within incidental music in the Thomas Shadwell play *The Libertine*, a variation of the Don Juan legend. The song was in praise of Flora, the goddess of spring and flowers, and is associated with laughter, dancing, and enjoyment of the season. The primary theme of the song is to encourage others to join in the fun and have a great time. I hope you, too, will have a great time with this dance-like tune from the Baroque period. Although it is frequently sung in solo performance, I thought it might be fun to create a musical event for the entire choir. The original text is as follows:

Nymphs and shepherds, come away!  
 In ye grove let's sport and play!  
 For this is Flora's holy day!  
 Sacred to ease and happy love,  
 To dancing, to music, and to poetry.  
 Your flock may now securely rove;  
 Whilst you express your jolity!  
 Nymphs and shepherds, come away!

I changed the words a bit to celebrate musical performance. Hopefully, the audience will “come away” with you and become totally enthralled with your joyful performance of this piece. Before you rehearse, sing the following examples, and you will solve several problems before you open the music. For the complete Rehearsal Prep Sheet, visit [www.earlenerentz.com](http://www.earlenerentz.com) Enjoy the piece.

Sing, using solfège or neutral syllables, unless text is given.

Key: F Major

(♩ = ca. 84) (Refer to meas. 5–6)

Part I  
 Part II

1.

Part III

(Refer to meas. 7–12)

2.

Come a - way.

A - rise, and come a - way!

(Refer to meas. 12–17)

3.

Dance and pipe in roun - de - lay.

4. *(Refer to meas. 17-24)*

5. *(Refer to meas. 25-29)*

6. *(Refer to meas. 29-37)*

All in joy - ful roun - de - lay.

7. *(Refer to meas. 38-50)*

Mu - sic now so gent - ly plays while you en - joy.

8. *(Refer to meas. 60-67)*

A -

rise, for mu - sic, mu - sic plays!