

# OH SOLITUDE!

Katherine Philips



Henry Purcell

VOICE Slow

Oh

KEYBOARD

5

so - li - tude! my sweet - - est choice!

10

Oh so - - li - tude! Oh so - li - tude! my

**Notes** As with so many of Purcell's songs you have to be able to breathe properly to sing this one; long, long phrases always just that much longer than they appear at first! The same beauty of tone is required as in the 'Evening Hymn', but whereas the latter is quietly triumphant, here there is an underlying note of deep sadness.

**Source** *Orpheus Britannicus* (first edition), 'A Song on a Ground'. Original key C minor.

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sweet - - - est, sweet - - est choice!

15

Pla - ces de - sert - ed - - to the, night, Re - mote from

20

tu - mult, and from noise, How ye my rest - - -

- less thoughts de - light! Oh so - li - tude!

Oh so - li - tude! my sweet - - -

- est, sweet - est choice! Oh Heavens! what con -

- tent \_\_\_\_\_ is mine, To see those trees, which have ap -

- pear'd from the na - ti - vi - ty of time; And which all

a - ges have re - ver'd, To look to-day as fresh and green, to look to -

- day as fresh and green, As when their beau-ties first were

seen. Oh! oh how a -

- gree - ab - le a sight These hang - - - ing - - - mountains do - - - ap -

- pear, Which th'un-hap - py would in - vite, To fi - nish

55

all their sor - rows here; When their hard, their hard

60

fate makes them en - dure, Such woes, such

65

woes as on - ly death can - cure. Where. I have learn'd, where I have learn'd A -

70

Oh! oh how I so - li -

- tude a - - dore! Oh! oh - - how I

75

so - li - tude a - - dore, That e - le - ment of

80

nob - - lest wit, Where. I have learn'd, where I have learn'd A -

85

-pol-lo's love, With - out the pains, the pains \_\_\_\_\_ to stu - dy it:

90

For thy sake I in love \_\_\_\_\_ am grown, With what thy

fan - cy, thy fan - cy does \_\_\_\_\_ pur - sue; But when I

95

think up-on my own, I hate it, I hate it for \_\_\_\_\_

100

that \_\_\_\_\_ rea - son too; Be - cause it needs must hun - der me From

105

see - ing, from see - ing, and \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ serv - ing thee.

Oh so - - li - tude! Oh \_\_\_\_\_

110

\_\_\_\_\_ how I so - - li - tude a - - dore!