

# O solitude (Cm)

1st and last stanzas of a poem by Katherine Phillips Henry Purcell

The musical score for "O solitude" features five systems of music, each consisting of two staves. The top staff uses a soprano C-clef, and the bottom staff uses a bass F-clef. The key signature is C major (no sharps or flats). The time signature is common time (4/4).

**System 1 (Measures 1-14):** The lyrics are "O sol-i-tude, my sweet-est choice! O". The solfège notation below the notes corresponds to the lyrics: "sol-i-tude" (b a e f a b b), "my sweet-est choice!" (a a r d r a g b a a r b a r g b b), and "O" (a a).

**System 2 (Measures 15-28):** The lyrics are "sol-i-tude O sol-i-tude my sweet-est sweet-est choice!". The solfège notation follows the pattern: "sol-i-tude" (b a e f a b b), "O" (a a), "sol-i-tude" (b a e f a b b), "my sweet-est" (a a r d r a g b a a r), "sweet-est choice!" (a a), and "O" (a a).

**System 3 (Measures 29-42):** The lyrics are "Pla-ces de-vo-ted to the sight Re-mote from tu-mult and from noise, How ye my rest- less thoughts de-light!". The solfège notation follows the pattern: "Pla-ces" (r d a), "de-vo-ted" (d b a), "to" (b), "the sight" (g a), "Re-mote" (r d r a), "from tu-mult" (d g b a), "and from" (r d a), "noise" (r d a), "How ye my rest-" (b a), "less thoughts" (a a), "de-light!" (r d a g b a), "O" (a a), "sol-i-tude" (b a e f a b b), "my sweet-est" (a a r d r a g b a a r), "sweet-est choice!" (a a), and "O" (a a).

**System 4 (Measures 43-56):** The lyrics are "i-tude, O sol-i-tude, my sweet- est, sweet-est choice!". The solfège notation follows the pattern: "i-tude" (r d a), "O" (a a), "sol-i-tude" (b a e f a b b), "my sweet- est" (a a r d r a g b a a r), "sweet-est choice!" (a a), and "O" (a a).

45

O heav'ns! What con- tent is mine, To see these 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. O, O, how a-

gree- a- ble a sight Thesehang- ing moun- tains do ap- pear, Which th'un-



[130]

pains, the pains to stu- dy it. For thy sake I in love

[135]

am grown With what thy fan- cy, thy fan- cy does pur- sue; But when I think up- on my

[140]

own, I hate it, I hate it for that rea- son too, Be- cause it needs must

[145]

hin- der me From see- ing, from see- ing and from serv- ing thee. O

[150]

sol- i- tude, O how I sol- i- tude a- dore!

[155]

[160]

[165]

[170]