

Sacred songs by Henry Purcell

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It is analyzed the sacred hymns of Henry Purcell in the aspect of the characteristic features of the composer's style. Given examples are demonstrating individuality of the creative style of the English master. This style is characterized by the variety of figurative sphere in the penitential psalms and songs on religious themes, particular sensitive attitude to the word, and noticeable impress of theatricality. It is described the influence of the Italian music, which affected both the intonational structure of sacred hymns, and their shaping. The purpose of the article is to attract attention of the musicologists to those compositions of the English master, which can mostly illuminate the spiritual qualities of the genius.

Keywords: *Harmonia Sacra, the style of Henry Purcell, sacred music, sacred songs and hymns, Harmonia Sacra, the XVII-century English music*

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