

What Shall I Do?

(...to show how much I love her?)

From Dioclesian

Music: Henry Purcell
(1659-1695)

Words: Thomas Betterton
(1635-1710)

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What Shall I Do?

Henry Purcell

Andante

The piano introduction consists of three measures in 3/4 time, marked *p*. The right hand features a series of chords and a melodic line, while the left hand provides a steady bass accompaniment.

5 *p*

What shall I do to show how much I love her?
Since Gods them - selves could not ev - er be lov - ing,

The vocal line begins at measure 5 with a *p* dynamic. The piano accompaniment is marked *p* and includes the instruction *legato e cantabile*. The music continues for four measures.

9 *mf*

How ma - ny mil - lions of sighs can suf - fice? That which wins -
Men must have breath - ing re - cruits for new joys; I wish my -

The vocal line begins at measure 9 with a *mf* dynamic. The piano accompaniment is also marked *mf*. The music continues for four measures.

14

o - ther hearts nev - er can move her; Those com - mon
love could be al - ways im - prov - ing; Though ea - ger

18

me - thods of love she'll des - pise. I will love more than man
love more than sor - row de stroys. In fair Au - re - lia's arms

23

e'er lov'd be - fore me, Gaze on her all the day and
leave me ex - pir - ing, To be em - balm'd by the

27

mf

melt all the night; Till for her own sake at last she'll im -
sweets of herbreath; To the last mo - ment I'll still be de -

32

*cresc.**dim.***D.C. First Time**
Rall. Second Time

plore me To love her less to pre - serve our de - light.
-sir - ing: Nev - er had he - ro so glo - rious a death.