



In praise of Dr Pepusch

The acrostic below is from the Benjamin Cooke Collection (source: GB Lcm MS 806). Cooke (1734-1793) was a pupil of Pepusch. Richard Leveridge (1670-1758) was a well-known bass singer, composer and *bon viveur* whose career encompassed singing for both Purcell and Handel (alongside a very long association with Pepusch). These verses were written upon Pepusch's death (July 1752). The melody of the canon à 3 is *Non nobis Domine*, used by Pepusch in his motet *Laetatus sum* and misattributed by him to William Byrd.

An Acrostic by Mr Leveridge, August 1752

Prepare, prepare all Sons of Harmony
Exert your deepest skill in Melody
Pepusch commands! His Pow'r, all must obey
Under the influence of his mighty Sway.
Such is your duty, such the debt you owe
Contracted from his learning, well you know
Honour his name and sing the notes below

Canon a 3

Great Pe - pusch Pa - tron_ of Mu - sick, let e - ve - ry Voice sound
6
out your name to ho-nour the Rolls of end - less fame etc.

By the same

These lines are proper to be put under a Picture

Patron of Music, Prince of Harmony,
Eternal Honours justly wait on Thee.
Posterity with Pride shall sound your Name
Upon the loudest Instruments of Fame:
Such is your Worth that round the World 'twill raise
Contention who shall give the greatest Praise –
***H**ad I the Pow'r 'twould crown my Head with Bays.

***H**ad I that Pow'r 'twould crown the Head (with Bays)
of Richard Leveridge.