

Henry Purcell

Born 1659

Died: 1695



- Purcell was a court musician practically his entire life.
- As a boy he sang in the Chapel Royal until his voice changed at 14.
- He assisted and then became the Organ maker and keeper of the King's Instruments
- In 1677 he was appointed Composer –in –Ordinary for the King's Violins

- In 1679 he succeeded his teacher and became organist for Westminster Abbey.
- He was organist for the Coronation of 2 Kings and his last Royal occasion he provided music for Queen Mary's funeral in 1695.

- Purcell was one of the greatest of all English composers.
- Purcell became increasingly in demand as a composer. He not only wrote music for the court but also Theatre music - songs and instrumental pieces for spoken plays.
- In the last 5 years of his life he collaborated on 5 semi-operas and one true opera – *Dido and Aeneas*.

Rondeau (Rondo)

- This rondo was written as incidental music for the play Abdelazar or The Moor's Revenge
- It was written in 1676 – it is 332 years old.
- What instruments are used in this Rondo?