

- Thursday 12** CONCERT.
BG
COMMENT. *London Gazette*, No 2712, 5-9 Nov. 1691: The Consort of Musick in Charles-street, Covent-Garden, will be performed on Thursday next, being the 12th of this instant, and every Thursday as formerly.
- Monday 23** CONCERT. An Ode for the Anniversary Feast of St Cecilia. The Words by Thomas D'Urfey. The Music by Dr John Blow.
SH
COMMENT. The Ode is in D'Urfey, *Wit and Mirth*, I, 70-71. *Gentleman's Journal*, January 1691-2, pp. 4-5: On that day [22 Nov.] or the next when it falls on a Sunday, as it did last time, most of the Lovers of Music, whereof many are persons of the first Rank, meet at Stationers-Hall in London, not thro' a Principle of Superstition, but to propagate the advancement of that divine Science. A splendid Entertainment is provided, and before it is always a performance of Music by the best Voices and Hands in Town; the Words, which are always in the Patronesses praise, are set by some of the greatest Masters in Town. This year Dr John Blow, that famous Musician, composed the Music, and Mr Durfey, whose skill in things of that nature is well enough known, made the Words. . . . Whilst the Company is at Table, the Hautboys and Trumpets play successively. Mr Showers hath taught the latter of late years to sound with all the softness imaginable, they plaid us some flat Tunes, made by Mr Finger, with a general applause, it being a thing formerly though impossible upon the Instrument design'd for a sharp Key.
- Tuesday 24** THE EMPEROR OF THE MOON. [By Mrs Aphra Behn.] *Cast not known.*
[DL or DG] For a previous cast, see March 1686/7.
COMMENT. Newsletter, 24 Nov. 1691: This afternoon the Morocco ambassador was present at the acting of a play called *The Emperor of the Moon* (HMC, Hastings MSS. [1930], II, 332).

Thursday 26
A FAST DAY

December 1691

- DG KING ARTHUR. [By John Dryden.] See May 1691.
COMMENT. The United Company. The *Gentleman's Journal*, January 1691/2, page 5, implies that *King Arthur* was revived in December 1691: And the last Opera called *King Arthur*, which hath been plaid several times the last Month. [Since the *Gentleman's Journal* was often published in the month following the date of an issue, it is possible that this revival occurred in January 1691/2, for there was a certain performance on 7 Jan. 1691/2.]
- [DL or DG] THE INDIAN EMPEROR. [By John Dryden.] *Cast not known.*
COMMENT. The United Company. The *Gentleman's Journal*, January 1691/2: The *Indian Emperor* hath been reviv'd and play'd many times. [In addition, a song, "I look'd, I look'd, and saw within the Book of Fate," the music by Henry Purcell, is in *The Banquet of Musick*, 1692, pp. 14-15. See also *Works*, Purcell Society, xx (1916), xiii-ix. The play was also reprinted in 1692.]
- DL THE WIVES' EXCUSE; or, Cuckolds Make Themselves. [By Thomas Southerne.]
Edition of 1692: Prologue Spoken by Mr Betterton. Lovemore - Betterton; Wellvile - Kynnaston; Wilding - Williams; Courtall - Bowman; Springame -

Mich. Lee; Friendall – Mountford; Ruffle – Bright; Musick Master – Harris; DL
 Mrs Friendall – Mrs Barry; Mrs Sightly – Mrs Bracegirdle; Mrs Wittwoud –
 Mrs Mountford; Mrs Teazzall – Mrs Cory; Betty – Mrs Richardson. Epilogue,
 Spoken by Mrs Barry.

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the premiere is not known, but the *Gentleman's Journal*, January 1691/2, suggests that it was first given in December 1691, although the tendency of this journal to be dated one month and appear in the next month makes the interpretation of its information difficult: We have had a new Comedy this last Month, call'd *The Wives Excuse: or Cuckolds make themselves*: It was written by Mr Southern, who made that call'd *Sir Antbony Love*, which you and all the Town lik'd so well. I will send you *The Wives Excuse*, as soon as it comes out in Print, which will be very speedily: And tho' the Town hath not been so kind to this last, as to the former, I do not doubt but you will own that it will bear a Reading; which some that meet with a better Fate too often do not; some that must be granted to be good Judges commend the Purity of its Language (pp. 51-52).

Henry Purcell composed the music for this work. One song, "Corinna I excuse thy face," the words (according to the Edition of 1692) by Tho. Cheek, the music by Henry Purcell, but without the singer's name, is in *The Banquet of Musick*, The Sixth and Last Book, 1692 (licensed 17 Feb. 1691/2). "Say, cruel Amoret," sung by Mountfort; "Hang this whining way," sung by Mrs Butler; and "Ingrateful lover," the words by Major General Sackville, are in *Joyful Cuckoldom*, ca. 1695. See also Purcell's *Works*, Purcell Society, XXI (1917), xxvi-xxix.

CONCERT.

COMMENT. Newdigate newsletters (Folger Shakespeare Library), 5 Dec. 1691: The same night y^e Morocco Ambasadr with all his retinue was at the great musick house in Covent Garden. [I owe the transcription of this item to Professor John Harold Wilson.]

Saturday 5
BG

COMMENT. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, II, 313, 17 Dec. 1691: Last Tewsdays [i.e., Wednesday] a great disorder at the playhouse, where the lord Grey of Ruthin and viscount Longueville were knockt downe, and 2 other lords puncht with the butt ends of muskets; they complained of the affront to his majestie, who referred them to the house of lords, where they made their application yesterday; and the lords thereon desired his majestie would be pleased to command the suspending acting of playes till further order.

Wednesday 16
[DL or DG]

Newdigate newsletters, 17 Dec. 1691: Last night the Kings play House was shut up upon complaints given in to the King by the Lord Grey Viscount Longville and other Lords that they had received severall Affronts from and were badly used by y^e door keepers, and 'tis said the future Acting is suspended till further order (Wilson, "Theatre Notes from the Newdigate Newsletters," p. 82). See also HMC, 13th Report, Appendix Five, pp. 464-65.

COMMENT. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, II, 315: The duke of Norfolke was abused in the fray at the playhouse: the house of lords examined the same, and sent for captain Primrose, who commanded the party of soldiers there, who excused himselfe therefrom: one of the bishops moved to suppress the playhouse, it being a nursery of lewdness, but the temporall lords were against it, but directed the lord chamberlain to send his warrant to suspend them from acting till further order: which was accordingly done.

Thursday 17

COMMENT. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, II, 316: The players have begg'd pardon of the lords abused there, and have leave to act again on Monday. [The order for reopening is in L. C. 5/150, p. 345 (Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 361).] Newdigate Newsletters, 19 Dec. 1691: We heare that the Play house will be againe opened

Saturday 19