

Sigh no more, Ladies

A song which appears in Act II, Scene 3, in Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing* (1600). The music was composed by Thomas Arne (1710-1778), a contemporary of Handel, in 1748. Arne's working life was mainly spent in London theatres. His career was very prolific and wrote cantatas, symphonies, oratorios and several theatre works, including music for plays, masques, pastorals and operas.

Sigh no more, Ladies, sigh no more.
Men were deceivers ever,
One foot in sea, and one on shore,
To one thing constant never.

Then sigh not so, but let them go.
And be you blithe and merry.
Converting all your notes of woe
Into hey down derry.

Sing no more, ditties, sing no more
Of dumps so dull and heavy.
The fraud of men was ever so
Since summer first was leafy.