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by José Ángel García Landa

(University of Zaragoza, Spain)

# John Gay (¿1685-1732)

(English neoclassical poet, b. Barnstaple, Devon; impoverished gentry; lost money in the South Sea Bubble; Tory satirist in London, associated to Pope, Arbuthnot, Parnell, Swift and the Earl of Oxford; wrote satires vs. Walpole, d. London)

**Works**

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Three Hours After Marriage.* Comedy. Written in collaboration with Pope and Arbuthnot. Acted 1717.

\_\_\_\_\_. (attr.). *Acis and Galatea.* Libretto for Handel’s opera. Written *c.* 1718, pub. 1732.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Sweet William’s Farewell to Black-Eyed Susan." Ballad. 1720.

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Fables.* First series, 1727.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Beggar’s Opera.* Musical comedy, with music by Pepusch. Premiere at Lincoln’s Inn Fields, London, 1728.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Beggar's Opera.* In *Eighteenth-Century Plays.* Ed. John Hampden.(Everyman's Library, 818). London: Dent; New York: Dutton. (Gay, *The Beggar's Opera;* Addison, *Cato*; Rowe, *Jane Shore*; Fielding, *Tragedy of Tragedies, or, Tom Thumb the Great*; Lillo, *George Barnwell*; Colman and Garrick, *The Clandestine Marriage*; Cumberland, *The West Indian*).

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Beggar's Opera.* Realized from the original airs by Benjamin Britten, as it was acted at the Theatre Royal, Lincoln's Inn Fields, 1728. The English Opera Group: Roger Jerome (The Beggar), David Hartley (The Manager of the Company), Brian Handley (The Stage Manager), David Kelly (Peachum), Bernard Dickerson (Filch), Anna Pollak (Mrs Peachum), Janet Baker (Polly Peachum), Kenneth McKellar (Captain Macheath), Bryan Drake (Lockit), Heather Harper (Lucy Lockit), Edith Coates (Mrs Trapes), Joan Edwards (Jenny Diver), Philip May (Ben Budge), David Hartley (Man of the Mint), Jack Irons (Tom Tipple), John Gibbs (Crook-Finger'd Jack), Bernard Dickerson (Wat Dreary), Andrew Snarski (Harry Paddington), Brian Handley (Slippery Sam), Patricia Brigenshaw (Mrs Coaxer), Sally Langford (Dolly Trull), Carolyn Maia (Mrs Vixen), Angela Jenkins (Betty Doxy), Joan Clarkson (Mrs Slammekin), Alice Hynd (Suky Tawdry), Sheila Amit (Molly Brazen). The English Chamber Orchestra / Meredeth Davies. Prod. and des. Colin Graham. TV film from The Royal Opera House Covent Garden, dir. Charles R. Rogers. BBC TV, 1963. Online at *YouTube (Oliver Drake)* 26 Dec. 2012.\*

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2019 DISCONTINUED 2021

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Die Dreigroschenopera nach John Gay.* With Bertolt Brecht. Wolfgang Neuss (Moritatensänger), Erich Schellow (Macheath), Lotte Lenya (Jenny), Willy Trenk-Trebitsch (Herr Peachum), Trude Hesterberg (Frau Peachum), Johanna von Kóczián (Polly Peachum), Wolfgang Grunert (Tiger Brown), Inge Wolfberg (Lucy), Kurt Hellwig (Gangster 1), Paul Otto Kuster (Gangster 2), Joseph Hausmann (Ganster 3), Martin Hoepper (Gangster 4). Chordirektor: Günter Arndt. Orchester Sender Freies Berlin / Wilhelm Brückner-Rüggeberg. *YouTube* 28 May 2012.\*

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Hogarth, William. *The Beggar’s Opera.*

Related works

Weill, Kurt. *Die Dreigroschenoper.* Opera. Libretto by Bertolt Brecht. 1928.

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