

THE BEGGAR'S OPERA

By
M^r. Gay.



LibriVox

The Beggar's Opera by John Gay

Total running time: 02:14:47

The Beggar's Opera is a ballad opera written in 1728 by John Gay with music arranged by Johann Christoph Pepusch. The piece satirises Italian opera, which had become popular in London, by telling a story of beggars, highwaymen, and "women of the town" rather than the classical or mythological figures of grand opera. The airs in the opera were set to popular street ballads, hymns, and folk songs of the time as well as some tunes from operas by Handel and others. *The Beggar's Opera* ran for 62 performances, a record for any play in England in the 18th century. It was revived in 1920 and enjoyed further popularity leading to it being used by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill as the basis for *The Threepenny Opera*.

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