

PARTHENIA



WILLIAM BYRD JOHN BULL
ORLANDO GIBBONS

Transcribed and edited by
THURSTON DART

A critical edition of this famous book, first published
in 1612-13, comprising eight pieces by William Byrd,
seven by John Bull and six by Orlando Gibbons.
SECOND, REVISED EDITION

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PARTHENIA

or

THE MAYDENHEAD

of the first musicke that
ever was printed for the VIRGINALLS
 COMPOSED

By three famous Masters: William Byrd, Dr: John Bull & Orlando Gibbons
Gentilmen of his Ma:ties most Illustrious Chappell.

Ingraven
by William Hole.

[Engraving of lady at virginals]

Lond: print: for M^{rs}: Dr: Evans. Cum privilegio. Are to be sould by G. Lowe
printr in Loathberry

[Dedication page:]

TO THE HIGH & MIGHTY

and magnificent Princes Frederick Elector Palatine of the
 Reine: and his betrothed Lady, Elizabeth the only
 daughter of my Lord the king.

The virgin PARTHENIA (whilst yet I may) I offer up to your virgin / Highnesses. To you (Gracious Lady) even from the byrth she was entended / and nowe I trust shalbe more wellcome having learnd to tune and twine togethr / these next neighbour letters E and F, the vowell that makes so sweet a Consonāt. / Her notes so linkt and wedded together seeme lively Hieroglyphicks of the / harmony of mariage, the high and holy State wherinto you shortly must be / incorporat. This smale worke (yet first in this kind) was only ment for this / lesser world: howbeit under your shadowes (in yor sunneshine I should / say rather; y^e is, yor sweete and glorious Consorte) it may sound & relish / in the eares of the greater. For Musick (like that miraculous tongue of / th'Apostles) having but one and y^e same Character is alike knowne to all the / sundry nations of y^e world. And what wonder, sinc Harmony is the Soule / thereof multipliciously varied of fowre bare notes as y^e Body is of the fowre / Elements. These lessons were composed by three famous Masters in the / faculties, whereof one had y^e honor to be yor teacher most Illustrious lady; / and (had he not had it before) thereby deserved the stile of a Doctor. / If, to theire great grace, yor Grace will vouchsafe to lend yor white hands / they will arrive wth more pleasure at y^e princely eares of yor GREATE / FREDERIKE. Our lord Jesus who hath honored mariage / wth his deere presence and first miracle, extraordinarily done at y^e instance / of his mayden mother, æternally blesse you maydes and maryed.

Yor Highnesses

most humbly

William Hole

[Commendatory poems preceding the first piece of music:]

Mr: HUGH HOLLAND

On his worthy friend W:H:
 & his Triumviri of Musicke.

List to that sweete Recorder;
 How daintily this BYRD his notes doth vary,
 As if he were the Nightingalls owne brother!
 Loe, where doth pace in order
 A braver BULL, then did Europa cary:
 Nay let all Europe showe me such an other.
 Orlando though was counted Musicks fath^r;
 Yet this ORLANDO parallels di Lasso:
 Whose triple praise would tire a very Tasso;
 Thē heere in one these three men heare y^u rather
 And praise thaire songs: & sing his praise who married
 Those notes so well w^{ch} they so sweetely varied.

Mr: GEO: CHAPMAN

In worthy love of this new worck
 and the most Autenticall Aucthors.

By theis choice lessons of theise Musique Mast^{rs}:
 Ancient, and heightn'd wth y^e Arts full Bowles,
 Let all our moderne, mere Phantastique Tasters,
 (Whose Art but forreigne Noveltie extolls)
 Rule and confine theyr fancies; and prefer
 The constāt right & depthe Art should pduce
 To all lite flashes, by whose light they err;
 This wittie Age, hath wisdom least in use;
 The world, ould growing, Ould, wth it, grow Men,
 Theyr skyls decaying, like theyr bodies strengthe;
 Young Men, to oulde, are now but Childeren:
 First Rules of Art, encrease still wth theyr lengthe.
 Which see in this new worck, yet never seene:
 Art y^e more oulde, growes ev^r y^e more greene.

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