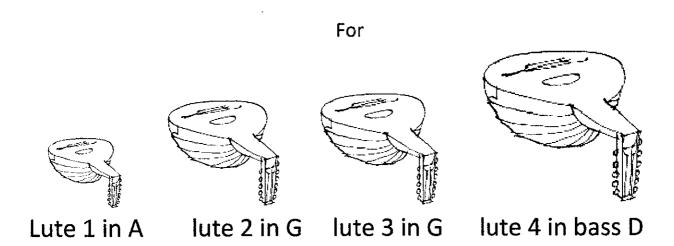
3 Renaissance vocal masterpieces arranged for 4 lutes



Sassi Palae – Andrea Gabrieli Maria Stabat – Andrea Gabrieli Il est bel et bon – Pierre Passereau

All of these pieces are wonderful madrigals or motets in just 5, 6 and 4 parts respectively. Therefore there are not so many notes for each lutenist to play allowing focus on playing the linear vocal lines comfortably and musically. Counting is usually the main challenge - as ever.

It is very helpful to read the words before playing to understand the mood of each piece. If possible listening to a recording of the original madrigal/motet is invaluable.

Sassi Palae - a tribute to Adrian Willaert by Andrea Gabrieli Arranged for 4 lutes (A, G, G & bass D) by Mike Ashley

Lute 4 in bass D
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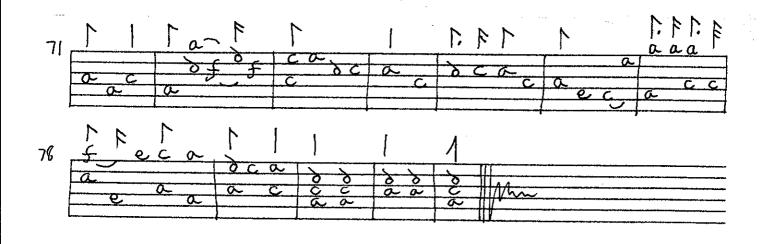


Part 1 Stones, piles, sandbanks on the Adriatic coast Seaweeds, reeds and other plants which live there Islands, marshes, quays that are home to Oysters, cockles and the amiable flatfish, And you, fish in every stream in the valley And in the sea, both large and small, Mackerel, cuttlefish, sardines which swim around there, Mermaids, both unattached and married,

Part 2
And you, rivers that do tribute to the sea —
Piave, Adige, Po, Sil, Brenta and Ogio
come, so that all may lament
the death of Adrian, which fills me with grief,
who will never again set my verses
to sweet song, breaking apart every rock on the shore.
Oh what a sorrow for the whole world!
Who will there be now
that can rival him for harmony?

Arranged for 4 lutes (A, G, G & bass D) by Mike Ashley





Maria Stabat

This is a wonderful and moving motet by Andrea Gabrieli, organist at St Mark's in Venice. Andrea was more subtle than his esteemed nephew Giovanni Gabrieli, and helped create the Venetian style in the generation before Monteverdi.

It helps to read the translation of the words before playing the piece and if possible to listen to a vocal recording.

Maria stabat ad monumentum foris, Plorans. Dum ergo fleret inclinavit se Et prospexit in monumentum Et vidit duos angelos in albis sedentes Unum ad caput et unum ad pedes Ubipositum fuerat corpus Jesu Dicunt e iilli: Mulier, quid ploras? Dicit eis: Quia tulerunt Dominum meum, et nescio Ubi posuerunt eum."

Mary stood outside the tomb,
As she was weeping, she bent down
and looked into the tomb
and saw two angels in white, sitting
one at the head and one at the foot
of where they had placed the body of Jesus
They said to her: "Woman, why do you weep?"
She said to them "Because they have taken away
the body of my Lord, and I do not know
Where they have put him.

Il est bel et bon - Chanson by Pierre Passereau

Arranged for 4 lutes (A, G, G & bass D) by Mike Ashley

Two women gossip about the merits of their husbands including "feeding the chickens", whatever that really means. Bring out the sound of the clucking!

