3 Renaissance vocal masterpieces arranged for 4 lutes

For

Lute 1 in A  lute 2 in G  lute 3 in G  lute 4 in bass D

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.

Mike Ashley, January 2020
The first part names and calls upon all the rocks, piles, fish, mermaids and everything in the Adriatic Sea. The second part names and calls upon all the tributary rivers of the Adriatic to lament the death of Adrian Willaert.

The full text of the madrigal is at the end of the other lute parts.
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,  Mary stood outside the tomb,
Plorans. Dum ergo fieret inclinavit se  As she was weeping, she bent down
Et prospexit in monumentum  and looked into the tomb
Et vidit duos angelos in albis sedentes  and saw two angels in white, sitting
Unum ad caput et unum ad pedes  one at the head and one at the foot
Ubiposuitum fuerat corpus Jesu  of where they had placed the body of Jesus
Dicunt e illi: Mulier, quid ploraras?  They said to her: “Woman, why do you weep?”
Dicit eis: Quia tulerunt  She said to them “Because they have taken away
Dominum meum, et nescio  the body of my Lord, and I do not know
Ubi posuerunt eum.”  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!