Matthew Holmes was responsible for compiling the largest body of surviving English lute, bandora and cittern music, together with music for 'consort-of-six'. His interest in consort music seems to have begun around 1588 when he became precentor and a singing man at Christ Church, Oxford, and associated with another singing man, Richard Reade, whose interest in the form led him to compose numerous pieces. (Lyle Nordstrom, *Journal of the Lute Society of America*, 1972)

The expression ‘consort-of-six’ as used here refers to that special grouping of instruments (treble viol or violin, flute or recorder, bass viol, lute, cittern and bandora) which was a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I and is represented by four major sources: printed publications by Thomas Morley (The First Booke of Consort Lessons, 1599 & 1611) and Philip Rosseter (Lessons for Consort, 1609) and manuscript collections: The Walsingham Consorts c.1588 and The Matthew Holmes Consorts c.1588 – ?1597 (often known as 'The Cambridge Consort Books').

The term ‘Consort’ originally denoted any music whereby different families of instruments come together in a group, but in the 20th century a non-historical distinction was made between ‘whole’ consorts of like instruments and ‘broken’ consorts of different families.

Holmes’ consort music was written out in the following manuscripts which are in the possession of Cambridge University Library:

Dd.3.18 Mainly lute duet trebles and consort lute parts.
Dd.14.24 Cittern solos and consort parts.
Dd.5.20 Bass consort parts and an inserted section of lyra viol tablature and music for division viol, including a number of divisions on consort lesson bass parts, including ‘James’s Galliard’ and Dowland’s ‘Lachrimae’)
Dd.5.21 Mainly recorder consort parts but with two pages of parts for ‘treble violan’. (the smallest size of violin used at the time), mistakenly copied by Holmes into his recorder book.

The main treble violan book and the bandora book, which we can assume would have originally existed, are not extant.

The Matthew Holmes consort books are, nevertheless, one of the richest sources of Elizabethan consort music, particularly by virtue of having the largest number of fine lute parts to accompany consorts in this and other collections, such as Thomas Morley’s *The First Booke of Consort Lessons* (1599 & 1611) for which the lute book is missing. The set is also interesting in that treble violan (treble violin) and recorder are specified rather than the more usual treble viol and flute.

For a fuller introduction and list of sources for the individual pieces, see the introduction in the Score.

**CONTENTS**

1 The French kings maske Anon
2 Alfonsoes paven ?Augustine Bassano or Alfonso Ferrabosco II
3 La Bergera galliarde Anon
4 Nightingale Anon
5 Complainte or Fortune (Fortune my foe) Trad. Hanging ballad tune
6 Primiero Anon
7 Duncombs galliarde Anon
8 Tarletons jigg Anon
9 Long paven John Johnson
10 Dowlands round Battell galliarde John Dowland
11 Katherine Darcies galliarde John Dowland
12 The Jewes Daunce Richard Nicholson
13 De la Tromba paven ?Richard Allison
14 James Galliarde ?James Harding
15 The Sprytes songe Anon
16 Reades first paven Richard Reade
17 Reades second paven Richard Reade
18 Reades galliarde Richard Reade
19 Dowlands first galliarde John Dowland
20 Nutmigs and ginger Anon
Variations from the source
The Cittern part

The list below shows tablature (tab) as appears in the source and which was considered to require alteration. The tablature letters start at the top course and work downwards. A course which is not notated is shown by a hyphen.

1. The French kings maske
   (source has 2 two-bar sections with repeats)
   bar 2 and bar 4: 1st crotchet d a a a tab

2. Alfonsoes paven
   1st section: bar 2 last crotchet d - - - tab
   bar 7 3rd and 4th minims d a a a tab
   2nd section: 2 crotchet upbeats to bar 1 d a a a tab
   bar 3 1st 2 minims d a a a tab
   bar 4 last 2 crotches d a a a tab
   bar 5 last 2 crotches d a a a tab
   bar 6 1st crotchet c a c d tab

3. La Bergera galliard
   1st section bar 4 3rd crotchet a c a b tab
   bar 4 3rd minim b a d - tab

4. Nightingale
   3rd section bar 1 1st minim rest missing

5. Complainte or Fortune
   (source has 2 two-bar sections with repeats)

6. Primiero
   1st section bar 8 1st crotchet a c a b tab

7. Duncombs galliard
   3rd section bar 1 last crotchet - a - - tab
   bar 3 4th crotchet - - a tab
   bar 4 4th crotchet - - a tab

8. Tarletons jigg
   2nd section bar 2 1st dotted minim missing

9. Long paven
   1st section bar 2 last crotchet c - - - tab
   bar 4 2nd minim c a c d tab
   bar 6 5th crotchet c a c - tab
   bar 7 2nd minim d c a b tab
   bar 8 1st crotchet a a a a tab
   2nd section bar 6 7th crotchet e c e - tab
   bar 6 8th crotchet c - - - tab
   3rd section bar 3 last crotchet - c - tab
   bar 4 1st minim h e h - tab

10. Dowlands round Battell galliard
    no change

11. Katherine Darcies galliard
    (titled Do.Re.Ha.galliard in source)
    1st section bar 5 1st minim b a c - tab
    2nd section bar 2 4th crotchet - - d - tab
    bar 4 minim - d d - was d a d - tab
    3rd section only 1st 2 bars given in source

12. The Jewes Daunce
    IG modified bergamasca ground

13. De la Tromba paven
    1st section bar 6 1st minim d a a a tab
    bar 6 2nd minim 2 crotches a c c - then f - - - tab
    bar 7 3rd minim 2 crotches a c a b then b a c d tab
    bar 7 4th minim 2 crotches b a c d then a c a b tab
    3rd section bar 6 3rd minim 2 crotches d b a b then - b - - tab

14. James Galliard
    I G

15. The Sprytes songe
    no change

16. Reades first paven
    no change

17. Reades second paven
    2nd section bar 1 4th minim d c a a tab
    bar 2 4th crotchet g - - - tab
    bar 2 5th crotchet d c a a tab
    bar 6 2nd minim d a a a tab

18. Reades galliard
    1st section bar 6 1st minim f d f - tab

19. Dowlands first galliard
    1st section all d a a - tab is d a a a in source
    2nd section bar 1 4th crotchet d a d - tab
    bar 2 2nd crotchet d a a - tab
    bar 2 4th crotchet d a d - tab

20. Nutmigs and ginger
    no change
1. The French kings maske

(x3)
9. Long paven

John Johnson
10. Dowlands round Battell galliarde

John Dowland

11. Katherine Darcies galliarde

John Dowland
14. James Galliarde

15. The Sprytes songe
18. Reades galliarde

Richard Reade
19. Dowlands first galliarde

20. Nutmigs and ginger