

David Protheroe

Varietie
Varietie
of Lute Quartets

Bassus lute in **D**

Varietie of Lute Quartets

In contrast to music for solo lute, comparatively little music for lute quartet has survived from the renaissance, although the quartet repertoire has been extended by modern arrangements of solo lute music. The main surviving quartets are: seven by Nicolas Vallet from his *Le Secret des Muses* book II (1616), two quartets by Walrant, one by Terzi, and a few quartets from the Thysius manuscript.

The shortage of original music has prompted me to write these quartets for the same grouping as the Vallet quartets (*bassus* **D**, *tenor* **G**, *contratenor altus* **a** and *superius* **d**), to offer a quartet of players something else to play before returning to the wonderful quartets of Vallet.

The titles of the quartets - Fantasie, Pavin, Galliard, Almaine, Coranto and Volte - are taken from Robert Dowland's compilation *Varietie of Lute-lessons*. The quartets represent different approaches to writing for four lutes: the Fantasie states the theme in each part, in the manner of a fugue; the Pavin constructed as a trio plus a descant part for the superius; the Galliard gives divisions to the superius for each repetition of the three sections, but the other parts are kept simple. In the Almaine and Coranto, each part has a share of the faster rhythms. (The opening of the Coranto is an instrumental interlude from one of my lute songs.) The Volte is in rondo form.

The first four movements were performed in the tutors' concert at the Lute Fest at Benslow in March 2020, in an ad hoc quartet comprising Lynda Sayce, Michal Gondko, Nigel North and myself.

A rest is indicated by a rhythm flag without a letter beneath it.

The music has been typeset in Fronimo 3.0.

David Protheroe
Farnham March 2020

2. Pavin

Bass. lute in D

DAVID PROTHEROE

Adagio

11

16

21

26

31

37

3. Galliard

Bass. lute in D

DAVID PROTHEROE

Andantino

3/4

10

19

29

40

4. Almaine

Bass. lute in D

DAVID PROTHEROE

Moderato

5

11

21

29

34

5. Coranto

Bass. lute in D

DAVID PROTHEROE

Andante

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