

David Protheroe

Varietie
Varietie
of Lute Quartets

Contratenor (Altus) lute in **a**

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

Contr. lute in a

DAVID PROTHEROE

Adagio

4

Measures 1-6: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Chords: m1 (b a), m2 (a a), m3 (a a), m4 (a a), m5 (a a), m6 (a a). Rhythmic notation: m1 (b a), m2 (a a), m3 (a a), m4 (a a), m5 (a a), m6 (a a). Dynamic markings: m5 (f f).

7

Measures 7-11: Treble clef. Chords: m7 (a a), m8 (a a), m9 (a a), m10 (a a), m11 (a a). Rhythmic notation: m7 (a a), m8 (a a), m9 (a a), m10 (a a), m11 (a a). Dynamic markings: m8 (f a).

12

Measures 12-17: Treble clef. Chords: m12 (a a), m13 (a a), m14 (a a), m15 (a a), m16 (a a), m17 (a a). Rhythmic notation: m12 (a a), m13 (a a), m14 (a a), m15 (a a), m16 (a a), m17 (a a). Dynamic markings: m13 (f f), m15 (f a).

18

Measures 18-23: Treble clef. Chords: m18 (a a), m19 (a a), m20 (a a), m21 (a a), m22 (a a), m23 (a a). Rhythmic notation: m18 (a a), m19 (a a), m20 (a a), m21 (a a), m22 (a a), m23 (a a). Dynamic markings: m20 (f f).

24

Measures 24-28: Treble clef. Chords: m24 (a a), m25 (a a), m26 (a a), m27 (a a), m28 (a a). Rhythmic notation: m24 (a a), m25 (a a), m26 (a a), m27 (a a), m28 (a a). Dynamic markings: m24 (f a).

29

Measures 29-34: Treble clef. Chords: m29 (a a), m30 (a a), m31 (a a), m32 (a a), m33 (a a), m34 (a a). Rhythmic notation: m29 (a a), m30 (a a), m31 (a a), m32 (a a), m33 (a a), m34 (a a). Dynamic markings: m32 (f a).

35

Measures 35-39: Treble clef. Chords: m35 (a a), m36 (a a), m37 (a a), m38 (a a), m39 (a a). Rhythmic notation: m35 (a a), m36 (a a), m37 (a a), m38 (a a), m39 (a a).

40

Measures 40-41: Treble clef. Chords: m40 (a a), m41 (a a). Rhythmic notation: m40 (a a), m41 (a a). Dynamic markings: m40 (f).

3. Galliard

Contr. lute in a

DAVID PROTHEROE

Andantino

1. 3/4

Measures 1-7: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Notes: c, a, c, b, a, b, b, a, b, e, e, b, g, f, a, c.

8

Measures 8-14: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Notes: a, a, c, a, c, b, a, b, b, a, b, e, e, b, g, f, a, c.

15

Measures 15-22: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Notes: c, f, d, f, d, c, a, c, a, a, d, a, b, a, d, b, a, c, d, d, a, a.

23

Measures 23-32: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Notes: c, d, a, d, a, b, a, d, b, a, c, d, d, a, a, c, d.

33

Measures 33-40: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Notes: f, d, f, b, a, b, d, b, d, b, a, b, a, b, f, d, b, a, d, b, a, d, c, a, c.

41

Measures 41-48: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Notes: f, d, f, b, a, b, d, b, d, b, a, b, a, b, f, d, b, a, d, b, a, d, c, a, c.

4. Almaine

Contr. lute in a

DAVID PROTHEROE

Moderato

5

10

15

19

23

27

31

36

The musical score is written for a contrabass lute in A major. It features a 2/2 time signature and a moderate tempo. The notation includes a rhythmic line above the staff and a tablature line below. The piece is divided into measures, with measure numbers 5, 10, 15, 19, 23, 27, 31, and 36 indicated. The tablature uses letters 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e' to represent fret positions on the strings. The rhythmic notation uses a 'd' for a dotted half note and a 'c' for a common time signature.

5. Coranto

Contr. lute in a

DAVID PROTHEROE

Andante

The musical score is written on a single staff with a 3/4 time signature. It consists of 18 measures, with measure numbers 5, 12, and 17 indicated at the beginning of their respective lines. The notation includes a variety of rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and beams. Chordal accompaniment is represented by vertical lines above the staff, often with a 'c' (cristallo) symbol. The melody includes notes labeled with letters 'a', 'b', 'c', and 'e'. A repeat sign is used in measure 11, and the piece concludes with a double bar line in measure 18.

6. Volte

Contr. lute in a

DAVID PROTHEROE

Allegro

Refrain 1)

Interlude 1

Interlude 2

Interlude 3

Coda

1) Play the refrain at the beginning and then again after each interlude, finishing with the coda.

The refrain and interludes can be repeated or not, as the players decide. The coda is not repeated.

The sections follow on from each other without a pause - the opening upbeat is the third beat of the previous bar.