

MUSIC FOR PRINCES AND PALACES

THE ARCHDUKE'S CONSORT

Fiona Stuart-Wilson *soprano*
Guillermo Femenias *archlute, lute, renaissance guitar*
Marta Ambrós *spinet*
Tamara Heideveld *harp*

Pastime with good company

King Henry VIII 1491-1547

The English King Henry VIII was held in high regard as a musician and composer, and this famous song was probably composed while he was still a prince. The text extols the virtues of the princely life, including hunting, singing and dancing, and warns against idleness.

The White Ribbon ***A Gygge***

Anonymous 17th century

These two short anonymous pieces are from *Priscilla Bunbury's Virginal Book*, a musical commonplace book compiled in the late 1630s by two young women from a noble Cheshire family.

Greensleeves

Anonymous 16th century

Universally known, this quintessential English song was first registered in 1580 and the version best known today appeared in *A Handful of Pleasant Delights* in 1584. The song became famous very quickly and was mentioned by William Shakespeare in his play, 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'. The words express the unrequited love of a rich man for a fair lady.

Can she excuse my wrongs ***Weep you no more sad fountains***

John Dowland 1563-1626

English composer, virtuoso lutenist, singer and contemporary of Shakespeare, Dowland was one of the most famous musicians of his time. **Can She Excuse My Wrongs** is from his *First Booke of Songes or Ayres* (1597) and is dedicated to one-time favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, Robert Devereux, the second Earl of Essex, who may also have written the words. **Weep you no more** is from *The Third and Last Booke of Songs or Aires* (1603) and may be about the Queen herself.

Monsieur's Alman ***Now oh now I needs must part***

William Byrd c1540 - 1603
John Dowland 1563-1626

Monsieur's Alman from the *Fitzwilliam Virginal Book* was composed by one of the Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal, the great William Byrd. The 'Monsieur' of the title was probably the Duc d'Alençon who came to England hoping to marry Queen Elizabeth. The Queen affectionately called him 'her little frog' but sadly the marriage did not happen, and the song **Now oh now I needs must part** records his sad departure. The words were added later to an instrumental piece already known as the *Frog Galliard*.

Mrs Winter's Jump

John Dowland 1563-1626

Here is Dowland in different mood with this lively dance or 'jump'. We don't know who the 'Mrs Winter' of the title was, but she is likely to have been a friend of Dowland or a court associate.

Remember me my dear

Anonymous 17th century

This beautiful anonymous song comes from a collection in Scotland dated 1682 and is described 'as is taught in the music-school of Aberdeen'.

Pastime with good company

King Henry VIII 1491-1547

❧
Interval
❧

Laudate dominum

Claudio Monteverdi 1567-1643

This is a joyful setting of Psalm 150 published in 1641, in which the voice emulates the various instruments of praise mentioned in the psalm, including trumpet, psaltery, and drums. The piece concludes with an extended Alleluia which features Monteverdi's own scored ornamentation.

Hor che lungi

Biagio Marini 1594-1663

Marini was a violin virtuoso and composer, and as a young man served as a violinist under Monteverdi at St. Mark's in Venice. He subsequently held many court positions as music director in Italy and beyond. This song is from his *Arie madrigali et corenti*, Op.3. and describes the pain felt by the lover when far from the beloved.

Eri gia tutta mia

Claudio Monteverdi 1567-1643

In this song from *Scherzi musicali* of 1632, the singer asks what has happened to make their lover leave them – the title translates as 'You were once all mine'.

Nido d'amore

Fabritio Caroso 1527-c1605

Balletto: Duple, Galliarde (Tourdion), Rota (Saltarello), Canary

Caroso was an Italian Renaissance dancing master and a composer and transcriber of dance music. His *Nido d'Amore* (Love's Nest) teaches the techniques for all the Italian dance suites of the era and reflects a couple's dramatic love story through the different stages of courtship.

Si dolce è'l tormento

Claudio Monteverdi 1567-1643

Monteverdi's setting of Carlo Milanuzzi's text in this famous solo madrigal conveys a wide range of emotion that belies its simple form. It first appeared in the composer's *Scherzi musicali* of 1632.

Toccata no. 3

Hieronymus Kapsperger 1580-1651

Kapsperger was a German-Italian virtuoso performer and composer principally for lute and theorbo. He was praised during his lifetime for his compositional skill and innovation. His contemporary Athanasius Kircher described him as a "superb genius" and stated that he had "successfully penetrated the secrets of music".

Meraviglia d'amore

Biagio Marini 1594-1663

In this song from Marini's *Scherzi e canzonette* of 1622, the lonely lover muses on the wonder of love and its terrible power.

Se l'aura spira

Girolamo Frescobaldi 1583-1643

Frescobaldi was one of the most important composers of keyboard music of his day. As a celebrated child prodigy in Ferrara, he may have met Monteverdi, Dowland, Lassus, Merulo, and Gesualdo, all of whom visited the city when he was there. This famous song is taken from *Primo libro d'arie musicale*, to a text written probably by his wife, which exhorts us to enjoy a summer of music, dancing and love.

.....
Please refrain from using cameras and video cameras during the concert.

For further information on The Archduke's Consort:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheArchdukesConsort/>

Website: <http://www.thearchdukesconsort.com>

Email: contact@thearchdukesconsort.com

Please email us if you would like to join our mailing list to hear news of future concerts.