

Volume 1

ENGLISH KEYBOARD MUSIC c.1650–c.1700 A Series of Facsimiles of Manuscript Sources

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Edited by Heather Windram and Terence Charlston with an introductory essay by
Andrew Woolley and a foreword by Colin Lawson.

This manuscript is an early example of a retrospective compilation assembled over several decades. It contains instruction material, notably a series of preludes, but also preserves contrapuntal repertoire from an earlier period, probably copied as models for extemporization. Altogether there are thirty pieces organised by genre (twenty-one preludes and voluntaries, three grounds, two fantasias, a trumpet air, song arrangements and dances, and a figured-bass exercise) by John Bull, John Blow, William Byrd, John Dowland, Orlando Gibbons, Matthew Locke, John Maynard, Benjamin Rogers, Thomas Weelkes and Abiel Whichello. The music would have been performed on any available keyboard instrument (harpsichord, clavichord, chamber organ, or church organ). As a document of contemporary performance practice and musical pedagogy, the manuscript reveals important evidence about fingering, ornamentation, figured-bass, and keyboard improvisation. This edition provides a complete facsimile, a transcription of all thirty pieces in modern notation, together with critical commentary, and an extensive introduction discussing the source, its compilation, and performance considerations.

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Sample Facsimile page

[f. 33r]

Handwritten musical score for page 25. The page is titled "Voluntary" and contains four staves of music. The notation includes various note values, rests, and accidentals. A large "SAMPLE ONLY" watermark is centered over the page.

[f. 32v]

Handwritten musical score for page 26. The page contains four staves of music. The notation includes various note values, rests, and accidentals. A large "SAMPLE ONLY" watermark is centered over the page.

27. A Voluntary

[Thomas Weelkes]

f. 33r

Musical notation for f. 33r, measures 1-8. The title "A Voluntary" is written in the first measure of the treble clef staff.

Musical notation for f. 33r, measures 9-16.

f. 32v

Musical notation for f. 32v, measures 17-24. A large "SAMPLE ONLY" watermark is overlaid on the page.

20

Musical notation for f. 32v, measures 25-32.

f. 32r

Musical notation for f. 32r, measures 33-40. A large "SAMPLE ONLY" watermark is overlaid on the page.

33

Musical notation for f. 32r, measures 41-48, ending with a fermata.