

# PARTHENIA



WILLIAM BYRD JOHN BULL  
ORLANDO GIBBONS

Transcribed and edited by  
THURSTON DART

A critical edition of this famous book, first published  
in 1612-13, comprising eight pieces by William Byrd,  
seven by John Bull and six by Orlando Gibbons.

SECOND, REVISED EDITION

LONDON:

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*AMERICAN AGENTS: GALAXY MUSIC CORPORATION, NEW YORK*

Made in Great Britain

# PARTHENIA

or

## THE MAYDENHEAD

of the first musicke that  
*ever was printed for the VIRGINALLS*  
 COMPOSED

*By three famous Masters: William Byrd, Dr: John Bull & Orlando Gibbons*  
*Gentlemen of his Ma:ties most Illustrious Chappell.*

*Ingraven*  
*by William Hole.*

[Engraving of lady at virginals]

*Lond: print: for Mrs: Dor: Evans. Cum privilegio. Are to be sould by G. Lowe*  
*printr in Loathberry*

[Dedication page:]

TO THE HIGH & MIGHTY

and magnificent Princes Frederick Elector Palatine of the  
 Reine: and his betrothed Lady, Elizabeth the only  
 daughter of my Lord the king.

The virgin PARTHENIA (whilst yet I may) I offer up to your virgin / Highnesses. To you (Gracious Lady) even from the byrth she was entended / and nowe I trust shalbe more wellcome having learnd to tune and twine togethr / these next neighbour letters E and F, the vowell that makes so sweet a Consonāt. / Her notes so linkt and wedded together seeme lively Hieroglyphicks of the / harmony of mariage, the high and holy State wherinto you shortly must be / incorporat. This smale worke (yet first in this kind) was only ment for this / lesser world: howbeit under your shadowes (in yo<sup>r</sup> sunneshine I should / say rather; y<sup>e</sup> is, yo<sup>r</sup> sweete and glorious Consorte) it may sound & relish / in the eares of the greater. For Musick (like that miraculous tongue of th'Apostles) having but one and y<sup>e</sup> same Character is alike knowne to all the / sundry nations of y<sup>e</sup> world. And what wonder, sinc Harmony is the Soule / thereof multipliciously varied of fowre bare notes as y<sup>e</sup> Body is of the fowre Elements. These lessons were composed by three famous Masters in the / faculties, whereof one had y<sup>e</sup> hono<sup>r</sup> to be yo<sup>r</sup> teacher most Illustrious lady; / and (had he not had it before) thereby deserved the stile of a Doctor. If, to their great grace, yo<sup>r</sup> Grace will vouchsafe to lend yo<sup>r</sup> white hands / they will arrive w<sup>th</sup> more pleasure at y<sup>e</sup> princely eares of yo<sup>r</sup> GREATE FREDERIKE. Our lord Jesus who hath honored mariage / w<sup>th</sup> his deere presence and first miracle, extraordinarily done at y<sup>e</sup> instance / of his mayden mother, æternally blesse yo<sup>u</sup> maydes and marved.

Yo<sup>r</sup> Highnesses

most humbly

William Hole

[Commendatory poems preceding the first piece of music:]

Mr: HUGH HOLLAND

On his worthy friend W:H:  
 & his Triumviri of Musicke.

List to that sweete Recorder;  
 How daintily this BYRD his notes doth vary,  
 As if he were the Nightingalls owne brother!  
 Loc, where doth pace in order  
 A braver BULL, then did Europa cary:  
 Nay let all Europe showe me such an other.  
 Orlando though was counted Musicks fath<sup>r</sup>;  
 Yet this ORLANDO parallels di Lasso:  
 Whose triple praise would tire a very Tasso;  
 Thē heere in one these three men heare y<sup>u</sup> rather  
 And praise thaire songes: & sing his praise who married  
 Those notes so well w<sup>ch</sup> they so sweetely varied.

Mr: GEO: CHAPMAN

In worthy love of this new worck  
 and the most Autenticall Authours.

By theis choice lessons of theise Musique Mast<sup>rs</sup>:  
 Ancient, and heightn'd w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Arts full Bowles,  
 Let all ou<sup>r</sup> moderne, mere Phantastique Tasters,  
 (Whose Art but forreigne Noveltie extolls)  
 Rule and confine they<sup>r</sup> fancies; and prefer  
 The constāt right & depthe Art should pduce  
 To all lite flashes, by whose light they err;  
 This wittie Age, hath wisdome least in use;  
 The world, ould growing, Ould, w<sup>th</sup> it, grow Men,  
 They<sup>r</sup> skyls decaying, like they<sup>r</sup> bodies streng<sup>th</sup>;  
 Young Men, to oulde are now but Childeren:  
 First Rules of Art, encrease still w<sup>th</sup> they<sup>r</sup> leng<sup>th</sup>.  
 Which see in this new worck, yet never sene:  
 Art y<sup>e</sup> more oulde, growes ev<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> more greene.

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