

The songs on this disc were the pop music of their day. Printed in their thousands, they were as likely to be performed on the London stage as in the corner of a country alehouse. Subjects of such magnitude as the Restoration of Charles II or the Great Fire of London vie for space with lively, lusty tales of sexual exploits, jilted suitors, shrewish wives, fumbling husbands and country bumpkins. All were sung to some of the most delightful English tunes of the age, recreated here on a variety of period instruments.

## PENNY MERRIMENTS

### Street Songs of 17th Century England

1 The Courtiers Health, or The Merry Boys of the Times	2:40
2 The Country Lass	4:07
3 The Crost Couple, or A Good Misfortune	7:12
4 The Countryman's Joy	2:44
5 Seldom Cleanly	3:38
6 A Merry Jest of John Thomson and Jakaman His Wife	4:45
7 The Seven Merry Wives of London, or The Gossips Complaint	4:01
8 Old England Grown New	2:50
9 Good Advice to Batchelors, How to Court and Obtain a Young Lass	3:07
10 Neptune's Raging Fury	3:13
11 The North Country Lovers	4:18
12 The Lunatick Lover	4:08
13 The Downfall of Dancing	6:14
14 The Saint Turn'd Sinner	3:51
15 An Old Song on the Spanish Armada	2:07
16 The Female Captain, or The Counterfeit Bridegroom	4:25
17 London Mourning in Ashes	4:07
18 The Famous Ratcatcher	2:57

#### The City Waites:

Lucie Skeaping, Soprano • Douglas Wootton, Tenor • Richard Wistreich, Bass-baritone  
 Robin Jeffrey, Cittern, Lute, Baroque Guitar • Michael Brain, Curtal, Recorder  
 Roderick Skeaping, Fiddle, Bass Viol • Nicholas Perry, Bagpipes

Recorded at St Paul's Church, New Southgate, London, 5th-6th September 2004  
 Producers: Lucie Skeaping and Steve Portnoi • Engineer: Steve Portnoi • Booklet Notes: Lucie Skeaping  
 Cover Image: *The King's Drink* by David Teniers, the younger 1610-1690  
 [The Art Archive / Museo del Prado Madrid]

NAXOS

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Playing Time  
70:25

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