



DDD

8.572433

Playing Time
77:30

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The fantasia was in the process of being adapted for keyboard from lute and consort music during William Byrd's youth, and his formidable mastery of counterpoint brought the form to a pinnacle equivalent to his matchless vocal works. These splendours combine with lively dances and virtuoso display and quotations from songs of love and death. They also may hold fascinating symbols which mark secret Catholic allegiances, a gift for Elizabeth I, and a memorial to the tragic Mary, Queen of Scots. Our cover image shows the only possible contemporary impression of Byrd, as a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal at the funeral of Elizabeth I.

William
BYRD
(1539/40–1623)

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| 1 | Anon. (attrib. Byrd): Praeludium (F: No. 117) | 1:26 |
| 2 | Fantasia in G major, No. 2 (MB: Vol. 28, No. 62 / F: No. 261) | 9:20 |
| 3 | Praeludium to the Fancie in A minor (MB: Vol. 27, No. 12 / F: No. 100) | 0:50 |
| 4 | Fantasia in A minor (MB: Vol. 27, No. 13 / F: No. 52) | 8:12 |
| 5 | Praeludium in C major (MB: Vol. 27, No. 24 / F: No. 24 / P: No. 4) | 1:02 |
| 6 | Fantasia in C major, No. 2 (MB: Vol. 27, No. 25 / F: No. 103 / N: 36) | 6:14 |
| 7 | Fantasia in G minor (MB: Vol. 55, No. 55) | 4:16 |
| 8 | Ut, re, mi, fa, sol, la in G major (MB: Vol. 28, No. 64 / F: No. 101 / N: 9) | 9:22 |
| 9 | Ut, mi, re (MB: Vol. 28, No. 65 / F: No. 102) | 8:03 |
| 10 | attrib. John Bull: Prelude: Doric Music (MB: Vol. 14, No. 59) | 1:54 |
| 11 | Fantasia in D minor (MB: Vol. 28, No. 46 / N: 41) | 5:39 |
| 12 | Anon. (attrib. Byrd): Praeludium (MB: Vol. 55, No. 3) | 1:14 |
| 13 | Ut, re, mi, fa, sol, la in F major (MB: Vol. 28, No. 58) <i>theme played by Naoko Akutagawa</i> | 4:33 |
| 14 | Praeludium in G minor (MB: Vol. 27, No. 1 / P: No. 1) | 0:41 |
| 15 | Fantasia in G major (MB: Vol. 28, No. 63 / F: No. 8) | 5:08 |
| 16 | Fantasia in C major, No. 1 (earlier version: MB: Vol. 27, No. 26 / N: No. 29) | 9:35 |

MB = Musica Britannica,
F = Fitzwilliam Virginal Book.
P = Parthenia • N = My Ladye Nevells Book

Glen Wilson, Harpsichord

Recorded at Kloster Bronnbach, Wertheim, Germany, from 13th to 16th May, 2010
Producer: Glen Wilson • Engineer and Editor: Jürgen Rummel • Booklet notes: Glen Wilson
Harpsichord by Henk van Schevikhoven (Helsinki, 1992) after Ruckers
Tuning: Quarter-comma meantone, a' = 415 Hz • Cover Picture: *Elizabeth I's Funeral Procession*
(detail, *Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal*), 1603 (© The British Library Board)