

CONSORT MUSIC DOWNLOADS

It is my hope that by making my arrangements of the Matthew Holmes Consorts freely available on the Lute Society web site, it will encourage more people to play music from the repertoire of 'consort-of-six' music. There are very few commercial publications available that have parts that can be played from.

All of my work may be freely used by anybody, commercially or otherwise, in whole or in part providing acknowledgment is made of that use. If people feel inspired to improve upon my efforts and provide viable alternatives I shall be delighted and would be grateful to receive copies of their versions. I would also be grateful to receive notification of any mistakes so that I can make corrections. Some of the pieces have been reconstructed from as few as two original parts, so there will be numerous possible reconstructions within the essential structure of the pieces.

The above comment about free use does not apply to the treble parts of *The Jewes Daunce* and *Dowlands round Battell galliarde* and for further use of those you should apply to Dr Warwick Edwards and Ian Harwood respectively. They very generously allowed me to use their versions.

In the critical commentaries for the individual consorts, I have adopted a system referring to bar number and item number. The item number refers to any event within the bar happening at a particular beat or fraction of a beat and counted from the beginning of the bar. The event may be a chord, a single note or a rest.

I originally printed a few sets of the book on my home system, and because of limitations in the size of books that I could produce I limited the score in that set to the three melody instruments. However, with the individual consorts I have provided a complete score.

The music files have been created using Sibelius software. I have handwritten the parts of the plucked instruments. Sibelius doesn't seem to be able to deal with transposing staff notation into tablature for an instrument with re-entrant tuning. That is why there is no cittern tab part in the score. Neither does it give the correct rhythm flags. In solo music that is not a problem as one can quarter note values, but when the tablature sits within a score which also has staff notation, one or other will be out by a factor of four. Hence the lute and bandora rhythm flags are wrong in the score. This shouldn't be too much of a problem in context, as one can see the correct note values in the super-adjacent staff notation.

Anybody wanting copies of my Sibelius scores should contact me at ianfgaskell@aol.com. I am using Sibelius 6.

I wish to thank the members of my consort *The Spheres of Music*: Rick Baines, Roger Child, Anne Duckers, Cathy Gaskell, Stewart McCoy and Peter Syrus for their help in playing through the pieces, pointing out mistakes and suggesting improvements. Their input has been invaluable. My thanks also to Ian Harwood for his guidance in writing the introduction.

Ian Gaskell