

MADRIGALS

For Four Voices.

Composed by

John Bennet.

SCORED

From the Original Part Books.

PRINTED A. D. 1599.

And Edited by

Edward J. Hopkins,

ORGANIST TO THE HONOURABLE SOCIETIES

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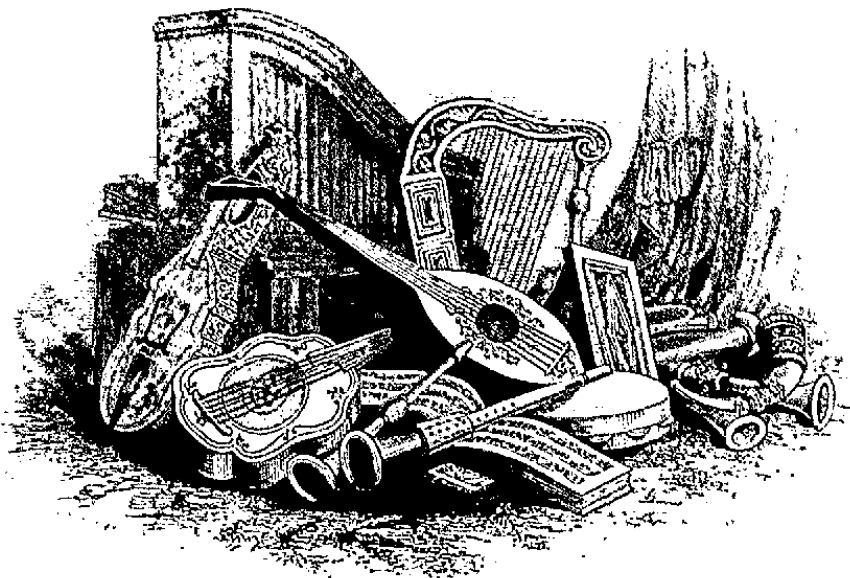
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INTRODUCTION.

JOHN BENNET, Bennett, or Benet, for his name is variously spelt, is chiefly known as a Composer of Madrigals. The following collection contains, according to the title-page, "his first works." He was the composer of the beautiful Madrigal "All creatures now are merry-minded," published by Thomas Morley in *The Triumphs of Oriana*, 1601; and of five Madrigals published by Thomas Ravenscroft in his *Brief Discourse, &c.*, 1614. In the latter work Ravenscroft styles him "a gentleman admirable for all kind of composures, either in art or ayre, simple or mixt, of what nature soever: in whose works the very life of that passion which the ditty sounded is so truly exprest, as if he had measured it alone by his own soul, and invented no other harmony than his own sensible feeling did afford him."

Beyond this short eulogium, we meet with no particulars respecting this great master of vocal harmony.

Benet was the composer of several anthems and organ-pieces still extant, from which we may infer that he was connected with one of our Cathedral establishments, but this is merely conjecture.

Several of the Poems in the following collection have been set by other composers; for instance, "Ye restless thoughts," and "O sleep, fond fancy." The first by John Wilbye in his *First Set of Madrigals*, 1598, and the second by Thomas Morley in his *Introduction to Practical Music*, 1597.

The first line of the Madrigal beginning "Weep, O mine eyes," has been altered in modern times to "Flow, O my tears," probably to distinguish it from one of Wilbye's commencing with the same words.

EDWARD J. HOPKINS.

MADRIGALLS

TO FOVRE VOYCES

NEWLY PUBLISHED

BY

IOHN BENNET

HIS

FIRST WORKS.



AT LONDON

Printed in little Saint Hellens by *William*
Barley, the Assignee of Thomas Morley.

Cum Priuilegio.

M.D.XC.IX.



TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL,
RALPH ASSHETON Esq: one of her Maiesties
Justices of Peace, and Quorum: and of the Oier
and terminer in the County Palantine of Lancaster, and
Receiner of her highnesse Duchy reuenues, in the said
County: and the Countie Palantine of Chester.



Right worshipfull, It would be too tedious, to make particuler declaration of your worshipfull fauours, from time to time, towards me. I hauing beene hitherto altogether vnable, so much as to make any show of thankfulness for the same. And seeing it hath pleased GOD to make you, many waies, a principall patron of my good: by meanes whereof, I haue at length attained to somewhat, whereby I may manifest my selfe, a well affected member of the common wealth. I haue thought it my duetie, to present vnto your worship, these first fruits of my simple skill. Beseeching you, fauourable to accept them, as the indeauours of a yong wit, and tokens of a thankfull mind. And because I haue alwaies knowne you a fauourer of all good exercises, and namely of Musicke: I am imbouldned, to craue your worshipfull Patronage of these my labours; whereby I shall bee incouraged, to indeauor my selfe with all diligence, to put in practise some others, that may deserue better acceptation.

Thus leauing them to your delightfull recreation, and your worship to the protection of the most high, I humbly take my leaue.

Your worships in all duetie,

John Bennet.

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