

# GAMBA MUSIC CLUB

ORLANDO GIBBONS

**Pavan and Galliard**

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## **Orlando Gibbons**

*(b. Oxford 1583; d. Canterbury 5 June 1625)*

Orlando Gibbons was the youngest of 3 sons in a musical family. At 13 he became chorister at Kings College, Cambridge under the tuition of his father and brother. At 18 he started to receive small payments for composing and arranging music.

In 1603 he left Cambridge for London and entered the Chapel Royal where in 1604 he became organist. He appears at this time to have devoted himself seriously to the study of the virginal and the composition of music for that instrument. As marks of royal favour he received handsome grants in 1611 and 1615, and in 1619 he is reported to also be a virginal player for his majesty. It is around this time that he married Elizabeth Patten and they were to have 7 children.

Gibbons was composing a variety of works, when in 1623 he was appointed as organist to Westminster Abbey. 2 years later, while attending the royal wedding party at Canterbury, he suffered some form of fit and died on 5th June. Not much of Gibbons' work was published during his lifetime. This Pavan and Galliard appears in Lilly's MSS 403-408 now in Christchurch Library, Oxford.

Gibbons is considered amongst the top rank of English composers because of his great talent and versatility. He could adapt his mood to whatever he had in hand, choosing his own subjects and method of treatment, but was successful in everything he did. There are few musicians of whom as much could justifiably be said.