

GAMBA MUSIC CLUB

FIVE ELIZABETHAN TRIOS

**Ferrabosco I, Parsley, Baldwin,
Anon, Preston**

Tr T B

**GMC130
2000**

Alfonso Ferrabosco I, 1543 – 1588

At a young age Ferrabosco was settled in England from Italy. At the age of nineteen he was in receipt of a yearly pension payable during the Queen's pleasure. He went to Rome and worked there in 1564, but despite pressure to stay he stole back to England. He was probably already engaged in secret service work with which he was later found to be occupied. He obtained a life pension from the Queen and bound himself to her service. However he returned to Italy and France where he was believed to be engaged in his secret service work. He left his two children in London and stayed in Italy in the service of Charles Emmanuel I, Duke of Savoy. His contemporaries held Ferrabosco in high estimation and he was one of the most important Italian composers who lived in England in 16th century.

Osbert Parsley, 1511 – 1585

Little is known of Parsley's life except that he was a singing man at Norwich Cathedral, a position he held for at least 50 years before his death.

John Baldwin, ? – 1615

Baldwin was for some part of his life a singing man of Windsor but was admitted a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal in 1594. He is chiefly remembered as a celebrated copyist. He wrote out a collection of pieces by a variety of composers for his own use. This Commonplace Book held at the Roy. Lib. is the source for this collection of trios.

Thomas Preston, late 15th century – early 16th century

English organist and composer of which little is known.