

# GAMBA MUSIC CLUB

FOUR QUARTETS FROM  
PETRUCCI'S *HARMONICE  
MUSICES ODHECATON A*

**Compère** c1450-1518

**Obrecht** c1450-1505

**Anon**

**Tr T T B**

**GMC142**

**A Gamba Music Club publication**

**2001**

### Harmonice Musices Odhecaton A printed by Petrucci

In 1498 Petrucci petitioned the Signory of Venice requesting the exclusive privilege for twenty years of printing music for voices, lute and organ. However it was not until May 14<sup>th</sup> 1501 that Petrucci's first publication appeared. The *Harmonice Musices Odhecaton A* was the first printed collection of part music using movable type. It contained compositions by a variety of composers that were recognised at the time. It was followed later by *Canti B* and *Canti C*, published in 1502 and 1504 respectively. These three collections form a series that is particularly rich in Franco-Flemish chansons.

### Loyset Compère c1450 - 1518

Compère had served as a choirboy at Saint-Quentin where he was a pupil of Ockeghem and fellow student of Josquin. In 1486 he became *chantre ordinaire* to Charles VIII and later, canon and chancellor at Saint-Quentin, where he died in 1518.

### Jacob Obrecht c1452 - 1505

Obrecht learnt music as a choirboy at his home town of Berg-op-Zoom and became a student of Louvain University in 1470. He later took holy orders and officiated at mass for the first time in 1480. In 1484 he was appointed master of the children at Cambrai cathedral, but he left soon after, having been dismissed following an accusation of neglecting the boys material welfare. He immediately got a job at Bruges where he stayed until 1491 when he went to Antwerp cathedral as choirmaster. He started to suffer with a series of illnesses, which eventually forced him to resign. In 1504 he went to Italy in the hope of regaining his health, but caught the plague and died.

### Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Alison Crum for the use of the facsimile of *Odhecaton A* when preparing this title.