

# GAMBA MUSIC CLUB

THOMAS TOMKINS  
1572-1656

THREE ANTHEMS FROM  
*MUSICA DEO SACRA*

Tr T T B

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### **Thomas Tomkins 1572 - 1656**

Tomkins was from a family of musicians. His father and four of his brothers were professional musicians. Thomas was a pupil of Byrd as noted in one of his 'Songs' dedications. He became organist of Worcester Cathedral around 1596. In 1621 he was appointed one of the organists of the Chapel Royal, and he received 40s. for music composed for Charles I's coronation in 1625. In 1628 he was appointed to succeed Alphonso Ferrabosco as composer to Charles I, but this was revoked as it had been promised to Ferrabosco's son. Tomkins remained organist at Worcester until 1646 when services were suspended following the second siege of Worcester. Tomkins' last days were spent with his son's family, although he continued to compose till the end of his life.

Although Tomkins lived mainly in the 17<sup>th</sup> century he continued with the polyphonic style and therefore must be regarded as belonging to the great group of composers who flourished at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The greater part of his works were printed, the sacred music in 'Musica Deo sacra' which was printed after his death.