

GAMBA MUSIC CLUB

ALFONSO FERRABOSCO II
c1575-1628

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Alfonso Ferrabosco II (b. Greenwich c.1575; d. Greenwich, March 1628)

Composer, singer and violist. He was left in England when his father, Alfonso Ferrabosco I, returned to Italy in 1578. He was trained in music and in 1592 was in receipt of an annuity of £26:13:4, which was to be paid until midsummer 1601. After James I accession Ferrabosco appears as one of the King's Musicians for the Violins, a year's salary of £50 being paid to him in 1604. He held this place until his death.

Ferrabosco composed music for Ben Johnson's masques, including 'The Masque of Blackness' (1605), 'The Masque of Beauty' (1608), 'The Masque of Queens' (1609), and 'Hymenæi' (1606) where he appeared as singer as well as composer.

On 27th November 1604 Ferrabosco was entrusted with £20 to buy two viols for Henry, Prince of Wales, to whom he was appointed music master. On the death of Henry in 1612 his services were transferred to Charles, the new Prince of Wales. On the accession of Charles I Ferrabosco returned to his former appointment. He was also made Composer of Music in Ordinary to the King, with a salary of £40, on the death of John Coperario in 1627 and Composer of the Kings Music.