

GAMBA MUSIC CLUB

SIMONE MOLINARO

1564 – ?

Four Fantasias

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GMC157

A Gamba Music Club publication

2003

Simone MOLINARO (b. Genoa 1564; d ?)

Simone Molinaro became Maestro di Capella at Genoa Cathedral in 1605, a post which had until then been held by his uncle Giovanni Battista dalla Gostena, who had also been his musical tutor. The present set of four fantasias is taken from Molinaro's publication of lute music: *Intavolatura di Liuto di Simone Molinaro Genoese, Libro Primo*, published in Venice in 1599. The publication contains, lute tablature, 15 fantasias composed by Molinaro and intabulations, presumably by Molinaro, of 25 fantasias by Gostena. There are also numerous dances, mainly passamezzi, saltarelli and gagliardi, and intabulations of French chansons. His other publications include sets of motets, sacred concertos, madrigals and canzonets, and he was also responsible for the publication of six books of madrigals by Carlo Gesualdo.

The present fantasias, transcribed from lute tablature by Ian Gaskell, are obviously conceived in three-part counterpoint with much fugal activity typical of the renaissance fantasia. It is probable that some concessions to the voice lines have been made in the original to make them playable on the lute and Peter Syrus has suggested several such places where slight amendments in this viol edition have improved the flow of the lines.

We would like to thank Ian Gaskell and Peter Syrus for their very generous help in preparing this title.