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Dalla Gostena

25 LUTE FANTASIES

Elliot Simpson *guitar*



Giovanni Battista Dalla Gostena c.1558- c.1593
25 Lute Fantasies

1.	Fantasy I	4'18	14.	Fantasy XIV	2'17
2.	Fantasy II	1'48	15.	Fantasy XV	2'21
3.	Fantasy III	4'23	16.	Fantasy XVI	2'34
4.	Fantasy IV	2'04	17.	Fantasy XVII	2'33
5.	Fantasy V	2'10	18.	Fantasy XVIII	4'22
6.	Fantasy VI	5'39	19.	Fantasy XIX	2'18
7.	Fantasy VII	2'45	20.	Fantasy XX	3'38
8.	Fantasy VIII	4'56	21.	Fantasy XXI	2'24
9.	Fantasy IX	2'15	22.	Fantasy XXII	2'52
10.	Fantasy X	5'10	23.	Fantasy XXIII	2'04
11.	Fantasy XI	2'40	24.	Fantasy XXIV	3'29
12.	Fantasy XII	4'50	25.	Fantasy XXV	2'01
13.	Fantasy XIII	3'19			

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Giovanni Battista Dalla Gostena was born in Genoa in the mid-sixteenth century. Little in the way of biographical information was recorded in his time, and what has reached us is found largely in surviving scores. He was a pupil of the renowned Flemish composer Philippe de Monte, who was active throughout Italy in the era and, from 1568, was employed in the Viennese court of Maximilian II. The first publication of Dalla Gostena's music appeared in 1571, included in a collection of madrigals by various Genoese composers from the local publisher Girolamo Bartoli. Over a decade later, in 1582, his first book of madrigals for four voices was published by the Venetian publisher Angelo Gardano, dedicated to the Genoese nobleman Raffaele Raggio, with the remark that it represented the "first birth of my feeble ingenuity." A second collection of madrigals was published in 1584, and mentions Dalla Gostena as then holding the prestigious position of Maestro di Cappella of Genoa's San Lorenzo Cathedral. Later publications of vocal music appeared in 1586 (*Il primo libro delle canzonette*), 1589 (*Il secondo libro di canzonette*), and 1595 (*Il secondo libro de madrigali*). Further posthumous publications of sacred works include three Magnificat and five motets.

There are references to Dalla Gostena being murdered in 1593; records also show that a funeral mass was held in December, 1598, in the church of San Abrogio. In September of the following year his remarkable twenty-five lute fantasies, along with intabulations of three French canzone, were published by Dalla Gostena's nephew- Simone Molinaro- in his *Intavolatura di Liuto* (Venice: Ricciardo Amadino, 1599). The fantasies, while not particularly technically innovative for boundary-pushing Italian composition of the time, do show evidence of profound instrumental knowledge and make extraordinary demands upon the performer, due in no small part to the complex polyphony borrowed from contemporaneous vocal and keyboard genres. Molinaro makes reference in the publication to Dalla Gostena as his "uncle and teacher", and acknowledges him in the preface with the words "how can I be grateful, if not with a grateful memory?"

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Guitarist **Elliot Simpson** (b.1987) has given premieres of works by such iconic figures as Sofia Gubaidulina, Alvin Lucier, Michael Finnissy, Walter Zimmermann, and Larry Polansky, and has worked closely with many other prominent young composers in the creation of new pieces. He has appeared in many of the arts capitals of the world, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York City, Mexico City, Santiago de Chile, Buenos Aires, São Paulo, London, Amsterdam, Cologne, Berlin, Salzburg, and Shanghai, in master classes, workshops, and performances ranging from early music to free improvisation.

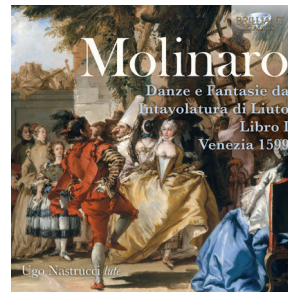
Originally from New Mexico, USA, Elliot studied with David Tanenbaum at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and with Zoran Dukic at the Royal Conservatoire of The Hague, where he was a recipient of the prestigious Huygens Grant from the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. His Master's degree in The Hague, as both soloist and chamber musician, was awarded "with distinction for his extraordinary contribution to new music."

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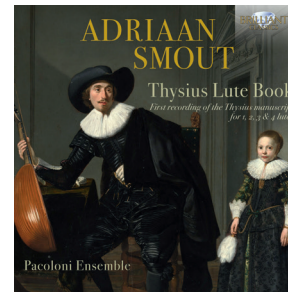
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