

**THE OLD ENGLISH EDITION.
NO. XVIII, XIX, XX; THE
FIRST BOOK OF SONGS OR
AIRS OF FOUR PARTS; 1605**

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The Old English Edition. No. XVIII, XIX, XX; The First Book of Songs or Airs of Four Parts;
1605 by Francis Pilkington

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FRANCIS PILKINGTON

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The Old English Edition. No. xviii.

THE FIRST BOOK

OF

SONGS OR AIRS

OF FOUR PARTS.

BY

FRANCIS PILKINGTON.

1605.

EDITED BY

G. E. P. ARKWRIGHT.

JOSEPH WILLIAMS,
32 GREAT PORTLAND STREET,
London.

JAMES PARKER & CO.
27 BROAD STREET,
Oxford.

M DCCC XCVII.

Preface.

THE object of this Edition is to present in an accessible form various works by English composers of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, which would otherwise be difficult to obtain.

It is intended to reprint a selection from the music hidden away in public and private libraries, which is almost unknown, except to antiquaries and collectors of rare books.

Each volume will be accompanied by Introductions, Biographical Notices, and references to the authorities whence information is obtained.

Introduction

To No. xliii. Old English Edition.

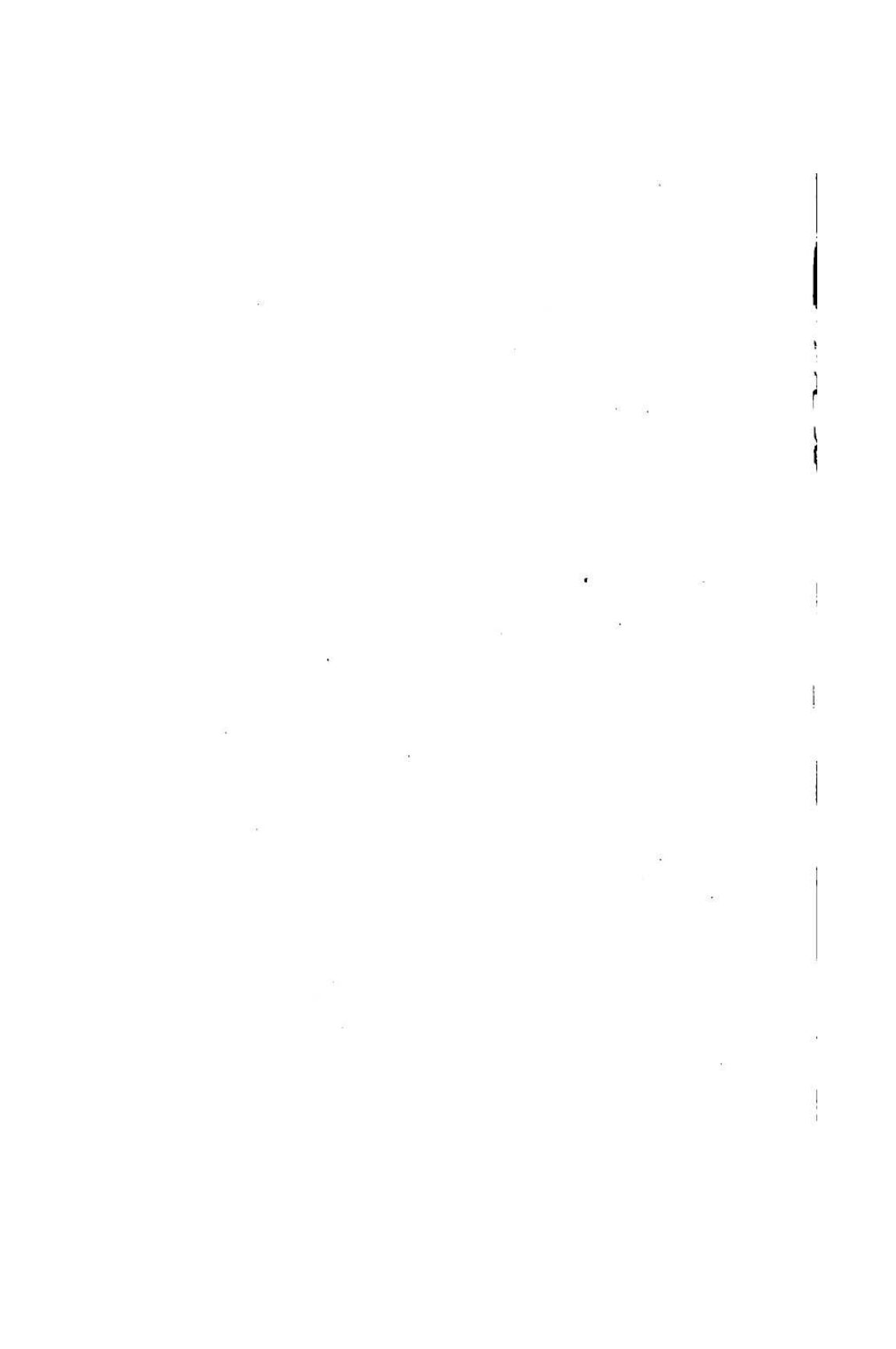
FRANCIS PILKINGTON'S "Songs or Ayres" of 1605, which are now reprinted for the first time, originally appeared in a single volume, as was usual with Songs written with a Lute accompaniment, unlike the Ballets or Madrigals which were published in sets of separate Part-books. The parts are so disposed on the page that the singers or players could all sit round a table and sing from the same volume: that is to say, when the book was open, the Treble voice and Lute accompaniment were on the left-hand page, while the Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts were placed on the right-hand page, so that each faced one of its outer edges.

It is not quite clear whether the Lute-part was used when the four-part setting was sung. From the fact that the two arrangements do not always agree, it is probable that this was not intended, at any rate in some of the songs. It is most likely that the Songs were written in the first place for a single Treble voice with an accompaniment for the Lute (or Orpharion) and Viol de Gamba, the arrangement for voices being an afterthought. There is no separate part printed for the Viol de Gamba, but of course the part allotted to the Bass voice was played on it.

Some of these Songs have been already reprinted. Nos. 1, 6, 7, and 15 were edited by Oliphant, and No. 6 was printed by Hullah in his "Vocal Scores." Following the example of Oliphant, the present Editor has considered himself at liberty to make as many alterations in the words as he thought desirable.

This volume contains seven out of twenty-two songs. The others will follow in Nos. 19 and 20 of the Old English Edition, the latter of which will also contain a brief biographical notice of Pilkington.

NOTE.—THESE SONGS CAN BE OBTAINED SEPARATELY AT SIXPENCE EACH.



THE
FIRST BOOKE OF
Songs or Ayres of 4. parts :
With Tableture for the
Lute or Orpherian, with
the Violl de
Gamba.

Newly composed by Francis Pilkington,
Batcheler of Mufick, and Lutenift: and one
of the Cathedrall Church of Christ,
in the Citie of Chester.

LONDON:
Printed by T. Efte, dwelling in
Aldersgate-ftreete, and are
ther to be fould. 1605.

Note. The original Title-page has an elaborate ornamental border, in the upper part of which is a Canon, 4 parts in 1, signed I. M.

