

Preface

"An Englishman in New York" is an exciting and unique look into John Dowland's Lute Music. It is the first adaptation of this music for a mandolin duo, and as such offers a say of the lute's little sister on some of the most popular tunes in Elizabethan England.

Looking at the complete work of John Dowland, we find that he used some of his melodies in different pieces for variable settings and instrumentations. For instance, the song *Can She Excuse* is to be found in four different versions: as lute solo (2 versions), lute song, four-voice madrigal with lute ad libitum, and five-voice viol consort with lute.

Perhaps one should see Dowland as an artist who always improvised new versions of his solos and came to write down fresh arrangements again and again. Around 100 lute pieces of him are known to us, and we can only imagine how he actually played them. It is most likely that Dowland's music for the lute was for him and for his contemporaries simply a living art. An ultimate version of a piece that he had played throughout his life probably never existed.

We kindly invite you to treat this print only as a ground, adding your own ornamentations, as this was the practice in Dowland's days. We have not added any dynamic markings, leaving this for your creativity and imagination.

Note on the Edition

The aim of **paladino music** is to produce practical modern editions that also provide historical insight. Our arrangements of these Dowland lute pieces are printed in the same order as were performed on the recording (Orlando Records, OR 0007).

Our main goal is to make this music which we love, available to mandolin players. We had a wonderful time exploring the music of John Dowland, and we now hope that it will keep you good company and bring you pleasure and fun.

*Joseph Brent & Alon Sarel,
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