

INTRODUCTION

Marin Marais's *Pièces en Trio Pour les Flutes, Violon, & Dessus de Viole* was published by the composer in 1692, when he was 36 years old. It was his second publication; its sole predecessor had been his first collection of *pièces de viole*, the viol part-book of which had been published in 1686, and the continuo part-book of which had appeared in 1689. *Pièces en trio* was followed in 1693 by the score of Marais's first dramatic work, *Alcide*, written in collaboration with Louis de Lully, the son of Marais's late mentor. Marais's second collection of *pièces de viole* did not appear until 1701, that is, twelve years after the continuo part-book of the first publication. *Pièces en trio* therefore represents Marais's first venture into the publication of music not for the *basse de viole*, the instrument of which he was the acknowledged master. It would be more than thirty years before the appearance of his next and only other publication to include any similar pieces, *La Gamme et Autres Morceaux de Symphonie* (1723). Perhaps it is significant that *Pièces en trio* bears no evidence of plate variants, unlike Marais's early books of *pièces de viole*, which underwent post-publication review resulting in numerous changes to the plates. *Pièces en trio* was published in three part-books, designated 1.^{er} Dessus, 2.^{me} Dessus, and Basse-continue. The collection consists of 67 pieces, grouped by tonality into six suites, each of which begins

A Mademoiselle
Roland
Mademoiselle

Personne n'ignore les qualitez que vous possédez, chacun sçait qu'elle delicatessen vous avez pour la Musique, qu'elle facilité à bien chanter et bien joier de toutes sortes d'instrumens, qu'elle penetration à juger des scavantes productions de l'esprit, qu'elle finesse d'oreille et qu'elle grace à marquer noblement les plus beaux mouvemens de la danse, enfin Mademoiselle, on sçait que la Cour et la Ville ne prononcent vôtrenom qu'avec admiration, mais on ne sçait point que c'est vous qui avez le plus contribué à ce qu'on pourra trouver de bon dans le livre que j'ay l'honneur de vous presenter, on ignore que le plaisir que vous avez tesmoigné entendant la plus part des pieces qui

6 *Graüées par Bonneüil*

Prelude

