

# The ETON CHOIRBOOK

*A full-colour facsimile edition of Eton College Library, MS 178  
with an introduction by Magnus Williamson*

One of the most iconic of music manuscripts, the Eton Choirbook is of unique importance, both in its own right as a cultural artefact and as a source of English choral polyphony composed during the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. Had it perished, along with so many other (less fortunate) pre-Reformation music manuscripts, our knowledge of a critical moment in the history of English music would have been immensely diminished.

Ever since it was first copied for use in the college chapel in the early 1500s, the choirbook has been continuously in the possession of Eton College. Several composers whose works were included in it had close associations with the college, not least Robert Wylkynson, who served as the college's *informator choristarum* from 1500. Other composers represented include Banastre, Browne, Cornyshe, Davy, Fawkyner, Fayrfax, Hygons, Lambe and Turges. Most of its original contents (67 out of a total of 93 pieces) were votive antiphons, or devotional motets of prayer and praise, sung each evening to the Virgin Mary, the college's dedicatee. The *Salve* ceremony, familiar to worshippers throughout Catholic Europe, lay at the heart of Eton College's *raison d'être* as a chantry college: the Eton Choirbook is an eloquent witness to this flowering of devotional culture on the eve of the Reformation.

The manuscript is also a work of consummate artistry, copied by an experienced scribe on large vellum leaves, and illuminated by a professional limner. Even in its in-complete state (nearly half of its original 224 leaves have been lost), the Eton Choirbook is the undoubted queen of early Tudor music manuscripts.

260 pp full colour + 60 pp introduction, indexes etc. Format: 427 x 306 mm (reduced from 590 x 420 mm) Full colour facsimile on heavy matt art paper, hard bound.

ETON Pre-publication prices (orders must be received at Saraband Music before 14 March 2010)

Standard buckram binding A\$345; Full-leather binding A\$450

After 14 March: Standard buckram binding A\$410; Full-leather A\$550

These prices include shipping to Australia. Post from Saraband Music will be charged at cost, registered and insured.

Published by DIAMM (University of Oxford) [www.diamm.ac.uk](http://www.diamm.ac.uk)

# The DOW PARTBOOKS

*A full-colour facsimile edition of Oxford, Christ Church Library  
Mus. 984–988 with an introduction by John Milsom*



Robert Dow's partbooks, copied in Oxford around 1580, rank among the most beautiful of all Tudor music manuscripts, and are also an important and authoritative source for the works they contain. Conceived with both singers and instrumentalists in mind, they contain a varied repertory suitable for voices and viols, including

Latin-texted motets, English-texted anthems and consort songs, and a selection of In nomines and textless chansons, scored mainly for five-voice texture. Featured composers include William Byrd, Thomas Tallis, Robert White, Robert Parsons, Philip van Wilder and Alfonso Ferrabosco Sr. Dow was a trained calligrapher, and his exquisite penmanship, executed in black ink on printed red staves, is unusually accurate and easy to read.

6 vols (5 full colour, 200pp; 1 text introduction, indexes etc.; on heavy matt art paper). Full size reproduction (170 x 240 mm), soft bound in hard slipcover.

DOW Pre-publication price A\$370. After 14 March A\$450

(Pre publication orders must be received at Saraband Music before 14 March 2010)

These prices include shipping to Australia. Post from Saraband Music will be charged at cost, registered and insured.

Published by DIAMM (Uni. of Oxford) [www.diamm.ac.uk](http://www.diamm.ac.uk) in collaboration with the Viola da Gamba Society [www.vdgs.org.uk](http://www.vdgs.org.uk)

For more information and to view images from both publications, visit [www.diamm.ac.uk](http://www.diamm.ac.uk)

*Ordering information:*

Orders and payment should be made directly to Saraband Music.

50% deposit is required to secure the order.

Visa/Mastercard accepted or direct deposit to Saraband Music's bank account

Please call (07) 5422 0806 or email [patrice@saraband.com.au](mailto:patrice@saraband.com.au) to order

Library purchase orders posted to PO Box 272, Kilcoy QLD 4515 before 14/3/2010