

THE LUTE TABLATURE ACCOMPANIMENTS IN JOHN WILSON'S
AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT
IN THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY OXFORD

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Examples sung by Sara Stowe (GB)

The Oxford Professor of Music, John Wilson and well known and admired musician and song composer from the 1620s to his death in 1674 bequeathed to the Bodleian a large volume of his songs. The book also contains his remarkable set of preludes pieces in all keys. It also has over 30 songs with full tablature accompaniments for 12-course lute in Wilson's hand. These accompaniments have many interesting features that have not been fully considered – avoidance to the top string, preference for middle and lower registers, the accenting of single bass notes on important beats, melodic patterns, cadential formulas.

This paper looks at Wilson's own approach to lute accompaniment as contained in his autograph manuscript and considers how the knowledge can be applied today.



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has a music degree from Keele University, an MMus in Ethnomusicology from Goldsmith's College London University, and a PhD from Magdalen College Oxford. Matthew studied lute with Diana Poulton and Jacob Lindberg at the RCM and has published both on the lute music and British provincial music. He is currently Reader in Music at Bath Spa University. He has made over 50 recordings and his recent recording of Scottish lute music from the Balcarres Lute Book is the culmination of a long study of the book and production of a scholarly edition for the Music of Scotland series.

Matthew Spring's solo authored books include:

The Balcarres manuscript (2010 AHRC grant)

The Lute in Britain (2001)

Recent book chapters include:

The Musicians of Bath and Beyond (2016)

The Lute in the Netherlands in the Seventeenth Century (2015)