

**Corpus-building and corpus-based  
musicology for the Early Modern Period  
Towards a complete Electronic Corpus of Lute Music  
... and beyond**

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# **Part 1: What and why?**



# Jacquet de Berchem, *O S'io potessi donna*

Jacob Arcadelt, *Il primo libro de madrigali a quattro voci.* (VENICE, 1597) [GB:LBl K.2.H.8]

**Giachet Berchem.** 15 **CANTO**

S'io potessi donna Dir quel che nel mirar voi prouo e sen-  
to voi prou'e sento Inuidioso farei chiunqu'è conten to Spl'ende nel vostro viso vn  
vino Sole E da begl'occhi pioue Foco d'amor che m'ard'e strugge'l core

ENSEMBLE DUMBLIS E PUEMAS, *Bianchini Rossetto: Intabolatura de Lauto* (NOTA, 2004)



# Melchior Neusidler, *O s'io potesfi dōna*

Melchior Neusidler, *Il primo libro. Intabolutura di Liuto di Melchior Neysidler*, (VENICE 1566) [GB:LBL K.8.G.3]

O s'io potesfi dōna

The image shows a page of handwritten lute tablature. The title 'O s'io potesfi dōna' is written vertically on the left side. The music is arranged in two systems, each consisting of six staves. The notation uses letters (3, 5, 7) and numbers (0-4) to indicate fret positions on the strings. The first system contains 12 measures, and the second system contains 12 measures. The notation includes various rhythmic values and fingerings.

# Lute music corpora



# Lute music corpora

<70,000?

ECOLM  
c. 2k

E-LAUTE  
?



# Lute music corpora

## Formats

- ECOLM uses TabCode
  - (Which no-one else uses)
- e-Laute will use MEI
  - (Which has no tools yet, and isn't currently valid)



# Lute music corpora

## Sustainability

- ECOLM is implemented as:
  - A bespoke MySQL database schema
  - A hand-built PHP web application (from 2004)

# **Part 2: Looking outwards**

# Lute music corpora

ECOLM  
c. 2k

E-LAUTE  
?



# Lute music corpora

ECOLM  
c. 2k

John Robinson  
Lute Society music  
supplements  
c. 8k

E-LAUTE  
?

# Lute music corpora

Serge Gerbode  
Accessible lute music  
c. 20k

ECOLM  
c. 2k

E-LAUTE  
?

John Robinson  
Lute Society music  
supplements  
c. 8k

# Lute music corpora

Serge Gerbode  
Accessible lute music  
c. 20k

Steur & Lutz  
Musik für Lauteninstrumente  
c. 68k

ECOLM  
c. 2k

E-LAUTE  
?

John Robinson  
Lute Society music  
supplements  
c. 8k



# Lute music corpora

## Formats

- Each corpus uses different encoding formats, related to software platforms
- Metadata is different in each case, and no corpus uses authority records

# Lute music corpora

## Sustainability

- Serge Gerbode's corpus is a self-published website
- Steuer & Lutz's catalogue site was maintained by Marcus Lutz
- John Robinson's corpus was only published in paper form

# **Part 3: Looking forwards**



# Lute music corpora

## Formats

- Tablature encoding formats are often quite *simple*
- Conversion is possible
- LuteConv (Paul Overell, with Luke Emmett) converts between 13 formats

# Lute music corpora

## Sustainability I

- John Robinson's editions are now on a public GitHub repository, including MEI conversions
- We will do the same with the other collections

# Lute music corpora

## Sustainability II

- Without understanding *what music these are editions of*, how can we use them?
- How can we compare this with vocal music, without consistent metadata?
- Without some sort of navigation system, how can we find them?
- How do we add structure while remaining open to community contributions?

# Corpus-building and corpus-based musicology for the Early Modern Period

Thank you

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