



Liturgy and Contemplation in Byrd's Gradualia

Kerry McCarthy

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William Byrd's *Gradualia* is one of the most unusual and elaborate musical works of the English Renaissance. This large collection of liturgical music, 109 pieces in all, was written for clandestine use by English Catholics at a time when they were forbidden to practice their religion in public. When Byrd began to compose the *Gradualia*, he turned from the penitential and polemical extravagances of his earlier Latin motets to the narrow, carefully ordered world of the Counter-Reformation liturgy. It was in this new context, cut off from his familiar practice of choosing colorful texts and setting them at length, that he first wrote about the "hidden and mysterious power" of sacred words to evoke a creative response.

Liturgy and Contemplation in Byrd's Gradualia responds to Byrd's own testimony by exploring how he read the texts of the Mass and the events of the church calendar. Kerry McCarthy examines early modern English Catholic attitudes toward liturgical practice, meditation, and what the composer himself called "thinking over divine things." She draws on a wide range of contemporary sources ? devotional treatises, commentaries on the Mass, poetry, memoirs, letters, and Byrd's dedicatory prefaces ? and revisits the *Gradualia* in light of this evidence. The book offers a case study of how one artist reimagined the creative process in the final decades of his life.

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Margherita Pettit:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book Liturgy and Contemplation in Byrd's Gradualia it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book offers high quality.

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