

attributed to John Christopher Pepusch (1667-1752)

## Voluntary in C major (in four movements)

edited by David Byers

## INTRODUCTION

The main source for this four movement Voluntary in C major, Royal Academy of Music MS 168, has been discussed online at **www.byersmusic.com** under *The Sources* for Pepusch's Voluntary in C major in 12 movements. In that RAM manuscript collection, this four movement work is on pp.76-78, immediately following the 12 movement one.

That RAM copy of this voluntary bears no attribution, though a pencilled "Voluntaries by Dr Pepusch" on the first page of the preceding 12 movement voluntary is still just about visible, despite having been erased. It seems likely that that description was also meant to encompass this voluntary.

The likelihood increases, thanks to another copy of the same complete four movement voluntary contained in an 18th century manuscript collection of organ voluntaries which belonged to Lady Susi Jeans (MS SJ6). I have not been able to inspect that source at first hand, but Lady Jeans kindly provided the comments quoted in the *Critical Commentary* on the website.

The work is numbered in MS SJ6 as Voluntary XXVI and is attributed by a 19th century hand to "Dr Pepusch. Never published." The movements may lack much of the ornamentation given in the RAM manuscript but, unlike that RAM source, this copy does provide tempo markings and registration indications.

I was most grateful to Lady Susi Jeans (1911-1993) who, despite illness, sent me information about her manuscript copy in February 1986.

The second movement of this voluntary was also published in London about 1780 by Longman and Broderip in *Twelve Voluntaries and Fugues for the Organ or Harpsichord*, Book IV, as an introductory movement for the anonymous Voluntary III.

Another, and slightly shortened, version of this same second movement is found in a manuscript collection dated 1727 in the Henry Watson Library in Manchester. It was transcribed by John Reading (c.1685-1764) and used as an introduction to a voluntary for Cornet and Echo by John Robinson (1682-1762). These two movements have been published as a Voluntary in A minor by John Robinson, edited by Susi Jeans (Novello 1966).

A *Critical Commentary* for this voluntary follows that for the 12 movement work on the website detailed above.

David Byers, Belfast, October 2011

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