

Paulino Capdepón Verdú and Juan José Pastor (eds.)

Music in the Courts of Europe in the Early Modern Era



PETER LANG

Lausanne · Berlin · Bruxelles · Chennai · New York · Oxford

Bibliographic Information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data is available online at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

A CIP catalog record for this book has been applied for at the Library of Congress.

Departamento de Didáctica de la Educación Física, Artística y Música (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha)

English Texts Reviewed by Lucía-Hildegard de Benito

Technical Review: Inmaculada Martínez and Sara Tabuenca

ISSN 3054-1077

ISBN 978-3-631-91659-9 (Print)

ISBN 978-3-631-94783-8 (E-PDF)

ISBN 978-3-631-94784-5 (E-PUB)

DOI 10.3726/b23486

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Published by Peter Lang GmbH, Berlin (Germany)

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Musical Accounts and Practices of the Celebrations and Festivities Held by the Spanish Monarchy during their Stays in the City of Valladolid (1502–1606)

José Ignacio Palacios

1. Introduction

Every festive event carries significant social weight, providing a break from daily routines and often bringing about changes in the urban landscape of the city. Since the eleventh century, Valladolid had been one of the Spanish monarchs' favorite places; it thus experienced moments of intense urban excitement and ostentation, reaching its zenith at the beginning of the seventeenth century. The city hosted both the court and visits by monarchs and princes on twenty-three occasions.

Over the course of more than a century, the royal celebrations held in Valladolid centered around three main spaces: the gate of Campo Grande, where receptions were held; the Plaza Mayor, where jousts and tournaments were held, given that it was the largest open space available; and the Plaza de San Pablo, where the royal residence was located, and therefore, where performances were held (they were also held in the aforementioned Plaza Mayor). Religious ceremonies were held in the main church and in various churches and convents around the city. These events were accompanied by the customary sounds of trumpets, drums, and bells (which, during visits, jousts, and games, likely impressed listeners with their resemblance to the sounds of war), in addition to those of the *ministriles* (wind players) and of the monophonic and polyphonic chants performed in music chapels (Archivo Municipal de Valladolid [AMV],¹ Libro de Actas Municipales [LAM]² 1504, fol. 188 y LAM 1506, fol. 230). The music performed during these ceremonies was therefore divided into three main categories: that which was performed by members of the royal chapel, the *música de caballerizas*, and that which was performed by chamber ensembles.

2. First Visit of the Archidukes Philip and Joanna, 1502

On February 28, 1502, Philip and Joanna arrived in Valladolid to swear allegiance as heirs to the crowns of Castile and Aragon. Primary sources state that they were accompanied by more than five hundred horsemen, nine trumpeters, drummers,

¹ Archivo Municipal de Valladolid: Municipal Archive of Valladolid.

² Libro de Actas Municipales: Book of Municipal Acts.

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