

Prelude after Grinling Gibbons for solo violin. (2018) EP 73300

Programme note:

The starting point for my Prelude is the 'King David' wood carving by Grinling Gibbons, made as a young man in York, before going to London and becoming Master Carver to King Charles II. Gibbons based his carving on a picture by Peter Candid, *Performance of a motet by Orlando di Lassus*. It depicts dancing cherubs, angels playing instruments (as in Psalm 150) David singing and playing the harp, and St Cecilia playing a small organ. David, very soulful, is in the foreground; St Cecilia, above, is leading the music making.

This gives rise to three strands in my music: the dancing cherubs, David's chant and the music of Lassus. David's music is in four verses, descending in register and heralded and surrounded by the cherubs. The Lassus, glimpsed at first, gradually comes to the fore, until the piece concludes with St Cecilia, and we hear – in terms of the violin – the whole of the little motet which Lassus composed especially for Candid's picture, and which is transcribed from Sadeler's print of it. My Prelude lasts about 8 minutes.

I am grateful to Professor John Bryan for his scholarly advice on Lassus, and his transcription of *Laudent Deum*.

Gibbon's panel is in Fairfax House, York, where the first performance of the Prelude was given on October 30th 2018 by its dedicatee, Peter Sheppard Skaerved.