

## Pergolesi & a tearful cup of tea

One can't but reminisce Pergolesi's fascinating Stabat Mater, when playing the opening section of *Contrapunctus*. Even Bach was tempted to use Stabat Mater and arranged it in his BWV 1083, *Tilge, Höchster, meine Sünden*.

*"Does this not let the tears roll?"* Did the French pianist-composer Jean-François Marmontel wrote in 1778 about Pergolesi's musical testament, and the same can without a doubt be said about Vaughan Williams' *Contrapunctus* from his *Suite for Two Pipes*.

The opening unison transforms into a dissonant. Play and experience the harmony at the start of bars 2, 3 and 4 and be amazed by the intensity. And there are other delightful dissonances to come. Treat them with the respect and length they deserve and don't rush over them.

From bars 5-8 onward the harmonies are rounder and sweeter, urging attention to the rising melody. Some peace and calm lead us into bar 9, where we're diving into a world of exciting sounds and harmonies. The movement of the crotchets in bars 12-16 is a festival of elegance, and soft articulations teaming up with slurs will give this passage the needed flow.

Change of scenery in bar 17, where we return to the beginning. To play this transition in style, you want to slow down ever so slightly at the end of bar 16. Dare to stretch out the last tone of that bar as long as you feel fit. Such a sublime transition; I like to compare it to handing someone a hot cup of tea, gently and with care. In pianissimo there it is, the starting melody again, asking for a subtle and delicate rendition, reminiscing almost dried-up tears...

The *Flanders Recorder Duo* is publishing the sheet music for the Vaughan Williams Suite for Two Pipes through our website:

<http://www.flanders-recorder-duo.be/>

but sadly, Brexit trade regulations are currently preventing sales to the UK. We are working on a solution, so thank you for your patience, and please do check the website from time to time for updates.

### ***Joris van Goethem***

There is a lovely video of  
Tom & Joris rehearsing the Contrapunctus for their CD recording:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtRltq3M0\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtRltq3M0_M)



*Tom, Angela, Joris and Rose - Lane End 2019  
photo from Margaret Reid*