HENRICUS ALBICASTRO

'LONDON' SONATA No. 2 in B flat major edited by Michael Talbot and Andrew Woolley





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edited by ANDREW WOOLLEY AND MICHAEL TALBOT

Violin and basso continuo

Henricus Albicastro (c.1660–1730) 'London' Sonata No. 2 in B flat major edited by Michael Talbot and Andrew Woolley HH416.FSP viii/9 + 2 x 4 pages

Henricus Albicastro (pseudonym of Johann Heinrich Weissenburg, c.1660-1730), one of the most enigmatic yet musically capable violinistcomposers of his era, succeeded in marrying the polyphonic art of the south German violin school with the melodic and structural innovations of the Italians. The present work belongs to a group of four violin sonatas by Albicastro included in a manuscript anthology by at least 15 different composers copied c.1705 in England. It consists of four movements in the tempo-sequence slow - fast - slow - fast: the 'classic' structure associated especially with Corelli. The slow movements are lyrical, the fast movements brilliant, and clearly of Corellian inspiration. Especially characteristic of Albicastro is the extended third movement where there are modulations to various keys and prominent Neapolitan chords.

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