
The Preface.

Entertayner of our *Art*, and on the other side, the strange *imbecillity* of our *Professors*, a great part of them *Profest Generall Maisters*, able (they will vndertake) fully to teach both *precepts* and *Practise* of our *Art*, in one poore yeare, (or lesse if you will:) and yet (spoken it shall be without offence) the most of them, not well vnderstanding the very *Nature* of a *Sound*, or the *Difference* of *Properties*, the *Distinction* of *Tones*, the *Division* of *Numbers and Measures*, the *inequalitie* of *Proportions*, nay, scarce *Defining* the nature of that *Instrument*, *Maisters* whereof they *professe* themselves to be.

I had likewise *poyned* at some other abuses, committed and suffered by *Musicks Professors*, as well in *Ecclesiastike as Common Seruice*, whereby the one, findes his *Due Right* *empayred*; & the other, his *Estimation*; and both, their *Ailities*.

As for those common kinde *Practitioners*, (truly *ycleped Minstrells*, though our *City* makes *Musicians* of them) who making account forsooth to doe the *Art Honour*, now in these daies of the ill opinion, and small credit it beares, haue (fairly) brought it downe from a cheife *Liberall Science*, to the basest almost of *Mechanick Functions*: I make no question, but in good time it may returne vpon their owne necks, and their *Desert* be rewarded, as *Statute* in that case hath already (most worthily) provided.

Besides, I suppose I should hardly haue omitted the *Beleeve* (whereof I finde some *Aery* or *Instrumentall Composers* and *Practitioners* to be) concerning certaine *Vices*, which their *Ignorance* is perswaded, our *Art* receiues helpe by, how *disagreeing* soeuer, both to *Nature* and *Reason*, which is the soule of all *Arts*.

And then for amends of all, I should at last, haue affoorded somewhat in the generall precepts, both of *Plaine*, and *Measurable Musick*, in the many *Diuersties*, which the *Nature* of *Compositions* giue vs, from the very *originall* of them, to
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