UUB 20:13 – A Contextual Analysis of a Lute Manuscript

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The paper studies the Uppsala University Library Manuscript Imhs 20:13, a four-folio lute manuscript for a thirteen-course baroque lute containing two suites – in D sharp minor and G sharp major respectively – and an intabulation of an Affettuoso del Sigre Chelleri. The paper falls into four major parts.

The first chapter presents the manuscript and summarizes what has been written about it in the literature preceding this paper, including RISM. The watermark is treated in order to confirm or rebut the RISM dating, as well the datings proposed by e.g. Sparr and Rudén.

The second chapter treats the suites, and surveys their harmonic, melodic and rhythmic treatments as well as usage of ornament signs. A reference material of post-1720 lute composers is compared to the suites as to usage of ornament signs, handwriting, suite compiling and other stylistic traits. This is done in order to place the MS in its contextual scene concerning musical style, technical complexity and also hints at compositional affinities with some of the composers in the reference material.

The third chapter describes the Affettuoso, the musical style of which differs to a large degree from that of the suites. The music per se is analysed concerning style, as was the case with the suites in chapter two. The composer Chelleri is presented in general, and his connection to Sweden in particular. The Affettuoso exists in nine versions in Sweden, all of which have been put in juxtaposition with the Imhs 20:13 version in order to place the MS in time and place. One of the concordances is associated with a specific person – Carl Leuhusen – whom is briefly accounted for. Invariances between Imhs 20:13 and some of the concordances concerning musical realization suggest a dating for the former. The lack of preserved versions of the Affettuoso in countries other than Sweden suggests a Swedish origin for Imhs 20:13.

The fourth chapter views all other Swedish lute MSS with 18th century dating, in order to detect similarities. A general search for mid-18th century Swedish lutenists has revealed the names of three musicians: David Kellner, Carl Gustav von Düben and Christian Ludvig Kuhlau are described and examined as potential authors of 20:13.

The musical appendix includes a facsimile of UUB Imhs 20:13, a keyboard transcription of the said MS as well as edited versions of all the concordances of the Affettuoso.