

# The Dancing Master :

Or, Directions for Dancing *Country Dances*, with the *Figure and Tunes* to each *Dance*.

The **FOURTH EDITION**;

In which is added many new *Dances*, never Printed before, Also all the *Tunes* carefully Corrected, and Amended.



LONDON, Printed by *W. Godbid*, and are to be Sold by *John Playford* at his Shop in the *Temple*, 1670.

## P R E F A C E.

**T**HE Art of Dancing, called by the *Ancient Greeks* *Orchestice*, and *Orchestis*, is a commendable and rare Quality fit for young Gentlemen, if opportunely and civilly used. And *Plato*, that *Famous Philosopher* thought it meet, that young ingenious Children be Taught to Dance. It is a Quality that has been formerly honoured in the Courts of Princes, when performed by the most Noble Hero's of the Times, The Gentlemen of the Inns of Court, whose sweet and airy Activity has crown'd their Grand Solemnities with admiration to all Spectators. This Art has been anciently handled by *Athenæus*, *Julius Pollux*, *Cælius Rhodiginus*, and others, who much commend it to be Excellent for Recreation, after more serious Studies, making the body active and strong, graceful in deportment, and a quality very much befitting a Gentleman. Yet all this should not have been an incitement to me for Publication of this Work, (knowing these Times and the Nature of it do not agree,) But that there was then a false and surreptitious Copy at the Printing Press, which if it had been published, would have been a disparagement to the Quality and the Professors thereof, and a hindrance to the Learner: Therefore for prevention of all which, having at that time an excellent Copy by me, and the assistance of a knowing Friend; I did venture this ensuing Work to the publick view, and gentle censure of all ingenious Gentlemen, lovers of this Quality; whose favourable acceptance, has mov'd me in this Edition, to make large Additions of new Dances, correcting the errors both of the Tunes and Dances, which were in the former impression. And for the more easie playing of the Tunes, barr'd every Semibrief. By which I hope it will gain your favourable acceptance, and also of the endeavours of Your Servant,

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J. P.