

THE GREAT MUSICIANS

ENGLISH CHURCH COMPOSERS

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The Great Musicians

Edited by FRANCIS HUEFFER

ENGLISH CHURCH COMPOSERS

By WM. ALEX. BARRETT

MUS. BAC. OXON.; VICAR CHORAL OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL



LONDON
SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON
CROWN BUILDINGS, 188, FLEET STREET
1882

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LONDON
R. CLAY, SONS, AND TAYLOR,
BREAD STREET HILL.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

ENGLISH church music began to assume a definite shape and character soon after the Reformation. The encouragement given to the practice of music by the successive sovereigns of the Tudor dynasty, both by their precept and example, laid the foundation of a school of music distinctly national, which would probably have had its due influence over other schools had it been suffered to develop itself without interruption. Beginning with the humblest and most simple forms, the Church Composers from time to time, at no very great intervals, expanded these germs into growths of such unexpected beauty that, though arrested in their full progress, they remain the admiration and wonder of posterity. The English school has the merit, if such it be, of having outlived, in point of relative duration, the majority of the other schools which have been founded

E. C. C.

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