

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 3 January 1576 and proved 6 July 1576, of Baptista Bassano (buried 11 April 1576), one of the Bassano brothers who were the Queen's musicians and who were referred to by Oxford's page, Orazio Cuoco, in his testimony before the Venetian Inquisition. Although the testator died about the time Orazio Cuoco arrived in England in April 1576, his brothers were still active as court musicians. For the Bassano family, see the *ODNB* entry for Alvise Bassano (d.1554). For Orazio Cuoco's testimony before the Inquisition, see Archivio di Stato di Venezia, Savi all'Eresia, Santo Uffizio. b. 41 on this website.

According to the *ODNB*:

*Baptista moved to the liberty of Norton Folgate, just outside the city of London to the north-east. In addition to playing in the recorder consort he seems to have acted as lute and Italian instructor to Princess Elizabeth between 1545 and 1552.*

The testator's widow, Margaret Johnson, died in 1587.

The testator's daughter, Emelia Bassano (buried 3 April 1645), was raised in the household of Susan Bertie, sister of Oxford's brother-in-law, Peregrine Bertie (155-1601), Lord Willoughby d'Eresby. She became the mistress of the Lord Chamberlain of the Household, Henry Carey (1526-1596), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Hunsdon, and is considered by some scholars to be the Dark Lady of Shakespeare's Sonnets. See the *ODNB* entry.

For the Bassano family, see also Woods, Susanne, *Lanyer: A Renaissance Woman Poet*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), pp. 1-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=PHz8zveVvL4C&pg=PA4&lpg=PA4&dq=%22Joseph+Holland%22+%22Angela%22&source=bl&ots=aIFNv3AQZD&sig=qgxZTiSCb66myd6ZrMHYbo8h6PU&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDQQQ6AEwBmoVChMIgYHMjI3PxxwIVyi-ICh3bbgmL#v=onepage&q=%22Joseph%20Holland%22%20%22Angela%22&f=false>

RM: T{estamentu}m Baptista Bassany

[f. 153r] In the name of God, Amen. I, Baptista Bassanye, native of Venice and one of the musicians of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty, being whole of mind and of perfect remembrance, laud and praise be given unto God, do make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I will and bequeath my soul to our Lord Jesus Christ, my Maker, Saviour and Redeemer, through whose death, passion & resurrection my whole trust and confidence is to be saved and to be an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven, and my body to be buried in such place as it shall please God to provide for it;

Item, I give and bequeath to Emelia Bassany, daughter of the body of Margaret Bassany alias Margaret Johnson, my reputed wife, the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England to be paid at her full age of one and twenty years or day of marriage, whether shall first happen, and the same to be paid by my executrix of this my last will and testament, and for the true payment thereof I will & appoint that my said executrix shall within three months next after my decease enter into bond of two hundred pounds unto the said Emelia with condition endorsed for the payment of the said hundred pounds to her, the said Emelia, according to this my said will and testament;

And if the said Emelia happen to die before she come to th' age of one and twenty years or marriage as aforesaid, then I will that the same hundred pounds shall be to the use of my said executrix for the performance of this my said last will and testament and payment of my debts;

And I will that my said executrix shall have the keeping and bringing up of the said Emelia, her daughter, and the bestowing of her in marriage;

Item, I ordain, make and constitute the said Margaret Bassanie alias Johnson my sole executrice of this my last will and testament, and I will and bequeath to her, the said Margaret Bassanye alias Johnson, the rents, issues and profits of my three messuages or tenements with their appurtenances situate and being in the parish of St Bottolph without Bishopsgate, London, near unto the Spital which I hold by two several indentures of lease for many years yet to come, and also the use and occupation of the said three tenements for and during her natural life;

And after her decease I will and bequeath the same two leases and my whole term of years and interest unto [sic?] the same two leases unto the said Emelia and unto Angela Hollande, now wife of Joseph Hollande, gentleman, and sister to the said Emelia, for and during the natural lives of the said Emelia and Angela and the survivor of them, to have and enjoy the whole interest and terms aforesaid;

And I will that my said executrice shall have the keeping of the said indentures of lease of the said premises for and during the time of her natural life, and after her decease the said indentures to remain to the said Emelia and Angela as aforesaid;

And also I, the said Baptista Bassanie, do revoke and annul all and every wills and testaments by me in any wise before this time made, and do will and appoint that this my present will & testament together with all the legacies bequeathed and executrix before herein made, named, willed and bequeathed shall stand, remain and abide for my very last will and testament and none other nor in any other wise;

In witness whereof hereunto I have set my seal given the third day of January in the year of our Lord God one thousand five hundred seventy-five and in the eighteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc. Per me, Baptista Basson. Witnesses of this last

will and testament us whose names be underwritten. Per me, William Daniel, Robert Gall.

Probatum fuit Testamentu{m} h{uius}mo{d}i Coram Mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Drewrie Legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuarien{sis} Comissario apud London Sexto die mens{is} Iulij Anno D{omi}ni Mell{es}imo [sic?] Quingentesimo Septuagesimo sexto Iurame{nt}o ffrancisci Clarke Notarij pu{bli}ci Procuratoris Margarete Bassany al{ia}s Johnson Executricis &c Cui com{m}issa fuit Admi{ni}strac{i}o &c De bene &c ac de pleno et fideli Inue{n}tario &c Necnon de plano et vero Computo &c Iurat{i}

[=The same will was proved before Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the sixth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-sixth by the oath of Francis Clarke, notary public, proctor of Margaret Bassany alias Johnson, executrix etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc., and [+to prepare] a full and faithful inventory etc., and also [+to render] a plain and true account.]