

*Jane Pickeringe's Lute Book* Jacob Heringman  
Avie AV0002 74' 36"

Jacob Heringman makes characteristically impressive appearances in the two discs reviewed above; here he plays alone, and most convincingly Jane Pickeringe's MS (BL Egerton 2046) provided much of the basic repertoire of lute duets when I first started hearing them in the late 1960s. These occupy the first section of the MS; this disc contains a selection of 30 of the subsequent solo pieces. The programme is neatly arranged, with short pieces grouped around the more substantial items: pavan/galliard pairs by Rosseter and Batcheler, a fine fantasy by the latter, and a pavan by John Johnson. There is also a version of Byrd's *Roland* and Dowland's *Robin*. So the usual short-windedness of discs with so many items is avoided. I was sometimes worried by tempi which the presence of a live player may well have sustained but which seemed fractionally too slow as sheer sound with Jacob only present in my imagination — and for once I wasn't under any time pressure when listening but relaxing in a comfortable hotel on the Gulf of Mexico: time did almost stand still, to quote the title of another disc I played then (see below); but the greater momentum which I'd have preferred may have involved rushing or adjustment in embellished sections. This is a fine disc, with excellent booklet notes by Lynda Sayce. Lazy broadcasting stations would perhaps be more likely to use it if the timings for each piece had been given.