Preface

The harpsichord music of Chambonnières circulated more than that of any other French composer of the seventeenth century. It therefore involves a complex web of concordances and versions of the pieces that I first sought to untangle in the worklist I published in 1979.¹ This was, in turn, an extension of the list presented by Paul Brunold and André Tessier in 1925.² However, the discovery of previously unknown manuscripts of this repertory has made both lists no longer accurate. Electronic publication is a vast improvement for thematic catalogues, since when a new source surfaces it can be integrated into the existing catalogue without all of the economic difficulty of issuing a “new edition” of a printed book. This is the rationale for the present catalogue, the first in a series of studies associated with the Journal of Seventeenth-Century Music, sponsored by the Society for Seventeenth-Century Music. It is also the foundation for the new critical edition of the complete works of Chambonnières that Denis Herlin and I published with The Broude Trust in 2017.

RISM has created the following abbreviation for this catalogue: GusC.

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