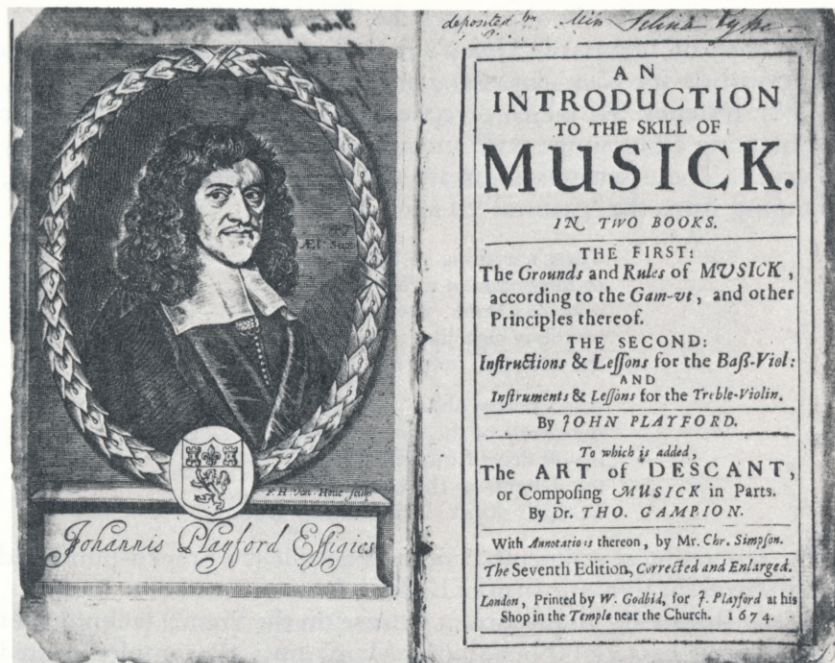


'Printed by Thomas Harper for the Company of Stationers'. Harper's importance for music printing lies in his association with John Playford from 1650 to 1655, although his career began as early as 1614.⁹ By 1633 the Company of Stationers had gained control of the psalm book patent, once so lucrative that it had been the cause of several lengthy legal actions.¹⁰



The title-page opening of Playford's *Introduction to the Skill of Musick* (London, 1674).

A seventh edition of *An Introduction to the Skill of Musick* (London, 1674), (Nichol, 57) represents the output from the firm of John Playford. Playford is viewed by present-day scholars as having 'single-handedly re-established music printing and publishing in England.'¹¹ He was not a printer or engraver, but rather a musician and successful businessman who was able to take advantage of the changing tastes and interests in the music of the period. A total of nineteen editions of his *An Introduction* were produced between 1654 and 1730. It quickly became a standard text of music theory and practice. Turnbull's seventh edition covers singing, performance on the violin and bass viol, and composition in addition to the theoretical background necessary to the musician. It contains many musical examples printed from a lozenge-shaped type. The printer was W. Godbid, who produced most of Playford's publications