

La Beauté la plus sévère. Gavotte (La beauté la plus sévère) Atys, 1676

F-Pn Vm7-6307(1), no. 10, pp. 16–7
LWV 53/75

The first system of the musical score consists of four measures. The treble clef staff contains a melody of eighth notes with grace notes, while the bass clef staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment of quarter notes.

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The second system begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. It contains four measures of music, continuing the melody and accompaniment from the first system.

The third system contains four measures of music, continuing the piece. The bass clef staff features a longer note value in the first measure.

The fourth system contains four measures, concluding the piece with a final cadence in the bass clef staff.

Source

F-Pn: Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Vm7-6307(1) (France, post 1687).

Two arrangements entered by two unidentified French hands (Hands B and E). Hand B (no. 10) is more competent and is possibly the teacher of the other hands.

The Lully pieces form part of this miscellaneous collection of viol, vocal and harpsichord music.

Literature: Gustafson 1979, 1:110, 3:86–90.

Edition: WLSCM, two pieces (nos. 10, 12).

Performance Notes

In the seventeenth century, the notation is under-prescriptive by modern standard and some elements of the performance may only be partially indicated or not indicated at all. Generally speaking, the performer has the discretion to supply in performance much that is not indicated in the source, such as by adding ornaments as well as melodic and rhythmic fillers, by spreading chords in a variety of ways, by embellishing the cadences, and sometimes even by enriching the texture with points of imitation. The modern performer can take lessons from D'Anglebert, who re-edited a selection of his autograph pieces for publication in 1689.¹ The performance attitude and elusive nature of the seventeenth-century French repertory has been exhaustively discussed by David Fuller, Ronald Broude, Bruce Gustafson, and others.²

The player can refer to the table below for guidance on the interpretation of ornament symbols commonly found in manuscript sources.

1. See Chung, "Lully, D'Anglebert and the Transmission of 17th-Century French Harpsichord Music," 586–92.

2. For example, see Ronald Broude. "Composition, Performance, and Text in Solo Music of the French Baroque," *Text: An Interdisciplinary Annual of Textual Studies* 15 (2002): 25.

Tremblement *Pincé*

Port de voix

Cadence *Coulé* *Harpegement*

In “*c*” time, eighth notes in conjunct motion (mm. 7, 9–10, etc.) should be rendered long and short successively as if notated in dotted values. Further advice on the rhythmic convention of *notes inégales* and other performance practice issues can be found in the “Introduction”.

Critical Notes

No. 10 (pp. 16–7, Hand B), *La beauté la plus sévère* (C) [*La Beauté la plus sévère* (gavotte) from *Atys* (1676) LWV 53/75 (C)]
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