

## Ritournelle (Menüet) *Thésée, 1675*

*F-Pn* Rés. Vmd. ms. 18 (LaPierre), no. 49, fol. 11v  
LWV 51/7

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## Source

*F-Pn*: Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Rés. Vmd. ms. 18. France (Paris?), 1687–1730.

Eighteen arrangements, entered by one primary French hand, presumably the teacher of Mademoiselle La Pierre and Mademoiselle Le Noble.

This source illustrates that Lully arrangements, alongside original compositions such as those by Chambonnières, Favier, Hardel, La Barre, and Monnard (the other composers identified in this manuscript), were used as teaching materials for the music education of aristocratic ladies. The music was entered from both ends of the book, and many of the pieces in the later sections were copied, some in quite different versions, from the 1687 end by the same hand, which probably belongs to the teacher. Concordances among the Lully pieces are as follows:

<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>	Title	LWV	key
8	36	51	Rigaudon	73/6	C
9	37	52	Second Rigaudon	73/7	C
14		66	Menuet	63/12	G
15		63	Chaconne	61/40	G
23		48	Descente de Mars	51/5	C
24		50	Marche	51/30	C

Literature: *Manuscrit de Mademoiselle de La Pierre*, facsimile edition, introduction by Pierre Féruselle [François Lesure] (Geneva: Minkoff, 1983; Gustafson 1979, 1:112–3, 3:109–16; Gustafson-Fuller 1990, 387–94).

Edition: WLSCM, eighteen pieces (nos. 8–9, 14–5, 20, 23–5, 36–7, 48–52, 59, 63, 66).

## 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

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

The image displays six musical examples of ornaments, each with a label above it and a corresponding musical notation in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs).

- Tremblement**: Shows a note with a wavy line above it, followed by a note with a vertical line and a wavy line above it, and another note with a vertical line and a wavy line above it. The label "or" is placed above the first and third notes.
- Pincé**: Shows a note with a vertical line and a wavy line above it, followed by a note with a vertical line and a wavy line above it, and another note with a vertical line and a wavy line above it. The label "or" is placed above the first and third notes. A reference "(Brussels-27220)" is at the end.
- Port de voix**: Shows a note with a wavy line above it, followed by a note with a wavy line above it, and another note with a wavy line above it.
- Cadence**: Shows a note with a wavy line above it, followed by a note with a wavy line above it, and another note with a wavy line above it.
- Coulé**: Shows a note with a wavy line above it, followed by a note with a wavy line above it, and another note with a wavy line above it.
- Harpegement**: Shows a note with a wavy line above it, followed by a note with a wavy line above it, and another note with a wavy line above it.

In “3” time, eighth notes in conjunct motion (mm. 1, 3, 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. 49 (fol. 11v), Menüet [Ritournelle from *Thésée* (1675) LWV 51/7 (C)]  
[No comments]

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.