

Second Air *Thésée, 1675*

GB-Lbl MS. Add. 39569 (Babell), no. 235, p. 175
LWV 51/55

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Musical score for a keyboard arrangement, measures 23-27. The score is written for a single instrument, likely a harpsichord or spinet, in a single system. The music is in a minor key, indicated by a single flat (B-flat) in the key signature. The time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be common time (C). The score consists of five measures. The first measure (measure 23) begins with a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line starts with a quarter note G3, followed by quarter notes F3 and E3. The second measure continues the melody with quarter notes D5, C5, B4, and A4. The bass line has quarter notes D3, C3, and B2. The third measure has a melody of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bass line has a quarter note G3, followed by a half note F3. The fourth measure has a melody of quarter notes D5, C5, B4, and A4. The bass line has quarter notes D3, C3, and B2. The fifth measure (measure 27) has a melody of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bass line has a quarter note G3, followed by a half note F3. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Source

GB-Lbl: London, British Library, MS Add. 39569 (London, 1702).

Thirty-three Lully pieces entered by Charles Babel (ca. 1634–1716) whose hand is neat and consistent. Same hand as that in *Tenbury*.

The Lully pieces are sequenced into Babel's compiled "suittes," a term evidently taken from Dieupart's *Six Suites de clavessin* (Amsterdam, 1701), from which twenty-three pieces were copied into *Babell*. Each key group is carefully designated "suite" with a number. Thirteen (out of 29) of the suites contain Lully arrangements, and seven use the overture as an opening movement (nos. 7, 15, 17, 21, 23, 26, and 27). On the basis of concordances, it appears that many of the arrangements in *Babell* also circulated in central Parisian sources. Gustafson brings up the possibility that Babel, rather than making his own arrangements, could have assembled his Lully arrangements from sources that also contain the remainder of his Parisian repertory.

Literature: Barry A.R. Cooper, *English Solo Keyboard Music of the Middle and Late Baroque*. D.Phil. diss. (Oxford University, 1974; reprinted, New York: Garland, 1989), 459; Gustafson 1979, 1:68–73, 2:187–221; *London, British Library MS Add. 39569, 17th-Century Keyboard Music* 19, facsimile edition, introduction by Bruce Gustafson (New York: Garland, 1987); Gustafson-Fuller 1990, 355, 372–3; Bruce Gustafson, "The Legacy of Instrumental Music of Charles Babel, Prolific Transcriber of Lully's Music," in *Jean-Baptiste Lully: Actes du colloque Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Heidelberg 1987*, ed. Jérôme de La Gorce and Herbert Schneider (Laaber: Laaber-Verlag, 1990), 495–516; Bruce Gustafson, *Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, 2nd ed., ed. Ludwig Finsher (Kassel: Bärenreiter, 2000), s.v. "Babel, Charles (1)"; Peter Holman, "Did Handel Invent the English Keyboard Concerto?" *The Musical Times* 144, no. 1883 (Summer 2003): 13–22.

Edition: Harris 2009, one piece (no. 131); Chung 2004, six pieces (nos. 128, 130, 131, 152, 243, 263); WLSCM, twenty-seven pieces (nos. 57, 97, 120, 123–4, 129, 132–6, 138, 143, 154, 182, 199, 209, 217–8, 231, 233–5, 258, 268–9, 280).

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

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

others.²

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

Tremblement *Pincé*

Port de voix

Cadence *Coulé* *Harpegement*

The image displays three sets of musical notation examples for various ornaments. The first set, labeled 'Tremblement' and 'Pincé', shows a treble clef staff with notes and various ornament symbols (trills, mordents, etc.) and a bass clef staff with a corresponding rhythmic accompaniment. The second set, labeled 'Port de voix', shows a treble clef staff with notes and a bass clef staff with a corresponding rhythmic accompaniment. The third set, labeled 'Cadence', 'Coulé', and 'Harpegement', shows a treble clef staff with notes and various ornament symbols and a bass clef staff with a corresponding rhythmic accompaniment. The source '(Brussels-27220)' is noted at the end of the first set.

In “3” time, eighth notes in conjunct motion (mm. 2–3, 5, 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. 235 (p. 175), Second Air (F) [Seond Air from *Thésée* (1675) LWV 51/55 (F)]
[No comments]

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.