

# ROBERT DE VISÉE

1650 — 1725

## Gitarrenstücke

Ludwig XIV gewidmet

(1686)

Livre de pièces pour la guitare  
dedié au Roy

Pieces for Guitar  
dedicated to King Louis XIV

Aus der Tabulatur übertragen, bezeichnet und herausgegeben  
von F. J. Giesbert

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## *Directions for Playing*

Rules for plucking:

One note     Thumb

Two notes    Thumb and middle finger

Three notes   Thumb, index and middle fingers

Four notes    Thumb, index, middle and ring fingers

Exceptions are indicated thus:

- † Thumb
- Index finger
- Middle finger
- Ring finger

In the case of slurs, the first note is plucked with the right hand as usual and the others with the left hand. A fingering mark below a chord means that the finger indicated is to stroke all the strings in succession. A line over the fingering indicates use of the fingernail. The fingers pluck vehemently, the thumb calmly in the end. Keep the fingers straight and stroke across several strings with the side of the fingerend.

The sign } above or below the note indicates vibrato.

Hold the little finger on the sound-board near the bridge.

When this book was written, the guitar had five sets of strings, but Visée explicitly prescribes an octave string in the fourth set, to give the following tuning:



The notes of the 5th set of strings sounded an octave higher than written in the transcription. This explains some apparent inconsistencies of the part-writing, especially in the bass. Especially for dance music, the Spanish guitarist Sanz therefore prescribed the use of a low A instead of the second high A in the 5th set of strings as early as 1674.

In transcribing the tablature, we have written down only the notes actually indicated by Visée. When stroking several strings with one finger, the one between those shown are obviously meant to be played as well, but not any other outside strings.

*F. J. Giesbert*

# Suite I

## Prelude

The Prelude is written in common time (C) and features a treble clef. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a 7-measure rest followed by a series of eighth-note patterns. The second staff contains a 2-measure rest, a 4-measure rest, and a 3-measure rest, with various ornaments and accidentals. The third staff continues the melodic and harmonic development, ending with a double bar line and repeat signs.

## Allemande

The Allemande is written in common time (C) and features a treble clef. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a 2-measure rest and a 2-measure rest, followed by a series of eighth-note patterns. The second staff contains a 4-measure rest, a 3-measure rest, and a 4-measure rest, with various ornaments and accidentals. The third staff continues the melodic and harmonic development, ending with a double bar line and repeat signs. The fourth and fifth staves show further rhythmic complexity with 7-measure and 4-measure rests. The sixth staff concludes the piece with a 7-measure rest and a final cadence.

## Courante

The Courante is written in 6/4 time and features a treble clef. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a 3-measure rest and a 3-measure rest, followed by a series of eighth-note patterns. The second staff contains a 7-measure rest, a 2-measure rest, and a 2-measure rest, with various ornaments and accidentals. The third staff continues the melodic and harmonic development, ending with a double bar line and repeat signs.

### Sarabande

Musical score for Sarabande, measures 1-8. The piece is in 3/4 time and features a slow, expressive melody with a prominent bass line. The notation includes various chords, triplets, and dynamic markings such as *p* and *mf*. The key signature changes from one flat to two flats.

### Gigue

Musical score for Gigue, measures 1-16. The piece is in 3/4 time and features a lively, rhythmic melody. The notation includes various chords, triplets, and dynamic markings such as *p* and *mf*. The key signature changes from one flat to two flats.

### Gavotte

Musical score for Gavotte, measures 1-16. The piece is in 3/4 time and features a lively, rhythmic melody. The notation includes various chords, triplets, and dynamic markings such as *p* and *mf*. The key signature changes from one flat to two flats.

### Bourée

Musical score for Bourée, measures 1-16. The piece is in 3/4 time and features a lively, rhythmic melody. The notation includes various chords, triplets, and dynamic markings such as *p* and *mf*. The key signature changes from one flat to two flats.

Menuet

Passacaille

Menuet

# Suite II

## Prelude

Musical score for the Prelude section of Suite II. The piece is written in a treble clef with a 6/4 time signature. It begins with a series of chords and arpeggios, followed by a melodic line with various ornaments and rhythmic patterns. The score includes several measures with complex chordal textures and a final cadence.

## Allemande

Musical score for the Allemande section of Suite II. The piece is written in a treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It features a series of chords and arpeggios, followed by a melodic line with various ornaments and rhythmic patterns. The score includes several measures with complex chordal textures and a final cadence.

## Courante

Musical score for the Courante section of Suite II. The piece is written in a treble clef with a 6/4 time signature. It features a series of chords and arpeggios, followed by a melodic line with various ornaments and rhythmic patterns. The score includes several measures with complex chordal textures and a final cadence.

Musical notation for the first piece, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/4 time signature. The piece includes a triplet of eighth notes and a final measure with a fermata and a '7' marking.

Sarabande

Musical notation for the Sarabande, in 3/4 time. It consists of three staves of music with various ornaments, including a '2' and a '7' marking.

Gigue in.....

Musical notation for the Gigue, in 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with various ornaments, including a '0', '4', '2', and '4' marking.

Menuet

Musical notation for the Menuet, in 3/4 time. It consists of three staves of music with various ornaments, including a '2', '3', and '4' marking.

### Chaconne

The Chaconne section consists of seven staves of music. The first staff is in 3/4 time and features a complex rhythmic pattern with many triplets and sixteenth notes. The subsequent staves continue this pattern, with some variations in the bass line and the use of repeat signs. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence.

### Gavotte

The Gavotte section consists of two staves of music in 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplet markings. The second staff continues the melody and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The piece ends with a final chord.

### Bourée

The Bourée section consists of two staves of music in 3/4 time. The first staff is in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff continues the melody and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence.



Menuet

Musical score for Menuet, 3/4 time signature, G major. The piece consists of two staves of music. The first staff features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff features a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand.

Suite III

Sarabande

Musical score for Sarabande, 3/4 time signature, G major. The piece consists of three staves of music. The first staff features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second and third staves feature a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand.

Gigue

Musical score for Gigue, 3/4 time signature, G major. The piece consists of three staves of music. The first staff features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second and third staves feature a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand.

Sarabande

Musical score for Sarabande, 3/4 time signature, G major. The piece consists of three staves of music. The first staff features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second and third staves feature a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand.

## Menuet

Musical score for Menuet, consisting of two staves. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes and a bass line with chords and single notes.

## Suite IV

## Prelude

Musical score for Prelude, consisting of five staves. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is common time (C). The piece includes various rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and features a section with a 'V' marking and a first/second ending.

## Allemande

Musical score for Allemande, consisting of four staves. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is common time (C). The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note accompaniment and a melodic line with various ornaments and a 'V' marking.

Sarabande

Gigue

# Passacaille

The musical score for "Passacaille" is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 3/4. The piece is characterized by a steady, rhythmic accompaniment of chords, often with a moving bass line. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some sixteenth-note passages. The score includes several first and second endings, indicated by bracketed boxes and numbered "1." and "2.". The first ending appears at the end of the 7th staff, and the second ending appears at the end of the 8th and 9th staves. The piece concludes with a final chord in the 10th staff.

# Suite V

## Sarabande

The Sarabande is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The music features a series of chords and melodic lines, with a four-measure rest marked '4' in the second measure. The second staff continues the piece, including a six-measure rest marked '6' and a repeat sign. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line and repeat dots, and includes a circled '3' and a circled '2'.

## Menuet

The Menuet is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note accompaniment and a melodic line. It includes a seven-measure rest marked '7' and a first ending marked '1'. The second staff continues the piece, featuring a two-measure rest marked '2' and a three-measure rest marked '3'.

## Passacaille

The Passacaille is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/2 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/2 time signature. The music features a series of chords and melodic lines, with a four-measure rest marked '4' and a six-measure rest marked '6'. The second staff continues the piece, including a four-measure rest marked '4' and a six-measure rest marked '6'. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line and repeat dots, and includes a six-measure rest marked '6'. The fourth staff continues the piece, featuring a six-measure rest marked '6' and a six-measure rest marked '6'.



### Menuet



*Da capo al*