Georg Friedrich Händel

Suite in d minor

Transcribed for Baroque Lute
by
Richard Darsie

TREE EDITION

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Albert Reyerman

GEORG FRIEDRICH HÄNDEL: SUITE IN D MINOR

Georg Friedrich Händel ‘s Suite in D Minor for harpsichord was notamong the suites published during the composer ‘s lifetime. It was rediscovered in the present century in a ms. in the library of Mr. Henry BarretLennard, Esq. of Hampstead, England. The ms. consists of a number of keyboard suites by Händel, including the Suite in D Minor transcribed in the present edition. The ms. is believed to date to the early 1710‘s, predating the first publication of keyboard music by Händel in 1720, and making the music contained therein among his earliest keyboard compositions. This is further suggested by the relative simplicity of construction in this suite when compared with his later published works; this simplicity makes the suite particularly weld-suited for adaption to the lute. Transcription was quite straightforward from the original keyboard score; few actual modifications were necessary to make it playable on Baroque lute.

The suite opens with a typical French OUVERTURE, divided into an opening GRAVE in duple meter, an ALLERGO in triple meter, and an ADAGIO coda in duple meter. The remaining movements follow the typical sequence for Baroque suites, with a CHACONNE for the final movement instead of a GIGUE. A particular point of interest in the CHACONNE is the unusual middle section with several variations in 9/8 time.

This arrangement is made for 13 course Baroque lute in standard D minor tuning. It seems fitting that the music of Georg Friedrich Händel adapts so well to this instrument used by his contemporaries Silvius Leopold Weiss and Johann Sebastian Bach.

Davis, California
January 1987
Richard Darsie

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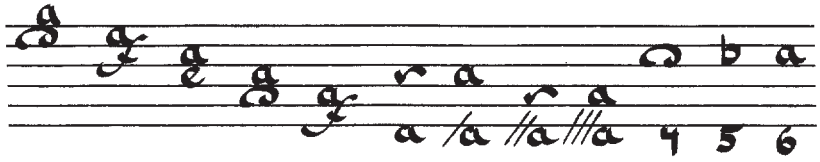
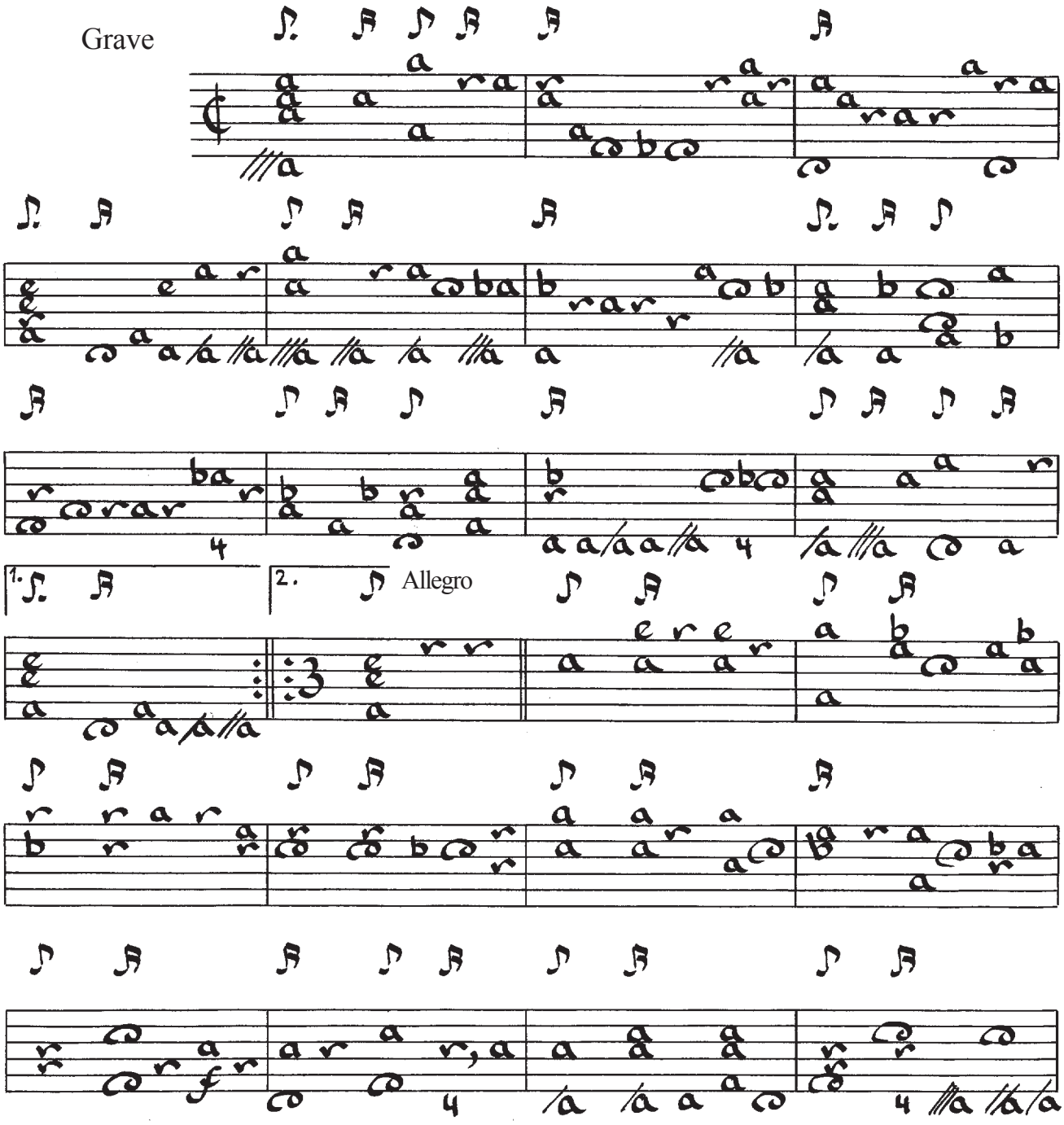
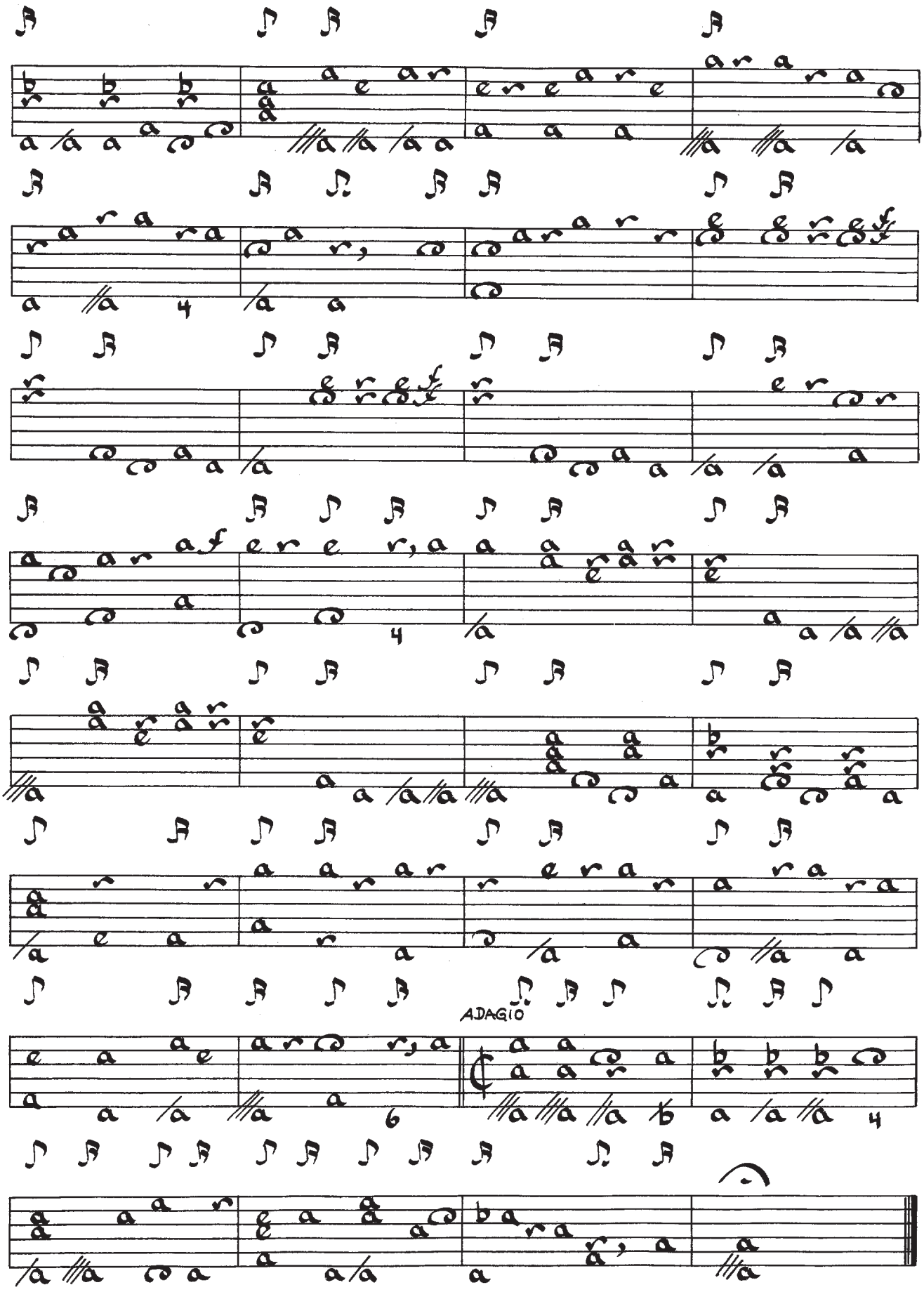
Tuning of the Lute



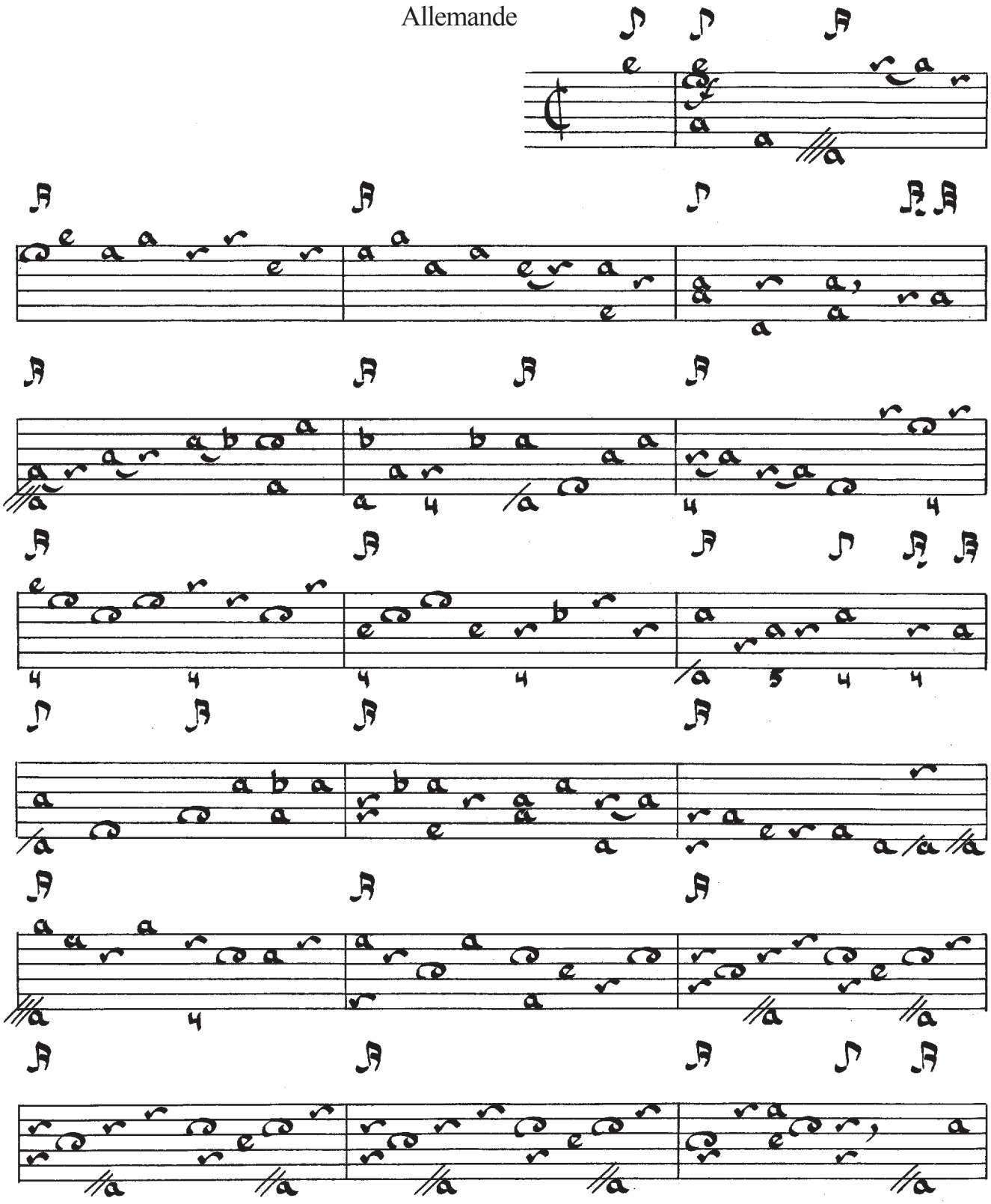
Ouverture

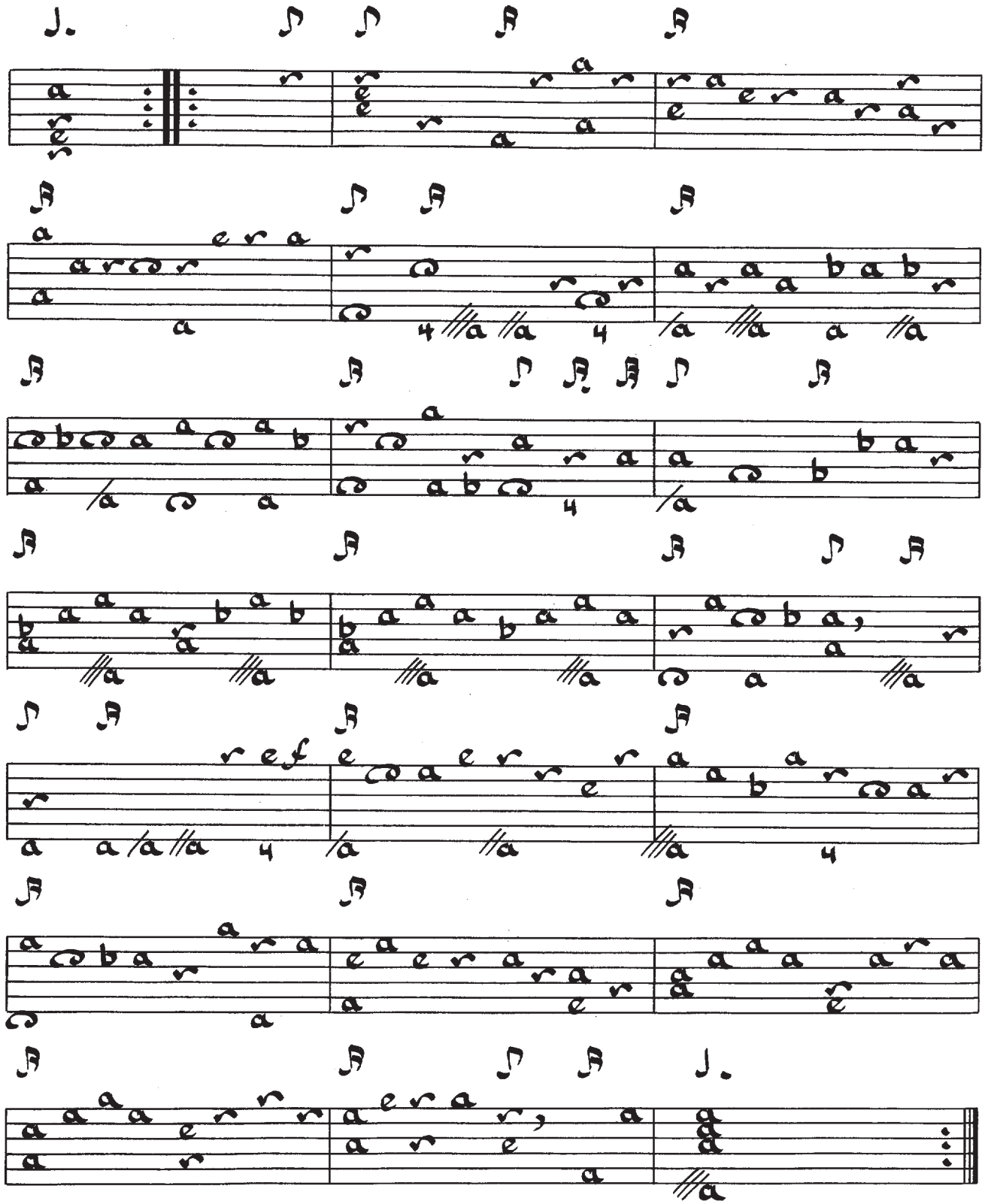
Grave



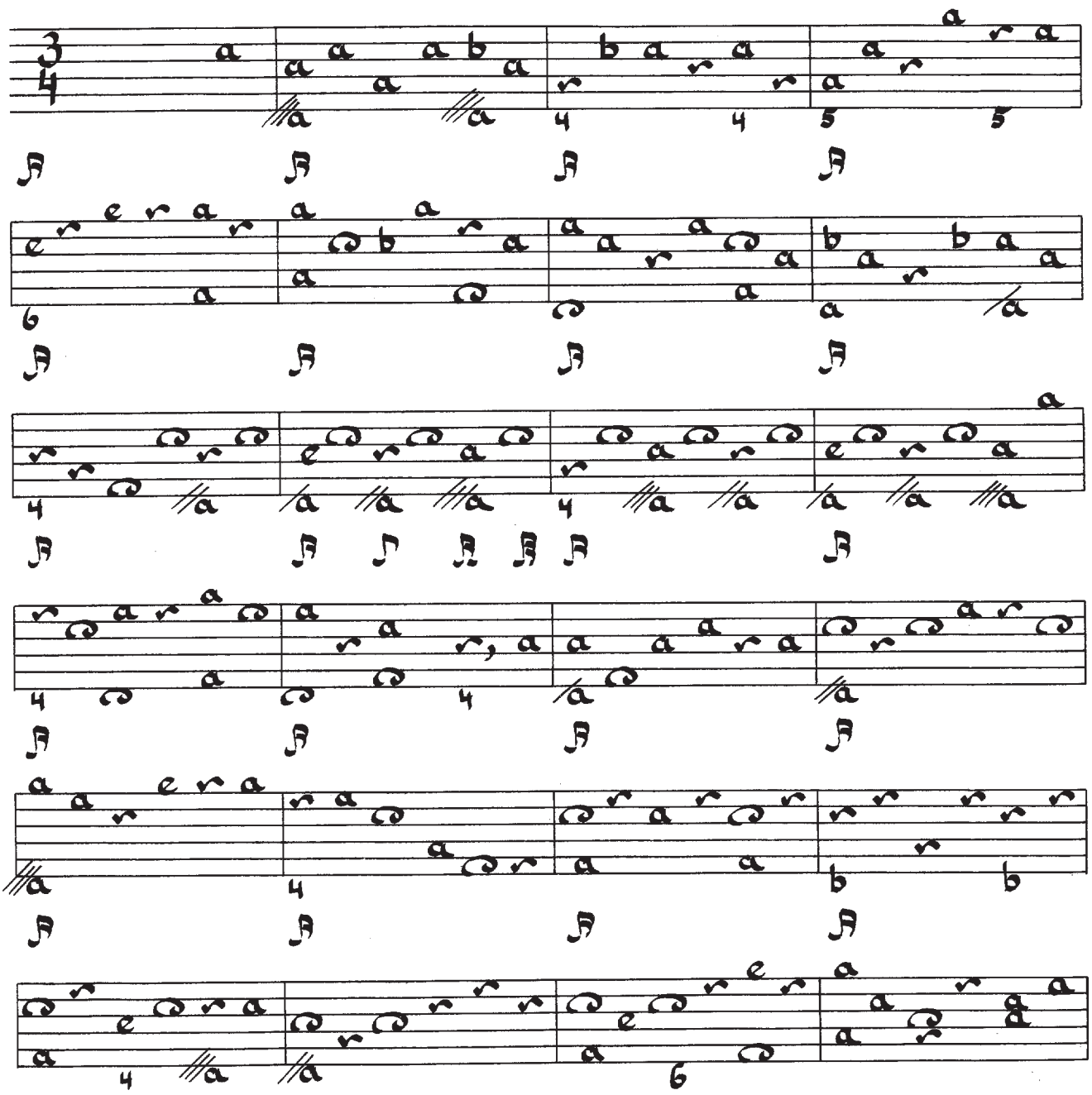

ADAGIO

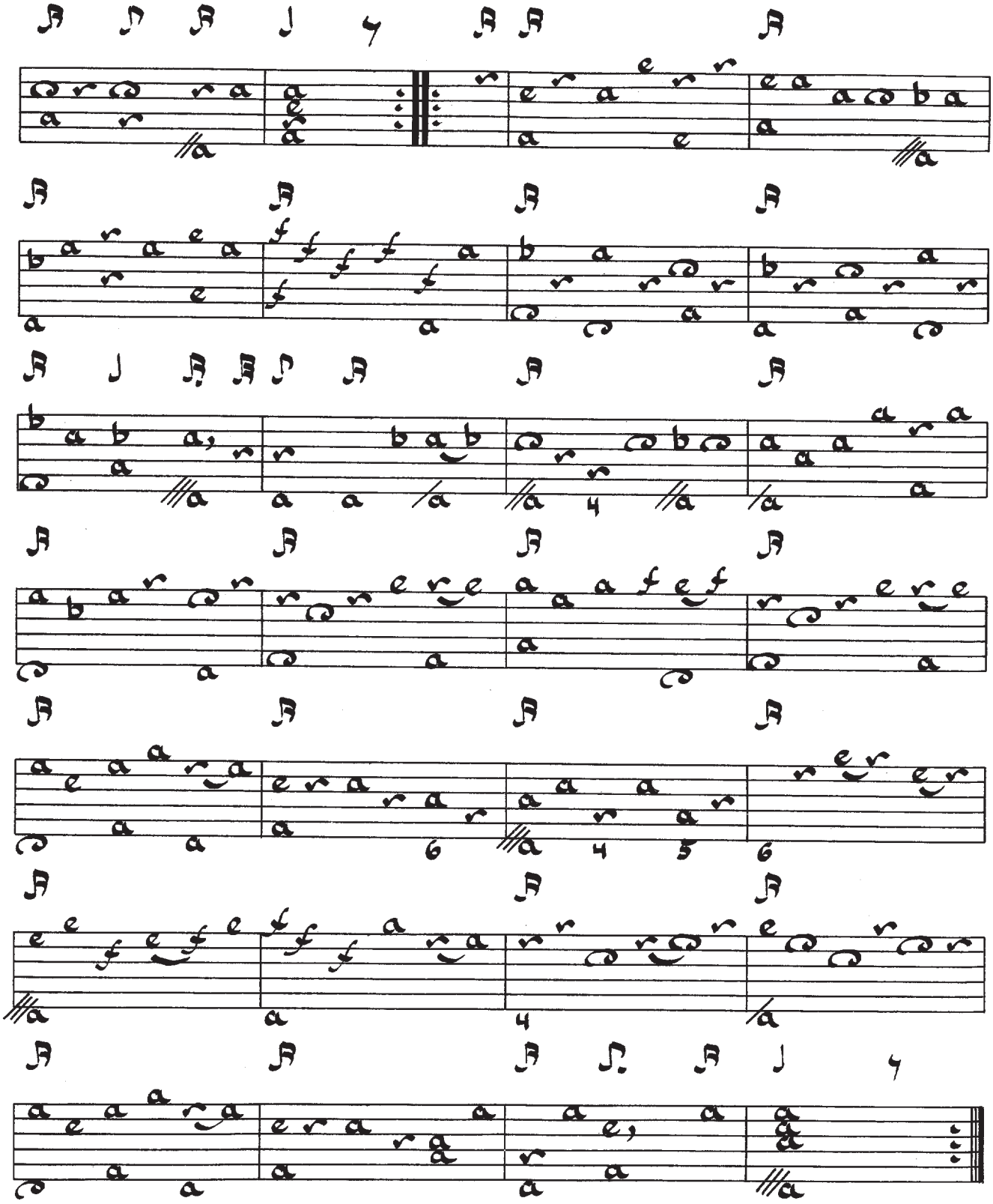
Allemande



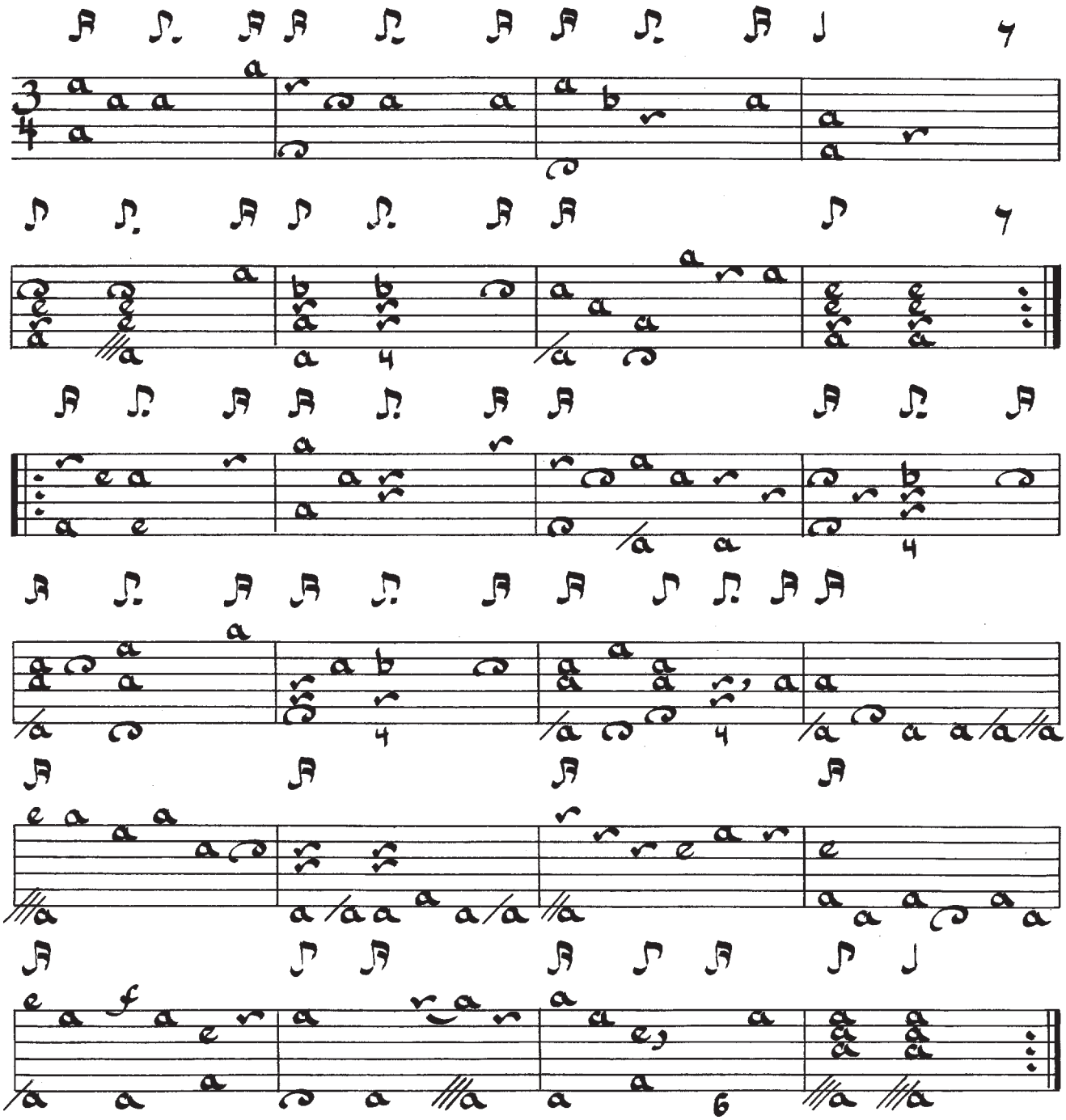


Courante

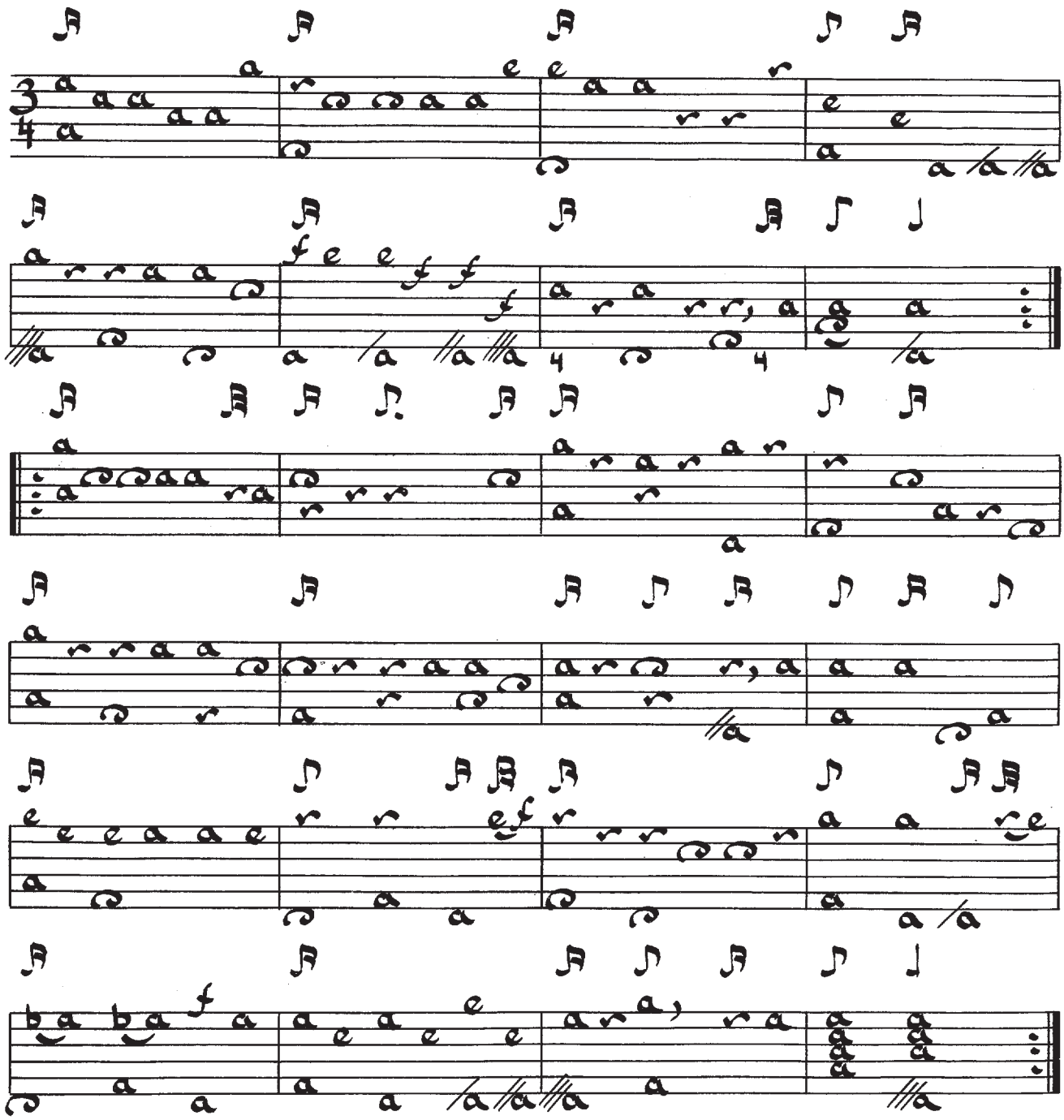




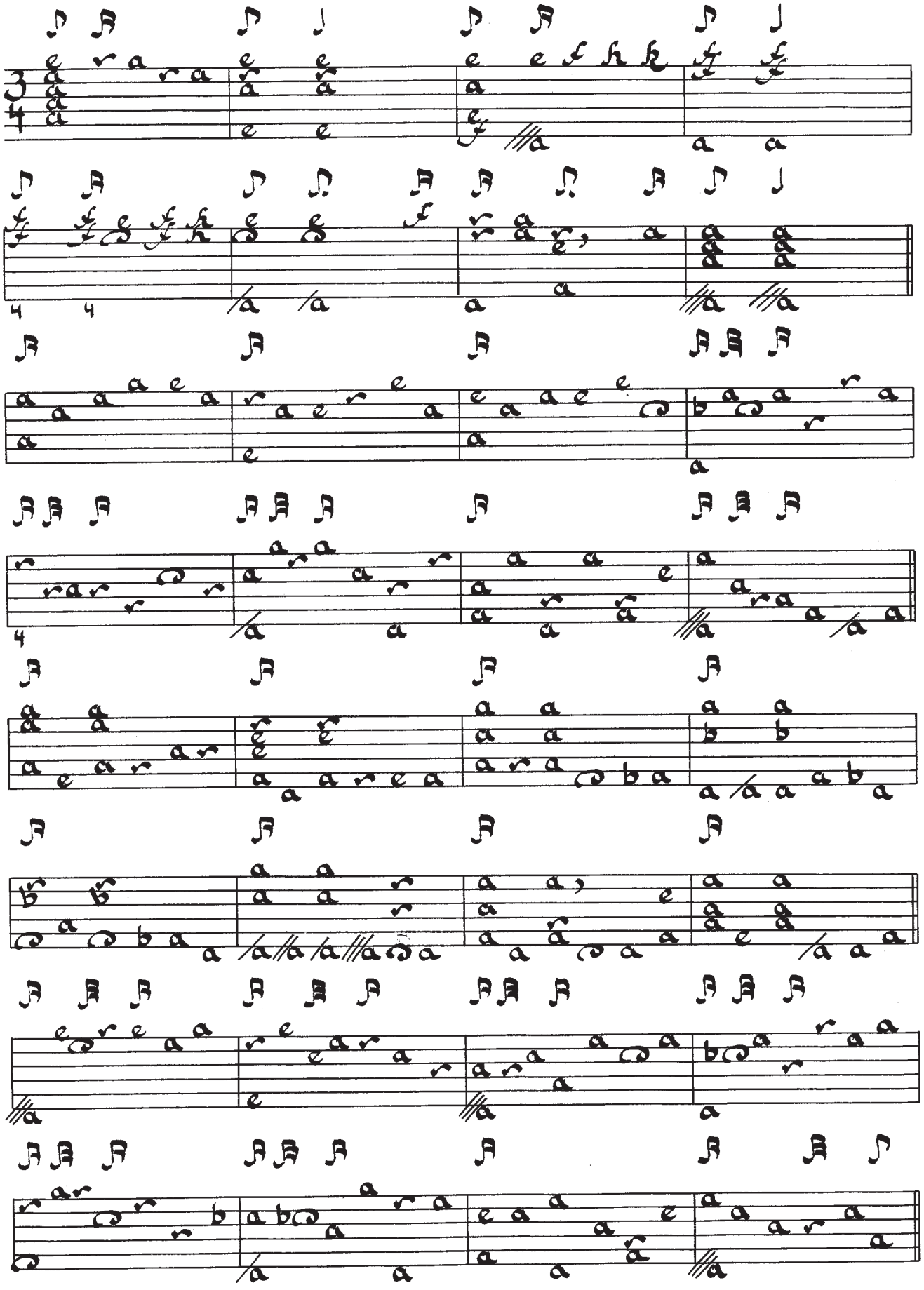
Sarabande I

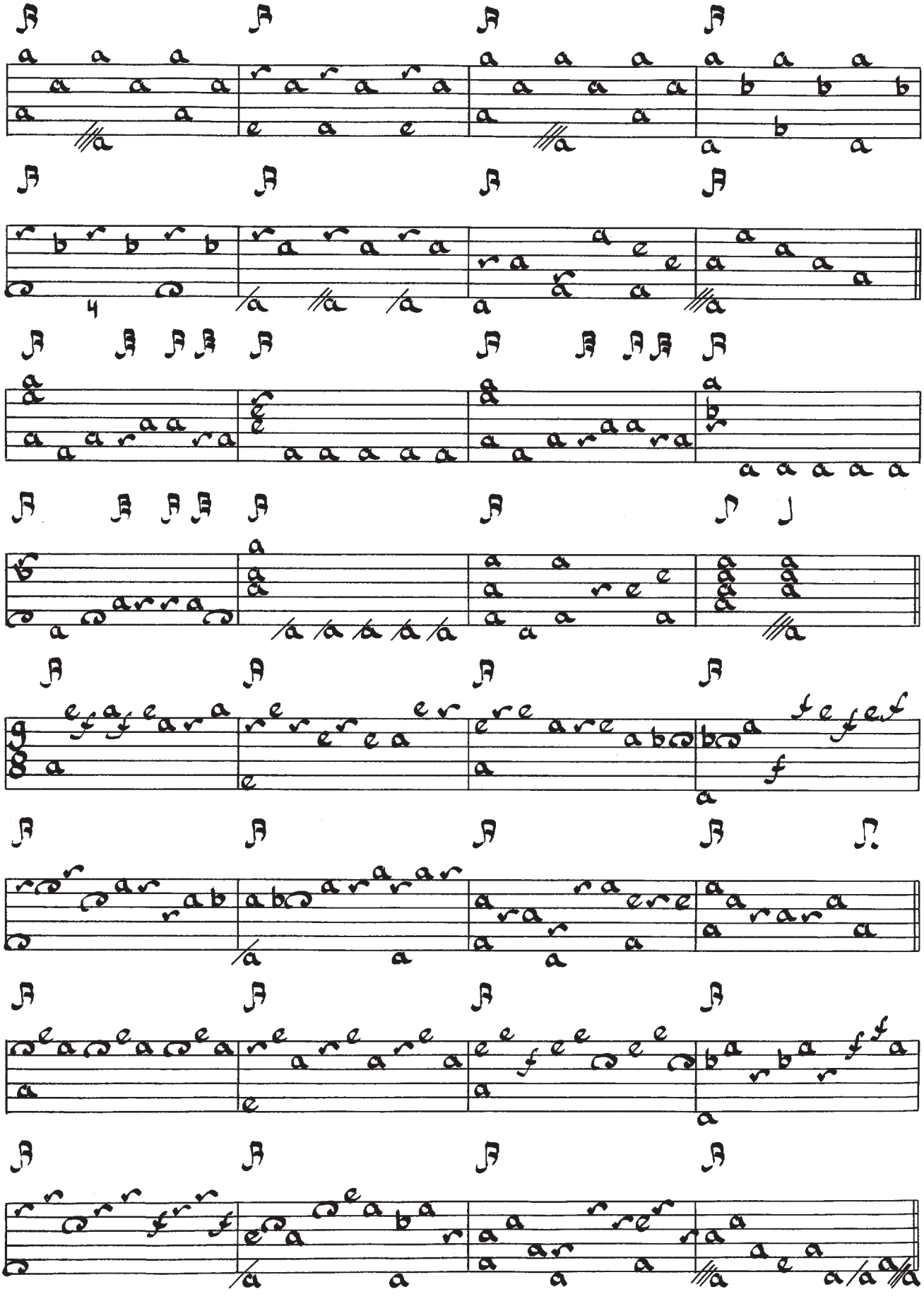


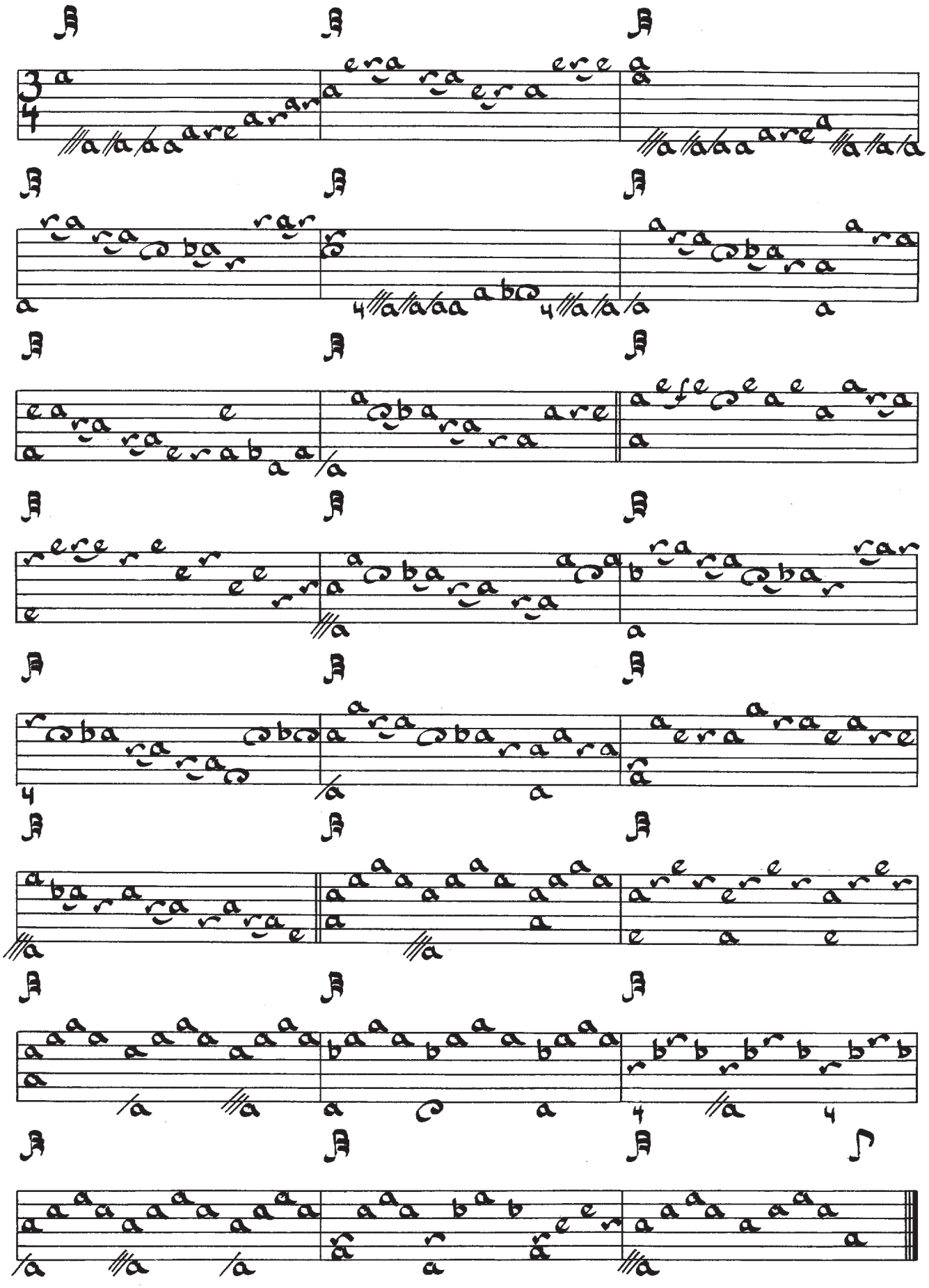
Sarabande II



Chaconne







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