Dance de Roi *(Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621)*

This Renaissance piece was composed by the German composer Michael Praetoius and arranged by the American classical mandolinist Marilyn Mair. She says it "has a strong consistent beat, but the parts show an independence of rhythm that will make [it] challenging to put together. Good counting is necessary for all the players. And everyone has to learn to hear the composite rhythm of the piece. Play calmly, legato, but without tremolo. Keep your left-hand fingers down to sustain each note for its full length. All 8th-notes should be considered pick-ups to the next quarter or half note, drawing the listeners' attention to the gentle forward momentum central to the dance's design. Contrasts in dynamics should occur naturally. You can repeat the piece several times, and you may want to vary tone color a bit between repetitions. Try having all players play near the bridge, for a sharper tone, or above the sound hole for a warmer "dolce" sound."

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