MUSIC SUPPLEMENT TO LUTE NEWS 146 (JULY 2023): LUTE SETTINGS OF HOFDANTZ

Five hundred years ago this year Hans Judenkünig published his lute books *Utilis et compendiaria introductio* and *Ain schone* in Vienna probably as a pair in 1523. However, he included lute settings of German court dances, or hoftantz, that were already a century or more old at the time. A representative selection of thirty Hoftantz or similar are transcribed here from three prints and thirteen manuscripts in German tablature mainly from the first half of the sixteenth century - the earliest from the 1520s and the latest from 1590s, a sign that their popularity persisted thoughout the renaissance - many more are in the *Lutezine*.

The Hoftantz is a distinct genre from the better known dance native to Germany, the Deudtsche Tantz or Allemande,¹ and the known examples are characterised by common rhythmic patterns and use of only a few melodies but not a common harmonic ground. Consequently, the surviving music mainly found in sixteenth century lute sources is all very similar as concluded by Jenny Dieckman in her thesis completed in 1931.² Although German in origin, the Hoftantz has links with the bassa danza/basse dance from Italy and France,³ and some even adopt harmonic grounds originating in Italy including the romanesca (see H9/12) and the passamezzo moderno (H11).



Hoftanz were part of the core repertory of town and court windbands, the 'loud music' [~outdoors] usually played by shawms and similar instruments referred to in records from many cities and courts across central Europe but virtually no sources of the music they played survives.⁴ Hoftantz were also played in the same period as 'soft music' [~indoors] on viols and lutes, especially lute duos.⁵ The illustration is a small section from the painting *Der Augsburger Geschlechtertanz* by Narziss Renner (1501-1536) showing these musicians accompanying a

huge dance by known personalities representing the costumes and town history of Augsburg between 1200 and 1522 commissioned by the Augsburg merchant and Fugger family accountant Matthäus Schwarz (1497-1574).⁶ The two shawms, trombone, transverse flute and bagpipes are playing and a tenor tune is written on a banner above while the lutenist stands by waiting to play later unless he is just holding the lute for a shawm player to play later - individual musicians are recorded as playing both wind and stringed instruments including lute & viol.⁷

Hoftantz remained popular with lutenists throughout the sixteenth century and are found in printed and manuscript sources notated in German tablature. In an article on Hoftantz published in 1935,8 Otto Gombosi concluded that the lute arrangements of hoftantz generally interpretted the barring incorrectly, by dividing the phrasing of 6 minims into three bars of two minims often also doubling the rhythm to a semibreve and two minims per bar. I have retained the original barring of the lute sources here as examples of the rebarring suggested by Gombosi, except in H16 from Judenkünig as well as the reconstructions of H1 and H2 which lack bar lines in the originals. The longer phrasing over three bars can be imagined in the 12- or 24-bar sections in most of the music here, although some are also barred in four minim, an alternative to Gombosi's scheme described by Heartz (see fn 3). The Hoftantz are in common time, about half of them adding a triple time after dance usually with the same material phrased in 6 minims over two bars as in H1, but barred in 3 minims in most lute sources. Three of the after dances are titled Gassenhauer - popular dance - all three quite similar (H4/9/12).

Are these hoftantz settings for lute based on memory of the medieval hoftantz tradition (played by both loud and soft instruments, including lutes and viols) or do they represent music that was still played and danced to in the renaissance? The former is more likely as suggested by the titles (such as Der recht alt Hoff Tantz - the quite old court dance - in Hans Newsidler's Das Ander Buch of 1544, in the Lutezine), mainly two or three part polyphony characteristic of wind band music up to the first half of the fifteenth century, and the irregularities in barring and section lengths which do not reflect a living dance tradition, as well as the tendency to 'modernise' the music by avoiding the sycopated rhythms so characterisitic in App 1, here. The settings are mostly in 3-voice harmony (plus occasional fuller chords), with two à2 (H16/24) and ten for four or more voices (H1/2/3/4/9/11/12/14/15/17), some written as full chords (H2/4/9/11/12/14) that could have their origins in settings

Described in Richard Hudson The Allemande, The Balletto, and the Tanz: I The History; II The Music (Cambridge University Press 1986). Settings of the fifteen most popular of them were edited for Lutezine supplements - LZ119: Ich gieng einmal spazieren; LZ121: Man ledt uns zu der Hochzeit freud/Gar Lustig Ist Spatzieren; LZ125: Gut Gesell du musst wandern; LZ126: Mein Hertz ist frisch; LZ127: Der alten Weiber Tantz; LZ128: Wie mocht ich frölich werden; LZ129: Braunes megdelein; LZ130: Printzen Dantz; LZ131: Der Almeyer Dantz; LZ133: Betler Dantz; LZ134: Ich weiss mir ein schöne, LZ135: Magister Dantz; LZ136: Zeiner Dantz; LZ137: Proficiat; LZ140: Somer Dantz.

² Jenny Dieckmann Die in deutscher Lautentabulatur überlieferten Tänze des 16. Jahrhunderts (Kassel 1931): https://daten.digitalesammlungen.de/~db/0013/bsb00134007/images/index.html

³ Daniel Heartz 'Hoftanz and basse dance' JAMS 19 (1966), pp. 19-35; Daniel Heartz and Patricia Rader 'Hoftanz (Ger.: 'court dance')' Grove Music Online.

⁴ Keith Polk German Instrumental Music of the Late Middle Ages: Players Patrons and Performance Practice (Cambridge University Press 1992).

⁵ Ian Woodfield The Early History of the Viol (Cambridge Musical Texts & Monographs 1984). Hoftantz are also found in keyboard sources: three hoftantz in Schmid Zwey Bücher 1577 and more in a number of keyboard manuscripts, see W. Merian Der Tanz in den deutschen Tabulaturbüchern (Leipzig 1927). Amateurs are known to have learned to play dances, such as in 1473-75 a rich Calais merchant paid one Thomas Rede, harper, to teach him forty dances, seven

songs, and a Hornepype on his two instruments, the harp and the lute. He also paid Rede for dancing lessons, in his own words "ffor my byll off ffottyng of bass daunssys', see Alison Hanham "The Musical Studies of a Fifteenth-century Wool Merchant' The Review of English Studies new series VIII (1957) pp. 270-274.

⁶ The illustration here is from Heartz - for a colour image of the painting see: stuttgart.de/fileadmin/redaktion/content/hochschule/organisation/hochschulverwaltung/herunterladen/studiengaenge/konservierungrestaurierung/konsrest_papier_konsrest_papier_downloads/abk_stud_rest_papier_kirschner_augsburger-geschlechtertanz.pdf

⁷ Polk, op. cit., pp. 70-71 in Deventer in 1402 three performers were noted as playing 'pipen ende luten', apparently shawms and lute and player in the retinue of the Marshall von Papenheim was paid in Windesheim in 1427 as 'a geyger ... oder eine pfeiffer' - a fiddler or shawmist', and pp. 76-77 the famous Schubinger family from Augsburg included Michel who from 1469 was primarily a player of bombard but also recorded as player of 'viole' and on other occasions of the lute, and his brothers Augustein who from 1477 seems to have been equally capable on trombone, zinck (cornetto) and lute, and Ulrich who from 1482 was primarily a trombonist but also played lute and viol.

⁸ Otto Gombosi 'Der Hoftanz' Acta Musicologica 7/2 (1935), pp. 50-61. His conclusions were based on a limited number of lute sources and a lot more are known now.

that were played with a plectrum, strummed or even bowed rather than intending polyphony.

The settings here are in five or so different tonalities suggesting some could be parts for a consort of different sized lutes, although none include the usual cues in the titles such as the words discant/ tenor/ contratenor/ bassus.9 However although none here, there are lute duets of hoftantz for lutes of different sizes from the prints of Wolff Heckel and Hans Wecker in the *Lutezine*. All those here are for 6-course lute, three (H20/21/23) with the 6th course tuned down a tone and adapted for a lute with 7th course tuned to F. Eleven here are titled hoftantz, and others are related by their rhythmic patterns (H2/5/24/25) as well as titles that suggest they were played by town bands or stadpfeiffer (H20/21/23), dances for prominent citizens (H7), court princes (H18) or govenors (H19), 10 and for performances at masque (H24/25). Some are named after the song or tune on which they are based (see below) and a few presumably refer to dance formations, such as straight (H9/12), round (H3/4) or hopping (see H8 and the *Lutezine*) dances.

The Hoftantz are a diverse set of related dance music without a single common melodic or harmonic core, unlike the diverse lute settings based on Italian grounds such as the passamezzo antico and moderno, etc.¹¹ Instead they share common rhythmic patterns incorporating variations based on not one but a small number of different melodies. The commonest by far are the songs known as Schwarz Knab and Benzenhauer (the slow moving melodies are highlighted in grey in H8/26 and H10/23/28 for the two songs, respectively). H26/27 are titled Schwarz knab but not H1/2/8/16 which also share the same tune or variants of it. Similarly, H22/28/29 are titled Benzenhauer and H5/10/23 are also based on the same tune. However, some settings of these two tunes may have been conceived as instrumental intabulations with no intended association with the hoftantz.

 $^{^9}$ H17 is copied in two sections of 12 bars labelled 'B' and 'D' which could indicate that they are 'bassus' and 'discant' parts of a duet although the two parts are in unison arguing against this - alternatively they could be different settings by two individuals, one the Johann Georg **B**rencker, Doctor known elsewhere in the manuscript.

H12. D-Mbs 1512, ff. 40v-41r Der erst gstraifft danntz hd	
- Ein gueter gassenhauer darauff hd	14
Heckel Tenor 1556, pp. 95-97 <i>Ein schöner Baierscher hofftantz</i> - lute II	14
	15
H13. CH-Bu F.IX.70 [1594+], p. 255 L. Hoffdantz	15
H14. A-Wn 18688 [1523-40], f. 26v untitled and crossed out	
H15. PL-Kj 40583 [1580-85], f. 8v Hoffdantz	15
H16. Judenkünig Utilis 1523?, sigs. C1v-C2r Der hoffdantz	
- Der hoffdantz	16-17
H17. D-Sl G.I.4/I [1580-95], f. 39r Hofdantz Ich bin ein armes	
bruderlein vnd mag nicht frolich sein [contrafactum - I am a poor	little
brother and do not want to be happy] B D.	17
H18. Newsidler 1549, sigs. k4v-l1v Ein artlicher rechter	
Fürstlicher Hoff Tantz - Hupff auff	18-19
H19. CH-Bu F.IX.70, p. 259 LXII Hoffdantz Pfaltzgraff Friderich	s 19
H20. D-Mbs 1512, ff. 53v-55r Der Erst statpfeiffer danntz hd	
- Der hupff auff hd	21-22
H21. D-Mbs 1512, ff. 55v-56v Der ander statpfeiffer danntz hd	21 22
- Der hupff auff hd	22-23
H22. CH-SAM 1, pp. 14-15 Bentzinouwer dantz	23
cf. D-KA Don Mus.Autogr.1, f. 6v Der hoppen tanntz darauff	
H23. D-Mbs 1512, ff. 57r-57v Der dritt statpfeiffer danntz hd	
- Der auff vnnd auff hd	24-25
H24. A-Wn 9704 [1519-1523], ff. 7r-7v Marusca Danntz	25
H25. D-KA Don Mus.Autogr.1 [c.1530s], ff. 4v-5r Volgt der	
Morisken danntz	25
CH-Bu F.IX.70, p. 265 LXXVII Der Maruscat Dantz - Nachdantz	
D-B 40588, p. 32 Morischgen tantz	
D-Mbs 1512, ff. 46v-47r Der Maruscat danntz hd - Der auff vnnd auf hd	
Heckel Tenor 1556, pp. 147-150 Der Maruscat Tantz - Proportz	
H26. D-B 40588, pp. 56-57 Schwarz Knab	26
H27. D-B 40588, pp. 58-59 Schwarz Knab	27
cf. D-B 40588, pp. 58-59 Schwarz Knab	
H28. D-B 40588, pp. 14-15 Benzenouwer	28
H29. D-B 40588, pp. 48-49 Benzenouwer coleriert	28-29
H30. D-B 40588, p. 70 Ein hofftantz	29
ADDENIDIY	

APPENDIX

Francisco de la Torre's setting of La Spagna (**App 1**) is transcribed for lute here and transposed down a tone from a 3-part instrumental ensemble (wind/shawm) setting in the Cancionero Musical de Palacio MS from 1475 - the tenor part highlighted in grey. ¹² **App 2** is probably a lied setting with the characteristic rhythmic patterns of a hoftanz. The anonymous largely 2-part setting of the old Dutch song 't'Andernaken al op den Rijn' about two girls from the German city of Andernach on the bank of the river Rhine (**App 3**), is from Hans Newsidler's first lute book. The other lute settings of App 1 & 3 known to me are included in the *Lutezine*, together with Nigel North's lute duet arrangement and reconstructions of other settings of Tandernaken.

 App 1. E-Mp MS II-1335, f. 223r (Danza)
 Alta

 F(rancisco). de la Torre - (La Spagna)
 3

 App 2. PL-Kj W 510, f. 9r Er saß ein vijll vnndt span
 17

 App 3. Newsidler I 1536, sigs. q2r-q4r Ander nacke[n]
 vp de[m] Rhin
 30-31

 = S-Sk S 226, ff. 78r-81r Ander nack vp dem Rhin
 30-31

A commentary to all the music is at the end of the Lutezine.

John H. Robinson - July 2023

The dedicate of H19 could be any of the Electors Palatine or Margraves of Brandenburg with the name from Friederick I (1371-1440) to V (1596-1632).

¹¹ See previous tablature supplements on Italian popular music/street songs and variations on grounds: Pavaniglia/Spanish Pavan - Lutezine to Lute News 112 (December 2014); Bergamasco - Lutezine to Lute News 118 (July 2016); La

Spagnoletta - Lutezine to Lute News 129 (April 2019); La Traditora - Lutezine to Lute News 130 (July 2019); Rocha el fuso - Lutezine to Lute News 131 (October 2019); Val cerca - Lute News & Lutezine 134 (July 2020); Paganina/La vecchia - Lute News & Lutezine 135 (October 2020); Qui/Chi passa per strada - Lute News & Lutezine 138 (July 2021); Passingmeasures - Lute News & Lutezine 139 (October 2021); Quadro/Passamezzo moderno - Lute News & Lutezine 142 (July 2022); La Barriera - Lute News & Lutezine 144 (December 2022); Cara Cossa and La Gamba - Lute News & Lutezine 145 (April 2023).

¹² Modern edition: Higinio Anglés Cancionero de Palacio Monumentos de la musica española X (Barcelona 1951), no. 321, pp. 84-85 - free e-book: http://libros.csic.es/product_info.php?products_id=928

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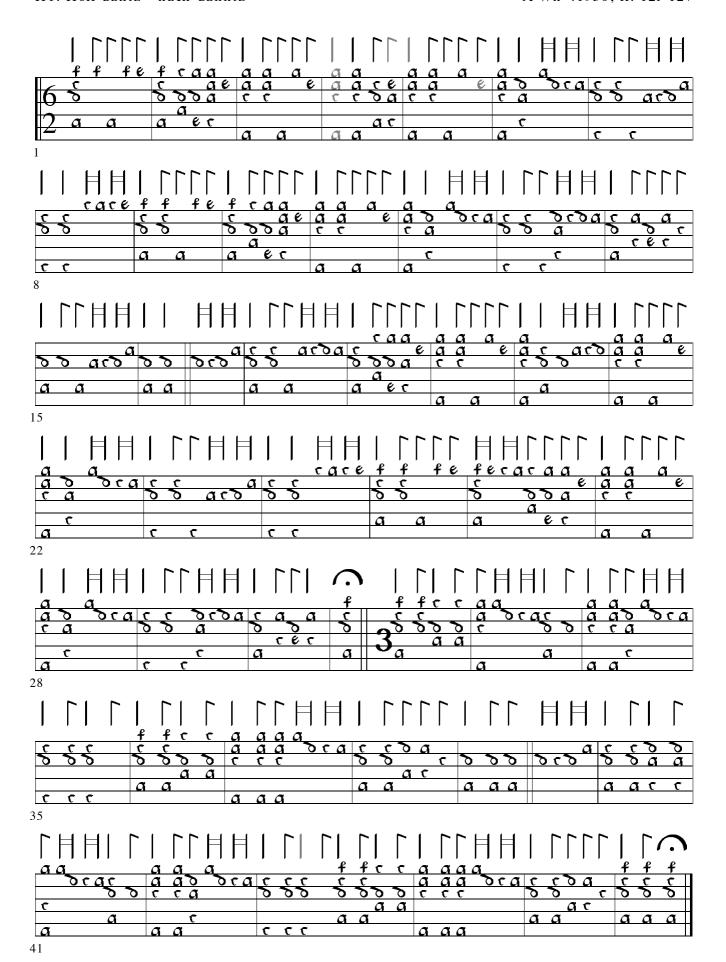
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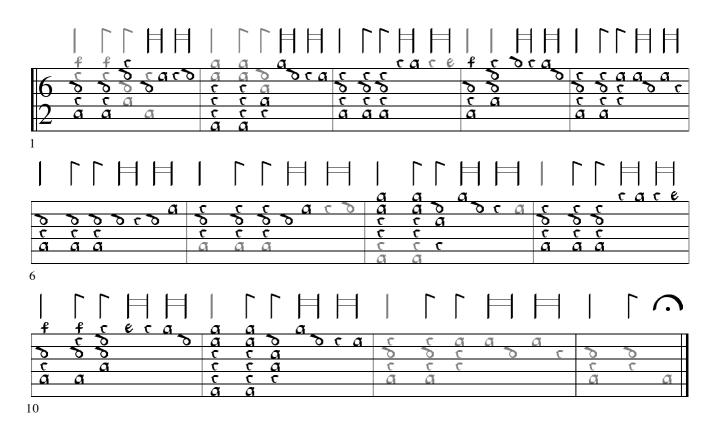
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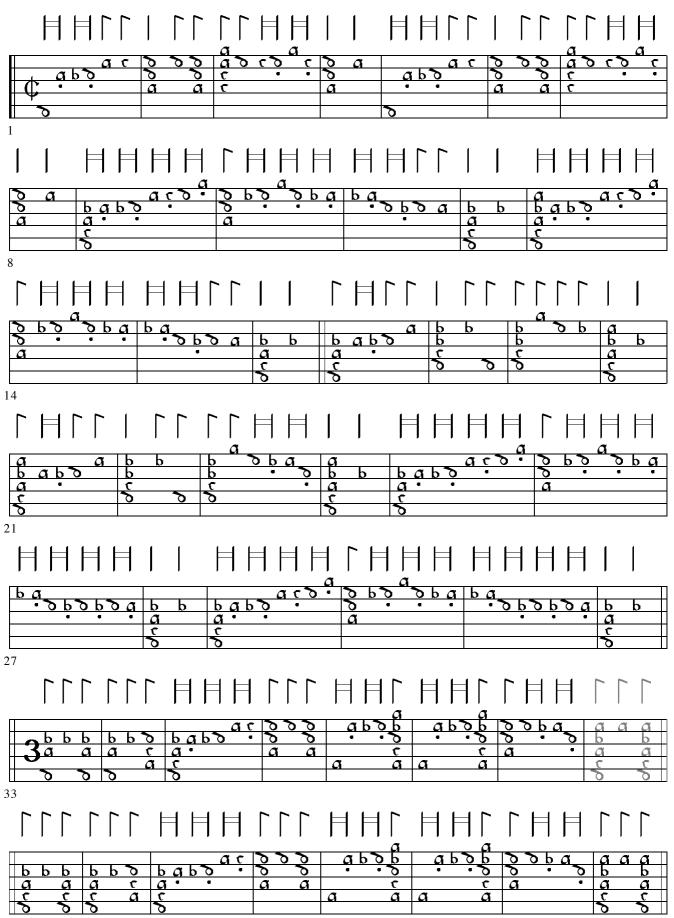


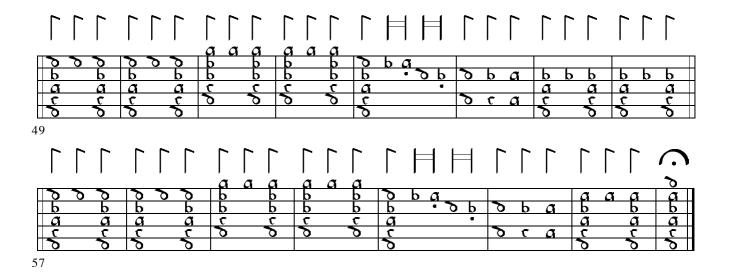


H3. Niderlendisch Runden Dantz

Judenkünig Ain schone 1523, sigs. c3r-c3v

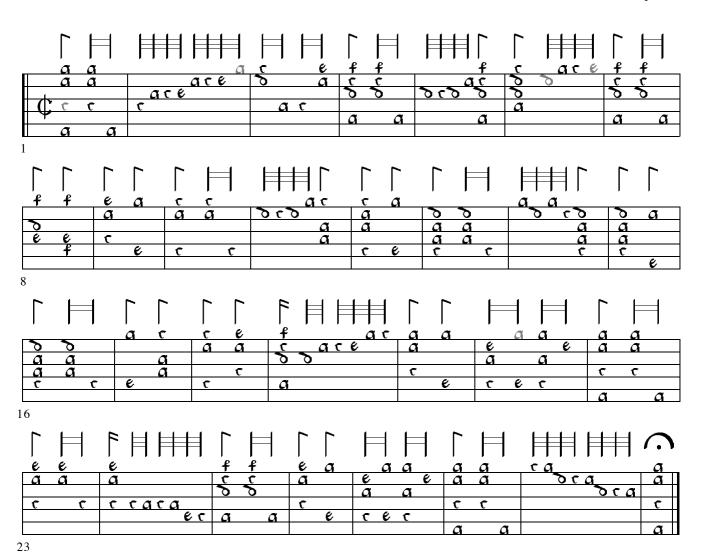


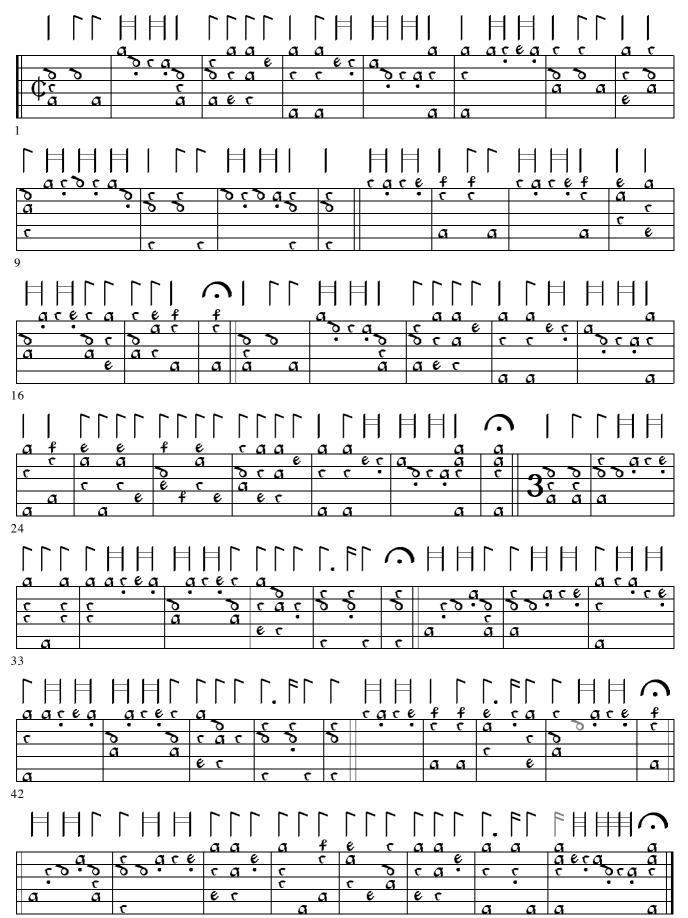


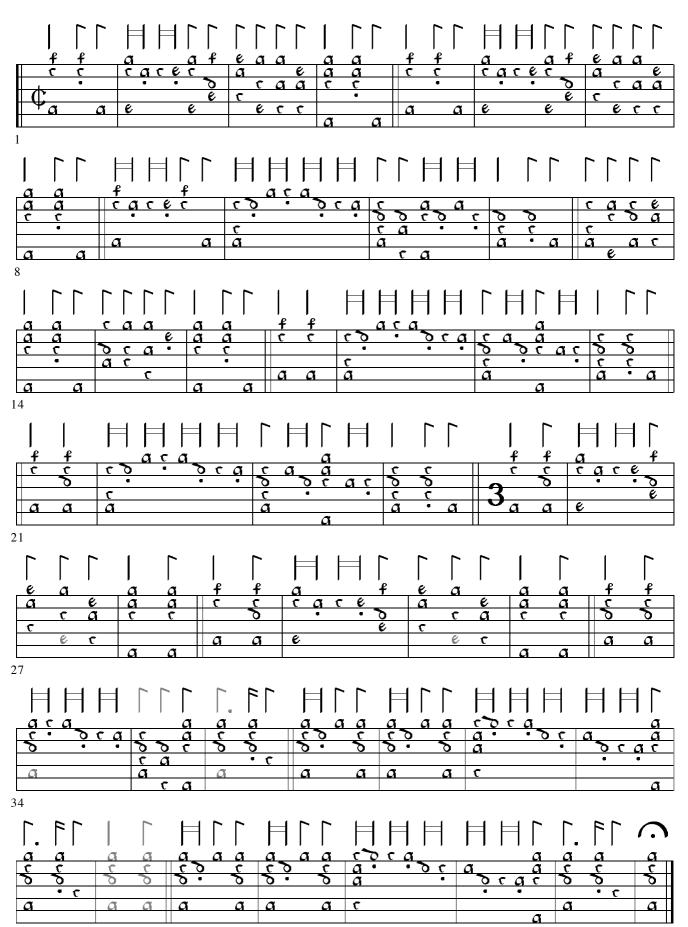


H5. Buchssbaum tantzmass

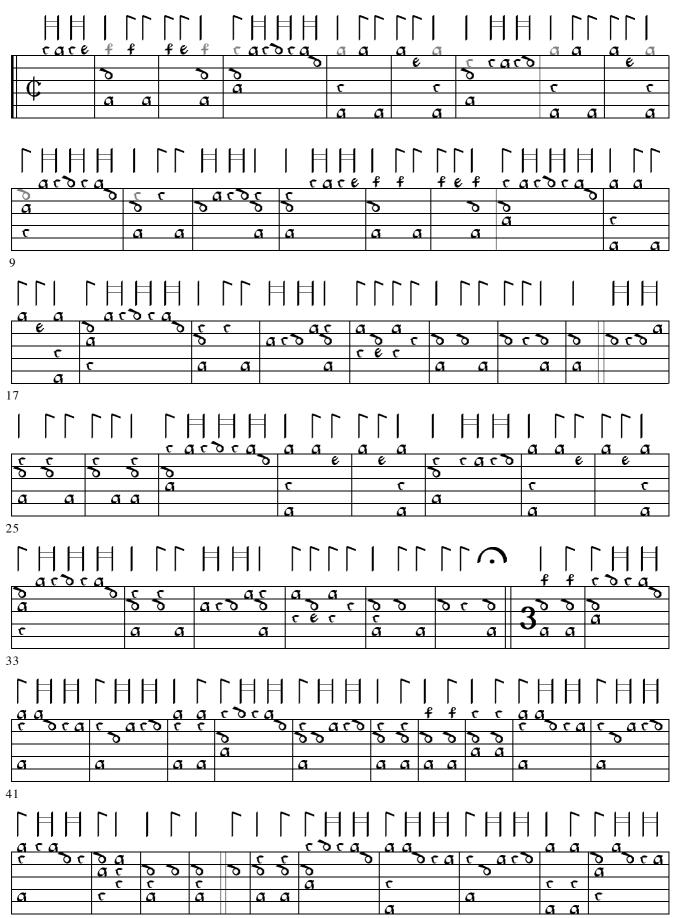
CH-SAM 1, p. 17





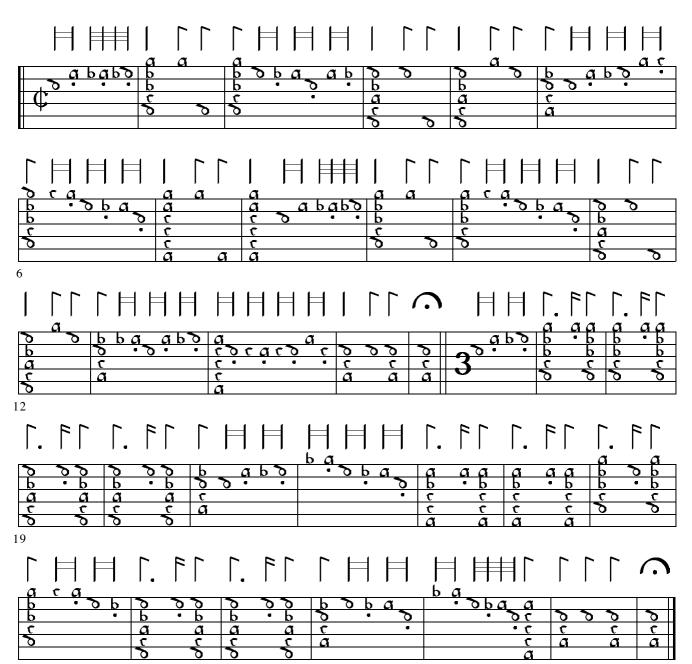


Newsidler 1536, sigs. v1r-v1v

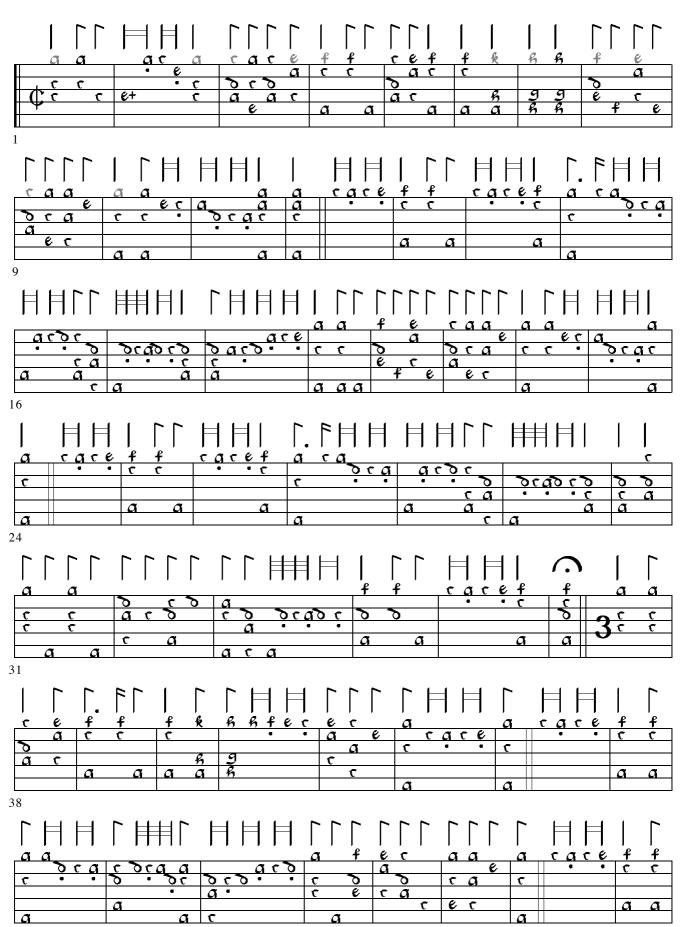


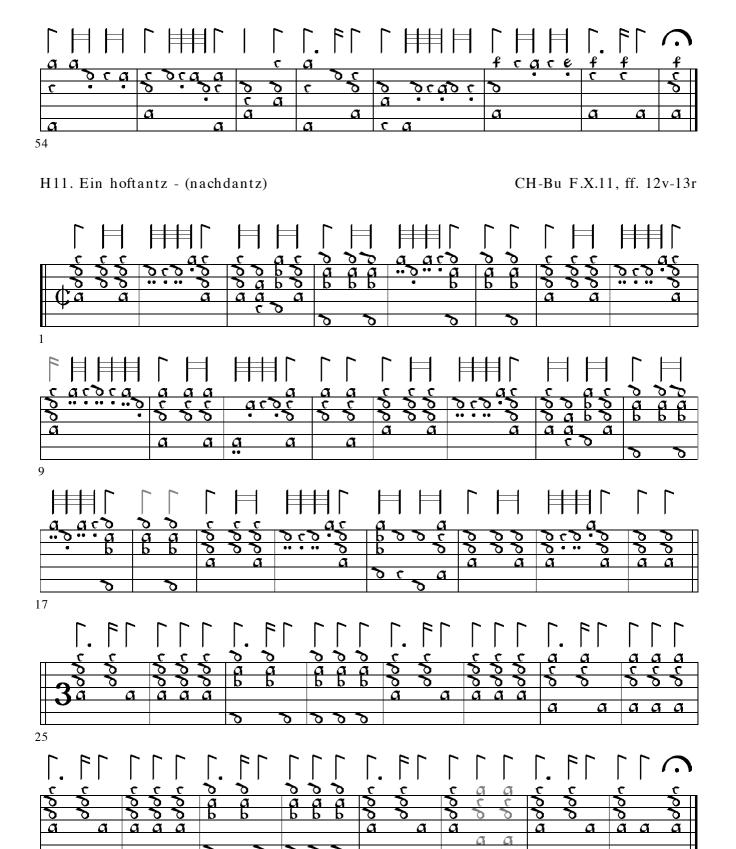


H9. Der ander g(e)straifft danntz - Ein gueter gassenhauer darauff D-Mbs 1512, ff. 41v-42r

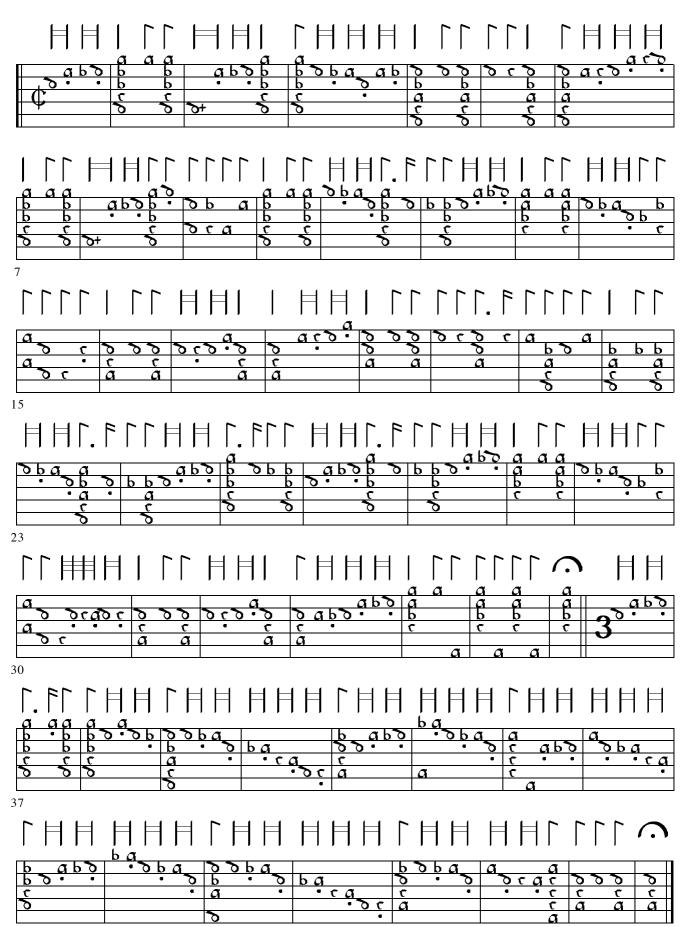


D-Mbs 1512, ff. 30v-31r



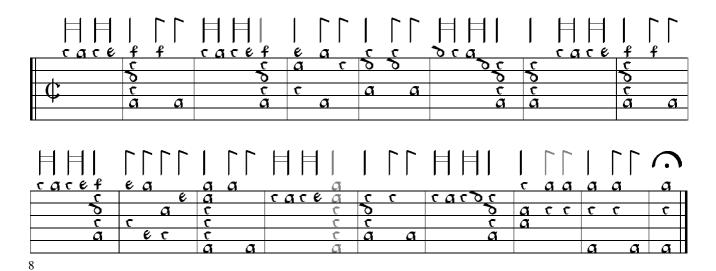


H12. Der erst g(e)straifft danntz - Ein gueter gassenhauer darauff D-Mbs 1512, ff. 40v-41r

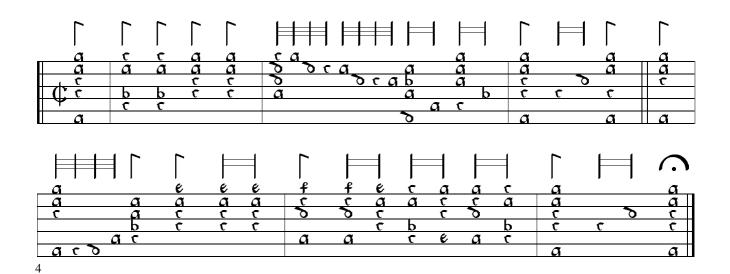


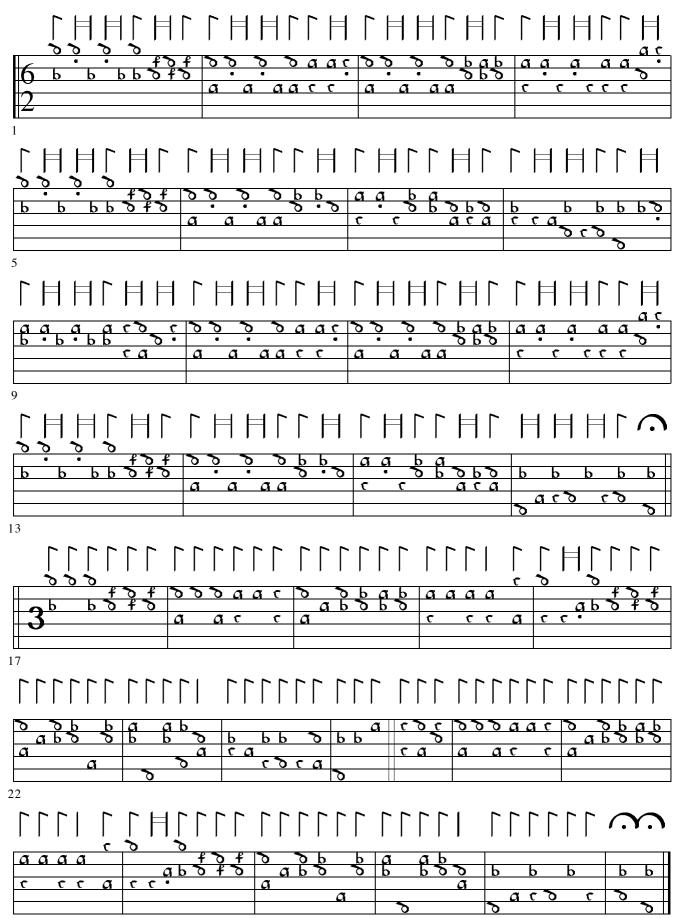


H14. Untitled A-Wn 18688, f. 26v

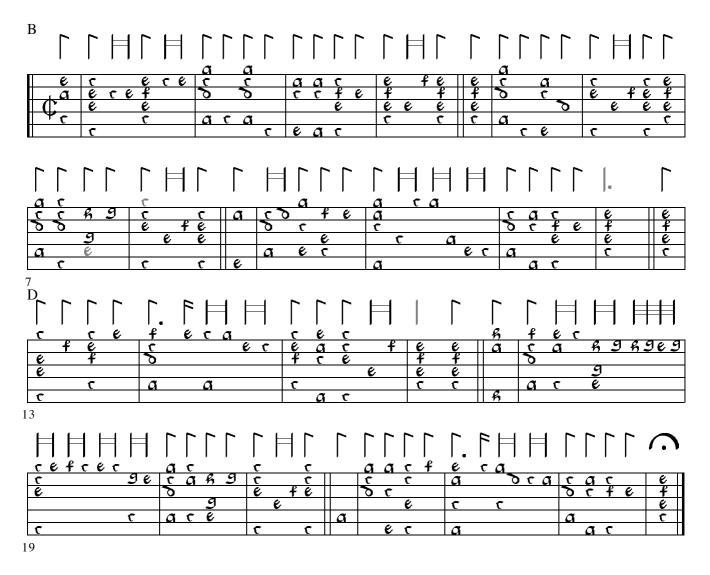


H15. Hoffdantz PL-Kj 40583, f. 8v



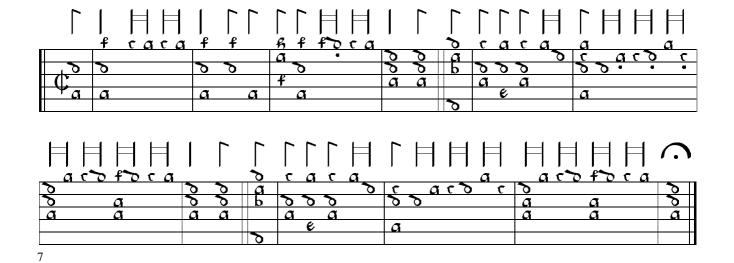


H17. Hofdantz D-Sl G.I.4 I, f. 39r

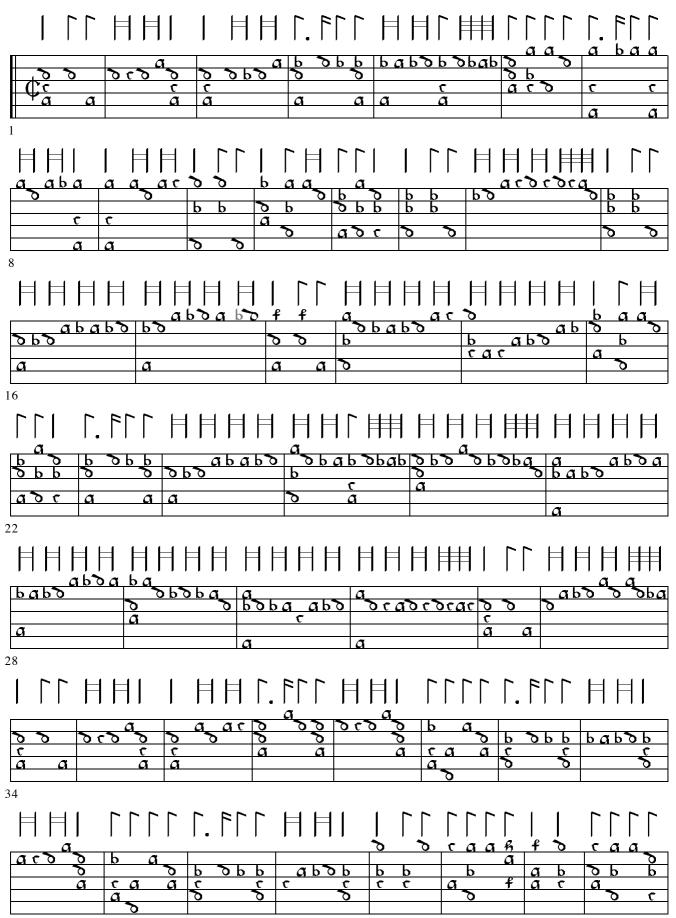


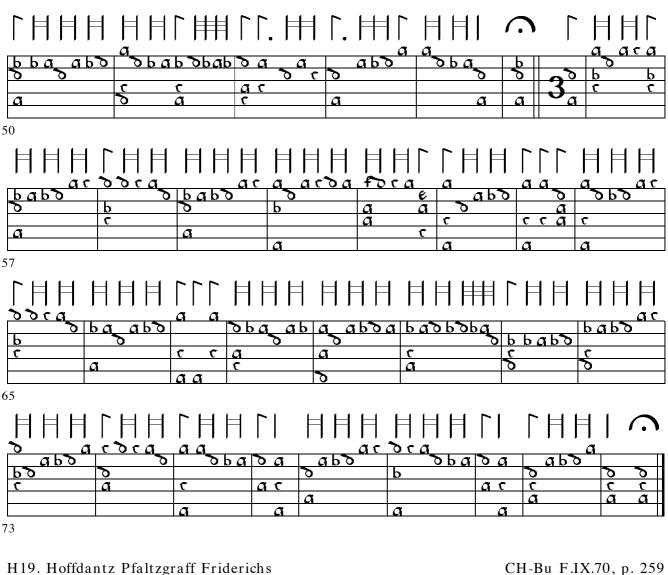
App 2. Er sass ein vijll vnndt span

PL-Kj W 510, f. 9r

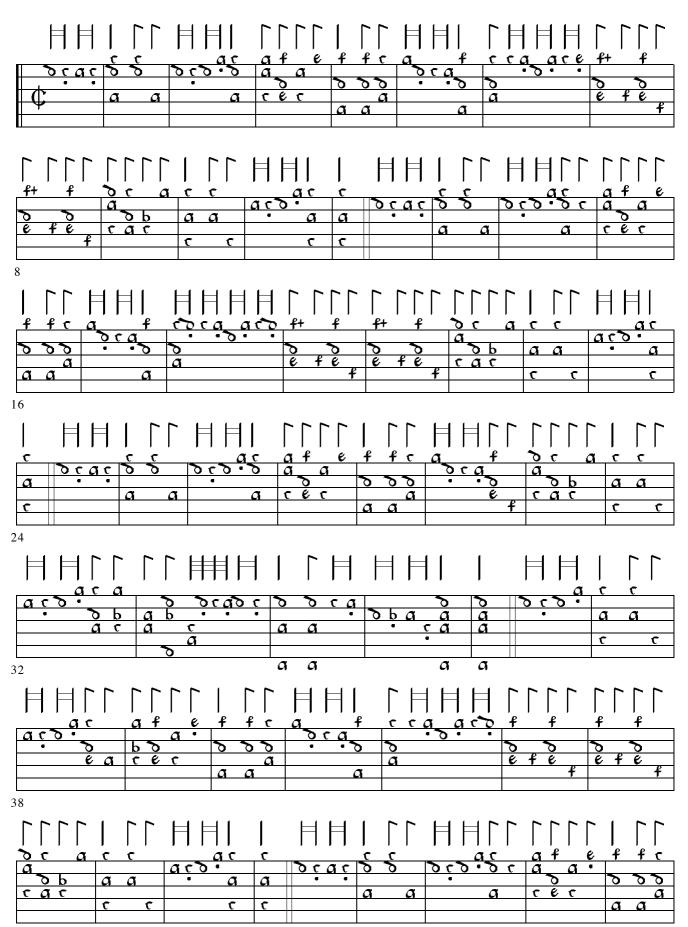


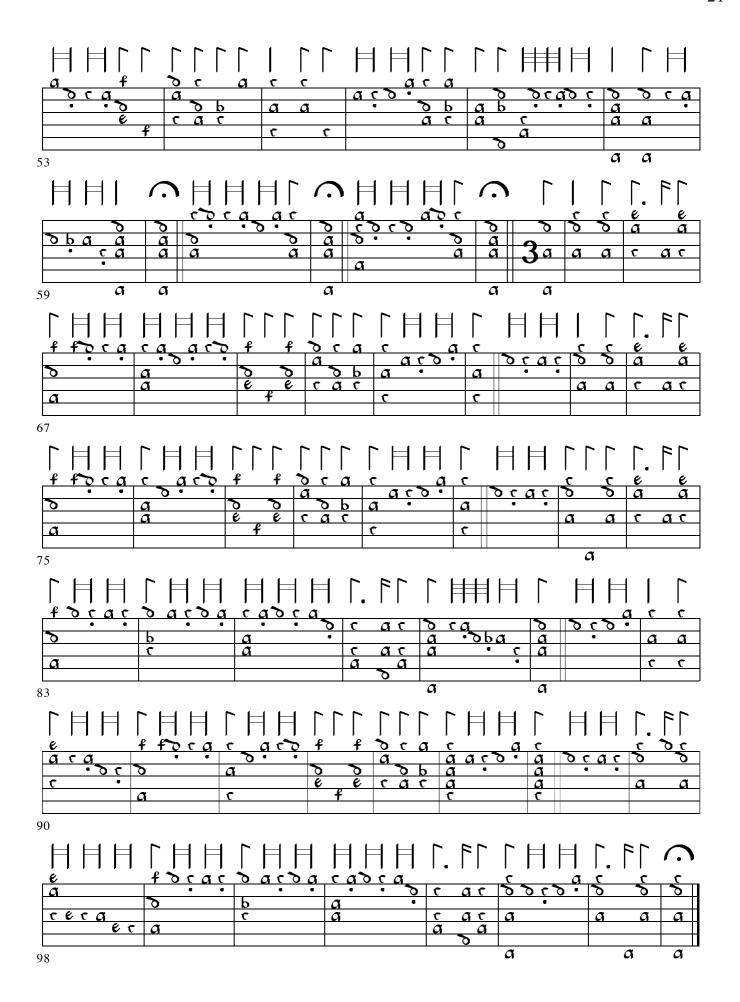
H18. Ein artlicher rechter Fürstlicher Hoff Tantz - Hupff auff Newsidler 1549, sigs. k4v-11v

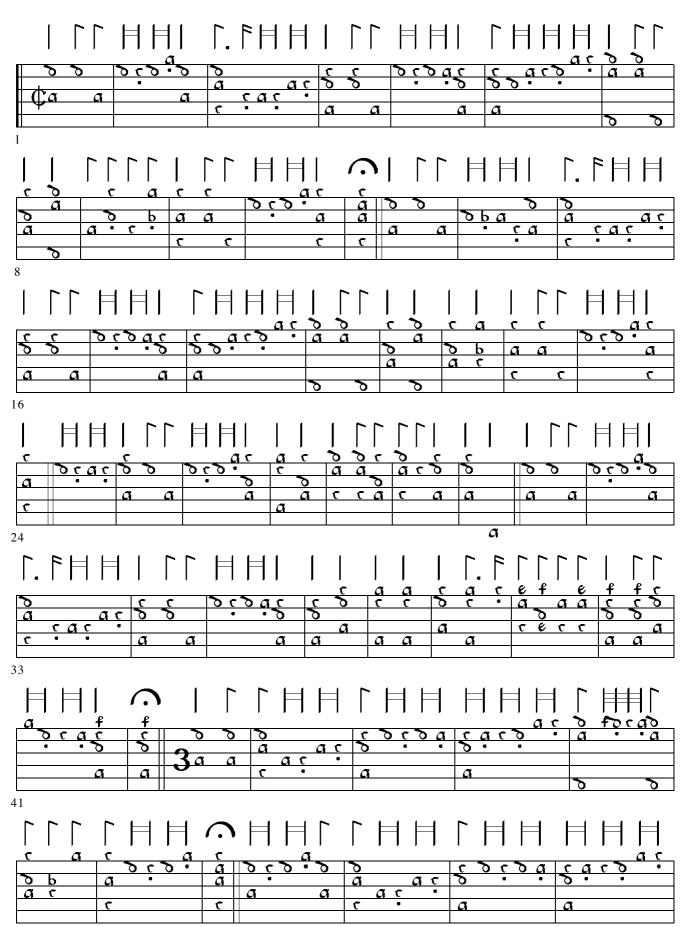


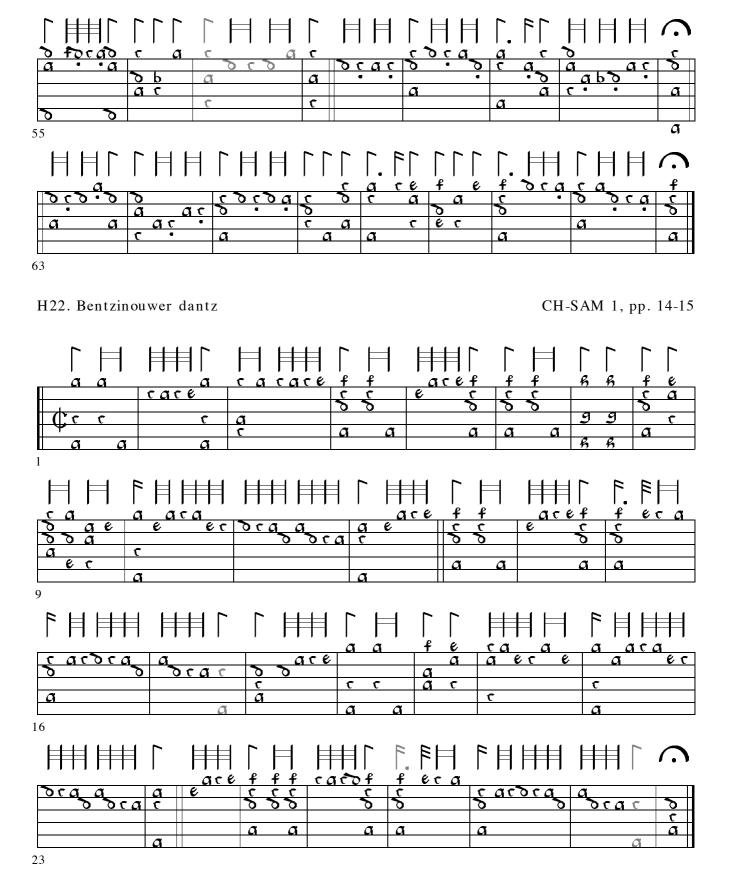


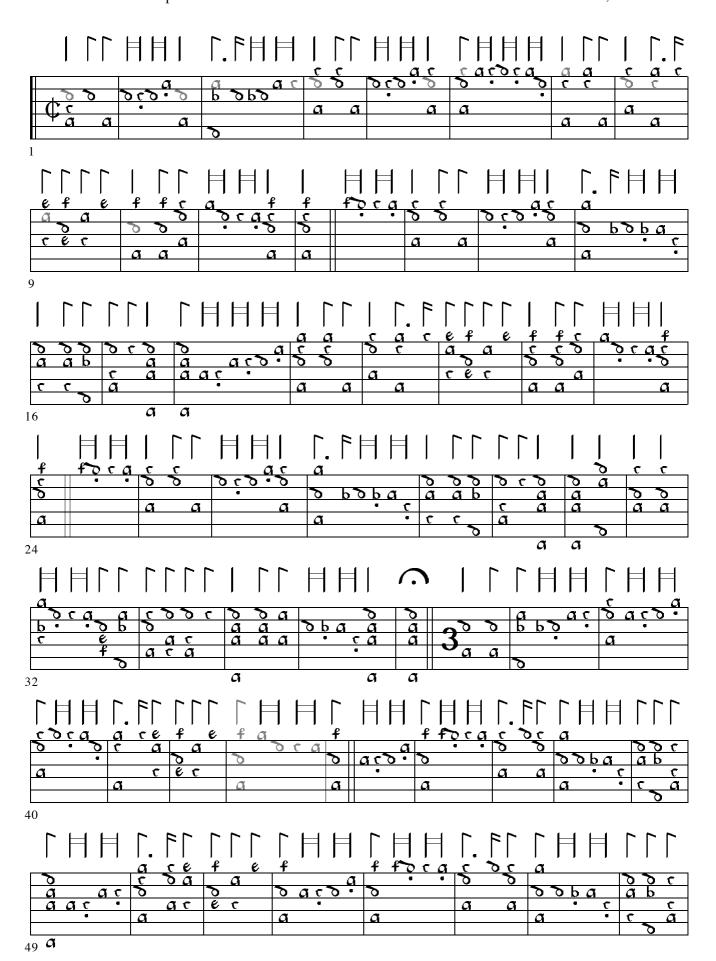








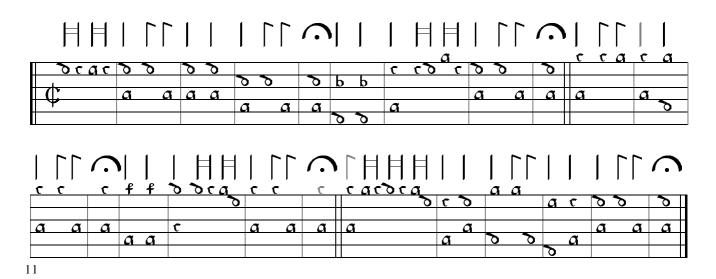






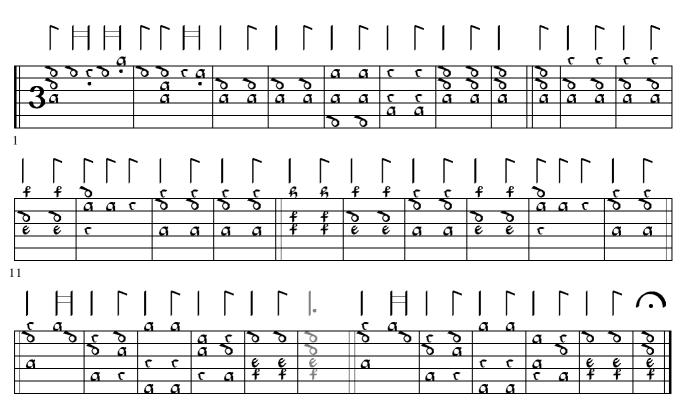
H24. Marusca Danntz

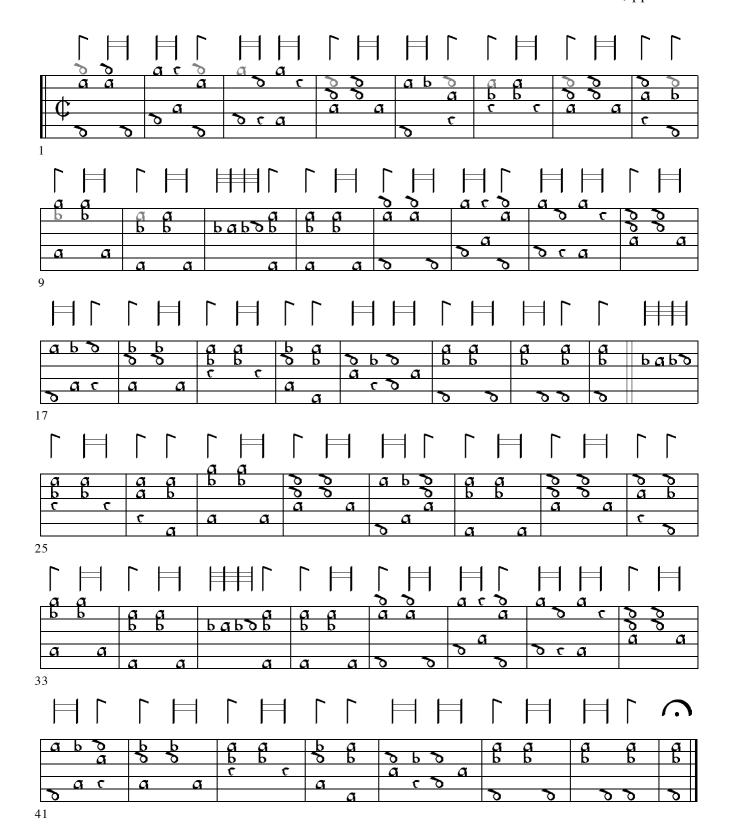
A-Wn 9704, ff. 7r-7v

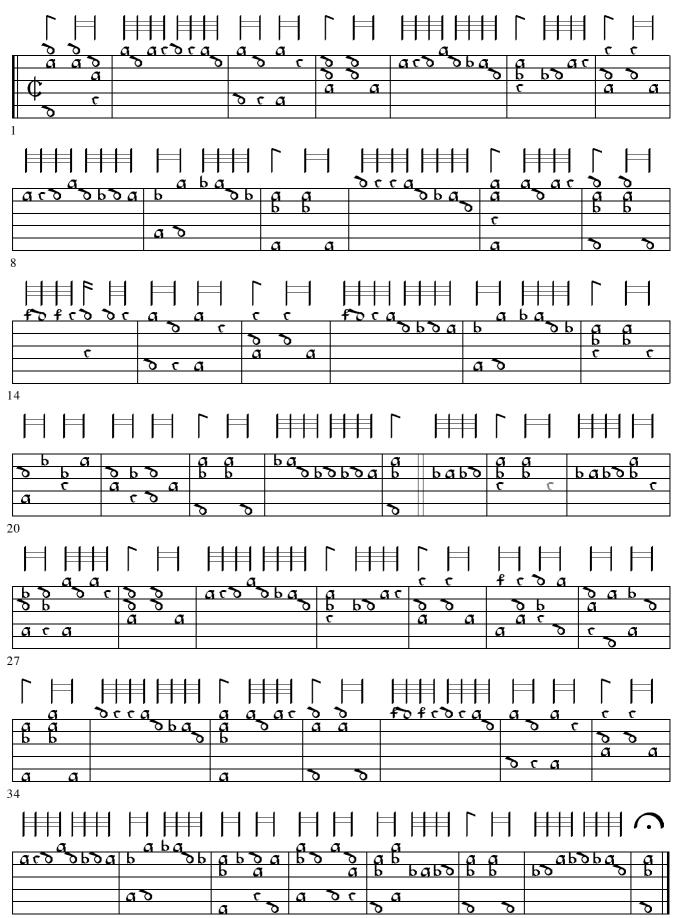


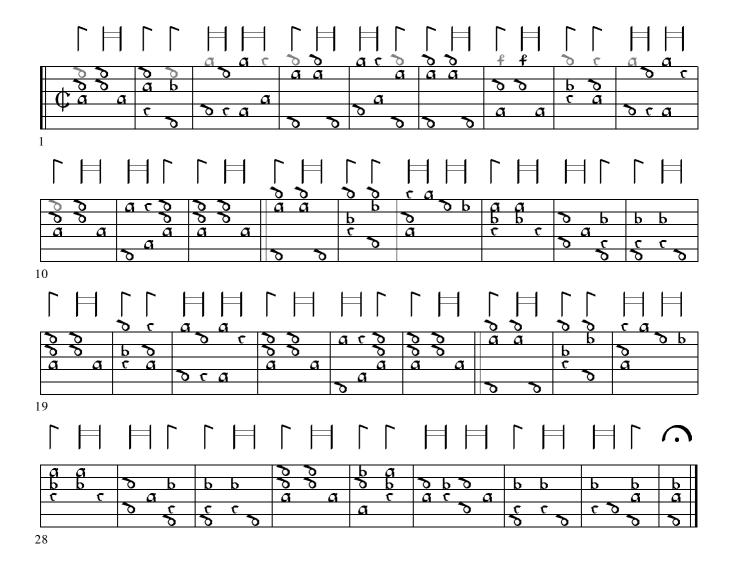
H25. Morisken danntz

D-KA Don Mus.Autogr.1, ff. 4v-5r









H29. Benzenouwer Coleriert

D-B 40588, pp. 48-49

