

Gavotte HWV 491 by Handel

What does the title mean?

Gavotte is a French folk dance, played at a moderate tempo, in 2/2 or 4/4, from the Renaissance period. It usually begins with an anacrusis (incomplete bar).

What key is this in?

G major. Key change bar 6 to D major, then E minor in bar 11. It returns to G major in bar 13.

Notation:

NB most of these are editorial markings, Handel didn't put them in the music

2/2 - cut common time - 2 minim beats per bar

Mf - mezzo forte - moderately loud

Slur - play legato (smooth and well-connected)

F - forte - loud

Mp - mezzo piano - moderately soft

Repeat sign - repeat the section

Cresc. - crescendo - gradually getting louder

Metronome marking - between 66 to 72 minims per minute