

Battle Pavane (Die Schlacht) by Tielman Susato (fl. 1550)

This well known piece needs little introduction to lovers of early music. It is one of a large edition of dances published by Susato in the Netherlands in 1551.

Susato may have got his inspiration from an earlier work of the same name and style written by Heinrich Isaac half a century earlier.

The two forces joined in battle are scored antiphonally, SA and TB, as the pavane progresses. Simple, but highly effective, this piece was much copied and re-worked by other renaissance composers.

I have provided two alternative versions to choose from; higher (battle files) and lower (schlacht files).

It should work equally well on a quartet or a large band. Alternative parts in Eb and C are provided.

N.B. For an unknown reason, the key signatures would not print on each line so you would be advised to write them in as necessary.

Neil Edwards Dec 2009