The Galliard Example

A Galliard is a French stately dance in triple time. It was very common during the 16th and 17th Centuries, particularly in Royal Courts.
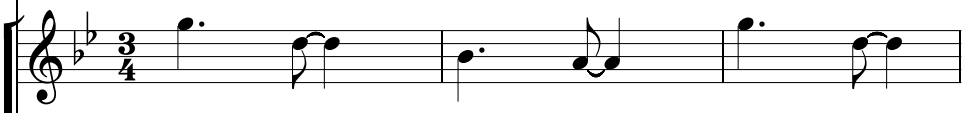
Composed by Graham Bennett

Flute

The music composed for this type of dance often used a homophonic string texture supported by a melody in a higher sounding instrumental part. Notice how all the string parts are playing the same rhythm at the same time, and the melody appears in the flute part.
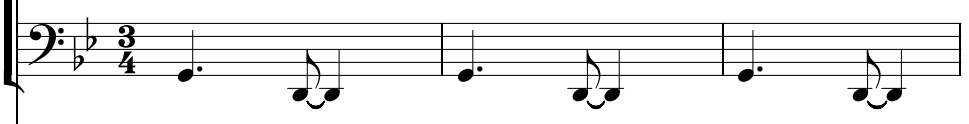
Violin I

Violin II

etc...

Viola

Cello

An important rhythmical characteristic is the HEMIOLA Although the dance is in triple time, there is also a feeling of duple rhythms within the instrumental texture. Notice how the harpsichord part is in 3/4 but the string parts feel like they are in 6/8.

Harpsichord