The tablature for Diatonic Cittern from the Robert Edwards Commonplace Book, circa 1650, Dundee, Scotland

Reintabulated by Rob MacKillop using Fronimo v.3, April, 2006
Dedicated to the cittern discussion group, initiated by Doc Rossi:
http://www.mail-archive.com/cittern%40cs.dartmouth.edu/

I have merely set down the original tablature in an easy to read format, without any editing whatsoever. The tablature contains many mistakes and no time signals, and requires players of imagination and flair to make the most of this beautiful repertoire.

Robert Edwards was a kirk minister for the parish of The Murroes, just north of Dundee (my home town) on the East Coast of Scotland. He was also a member of the Dundee town council. The only other surviving Scottish cittern manuscript also belonged to a minister of the Kirk. This might strike some as odd, yet the Wedderburn Brothers of Dundee had recently printed 'The Guid and Godlie Ballads', putting new words, reflecting the message of the Reformed Kirk, to common folk tunes. This book was as popular in Scotland as the Bible. It 'legitimised' folk music and set the foundation stone for traditional music to become the national music of Scotland.

Rob MacKillop, Edinburgh, 29th April, 2006
Laydie Louthian's Lithe

It's worse nor death to part with the
Come sweet love let sorwe ceasse

Joy to the personne of my love

Sueit smyling katie loves me
The Isle of Rea
Amyntas on a Summers day

What if a day
Over the mountaines
Till I be lulled beyond the

Shoe round me in hir aprone
The Saraband

Hey the day dais
Goe where thou wille goe
Wilte thou be gone

The king's posie

Buckinghames branle
Sueit smiling Katie in a different key

The buffins
put on your sark on monenday

John come kisse me nowe