Classical Guitar Method

Volume One

By Bradford Werner

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Hard Copies

Physical print editions of this book are available at: thisisclassicalguitar.com

Special Thanks

Uroš Barič, Michael Dias, Erin Fisher, Brett Gunther, Natasha Pashchenko, and Adrian Verdejo.

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About this book

This book teaches classical and fingerstyle guitar skills with a focus on the rich pedagogical tradition of classical guitar. Most learning objectives are covered through pieces and duets rather than exercises or descriptions. This allows students to perform full pieces from the first lesson. Working with a qualified teacher as well as watching the lesson videos should provide students with a healthy start to guitar. More specific information, theory, and exercises are learned in Volume Two.

How to use this book

Part I should be studied in progressive order, mastering every piece on every page. Incorporate Part II and Part III at any time, even the first lesson. Take lessons with a qualified teacher and watch the free video lessons to ensure you learn proper technique, musicality, and listening skills.

What will the student learn?

- How to play melodies in solos and duets
- Melodies with open string bass accompaniment
- Basic arpeggio pieces and patterns
- Reading music in first position (without key signatures)
- Basic chord strumming and fingerstyle accompaniment

What is left out?

This book omits information that might 'clutter up' the beginner learning experience. Music should be learned through listening and experience. Only a very small amount of theory and musical expression have been included. I encourage students to explore these topics with their teacher during weekly lessons. Some advice on theory and expression have been included in the free lesson videos which is a better medium for communicating musical ideas. After completing this book a more in-depth study of theory and musical ideas can be found in my Volume Two method book.

Free video lessons for this method

Video lessons have been made for this book to supplement the learning experience. Ideas about musicality and technique are discussed and demonstrated. Other ideas covered are tuning, rest and free stroke, and more. Find the lessons here: thisisclassicalguitar.com/lessons/

Volume Two method book

Students must complete Volume Two of this series in order to learn more in-depth musical concepts. Volume Two includes: new repertoire; new techniques; key signatures, scales, new time signatures; theory, musicality, rhythm training; new chords and accompaniment styles.

Rest stroke or free stroke? Nails?

Teachers have different opinions about the use of rest and free strokes for beginners. I have seen good results from both approaches. My beginner students use only free stroke until proper hand positions and a relaxed legato playing style are established. Students need not introduce right hand nails until hand positions and posture are firmly established. I would introduce nails during Volume Two.

Use of the left hand pinky finger

Students should use the left hand pinky for D and G (3rd fret of the first and second strings). This fingering is required for solo pieces later and also helps align the left hand. Students will have no trouble using the pinky if it is curved and in the proper position.

Memory and technique exercises

Beginner students, especially youth, do not need to be overly concerned with technique exercises. Motivation and inspiration should come from experiencing music for the first time through playing repertoire. Students should memorize their pieces and look at their hands while they play. However, a brief five minute warm-up with technique exercises can be beneficial to establish certain technical concepts. I recommend mastering all the right hand technique exercises first.

Great companion books for this method

- ***Sight Reading For the Classical Guitar, Level I-III by Robert Benedict*** - Sight reading with emphasis on interpretation, phrasing, form, and more: http://amzn.to/2o8bE0P
- ***Celebrate Theory (Preparatory)***: Graded theory & musicianship from the RCM Toronto: http://amzn.to/2qgpHyJ

Tuning the guitar

Students should buy a clip-on tuner, I like the D'Addario Micro Tuner: http://amzn.to/2pecdpN
Tuning by ear should begin during the first lesson and relative tuning should also be taught:

1. Play the 6th string at the 5th fret and tune the open 5th string to the same pitch.
2. Play the 5th string at the 5th fret to tune the open 4th string.
3. Play the 4th string at the 5th fret to tune the open 3rd string.
4. Play the 3rd string at the 4th fret to tune the open 2nd string.
5. Play the 2nd string at the 5th fret to tune the open 1st string.

Follow the website for free lessons, sheet music, and pro videos

- Free and recommended sheet music: thisisclassicalguitar.com/sheet-music-for-classical-guitar/
- Free video lessons and instructional articles: thisisclassicalguitar.com/lessons/
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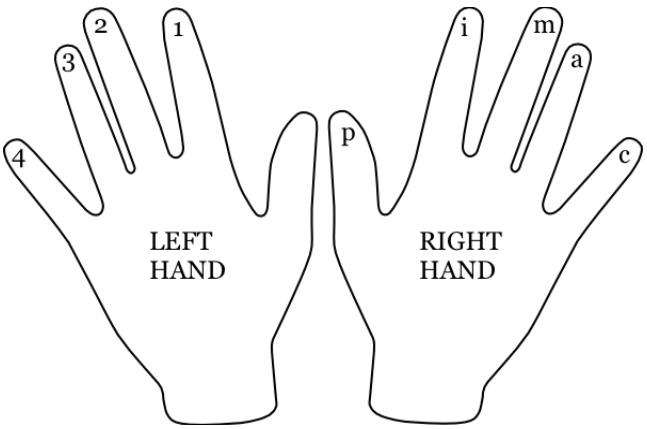
Getting Started - Finger Names



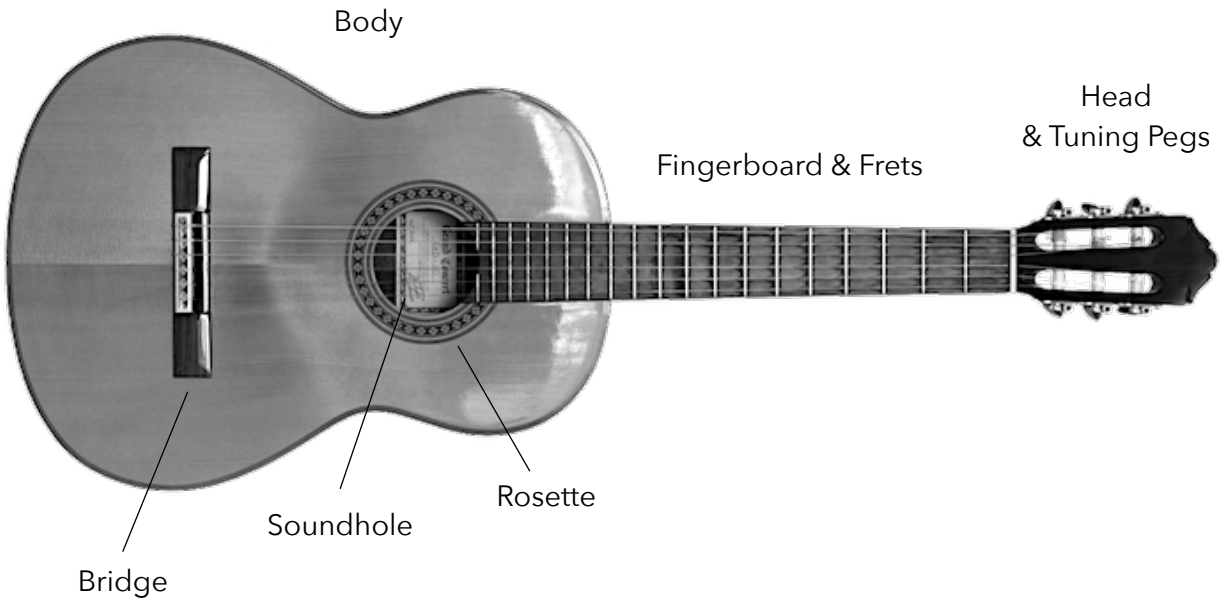
Left Hand Finger Names

1 = index
2 = middle
3 = angular
4 = pinky

Right Hand Finger Names

p = thumb
i = index
m = middle
a = annular (ring)
c = chiquita

Anatomy of the Classical Guitar



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Hand and Sitting Positions for Classical Guitar

Visit the archive of high res photos and video lessons including topics such as posture, left hand position, right hand position, and beginner tips: **thisisclassicalguitar.com/lessons/**

Sitting Position

- The head of the guitar is at eye level (guitar is at a 45° angle)
- Face of guitar straight up and down (not angled back)
- Sit up straight and relax the shoulders and neck

Right Arm & Hand

- Right forearm rests on the guitar in front of the elbow
- Right wrist is straight with a relaxed arch
- Right hand plays around the rosette
- Right hand fingers move into the palm, not up and away
- Right hand thumb is in front of the fingers

Left Arm & Hand

- Left wrist is straight, not over-extended
- Left palm and knuckles are parallel with the strings
- Left hand thumb is vertical and behind 2nd finger
- Left hand fingers are curved and on fingertips
- Left hand fingers play very close to the frets

Head of guitar at eye level (guitar at 45° angle)

Same position applies to guitar supports

Beat, Tempo, Notes

The **beat,** also called **pulse**, is the basic unit of time in a piece of music. For example, if you listen to a song and begin to tap your foot at regular intervals you are likely tapping 'the beat'.

The word **tempo** is used to describe the how fast or slow the beats are moving.

Notes are symbols used in music to represent the pitch and rhythm of a standard musical sound. **Pitch** refers to how high or low a note sounds.

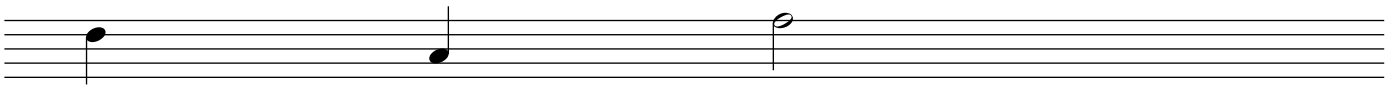
Anatomy of a note:

Noteheads

Noteheads with stems

Stems with flags

Notes will be placed on a staff (5 lines), as shown below.



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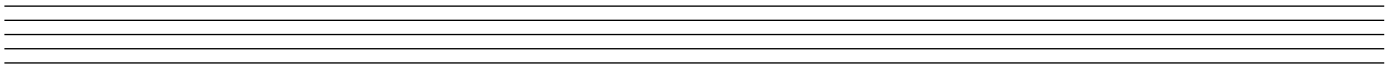
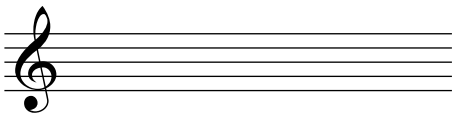
Basic Musical Symbols

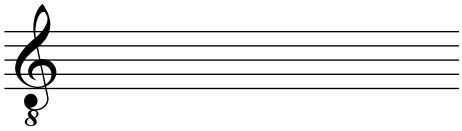
The **Staff** has five lines.



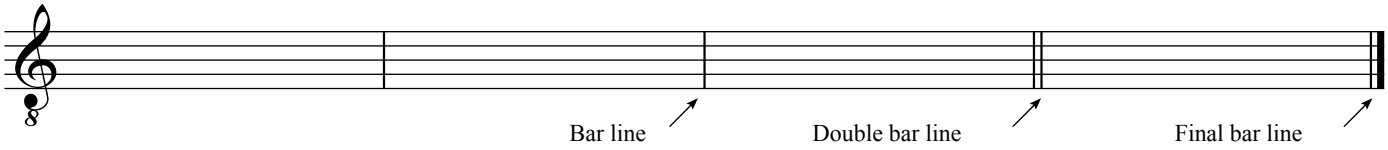
The **Treble Clef Sign** is used in guitar notation (also called the G Clef).



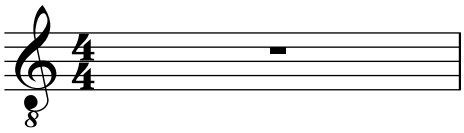
A treble clef with an 8 below is often used in guitar notation.
Guitar sounds one octave below where it's written.



Bars, also called **Measures,** are used to divide the staff into sections.

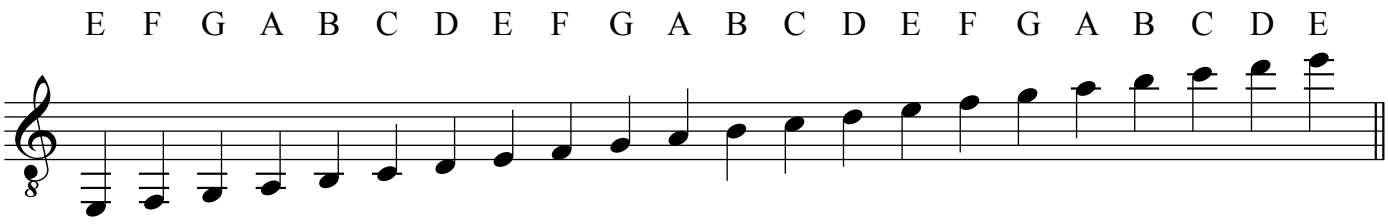


The **Time Signature** tells you how many beats there are in each bar and what type of note equals one beat. To start, you only need to know about the top number.



The top number states how many beats are in each bar.
The bottom number states the rhythmic value of each beat.

Standard music notation starting on the lowest note of the guitar.
The lines above and below the staff are called **Ledger Lines**.



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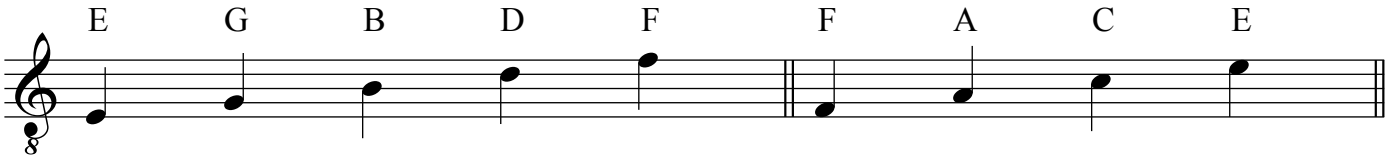
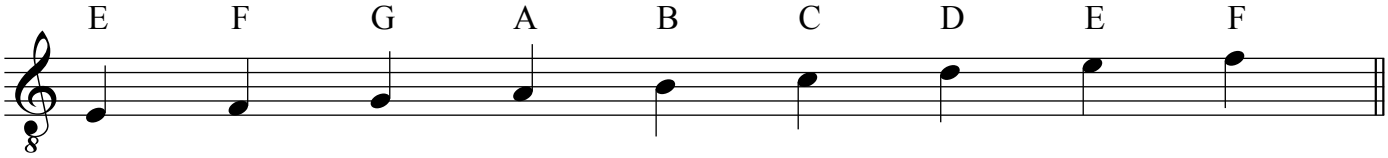
Notes & Rhythms

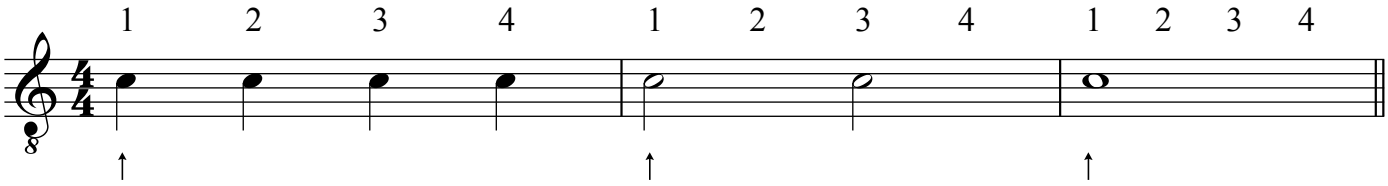
Line Notes Memorization: **E**very **G**ood **B**ear **D**eserves **F**ish.
Space Notes Memorization: **FACE**



The note names go up in the order of the musical alphabet.



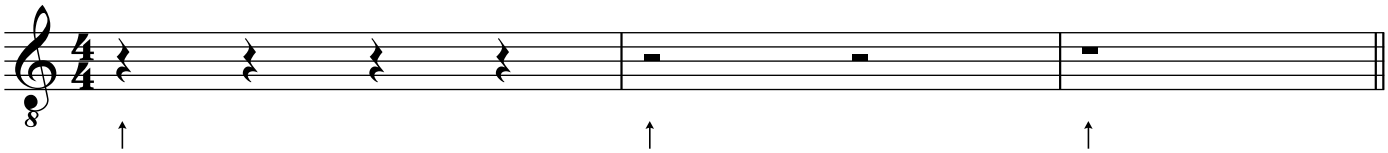
Rhythm & Beat Values



Quarter Notes
Solid Notehead
Stem
1 beat

Half Notes
Hollow Notehead
Stem
2 beats

Whole Notes
Hollow Notehead
No stem
4 beats



Quarter Rest
1 beat silence

Half Rest
2 beats silence

Whole Rest
4 beats silence

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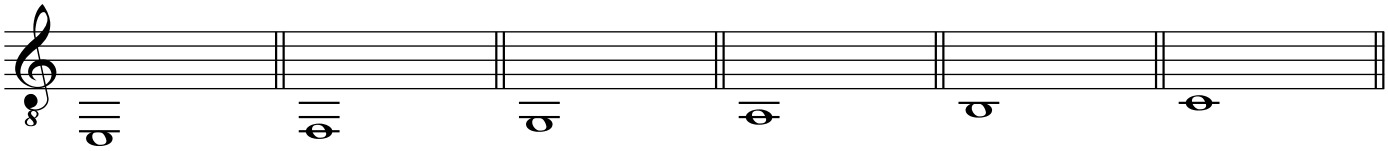
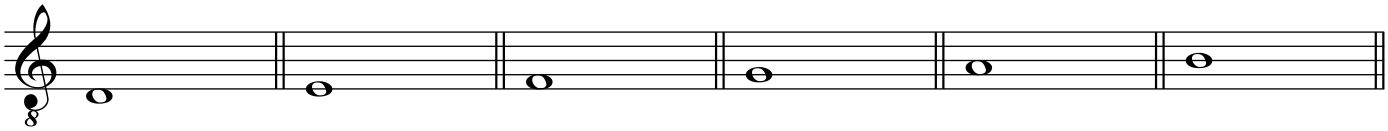
Reference for Basic First Position Notes

You do not need to learn these notes yet.

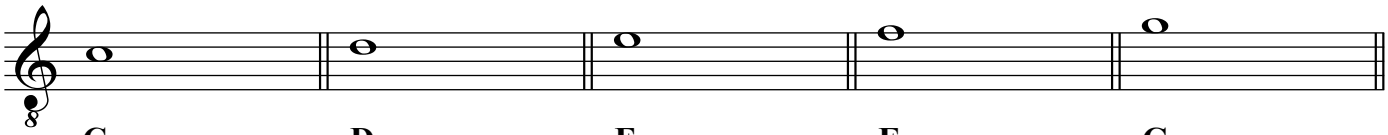
Tag this page and mark the notes you learn as you progress through the book.
I suggest the teacher colour each new note with a yellow highlighter as you learn.
You should review all your current notes at the start of each practice session.



E	**F**	**G**	**A**	**B**	**C**
6th string open	6th string 1st fret 1st finger	6th string 3rd fret 3rd finger	5th string open	5th string 2nd fret 2nd finger	5th string 3rd fret 3rd finger



D	**E**	**F**	**G**	**A**	**B**
4th string open	4th string 2nd fret 2nd finger	4th string 3rd fret 3rd finger	3rd string open	3rd string 2nd fret 2nd finger	2nd string open



C	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**
2nd string 1st fret 1st finger	2nd string 3rd fret 4th finger	1st string open	1st string 1st fret 1st finger	1st string 3rd fret 4th finger

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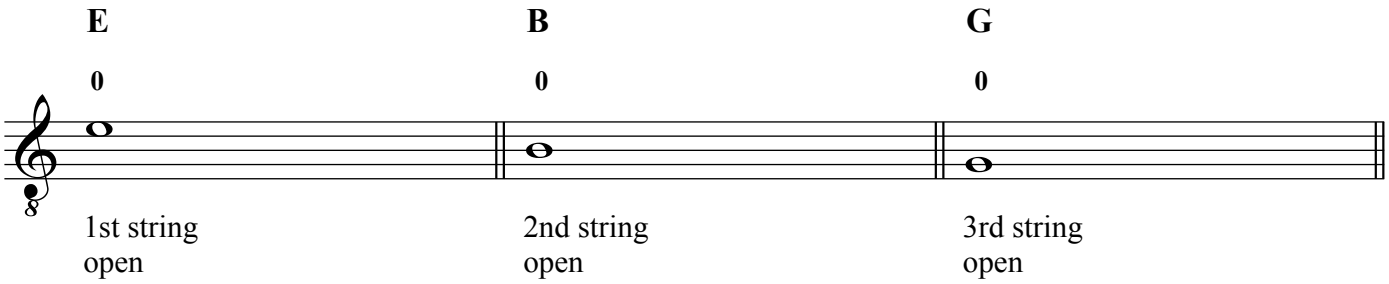
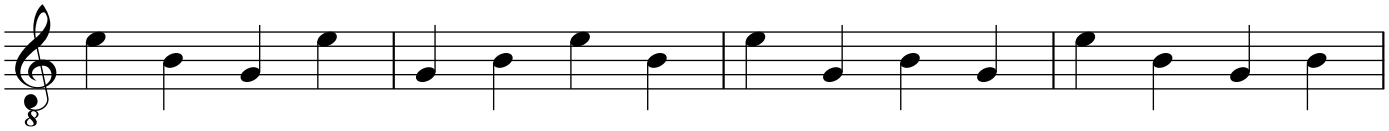
Notes for Etude No. 1 & 2

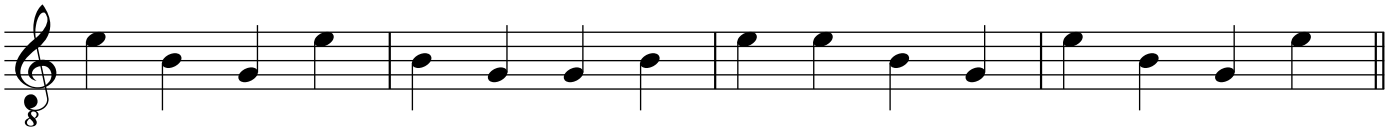


Complete the following note names and string numbers



Name: **E B G E**

String: **1 2 3 1**



Name: **E B**

String: **1 2**

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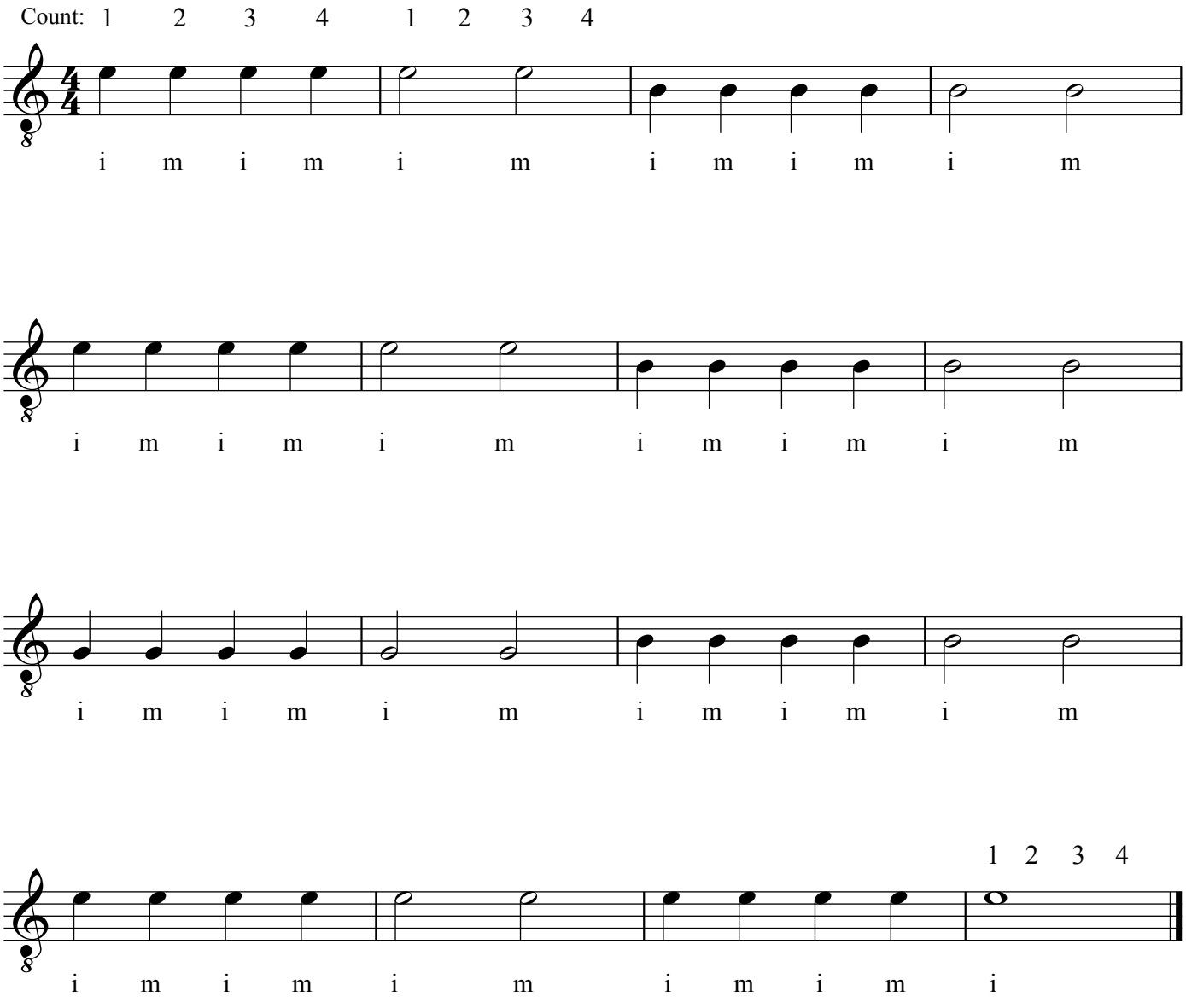
Etude No. 1 - Melody

Ways to practice
Name the notes without playing
Count the beat while playing from start to finish
Say the right hand fingering as you play

Tip: Rest your right hand thumb on a bass string
to anchor the hand and minimize movement.



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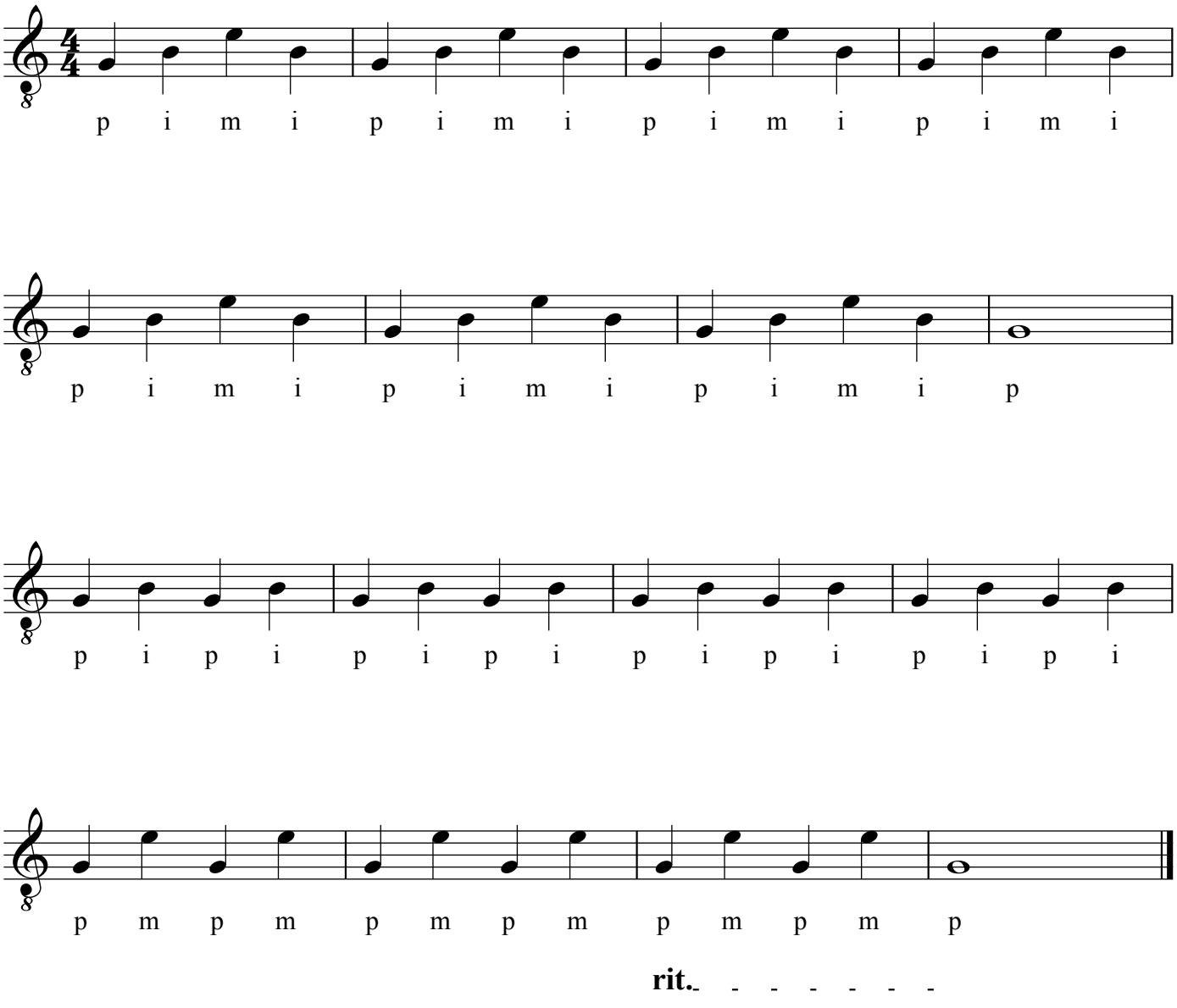
Etude No. 2 - Arpeggios

Arpeggios are notes of a chord played in succession.
Let all notes sustain (ring) and count out loud.
Keep the thumb in front of the fingers at all times.
rit. = *Ritardando* indicating a slowing down of the tempo.

Slowly



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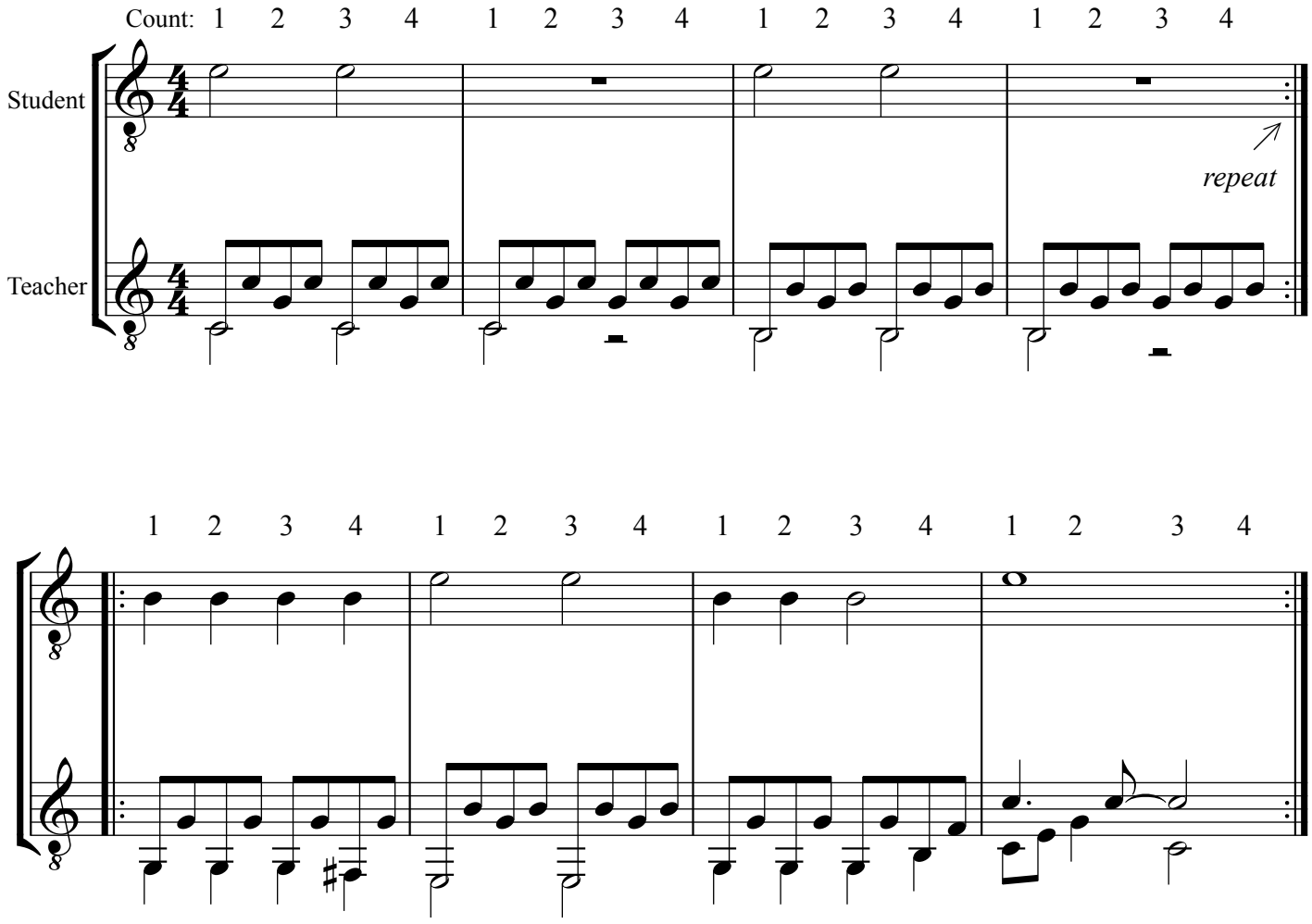
Nocturne (Duet)

The student plays the top part while counting out loud.
Stop the sound during bars containing rests.
Both lines have repeats. Repeat signs have dots facing inward,
therefore, the second line is repeated from bar 5.



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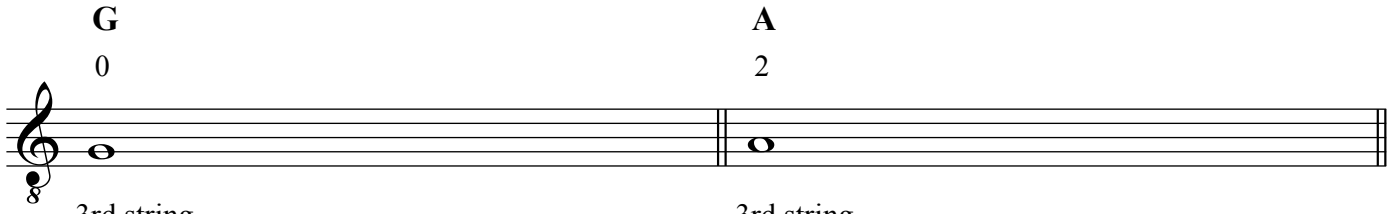
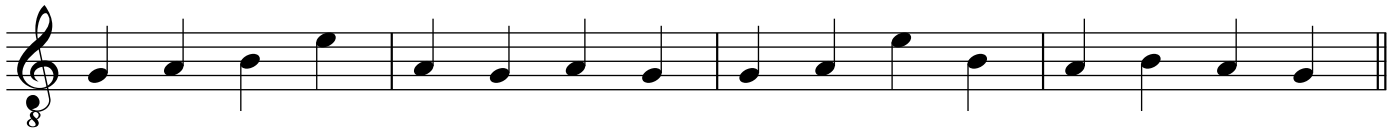
Notes on the Third String



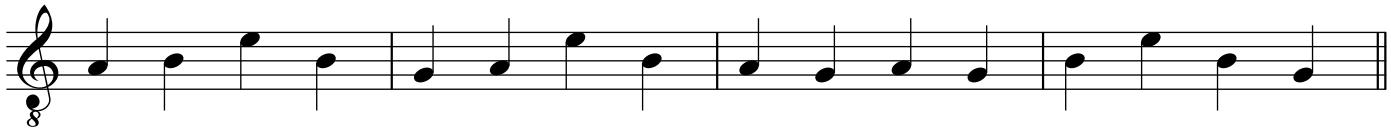
Complete the following note names, frets, and strings



Name: **G** **A**

Fret: **0** **2**

String: **3** **3**



Name: **A** **B**

Fret: **2** **0**

String: **3** **2**

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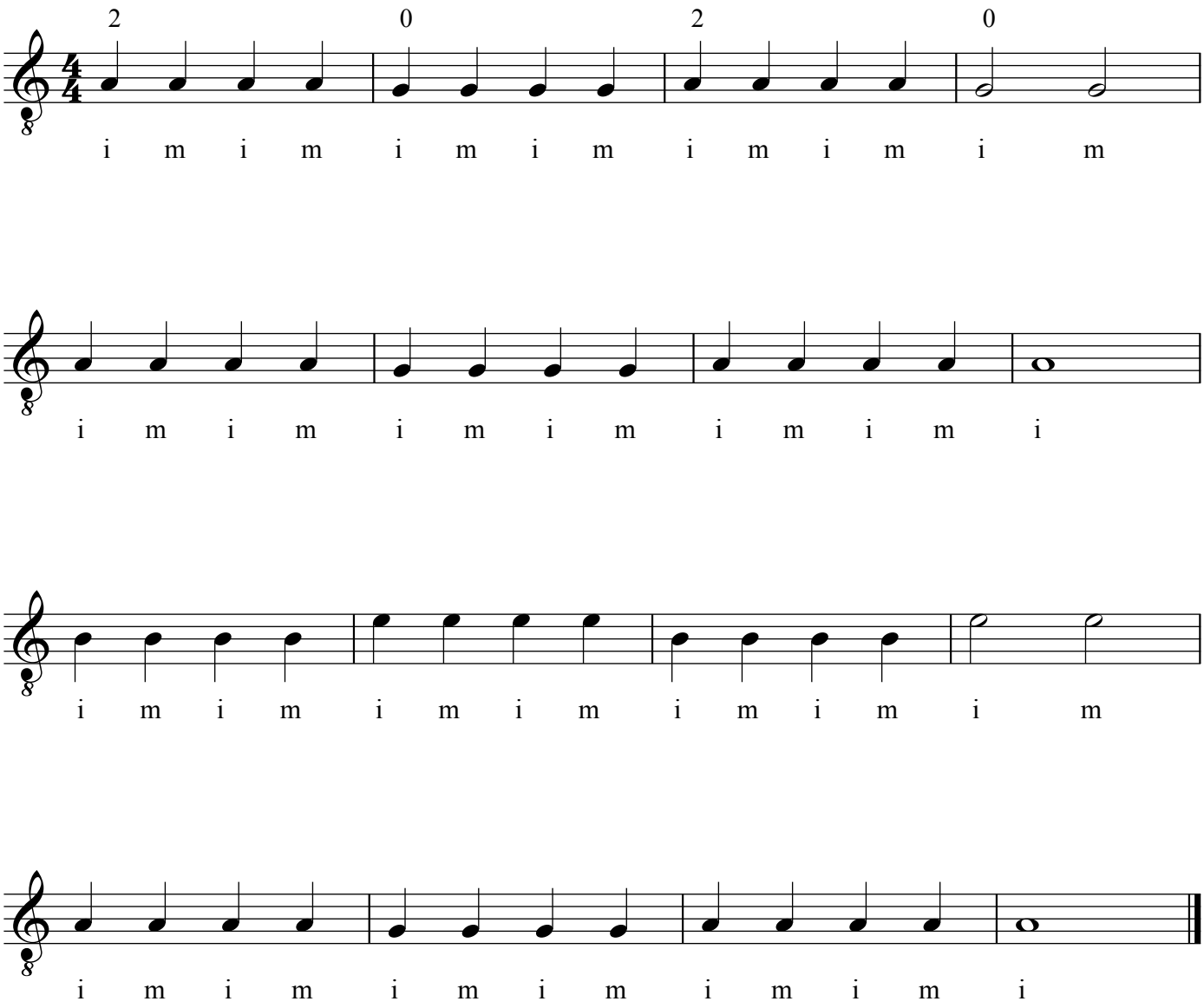
Moderato Maple

(First Left Hand Song)

Say the note names out loud as you play. Moderato indicates a moderate tempo.
Keep left hand fingers curved, play on fingertips very close to the fret.
Playing close to the fret will stop buzzing and allow for a light touch.
'Anchor' the right hand thumb on a bass string.



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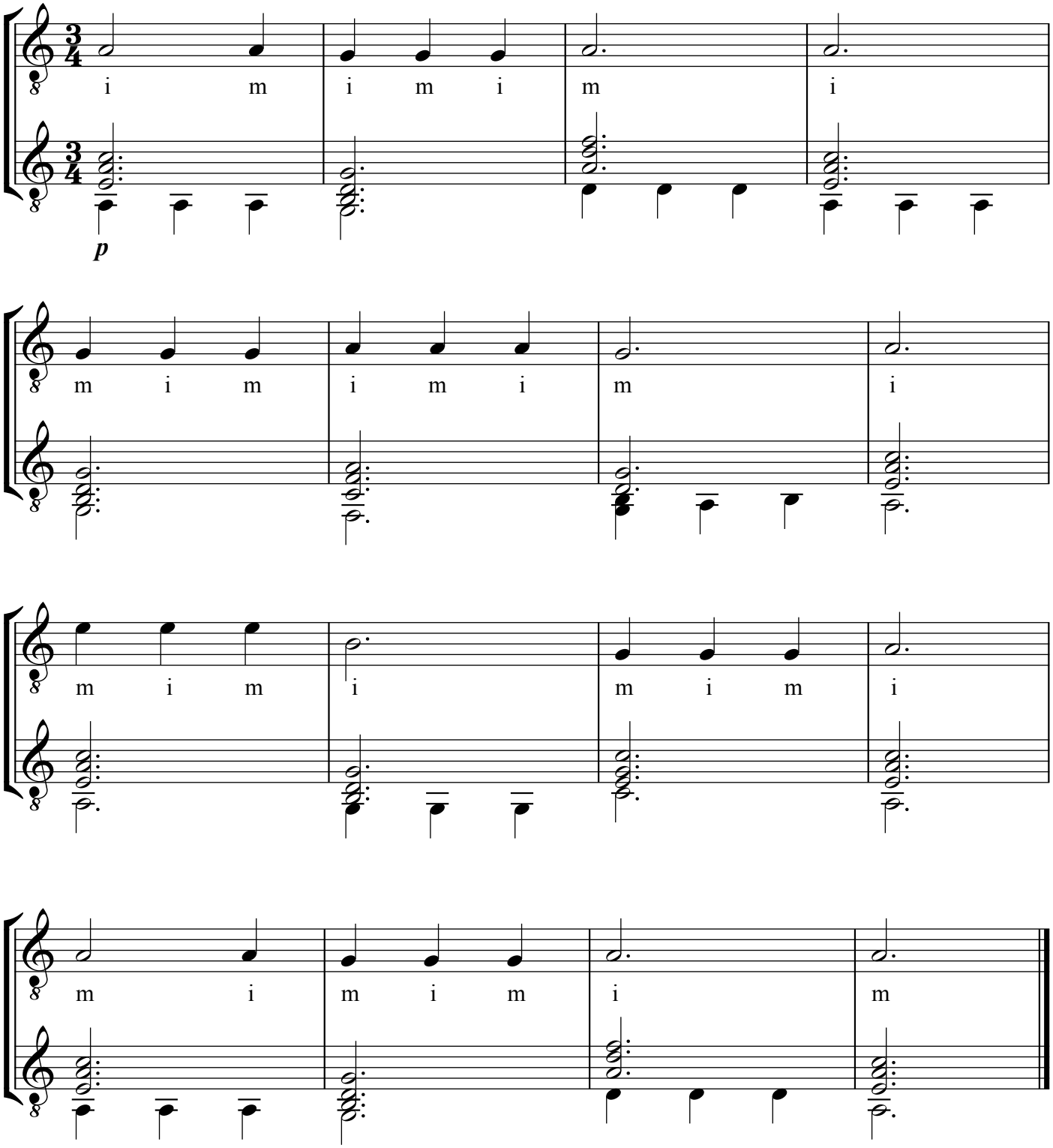
Lessons, Sheet Music & TAB (free & sales): thisisclassicalguitar.com

A Fairy Tale

The student plays the top part. Notice this piece has 3 beats per bar.
The teacher should arpeggiate (strum) the chords.



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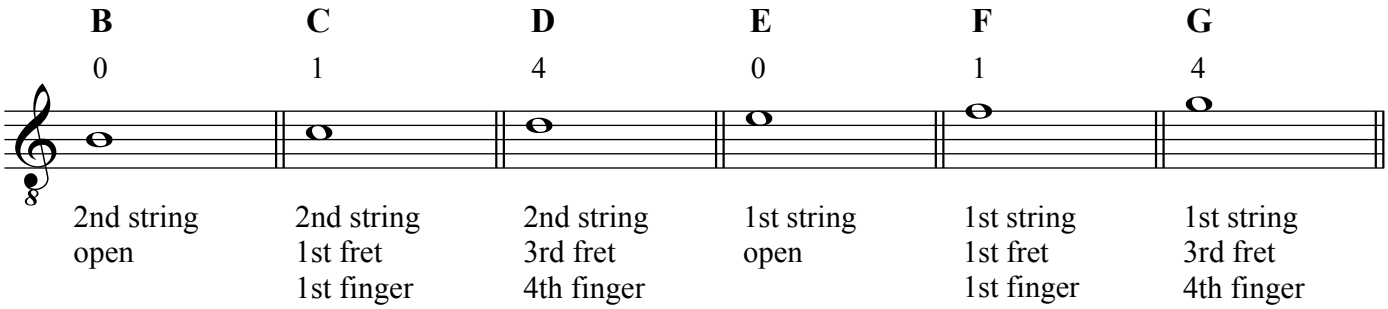
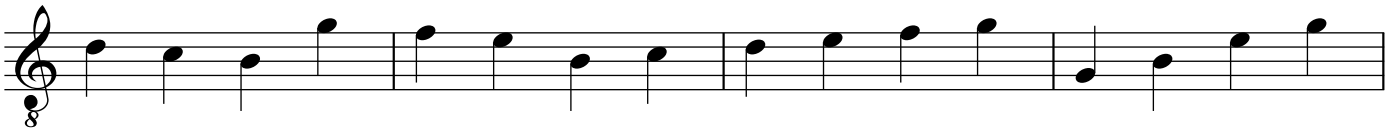
Notes on the First & Second Strings

The following notes use a similar pattern: open string, 1st fret, 3rd fret.
Use the 4th finger on D and G as solo pieces will require it and it helps with left hand alignment.



B	C	D	E	F	G
2nd string open	2nd string 1st fret 1st finger	2nd string 3rd fret 4th finger	1st string open	1st string 1st fret 1st finger	1st string 3rd fret 4th finger

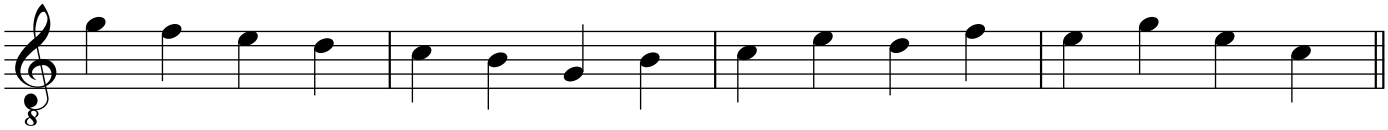
Complete the following note names, frets, and strings



Name: **D C**

Fret: **3 1**

String: **2 2**



Name: **G F**

Fret: **3 1**

String: **1 1**

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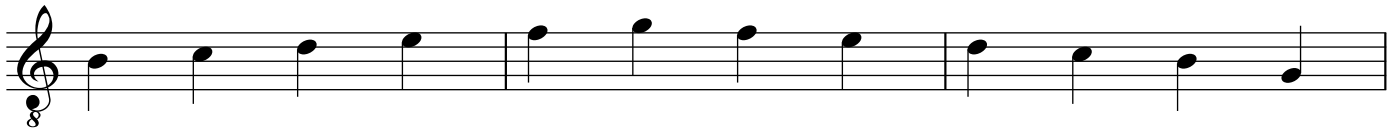
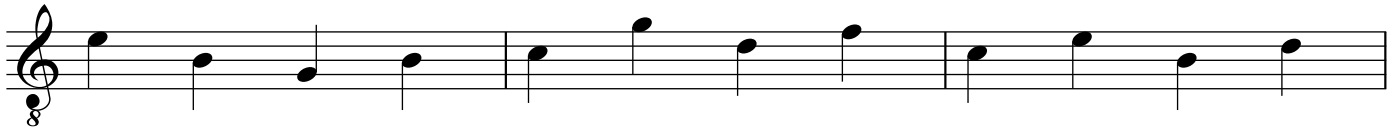
Note Finder



Name: **B** **C**

Fret: **0** **1**

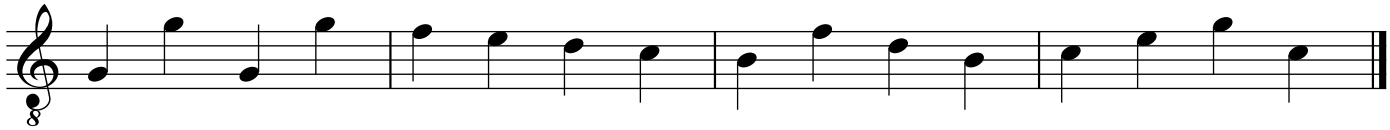
String: **2** **2**



Name:

Fret:

String:



Name:

Fret:

String:

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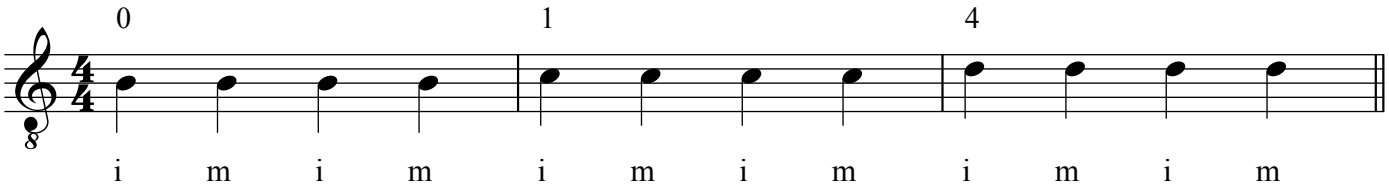
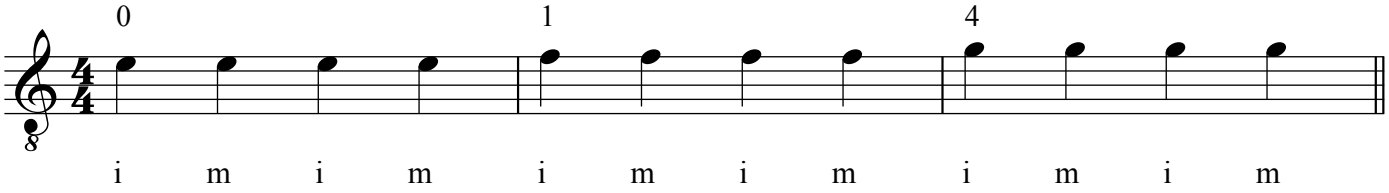
Left Hand Practice

Say the note names out loud as you play the following exercises.
Keep left hand fingers curved, play on fingertips very close to the fret.
Playing close to the fret will stop buzzing and allow for a light touch.
'Anchor' the right hand thumb on a bass string.

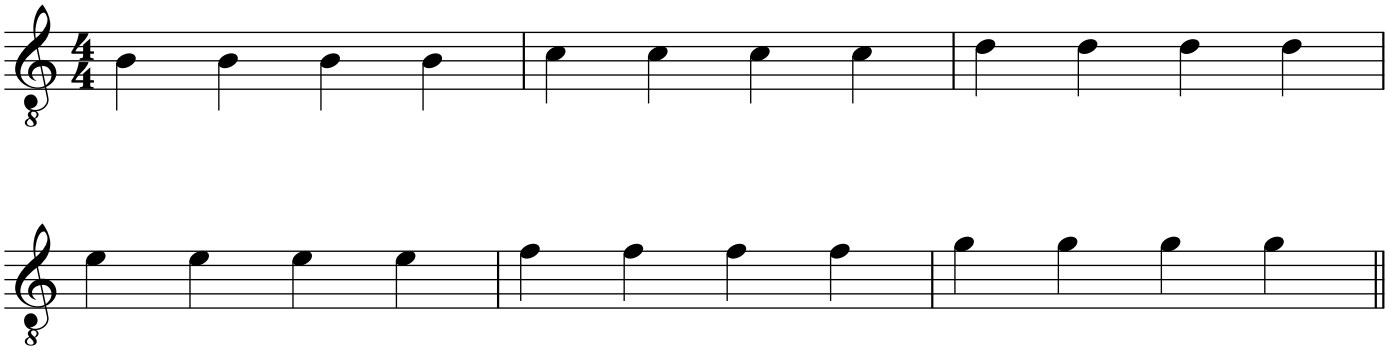
Second String Notes



First String Notes



Both Strings Without Fingering



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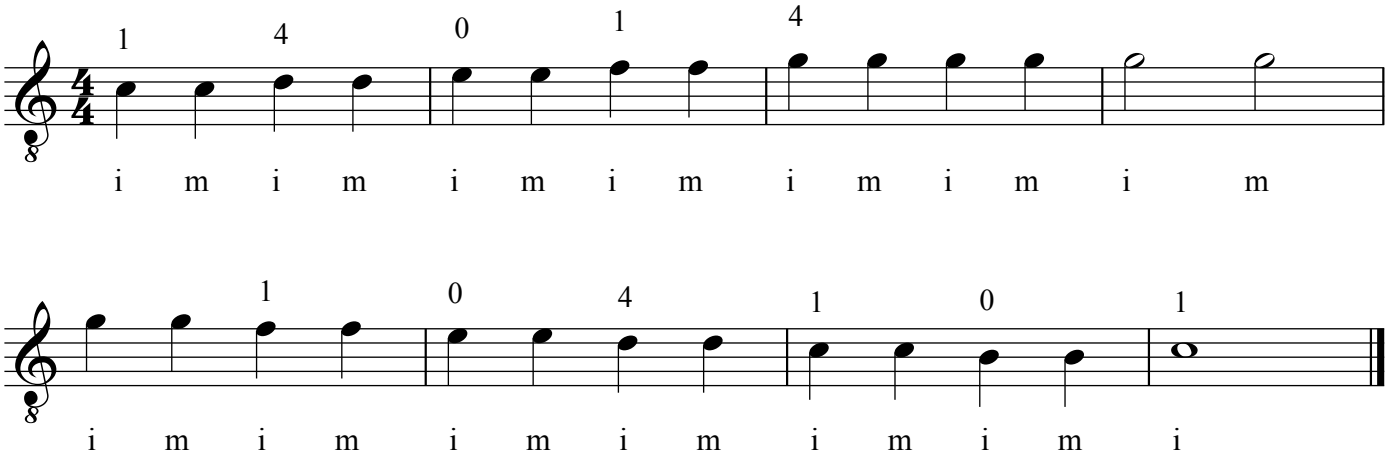
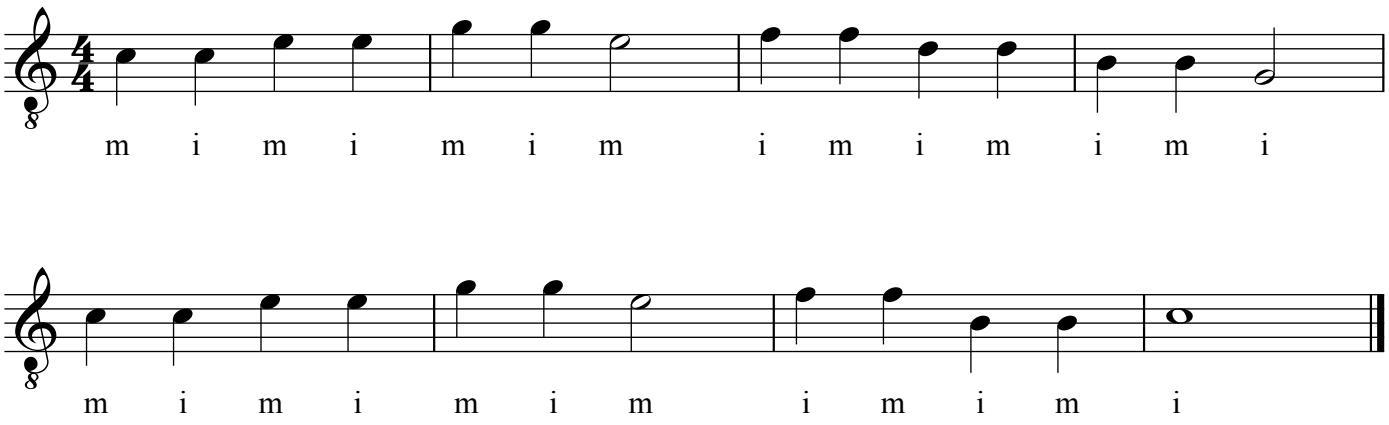
Five Melodies

Say the note names out loud as you play.
'Anchor' the right hand thumb on a bass string.

The Mountain



Theme by Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)



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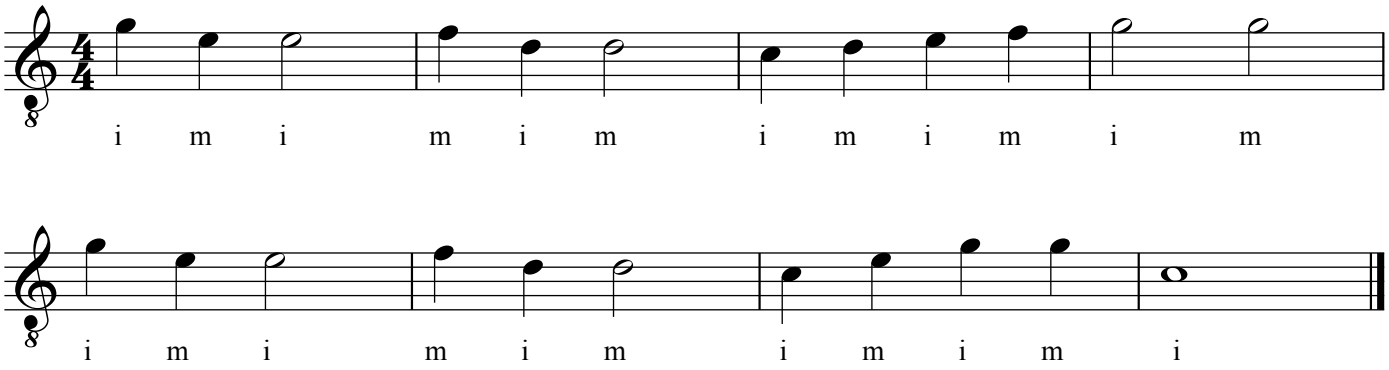
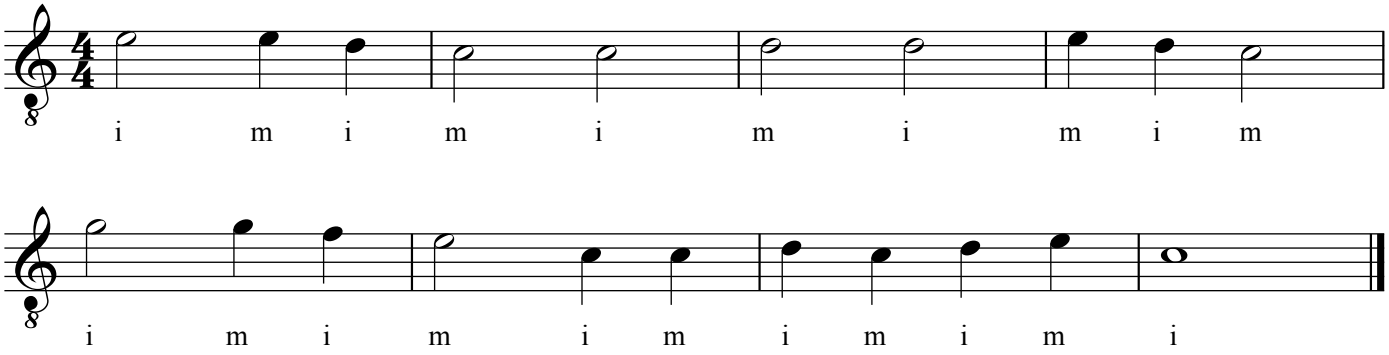
Lightly Row

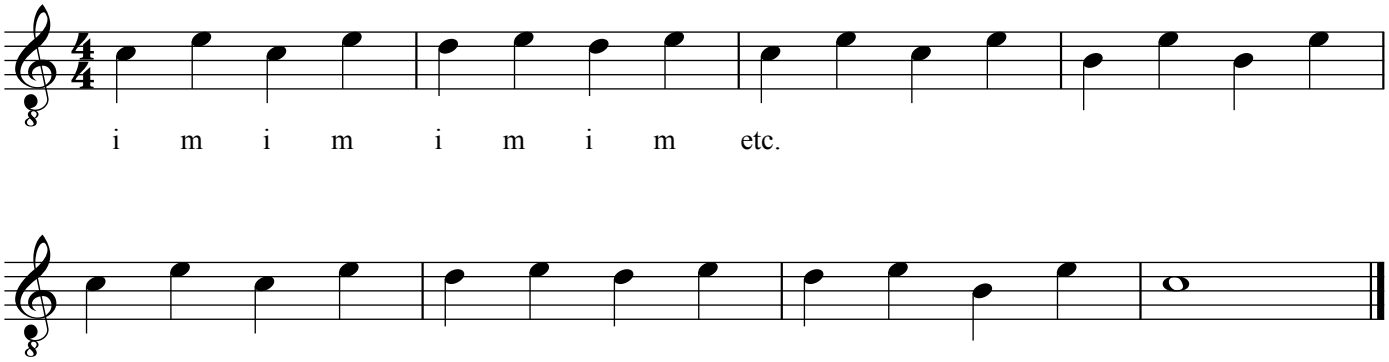


Go Tell Aunt Rhody



The Fox

This cunning little piece encourages proper left hand technique through listening skills.
Let all notes sustain by keeping C and D down while you play the open E string.
You will have to stay on your fingertips and curve your fingers to avoid muting the 1st string!



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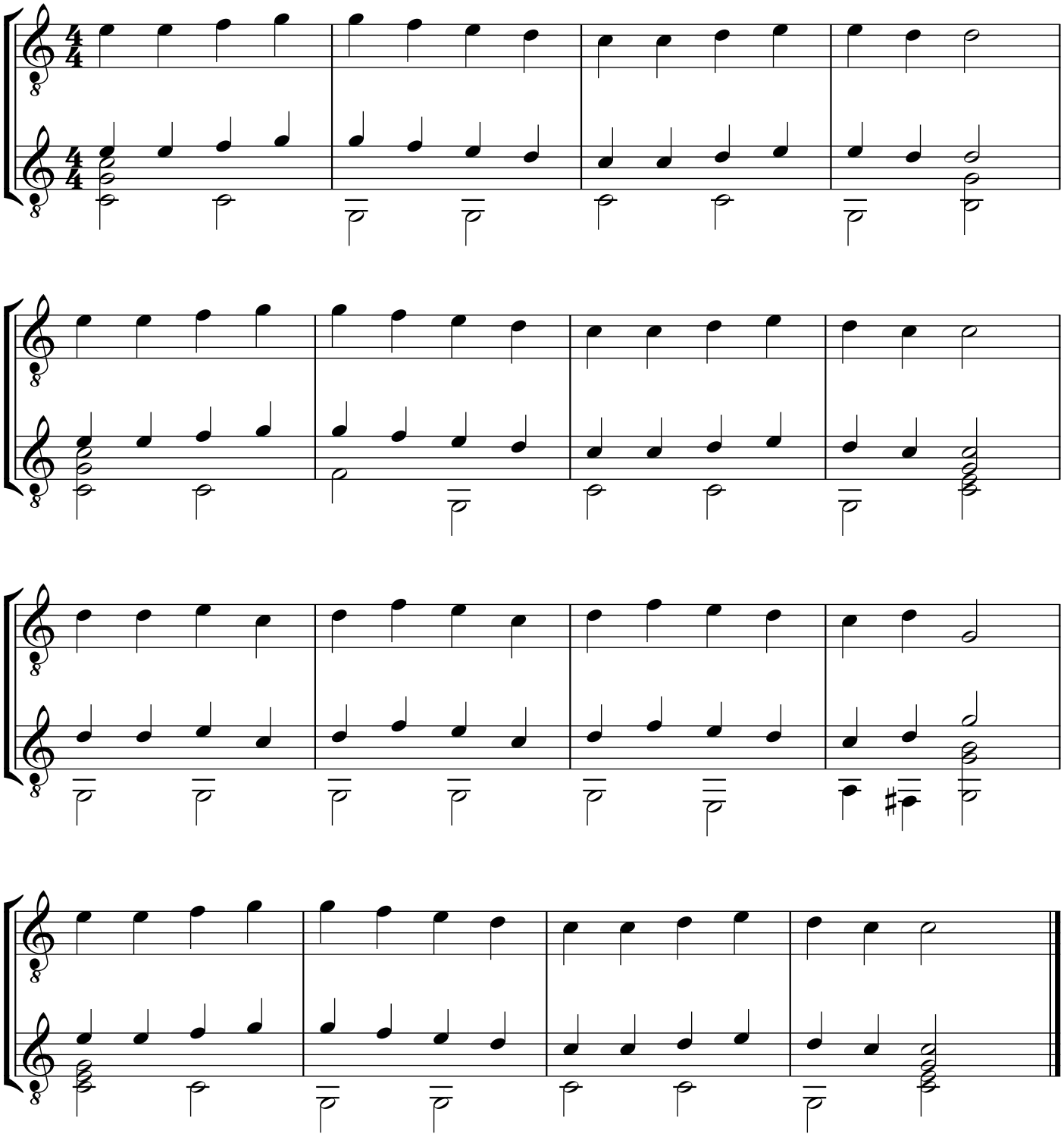
Ode to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

The student plays the top part with alternating i, m fingers.
Both parts contain the melody to help develop phrasing and rhythm.



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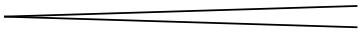
Dynamics

Dynamics indicate changes in volume and can bring any melody to life. Dynamics are not always marked on the page but musicians add them for expressive effect. Here are a few examples of dynamics you might see:

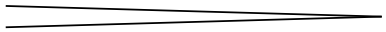
p
piano
(soft)

mf
mezzo forte
(medium)

f
forte
(loud)

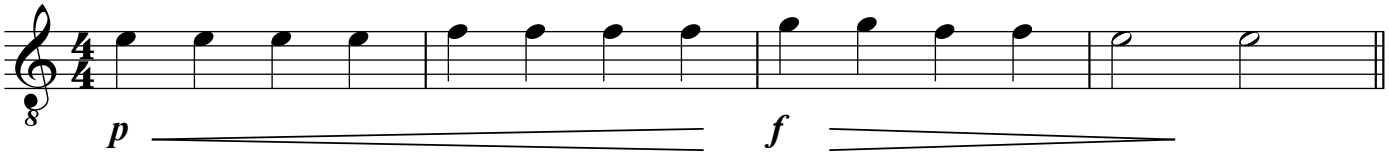


crescendo
(gradual increase)

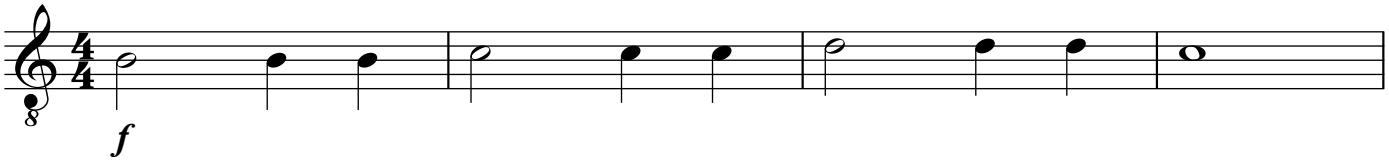


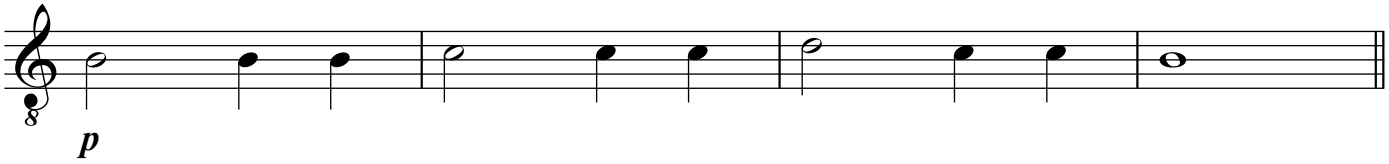
diminuendo
(gradual decrease)

Play the following example of crescendo and diminuendo



Play the following example of an echo effect (loud first line, soft second line)





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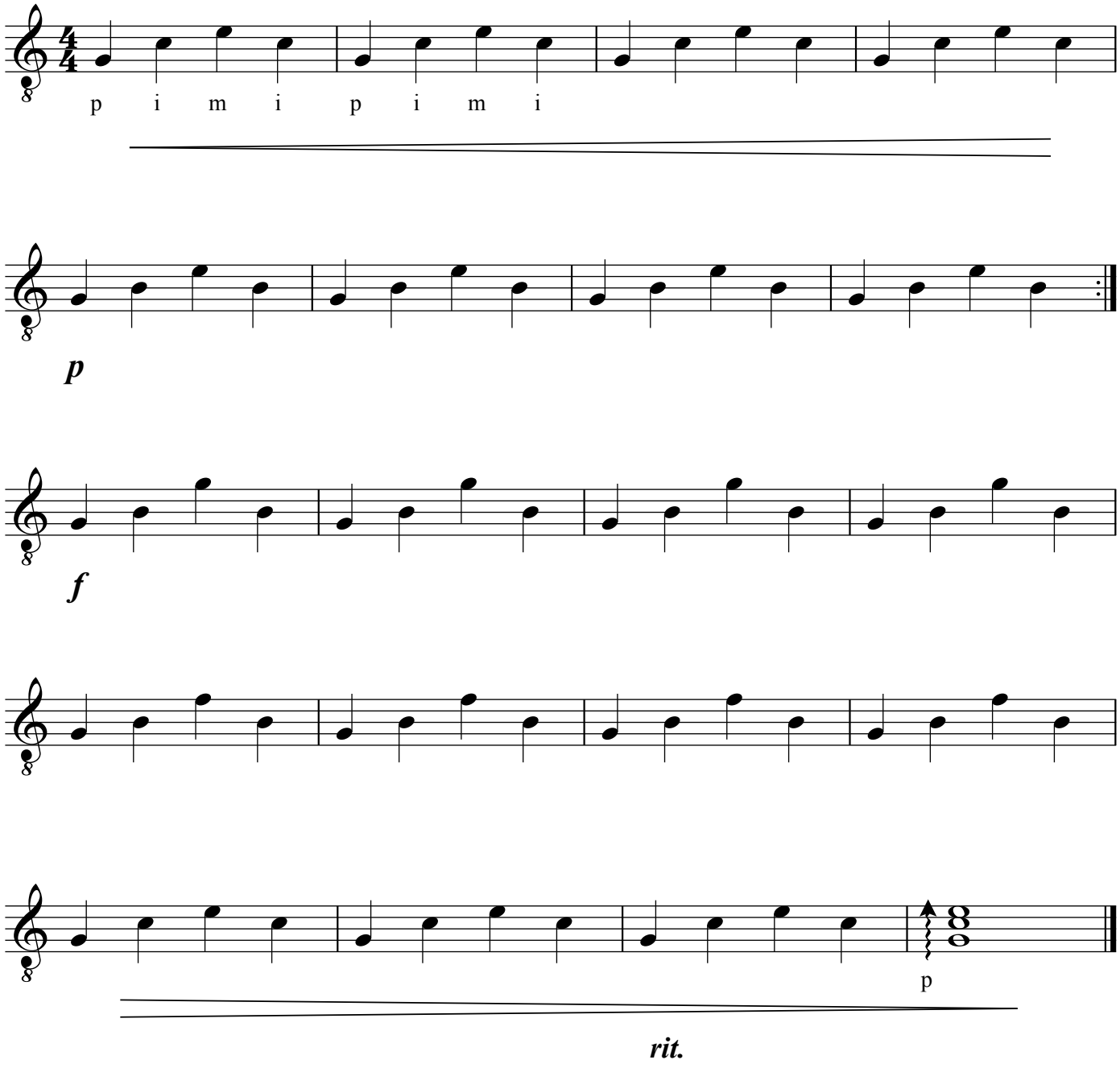
Etude No. 3 - Sound Picture

Remember: the right hand thumb plays in front of the fingers.
The last chord is strummed from the 3rd string with the thumb.
Follow the dynamics very carefully.



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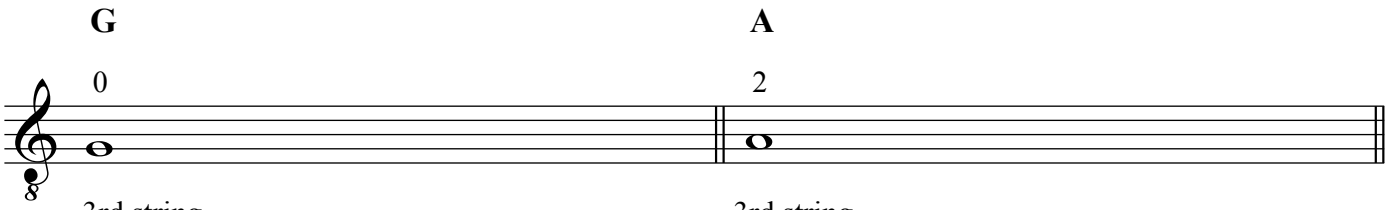
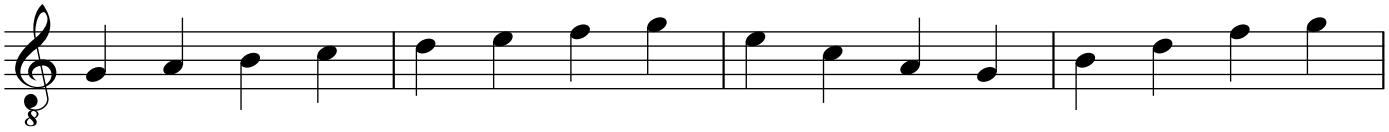
Review: Third String



3rd string
open

3rd string
2nd fret
2nd finger

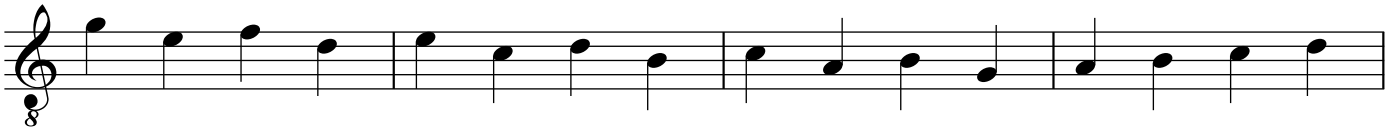
Name the following notes



Name: **G A B**

Fret: **0 2 0**

String: **3 3 2**



Name: **G E**

Fret: **3 0**

String: **1 1**

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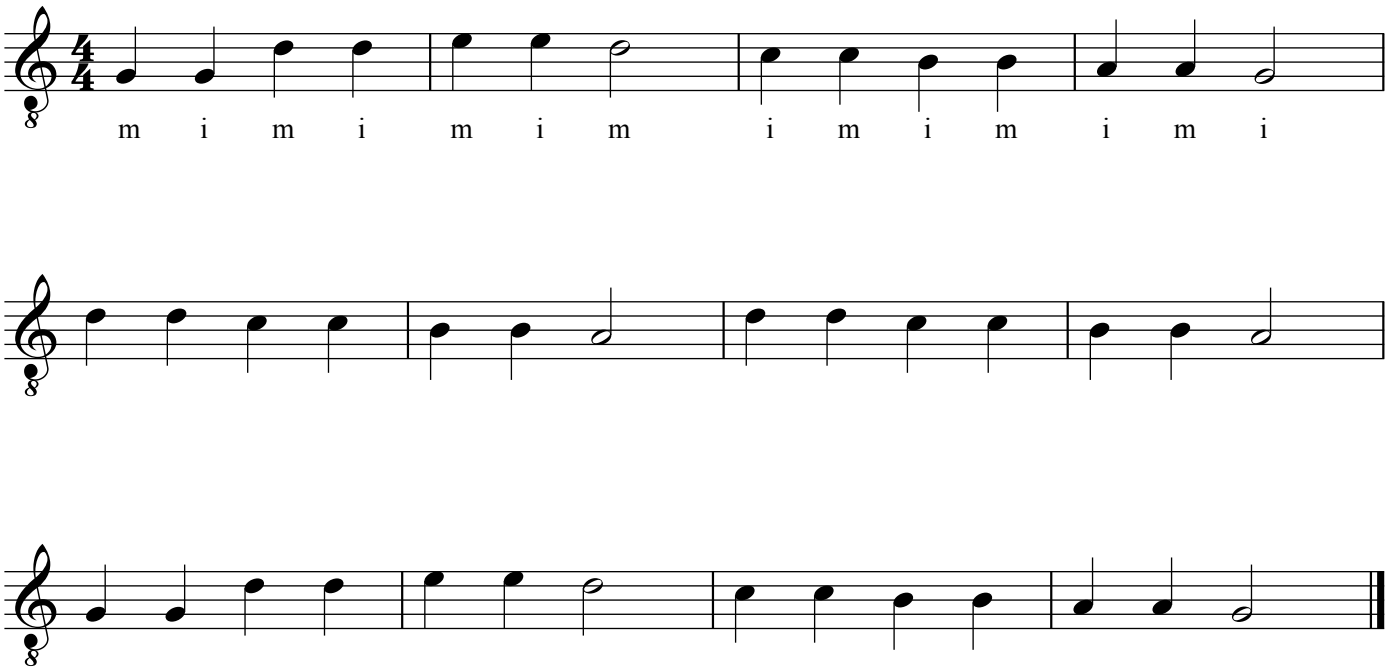
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Phrasing tip: sing the words as you play and imitate your voice.
Avoid emphasizing each syllable/note equally.



Lyrics

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.

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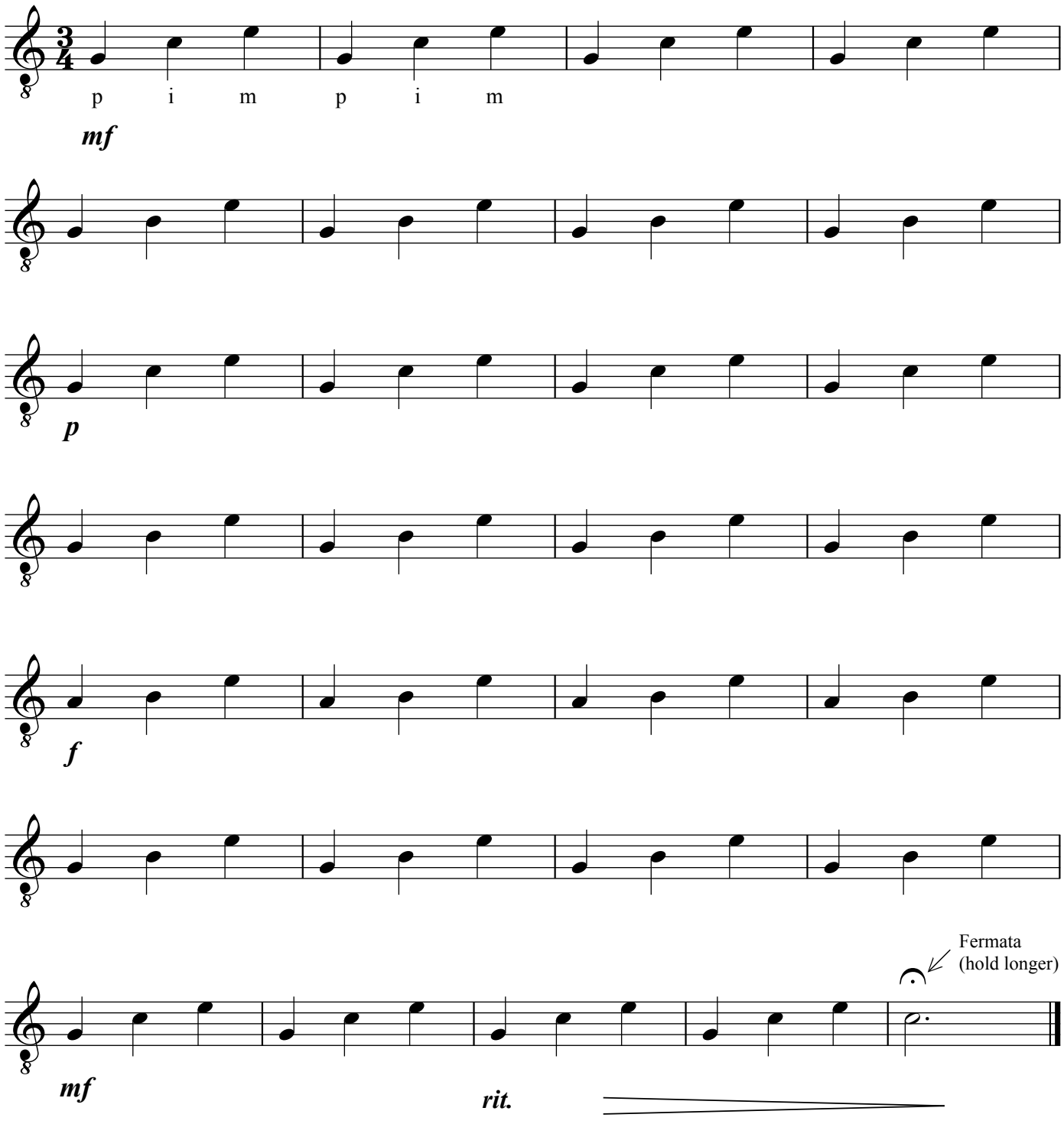
Etude No. 4 - The Birds

Hold down all the notes within each bar and let sustain.
This piece is similar to Etude No. 3 but notice the
time signature indicates only three beats per bar.



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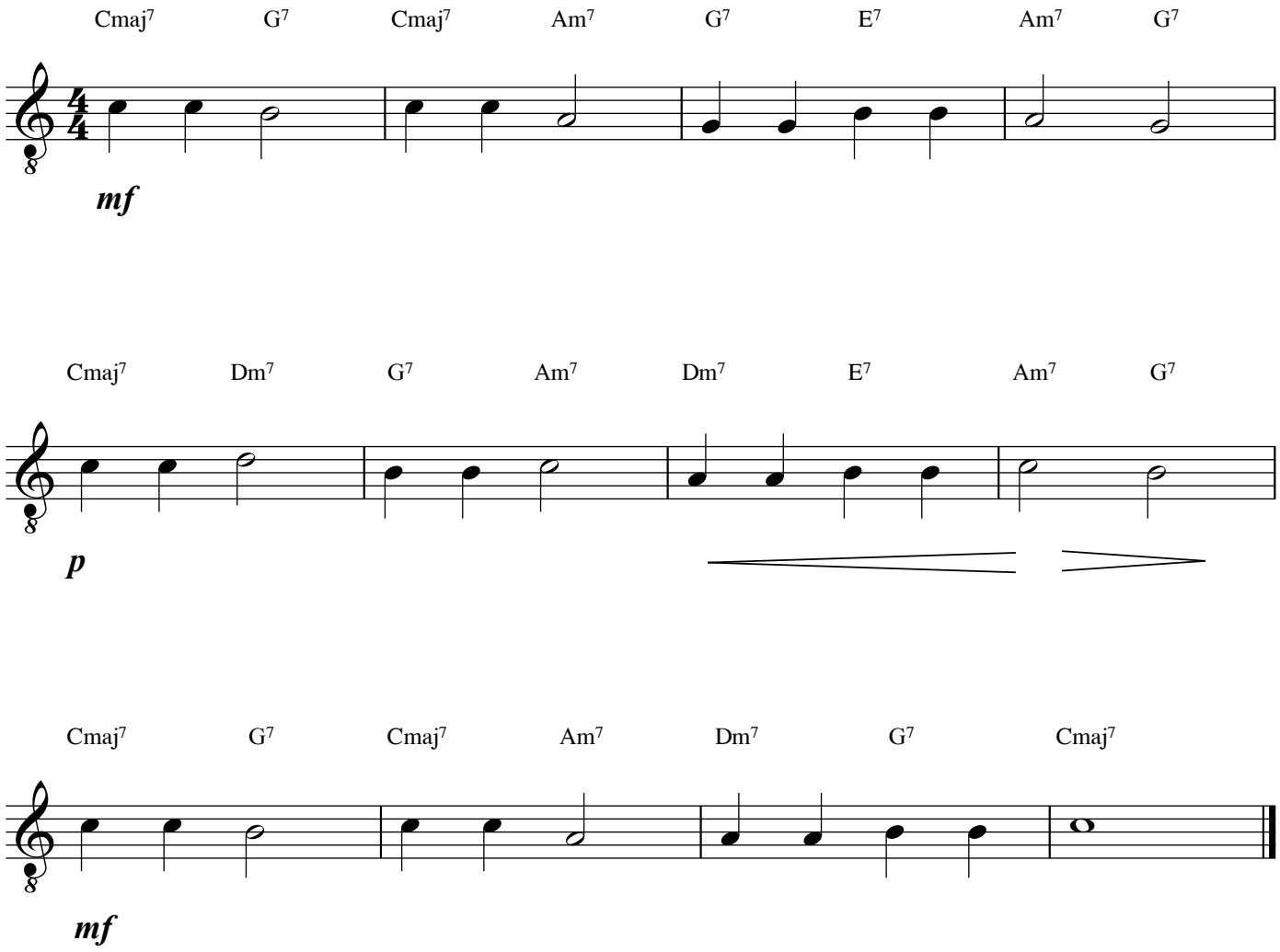
Jazz Cat

The student reads the notes and ignores the written chords.
Remember to use alternating i, m fingers.
The teacher plays the chords (leave out the 7ths if needed).
Accompaniment can be strummed or fingerstyle.
Vary the accompaniment pattern to encouarge musical flexibilty.



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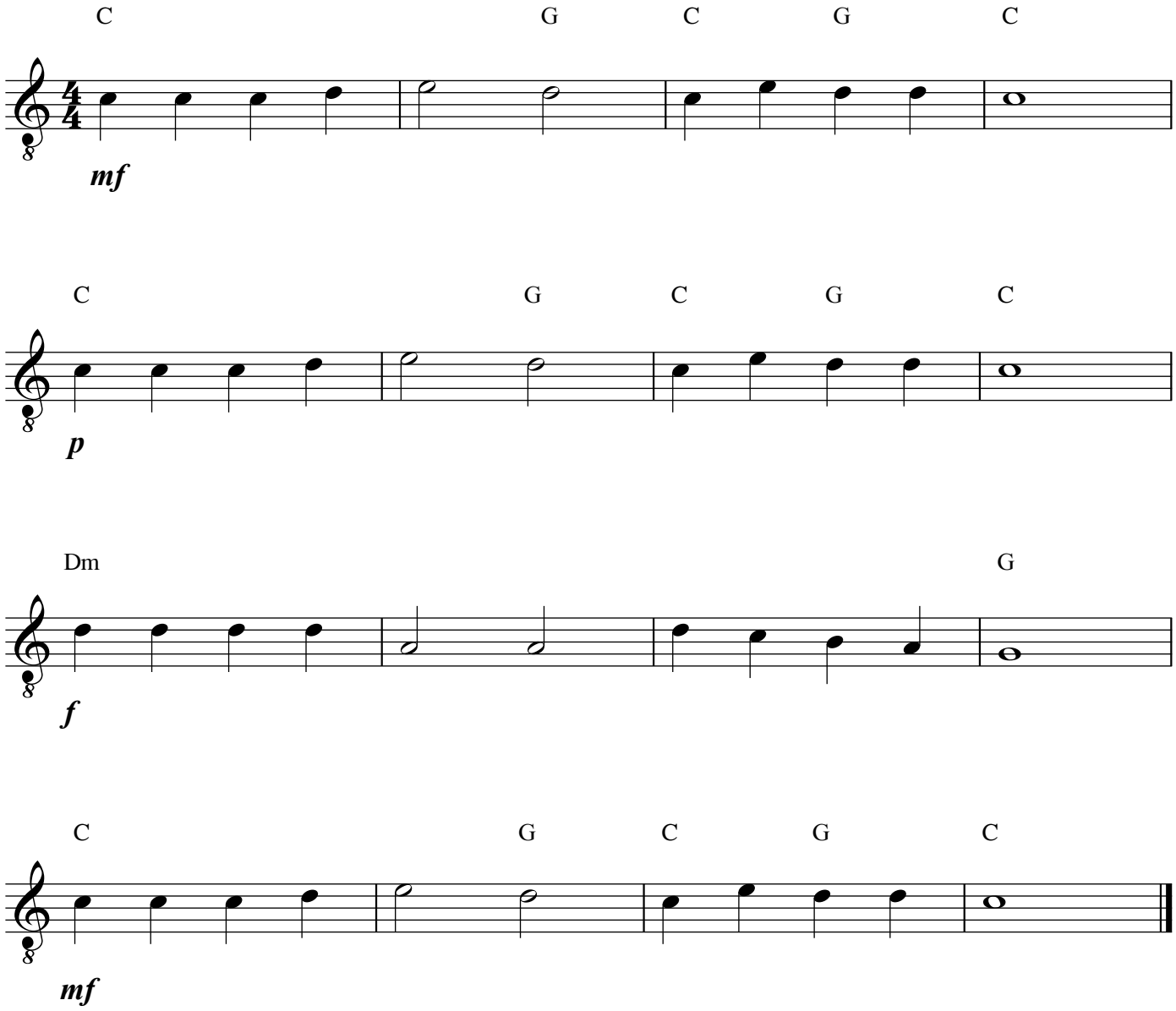
More Melodies & Duets

The student plays the notes (ignore the letters indicating chords).
Remember to use alternating i, m fingers.
The teacher accompanies with chords (strumming and fingerstyle).
Vary the accompaniment pattern to encouarge musical flexibilty.

Au clair de la lune



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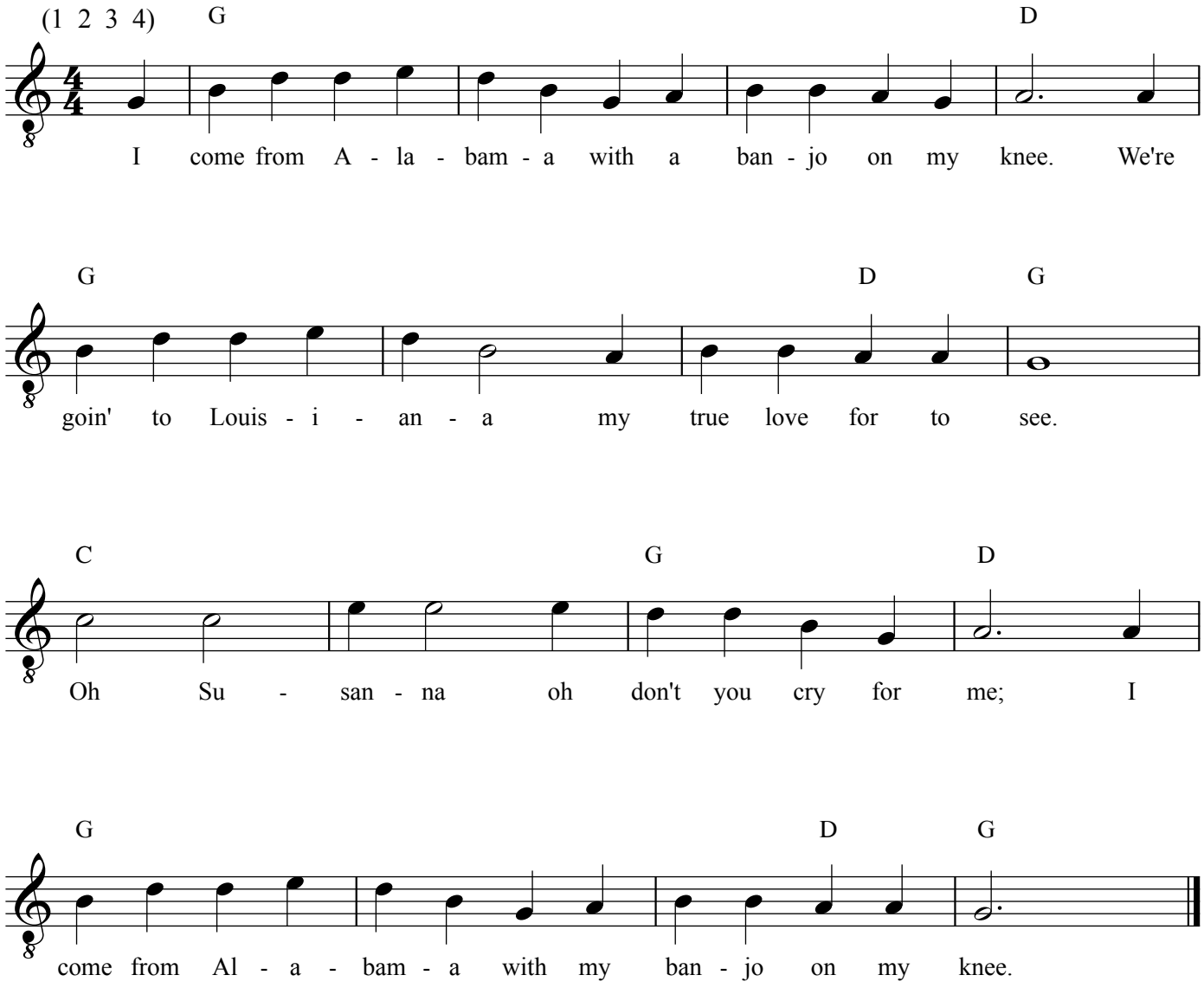
Oh! Susanna

Stephen Foster
(1826–1864)

The student plays the notes. The teacher accompanies with chords.
Feel the beat mainly on beat 1 and 3 (cut time will be discussed in Volume Two).

Pickup Notes: A note that doesn't start on the first beat.
Count the missing beats in the pickup bar.

Dotted Half Note: The note near the end of the first line counts for 3 beats.



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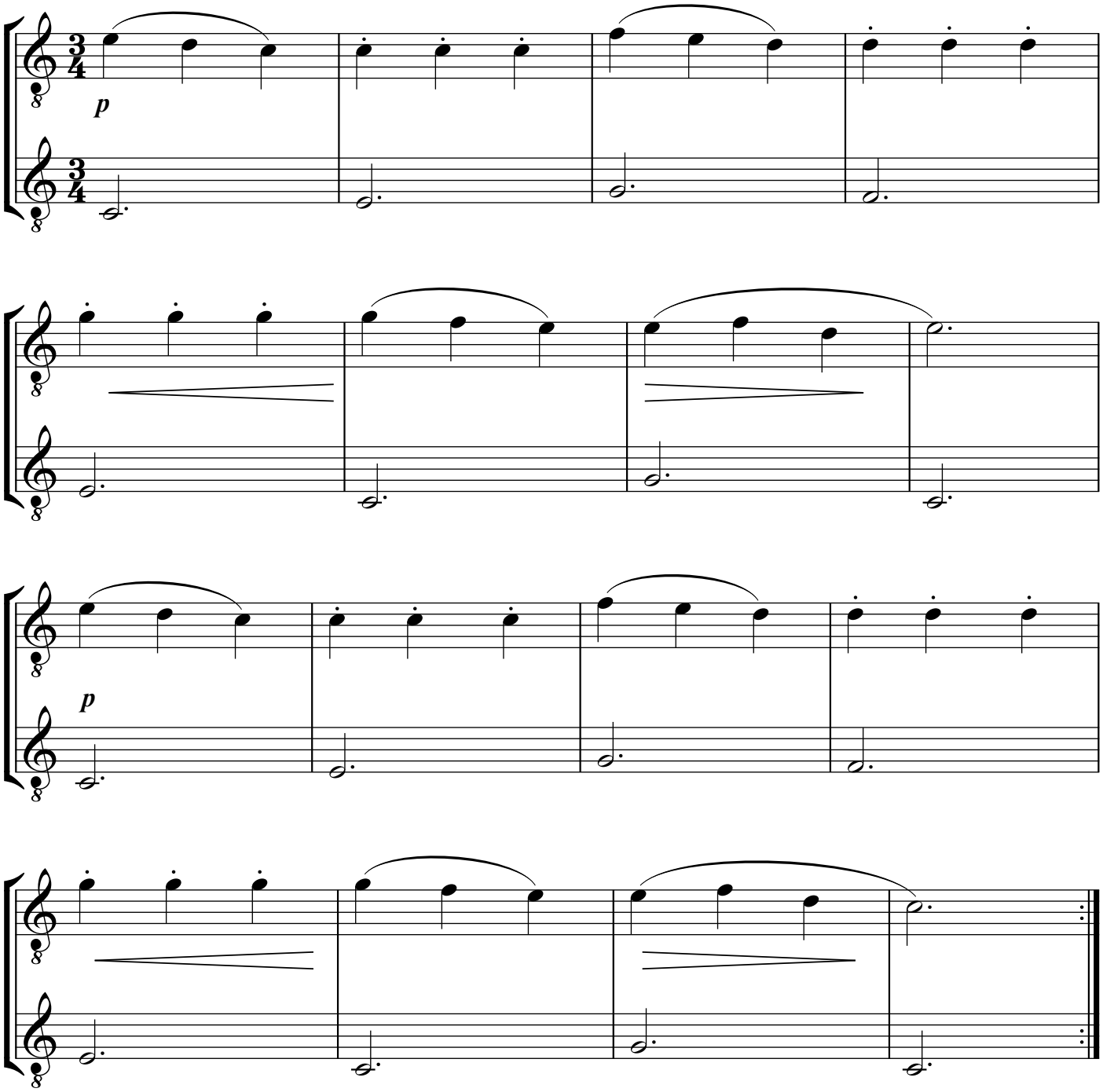
Waltz

Carl Czerny
(1791-1857)

The student plays the top part. Notice the dynamics and *phrase marks* indicating *legato*: a smooth and connected sound from note to note. The dots above some notes indicate *staccato*: short and disconnected (opposite of legato).

Andantino



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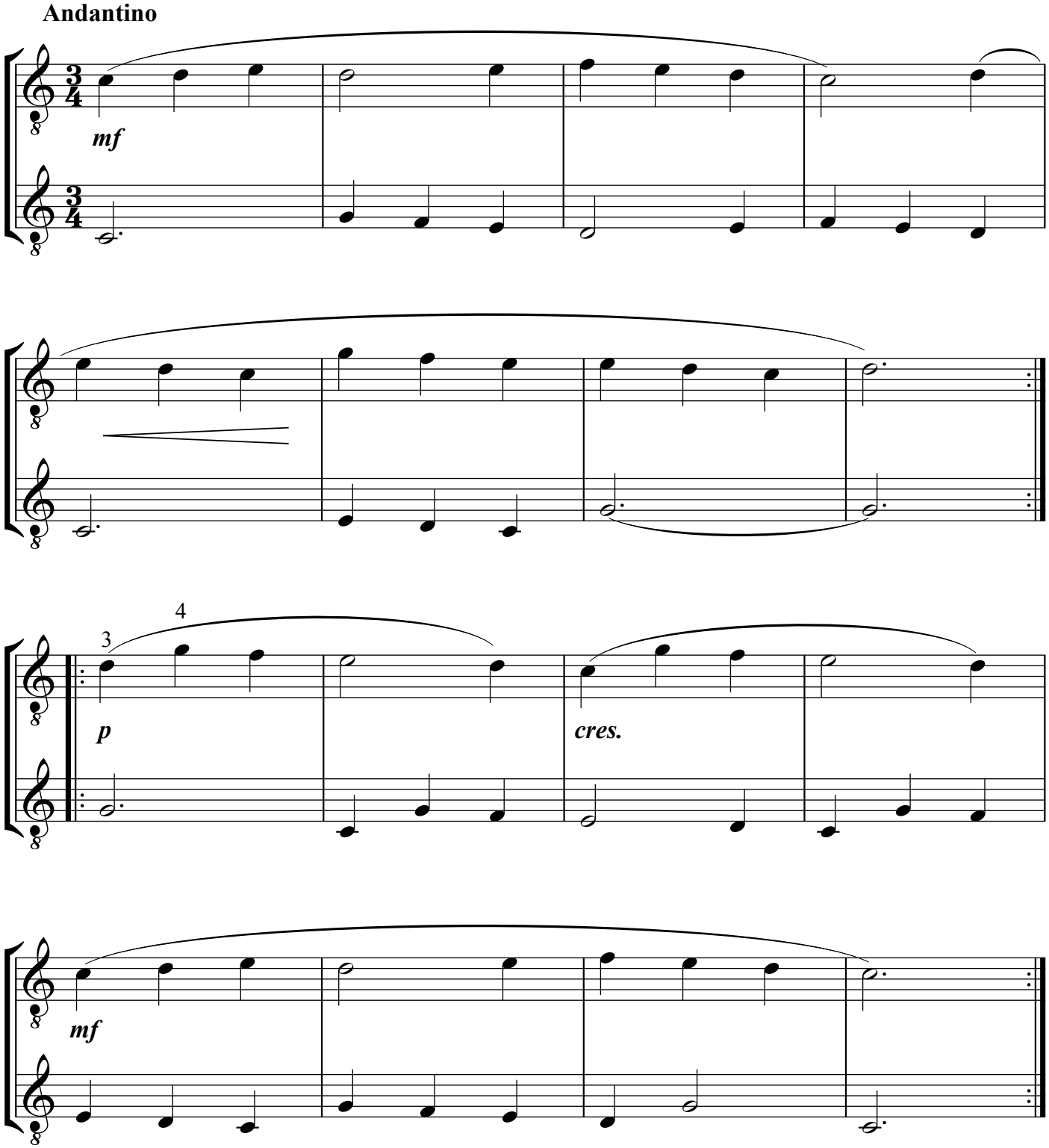
Minuet

C. H. Wilton
(1761-1832)

The student plays the top part.
Notice the phrasing and dynamics as well as the special fingering in bar 9.



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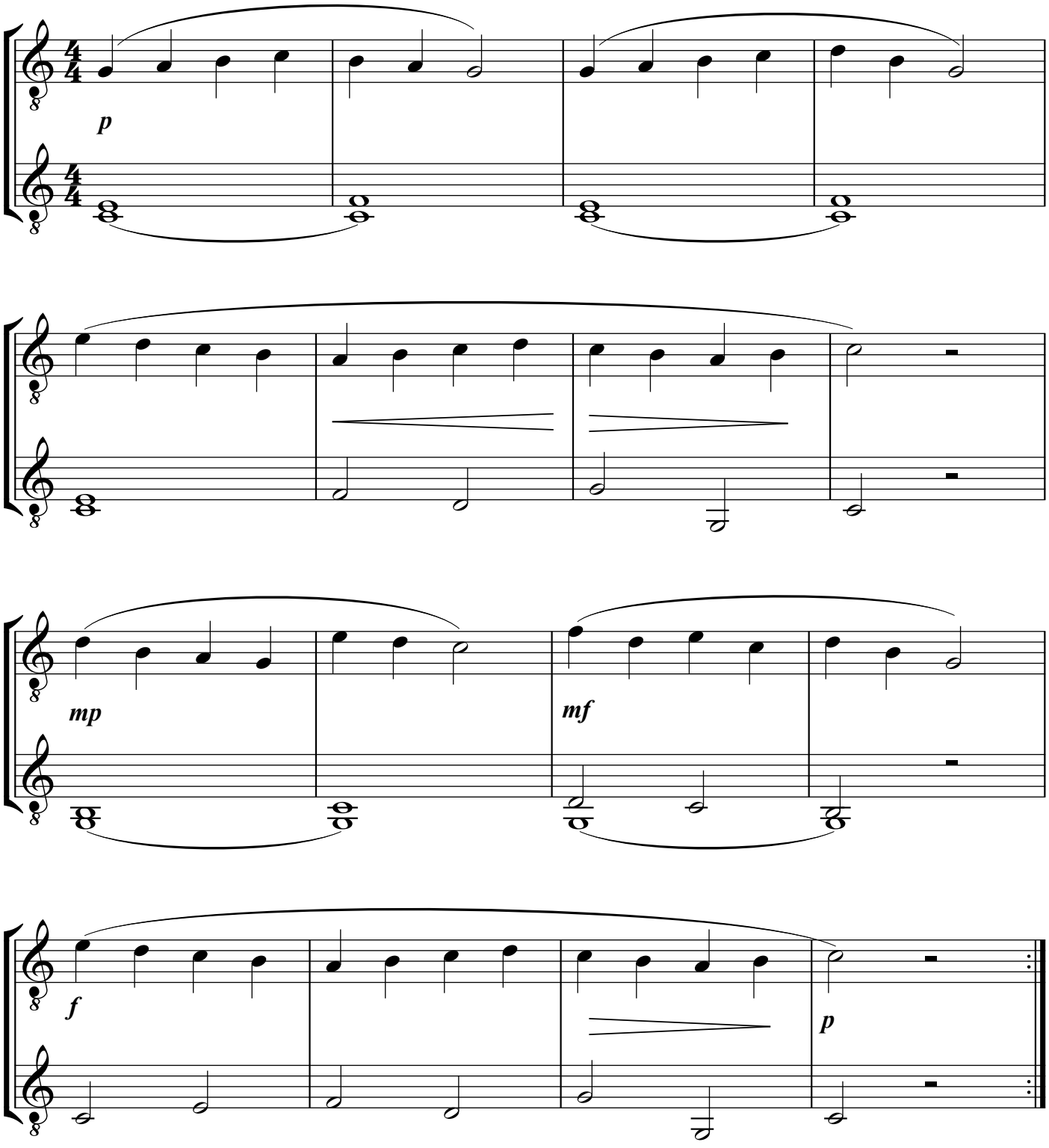
Morning

Anton Diabelli
(1781-1858)

The student plays the top part.
Notice the phrasing and dynamics.



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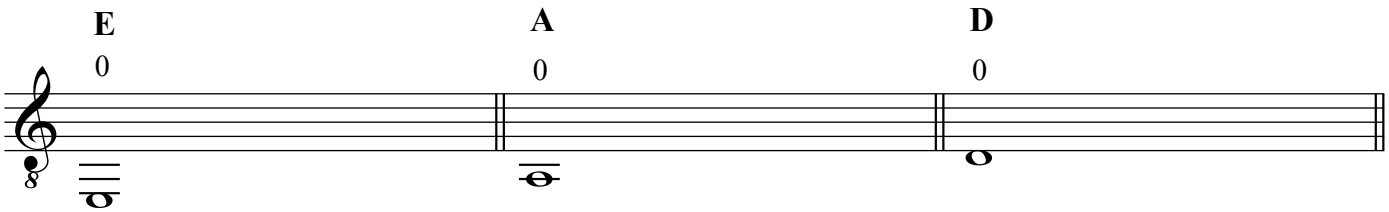
New Notes: Open Bass Strings

The lines below the staff are called *ledger lines*.

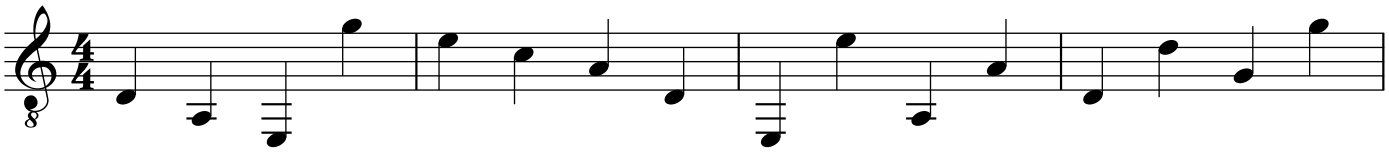


6th string
open

5th string
open

4th string
open

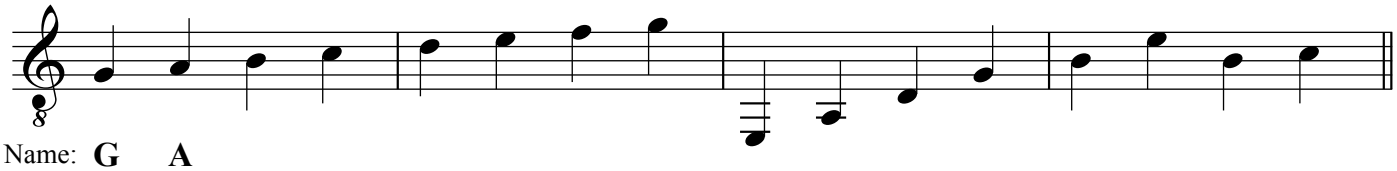
Name the following notes



Name: **D A E**

Fret: **0 0 0**

String: **4 5 6**



Name: **G A**

Fret: **0 2**

String: **3 3**

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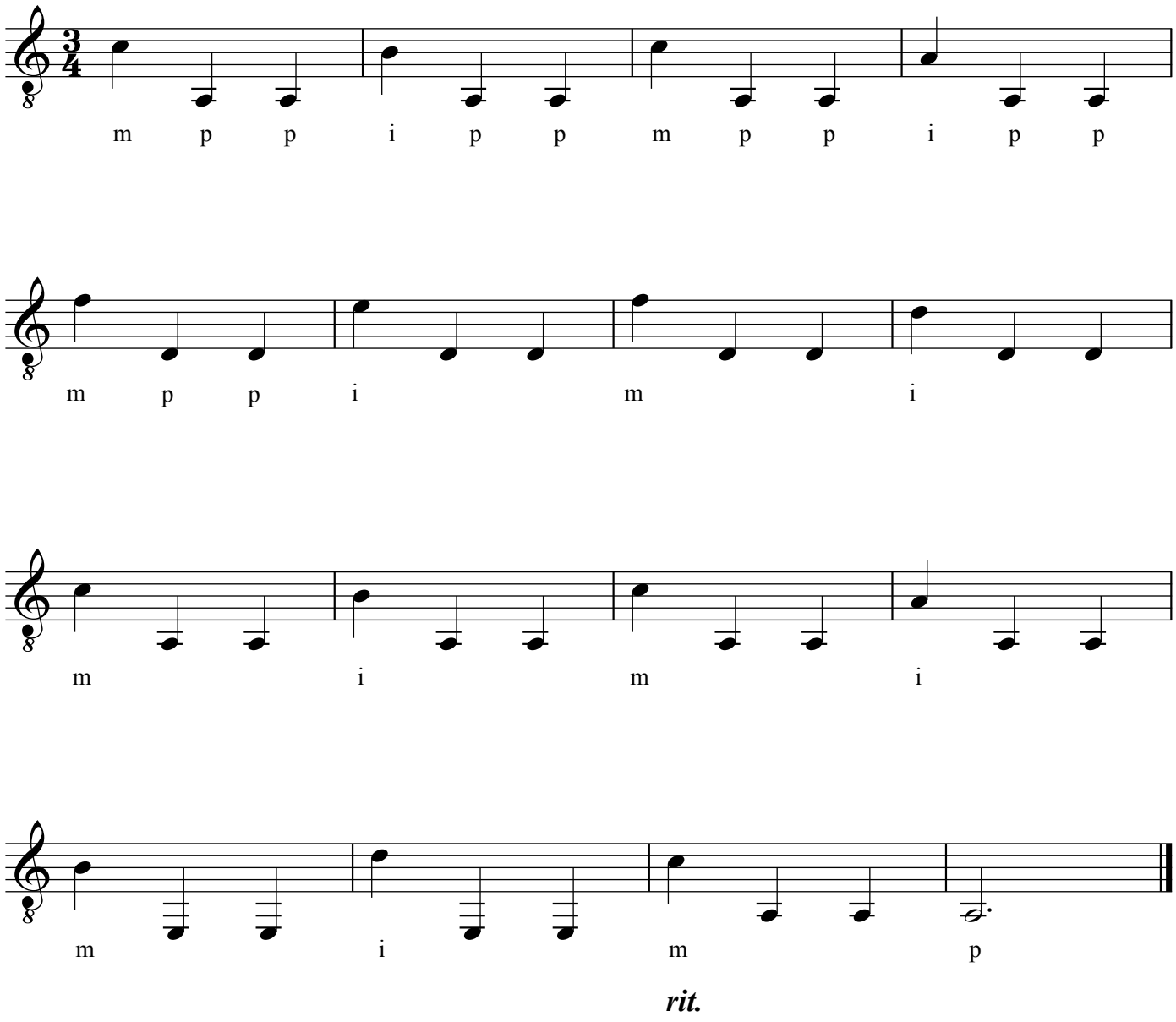
Etude No. 5 - Waltz

This piece combines melody with bass accompaniment.
The melody (top three strings) should be played as the prominent musical voice.
Sustain the melody notes despite their quarter note value (keep fingers down during each bar).



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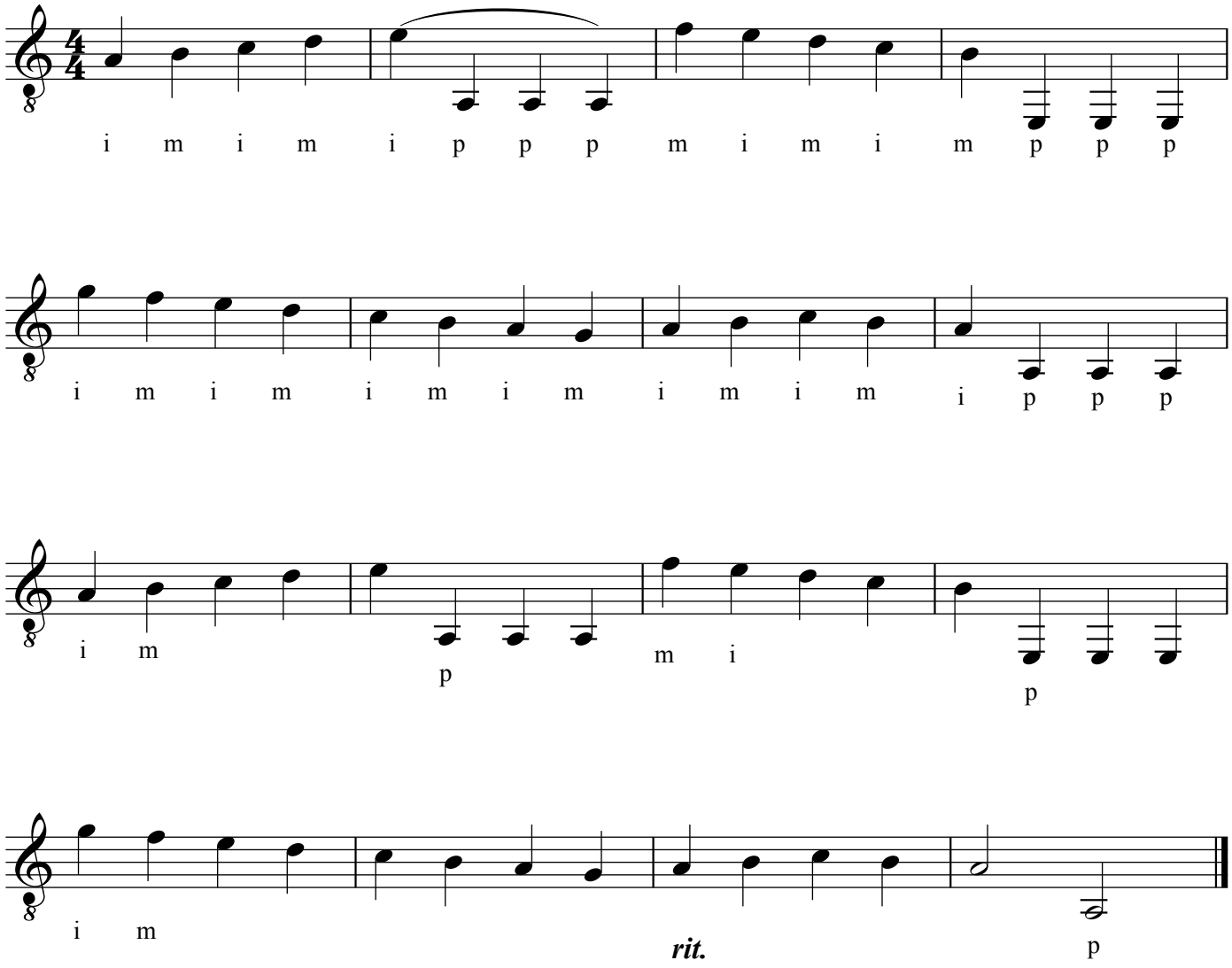
Etude No. 6 - Allegro

As with Etude No. 5, make the melody (higher notes) the prominant voice.
Let the last melody note of each scale run sustain for the entire bar.
I've indicated the sustain in the second bar only.
Allegro indicates a brisk (fast) tempo.



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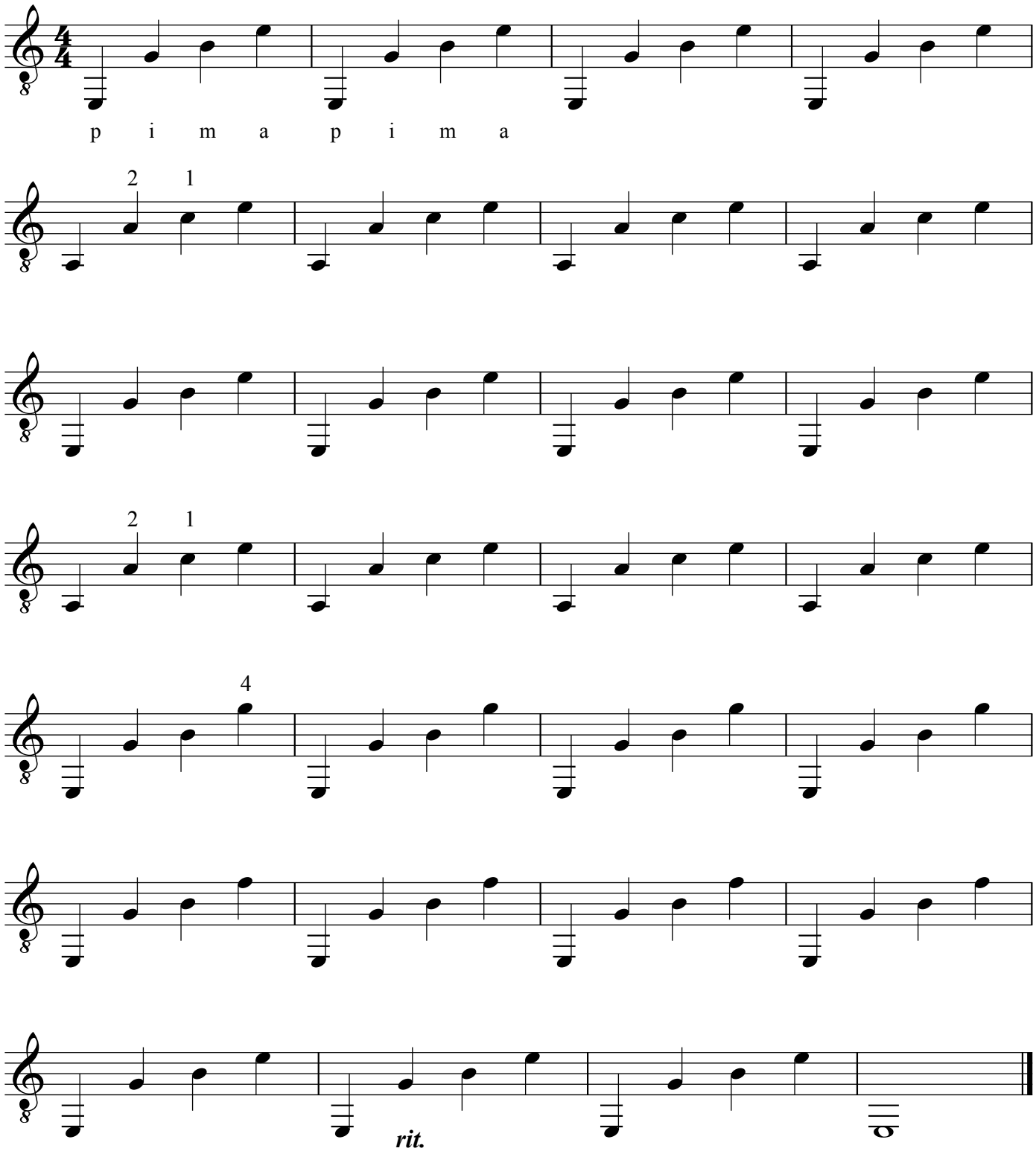
Etude No. 7 - The Lonely Dogwood

This piece introduces the *a* finger during arpeggios.
Hold fingers down and let notes sustain.



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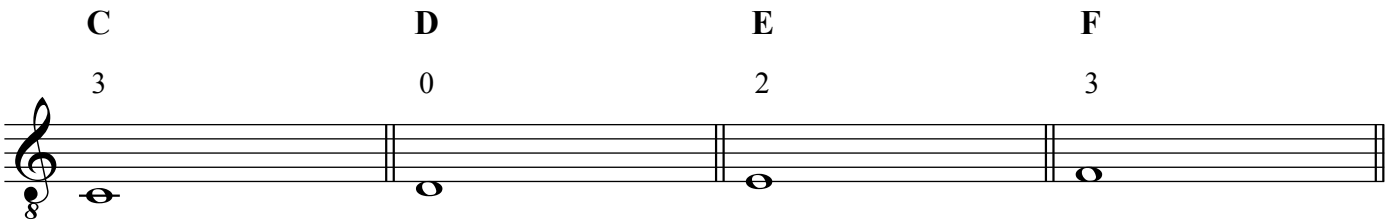
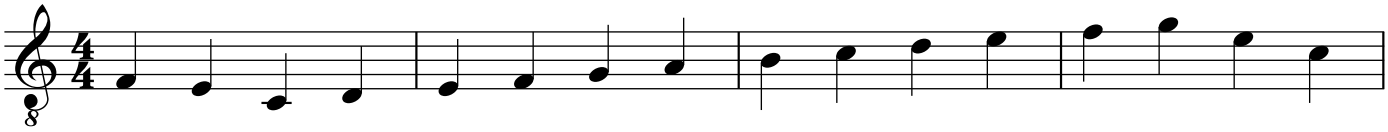
New Notes



C	D	E	F
5th string 3rd fret 3rd finger	4th string open	4th string 2nd fret 2nd finger	4th string 3rd fret 3rd finger

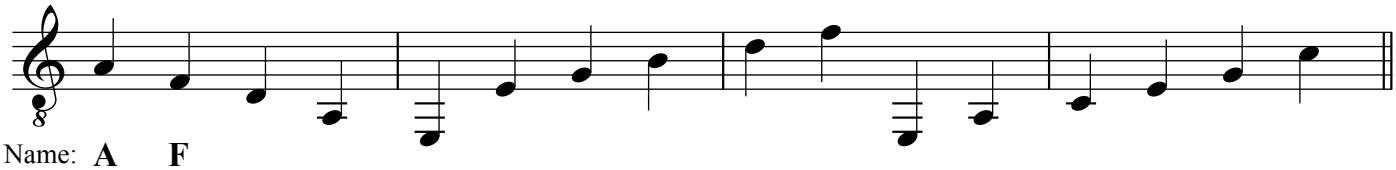
Complete the following note names, frets, and strings



Name: **F E C**

Fret: **3 2 3**

String: **4 4 5**



Name: **A F**

Fret: **2 3**

String: **3 4**

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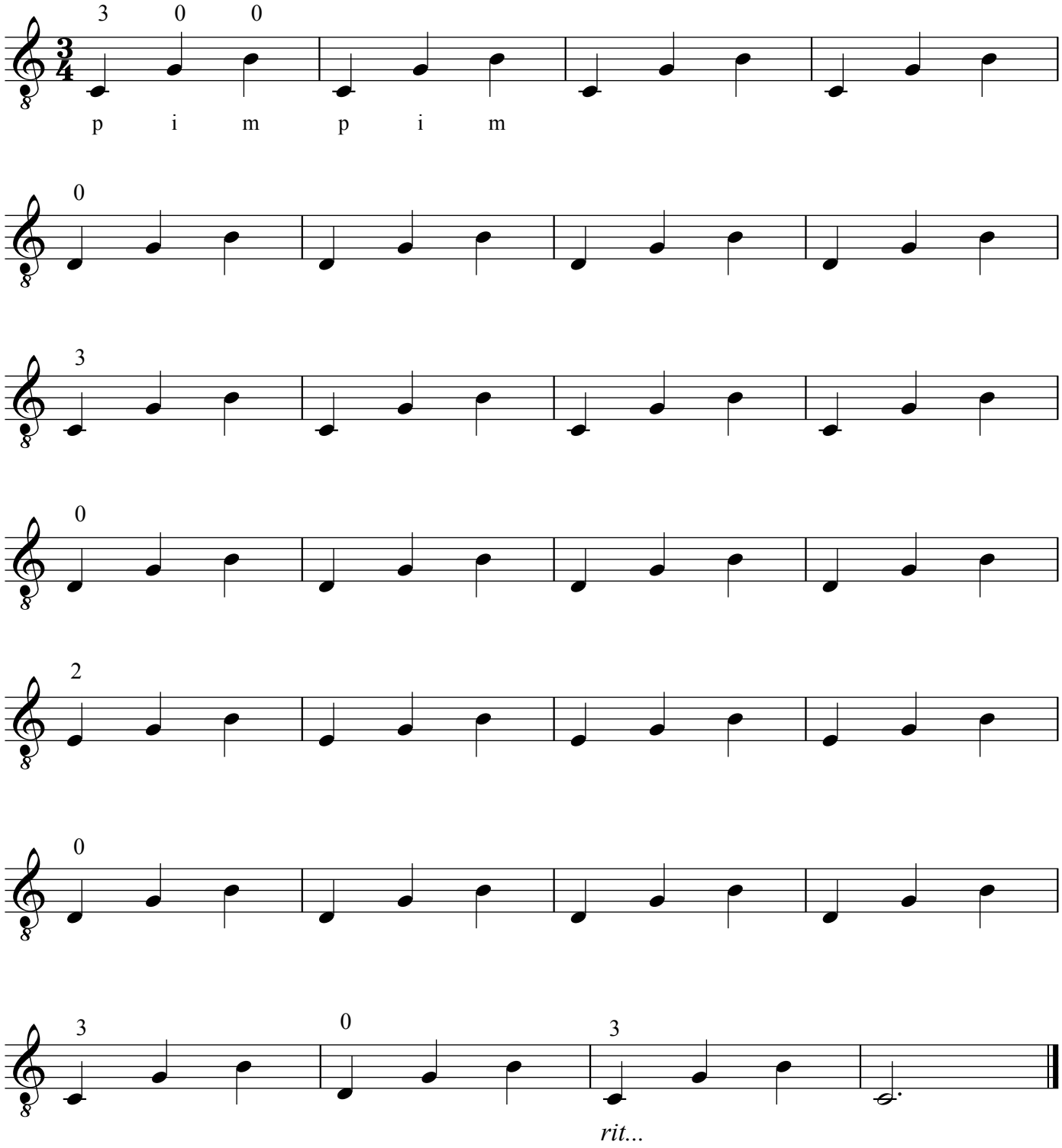
Etude No. 8 - Prelude

Hold fingers down and let notes sustain.



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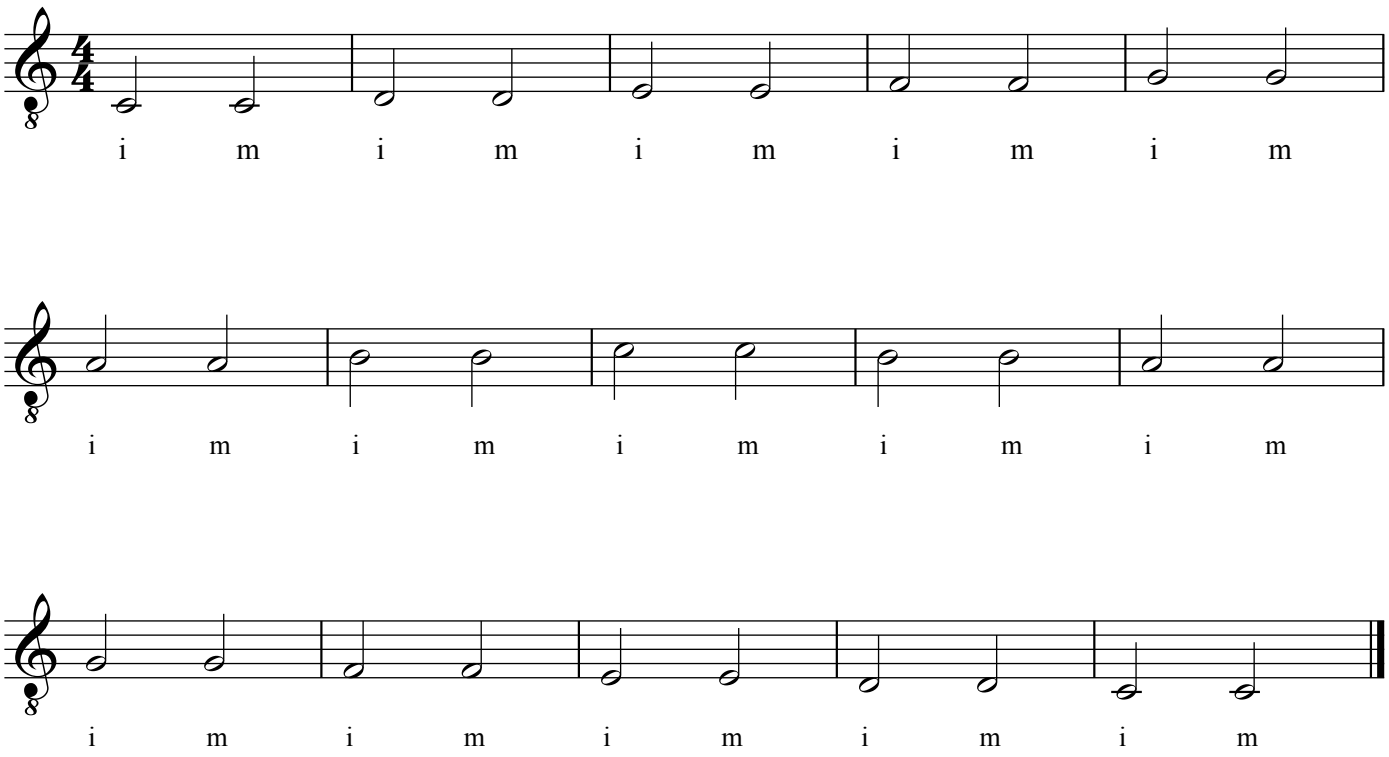
C Major Scale

This is a C major scale with repeated half notes.
You will learn more about major scales in Volume Two.

Rest your thumb on the 6th string.
Use i, m the entire time.
Memorize this scale and warm up with it everyday.



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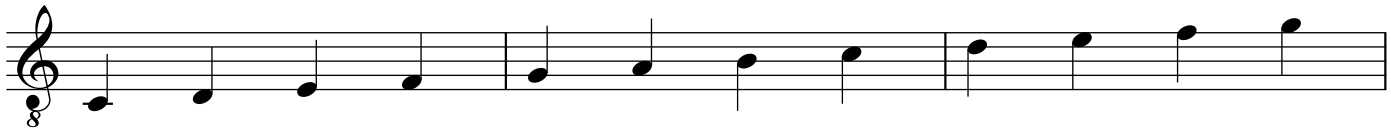
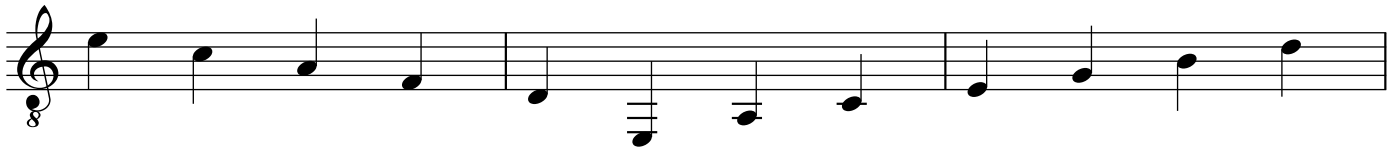
Note Review



Name: **C** **D**

Fret: **3** **0**

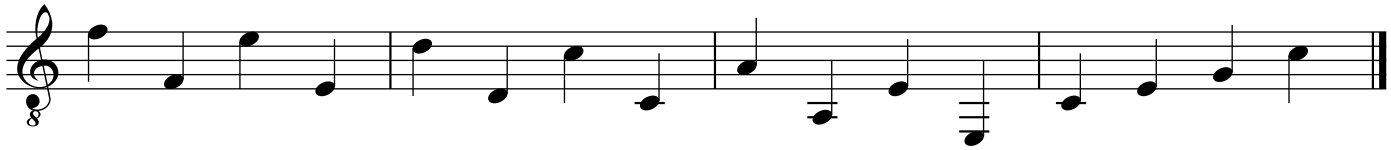
String: **5** **4**



Name:

Fret:

String:



Name:

Fret:

String:

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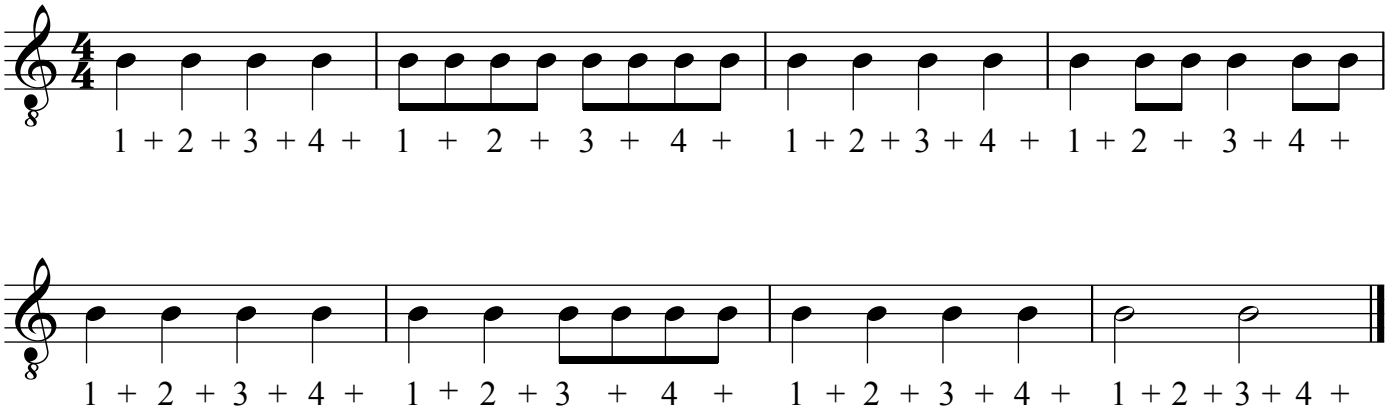
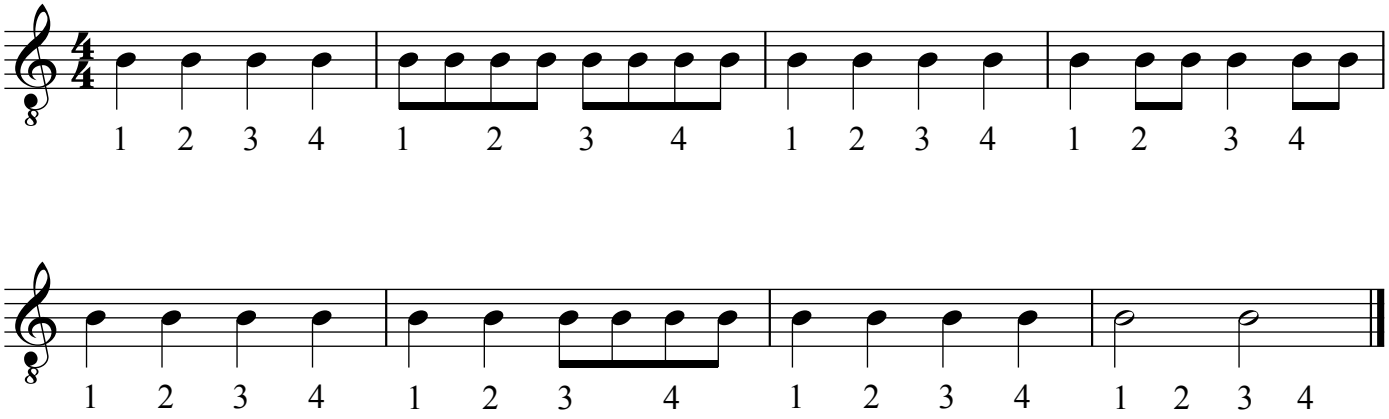
Eighth Notes

Both exercises below contain the same rhythmic pattern but indicate different counting.
Become comfortable with both systems of counting. Count out loud as you play (+ = and).
Notice that eighth notes are connected with *beams*.

Exercise No. 1
Count the written numbers and say "and" for the plus sign.



Exercise No. 2
Only count the written numbers (do not say "and" between the quarter beats).



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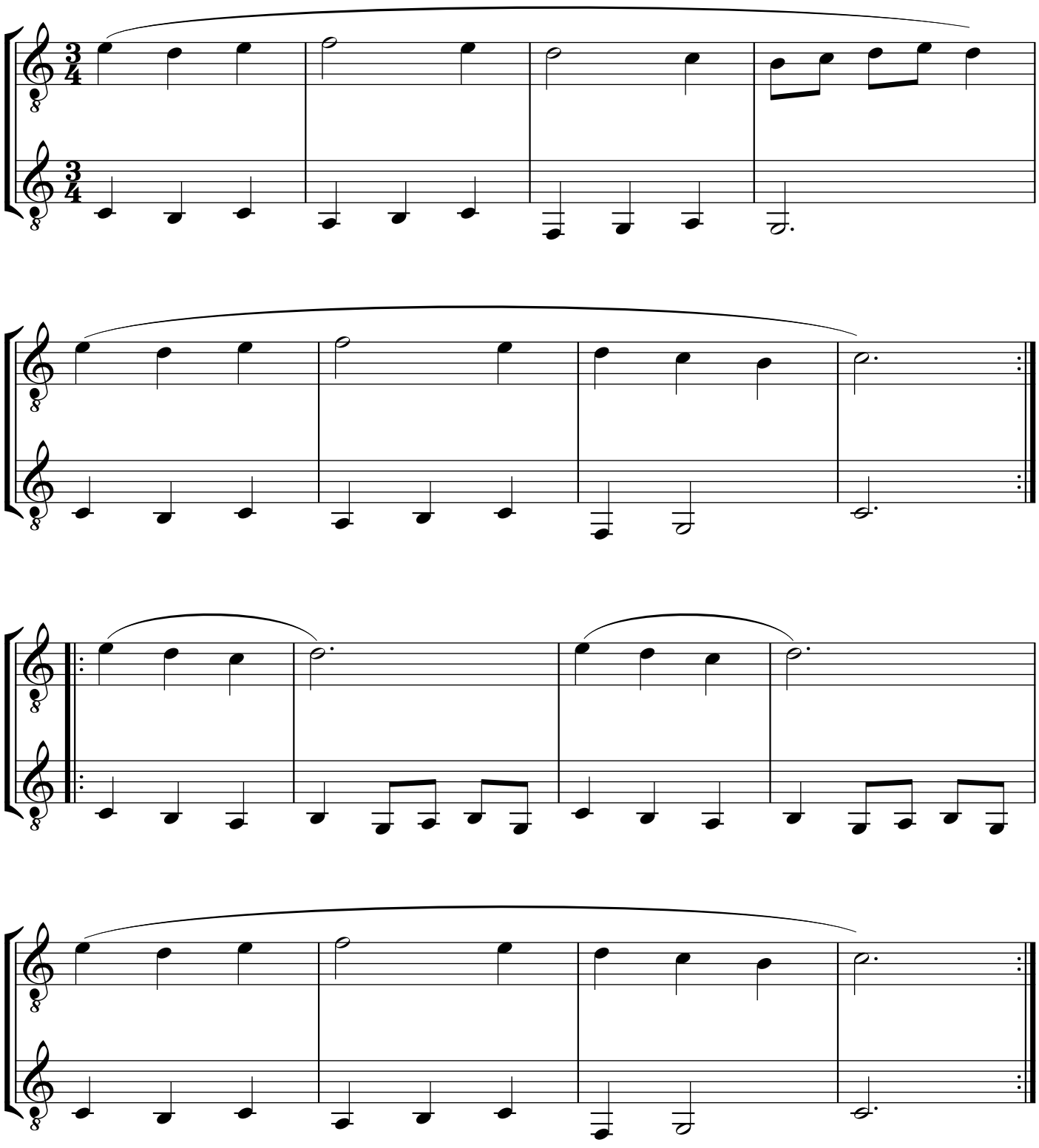
Minuet

James Hook
(1746-1827)

The student plays the top part.



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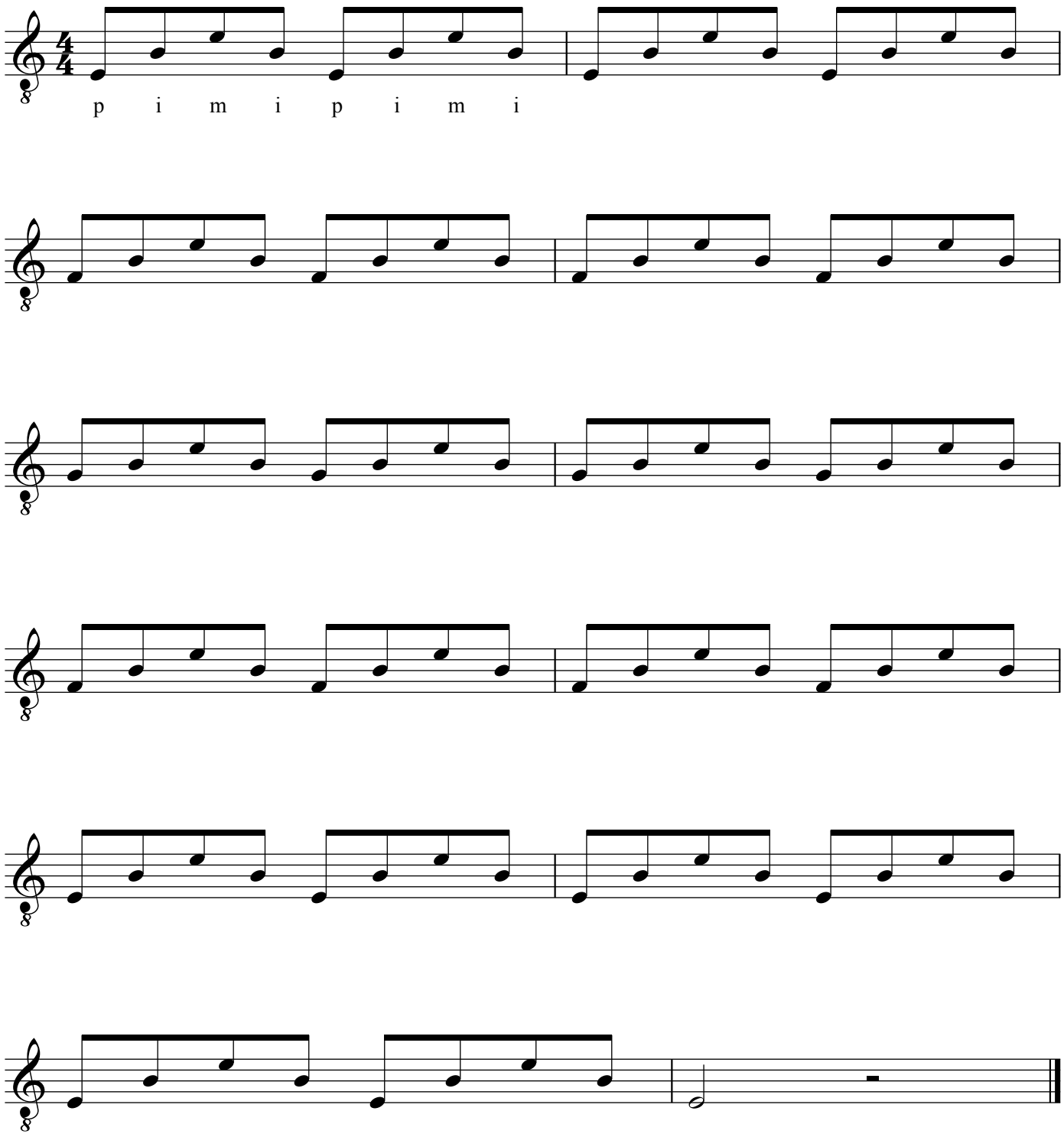
Etude No. 9 - Glass

Let all notes sustain.



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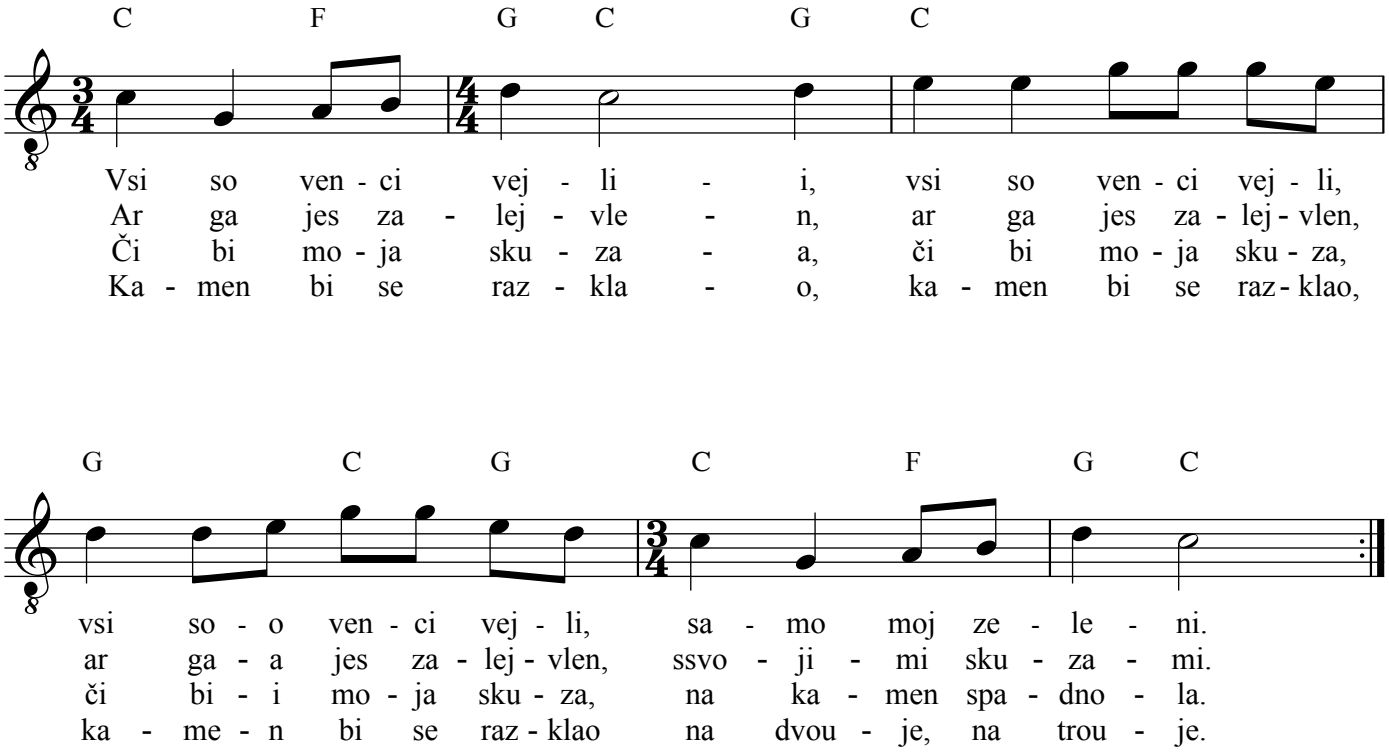
Vsi so venci vejli
(All the Wreaths are White)

Traditional Slovenian
Transcribed by Uroš Barič

Notice the changing time signature and eighth notes.
Thanks to my friend, guitarist Uroš Barič for sending me this beautiful song.
Uroš runs some fantastic wesbites and has a record label: urosbaric.com
Play this song slowly and legato aiming for the first beat of each bar.
I suggest the teacher join in with chord accompaniment on the repeat.



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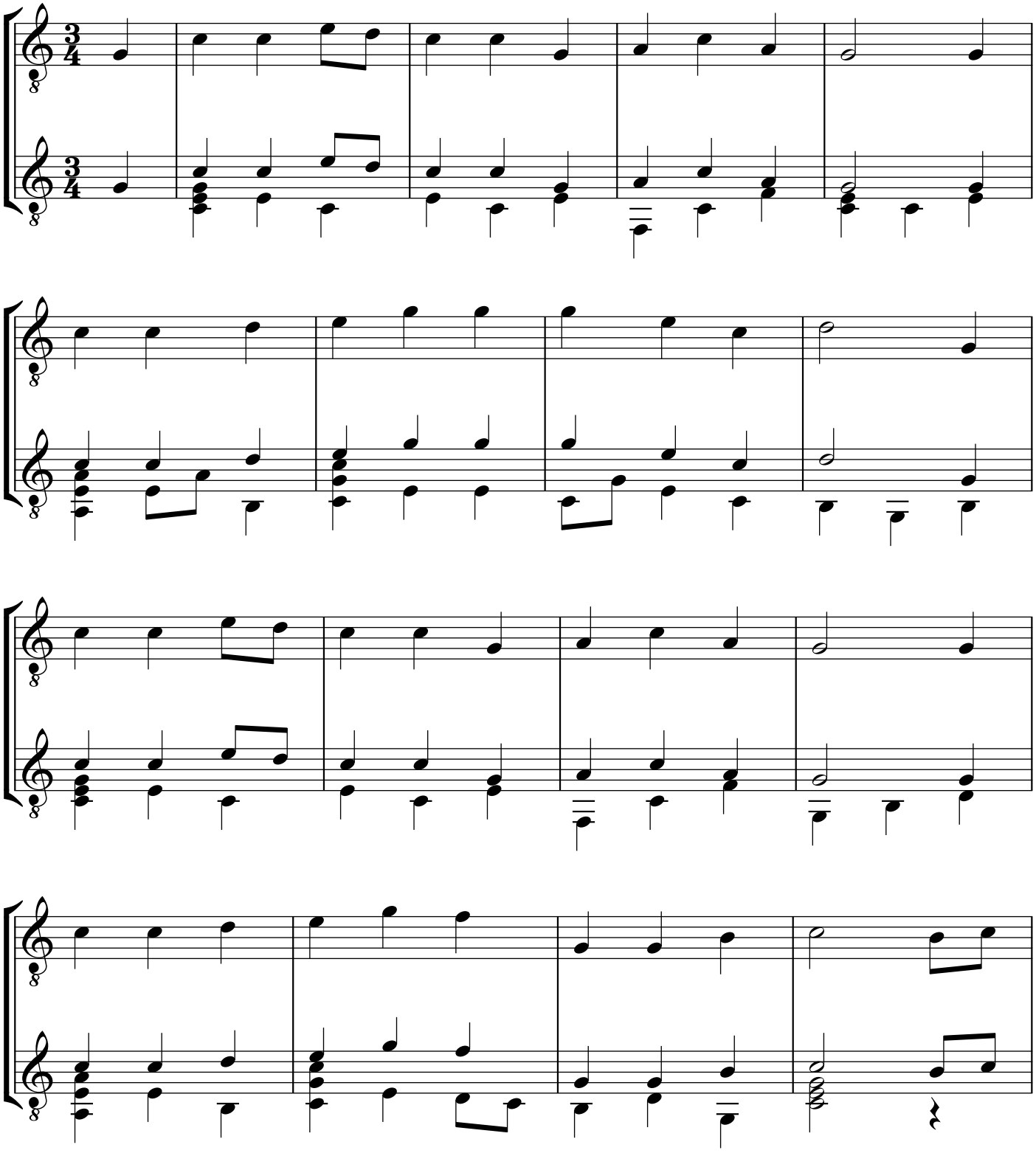
Flow Gently, Sweet Afton

Scottish
Folk Song

The student plays the top part. The melody is in both parts so phrase together.



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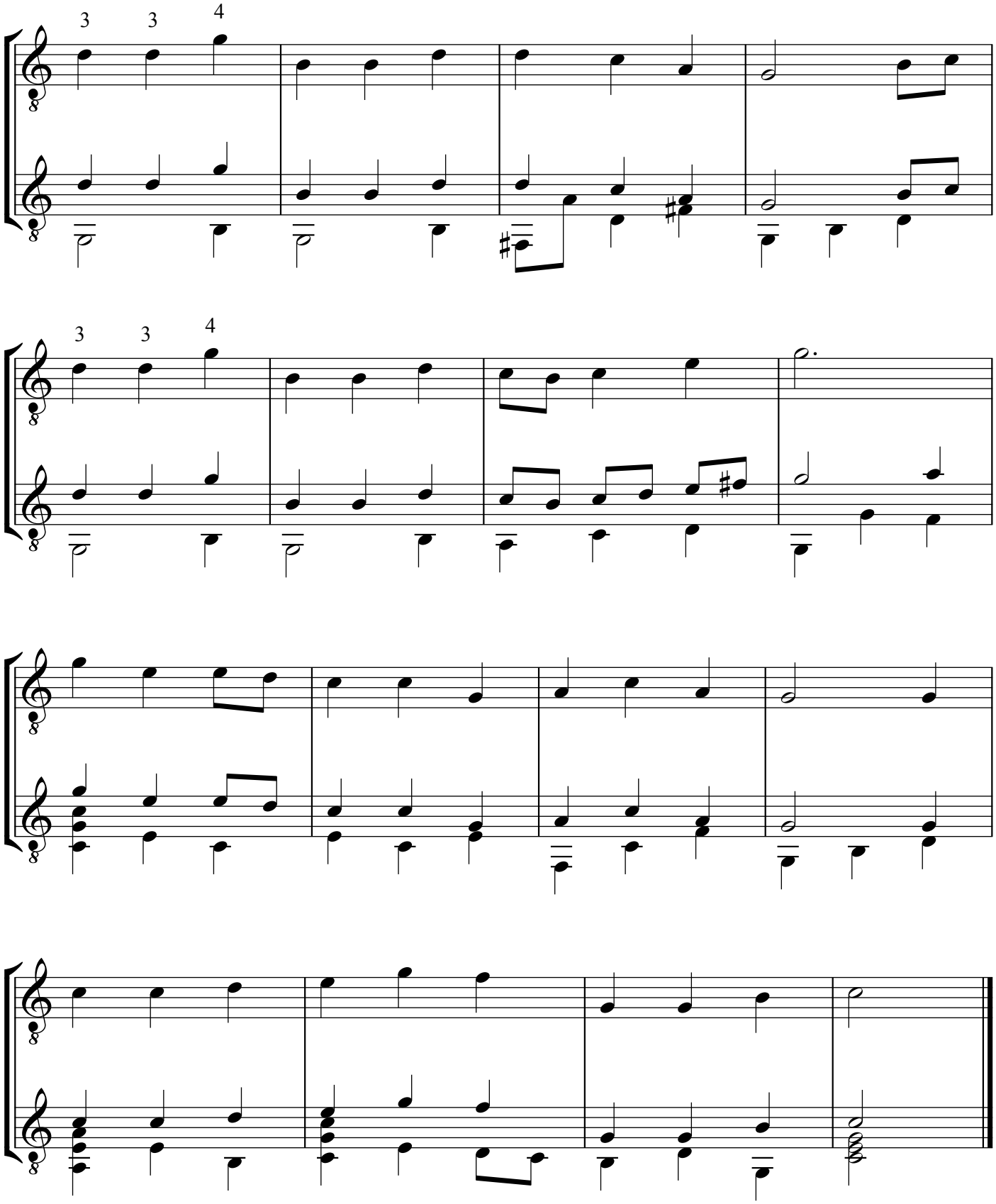

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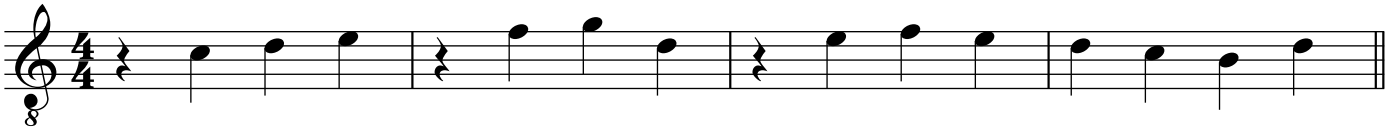
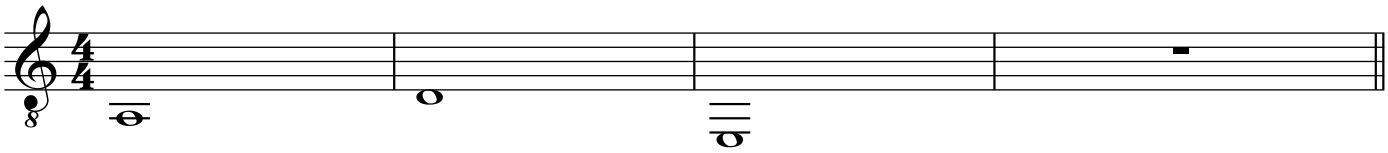
Two Voice Textures

Multiple musical lines can be written and played simultaneously.
When two voices are written, each voice accounts for all the beats in the bar.
This allows composers to write out exactly how long each note should sustain.
Let's first look at the voices separately and then combine them into one staff.

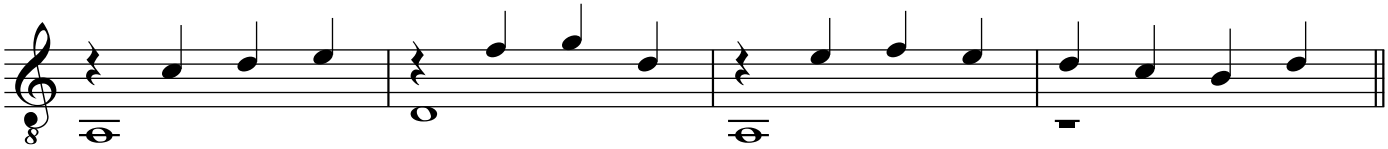
Voice One (upper)



Voice Two (lower)



Both voices on the same staff (two-part texture)
Notice the rests in each voice account for all beats in the bar.



Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

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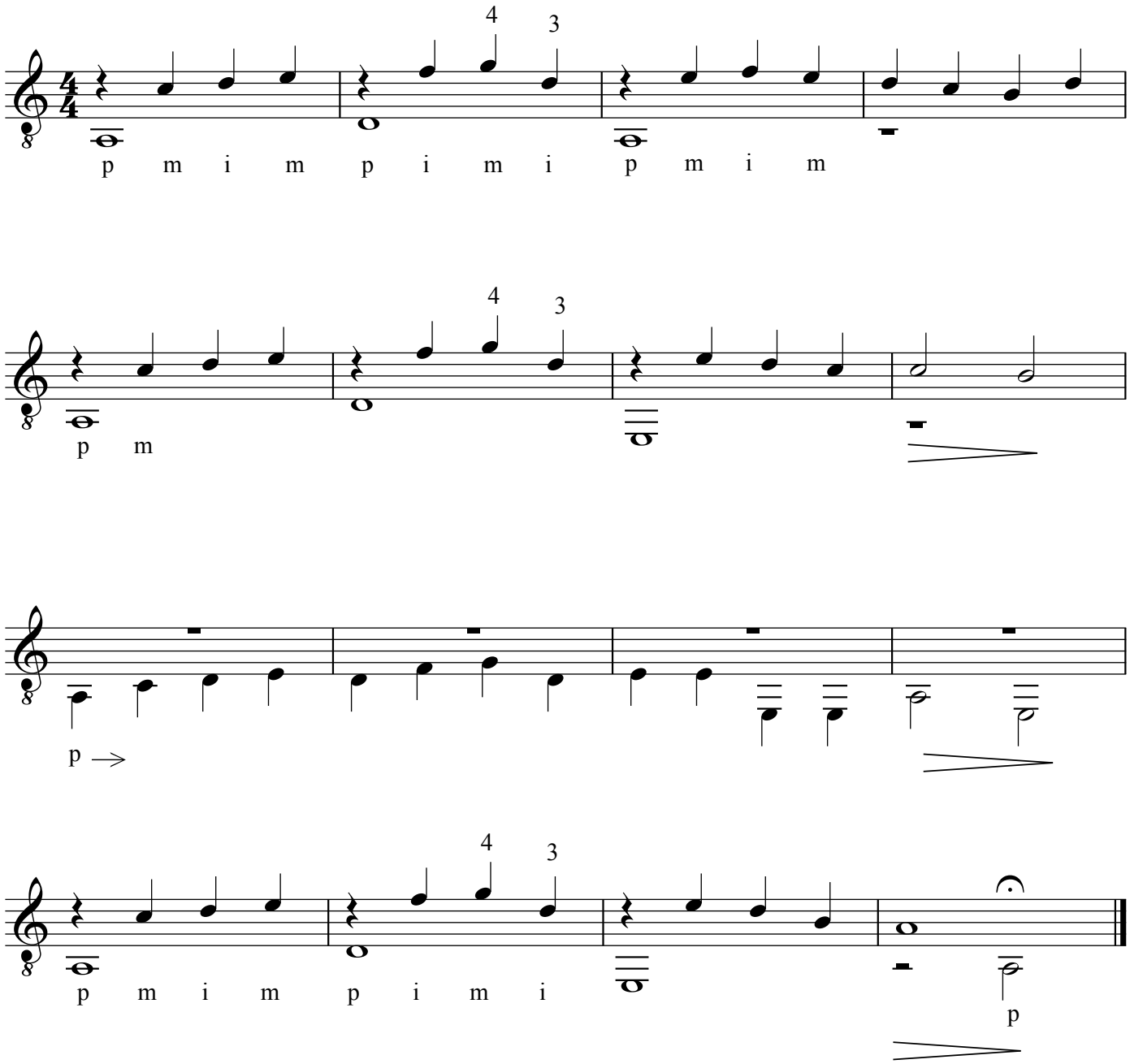
Etude No. 10 - The Swan

Different stem directions help keep the voices separate.
Notice the special fingering needed to play legato from G to D.



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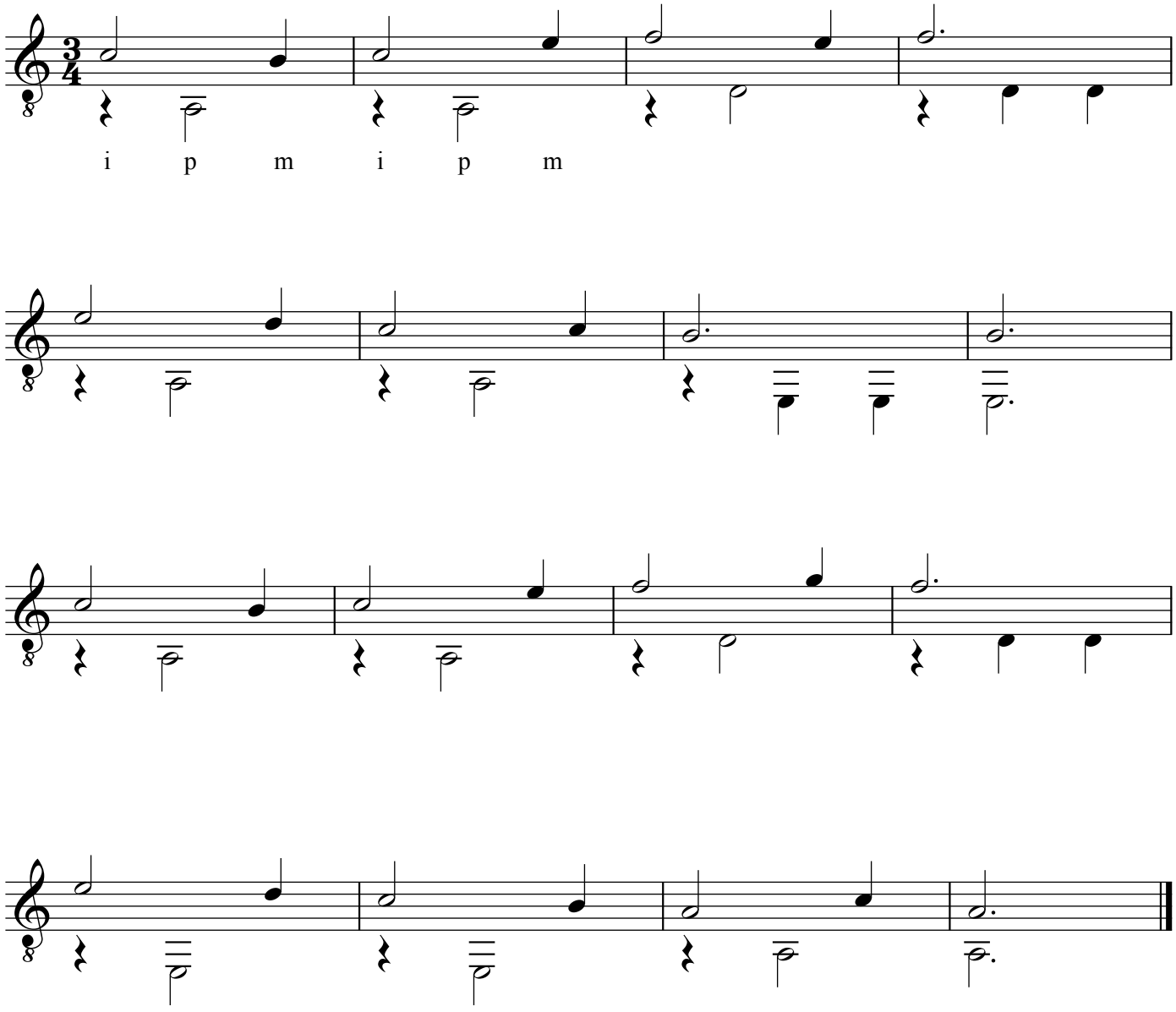
Lessons, Sheet Music & TAB (free & sales): thisisclassicalguitar.com

Etude No. 11 - The Old Douglas Fir

Play the melody (stems up) on its own a few times before including the bass notes.
Notice how two notes from separate voices are played at the same time in bar 8 and bar 16.



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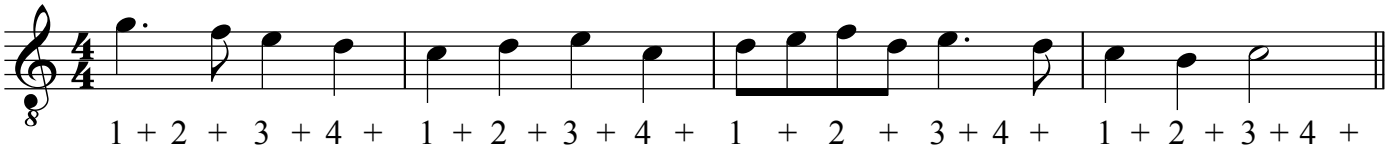
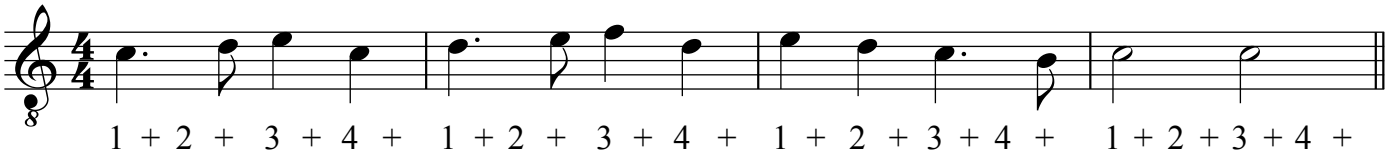
Dotted Quarter Notes

A dot after a note adds half of its value to its length.
A dotted quarter note equals one and a half beats.

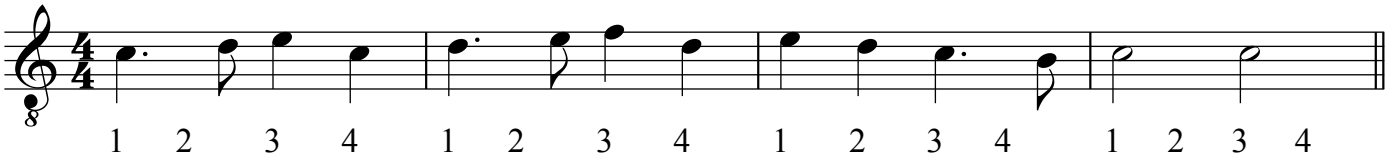
Example: Deck the Halls



Count out loud as written (say the "and")



Count out loud as written (do <u>not</u> say "and" this time)



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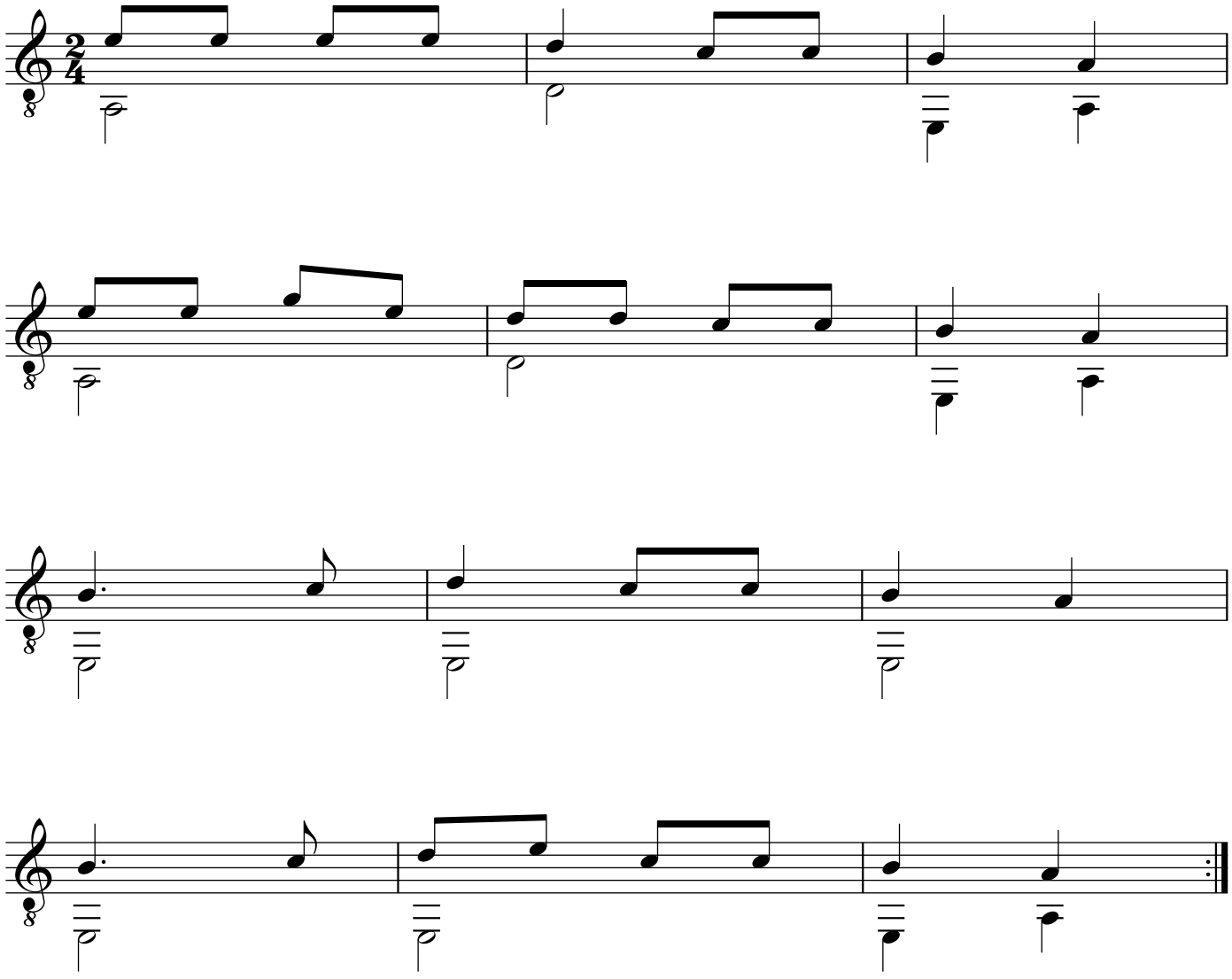
Во поле березка стояла

Russian Folk Song

(Little Birch Tree in the Field)

Notice the time signature for this piece has only two beats per bar.
Thanks to my friend, guitarist Natasha Pashchenko, for suggesting this one!



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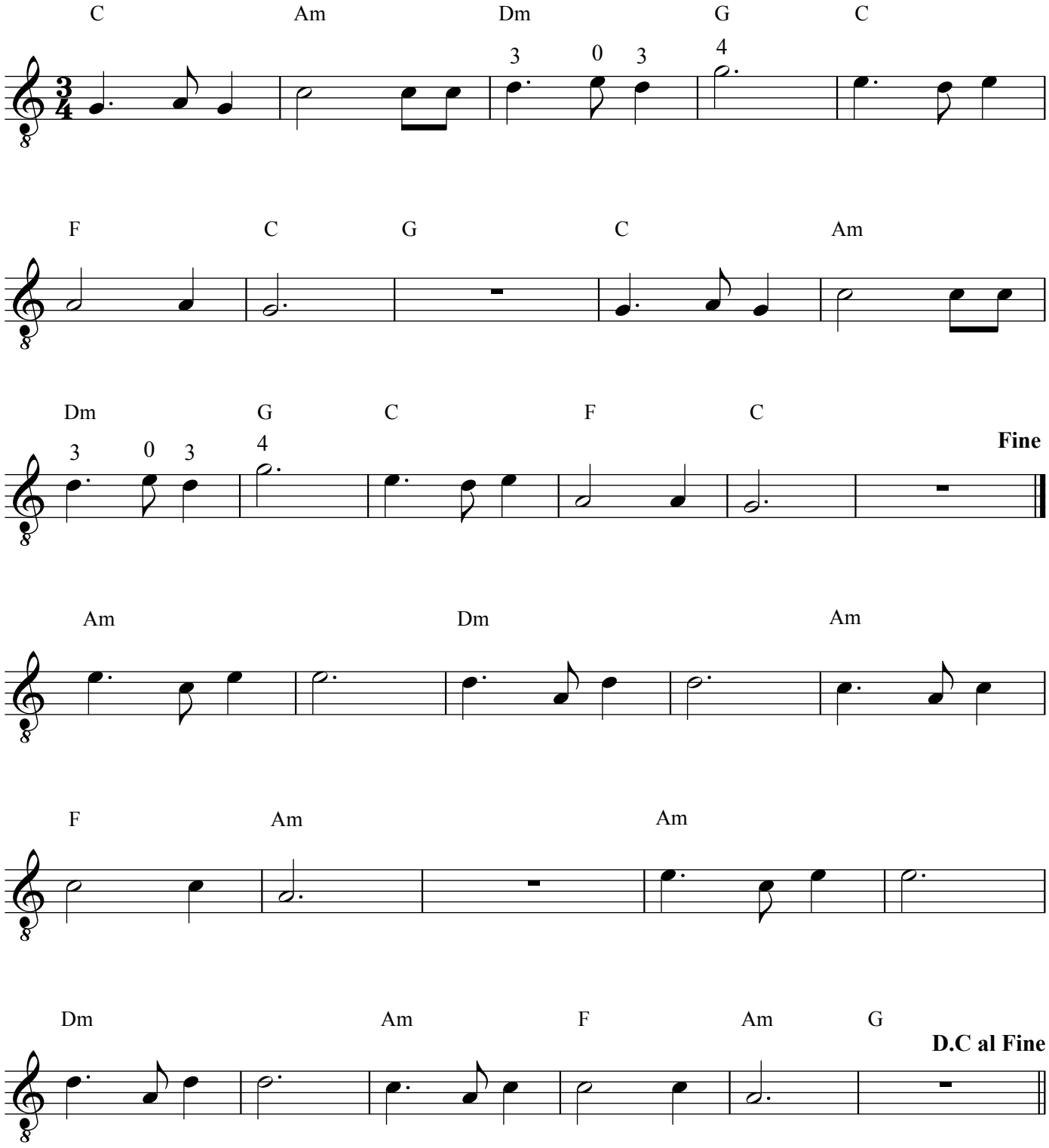
The Skye Boat Song

Scottish Folk Song

The student plays the melody. The teacher accompanies with chords.
D.C. al Fine - Return to beginning and play to the *Fine*.



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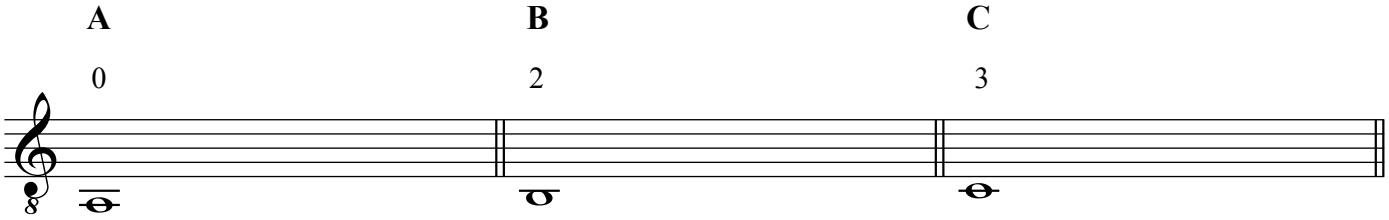
Fifth String Notes

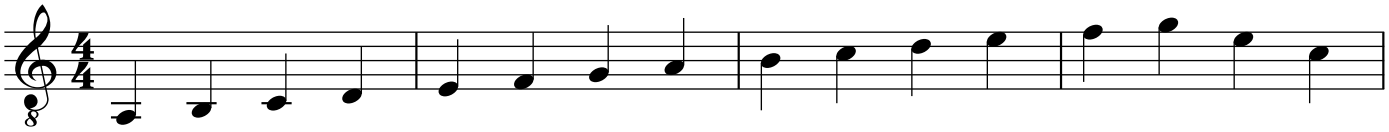


5th string
open

5th string
2nd fret
2nd finger

5th string
3rd fret
3rd finger

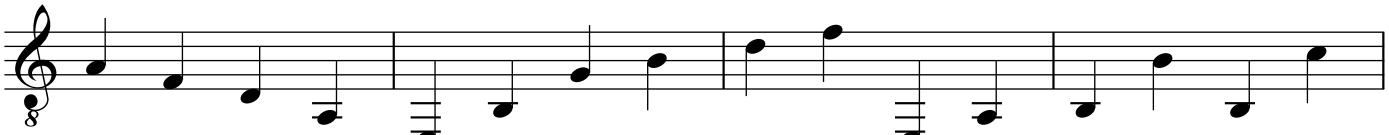
Name the following notes



Name: **A B C**

Fret: **0 2 3**

String: **5 5 5**



Name: **A F**

Fret: **2 3**

String: **3 4**

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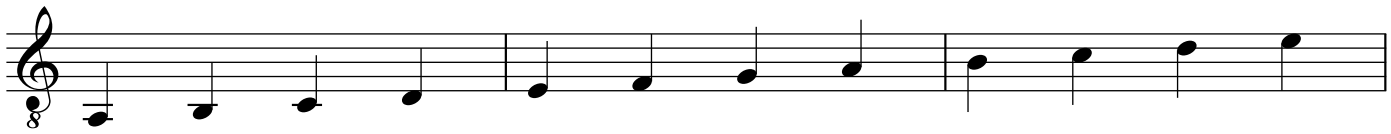
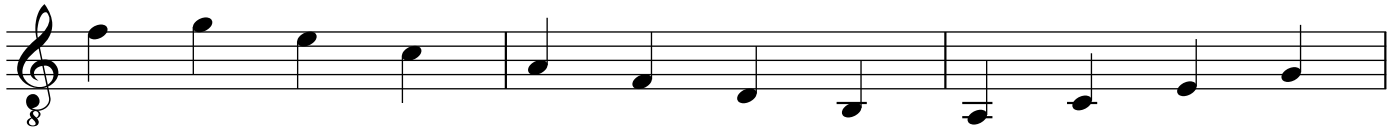
Note Review



Name: **A** **B**

Fret: **0** **2**

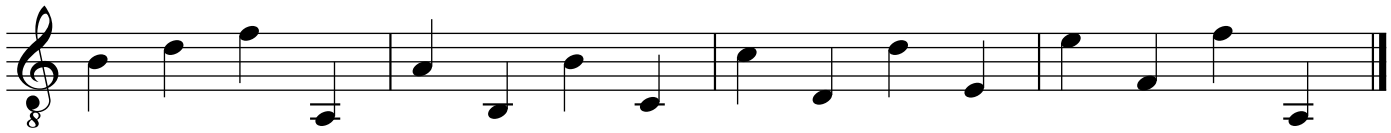
String: **5** **5**



Name:

Fret:

String:



Name:

Fret:

String:

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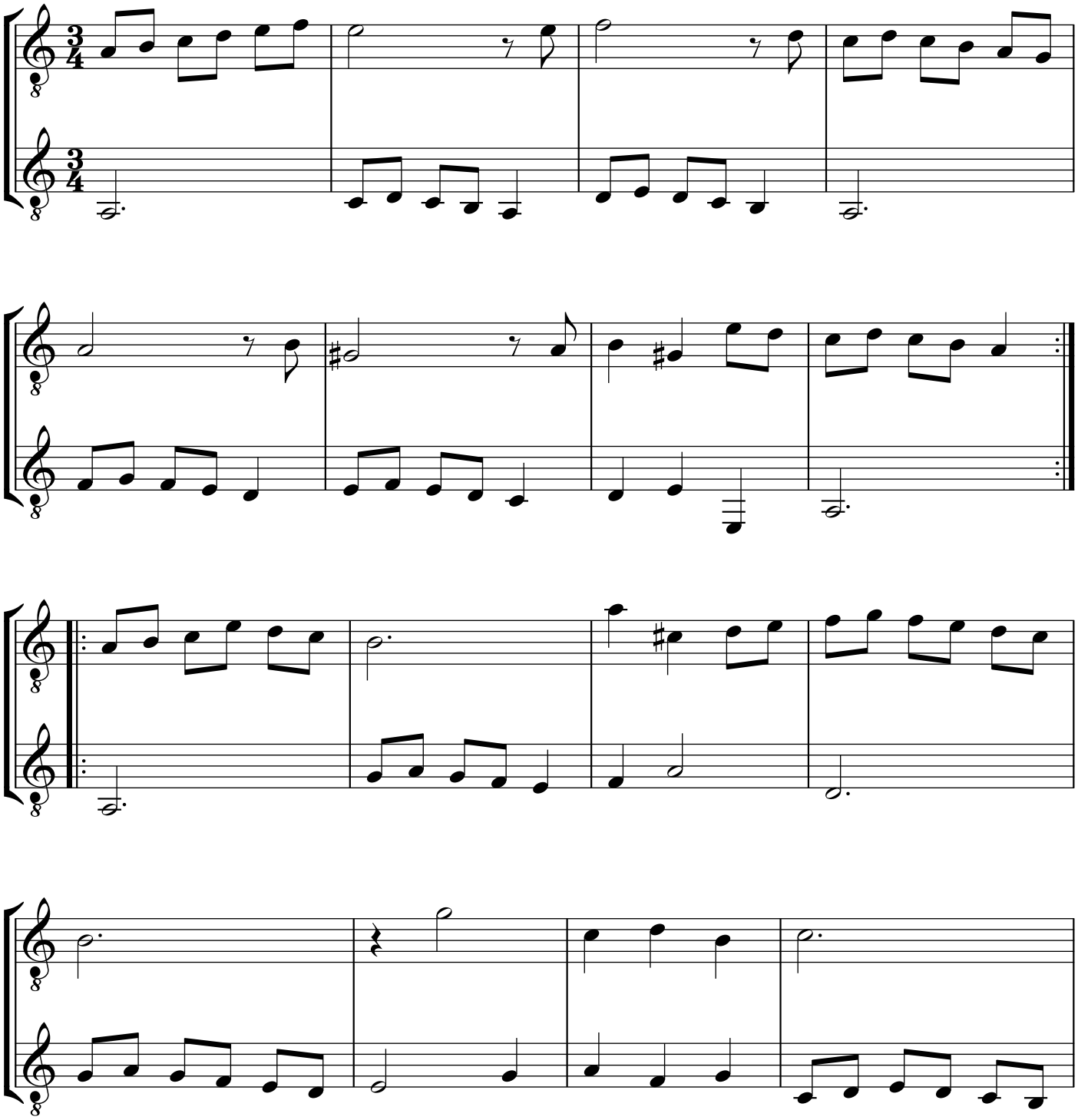
Capriccio

Johann Anton Logy
(1650-1721)

The student plays the **bottom** part using *p* throughout.



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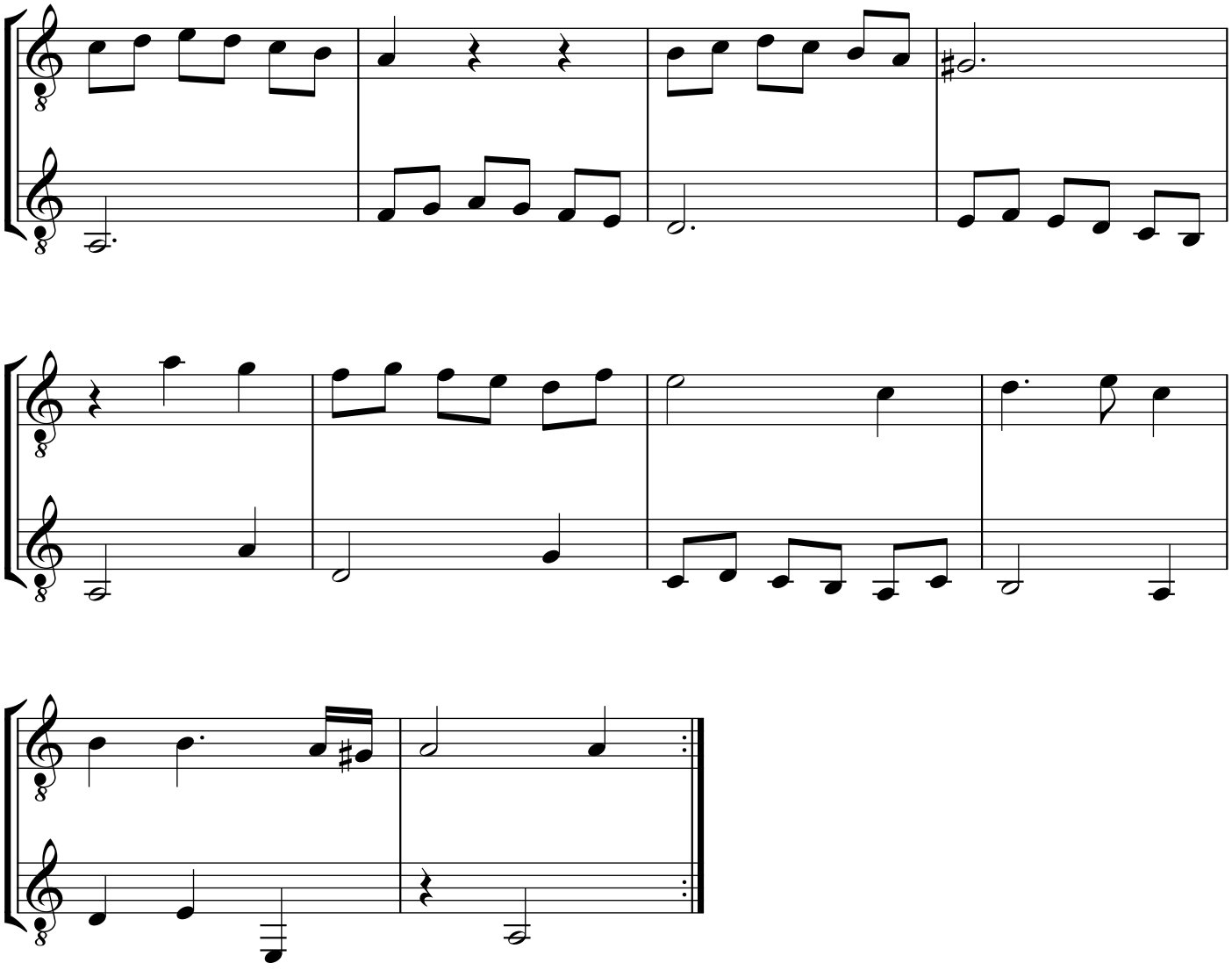

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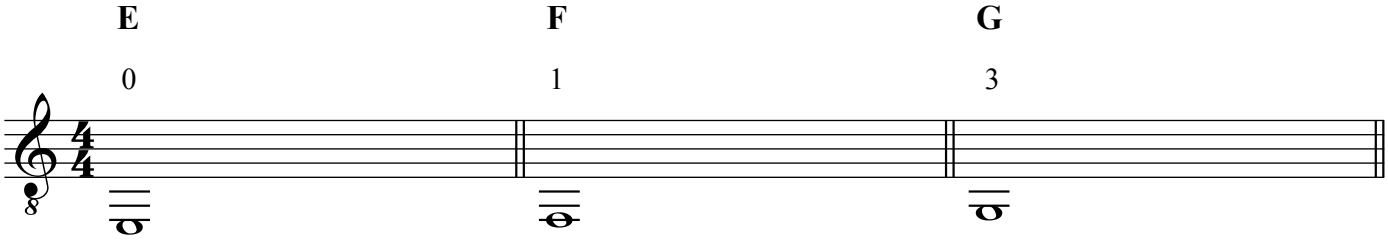
Sixth String Notes

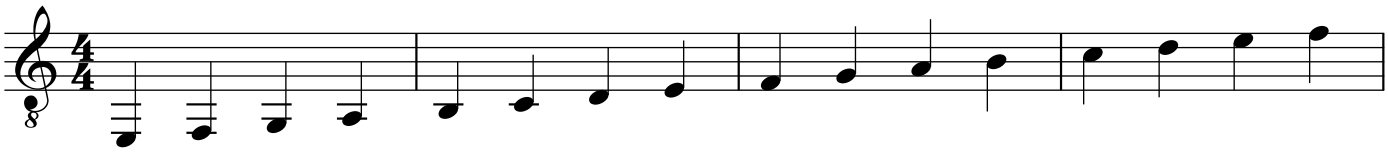


6th string
1st fret
1st finger

6th string
1st fret
1st finger

6th string
3rd fret
3rd finger

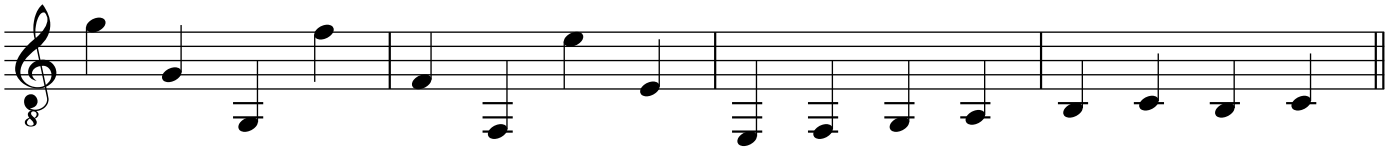
Name the following notes



Name: **E F G**

Fret: **0 1 3**

String: **6 6 6**



Name: **G G G**

Fret: **3 0 3**

String: **1 3 6**

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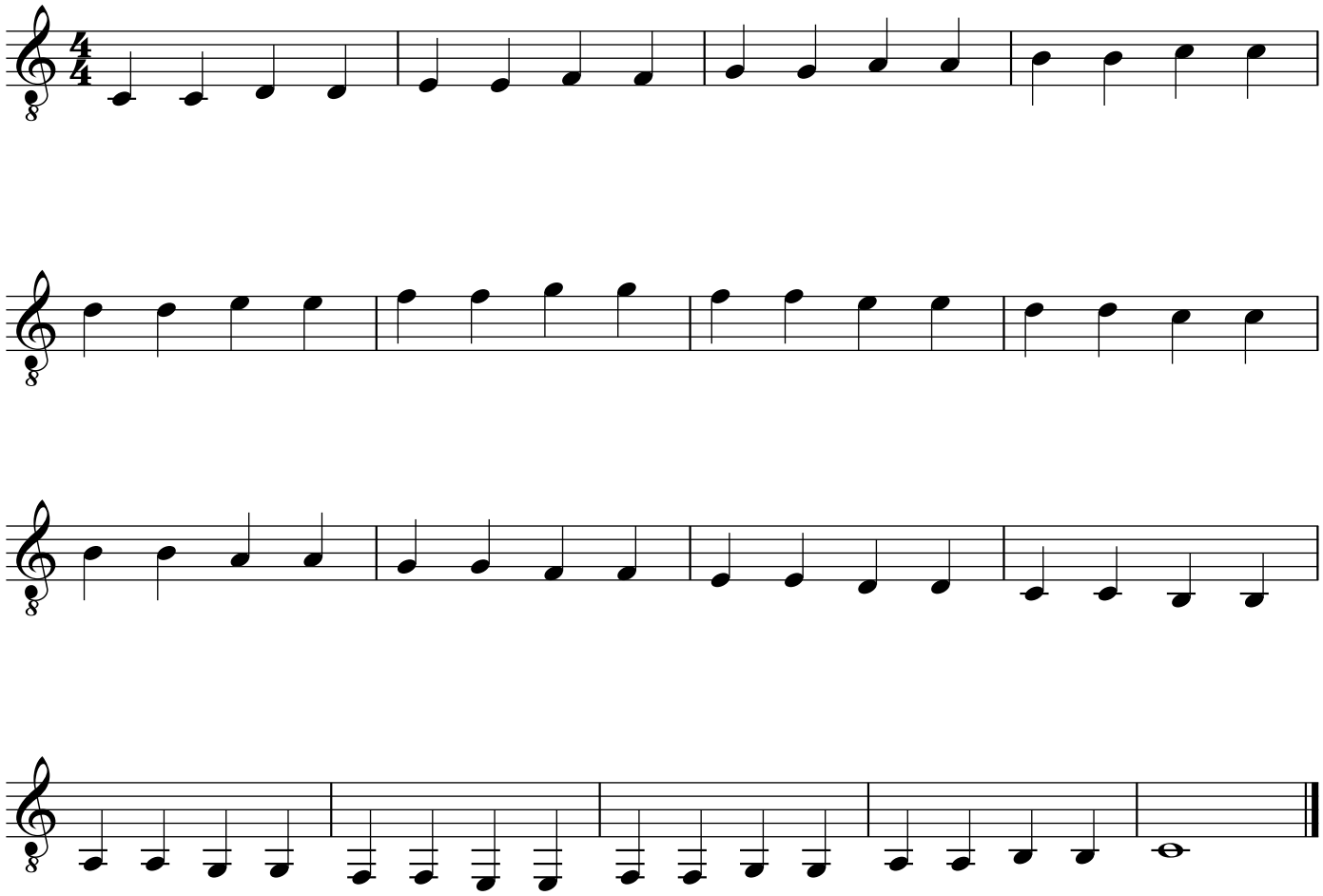
Note Review

Say the note names out loud as you play.
Use i, m fingering on the top five strings and thumb for the 6th string.
When playing with i, m, rest your thumb on the 6th string.



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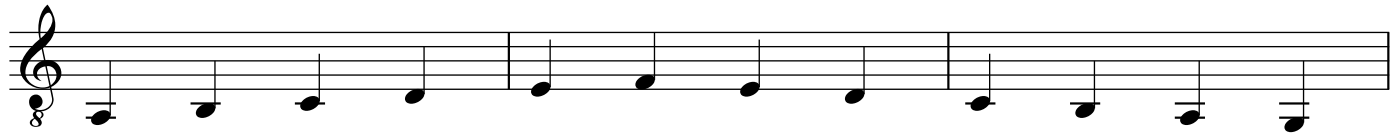
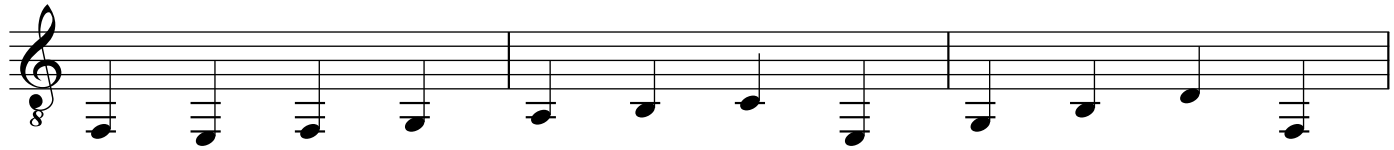
Note Naming



Name: **A** **B**

Fret: **0** **2**

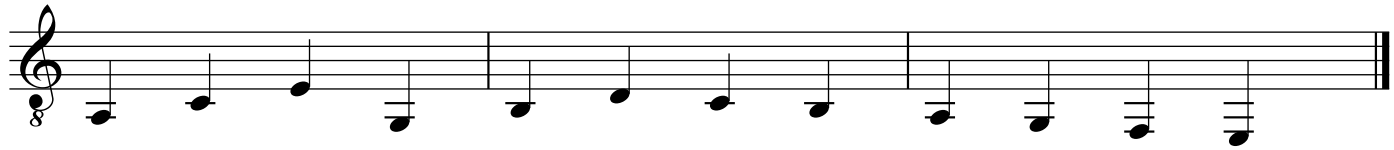
String: **5** **5**



Name:

Fret:

String:



Name:

Fret:

String:

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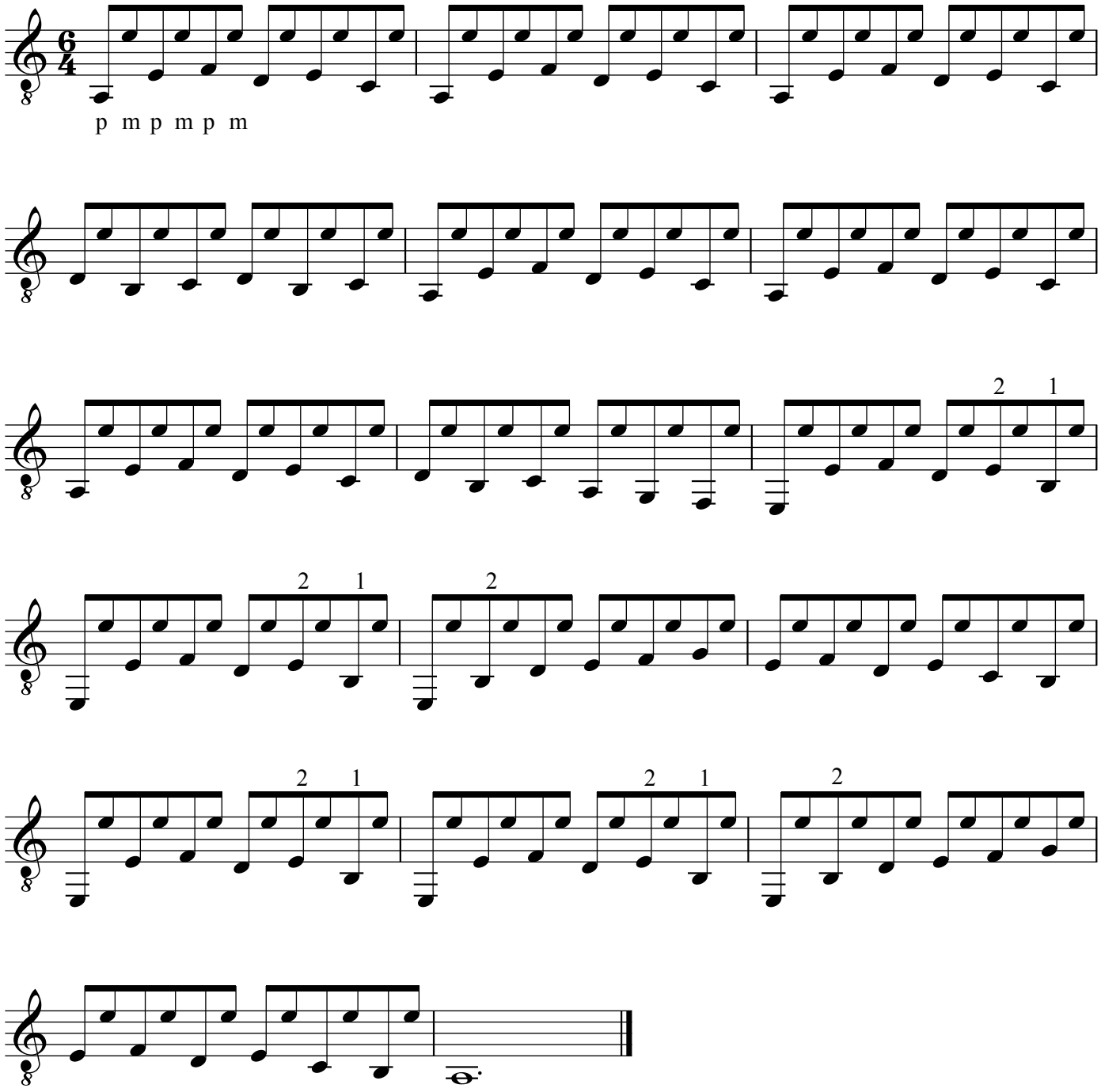
Leyenda Theme

Isaac Albeniz
(1860-1909)

This piece is notated in one voice for simplicity. Let all notes sustain.
Notice the special fingering to play from E to B legato on the 4th and 5th string.
The time signature has 6 quarter notes beats for each bar with the strongest beats on 1 and 4.



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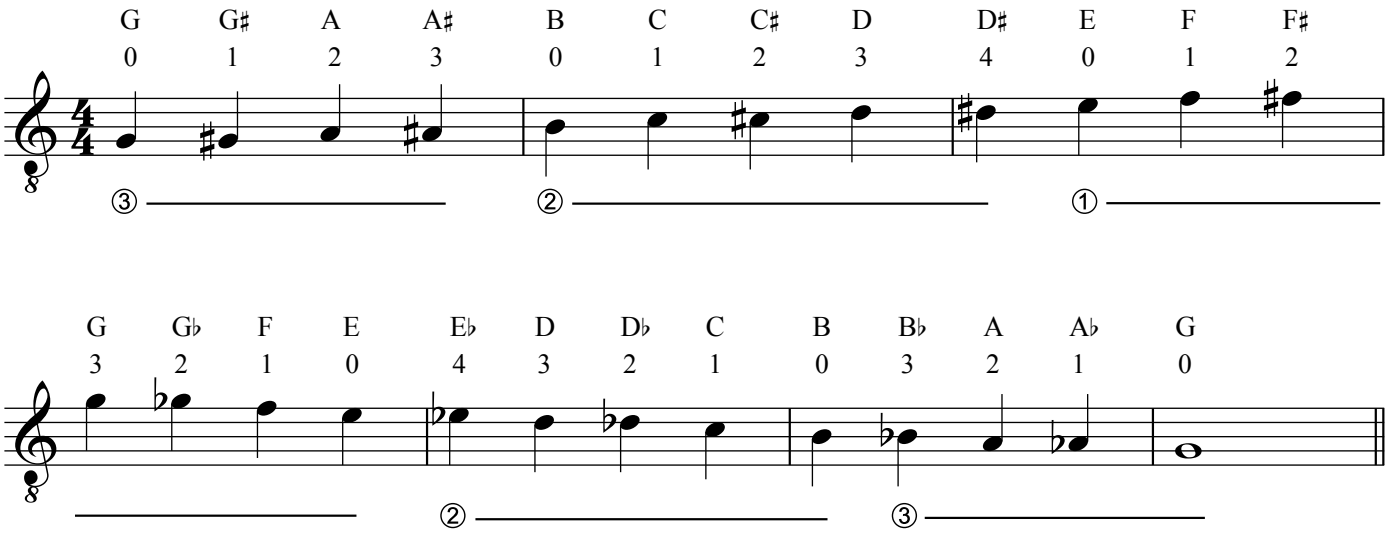
Accidentals

♯ **Sharps** raise the pitch by a half-step (up one fret).

♭ **Flats** lower the pitch by a half-step (down one fret).

♮ **Naturals** return the note to its regular pitch.

G Chromatic Scale
In the below scale each new string is marked with a string number with a circle around it.
The fingering matches the fret number for this scale so use your third finger on D and G.
When flats are used on open string notes the flat note must be found on an adjacent string.



The Musical Alphabet
There are 12 notes in the traditional musical alphabet. Some notes have two different names but share the same pitch (sound), these are called *enharmonic notes* (indicted with slash marks).

Musical Alphabet:	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A
With Sharps:	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
With Flats:	A	B*b*	B	C	D*b*	D	E*b*	E	F	G*b*	G	A*b*	A

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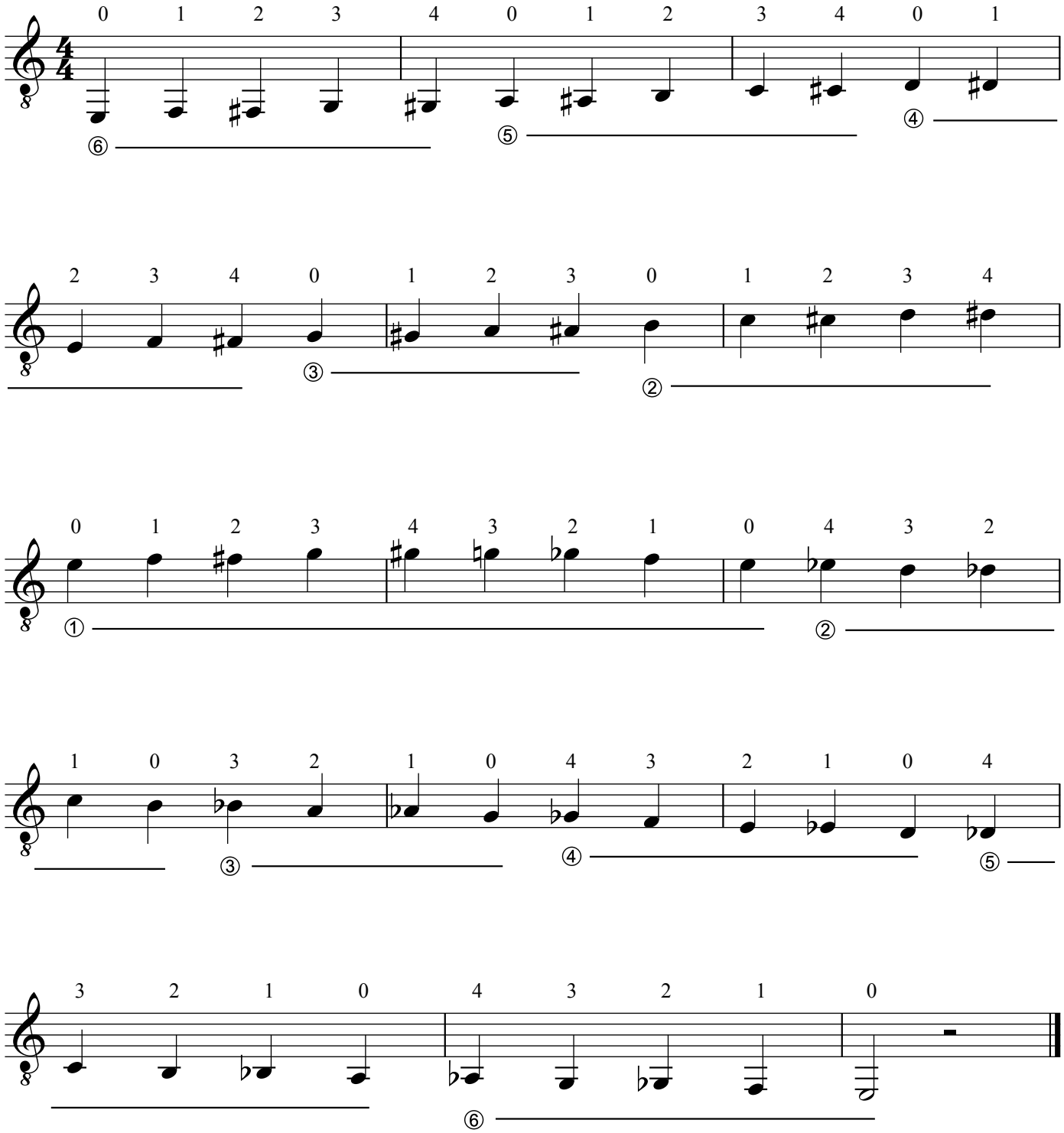
E Chromatic Scale

This E chromatic scale goes up to the highest note in first postion.
Say the note names out loud as you play.



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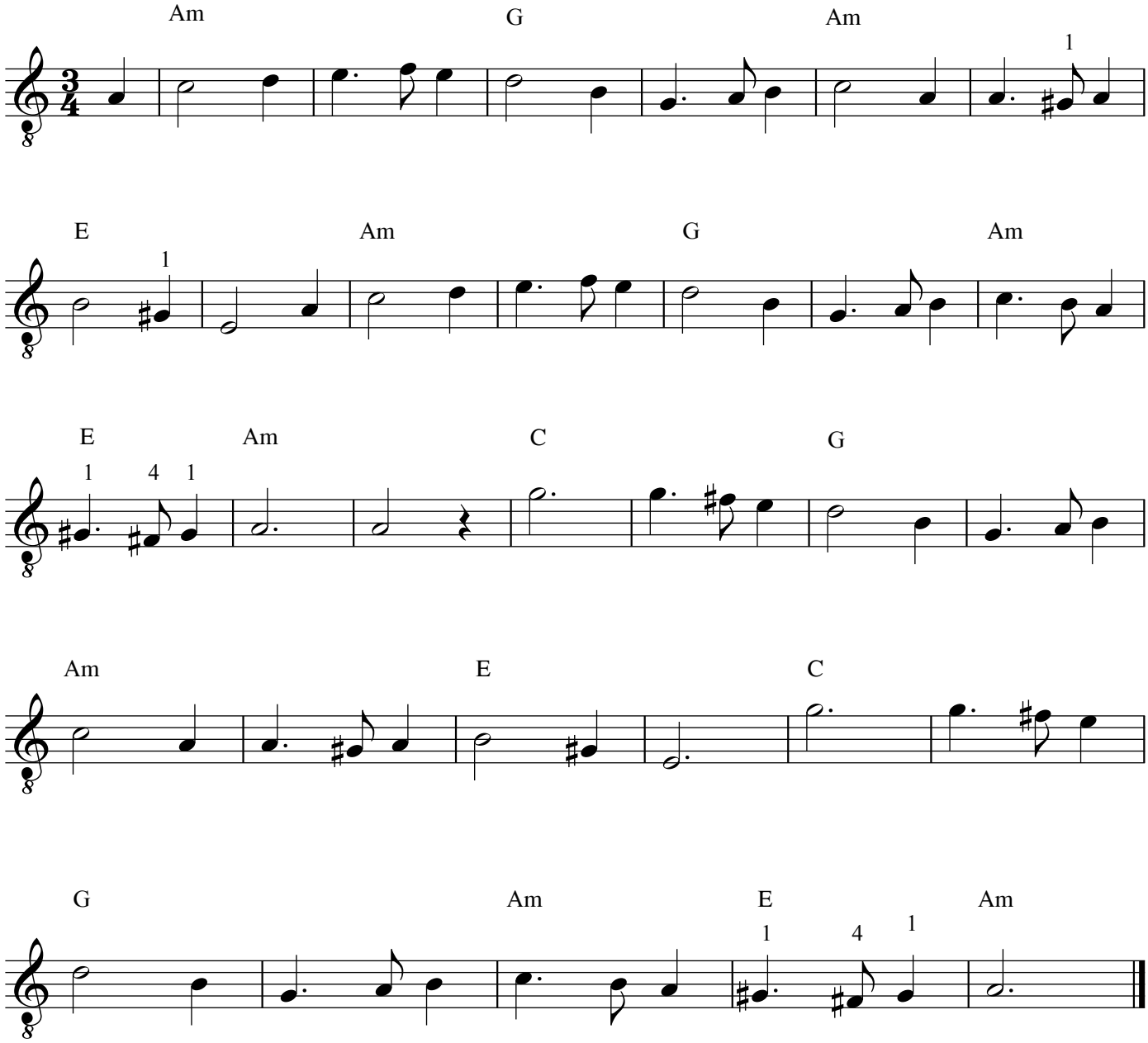
Greensleeves

Traditional

The student plays the melody. The teacher accompanies with chords.
Accidentals (sharps and flats) last for the entire bar. For example, the G#
in the first bar of the third line also applies to the G on the last beat of that bar.



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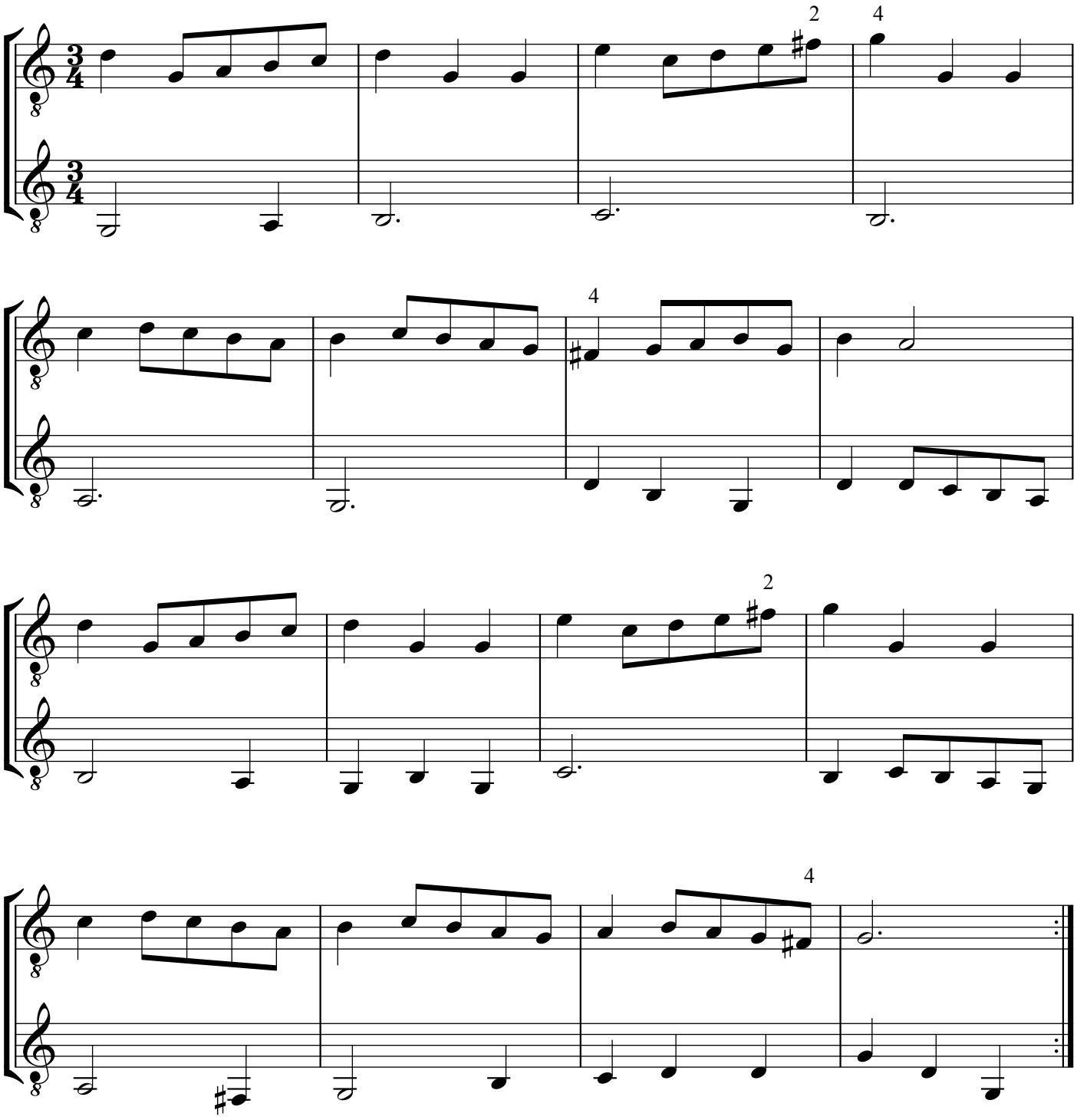
Minuet in G

Christian Petzold (1677-1733)
From J.S. Bach's Notenbuch der Anna Magdalena Bach

The student plays the upper part.
Play quarter notes slightly detached and eighth notes legato.
(Key signatures will be covered in Volume Two)



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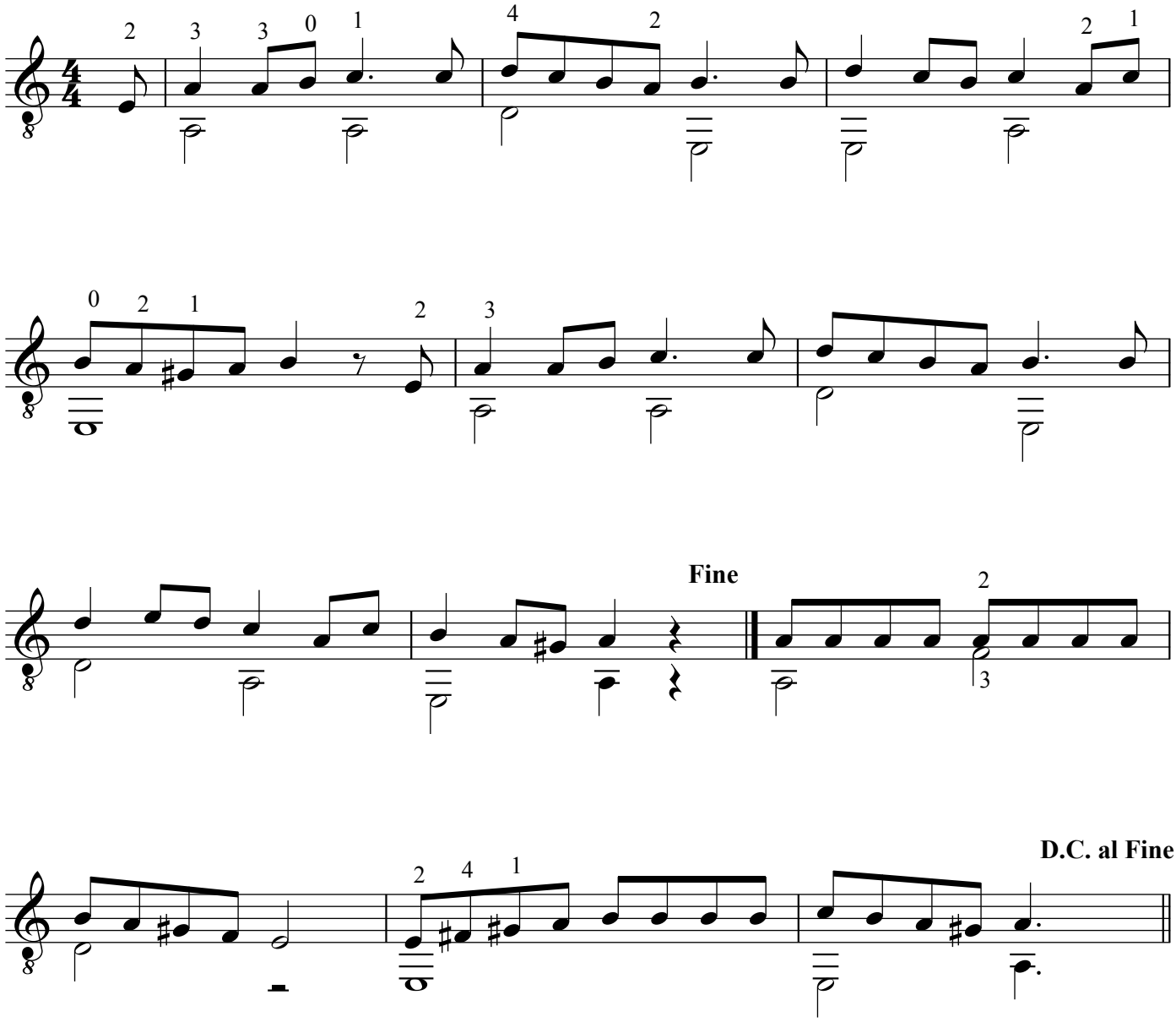
Tutú Maramba

Brazilian Folksong

Following the fingering very carefully for a legato sound.



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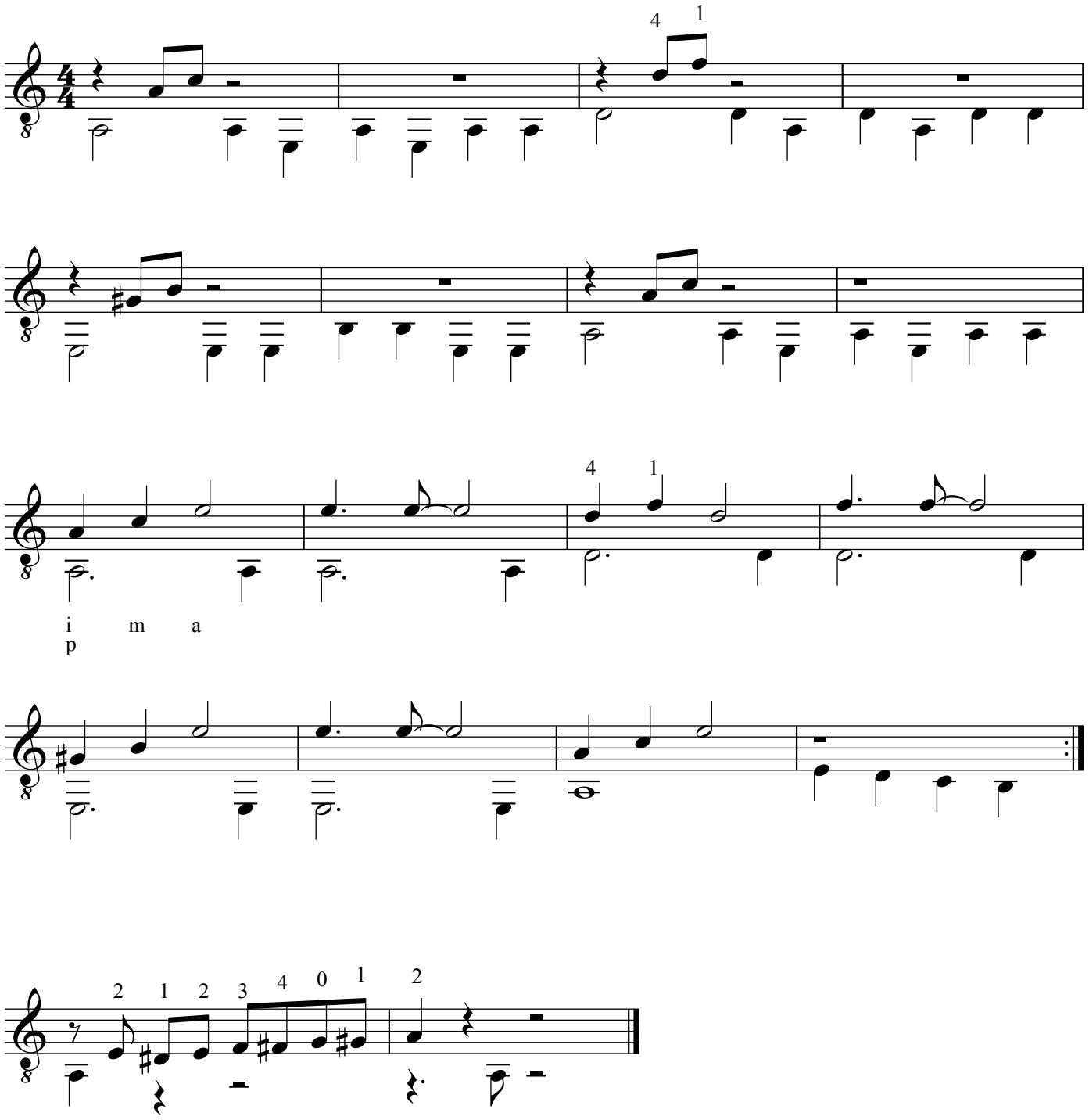
Django Swing

This fun piece is influenced by famous jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt.

Swing the Eighth Notes
Tempo: Bounce!



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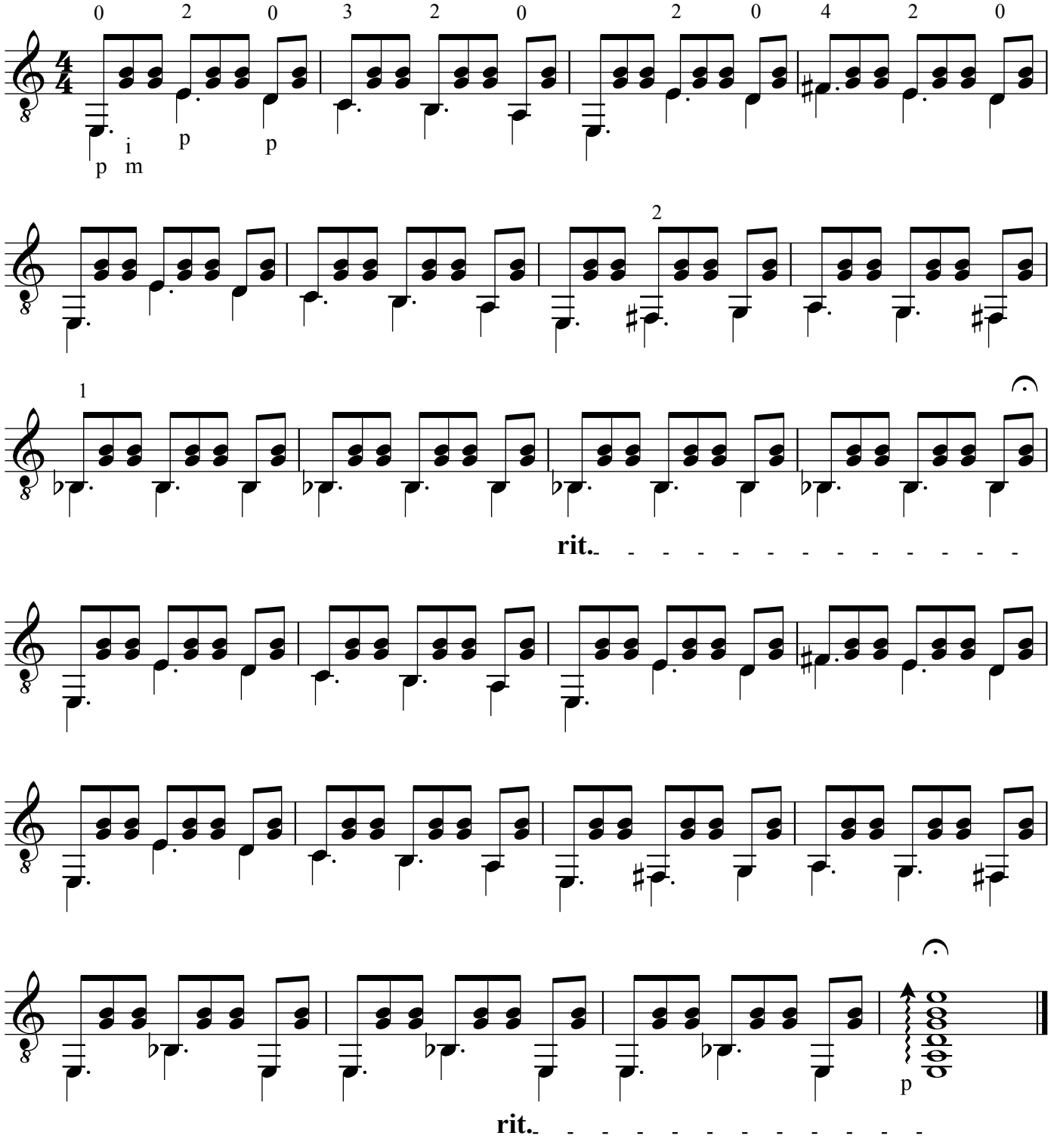
Etude No. 12 - à la Brouwer

This piece is influenced by the famous guitar composer Leo Brouwer (b.1939).
Brouwer has written many excellent etudes which you will want to explore.
Use *p* for all bass notes (stems going down) and *i, m* for the repeated accompaniment.
You may want to begin by counting the eighth notes as: 1-2-3 1-2-3 1-2 as the beaming suggests.



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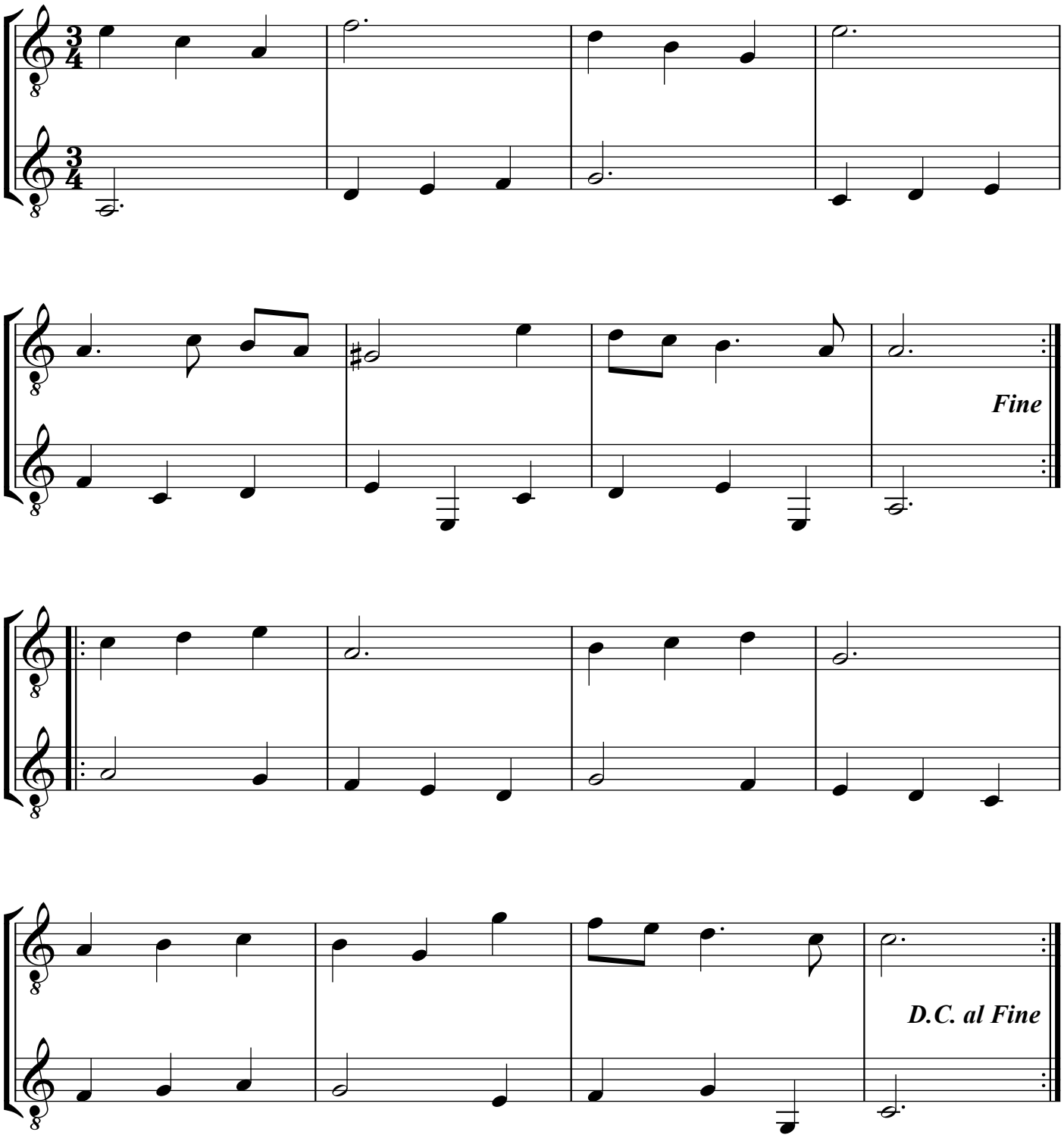
Minuet

The student should play the upper part.

Johann Krieger
(1651-1735)



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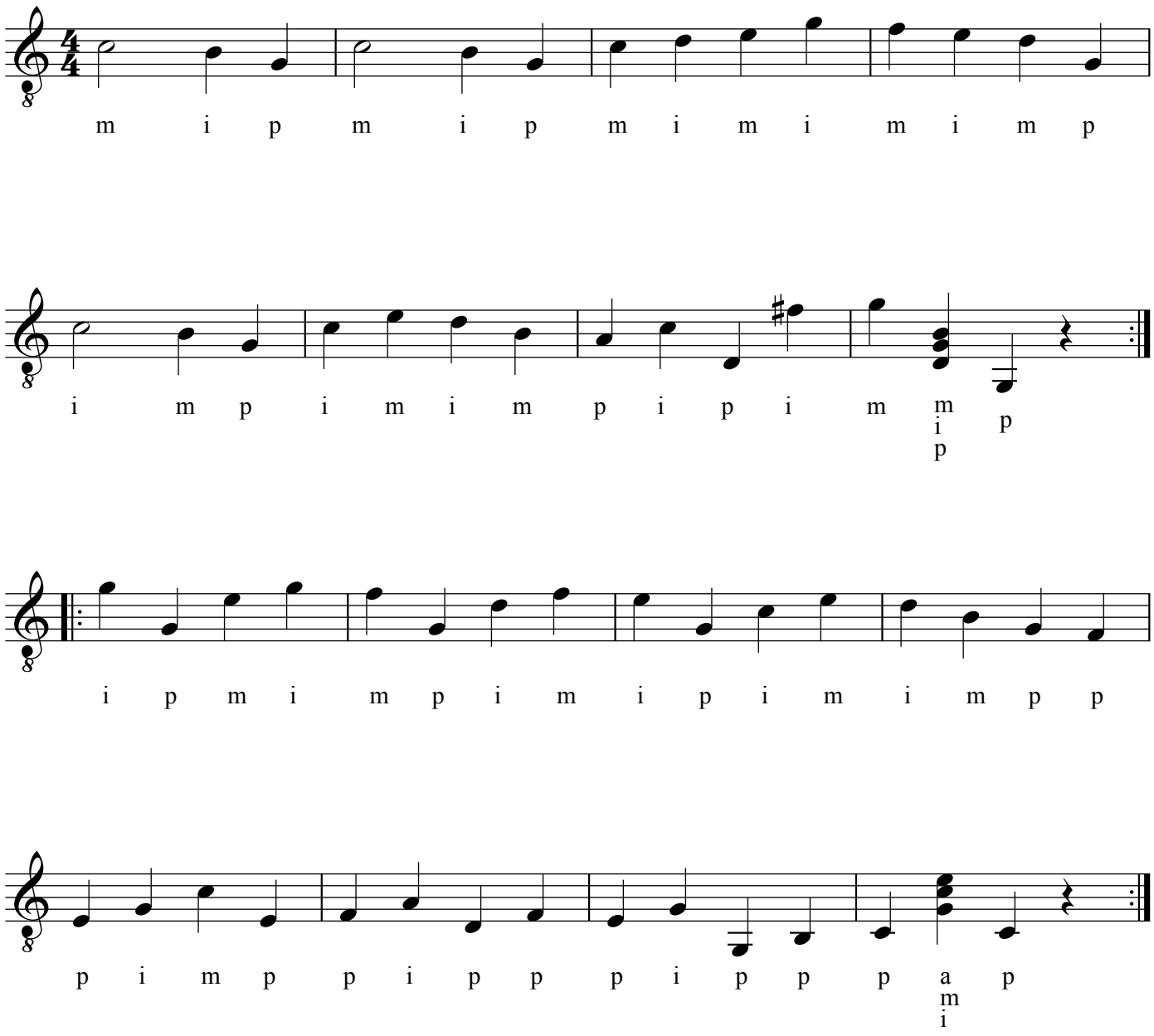
Sor Study No. 1, Op. 60

Fernando Sor
(1778-1839)

Although written in one voice, this study is more complex than it looks.
There are many possible right hand fingerings for this piece,
I've focused on using p, i, m for the purposes of this book.



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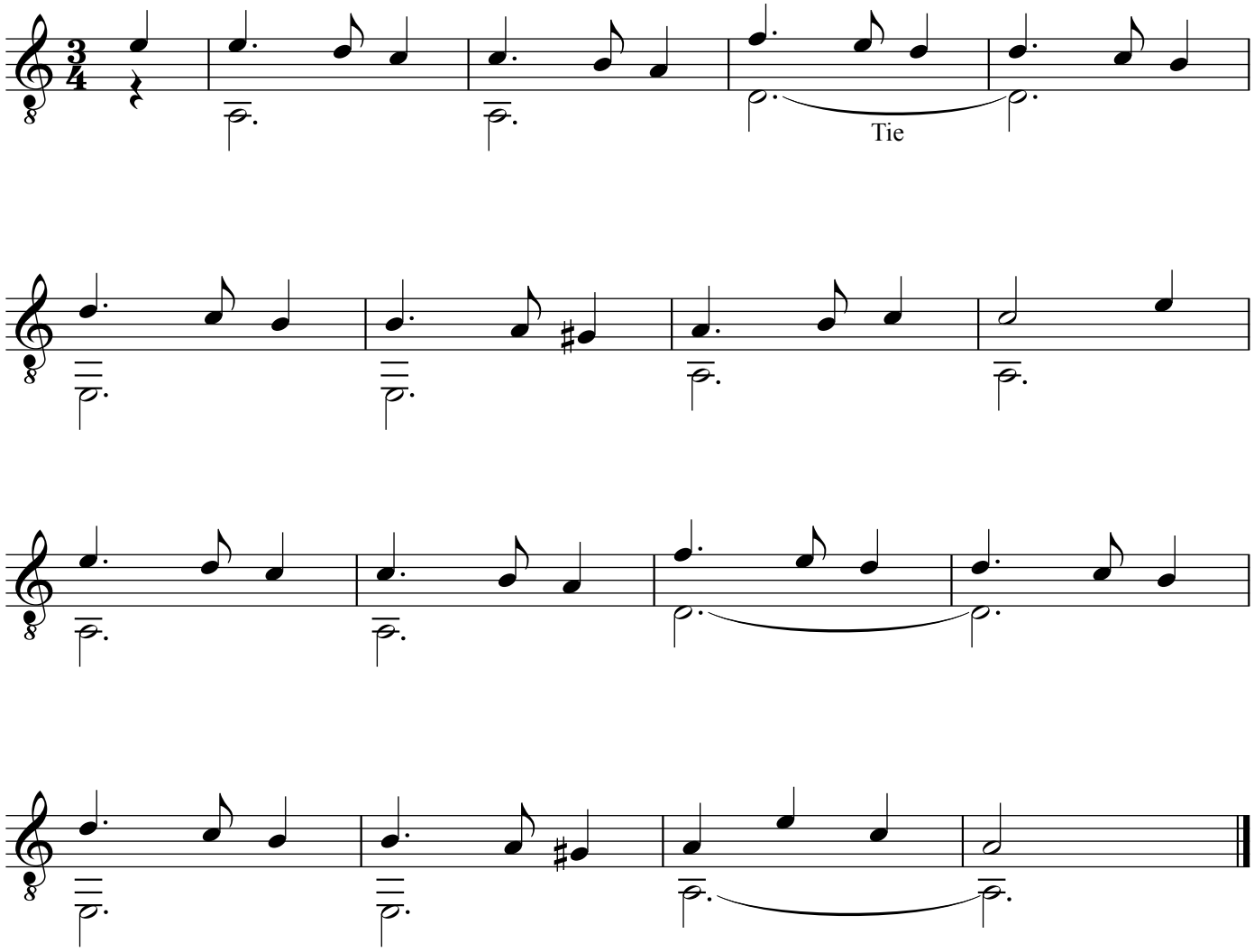
Siciliano

Matteo Carcassi
(1792-1853)

Ties join together the rhythm of two notes of the same pitch.
Sustain for the full value of both notes (but do not re-pluck the 2nd note).



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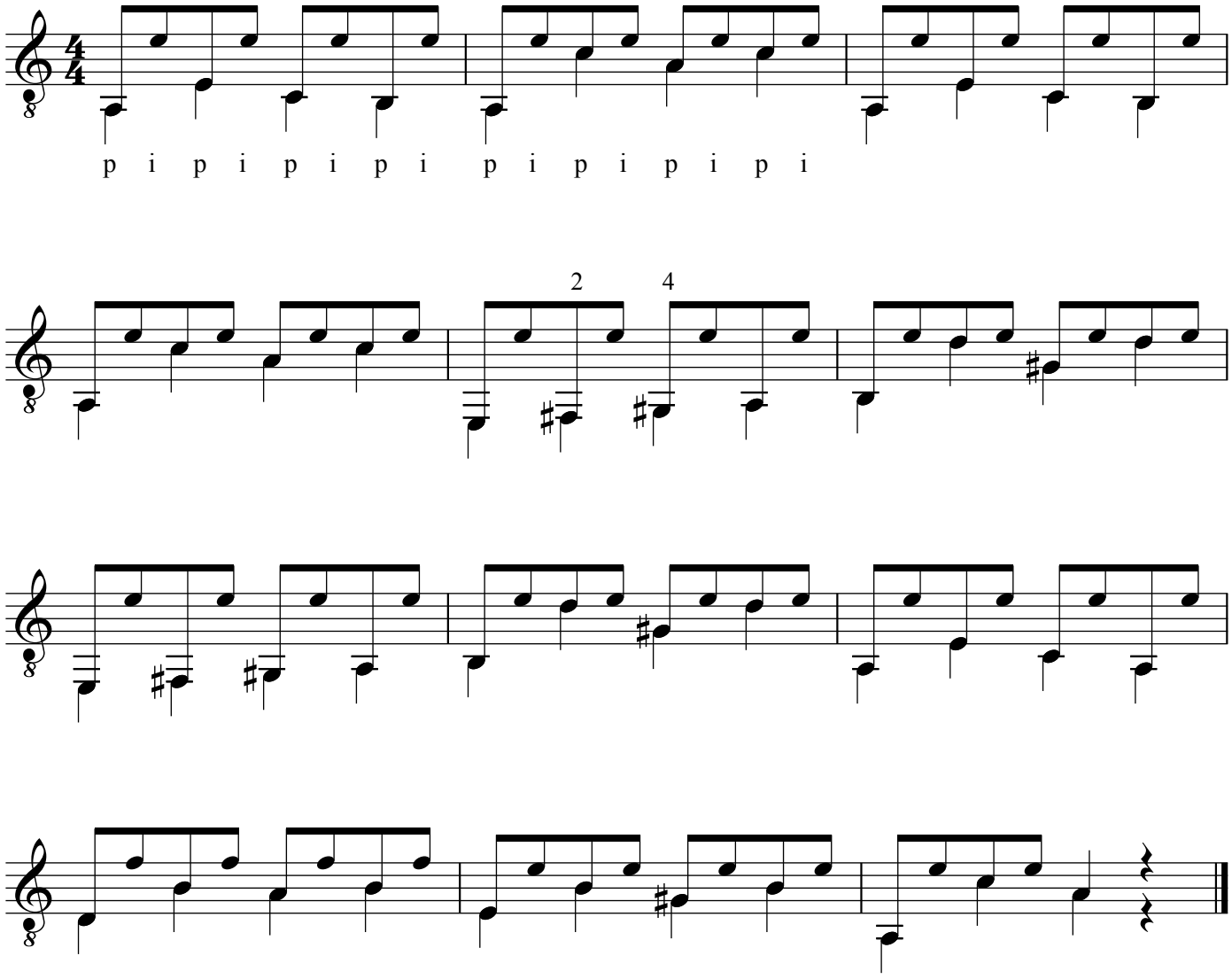
Übungen auf der E saite

Johann Kaspar Mertz
(1806-1856)

Exercise on the E String from Mertz's Method: *Schule für die Guitare*
Sometimes notes are shared by more than one voice to indicate
rhythmic value and voice independence while presenting clear beat structure.



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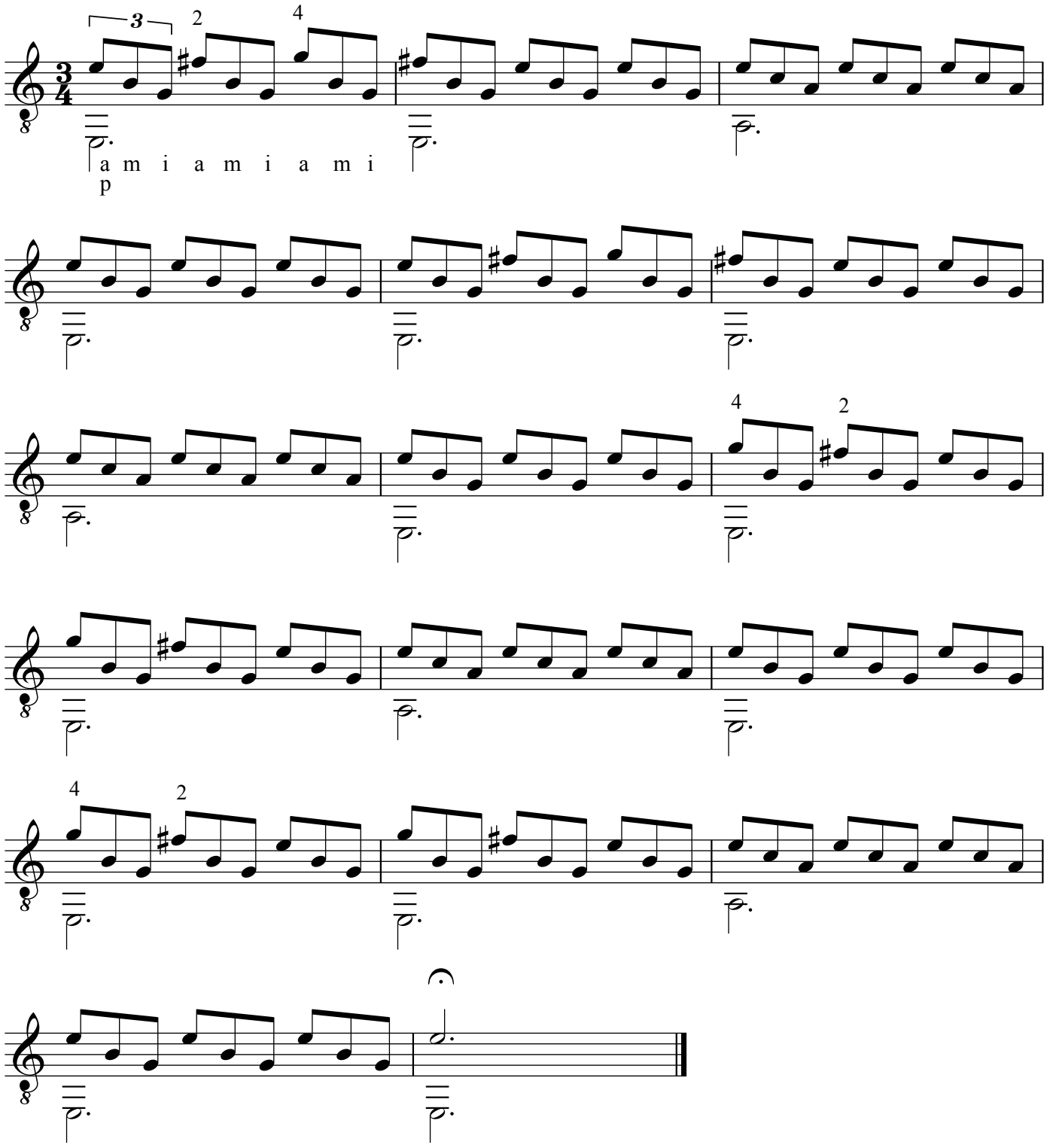
Etude No. 13 - Farewell

Triplets: Three notes evenly spaced within one beat (indicated by the bracket).
The first note of each triplet is the melody. Let all notes sustain.
This last piece in section one is in the style of the popular *Spanish Romance.*



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Chord Accompaniment Section

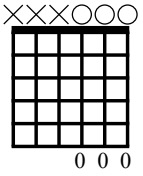
Before learning fingerstyle accompaniment some basic strumming patterns will be played.

Chord Diagrams
- Vertical lines = the strings
- Horizontal lines = the frets

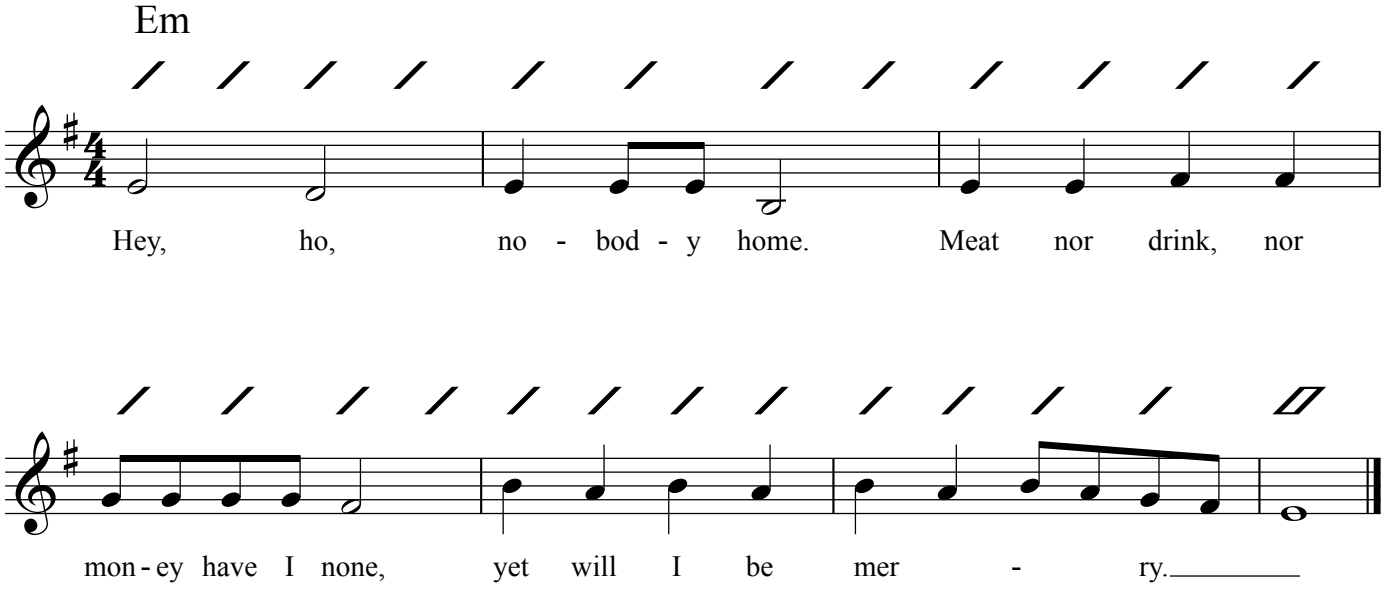
- The string on the left is the 6th string (bass)
- Do not strum strings that have an X.
- The numbers below are the fingering.

- E minor = Strum the top three open strings
- Strum down from the 3rd string to the 1st using your thumb or a pick.

E Minor (Em)



Hey, Ho, Nobody Home
- Strum four beats for each bar as indicated by the slash marks (do not read the notes).
- Count out loud as you play.
- The teacher plays or sings the melody.



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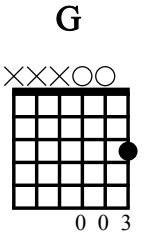
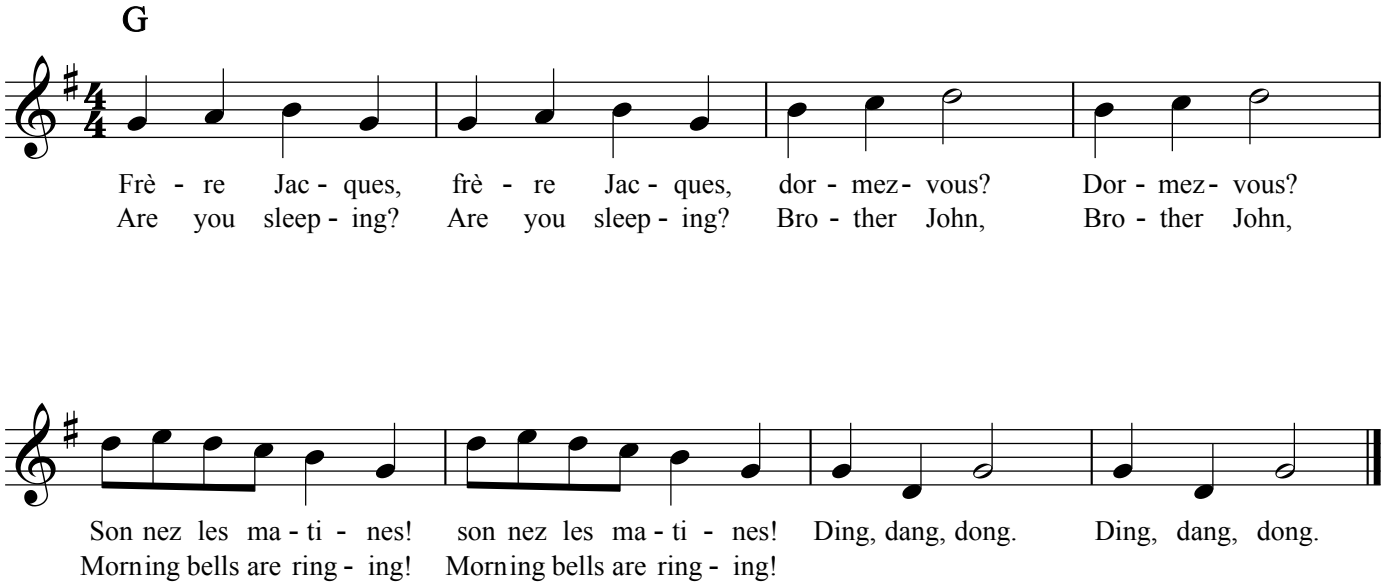
Frère Jacques / Brother John

Traditional
France

The student strums a G Major chord (do not play the notes).
Strum four beats for each bar and sing the lyrics.

G Major Chord: 1st string, 3rd fret, 3rd finger. Strum the top three strings.





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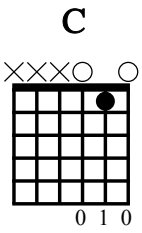
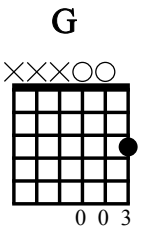
London Bridge

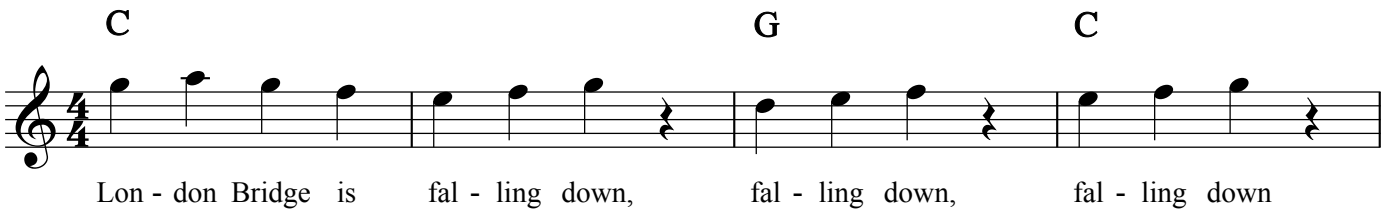
Traditional
England

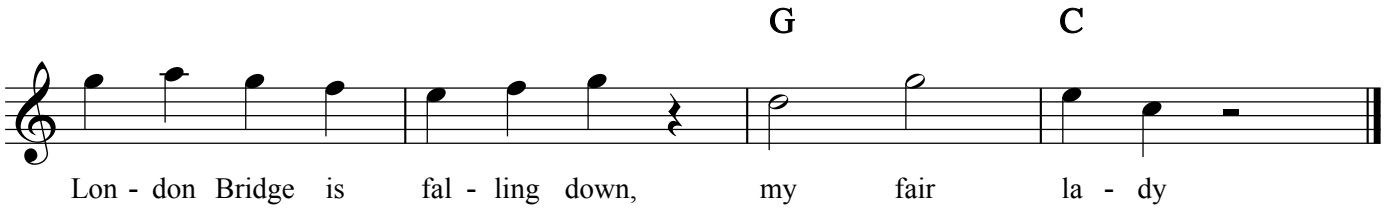
The student strums the chords with four beats per bar and sings.
If no chord is shown, continue strumming the previous chord.

C Major: 2nd string, 1st fret, 1st finger. Strum the top three strings.









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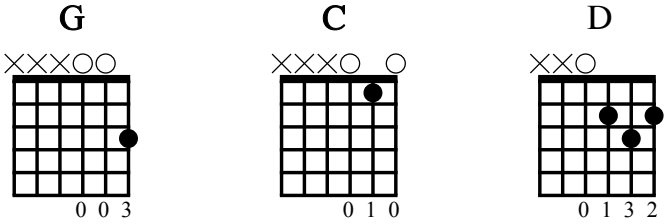
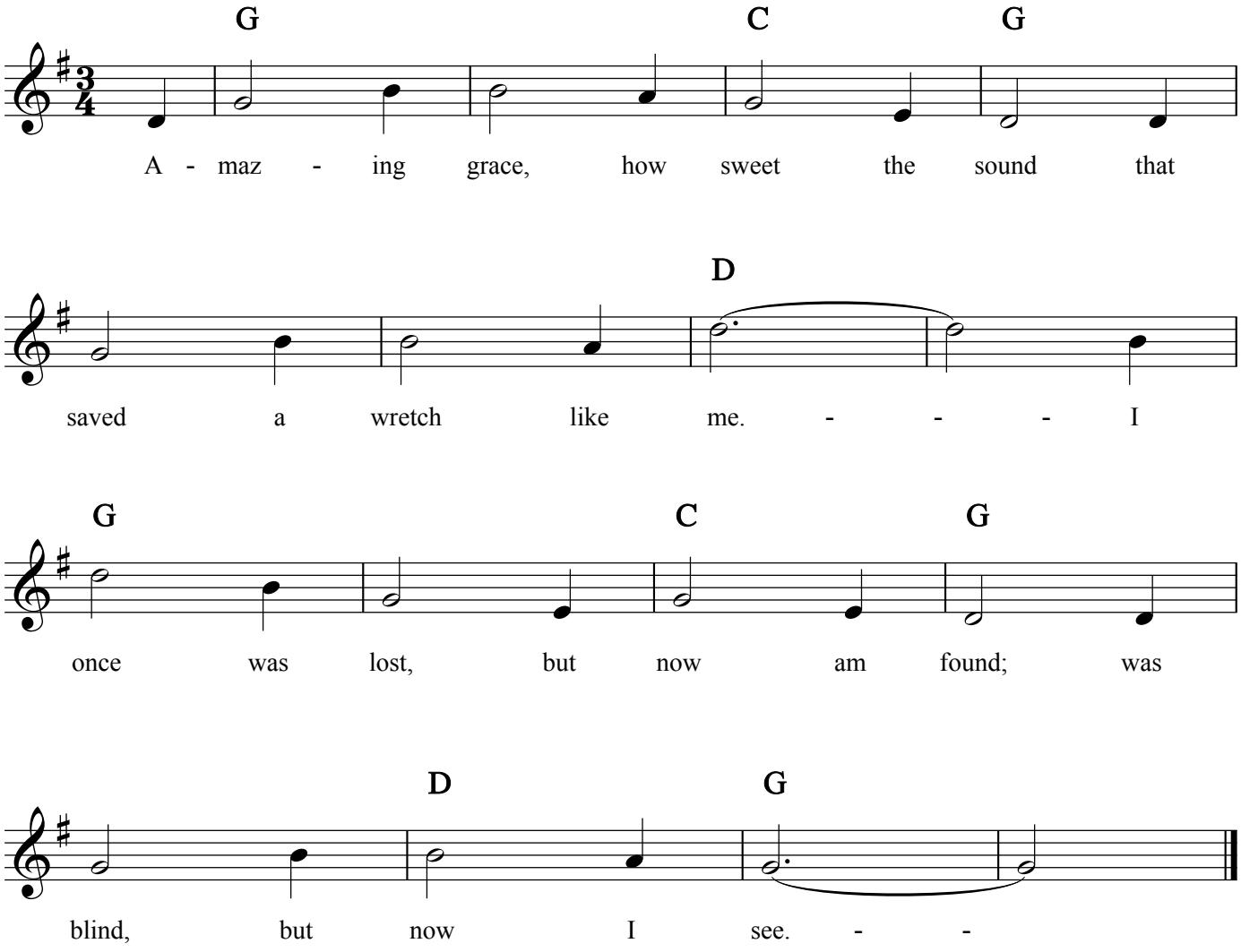
Amazing Grace

Traditional Hymn
Words: John Newton

Strum the chords with four beats per bar.
D Chord - Follow the chord diagram and strum four strings.





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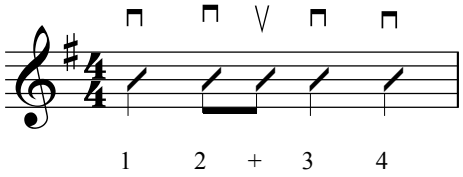
Red River Valley

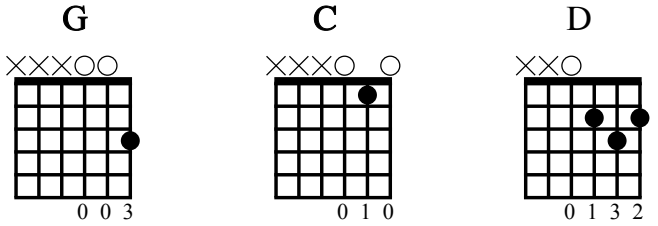
Traditional
North American

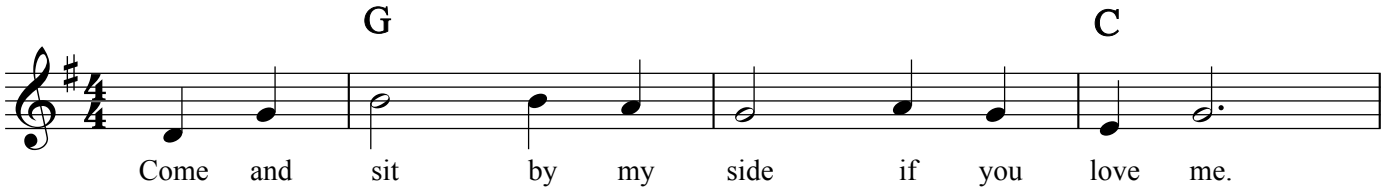
Strum the chords using the below pattern (count four beats per bar).
Slighty swing/relax the eighth note.

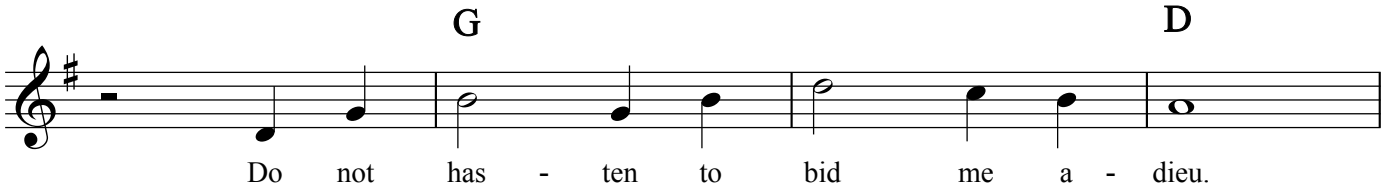
Downstrum = ⊓ Upstrum = ⋁

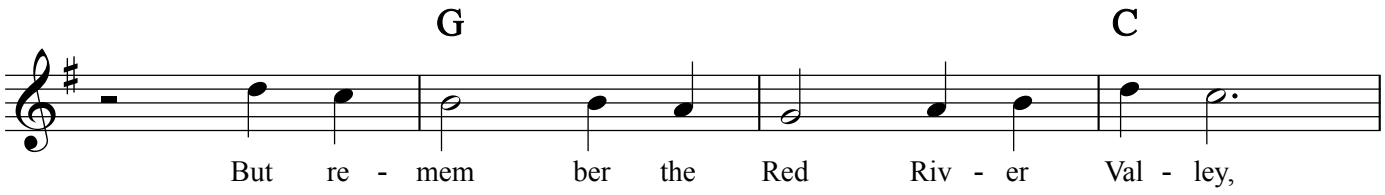
Strum Pattern

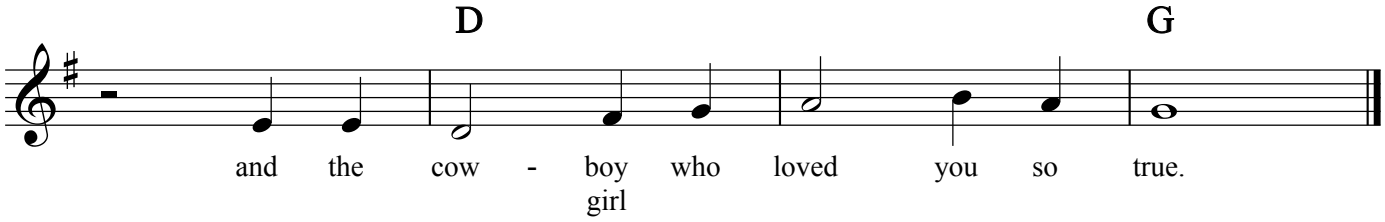












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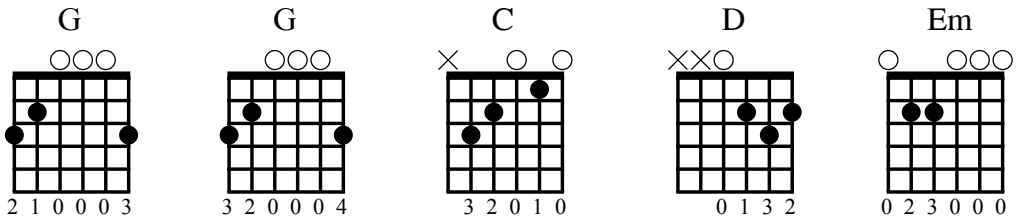
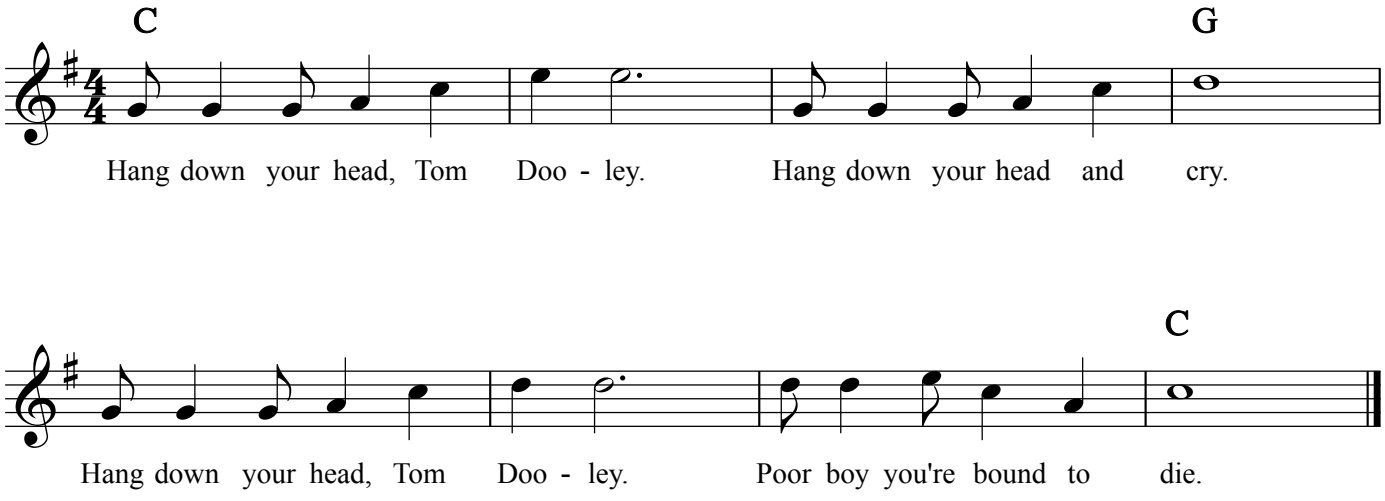
Full Chord Shapes

Memorize these chord shapes for the next few songs.

Notice the alternative fingering for the G chord. The first G chord is quite comfortable, the second is a bit of a stretch but easier to move to the C chord after. Choose one or have your teacher circle one for you.



Tom Dooley - North Carolina Folk Song
Try out the G and C chords by strumming four beats per bar.



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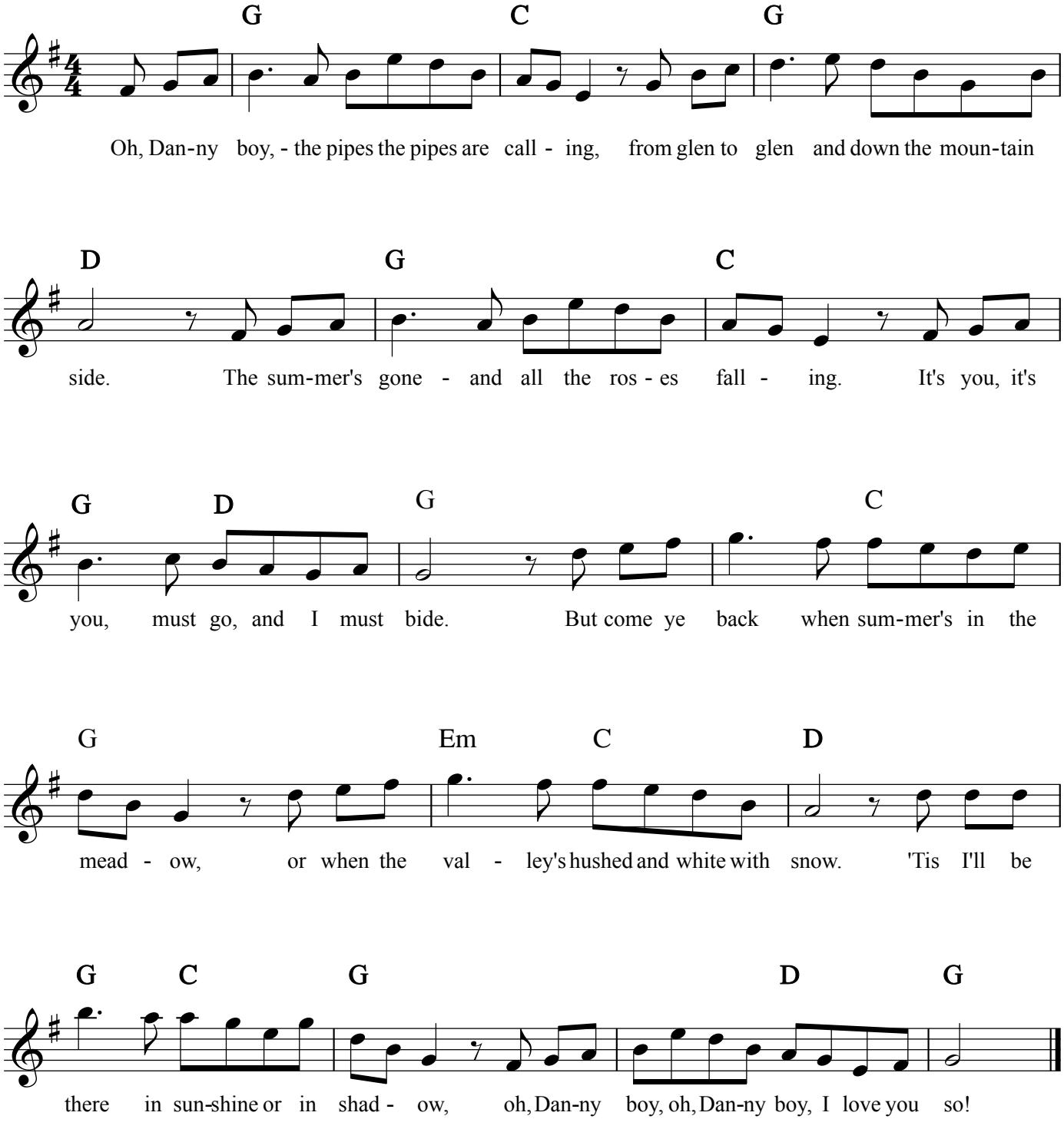
Danny Boy

Traditional Irish

Bars containing two chords recieve two beats per chord.



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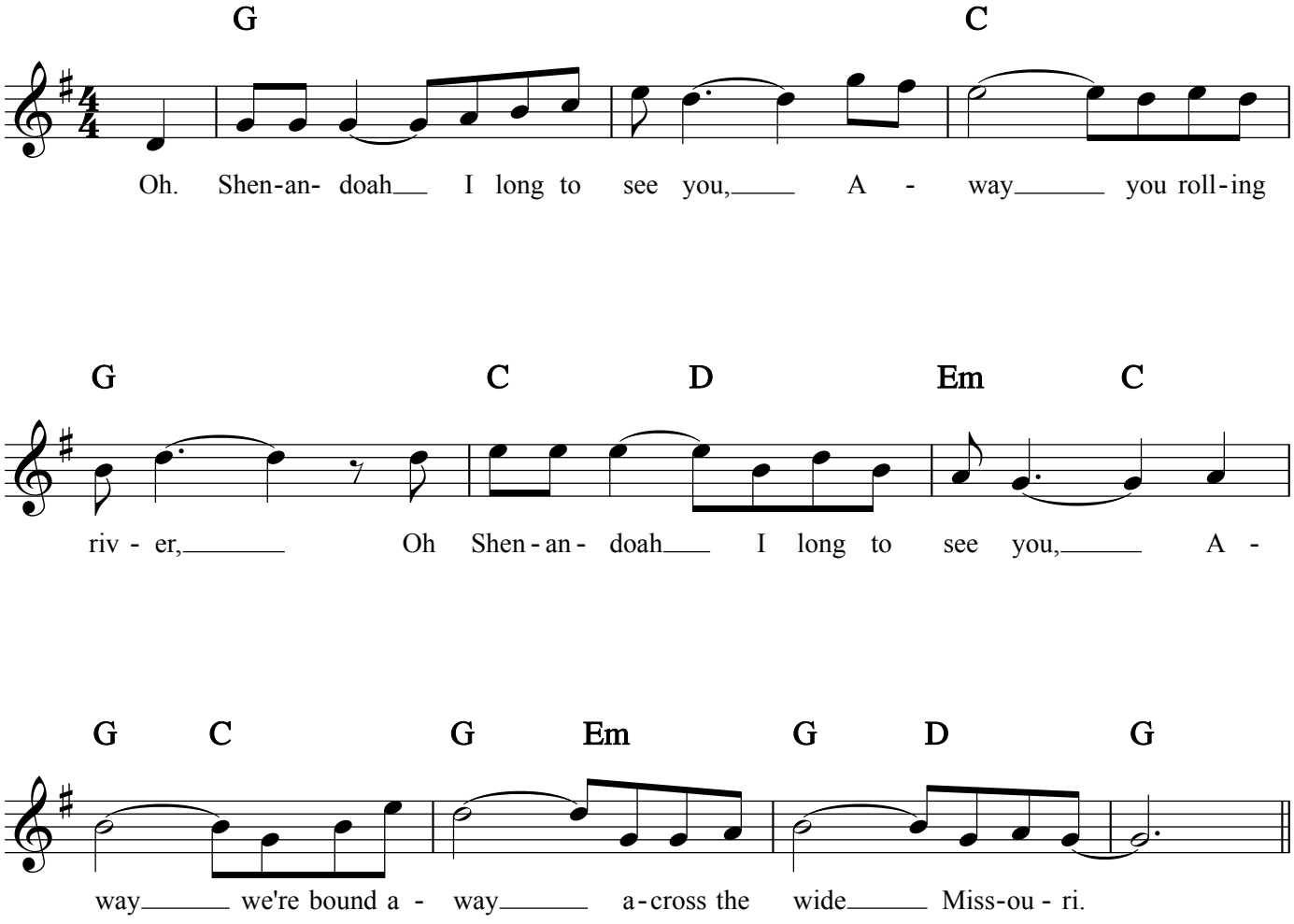
Shenandoah

American Folksong

The chords change more often in this song.
Pick a slow tempo to begin.



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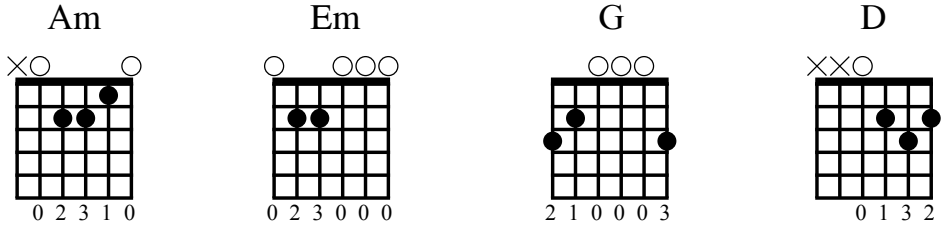
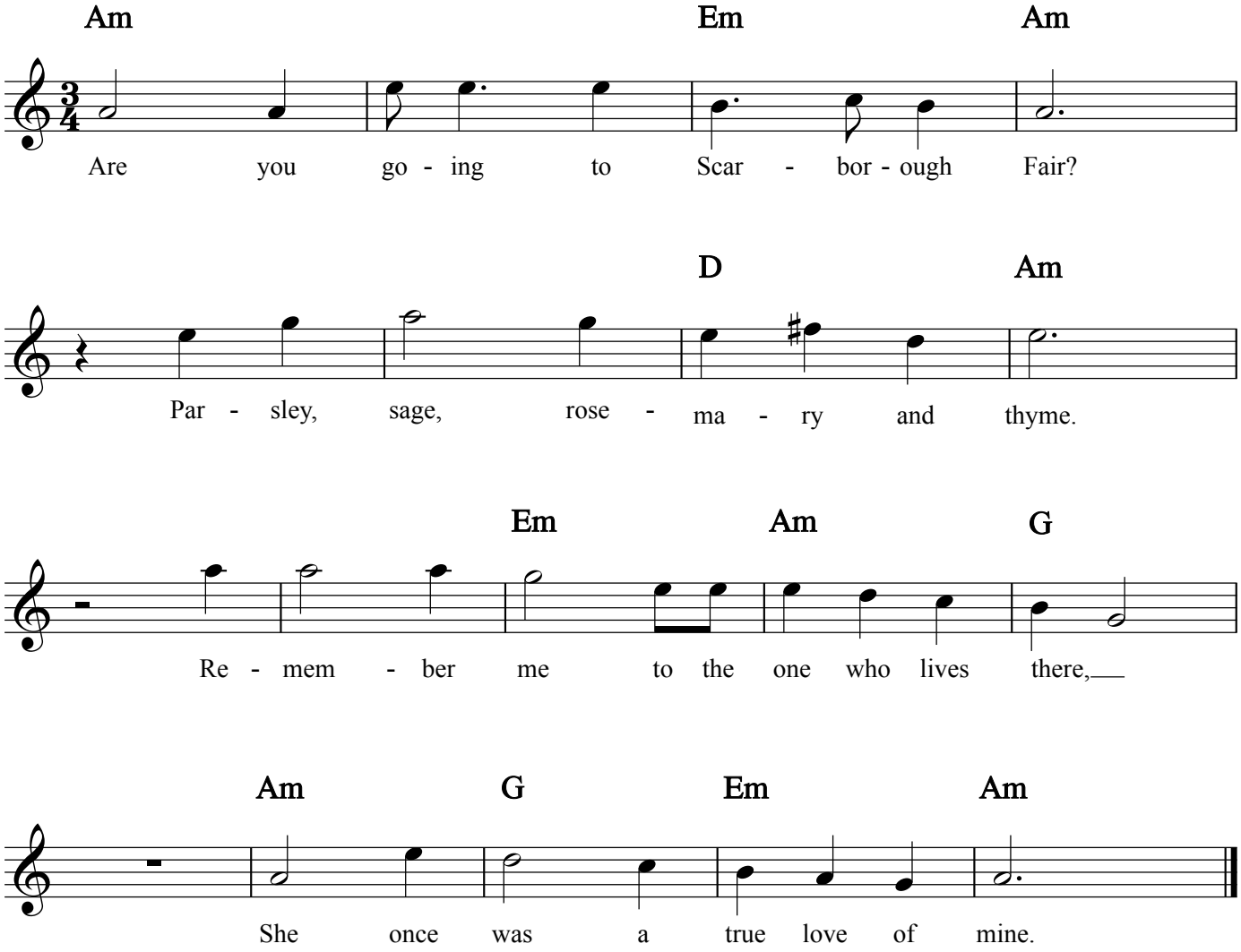
Scarborough Fair

Traditional

Strum with any strumming pattern as long as there are three beats per bar.
In the following pages we will also learn this song with fingerstyle accompaniment.





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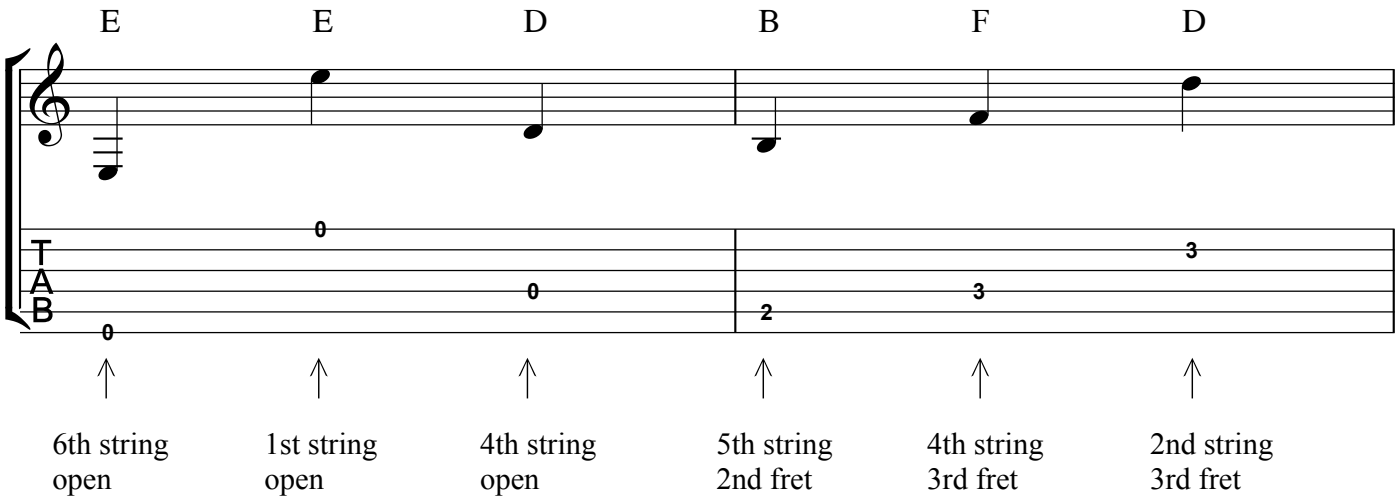
Tablature

Tablature (TAB) is another system of written music for guitar.
TAB is a visual representation of the six strings on the guitar.
The bottom line is the 6th string, the top line is the 1st string.
The numbers indicate the frets (not the fingering).

The below example demonstrates the same notes on both the notation staff and the TAB.



6th string	1st string	4th string	5th string	4th string	2nd string
open	open	open	2nd fret	3rd fret	3rd fret

Please Note

Tablature has been in use for centuries going back to the Renaisance lute. Modern TAB often omits rhythm and other musical indications so it has some clear disadvantages. Most importantly, it does not allow you to communicate with non-guitarists. However, it can still be useful for direct guitar knowledge and popular music can often be found in TAB.

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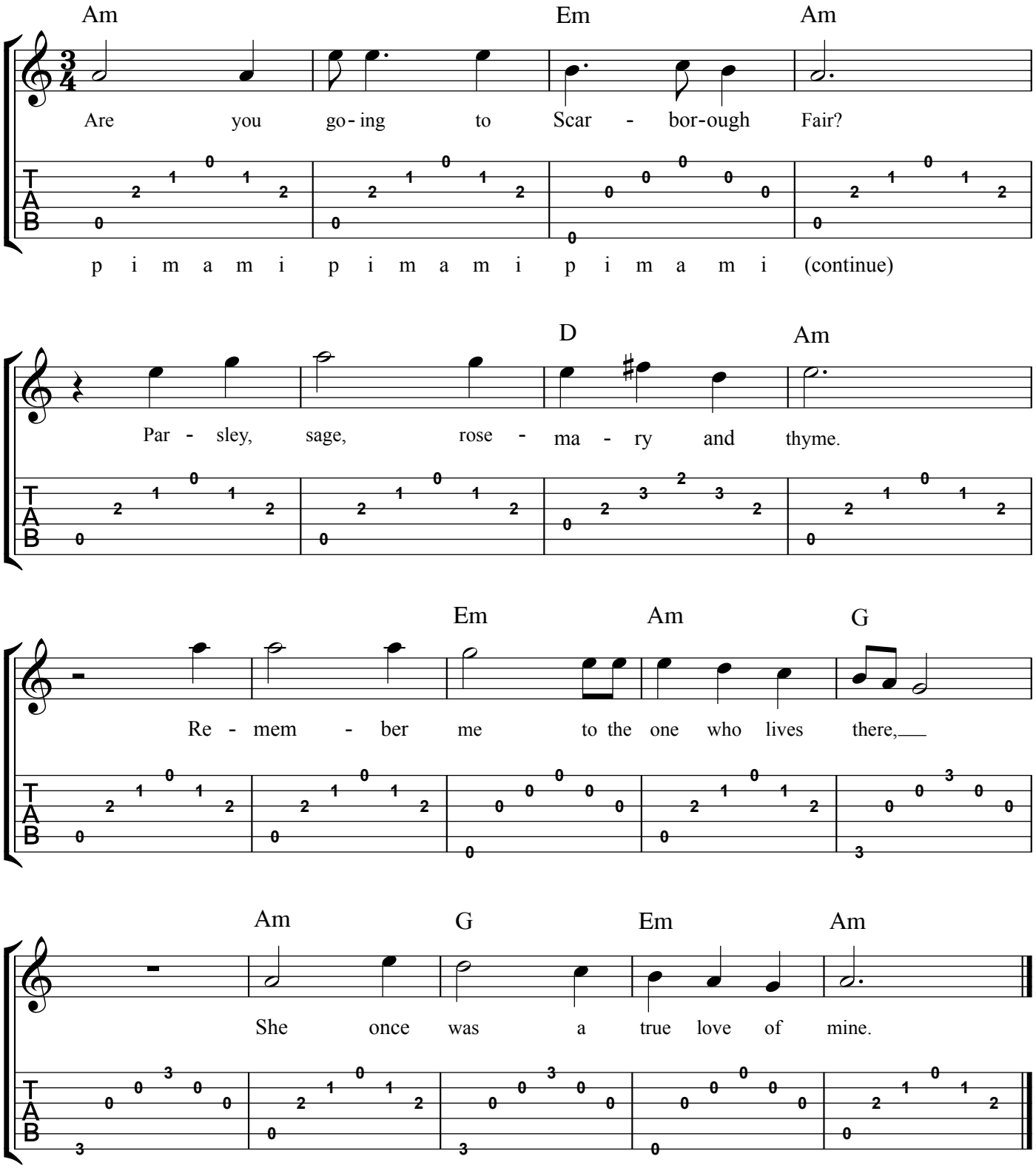
Scarborough Fair (Fingerstyle)

Play the TAB as eighth notes (two notes for each beat).
When playing fingerstyle, only use the left hand fingers needed for each chord.
Let all notes sustain within each chord.



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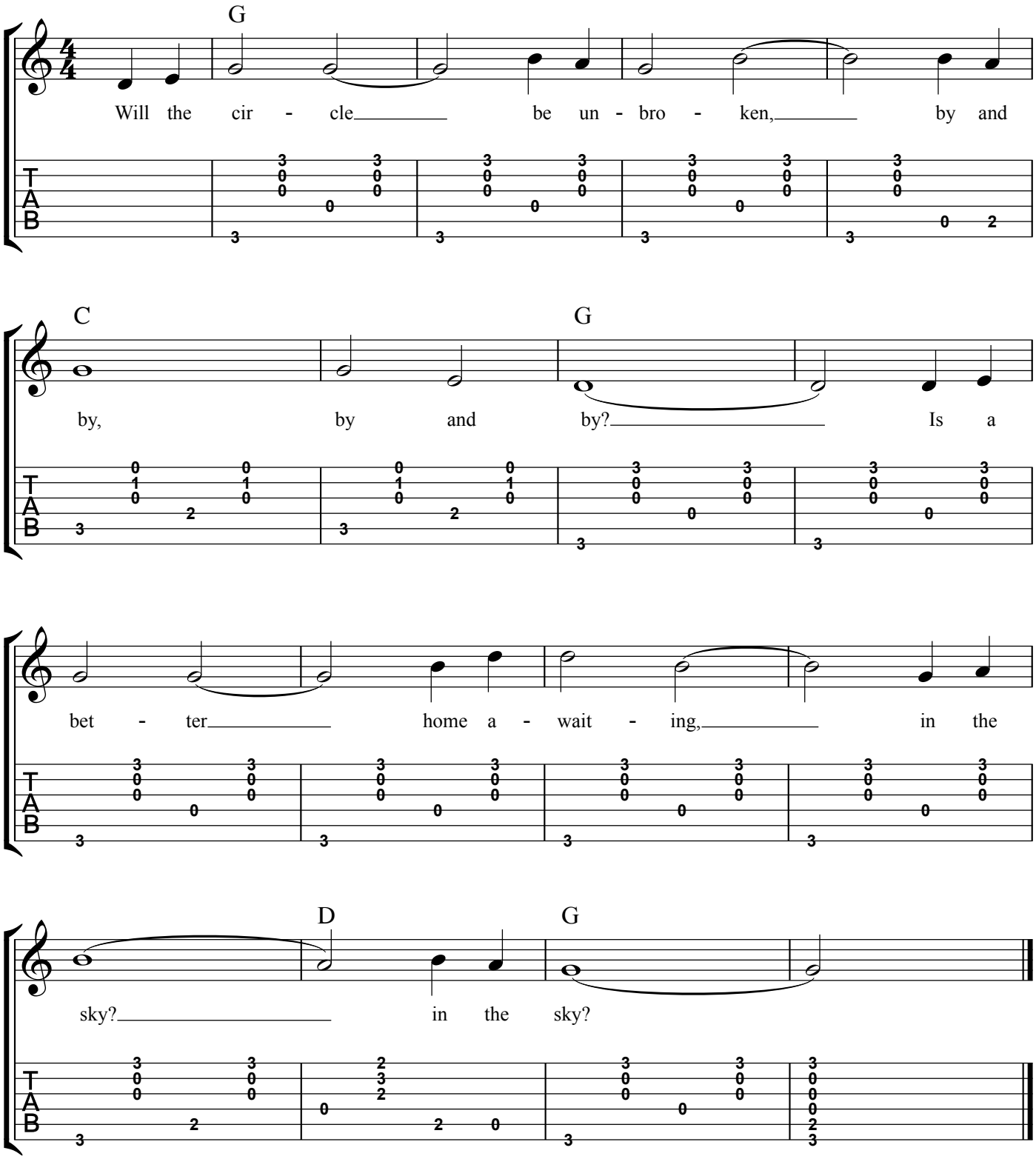
Will the Circle Be Unbroken?

Ada R. Habershon &
Charles H. Gabriel

The student plays the TAB (4 beats per bar).
Notice the bassline contained in this fingerstyle accompaniment.
Use your thumb for the bass notes and i, m, a for the top three strings.



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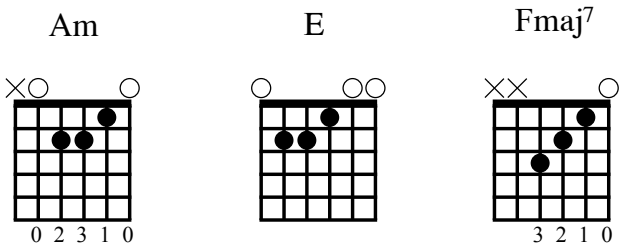
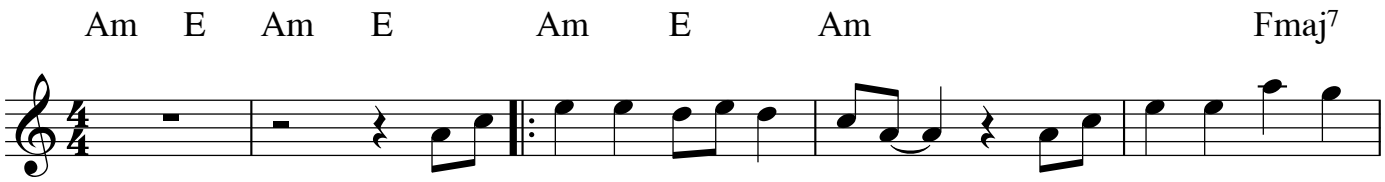
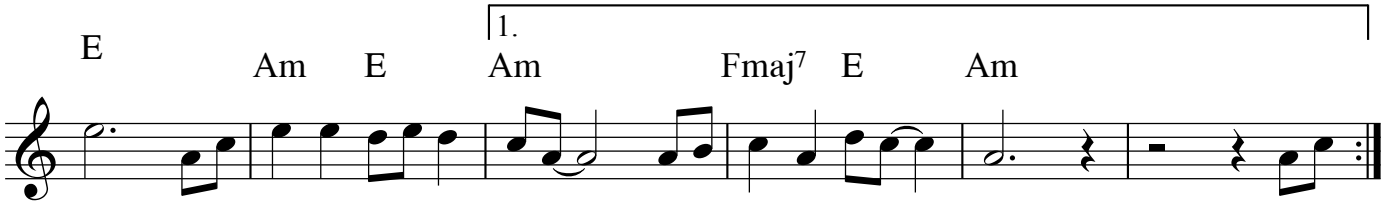
Saint James Infirmary Blues

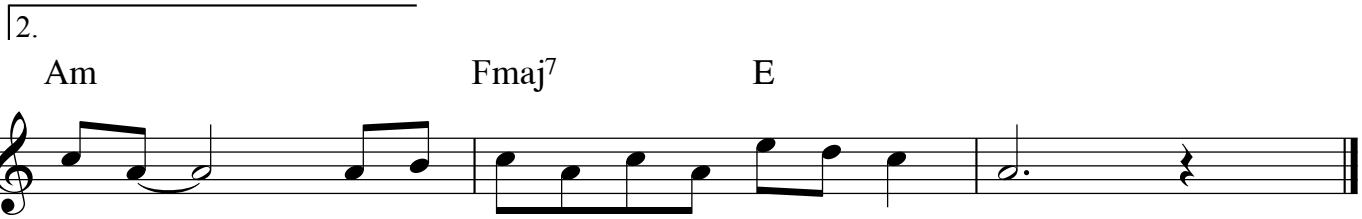
American
Folksong

The student should first strum the chords and then
invent a simple fingerstyle accomapaniment.









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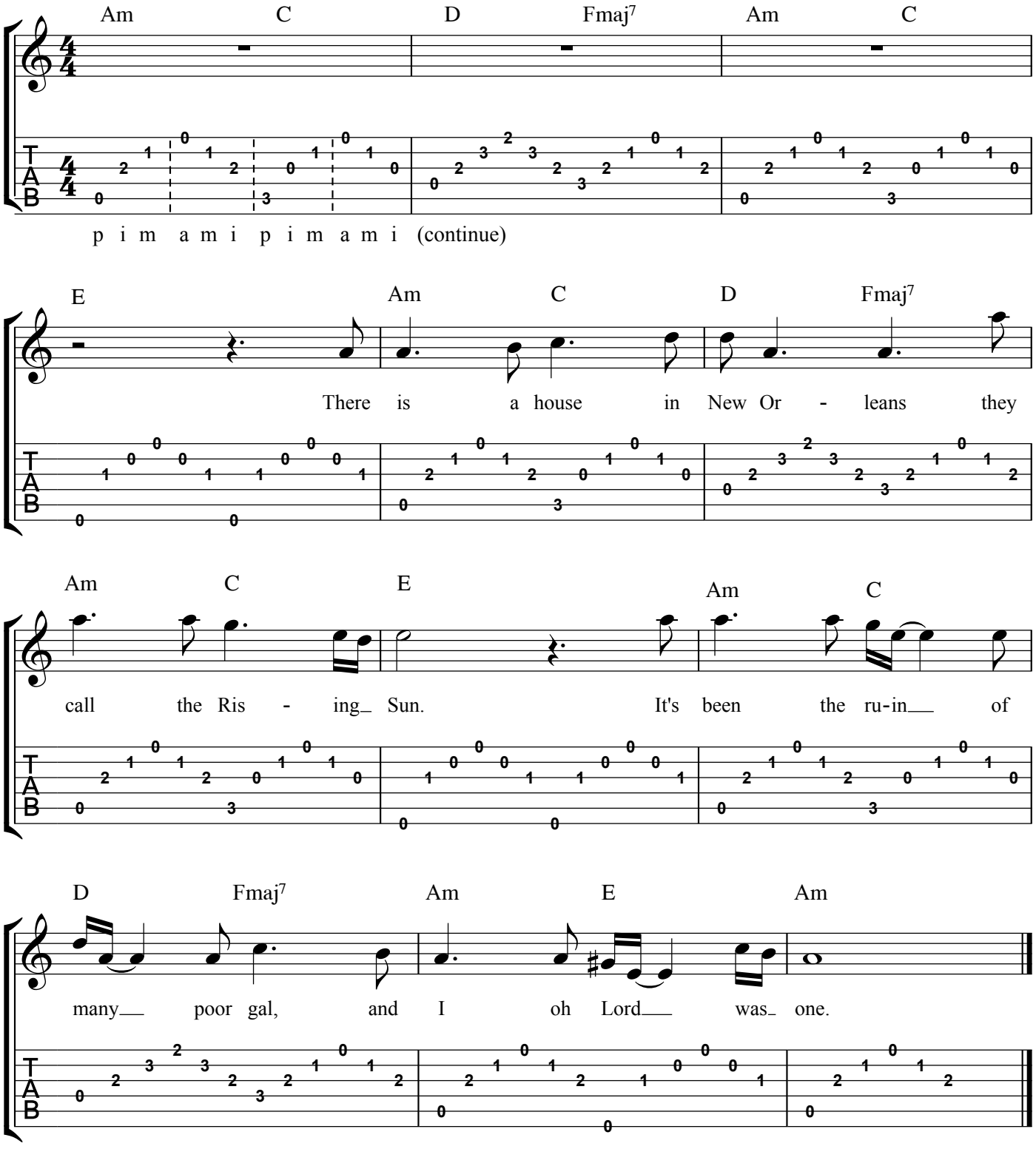
House of the Rising Sun

American
Folksong

Strum the chords and then learn the TAB. Play the TAB as
triplets (three notes to each beat) as indicted in the first bar.



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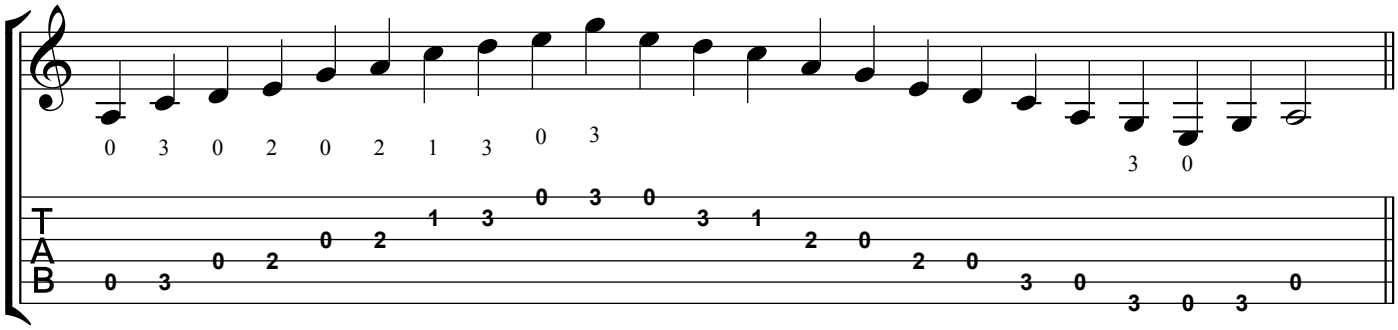
Scales for Blues and Popular Music

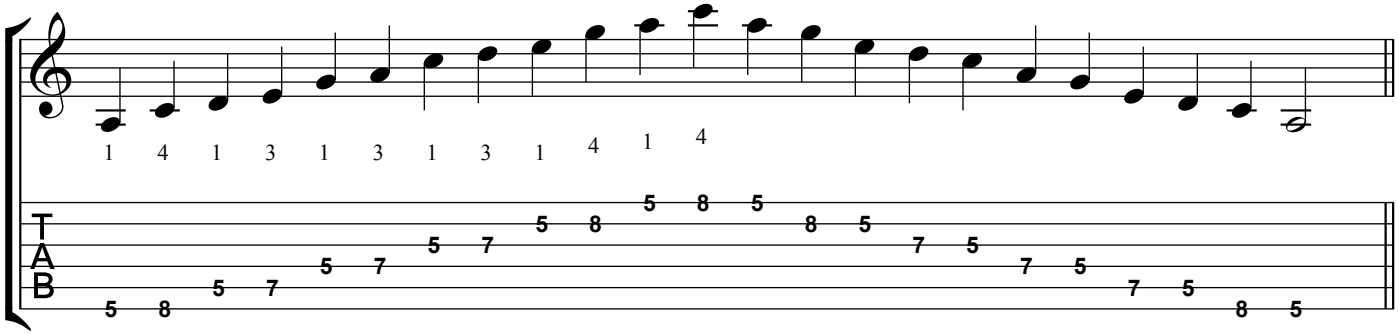
Below is the pentatonic minor and blues scales up to the highest notes in position.
These can be used for soloing over the following blues chords and other chord progressions such as House of the Rising Sun.

A Pentatonic Minor (open position)



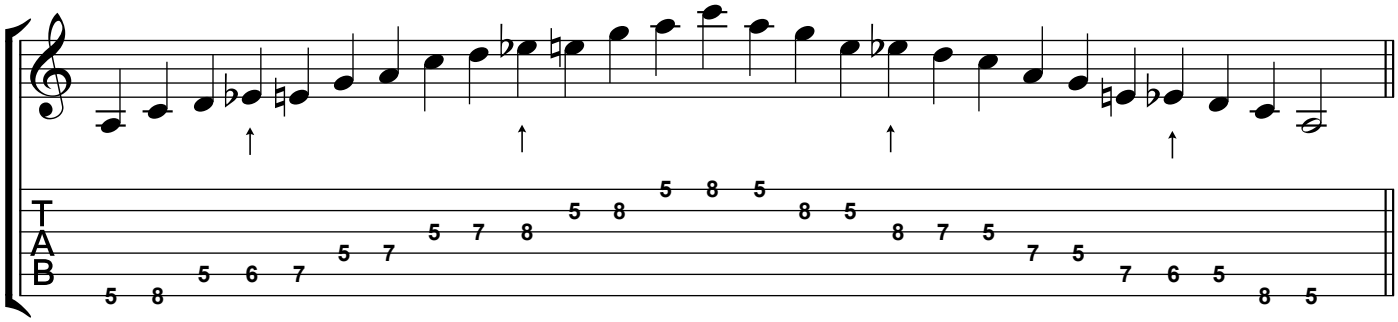
A Pentatonic Minor (closed position)

Closed position scales can be moved around the fingerboard to change the key.
Example: If you start the pattern on the 6th fret it will be an A# pentatonic minor scale.



A Blues Scale (closed position)

By adding an extra note to the pentatonic minor scale we can create a blues scale.



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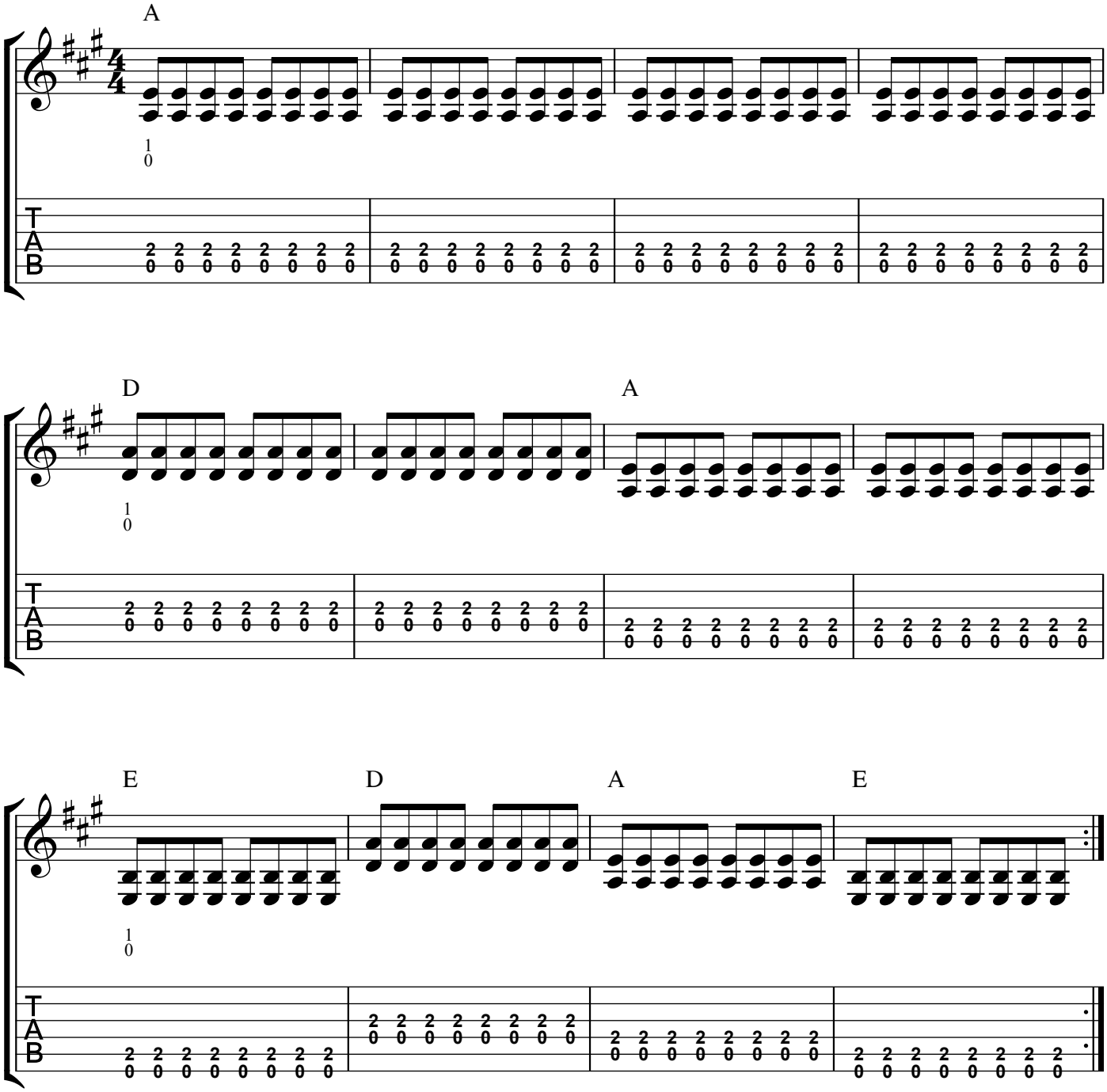
Twelve Bar Blues

Use the TAB to check your note locations.
Take a solo using the A pentatonic minor scale.
When finished repeating, end using the A chord instead of E.
Swing the beat (think: long-short-long-short).



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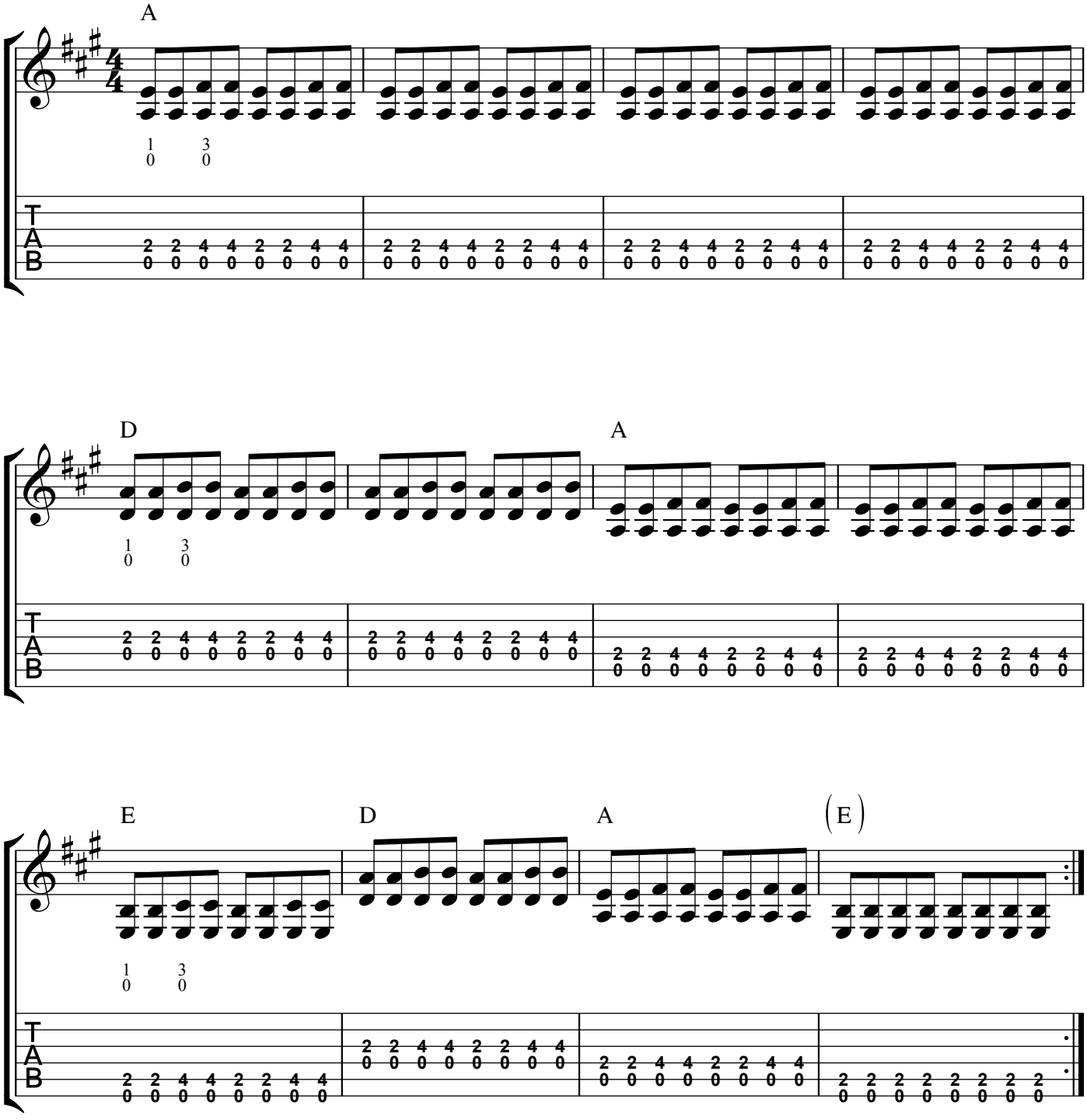
The Shuffle



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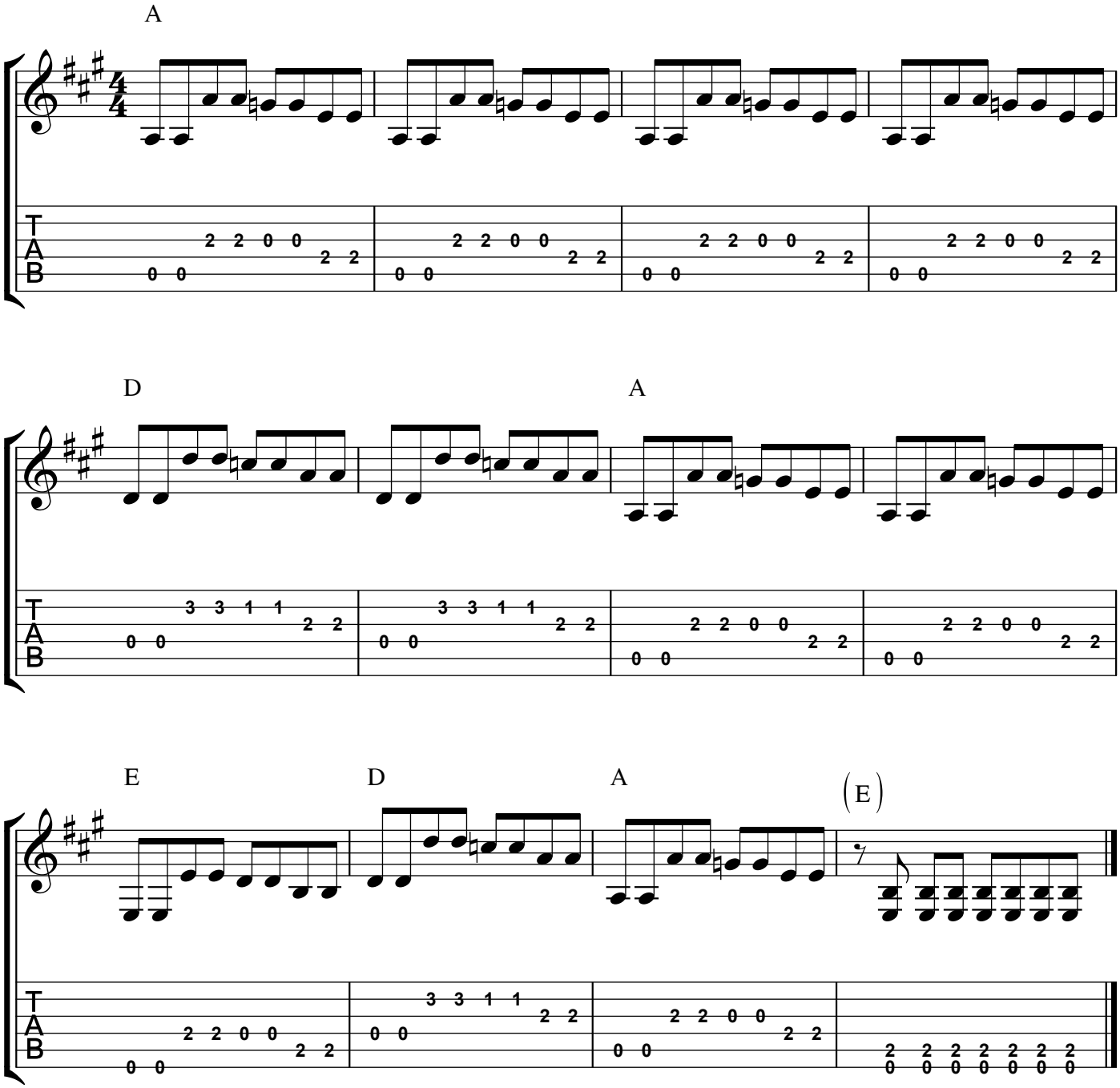
Rhythm Riff Blues



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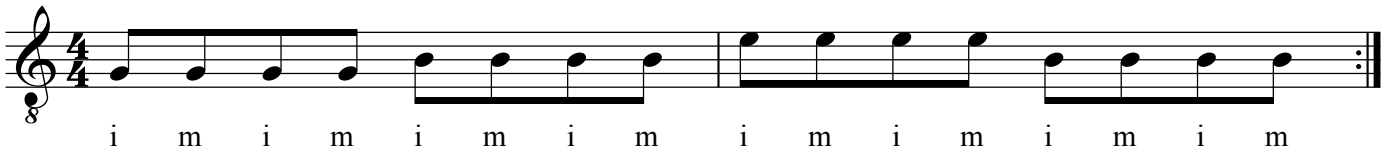
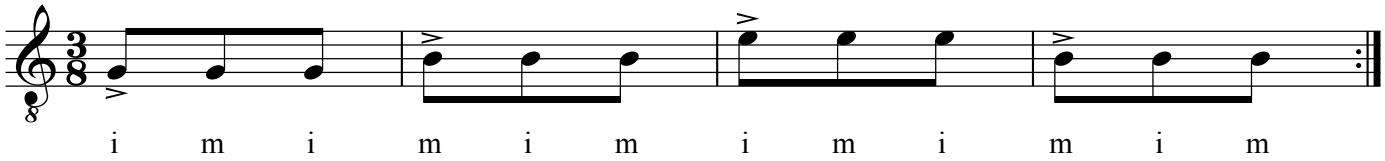
Right Hand Technique Exercises

No. 1 - i, m alternation in groups of four

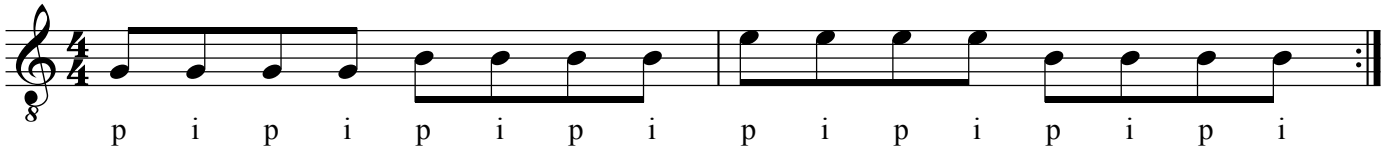


No. 2 - i, m alternation in groups of three

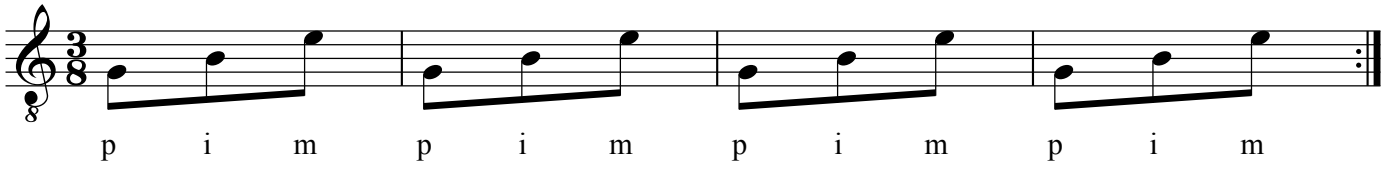


No. 3 - p, i alternation

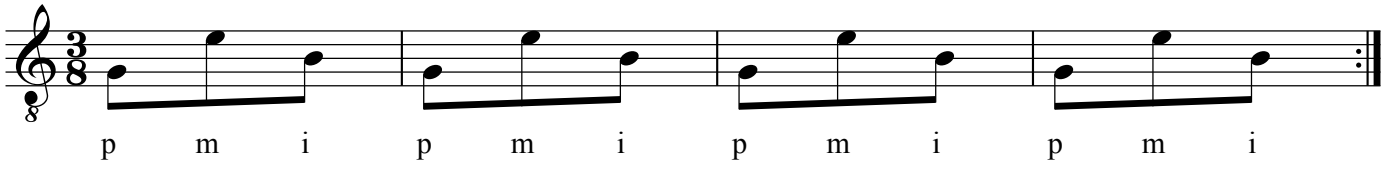
Remember to keep the thumb in front of the fingers during arpeggios. Checking your guitar position may help.



No. 4 - p, i, m arpeggio pattern



No. 5 - p, m, i arpeggio pattern



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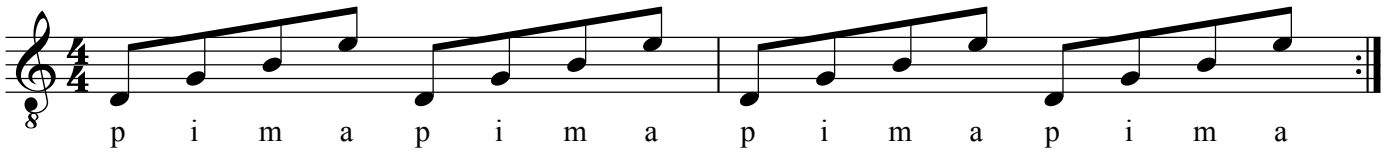
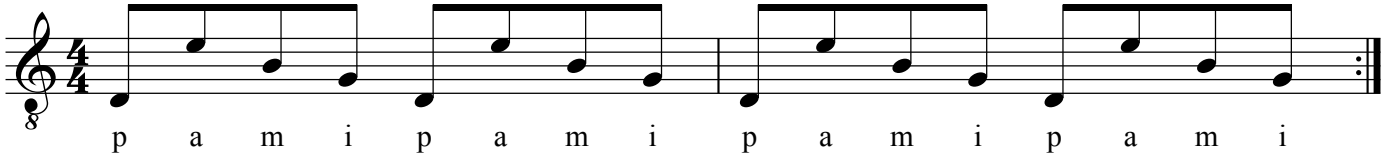
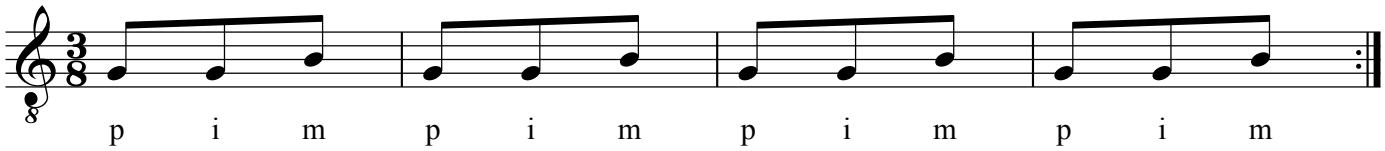
No. 6 - p, i, m, a arpeggio pattern



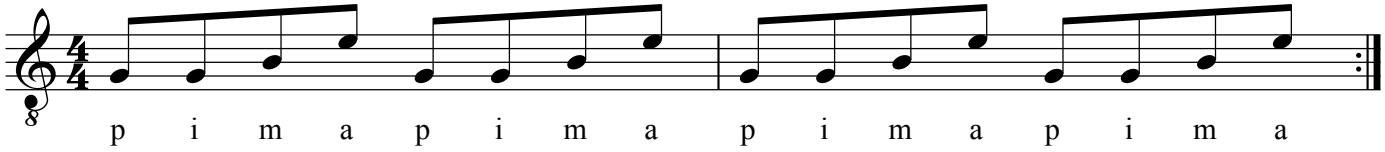
No. 7 - p, a, m, i arpeggio pattern



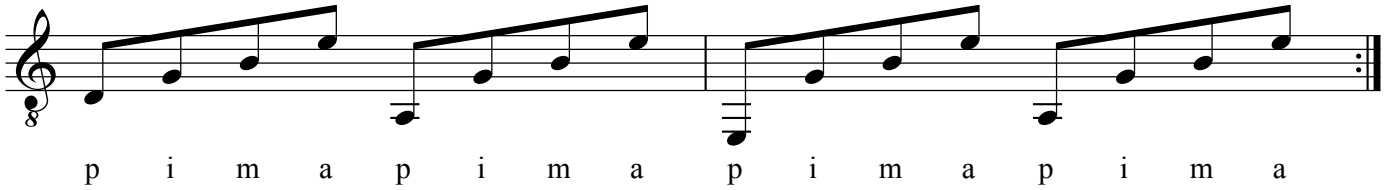
No. 8 - p, a, m, i arpeggio pattern



No. 9 - p, i, m, a arpeggio pattern



No. 10 - p, i, m, a bass strings arpeggio pattern



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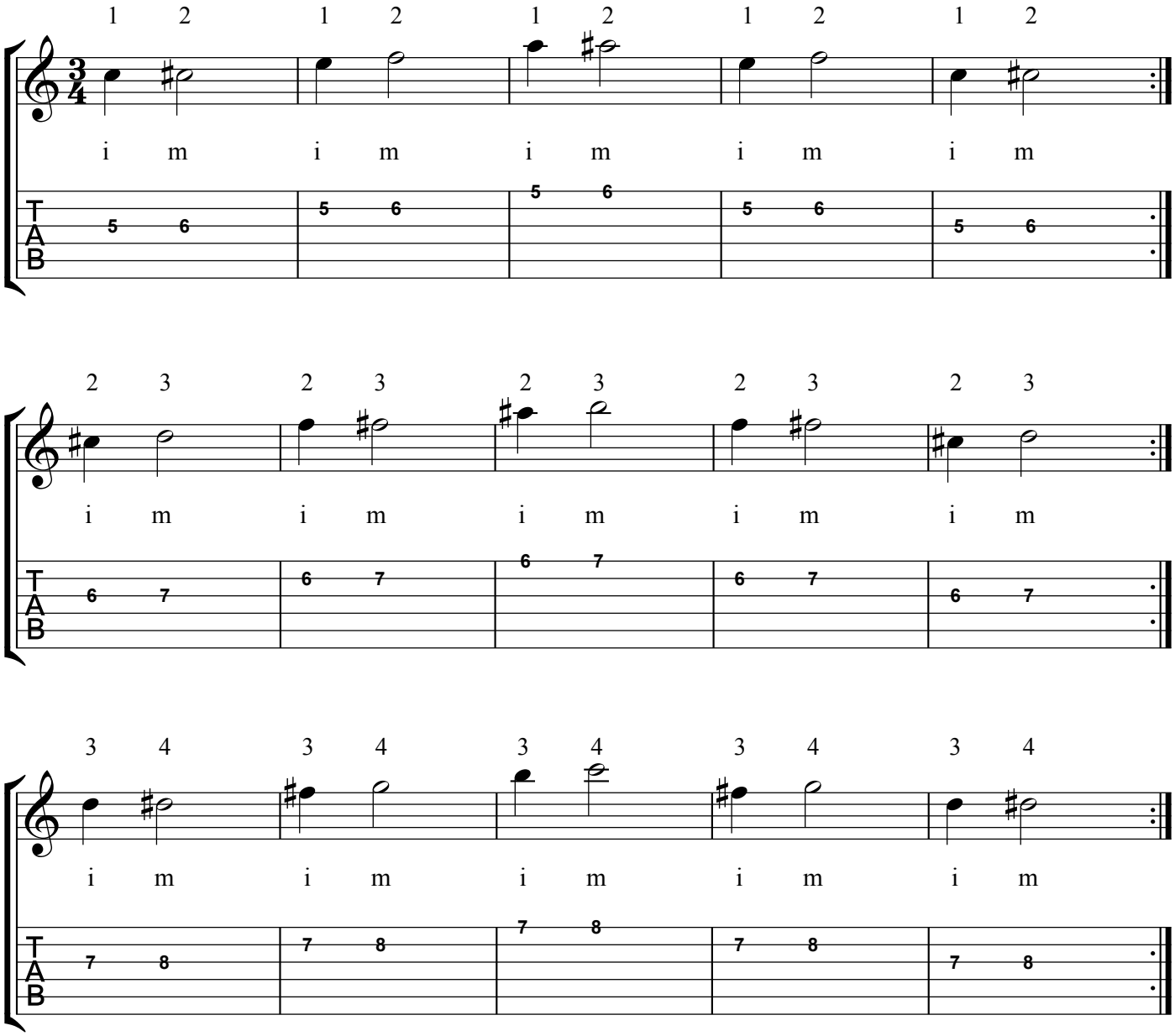
Left Hand Technique Exercises

Tablature has been included to clarify the upper position playing.
A definition of tablature is given on page 81.

All of these exercises use a 'one-finger-per-fret' rule on a four fret group.
You can move these exercises to any four frets, lower frets increase the reach.

No. 1 - Two Finger Synchronization
Form a secure and legato synchronization between both hands.
Read the tablature as these exercises start on the 5th fret.



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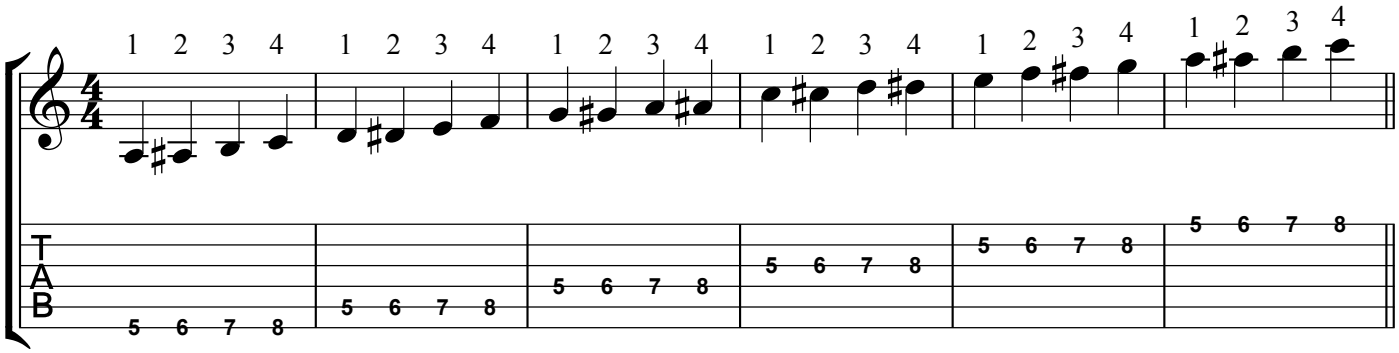
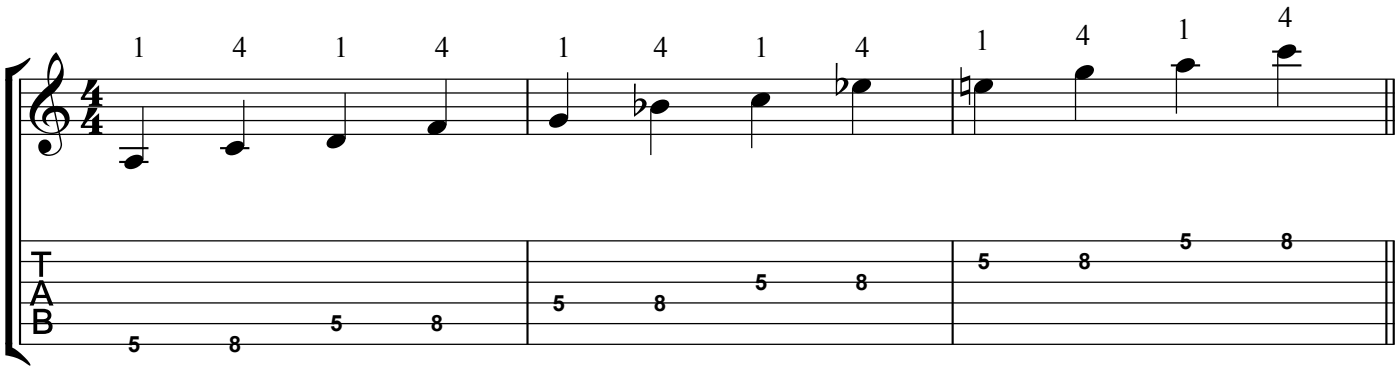
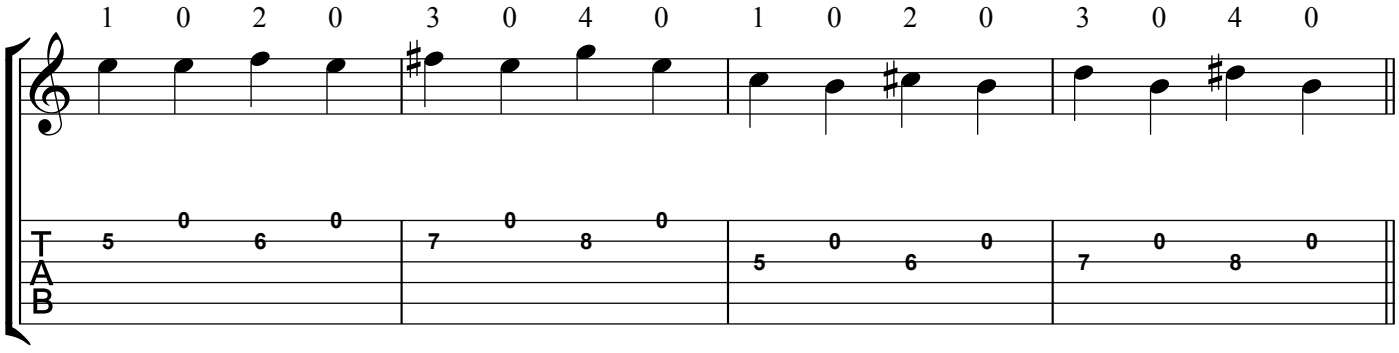
No. 2 - Fingers 1-2-3-4 on all strings
Use your thumb for the three bass strings and i,m for the top three strings.



No. 4 - Fingers 1 and 4 on all strings
Keep the left hand aligned with the strings.



No. 3 - Fingers 1-2-3-4 with open strings
Continue this pattern down other strings. Students should be very careful to not overextend the left wrist.
Let all notes sustain, play on the fingertips with curved fingers, and avoid muting the open string.



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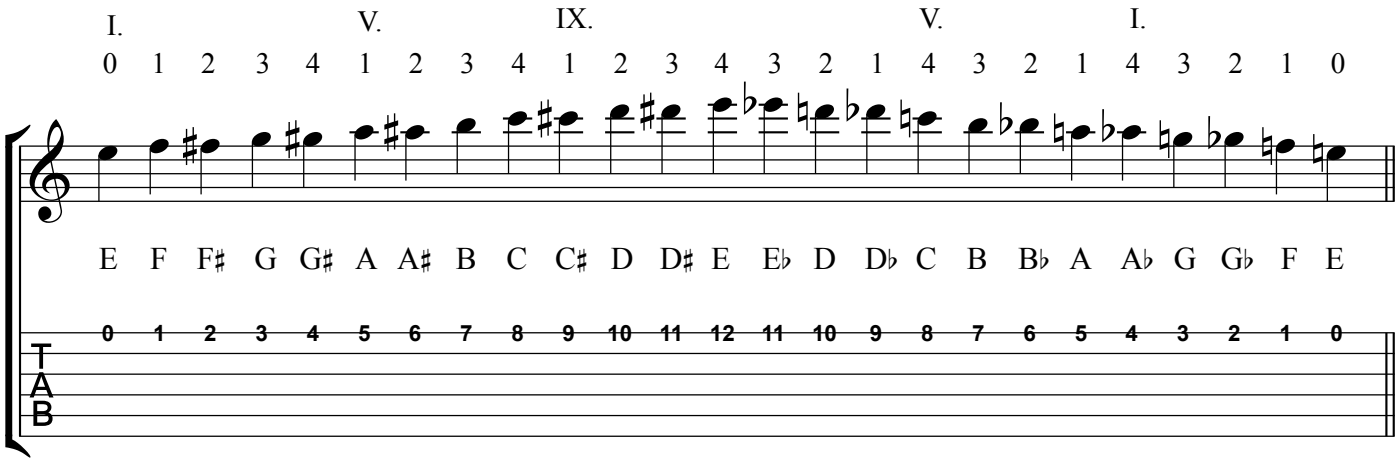
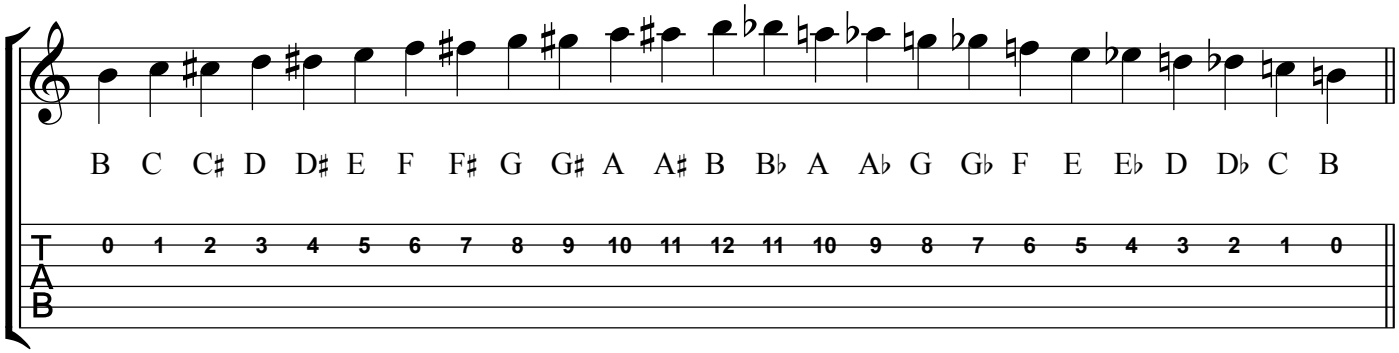
Single String Chromatic Scales

These scales teach you the musical alphabet and every note on the guitar.
Memorize the pattern but don't worry about reading the notes.
The fingering is the same for all the strings. Say the note names out loud.
Upper position reading is covered in Volume Two.

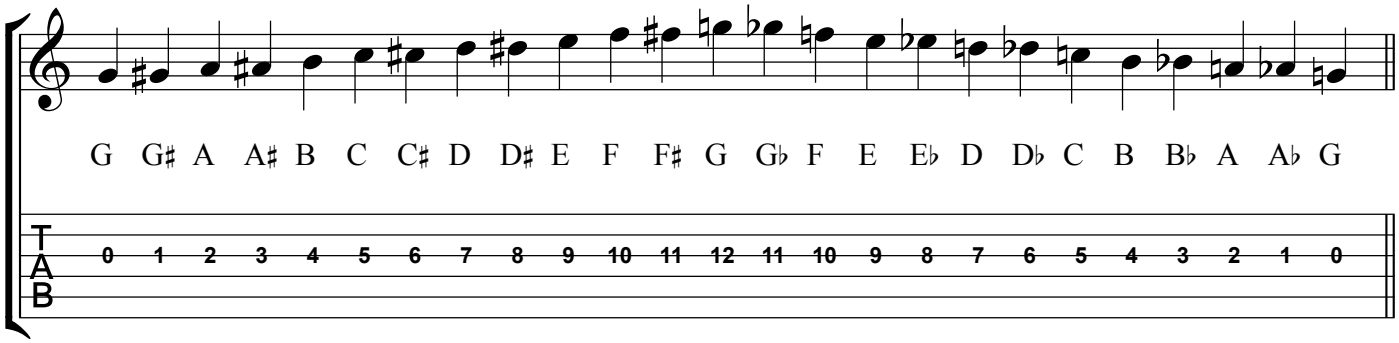
1st String - E Chromatic



2nd String - B Chromatic



3rd String - G Chromatic



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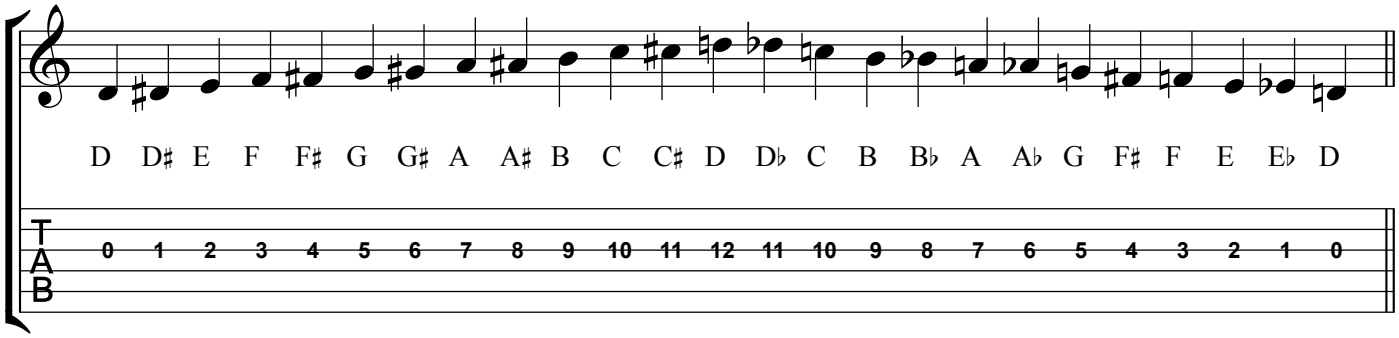
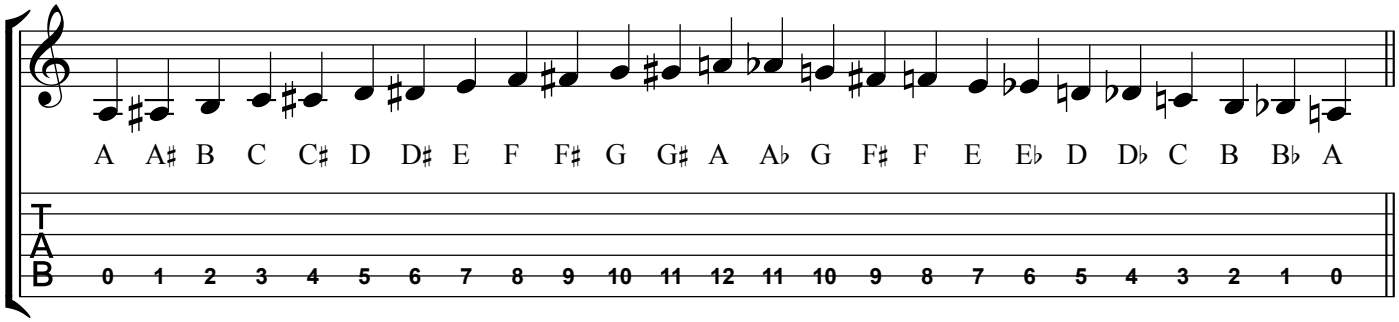
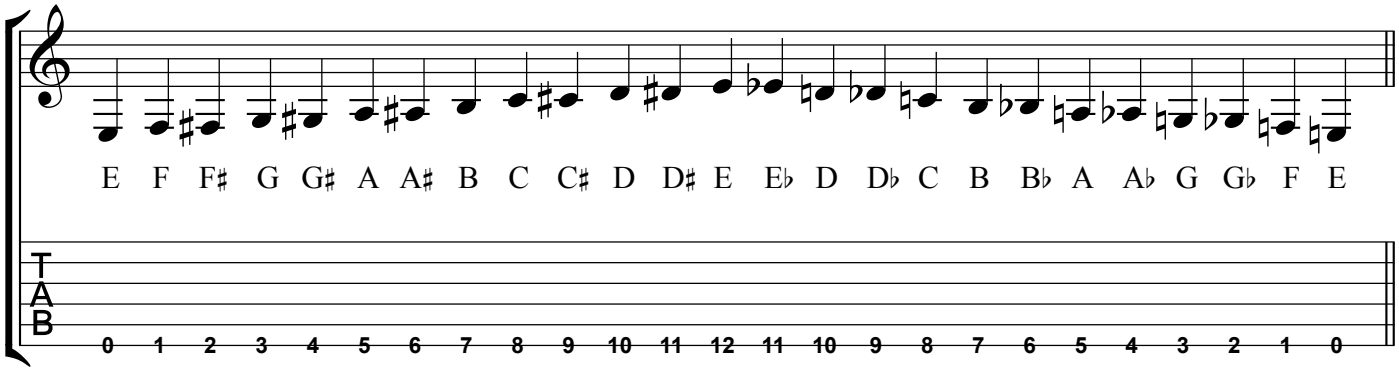
4th String - D Chromatic



5th String - A Chromatic



6th String - E Chromatic



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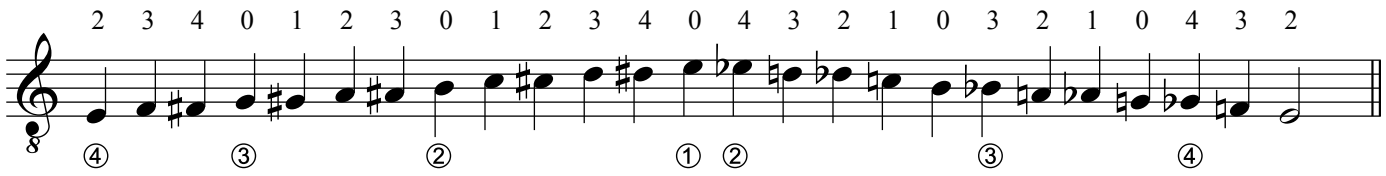
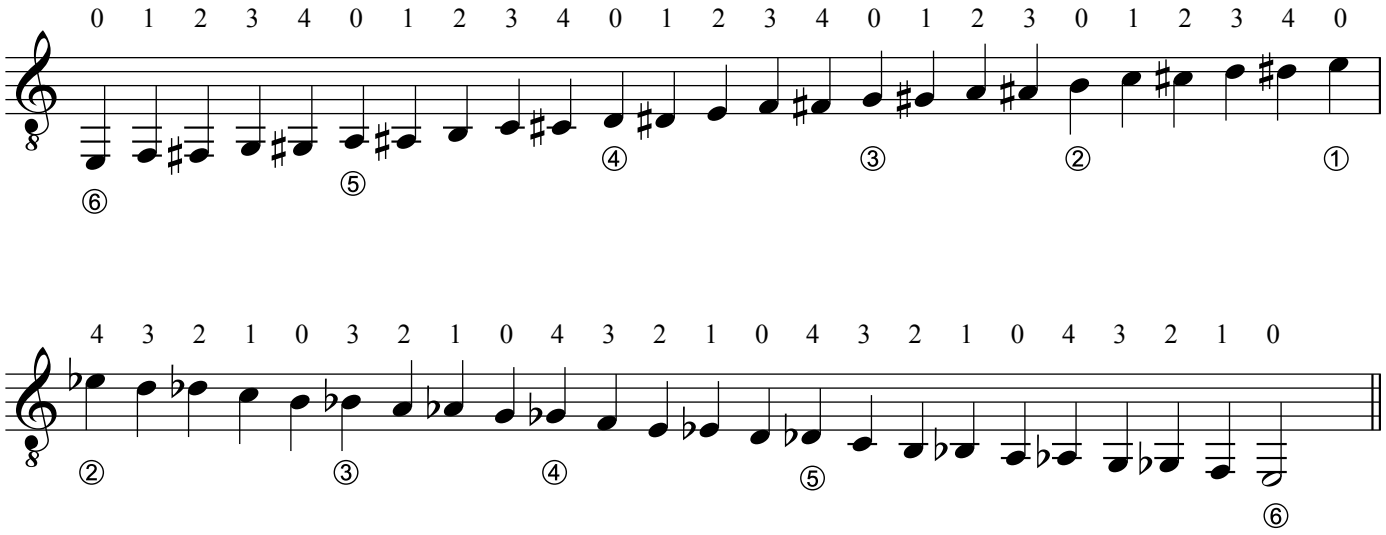
Scales

I have included a small number of scales in preparation for the next level of study. Beginners should continue to my Volume Two method book to fully understand the theory of scales, arpeggios, and key signatures, as well as practice approaches.

E Chromatic 1 Octave



E Chromatic 2 Octaves



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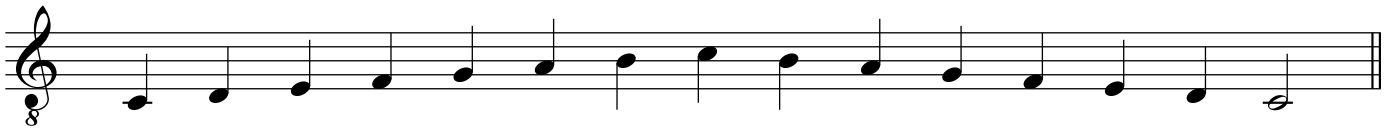
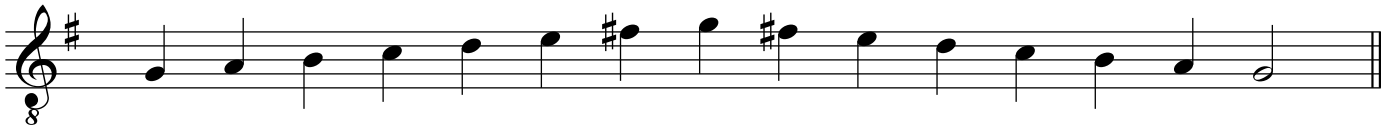
One Octave Major Scales

These scales have been left unfingered for flexiblity in teaching styles.
Key Signatures will be discussed in my Volume Two method book.
I have added accidentals in addition to the key signature.

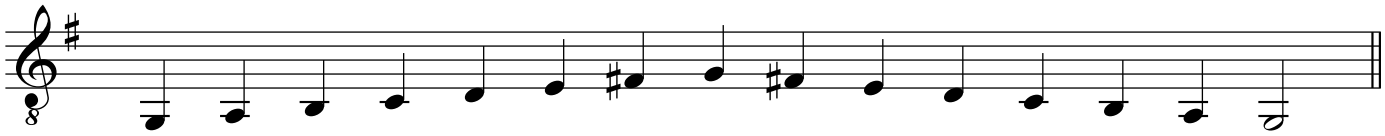
C Major



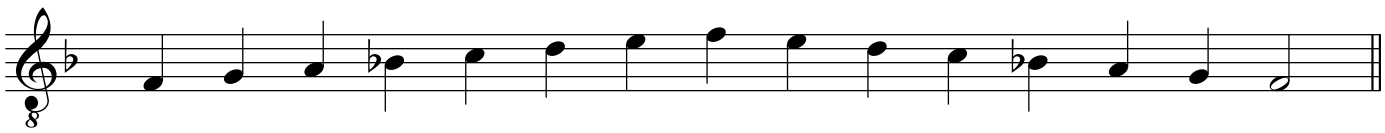
G Major Upper Octave



G Major Lower Octave



F Major



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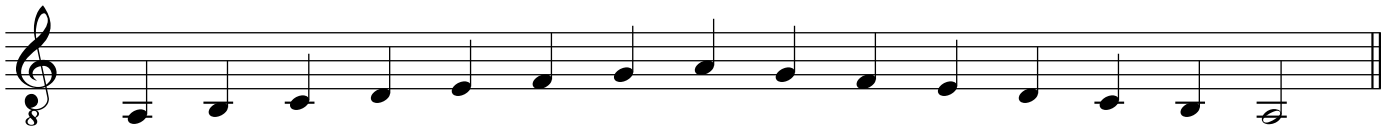
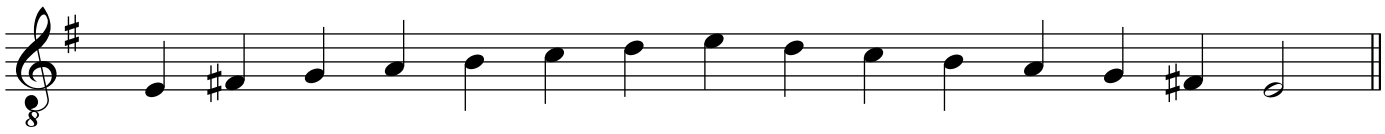
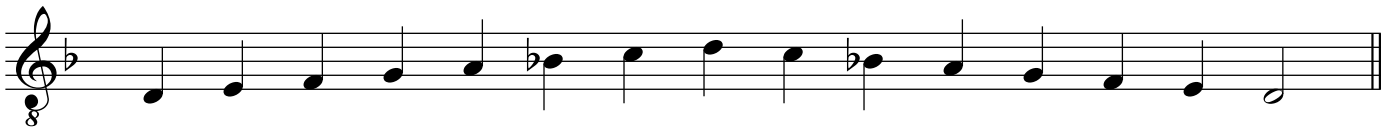
A Natural Minor



E Natural Minor



D Natural Minor



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