6 String Guitar

Slide Guitar Collection

25 Great Tunes for Slide Guitar

Arranged by Brent Robitaille



Standard Guitar Tuning
Beginner to Intermediate Level
Acoustic or Electric
How to Play Slide
Audio Online
Riffs & Exercises
Tablature-Notation-Chords

kalymi publishing

Volume One

Slide Guitar Collection

25 Great Tunes for Slide Guitar

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*Special thanks to the Rocky Mountain Slide Company
and Daddy-Mojo Custom Guitars for the photos*



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Slide Guitar Collection

Introduction

A good way to learn slide guitar is to play tunes that you are familiar with, so presented here is a collection of well known traditional, classical, blues, western and popular tunes specifically arranged for slide guitar in standard tuning. Most of the tunes are arranged to keep the melody on one or two strings so a consistent tone can be produced. Some of the tunes has the tablature written down the fretboard to facilitate easier positioning when switching between notes. There are some finger markings in the notation line *only* which of course are optional. The tunes are in relative order of difficulty and perfect for those new to slide guitar though some pieces present a decent challenge for intermediate to advanced players as well. The added fingerboard charts are included as a reference for those that prefer to read the notation instead of the tablature. The slide exercises at the end of the book are great for developing a solid slide technique.

Slides

Finding the right slide is a challenge on it's own! For many year's slide players would have to conform to commercial slides that are often too big or too narrow. Fortunately, there are many more slide producers now that cater to the different finger sizes and preferred materials. Glass, metal, ceramic, bone, etc. Take the time to experiment and check out the different slide manufacturers to get the right fit and material. Of course, this also depends on which finger your wear the slide on. There are no rules for this so try different fingers and positioning though most players put the slide on the 3rd or 4th finger. This allows the use of the other fingers to also play simultaneously with the slide on. See the "how to play slide" pages that show techniques like "tilt" slide (3) and muting behind the string (4).

Tuning

A most important aspect of slide playing is keeping in tune. The note is in tune when placed directly over top of and in line with the fret. However, the beauty of the slide is to play intentionally out of tune to produce that slide *"vibe"* that is often preferred. Particularly, when sliding into a note from above or below. Memorizing the tunes will help to keep your eye on the fingerboard and thereby keep the slide in line with the fret and in tune. It is also good to practice *without* looking to develop your sense of touch and sensing the location of your hand and slide.

Muting

"Muting" is really the art of playing slide. Knowing how to stop the strings ringing is as important as playing the note sometimes. The space in between the connecting notes is

often what you have to focus on. I suggest practicing the exercises and riffs at the back of the book to begin developing this most important aspect of slide playing. See the photos in the "how to play" slide pages to help learn these techniques. Muting technique cannot be underestimated and is essential to good slide playing.

Vibrato

The use of vibrato (quickly move slide back and forth) has not been indicated in the music for the several reasons. First, to keep the tablature line less cluttered and easy to read. Second, vibrato is a personal choice used where it fits the tune and phrasing according to your own playing style and the tempo of the tune. Most often though the vibrato is used on longer held notes. Experiment with the speed of the vibrato from slow to fast to make your own "style" of vibrato.

Pressure

Another important aspect of slide playing is how hard you press the slide against the string(s) referred to as "string pressure". The action (distance of string to neck) on your guitar determines how hard you will need to press on the string. Lower actions are tricky as the slide can knock against the frets producing an unwanted buzzing clank that often will produce dead muted notes. Most slide players will have a second guitar with a higher action that is more conducive to slide playing. If you just have one guitar consider raising the action even slightly to get better tone and less slide buzz. For the most part, try and keep a good even pressure on the strings to produce a clear tone.

Tone

Up there with muting is *tone*. Perhaps the single most important aspect for any instrument is "how does it sound." Not the notes you play but the actual sound you hear. This is Illusive and subjective to the player and listener. Each player defines his/her sound but consider the following important concepts. First, if you play with a pick consider experimenting with different gauges of picks. A heavier gauge pick will generally give you a warmer rounder tone. Second, the placement of the pick. A wealth of tonal qualities is available depending on where you pluck the string. Experiment with the placement of the pick both up the neck and down by the bridge. This sound difference is fairly obvious but adds variety. Try switching pick positions often as you play to achieve the many different variations of tone.

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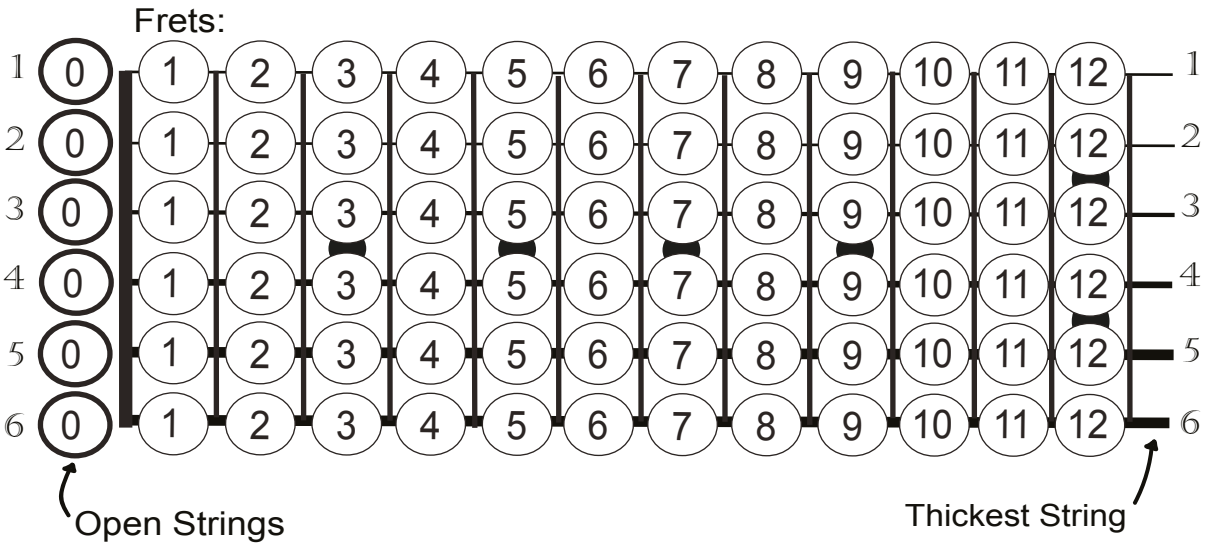
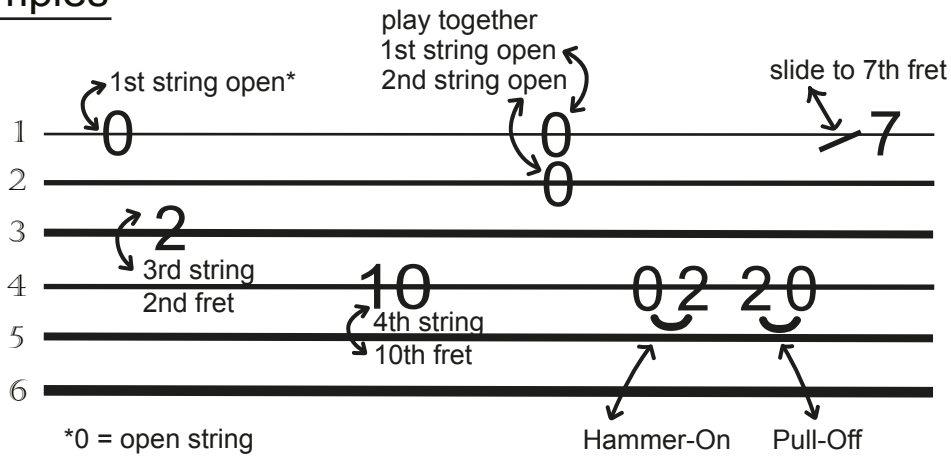
How to Read Guitar Tab

Fingerboard Chart



Examples



Slide Notation Guide



Grace Note
Play before
proceeding note.



Slide up.



Slide down.



Slur - Legato
Play notes
smoothly.

How to Play Slide

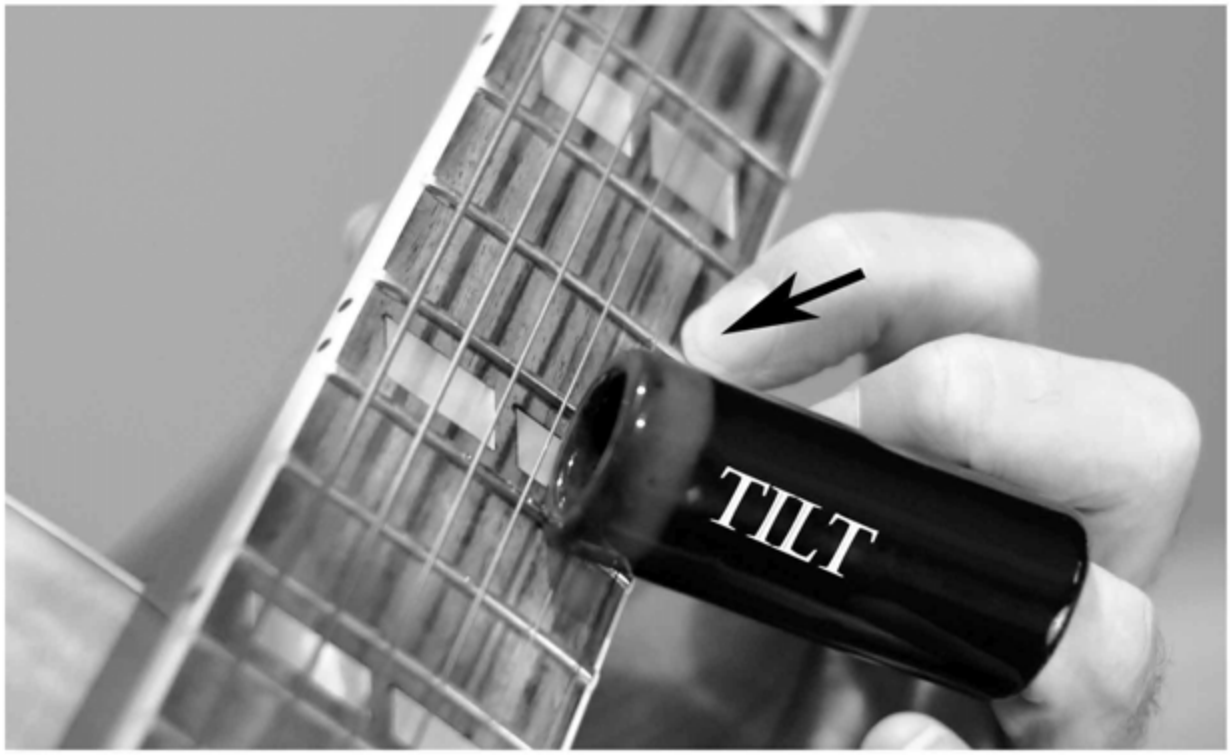
1. Place slide directly over top of fret to play note in tune.



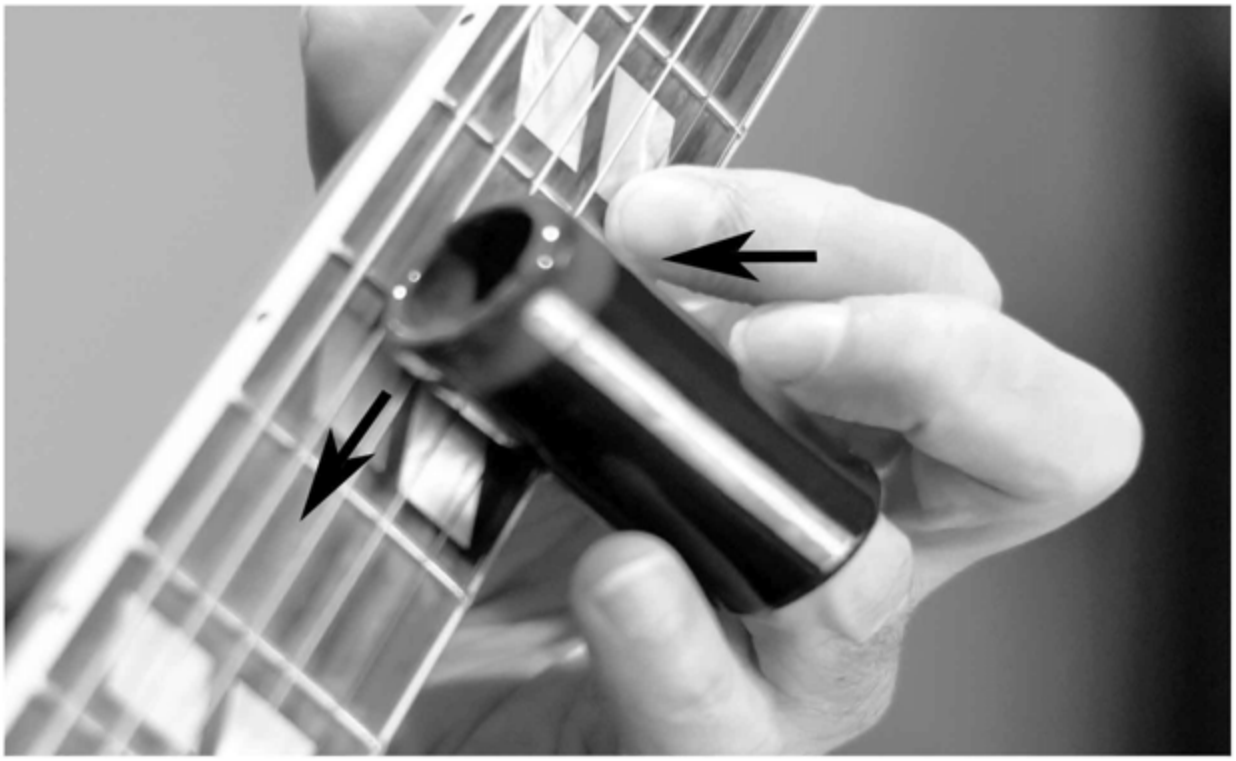
2. Place the picking hand finger(s) on strings to stop them from ringing (mute) when the slide sound is not desired.



3. Use fingers to play behind or in front of slide by using a “tilt” slide technique.



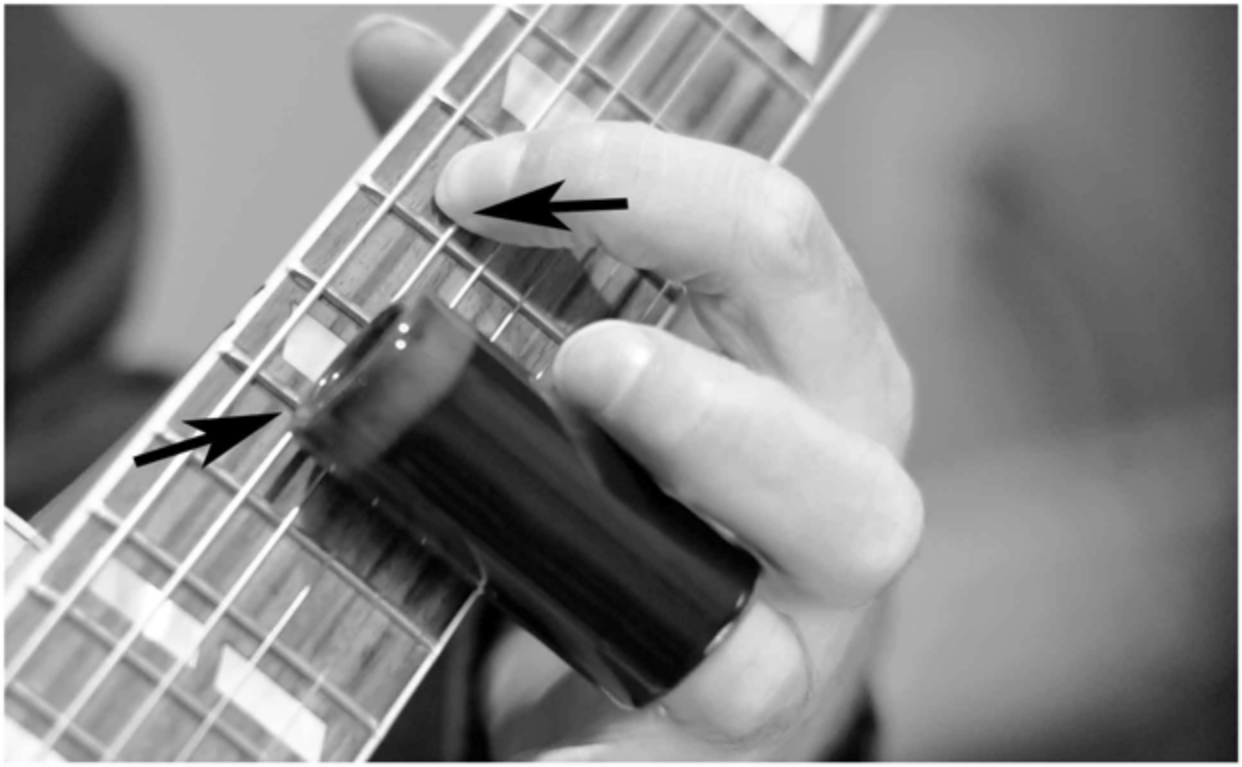
4. Fretting hand mute is sometimes desired when moving slide. Stop strings with fingers and move hand.



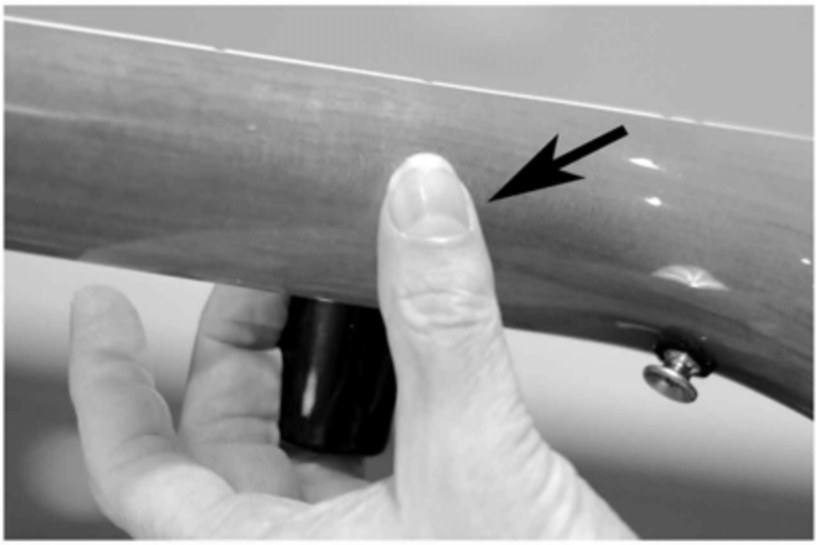
5. Maintain a good even pressure on strings to avoid buzzing.



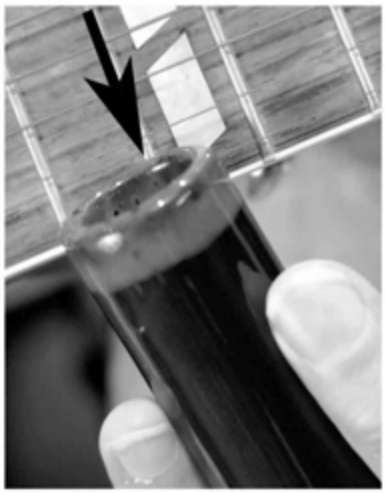
6. Depress string behind slide with finger and keep slide straight when playing chords.

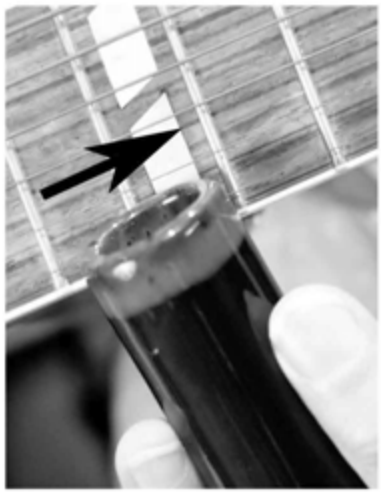


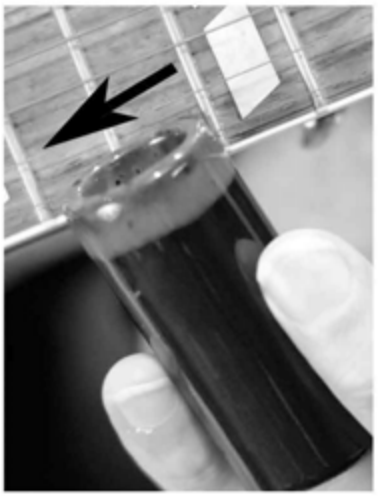
7. Three Points of Vibrato. (1) Thumb acts as a pivot.



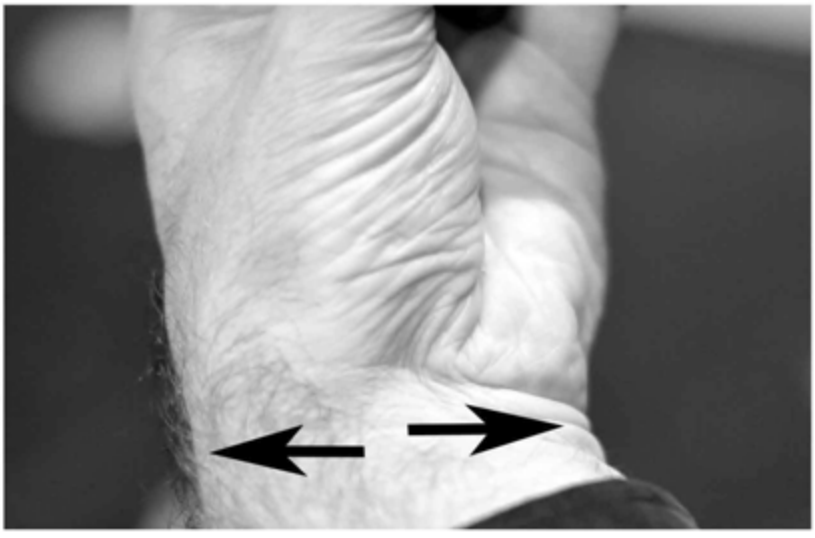
(2) Place slide in line with fret and move from side to side.





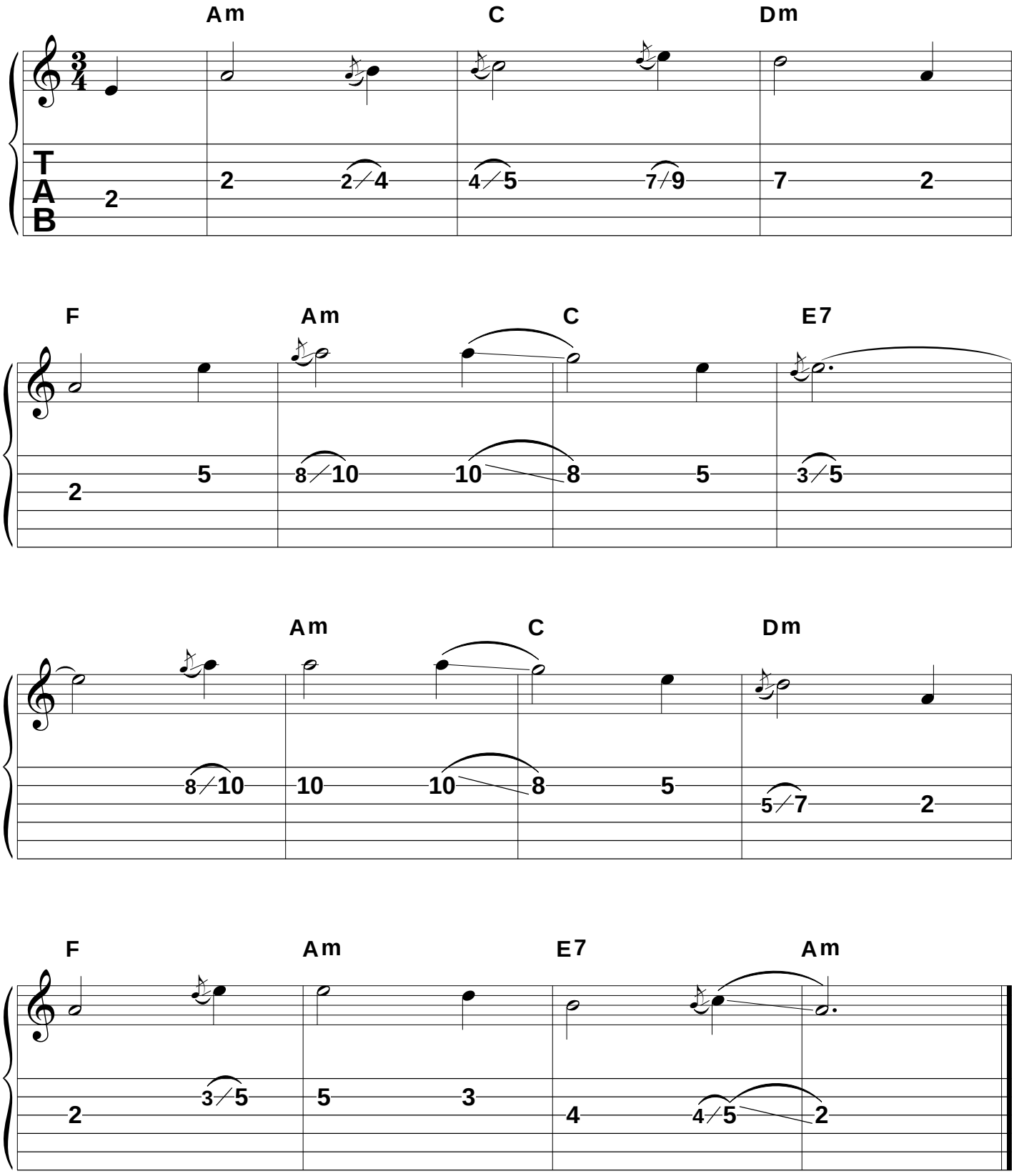


(3) Loose Wrist. Focus on moving wrist back and forth.



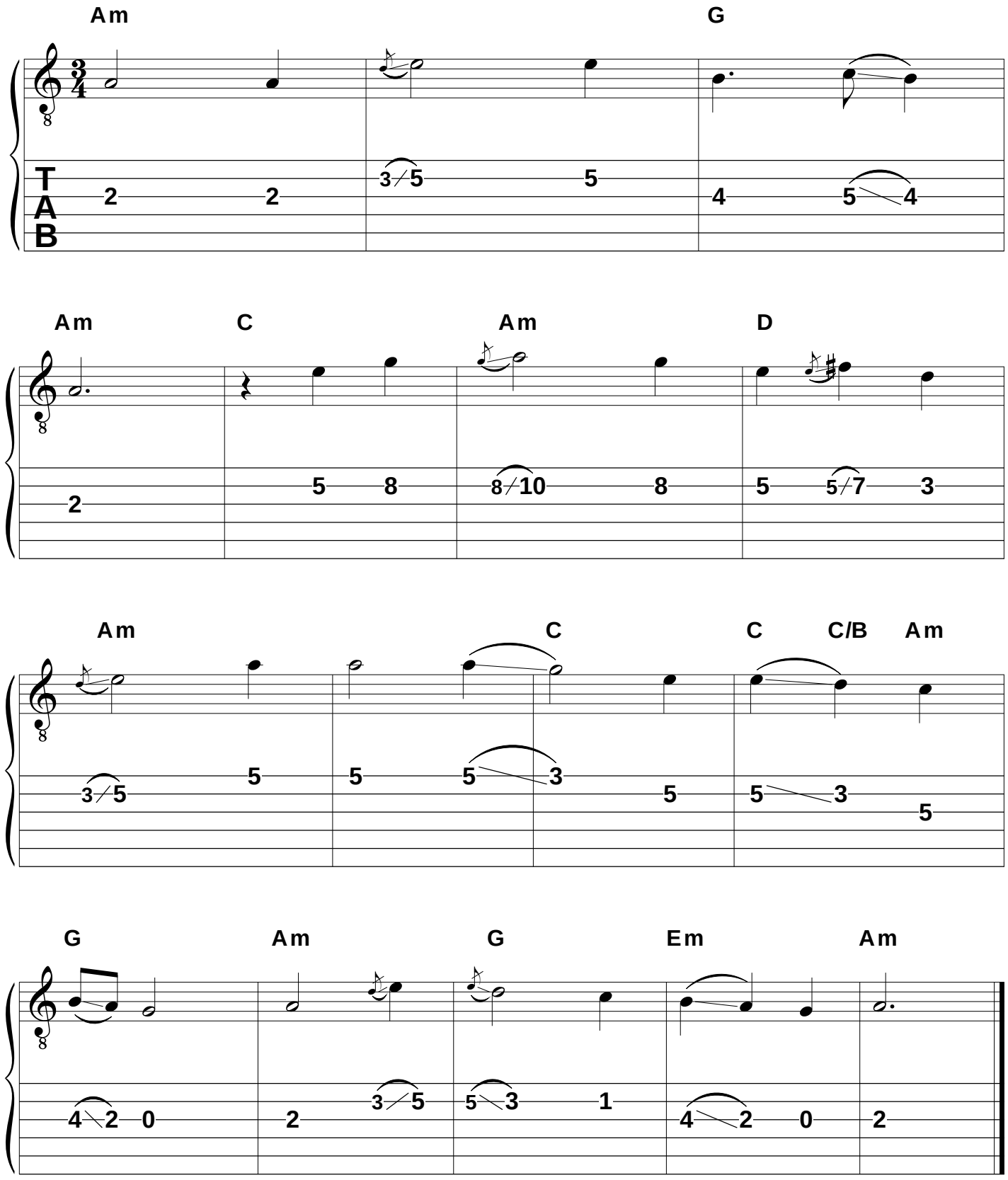
House of the Rising Sun

Traditional



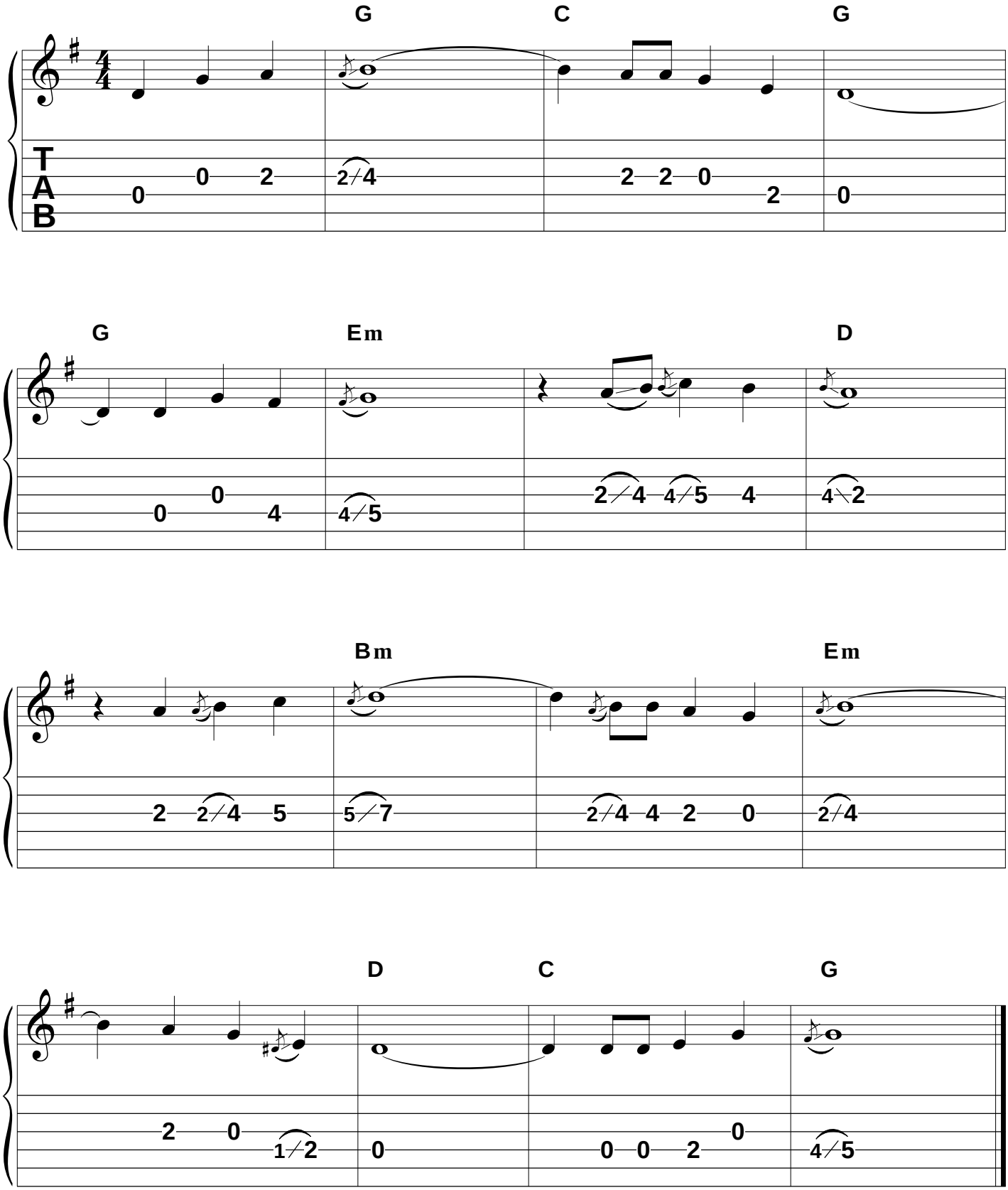
Scarborough Fair

English Ballad



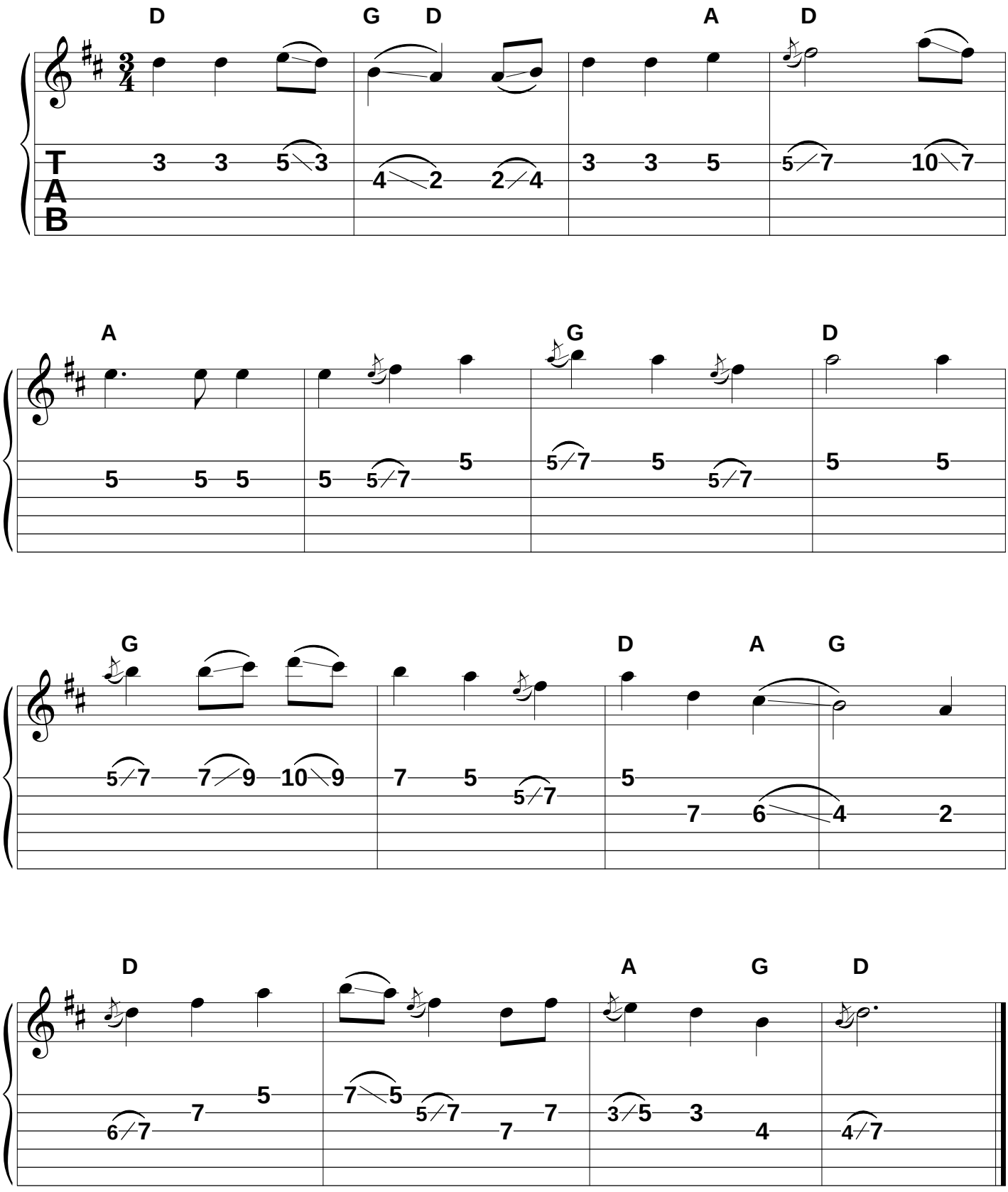
The Water is Wide

Folk Song



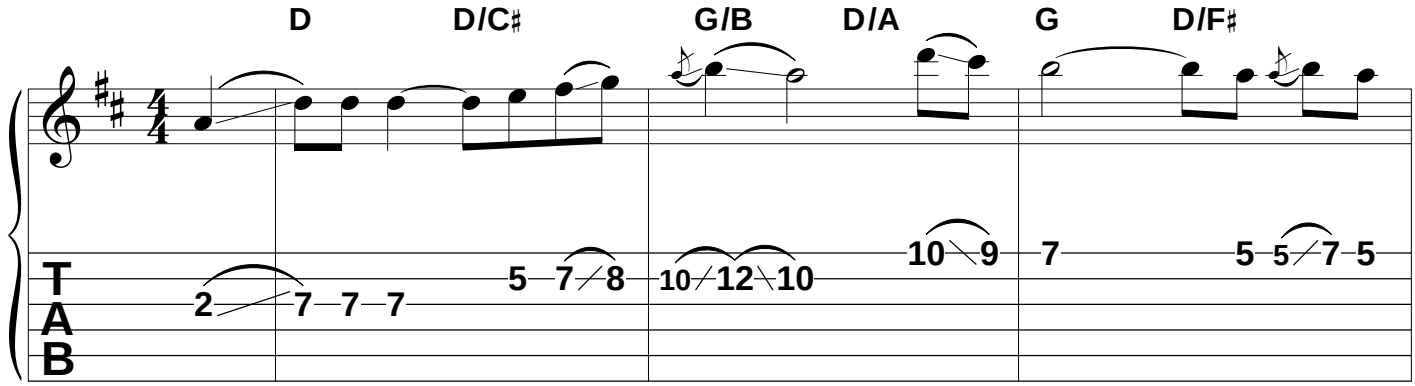
Be Thou My Vision

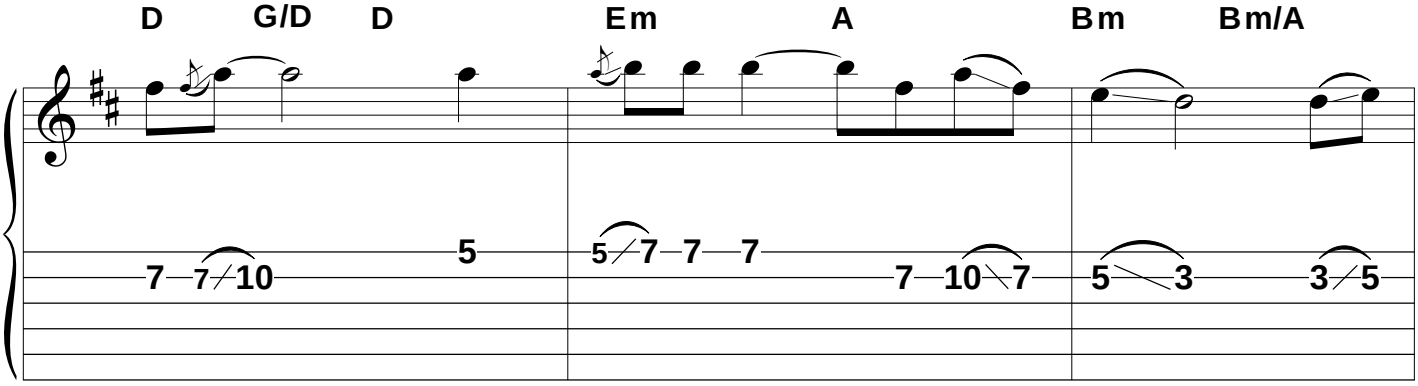
Traditional

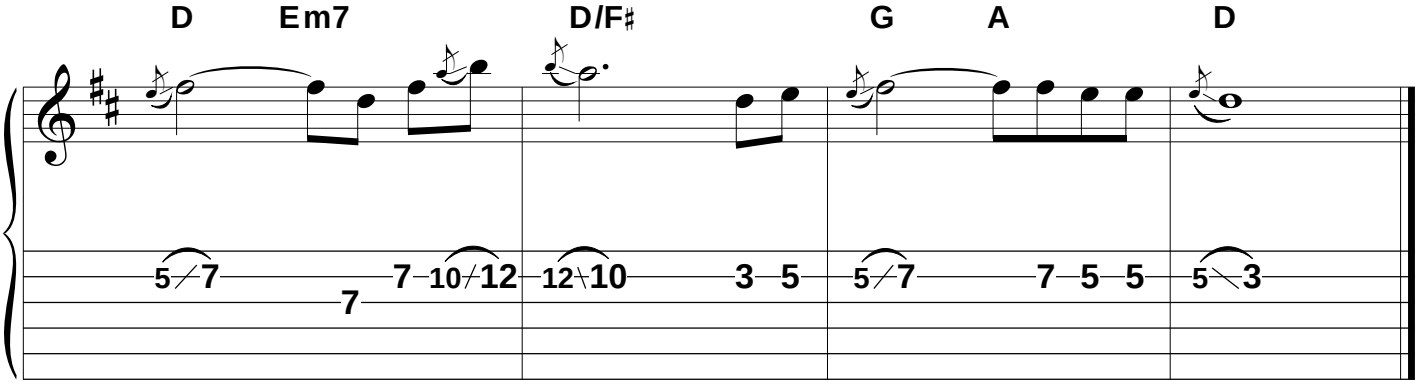


Shenandoah

American Folk Song

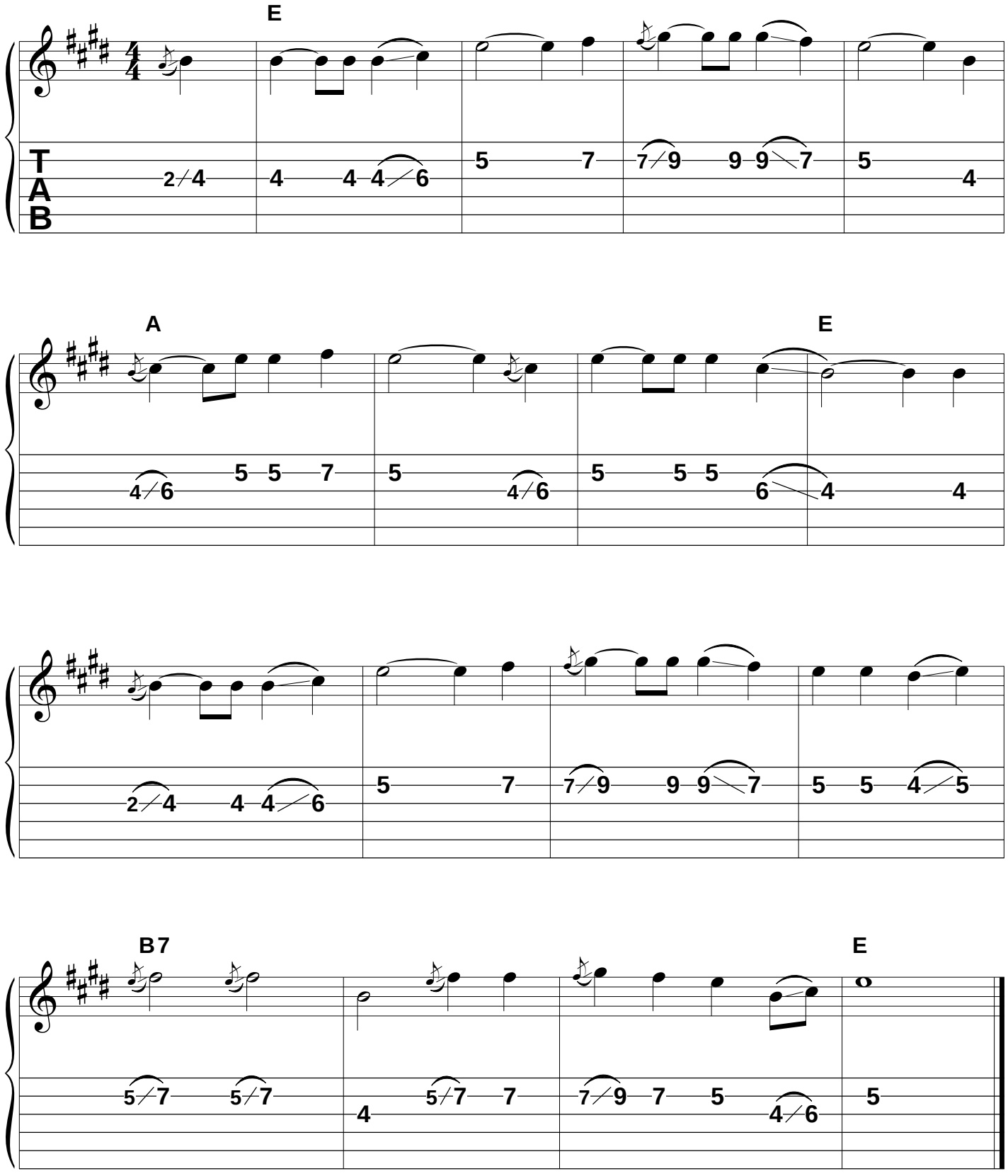






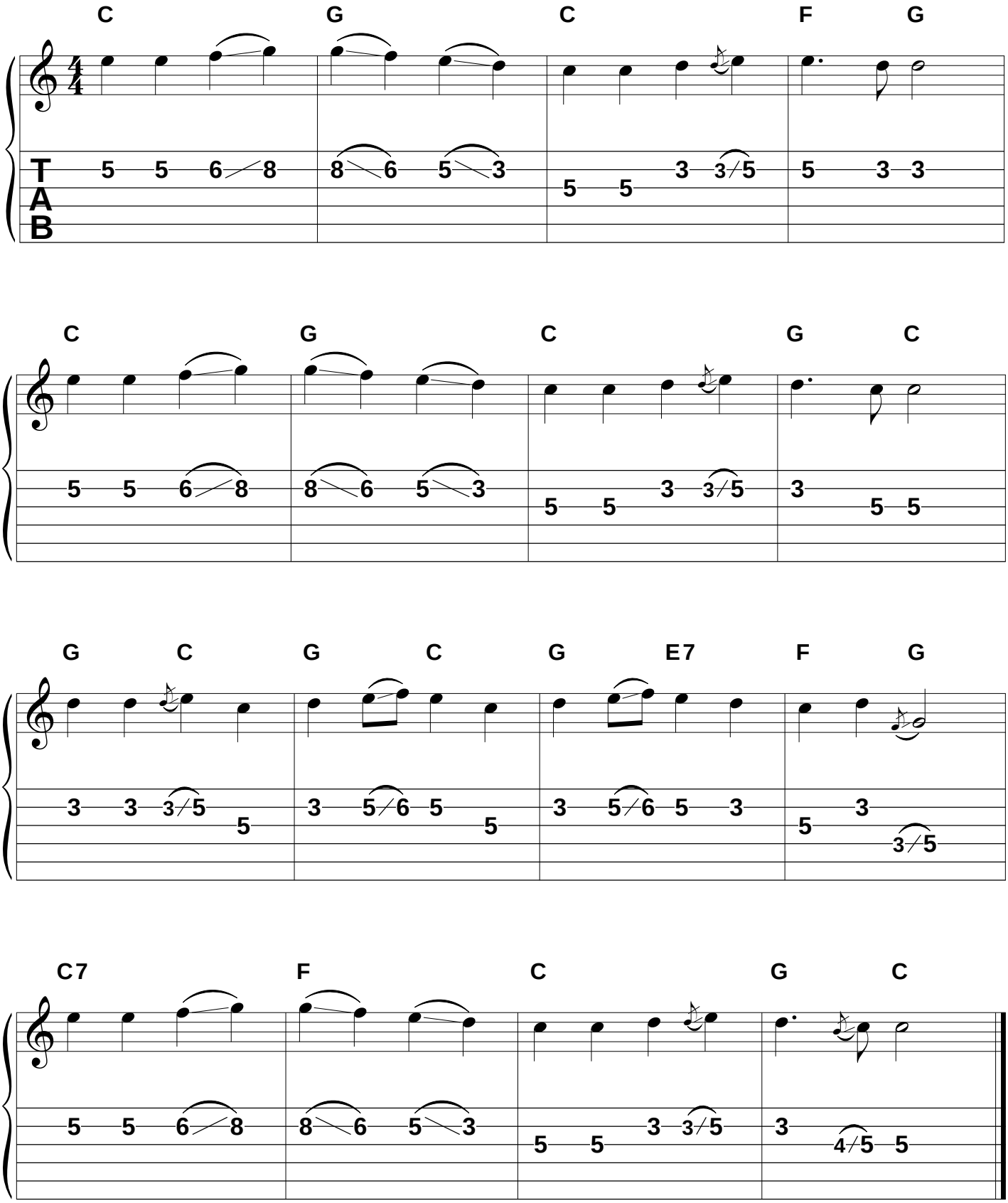
Worried Man Blues

Folk Song



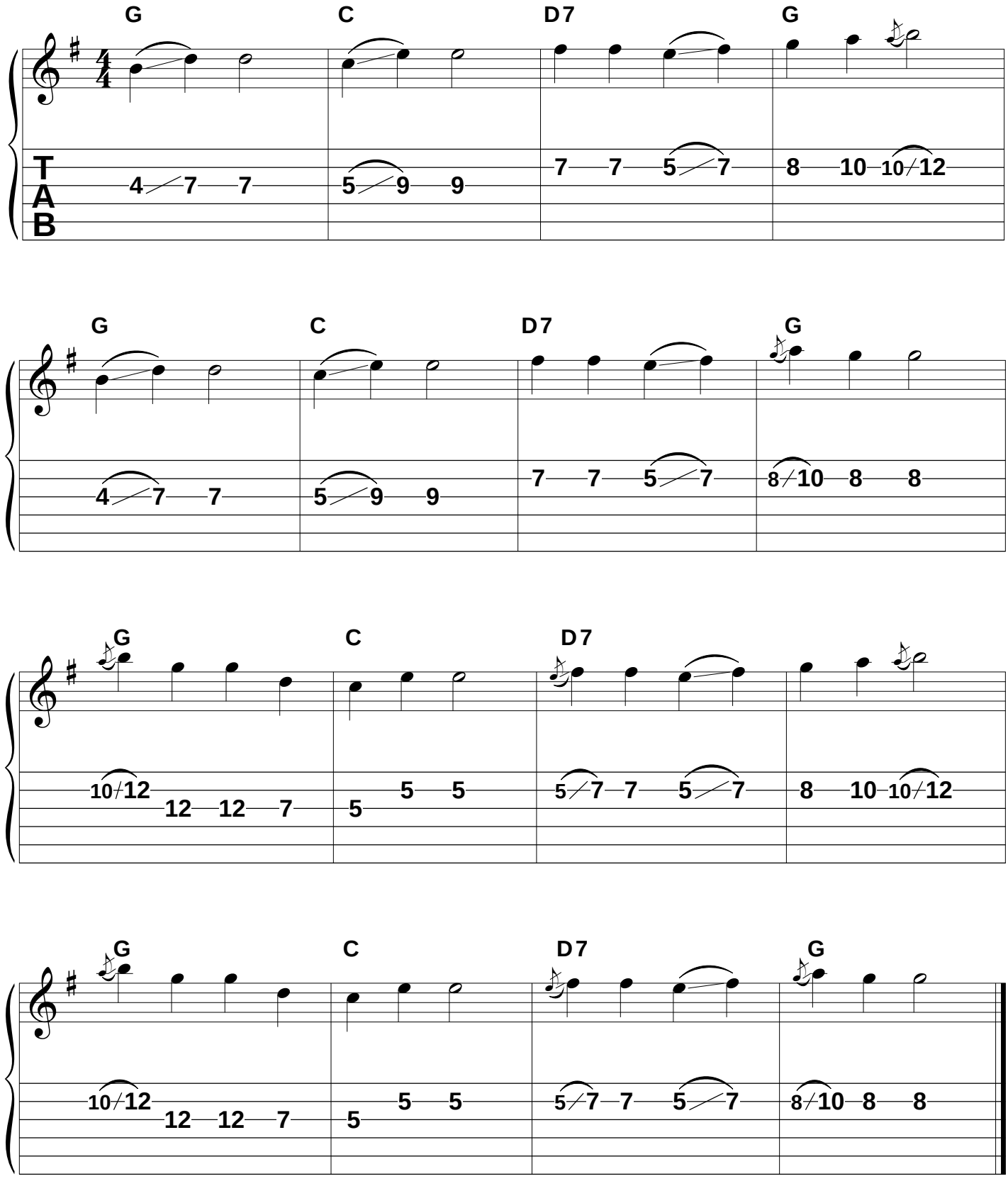
Ode to Joy

Beethoven



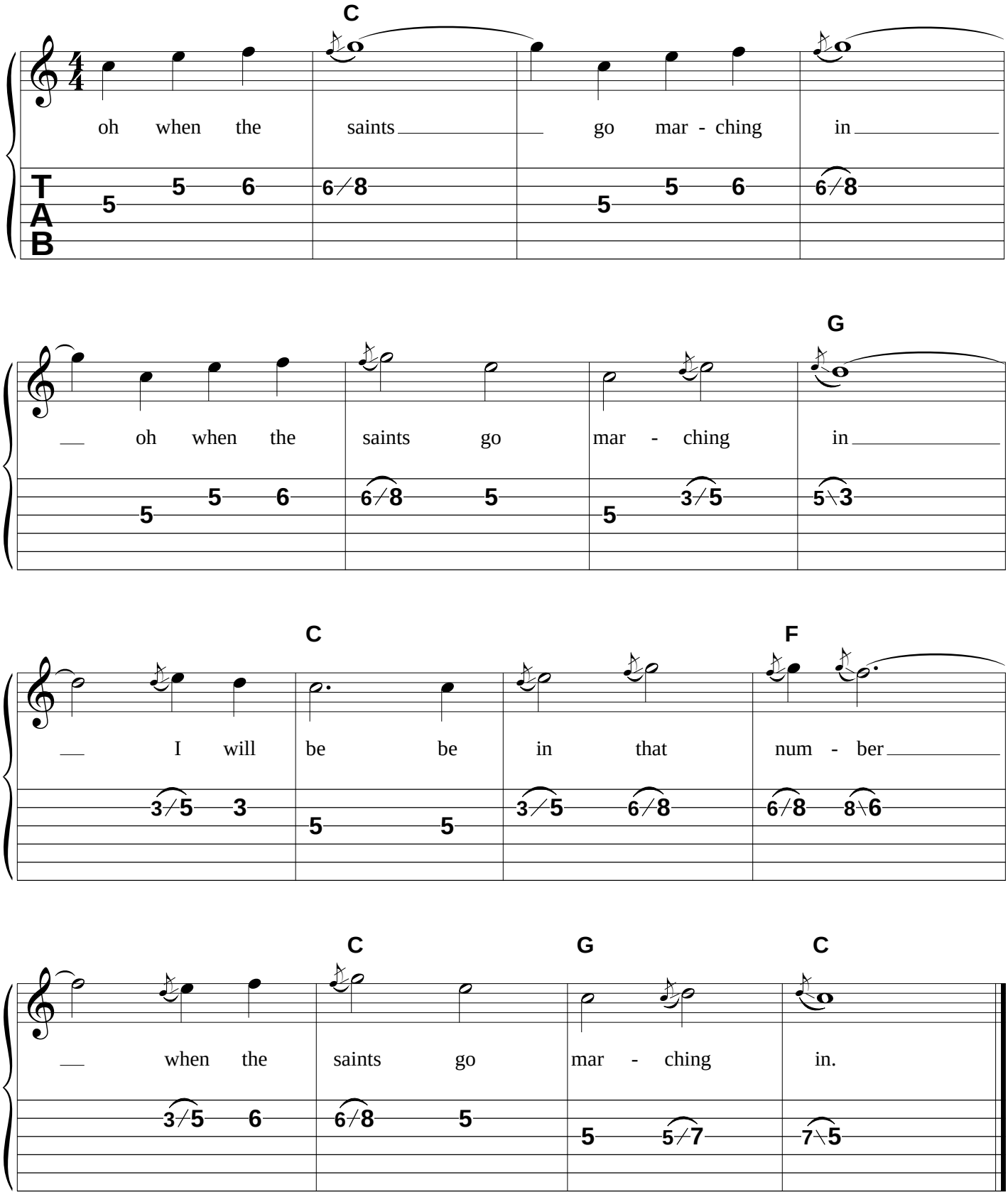
Little Brown Jug

Popular Song



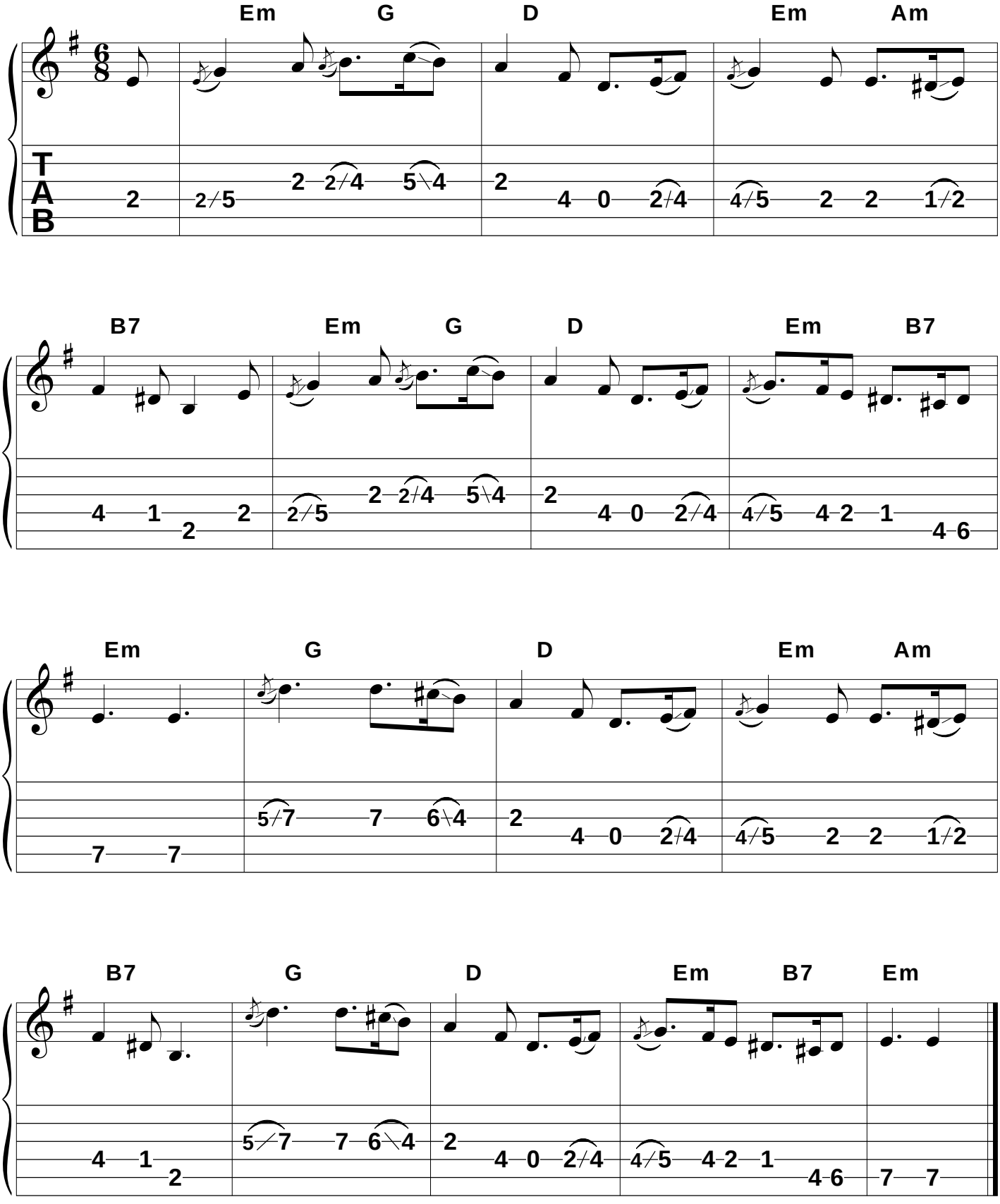
When the Saints Go Marching In

Gospel



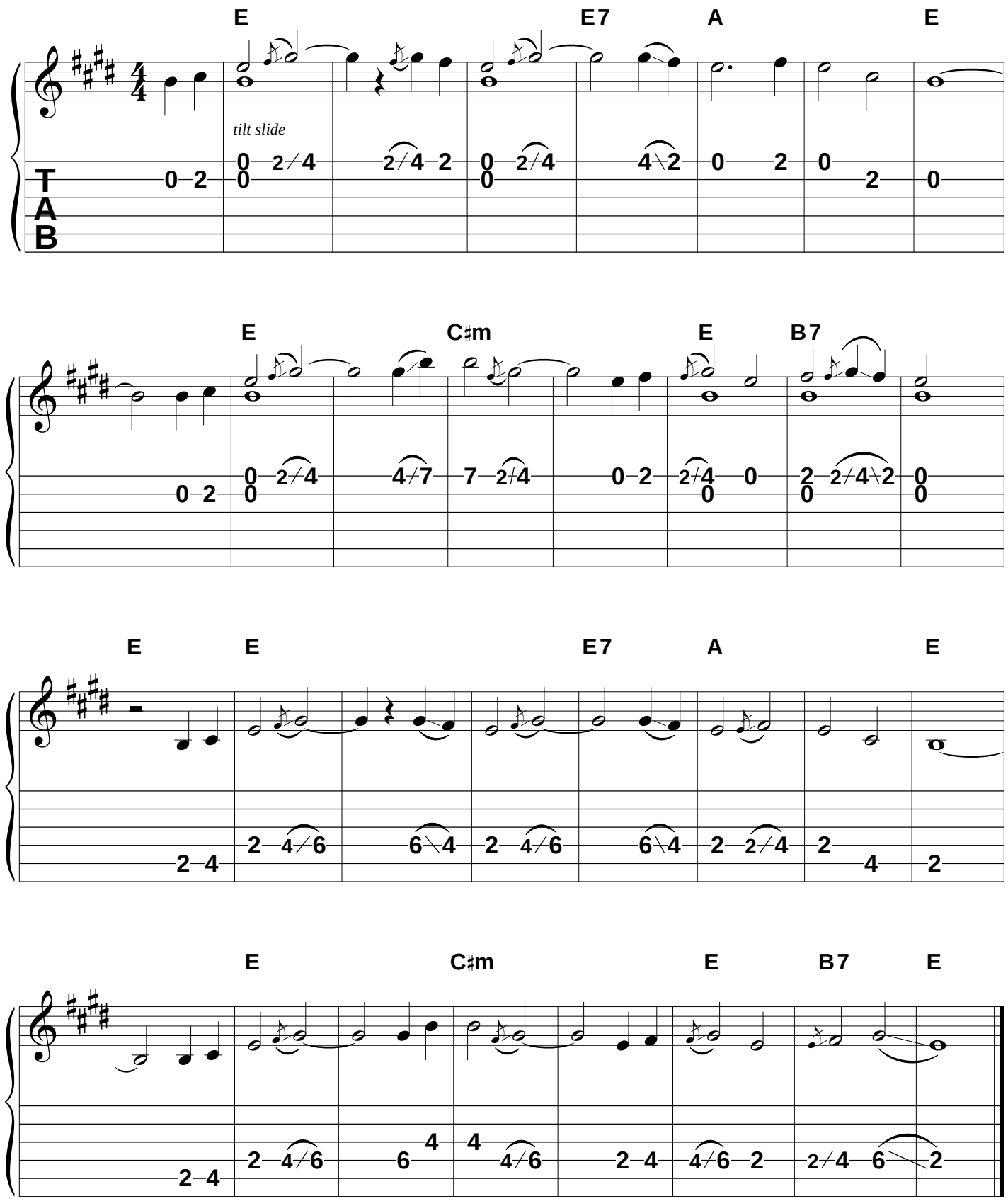
Greensleeves

English Folk Song



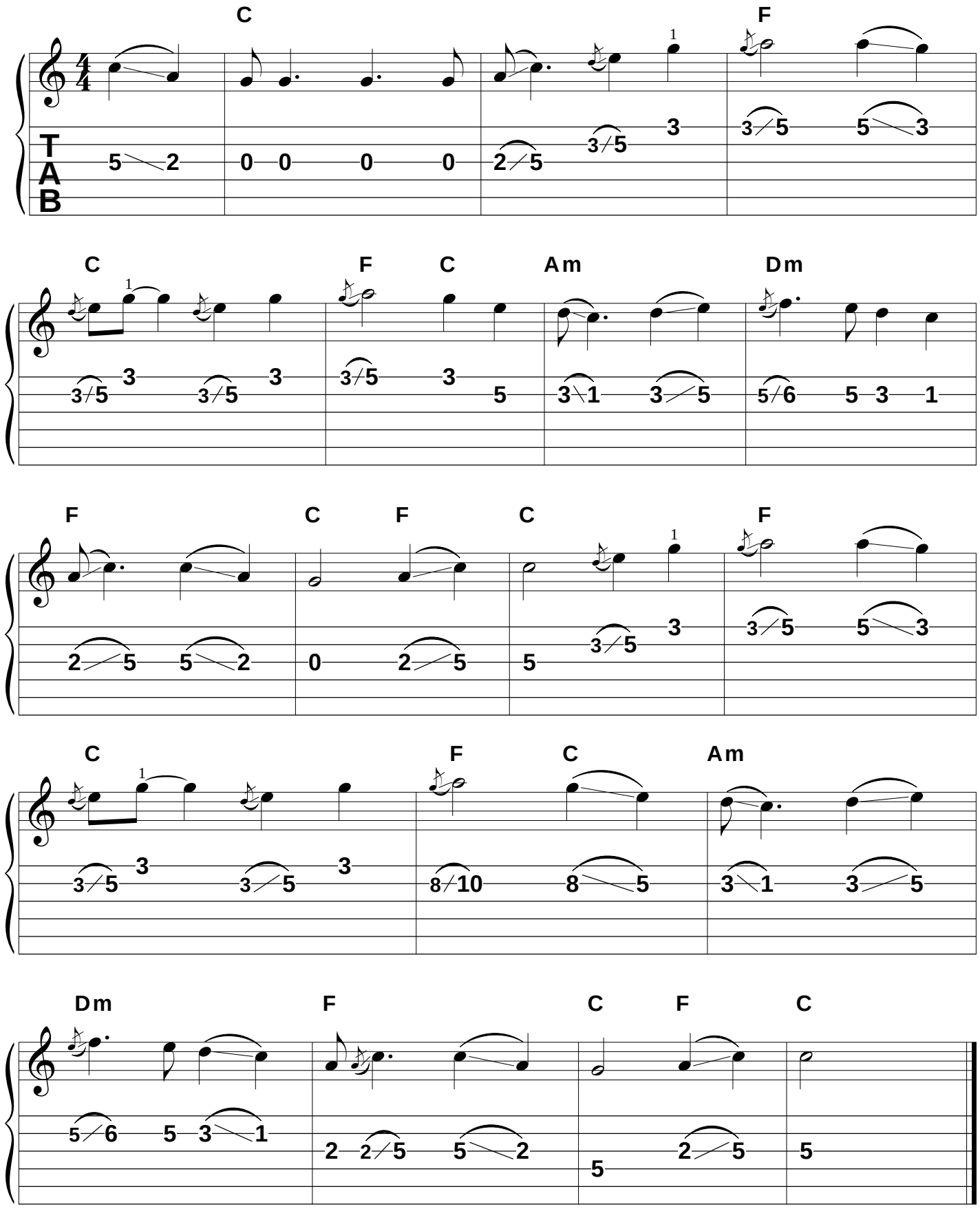
Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Traditional Hymn



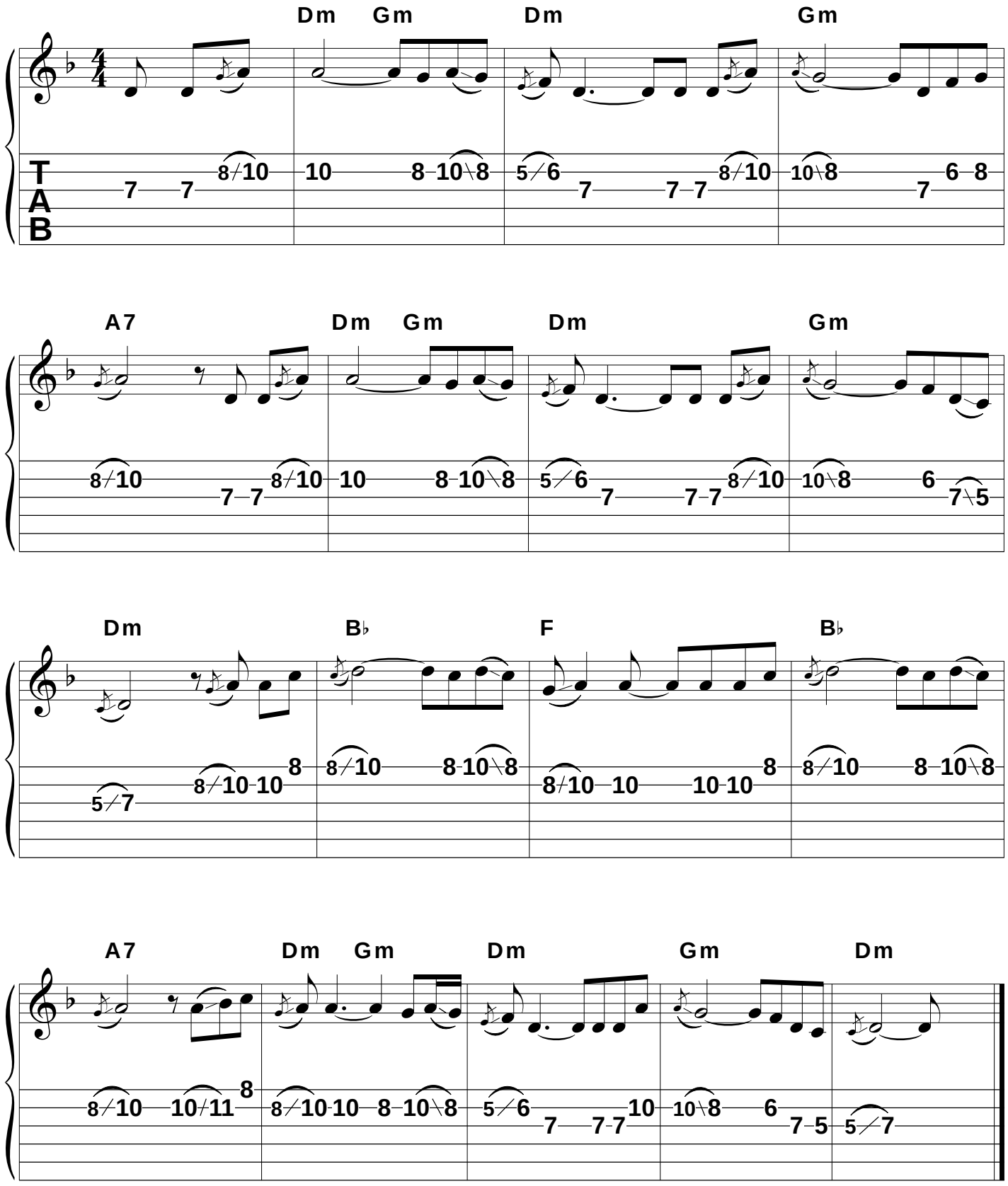
Wild Mountain Thyme

Folk Song



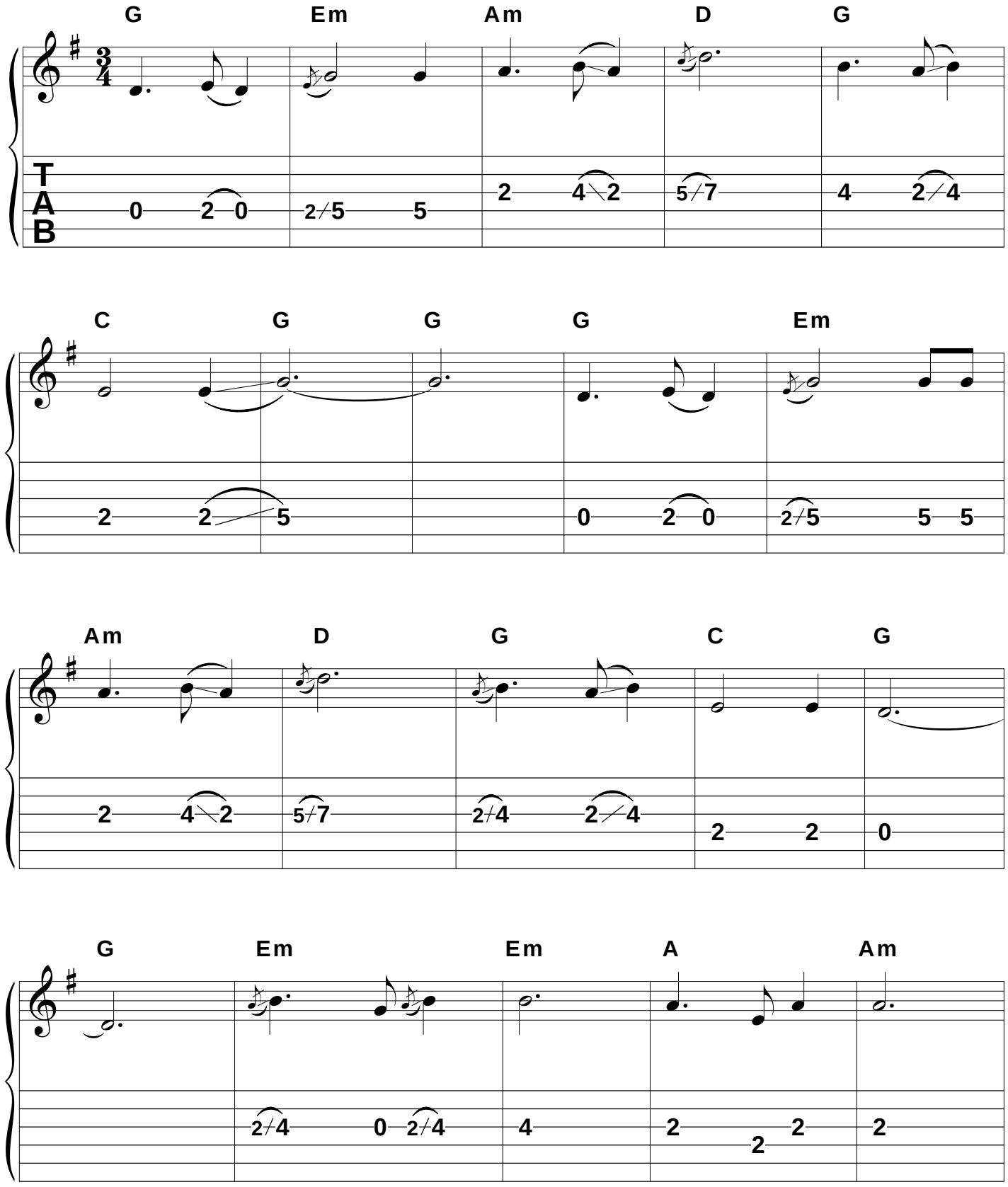
Wayfaring Stranger

Traditional Song

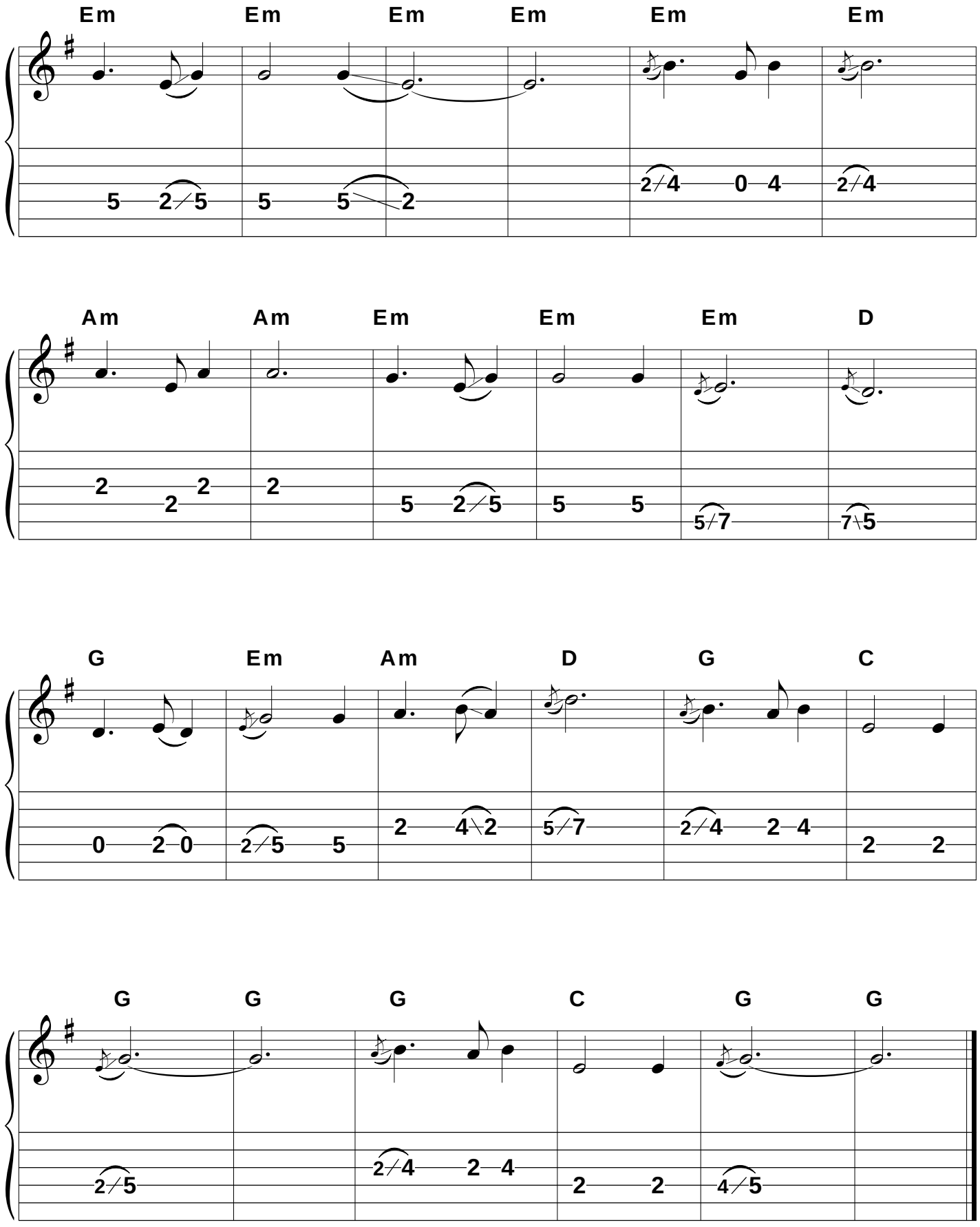


Skye Boat Song

Scottish Folk Song

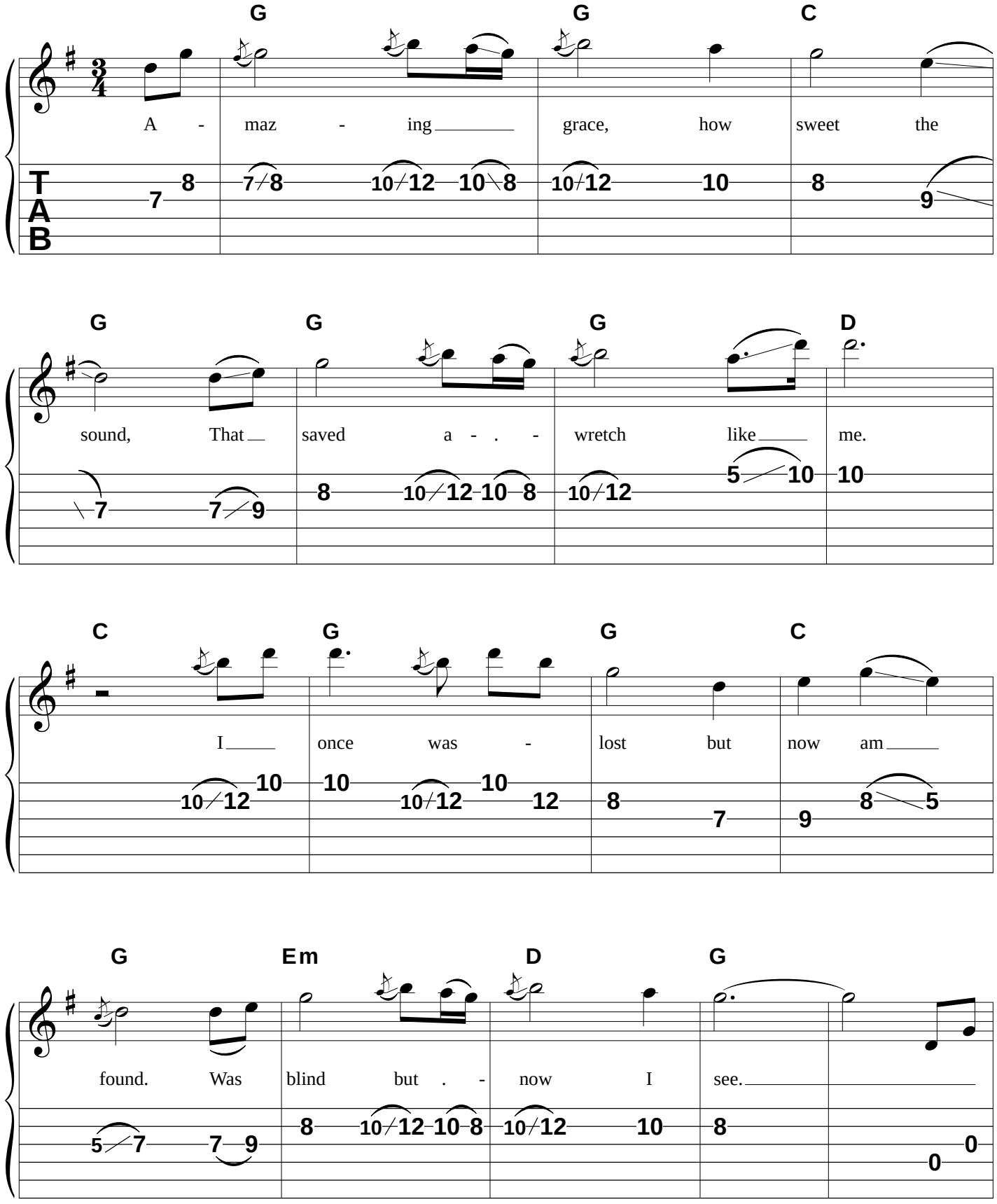


Skye Boat Song - 2



Amazing Grace

Hymn



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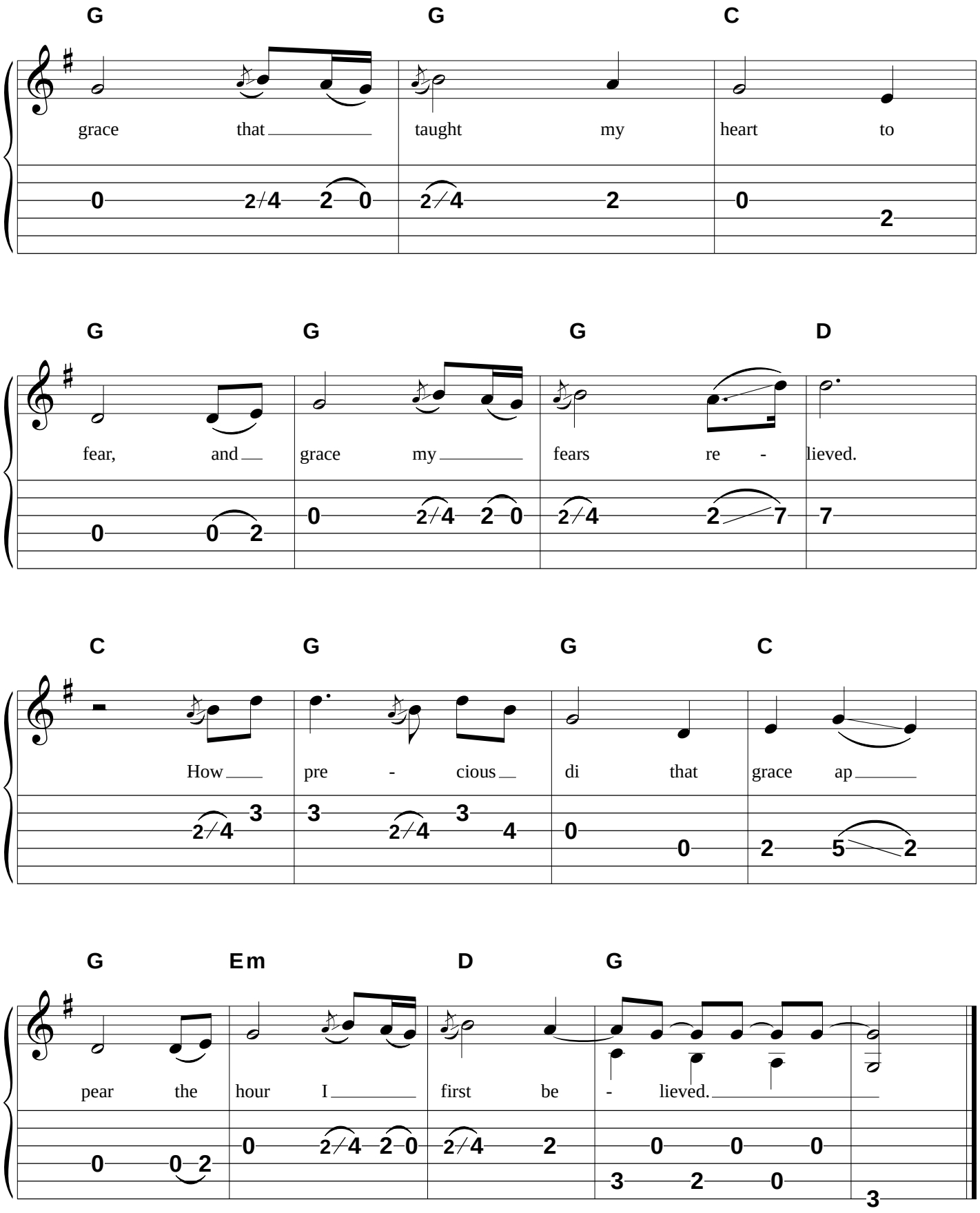
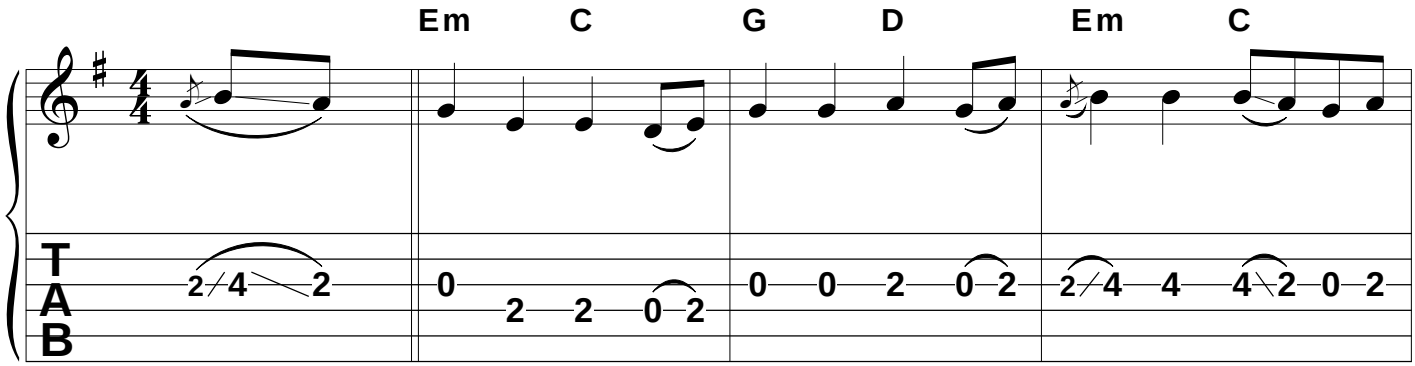
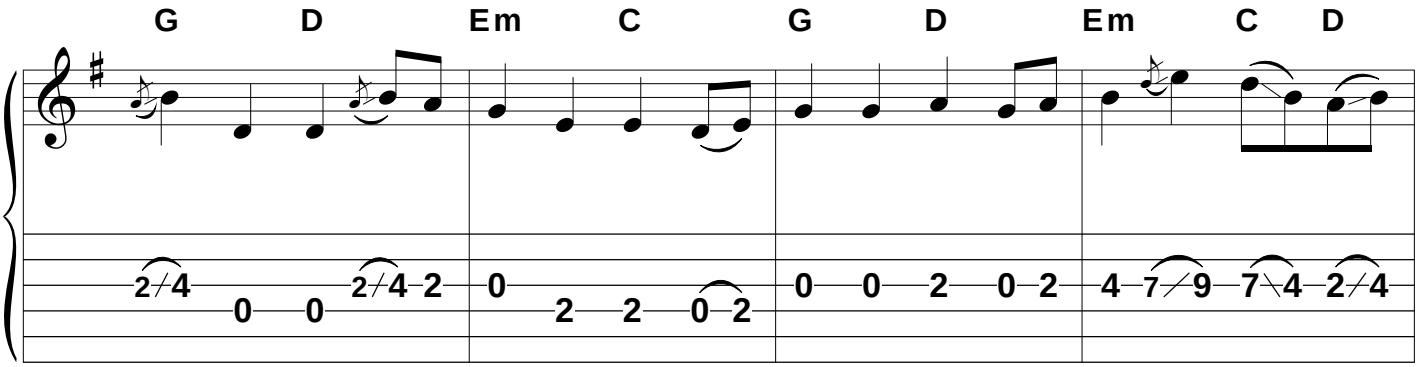
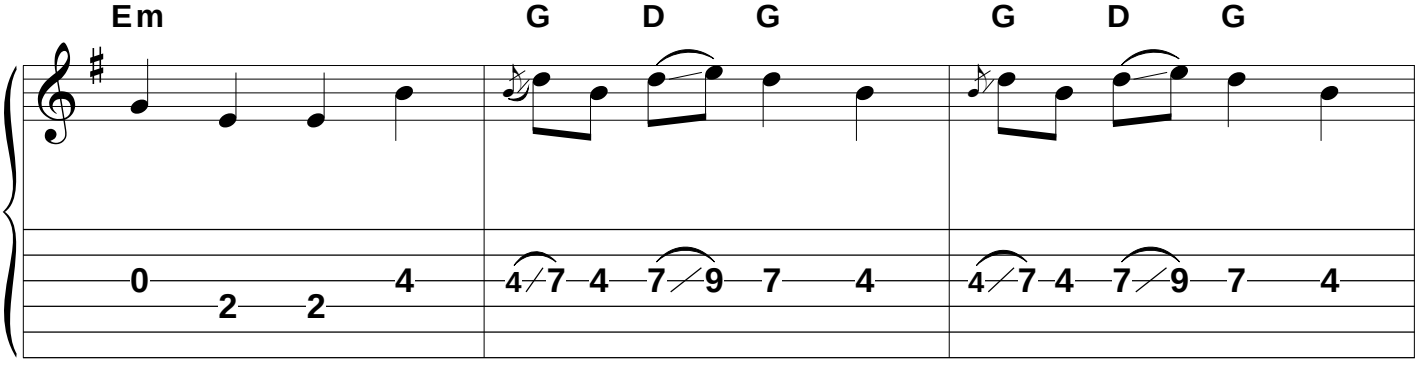


The Parting Glass

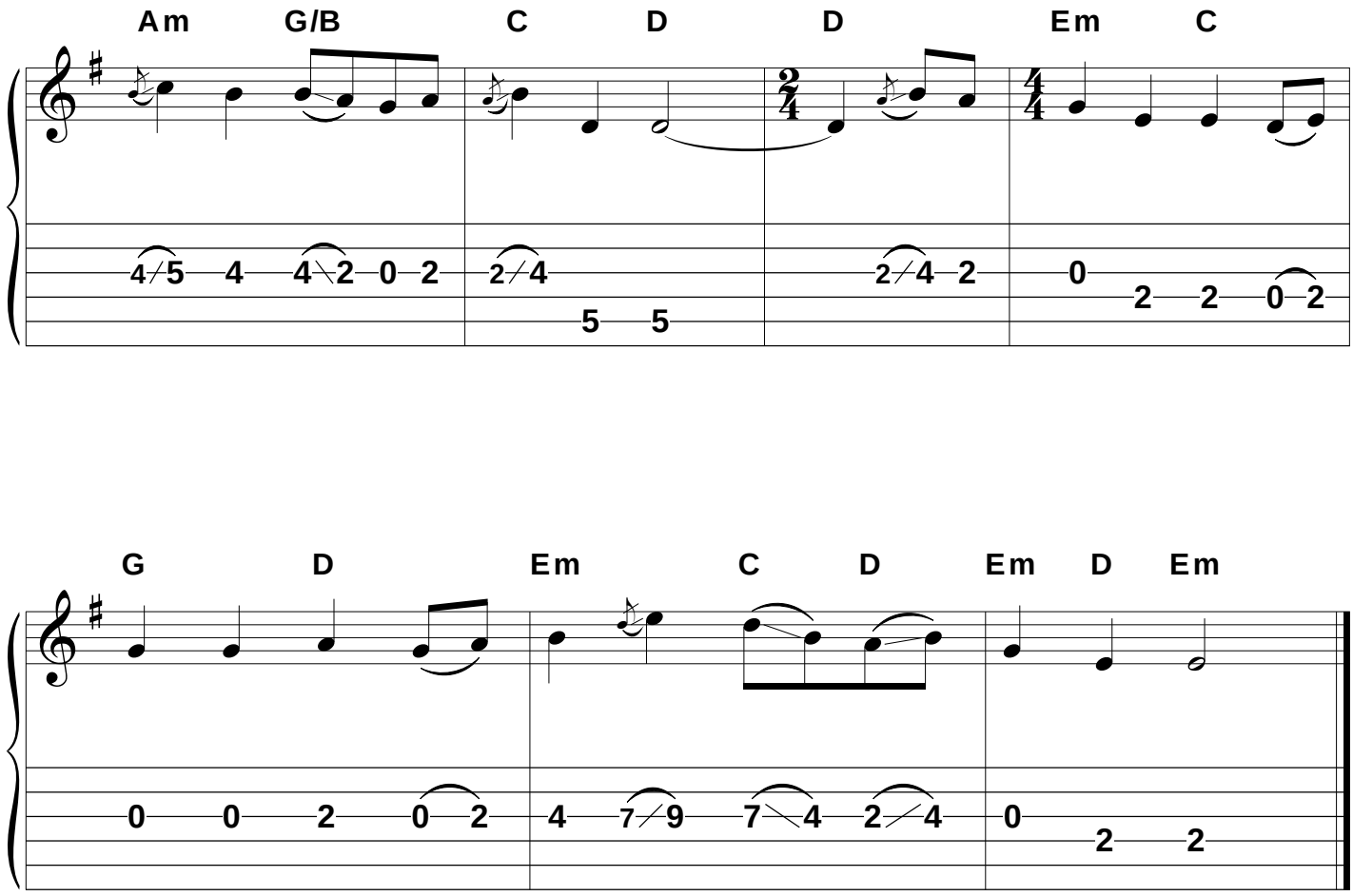
Traditonal Song





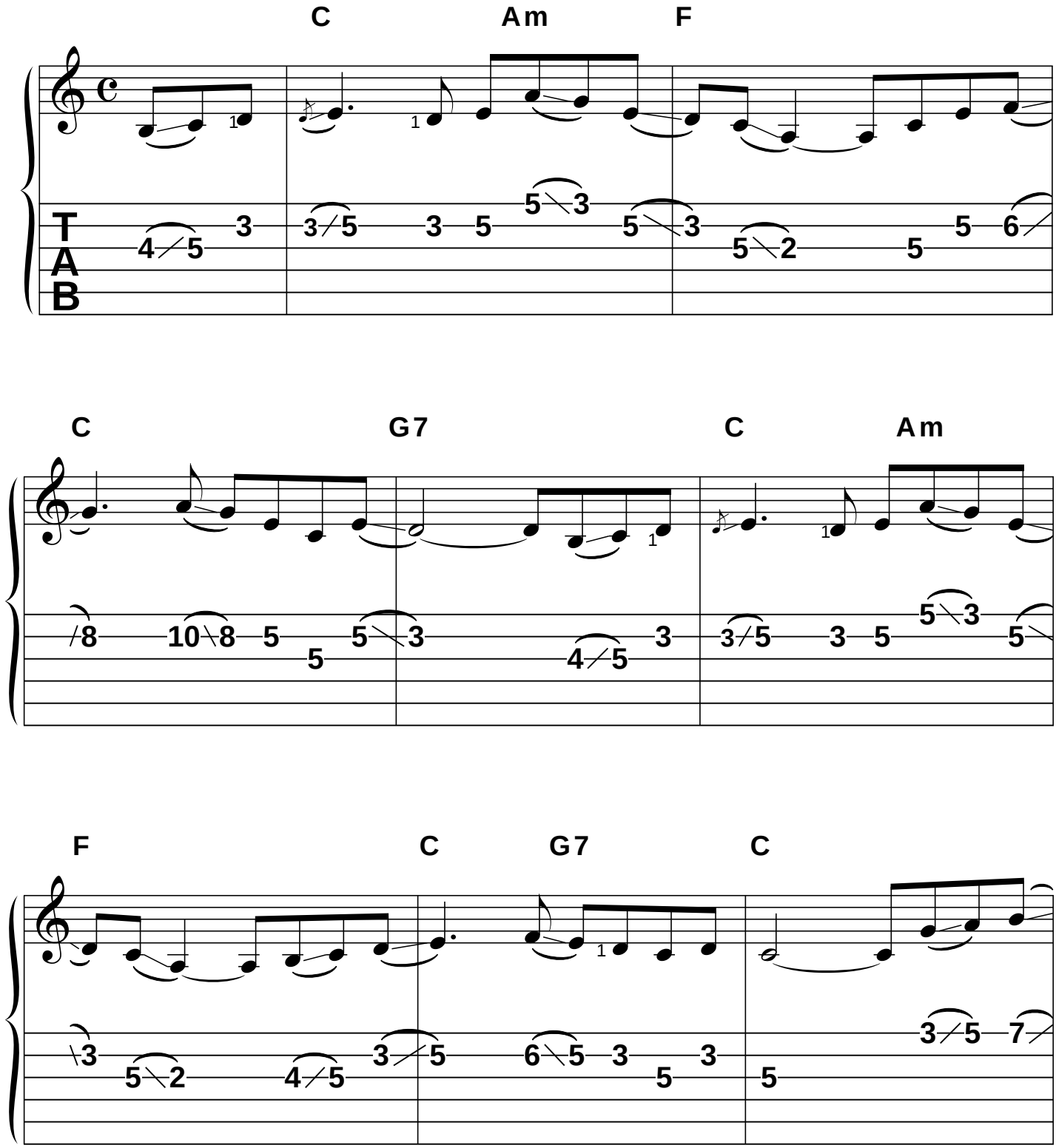


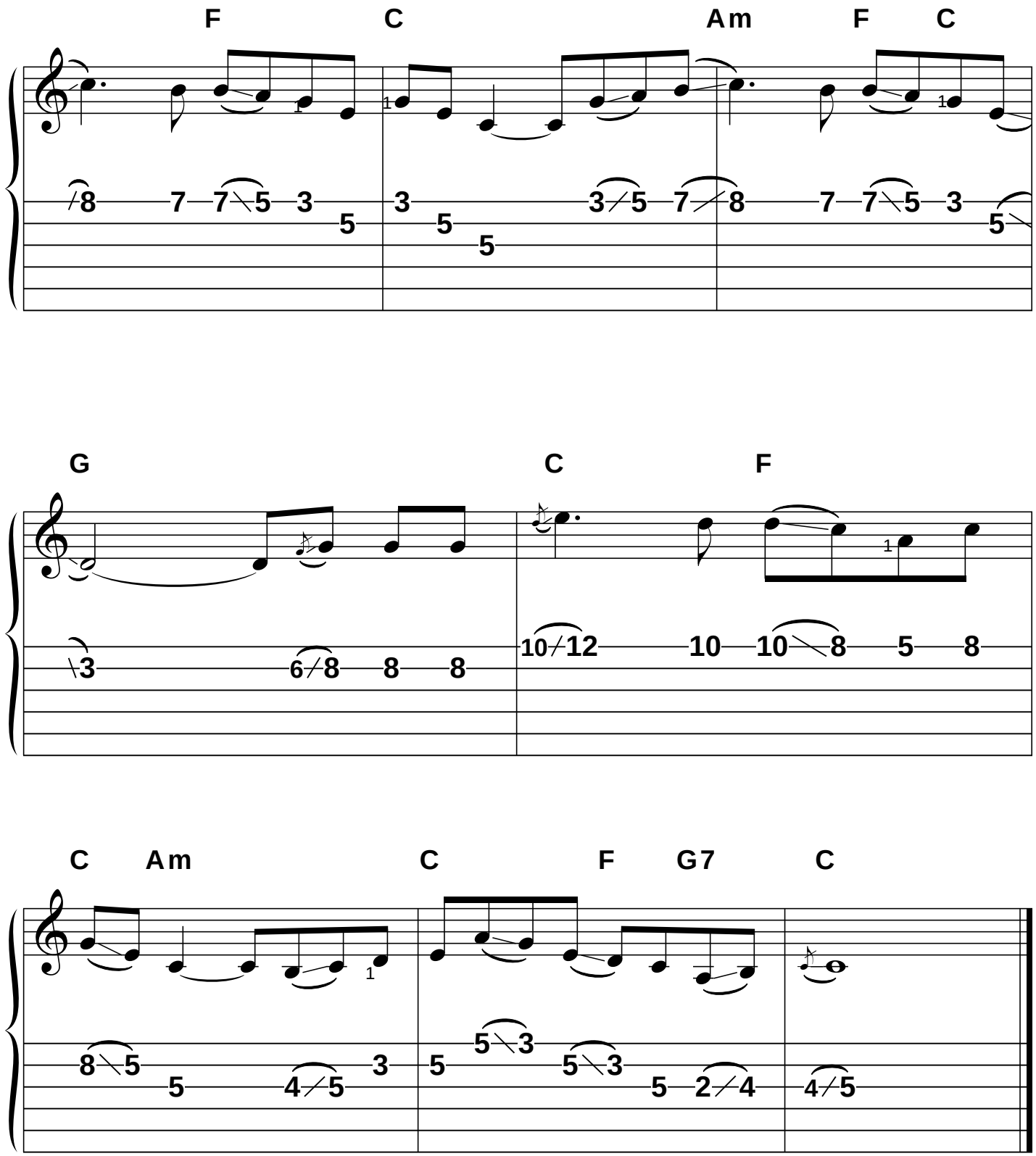
The Parting Glass - 2



Danny Boy

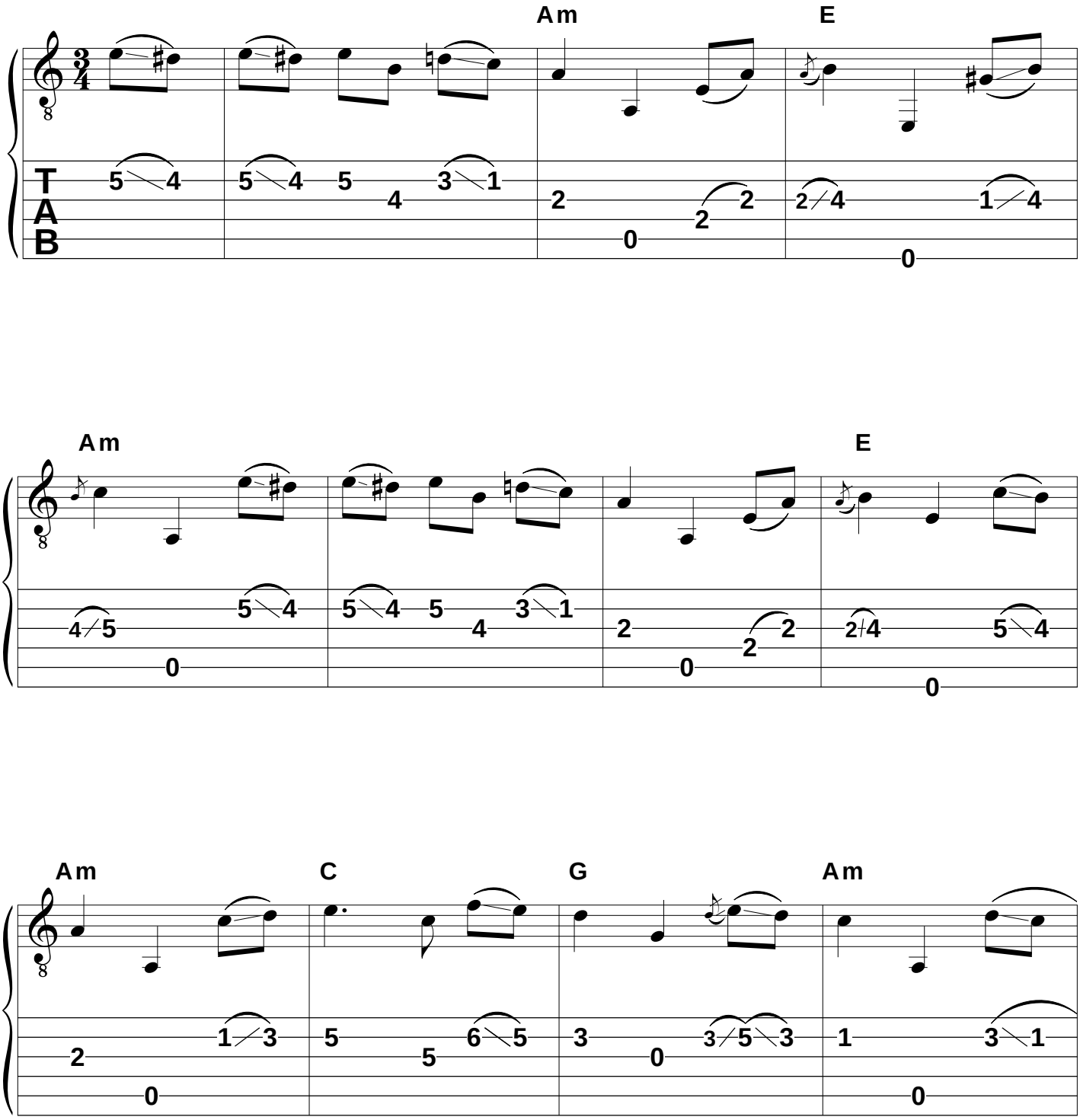
Folk Song



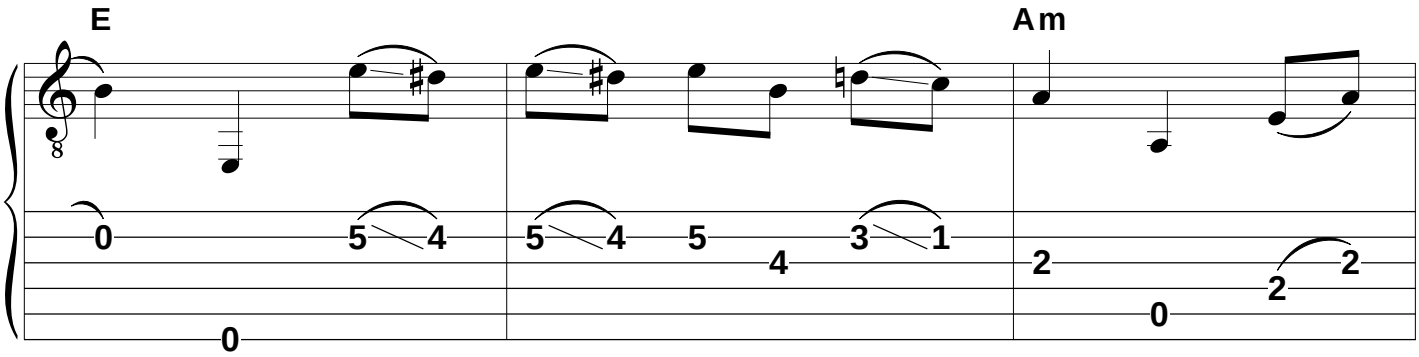

F C Am F C
G C F
C Am C F G7 C

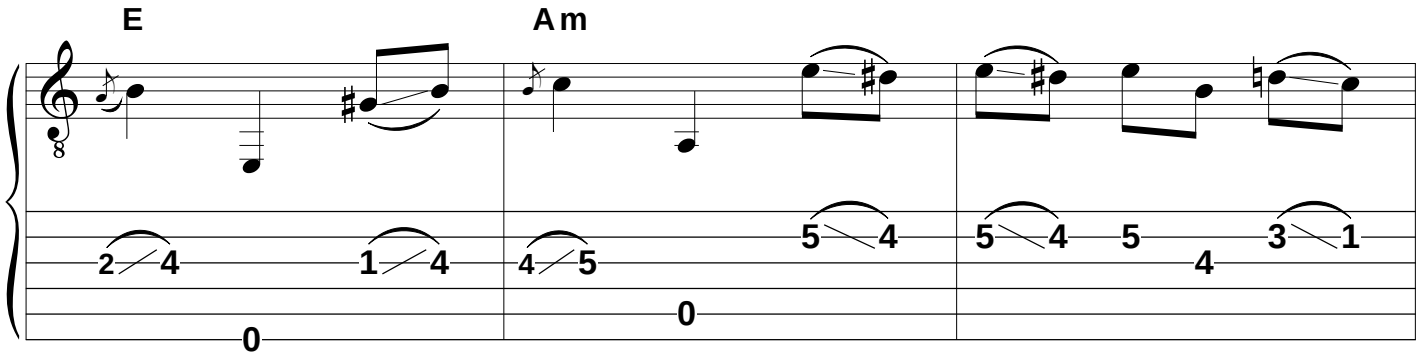
Fur Elise

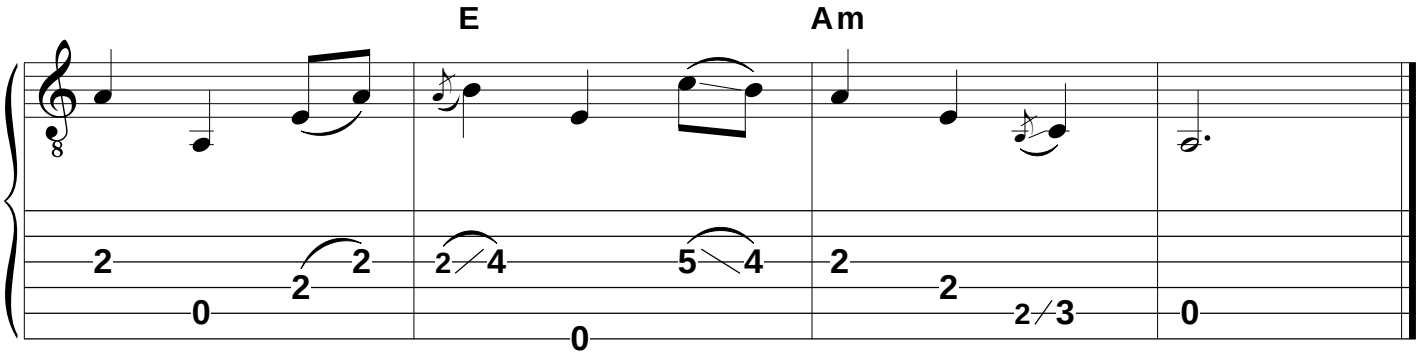
Beethoven



Fur Elise - 2

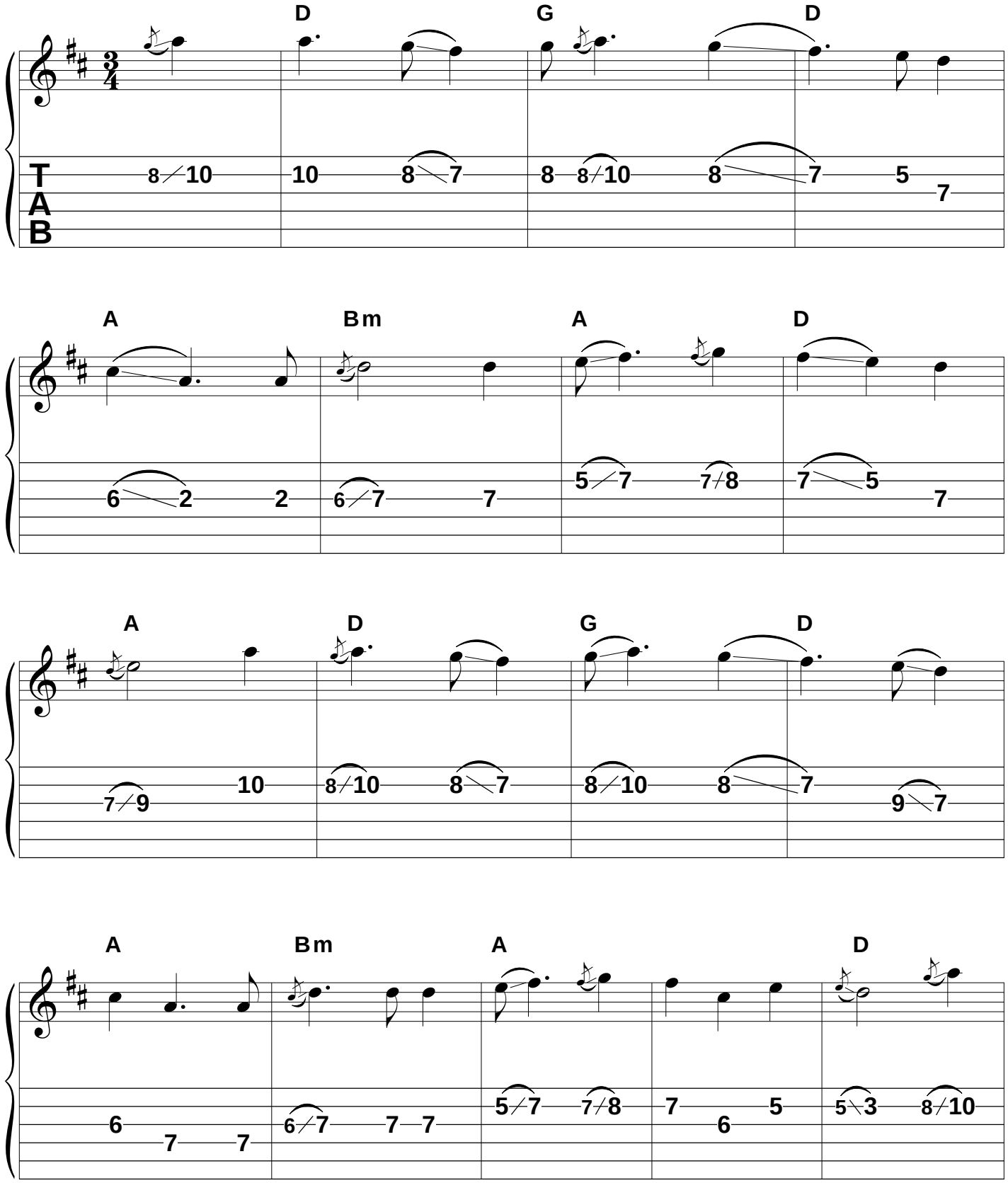




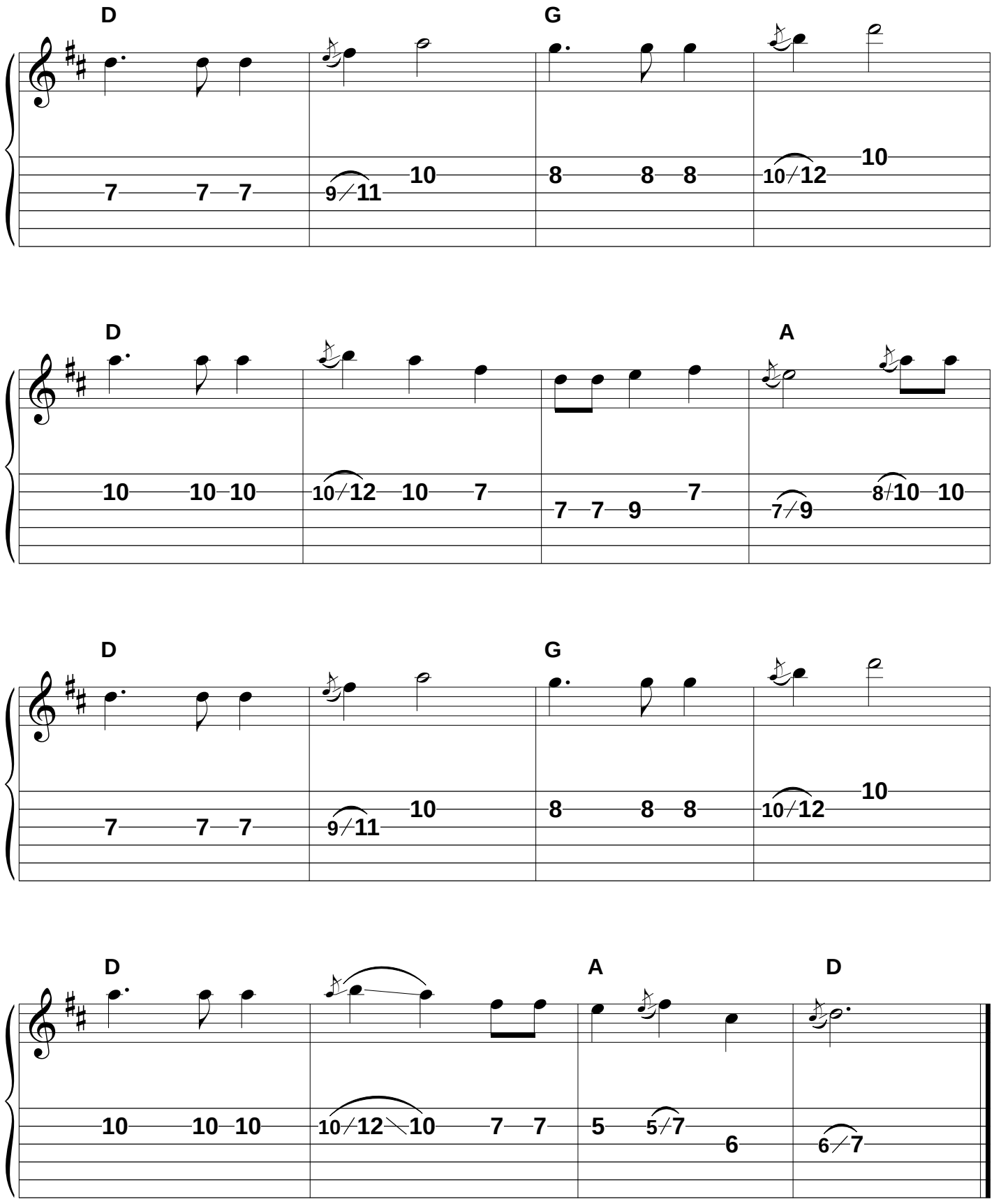


Streets of Laredo

Cowboy Ballad

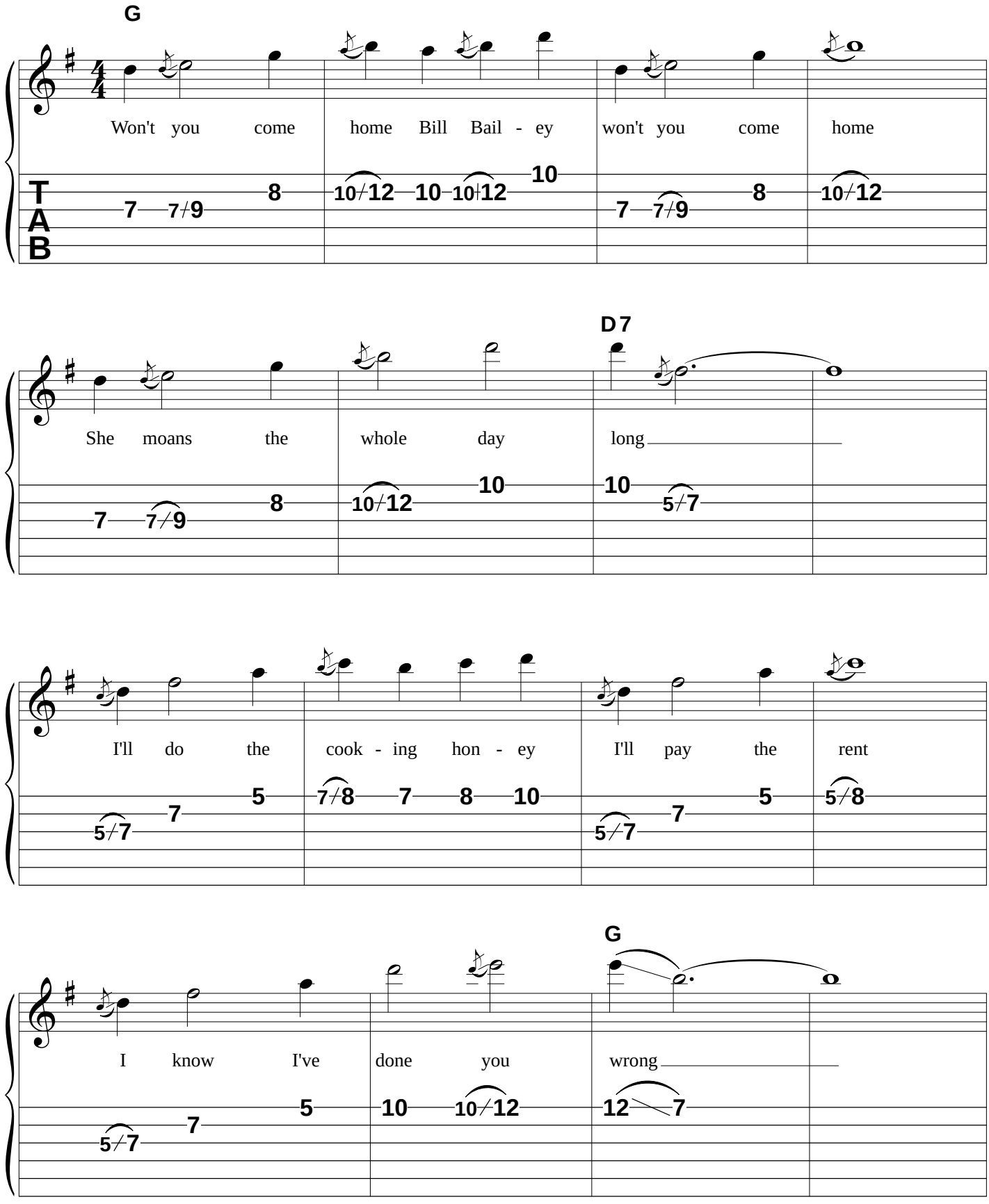


Streets of Laredo -2

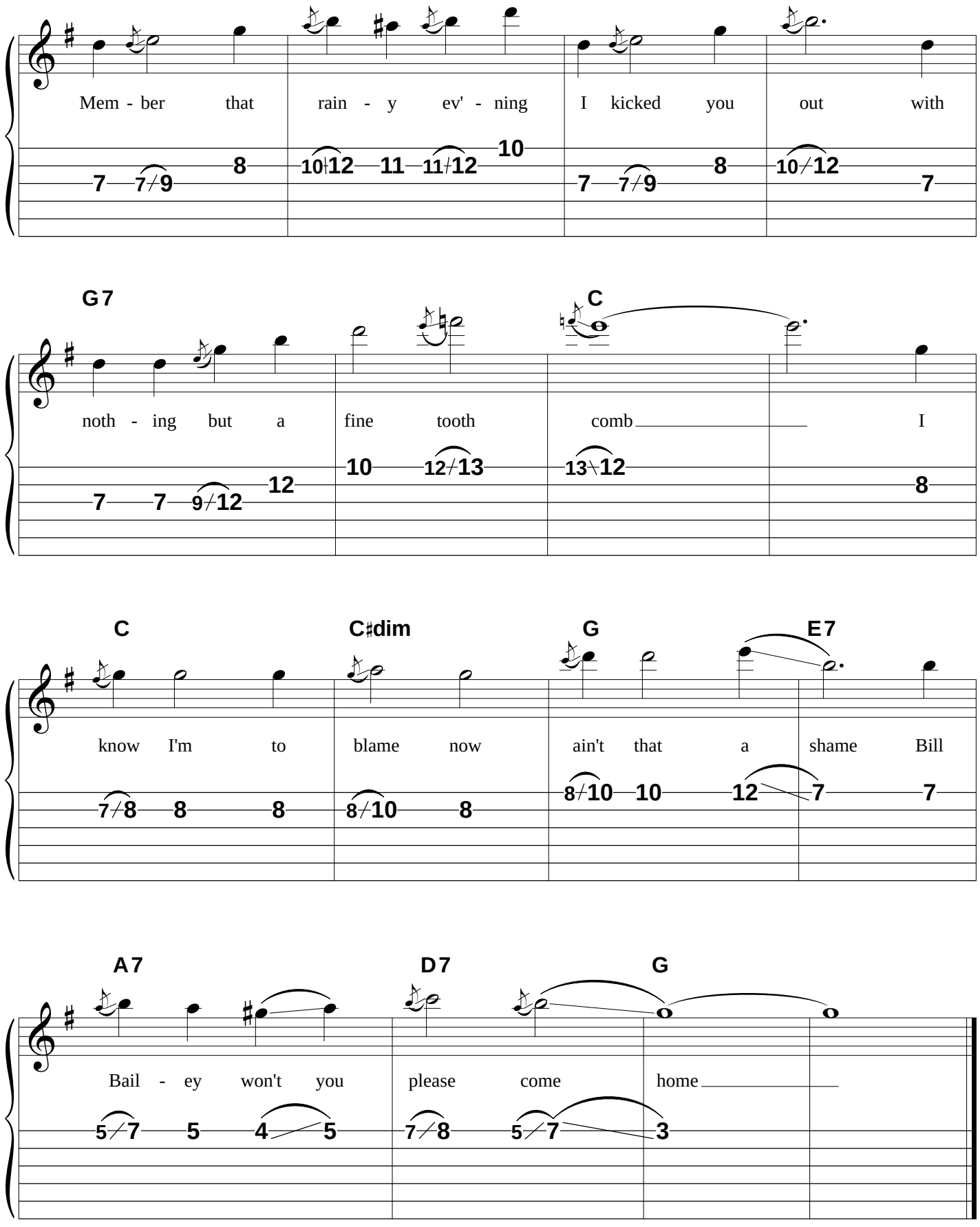


Bill Bailey, Won't You Please Come Home

Hughie Cannon

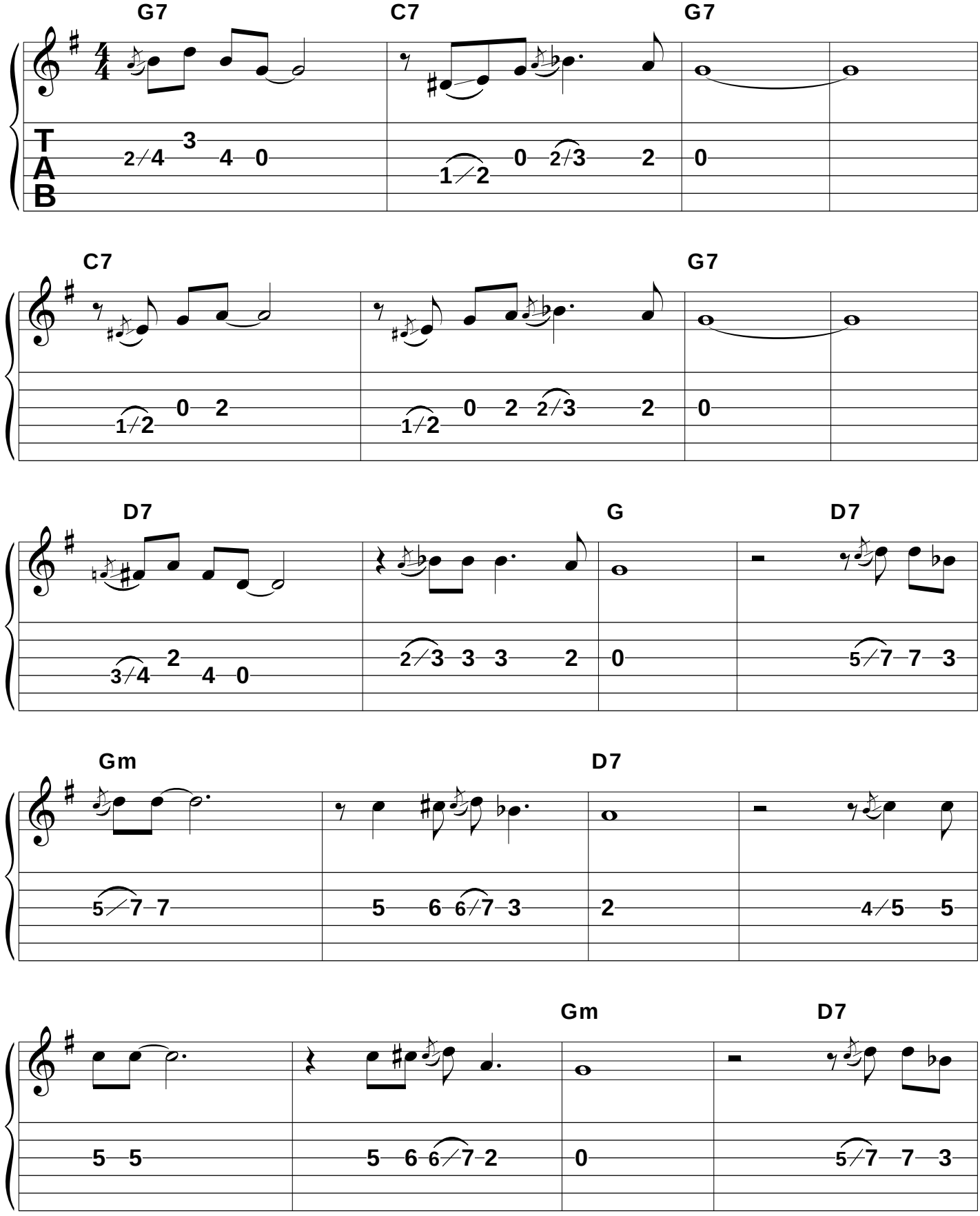


Bill Bailey - 2

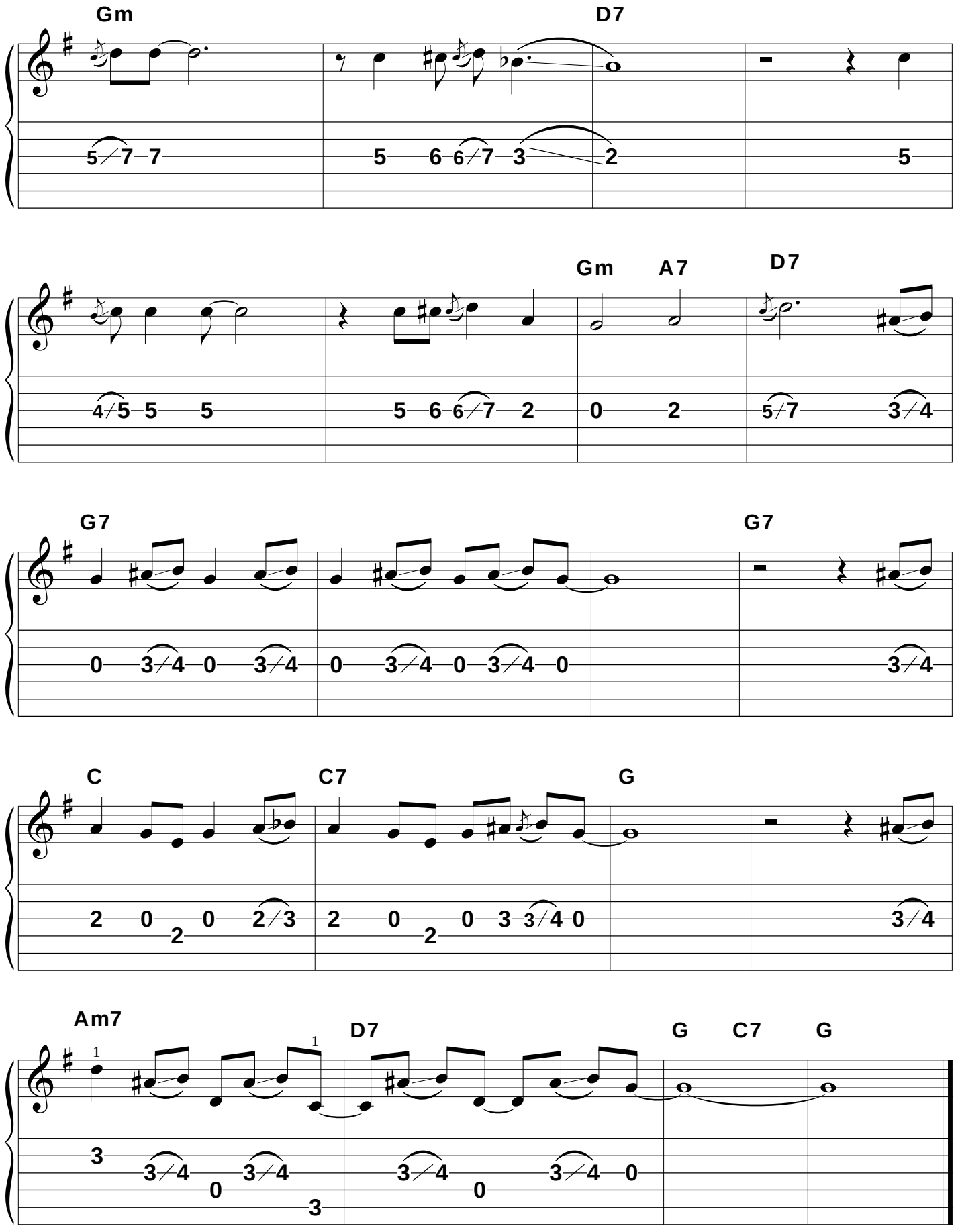


Saint Louis Blues

W.C. Handy

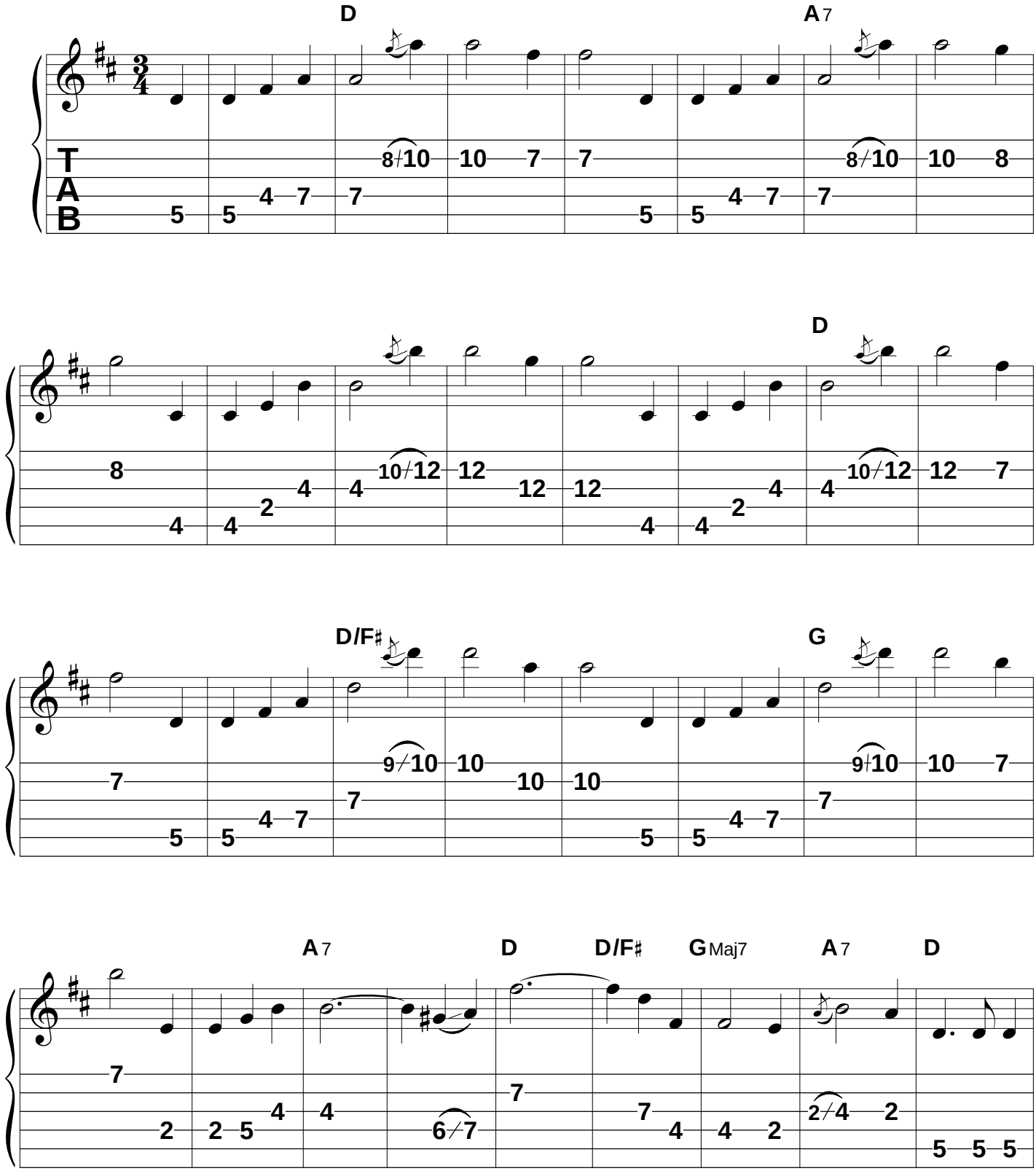


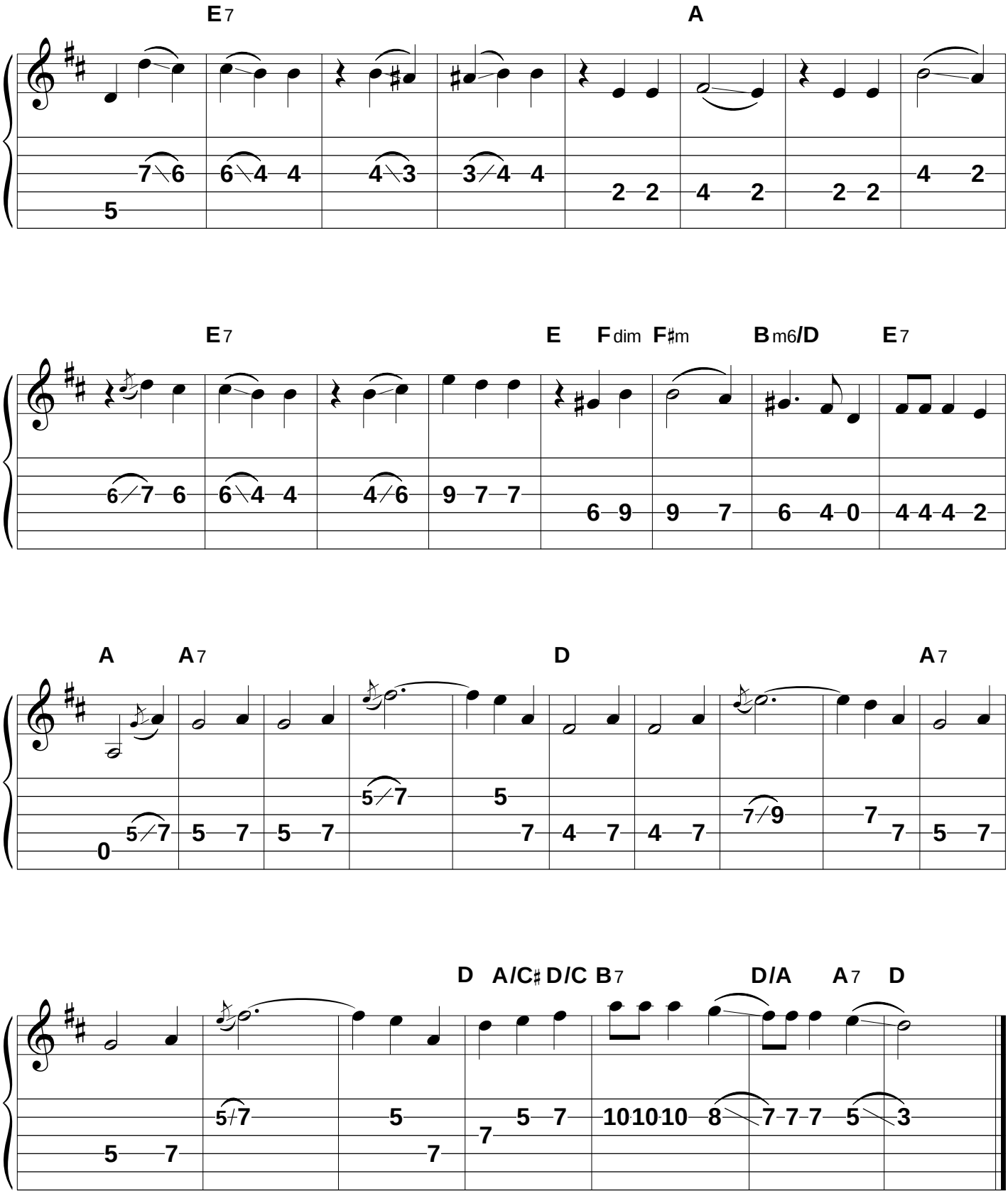
Saint Louis Blues - 2



The Blue Danube

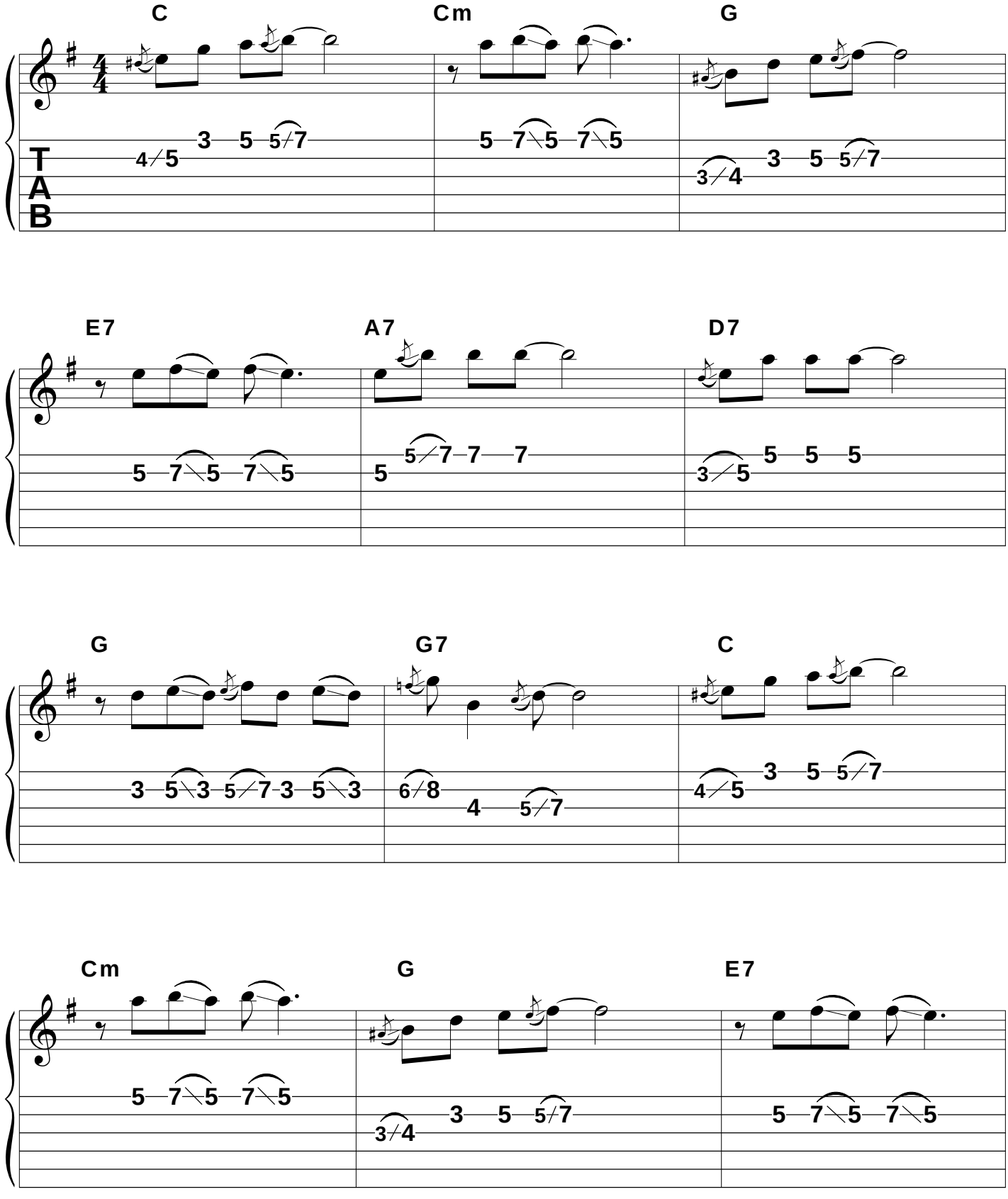
Johann Strauss



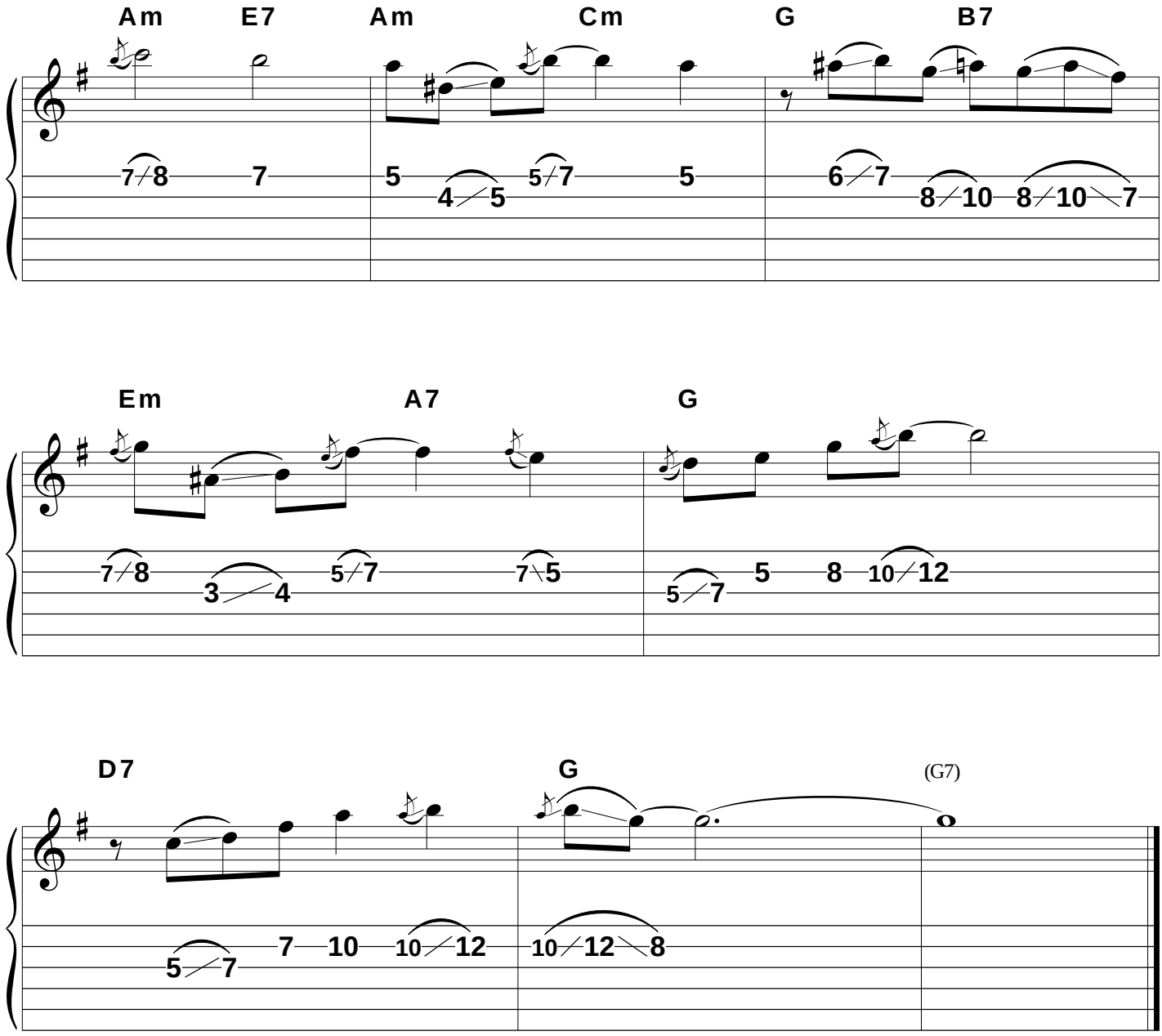

E7
A
E7
E
Fdim
F♯m
Bm6/D
E7
A
A7
D
A7
D
A/C♯
D/C
B7
D/A
A7
D

After You've Gone

Creamer & Layton

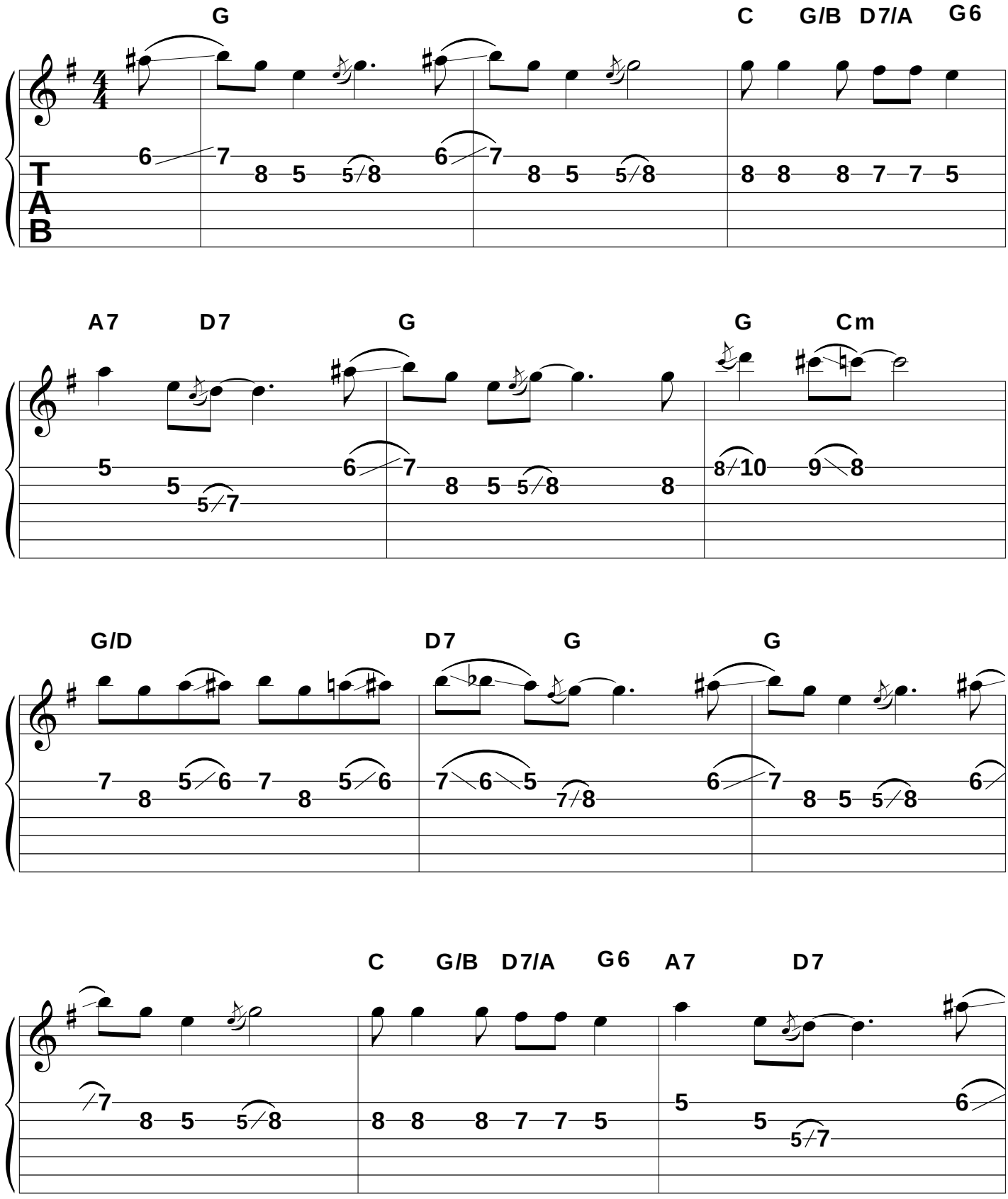


After You've Gone -2

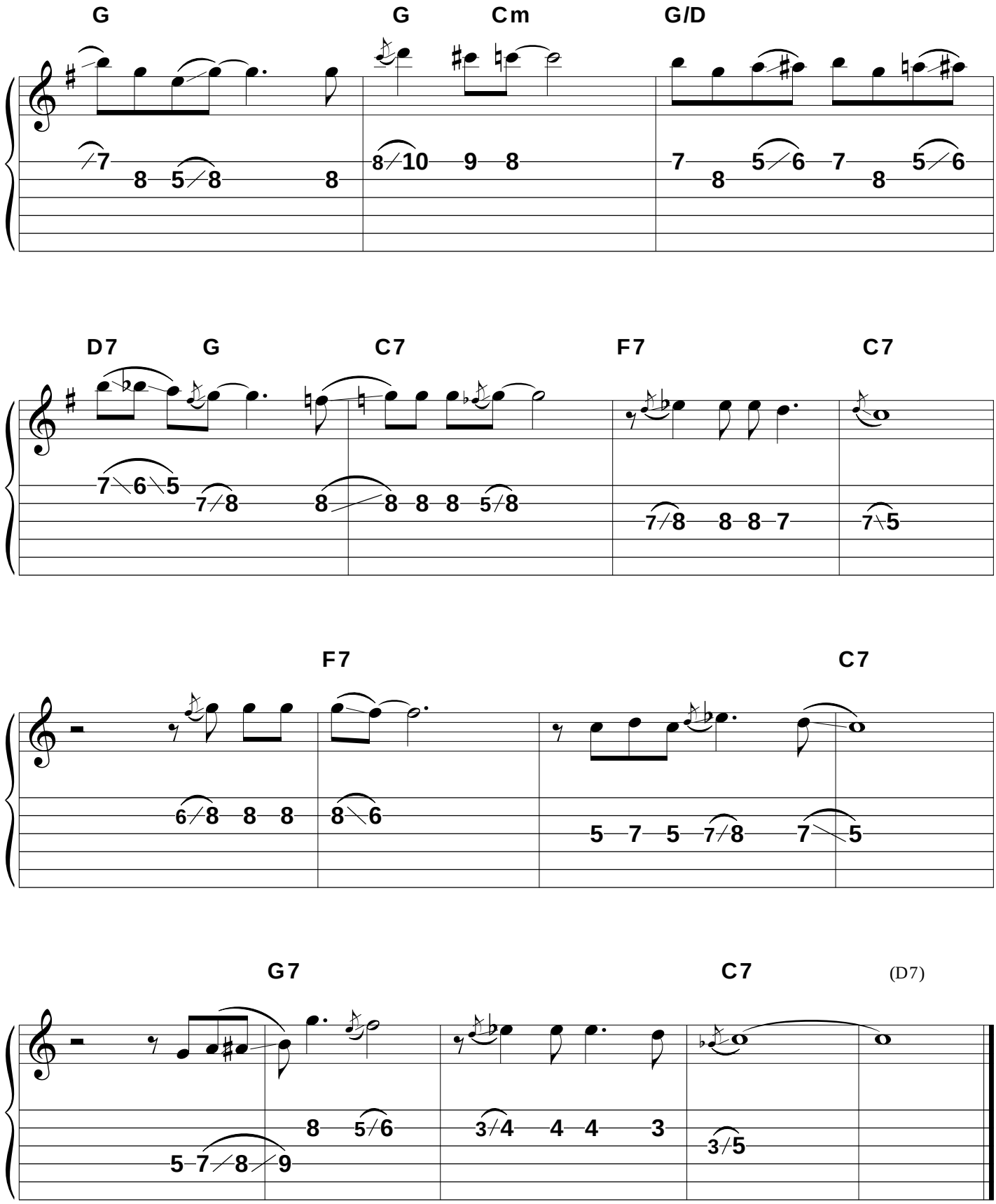


Beale Street Blues

W.C. Handy

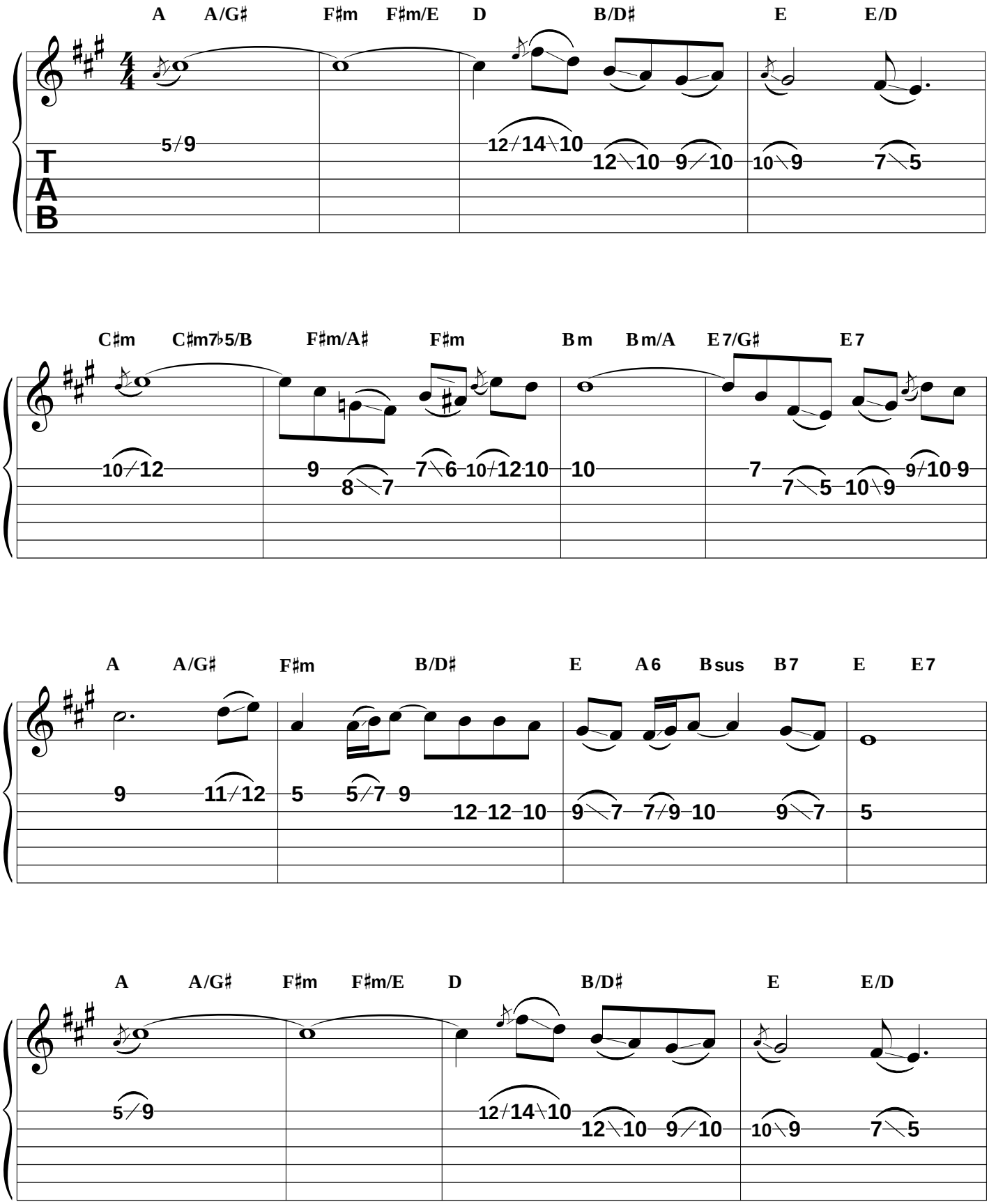


Beale Street Blues -2

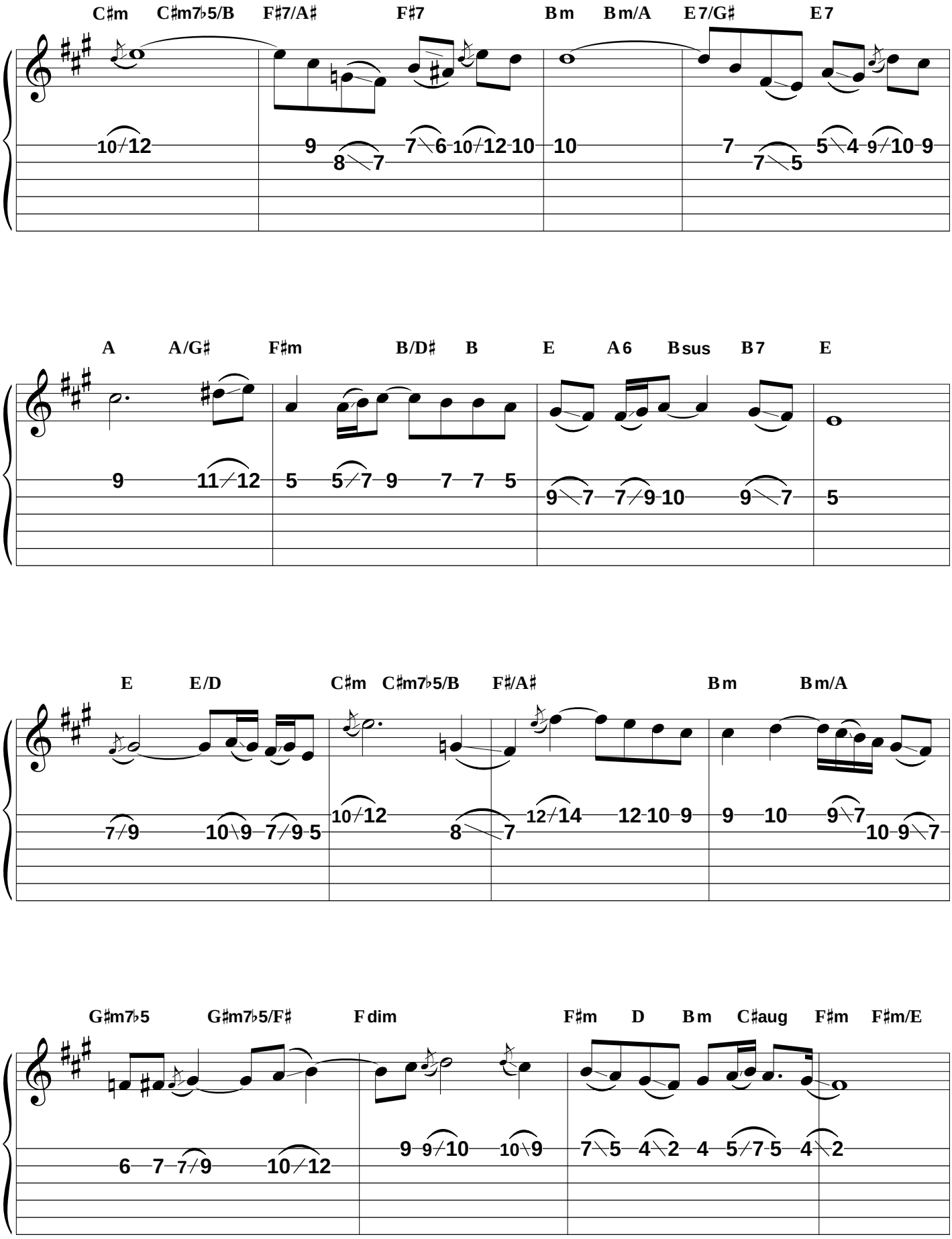


Air on the G String

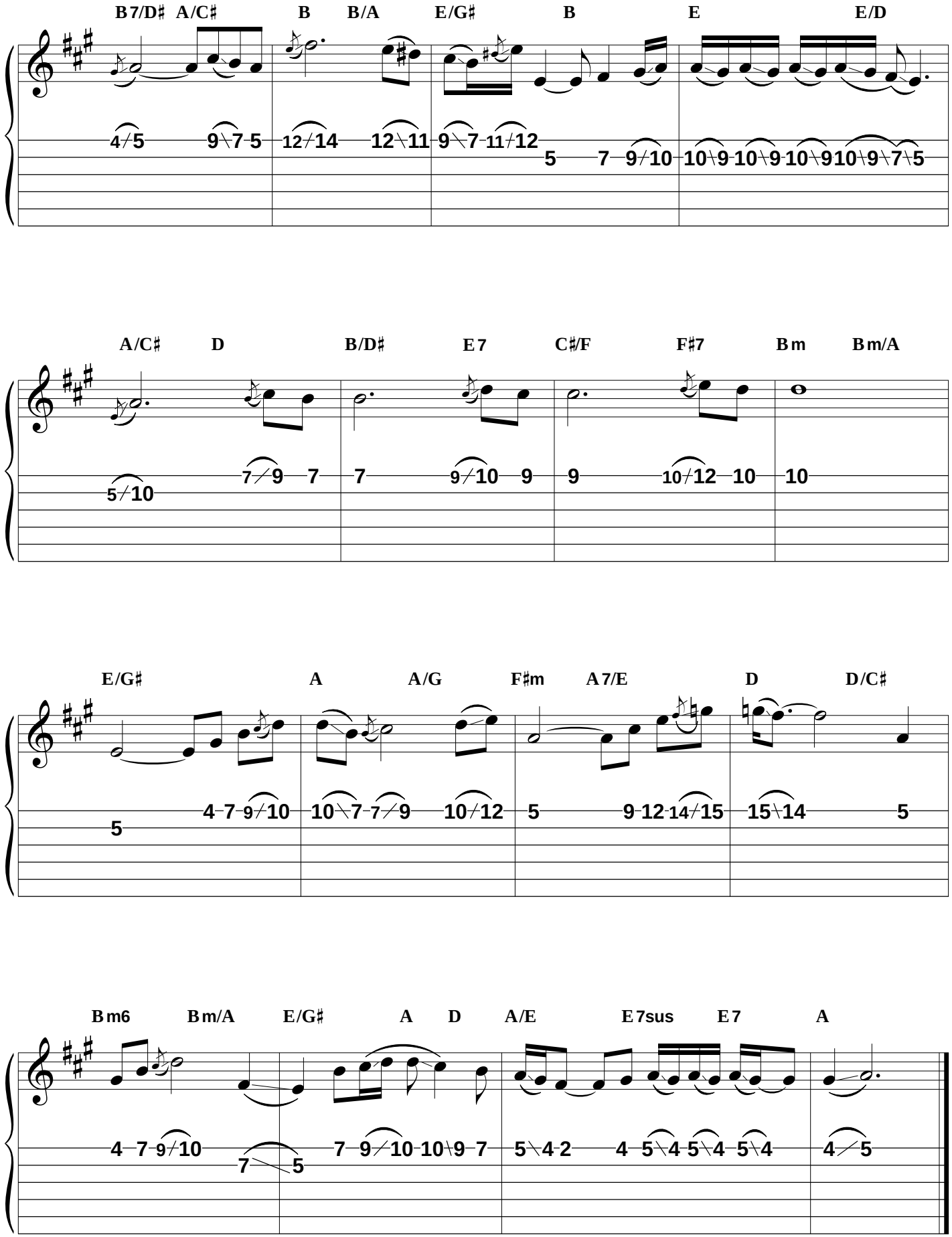
J.S. Bach



Air on the G String - 2

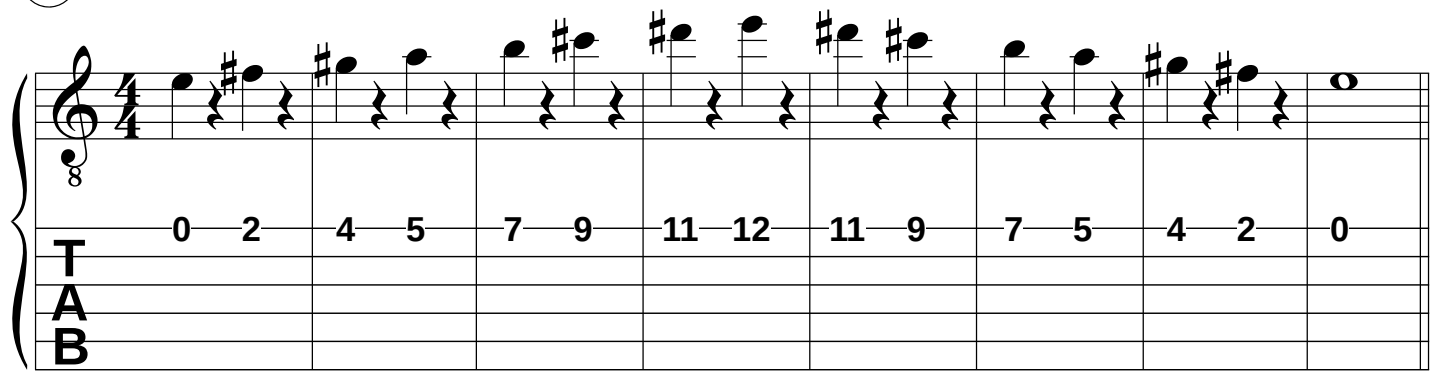


Air on the G String - 3

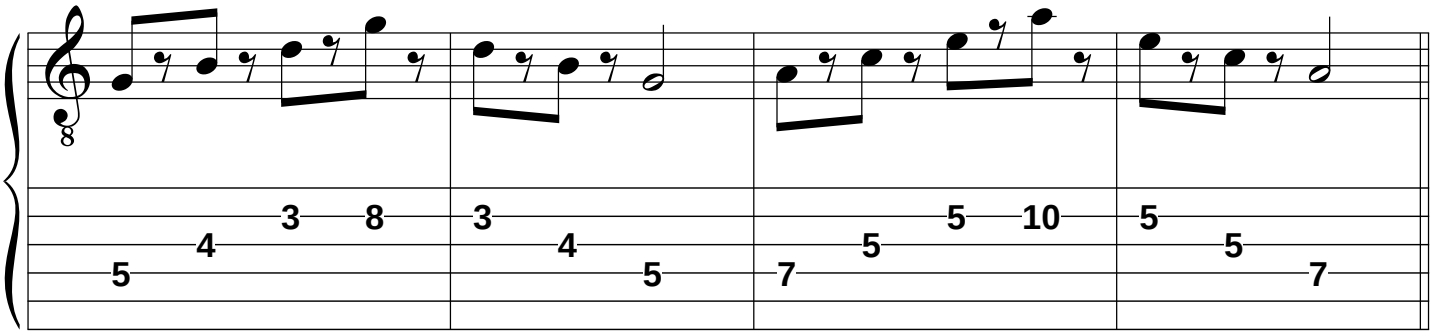


Slide Guitar Exercises

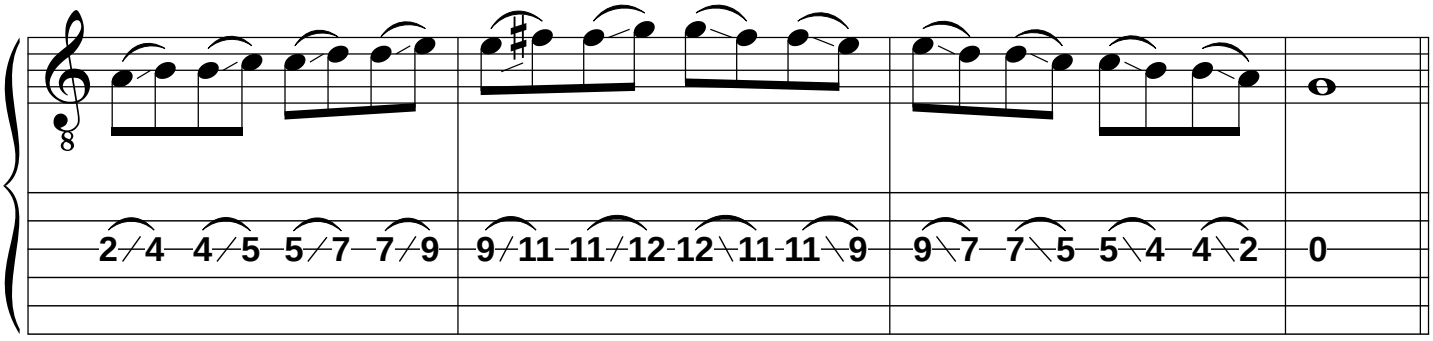
1 *Muting Exercise. Repeat this scale on all 6 strings. Play note - Mute string - Move slide silently.*



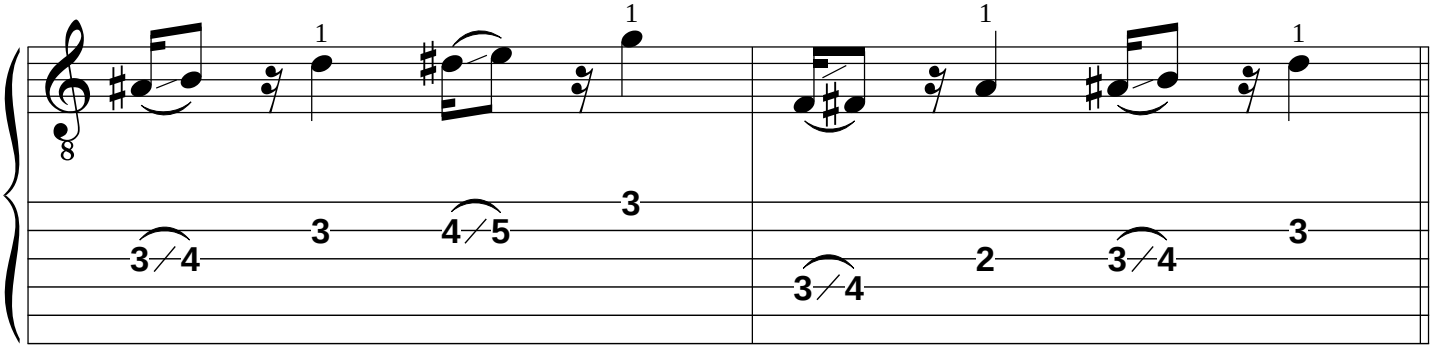
2 *Arpeggio Exercise. Play - Mute - Move*



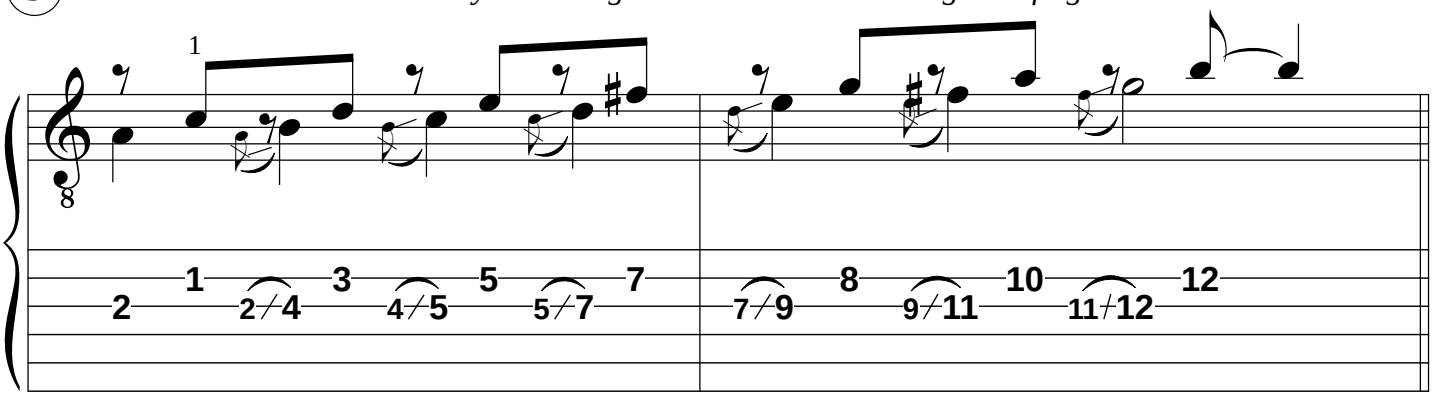
3 *Pitch Exercise. Repeat this on all strings. Place slide directly over fret to play in tune.*



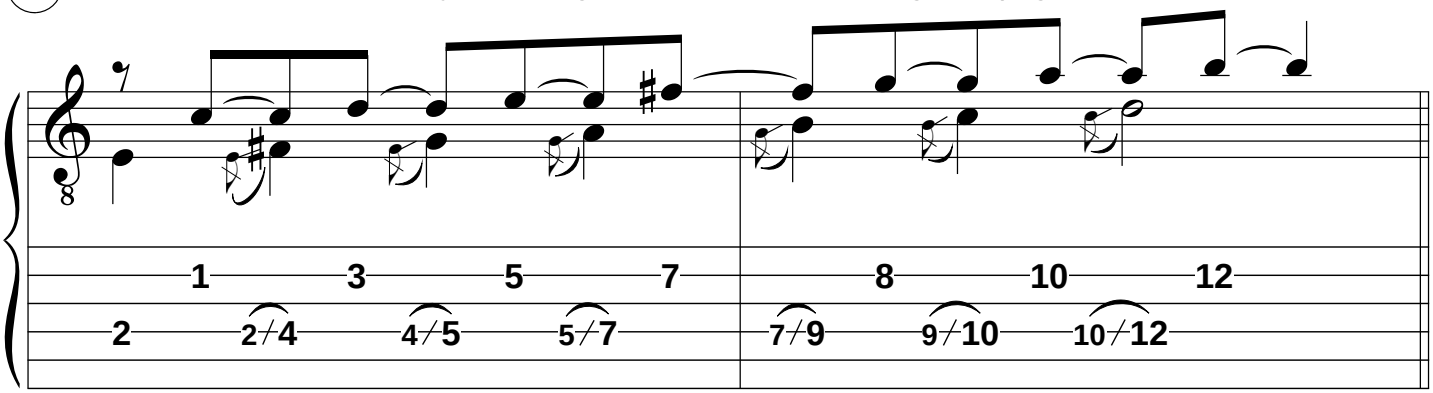
4 *Slide - Mute - Play with First Finger.*



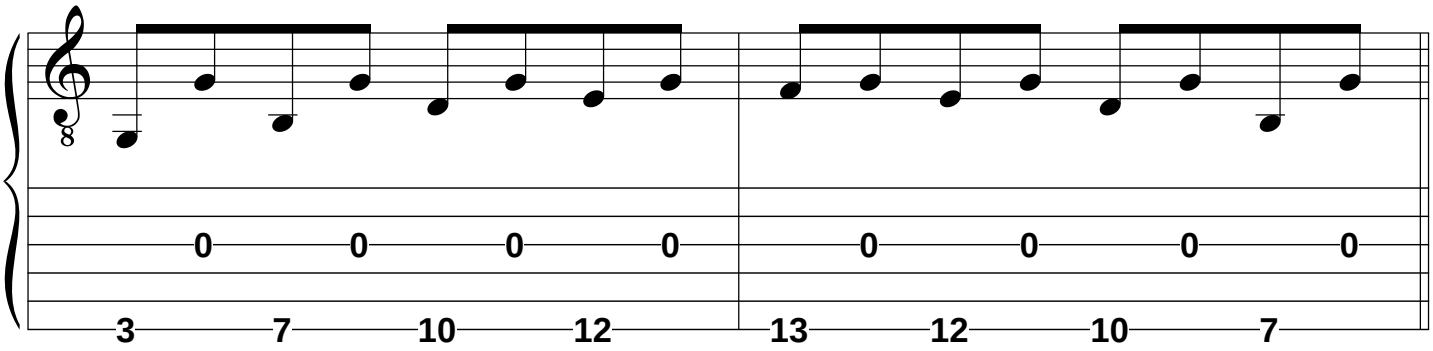
5 *Tilt Slide - 3rd's Exercise. Play 3rd string with slide and 2nd string with finger.*



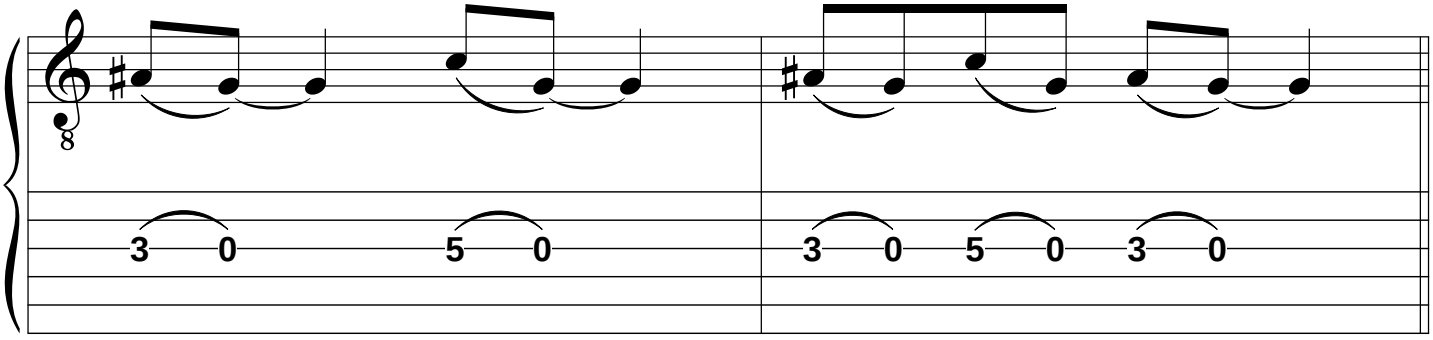
6 *Tilt Slide 6th's Exercise. Play 4th string with slide and 2nd string with finger.*



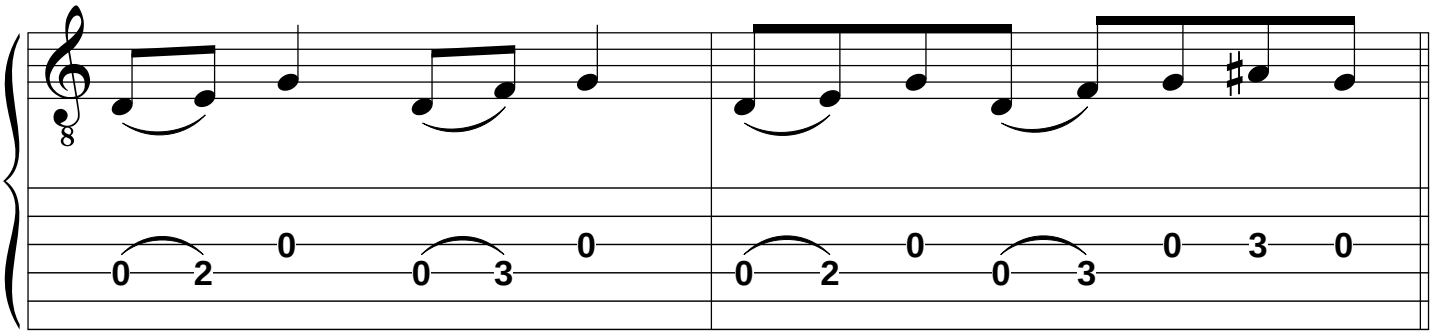
7 *Tilt Slide Boogie Blues Exercise.*



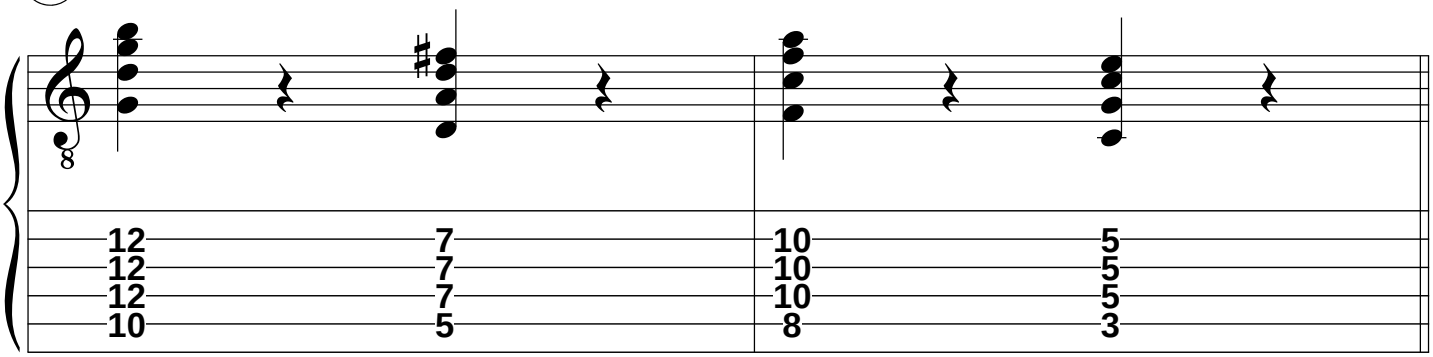
8 *Pull-off Exercise. Play first note (3 fret) then pull off slide without plucking string again.*



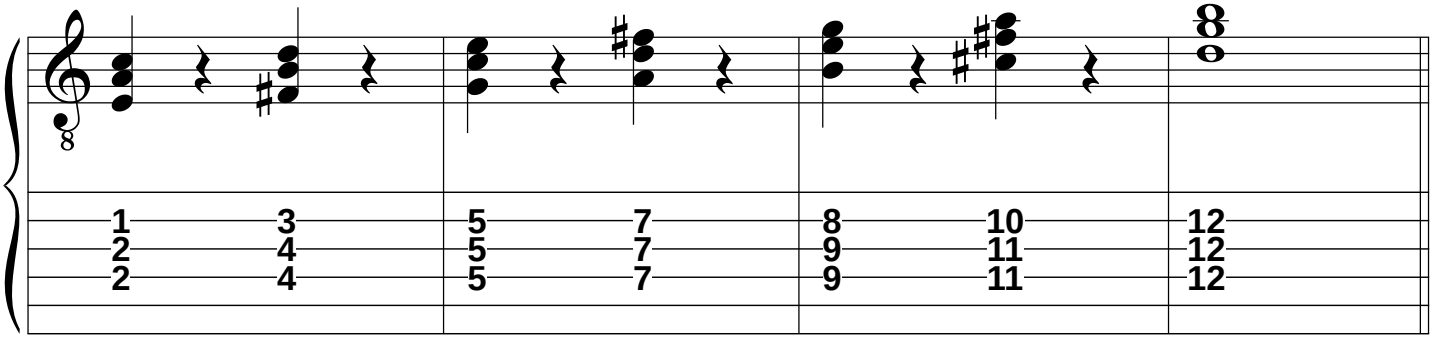
9 *Hammer-On Exercise. Play first note open then hammer down slide without plucking 2nd note.*



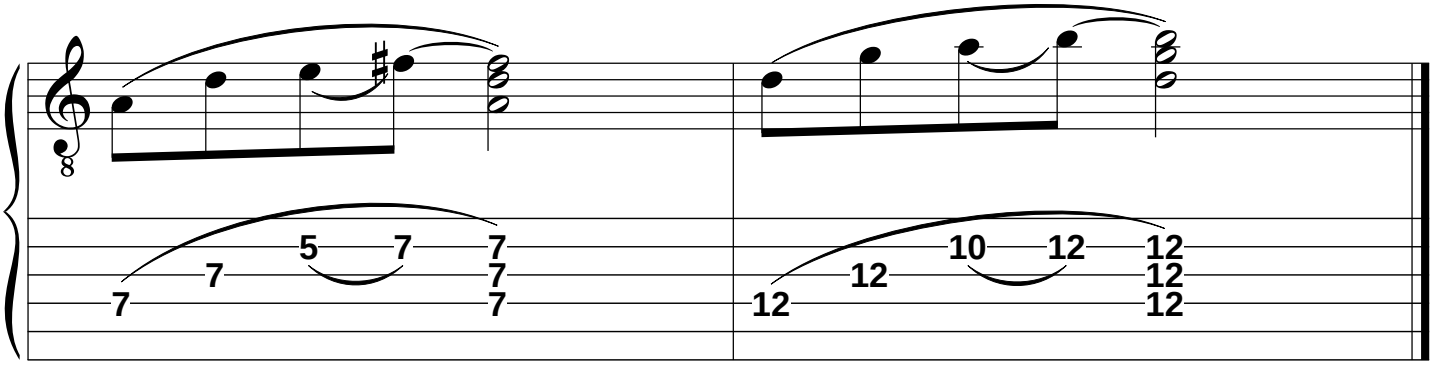
10 *Chord Exercise. Lay slide straight over 3 frets - play 1st finger on 5th string.*



11 *Minor Major Chord Slide Exercise. Tilt slide to play 2nd string with 1st finger (minor chords only).*

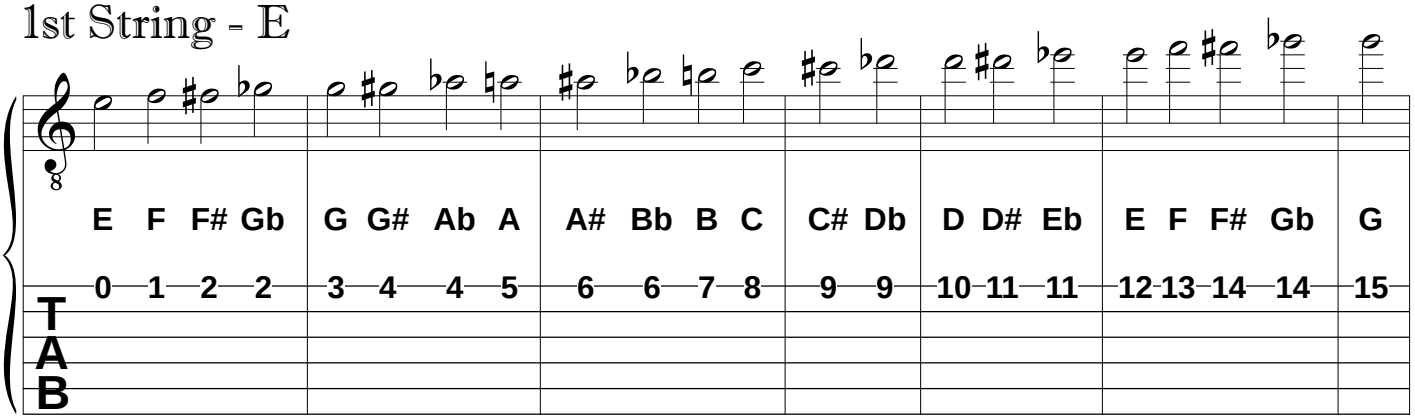


12 *Pedal Steel Lick - Tilt Slide then hammer-on. Keep slide down so all notes ring.*

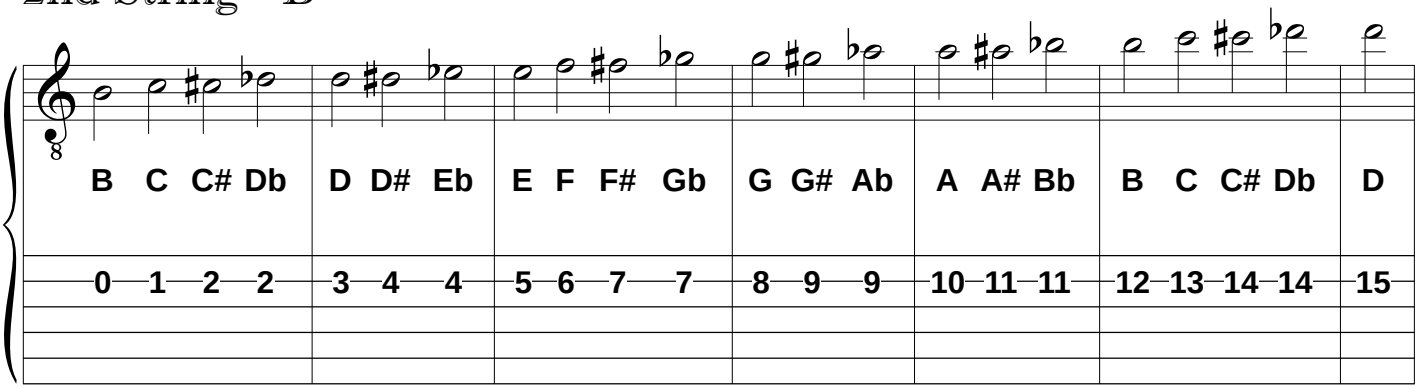


Guitar Note Chart

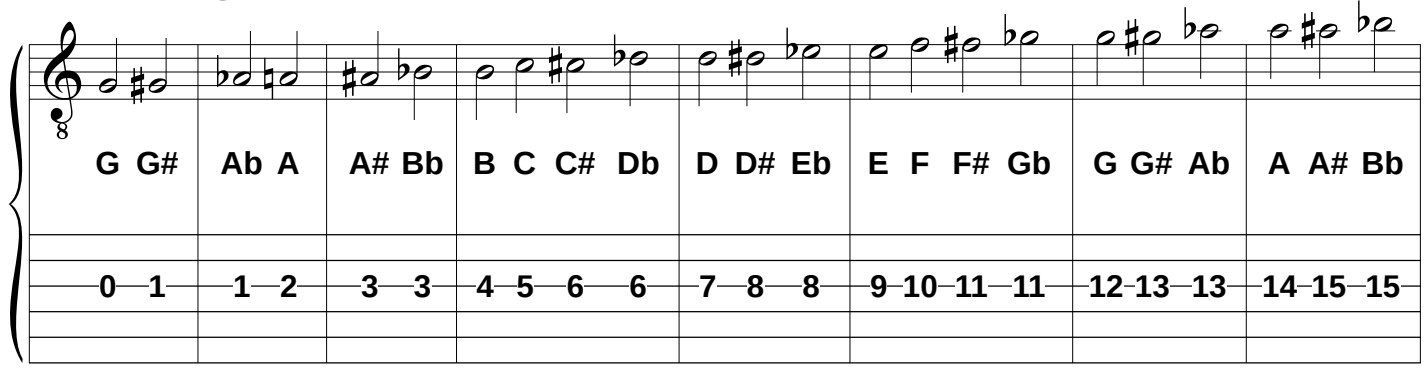
1st String - E



2nd String - B

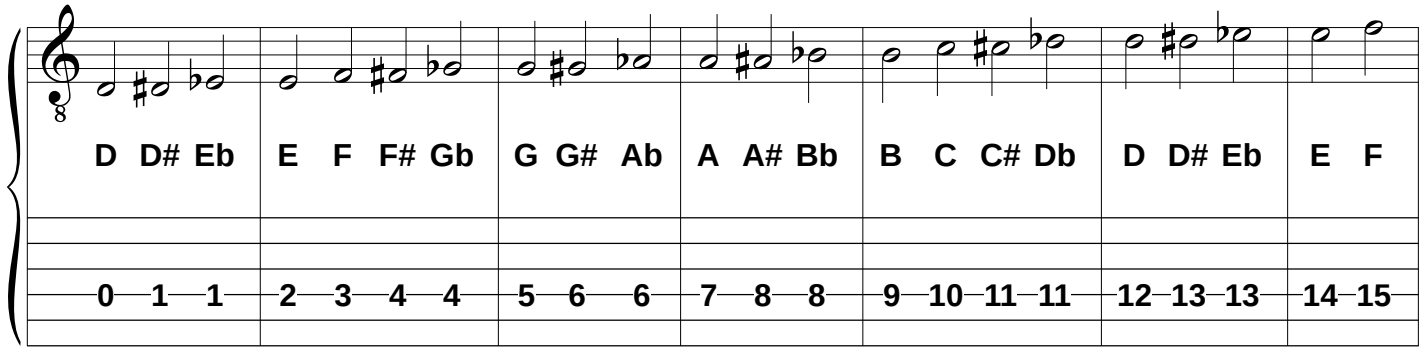


3rd String - G

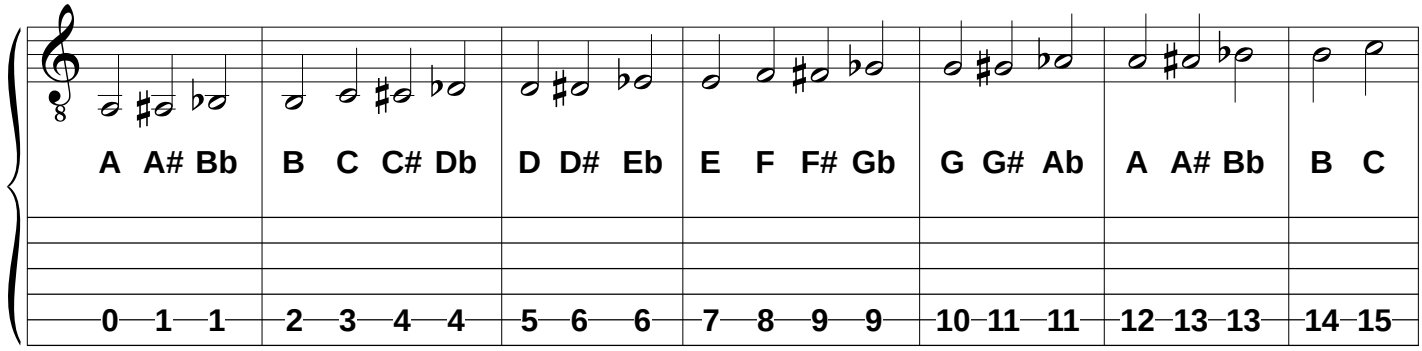


Guitar Note Chart - 2

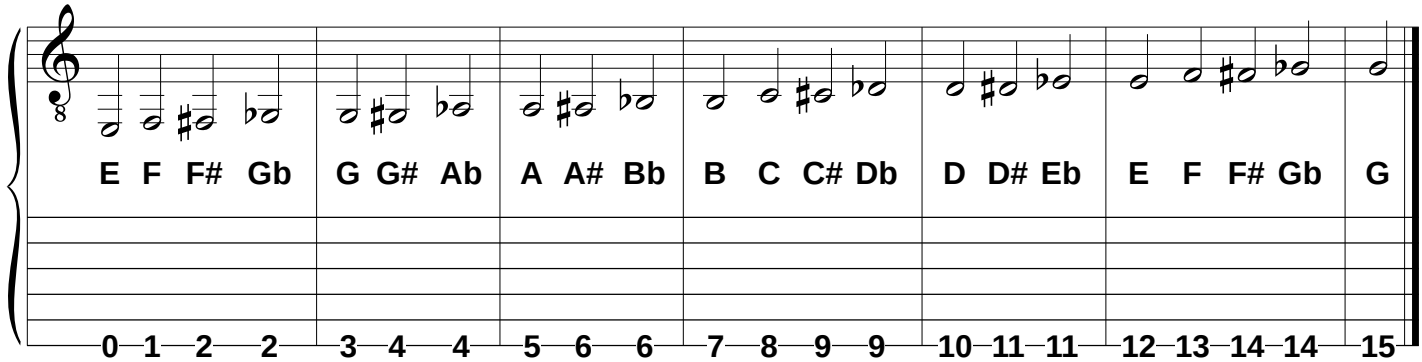
4th String - D



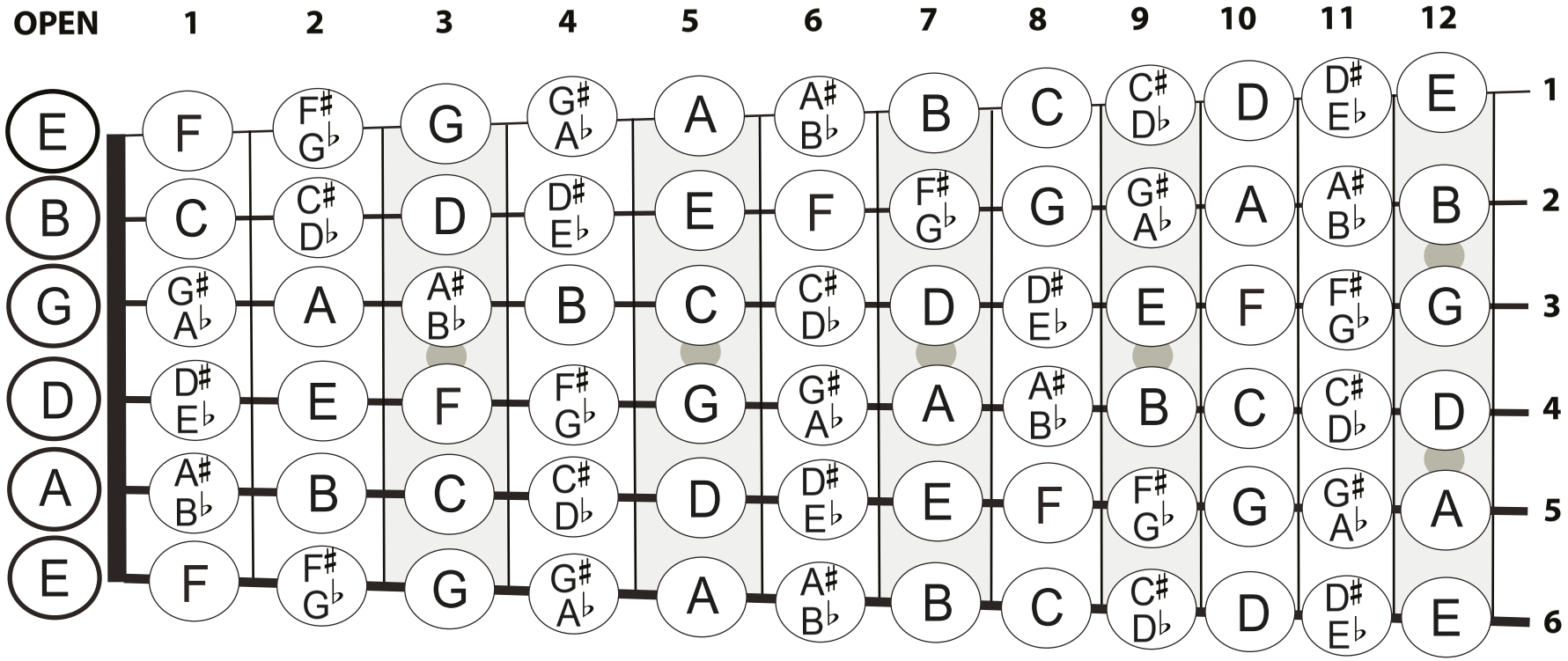
5th String - A



6th String - E



Guitar Fingerboard



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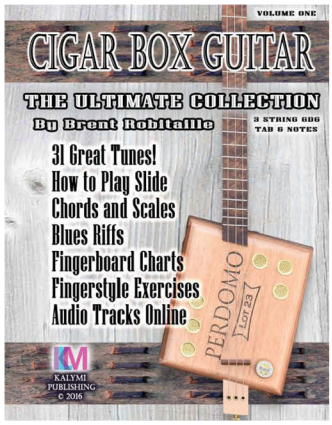
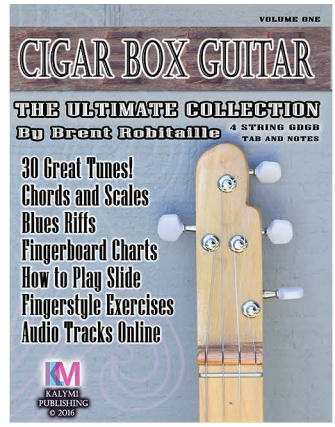
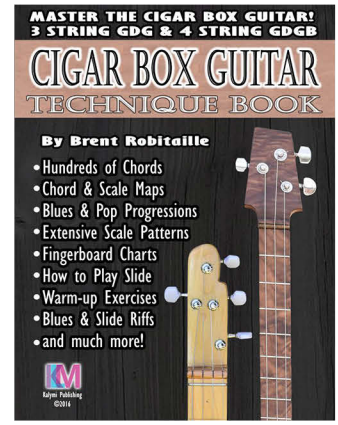
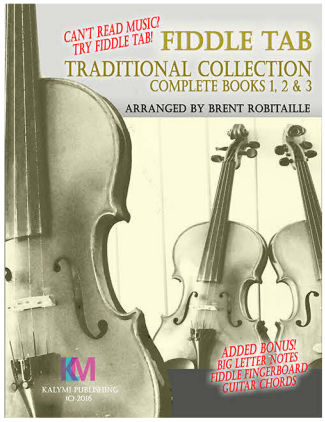








Traditional Collection Series





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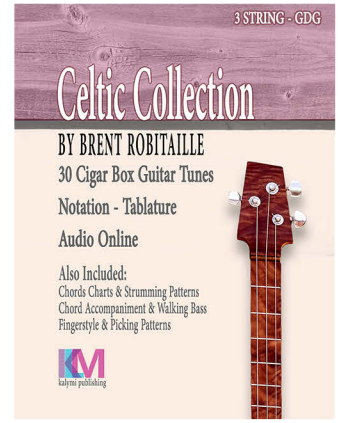

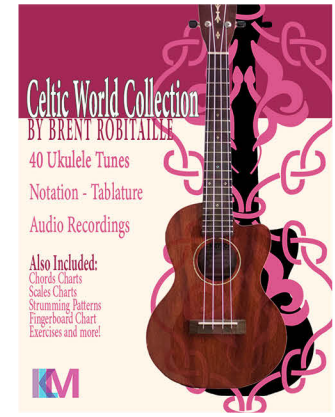

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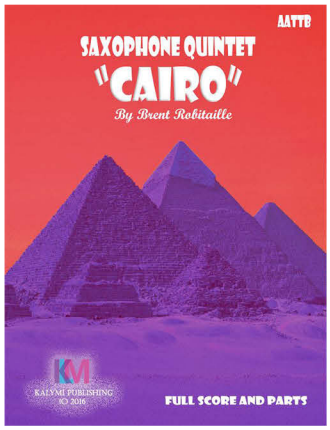



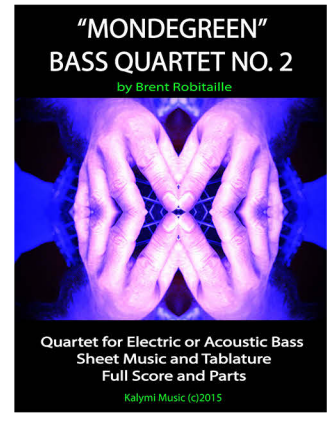

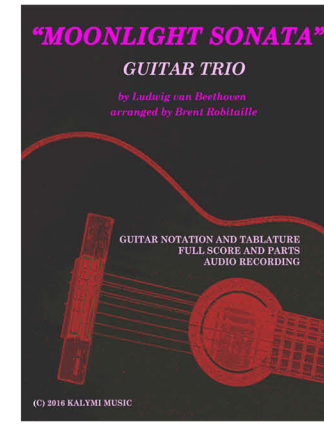

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