Matthieu Brandt

Modern Mountain Banjo

35 Original Banjo Compositions
2001–2021

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Modern Mountain Banjo

In this pdf book you will find the transcripts of 35 original compositions for banjo that I made between 2001 and 2021.
Most of these have been released on my solo albums and have been recorded on video. These can be found on YouTube, Facebook and my personal website www.matthieubrandt.com .

There is a wide range of techniques, tunings and melodic/harmonic principles that I use. From clawhammer/frailing/overhand (or however you wish to call it) to finger styles, Pete Seeger-style, up-picking, index-lead, thumb-lead, brushing, percussive techniques, etc.
I have picked up most of these styles from old-time players and a few came to the surface all by themselves.

Banjo players that I've been influenced by are Arnie Naiman, Chris Coole, Clifton Hicks, Adam Hurt, Theo Lissenberg, Pete Seeger, Mike Seeger, Mike Iverson, David Eugene Edwards, Lukas Pool, Walt Koken, Dock Boggs, Roscoe Holcomb, Derroll Adams and Dwight Diller.

In general the level of these pieces can be called medium to very advanced. Since I started out as an acoustic blues guitar player and have over 38 years of playing experience, there are a wide number of techniques and concepts that stem from playing the six string. Because of this you can not call my playing 'old-time'. I love listening to old-time players, study them and play their versions of traditionals. But I do not see myself as a carrier of whatever torch.

My pieces are often harmonically a bit more complex than you would find in old-time. Most old-time players will also often stick to a handful or less right hand techniques. I enjoy branching out and last time I counted - a number of years back - I came to 17 different right hand techniques. Mike Seeger's courses have been an inspiration in that sense.
I'm not saying 'more is better', but since the banjo is a drum with strings, rhythm is the most important ingredient and I like to have a wide range of options.

All transcriptions have been made with Guitar Pro 7. I've done my best to transcribe as accurate as possible, but a lot of the percussive right hand techniques can really only be picked up by watching the videos.
The tabs are best used to find all the correct strings / frets.
If you wish to receive the Guitar Pro files, gimme a holler. I'll send them out to you free of charge.

I hope you enjoy my music and that this book is helpful.

Thanks to Glen Morgan for doing some of the transcribing.

Matthieu Brandt
June 6, 2021.

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Content Alphabetically

Song	Tuning	Technique	Page
Arlington Heights	gCGCD	frailing	4
Buckdancer's Choice	gCGCE	frailing	7
Buckeye John	gDGCD capo 4	fingerstyle	11
Castaway	gCGCE^{b}	frailing	13
Clifftop Grave	gCGCD capo 2	frailing	18
Cross Eyed and Buck Toothed	gDGCD capo 2	frailing	20
Days Of Wrath	gDGCD	fingerstyle	23
Dogg's Blues	f$^{\#}$DGAD	fingerstyle and index brush up	26
Don't Sweat The Big Stuff	gCGCC	fingerstyle	28
Double Stop Junction	gDGB^{b}D capo 2 aEACE	frailing	31
Dust And Ashes	fDGCD	frailing	38
East Virginia	fCFB^{b}C (Sawmill 2 down)	uppicking	43
Elegy	gCGCD capo 4	frailing and uppicking	45
Flat Foot and Knock Knee	gCGCD	frailing	49
Frantic	fDGAD	frailing	55
Funeral March	gCGCC	fingerstyle	58
Guilty All Around	fDGAD	frailing	61
Hurtful Ducks	gCGCE capo 2	frailing	64
Mountain Stroll	gDGAD capo 2 aEABE	uppicking	68
Portrait Of Dorian Gray	gDGCD capo 4	frailing	73
Raise The Dust	eCGCD capo 2	frailing	75
Scrimshaw	gCGCD	fingerstyle / index brush down	77
Sequential Rain	gCGCD	frailing and uppicking	80
Southern Solace	gCGCD	frailing	83
Temporary Tension	dDGAC capo 2 eEABD	fingerstyle	87
The 42nd Street Cavalry	gCGCD	frailing	90
The Devil's Prelude	gCGCE^{b}	frailing	94
Tranquil	gDGCD	fingerstyle	96
Trip To The Creek	gCGCE^{b} capo 4	frailing and uppicking	102
Two Hobos	f$^{\#}$BF$^{\#}$BD (C minor 1 down)	uppicking	104
Updraft	gCGCC	frailing and uppicking	106
Walt's Cooking	gDGBD	frailing	111
Waltzing Towards The End	gCGCE	frailing	114
We Don't Take Kindly	gDGCD	frailing	118
When Words Run Dry	eCGCC capo 4 g$^{\#}$EBEE	frailing	120

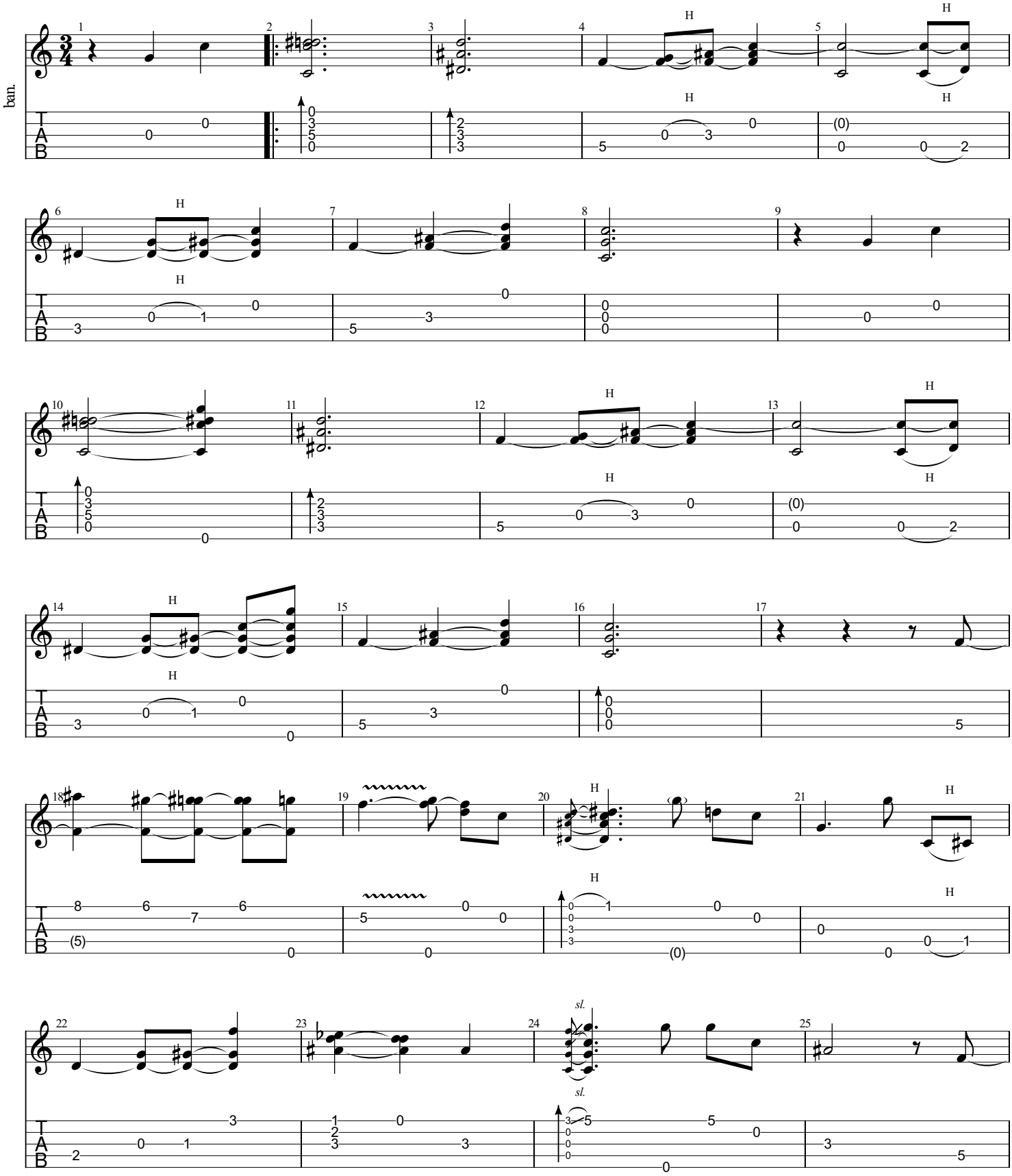
Content Sorted by Type of Tuning		Technique	Page
Double C gCGCD			
Arlington Heights	gCGCD	frailing	4
Clifftop Grave	gCGCD capo 2	frailing	18
Elegy	gCGCD capo 4	frailing and uppicking	45
Flat Foot and Knock Knee	gCGCD	frailing	49
Scrimshaw	gCGCD	fingerstyle / index brush down	77
Sequential Rain	gCGCD	frailing and uppicking	80
Southern Solace	gCGCD	frailing	83
The 42nd Street Cavalry	gCGCD	frailing	90
Double C variation			
Raise The Dust	eCGCD capo 2	frailing	75
Triple C gCGCC			
Don't Sweat The Big Stuff	gCGCC	fingerstyle	28
Funeral March	gCGCC	fingerstyle	58
Updraft	gCGCC	frailing and uppicking	106
Triple C Variation			
When Words Run Dry	eCGCC capo 4 $g^{\#}$EBEE	frailing	120
C major gCGCE			
Buckdancer's Choice	gCGCE	frailing	7
Hurtful Ducks	gCGCE capo 2	frailing	64
Waltzing Towards The End	gCGCE	frailing	114
C minor gCGCE^{b}			
Castaway	gCGCE^{b}	frailing	13
The Devil's Prelude	gCGCE^{b}	frailing	94
Trip To The Creek	gCGCE^{b} capo 4	frailing and uppicking	102
Two Hobos	$f^{\#}$B$F^{\#}$BD (C minor 1 down)	uppicking	104
G major			
Walt's Cooking	gDGBD	frailing	111
Sawmill gDGCD			
Buckeye John	gDGCD capo 4	fingerstyle	11
Cross Eyed and Buck Toothed	gDGCD capo 2	frailing	20
Portrait Of Dorian Gray	gDGCD capo 4	frailing	73
Tranquil	gDGCD	fingerstyle	96
We Don't Take Kindly	gDGCD	frailing	118
Sawmill variation			
Dust And Ashes	fDGCD	frailing	38
G minor gDGB^{b}D			
Double Stop Junction	gDGB^{b}D capo 2 aEACE	frailing	31
Variations			
Dogg's Blues	$f^{\#}$DGAD	fingerstyle and index brush up	26
Frantic	fDGAD	frailing	55
Guilty All Around	fDGAD	frailing	61
Mountain Stroll	gDGAD capo 2 aEABE	uppicking	68
Temporary Tension	dDGAC capo 2 eEABD	fingerstyle	87
East Virginia	fCFB^{b}C (Sawmill 2 down)	uppicking	43

Arlington Heights

Music by Matthieu Brandt

①＝D ③＝G ⑤＝G
②＝C ④＝C

♩ = 144



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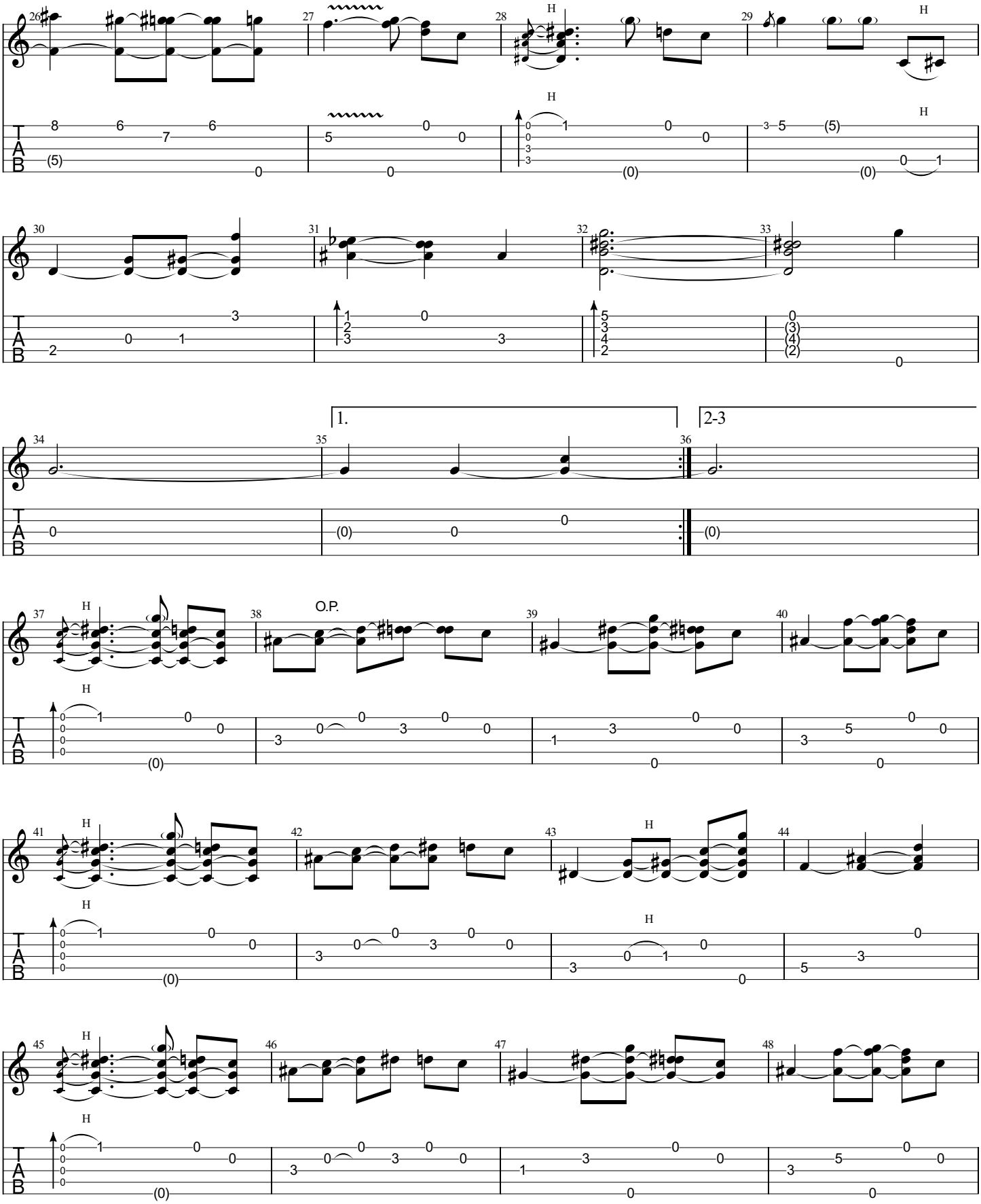
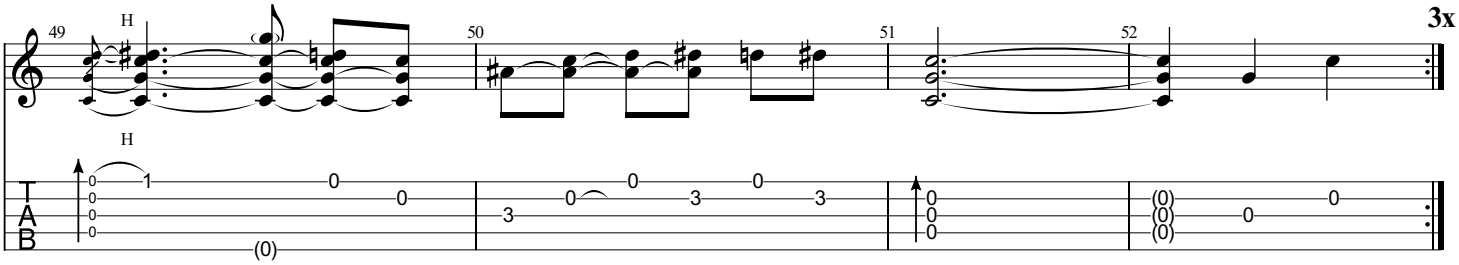
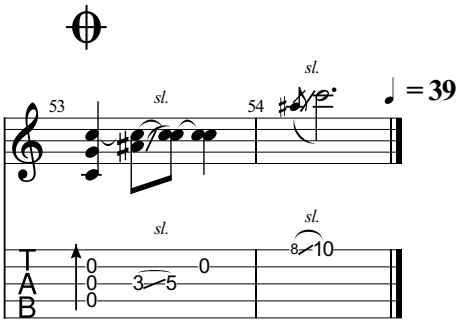

1.
2-3
O.P.

Da Coda





Buckdancer's Choice

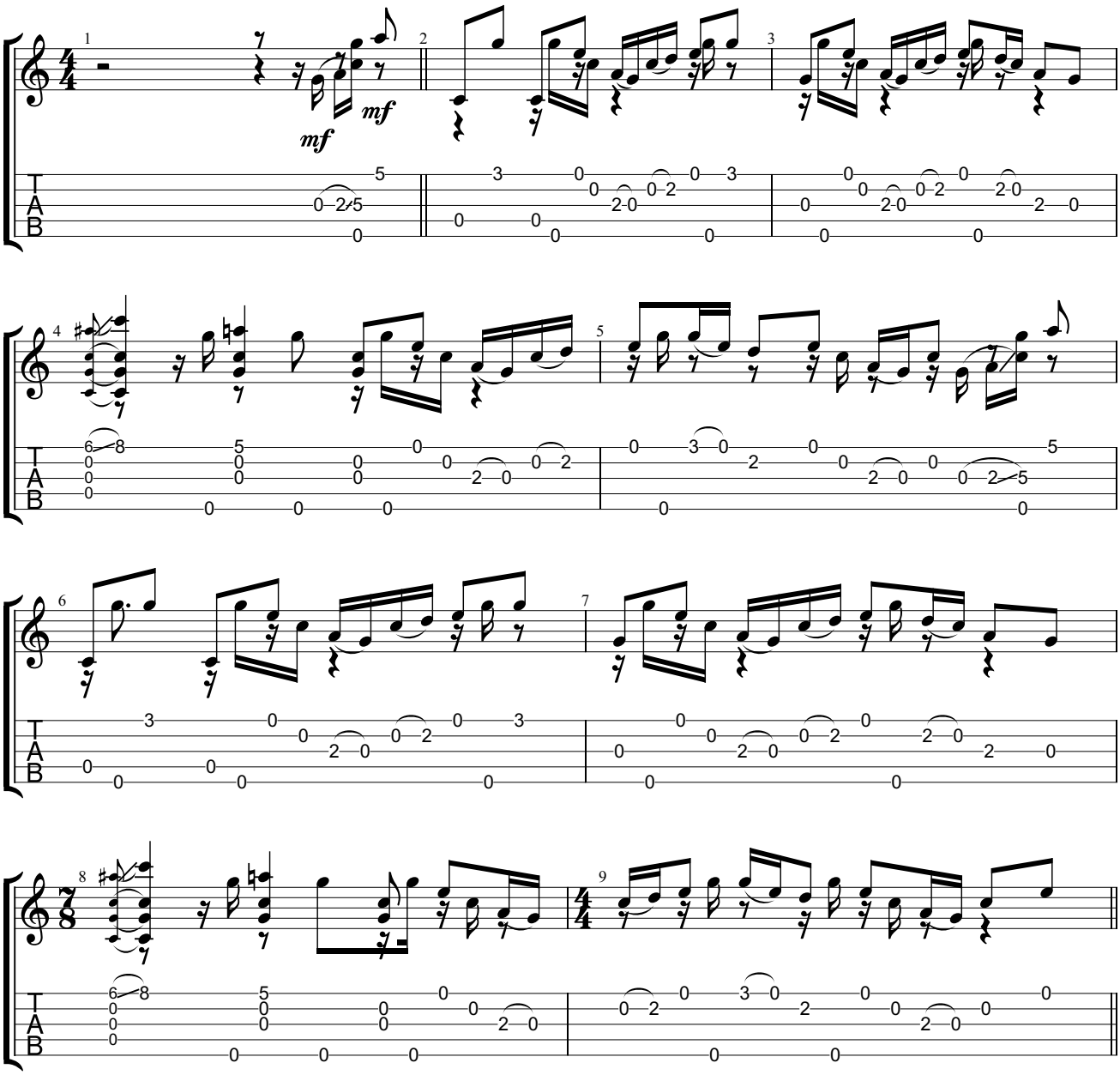
Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan

G C G C E
①=E ③=G ⑤=G
②=C ④=C

♩ = 94

(♫ = ♪) 3

A



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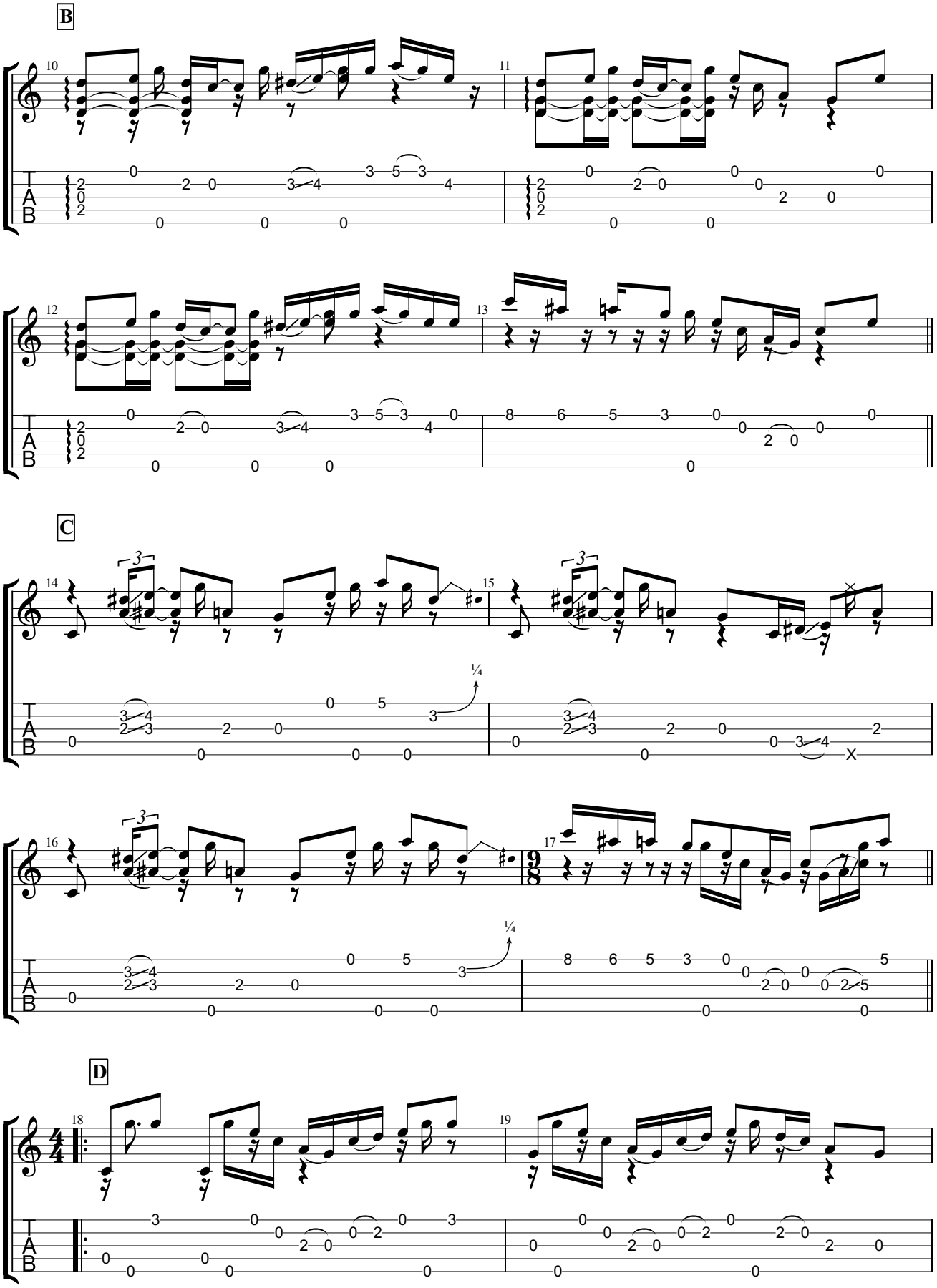

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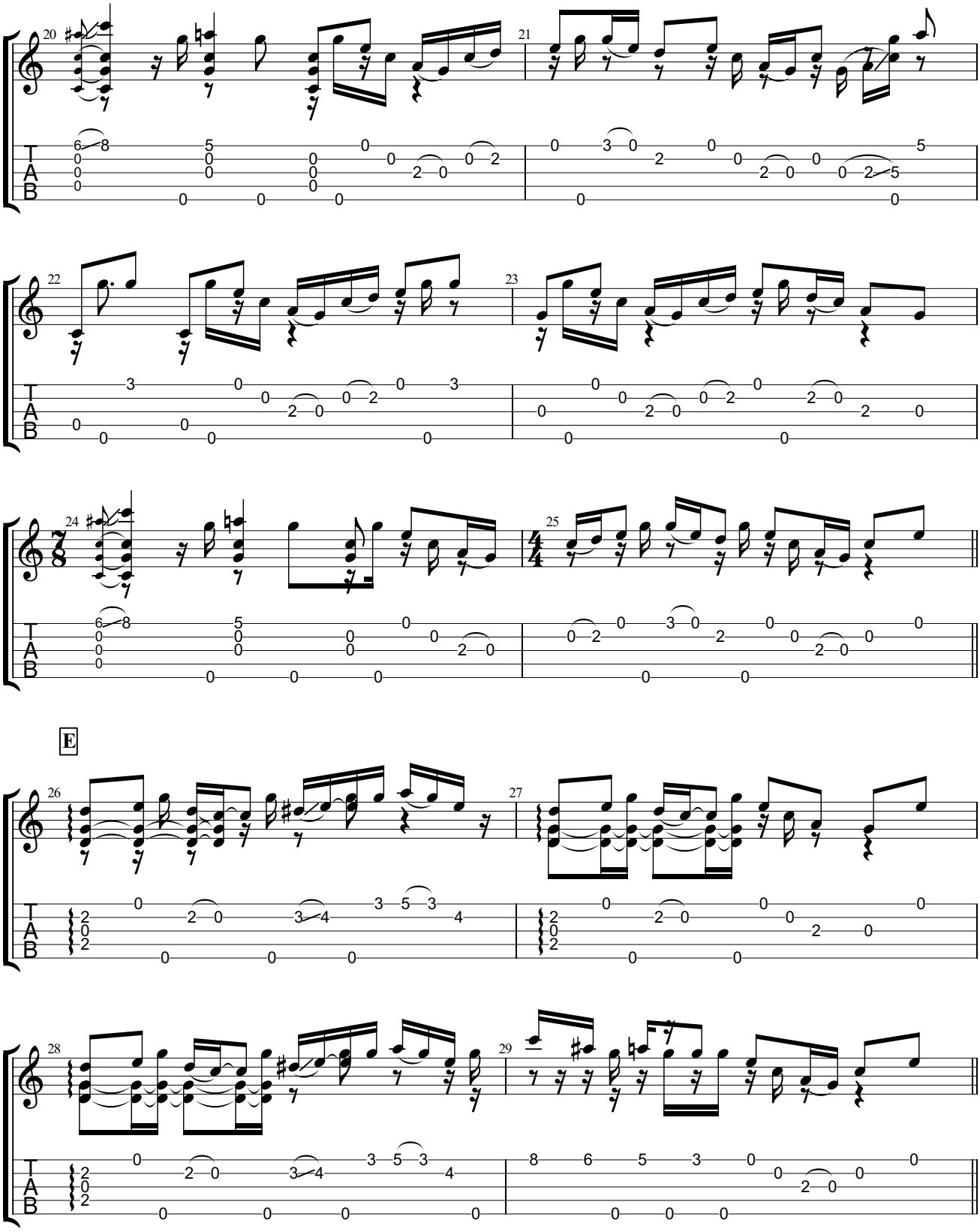

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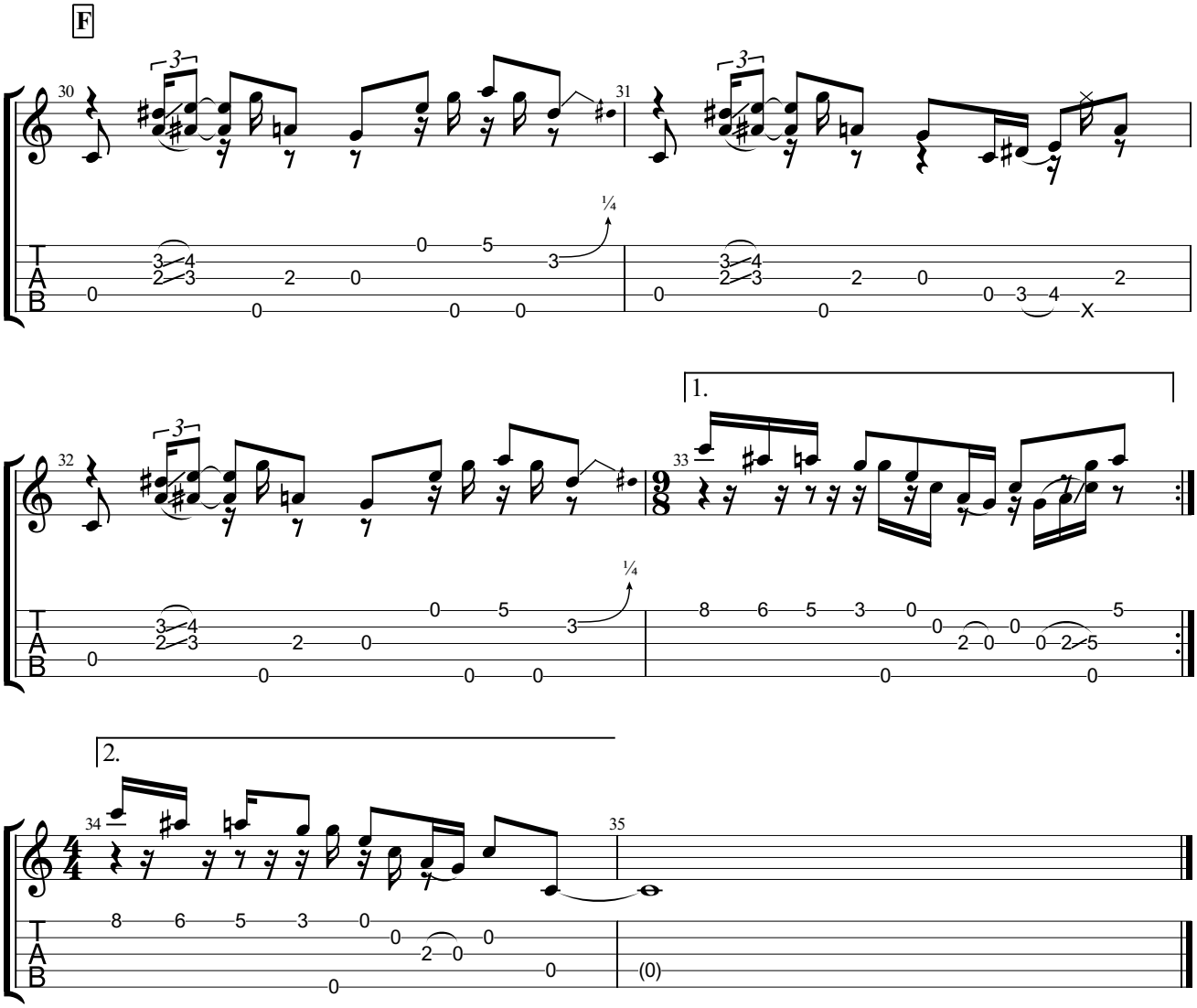

F
30
31
32
33
34
35
1.
2.
¼
T
A
B

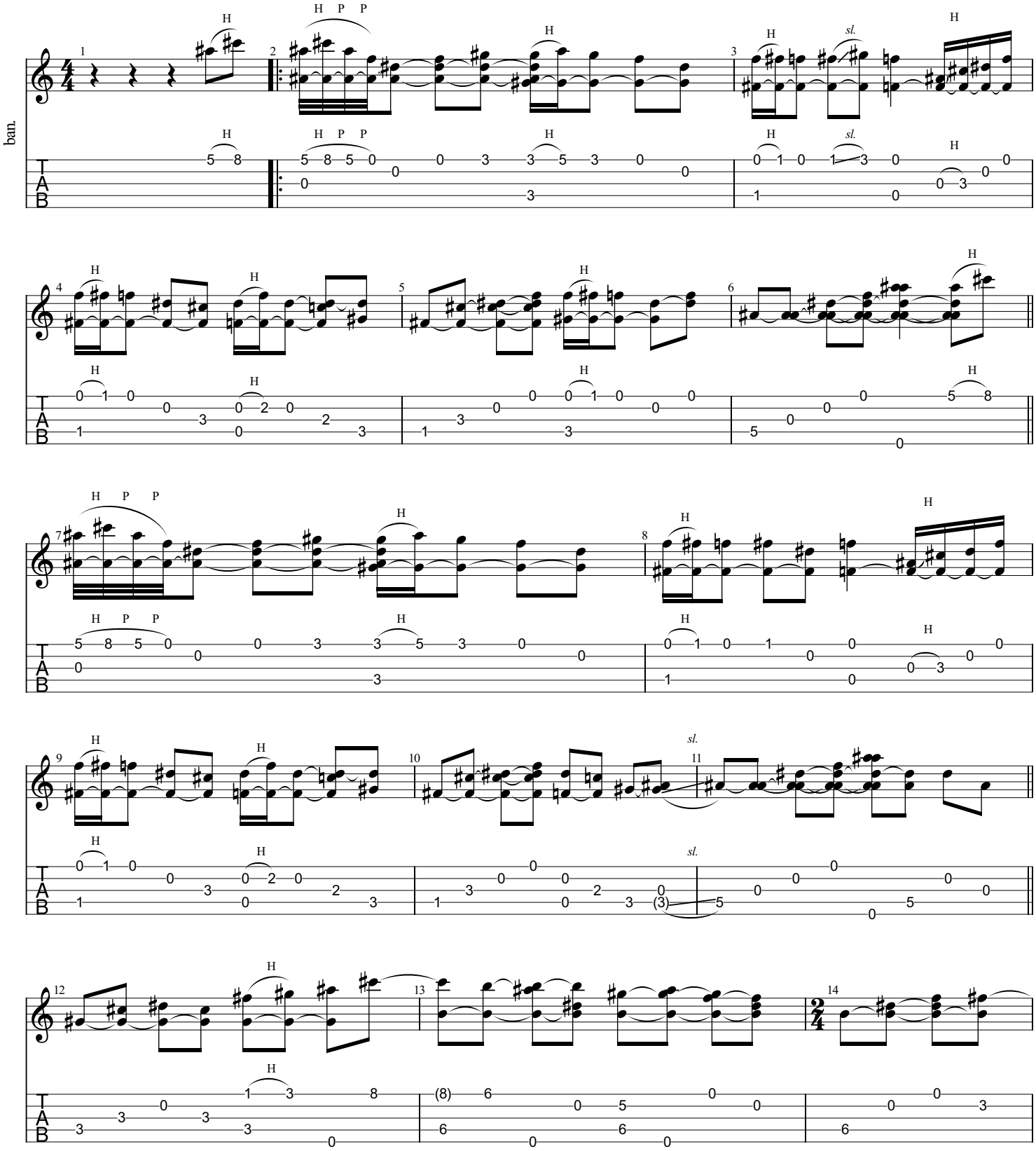
Buckeye John

Music by Matthieu Brandt

G Modal
①＝D ③＝G ⑤＝G
②＝C ④＝D

♩ = 86

Capo fret 3, partial capo. fret 5 on string 5



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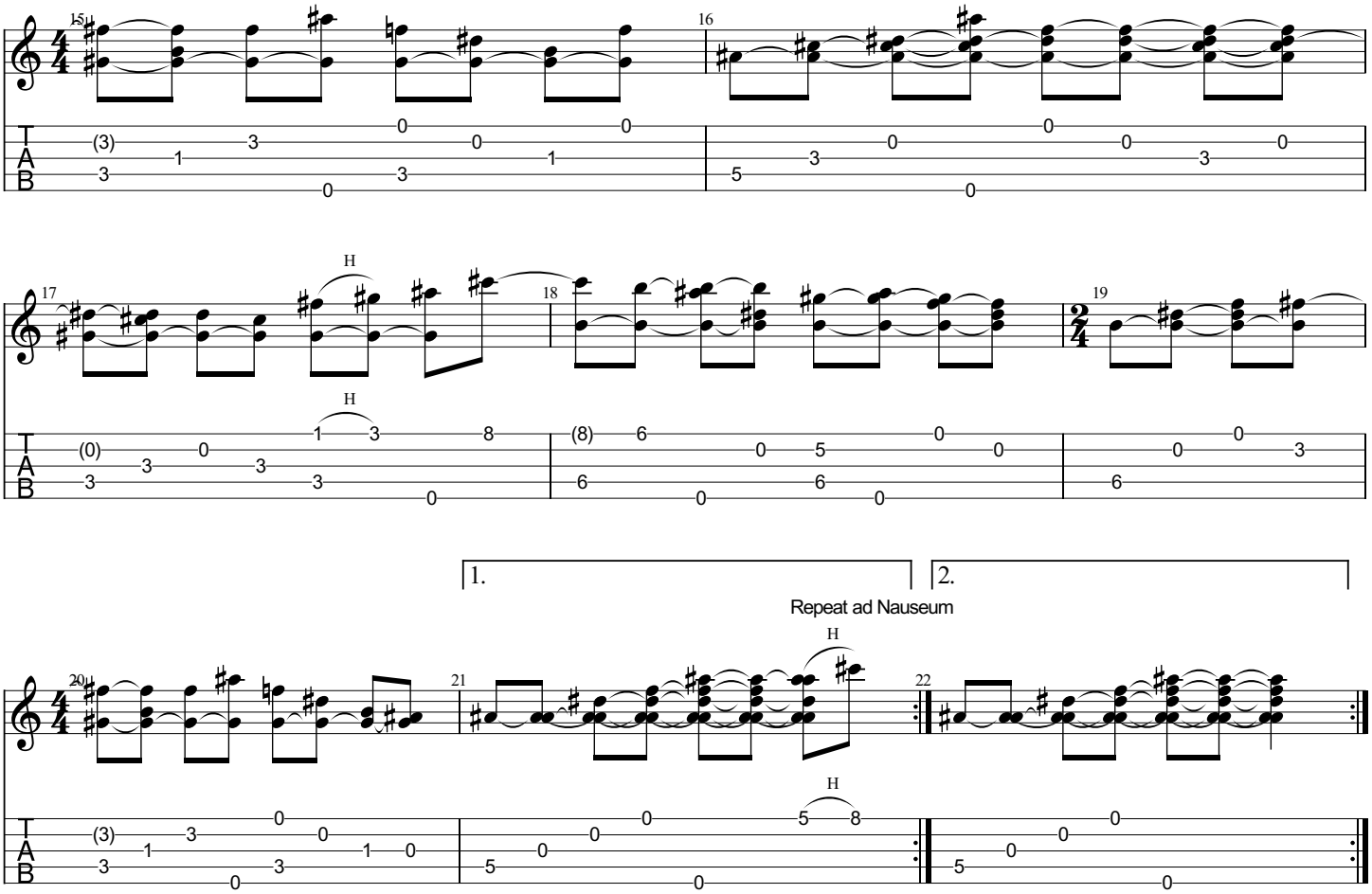

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
H
1.
2.
Repeat ad Nauseum
T
A
B

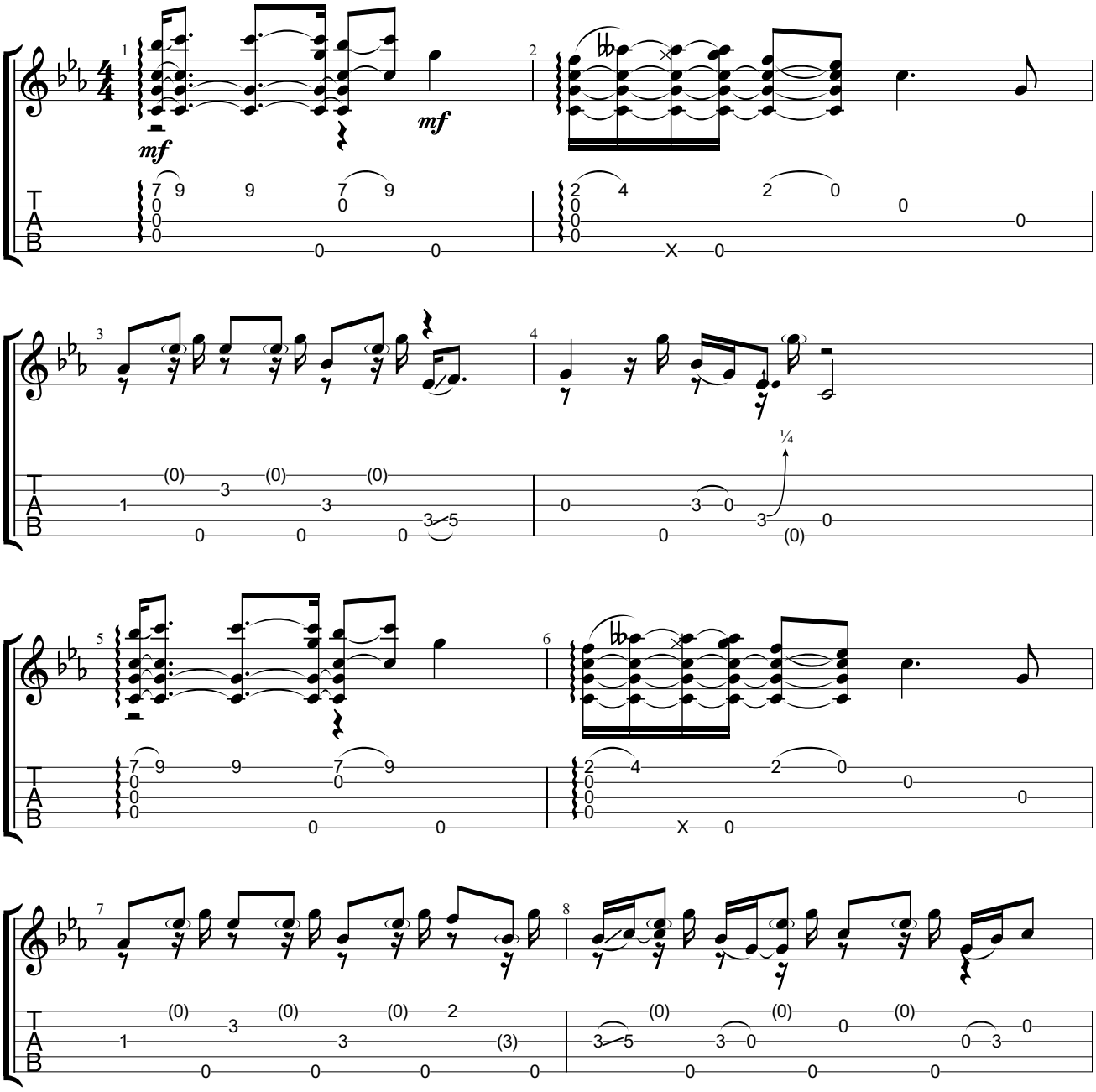
Castaway

Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan

①＝E♭　③＝G　⑤＝G
②＝C　④＝C

♩ = 122

A



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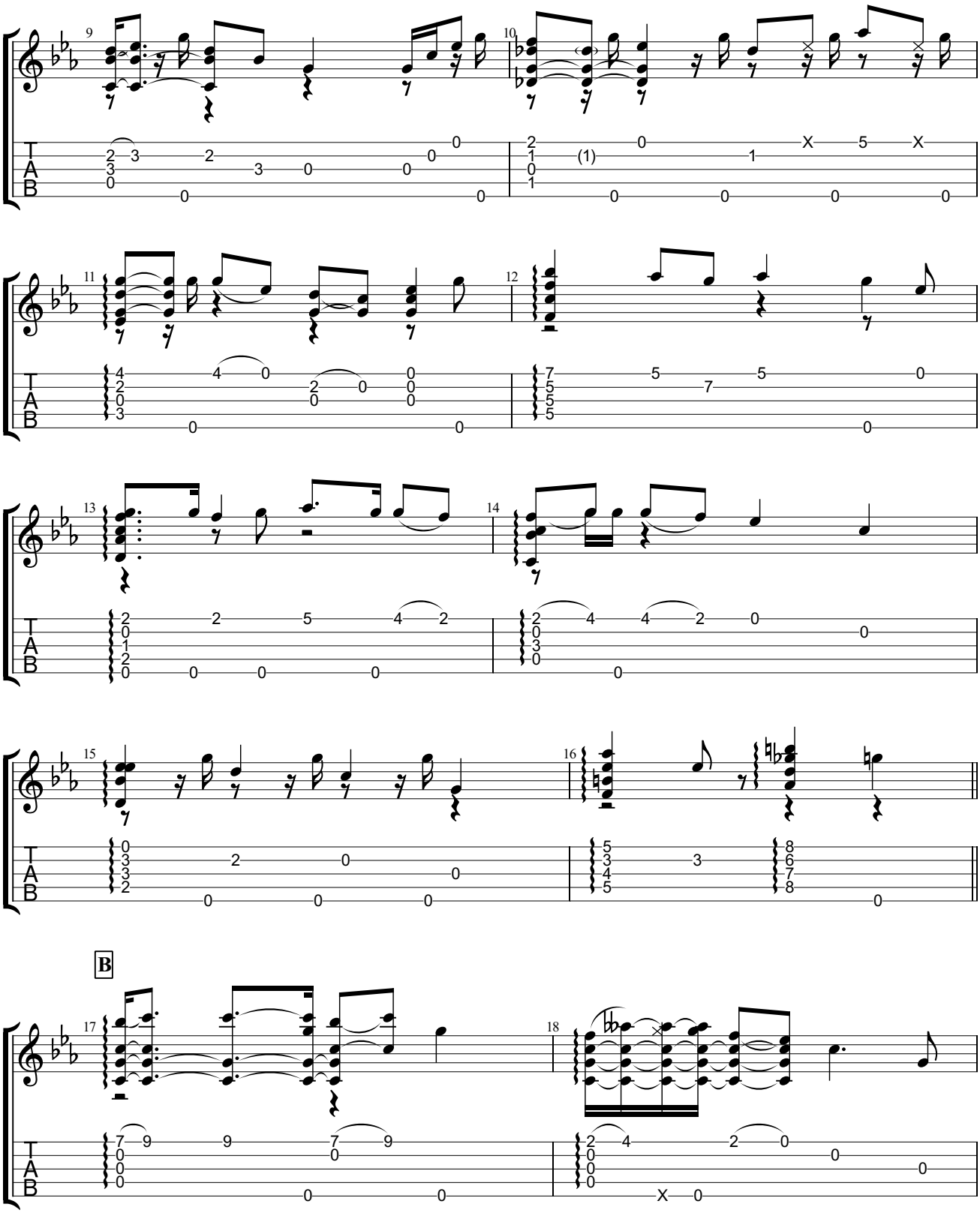
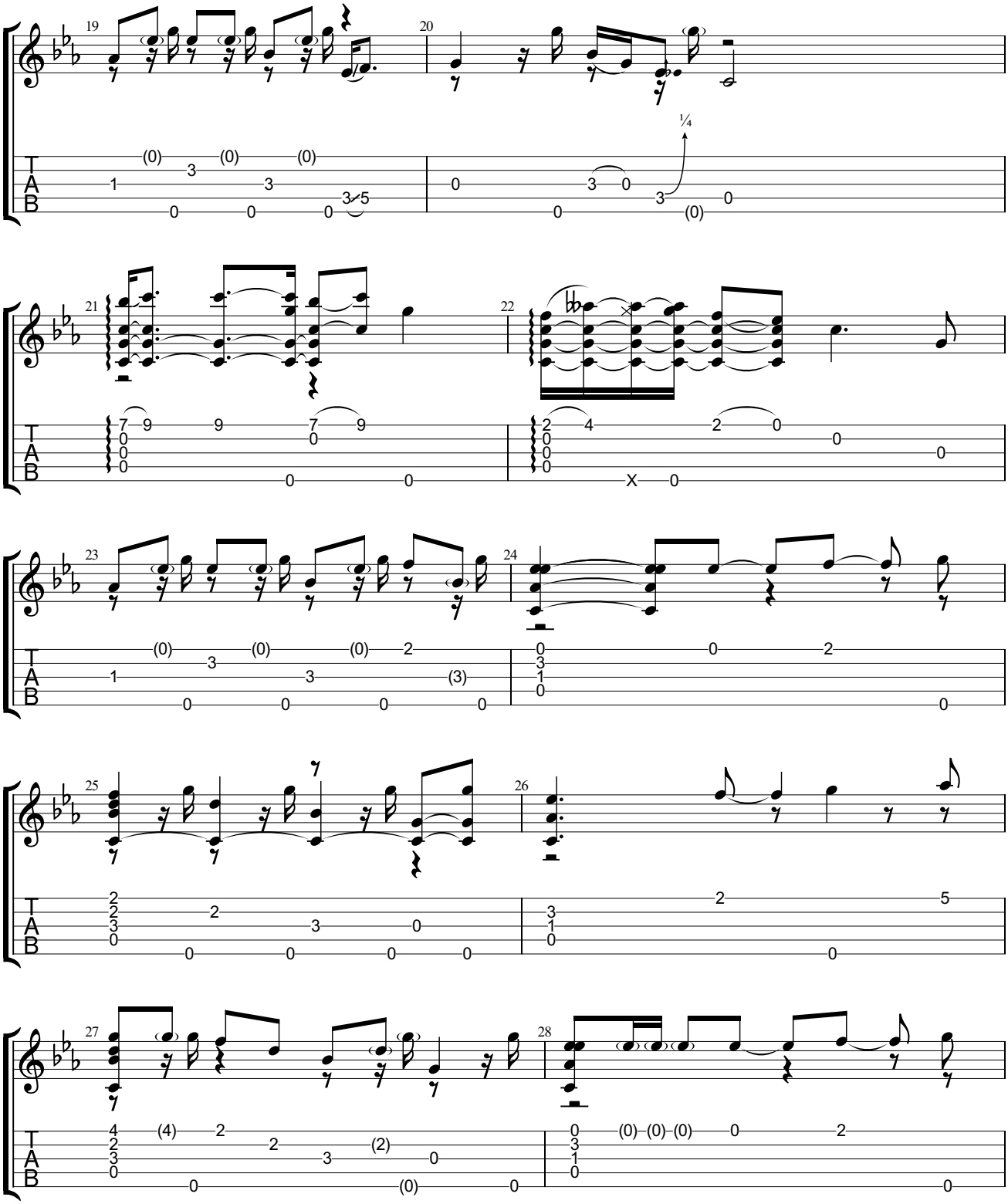
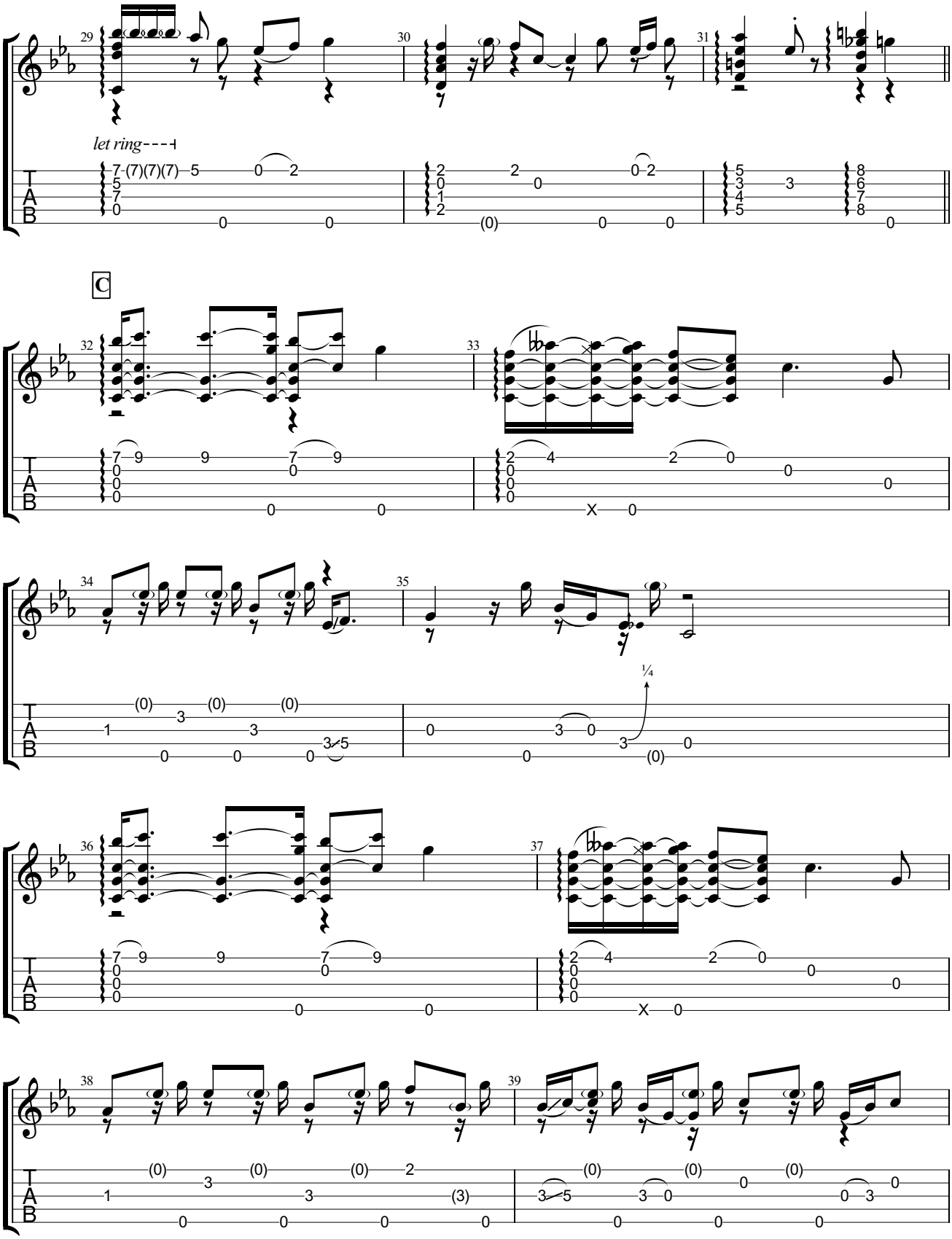
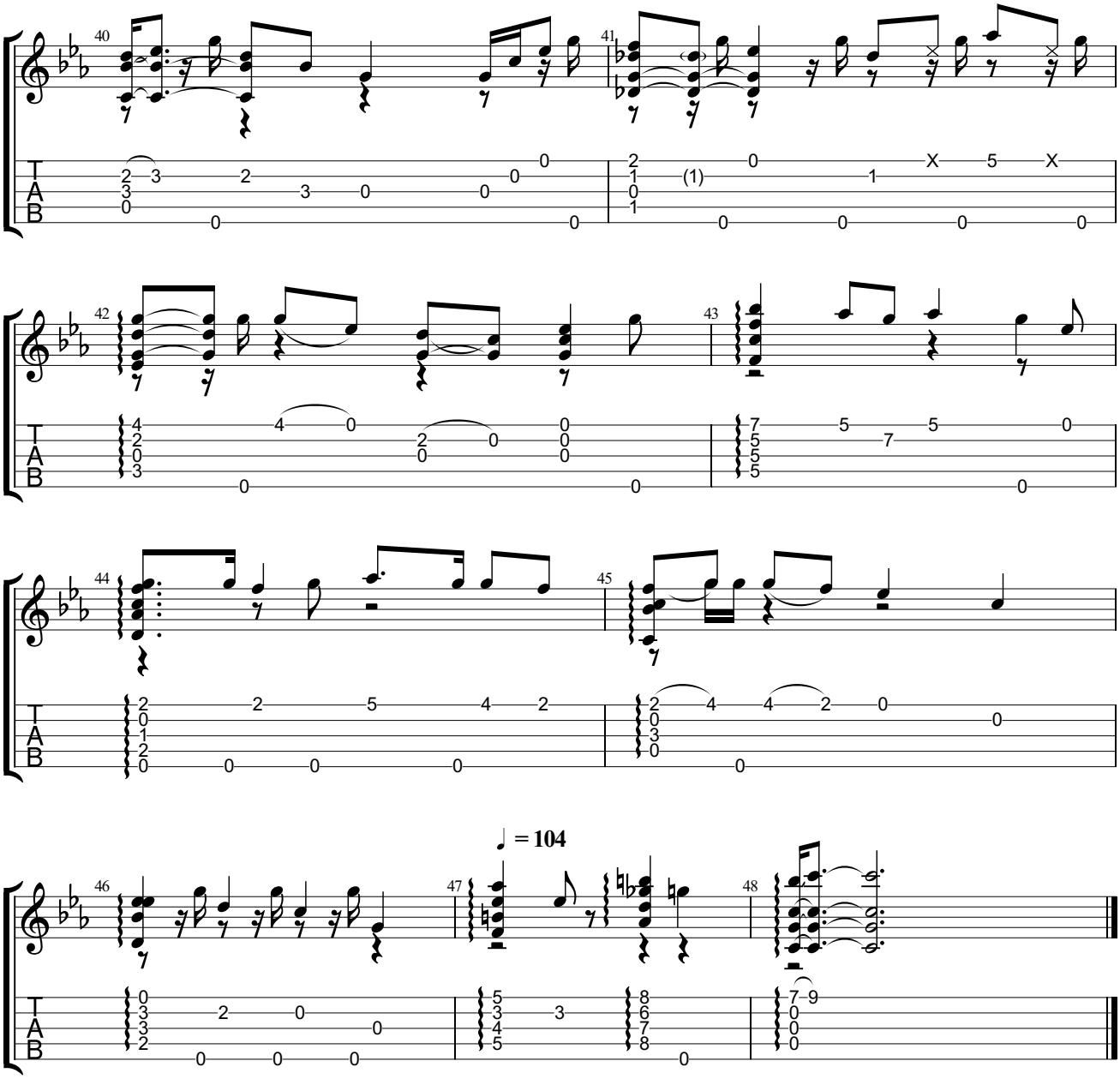

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
B
17
18
T
A
B


19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
¼
T
A
B


let ring
C
¼


40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
= 104

Clifftop Grave

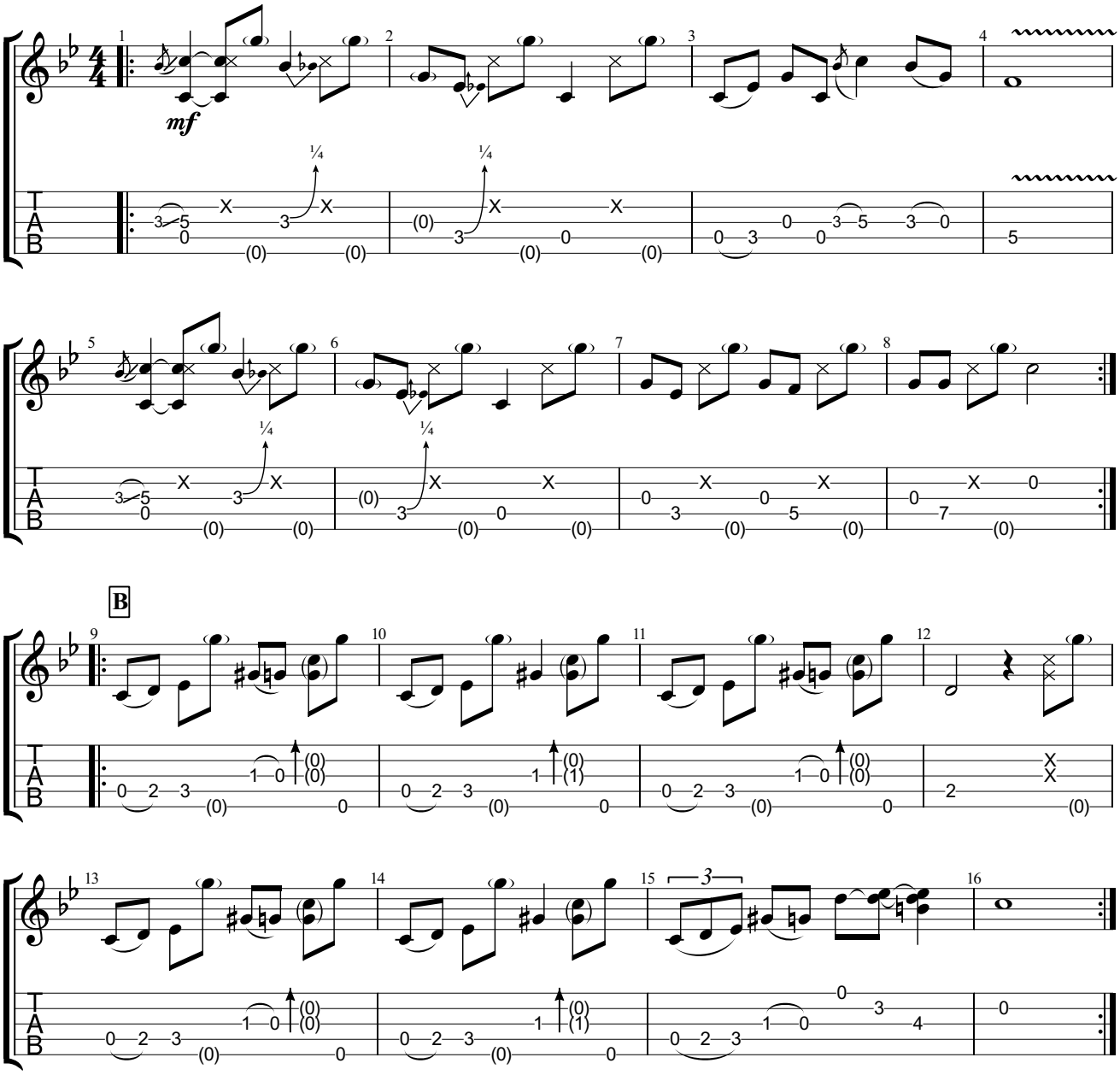
Music by Matthieu Brandt

①＝D ③＝G ⑤＝G
②＝C ④＝C

♩ = 160

A

Capo fret 2



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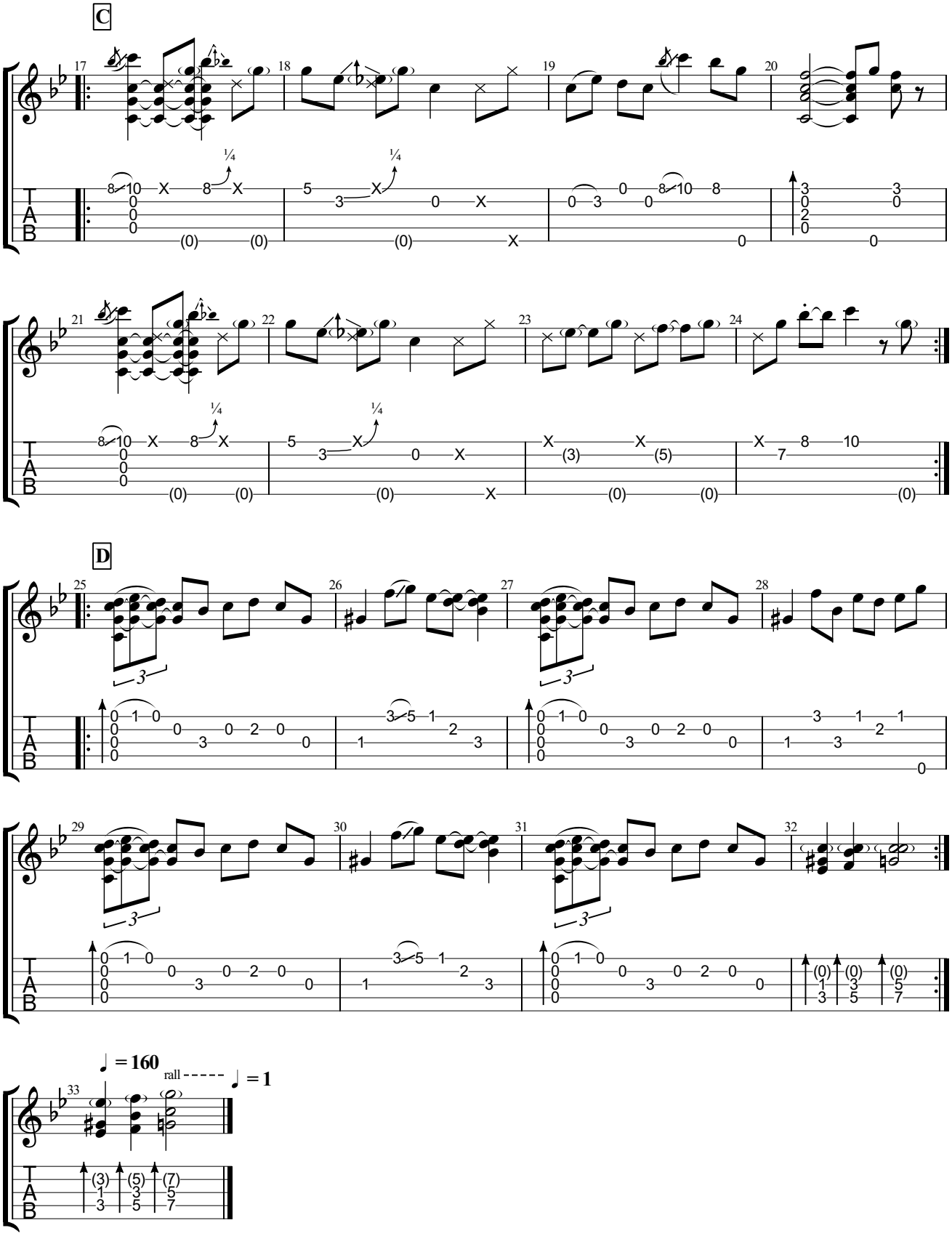

C
D
♩ = 160
rall
♩ = 1

Cross Eyed and Buck Toothed

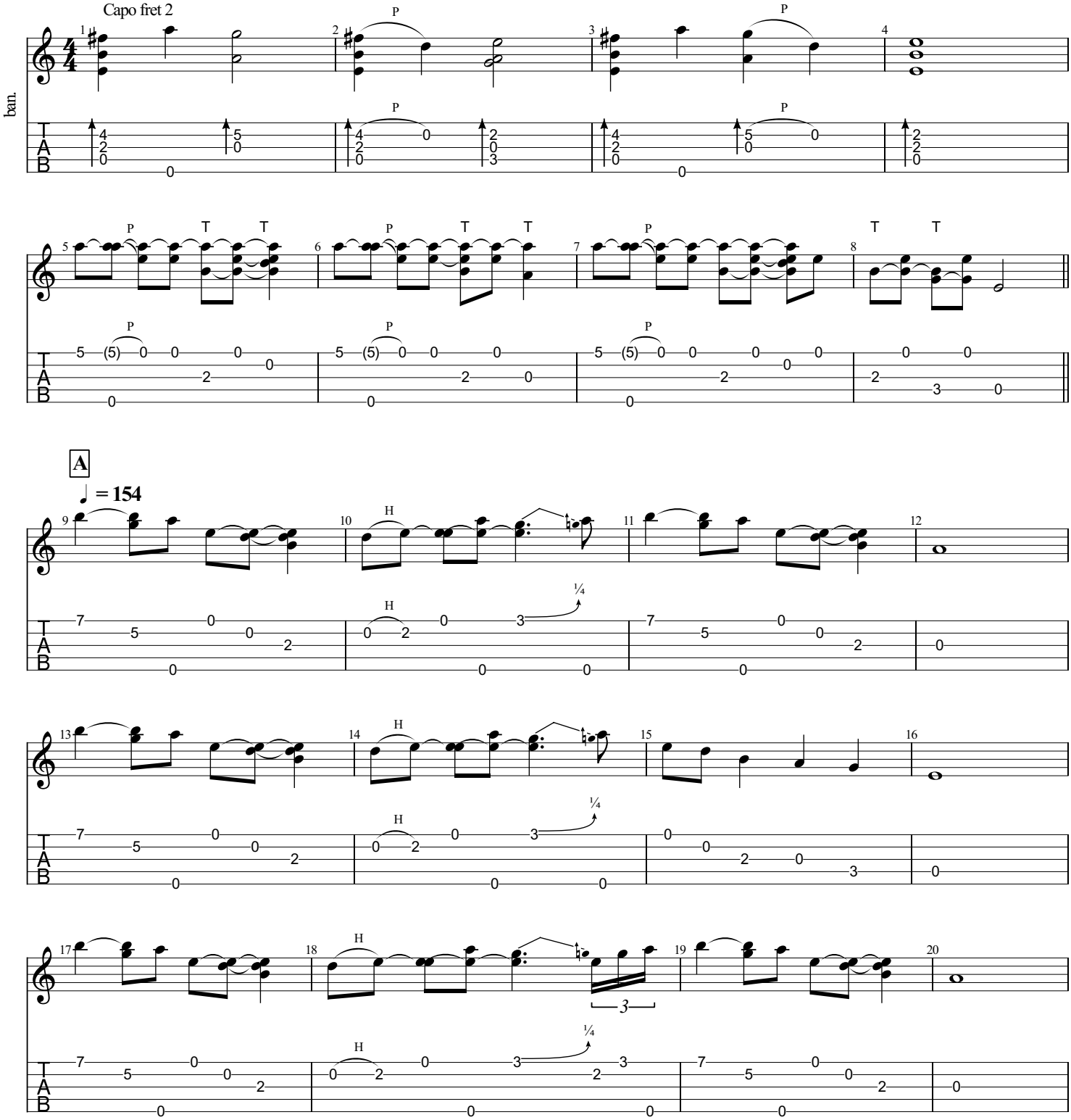
Music by Matthieu Brandt

①＝D ③＝G ⑤＝G
②＝C ④＝D

♩＝96

Intro play slow and freely

Capo fret 2



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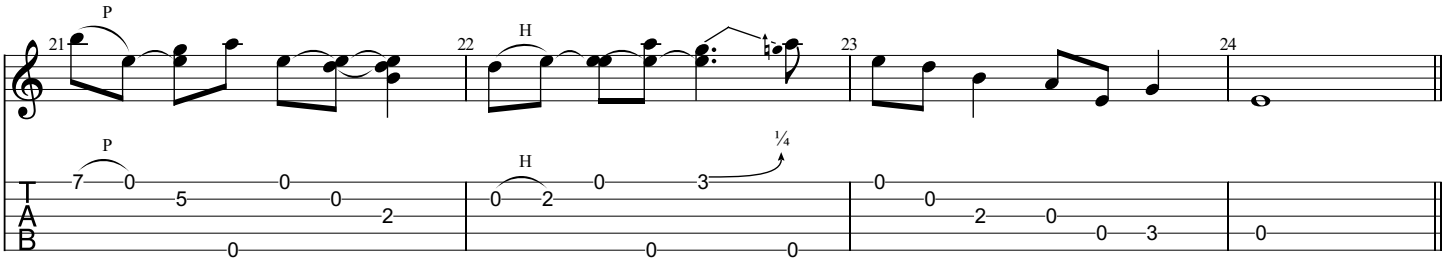
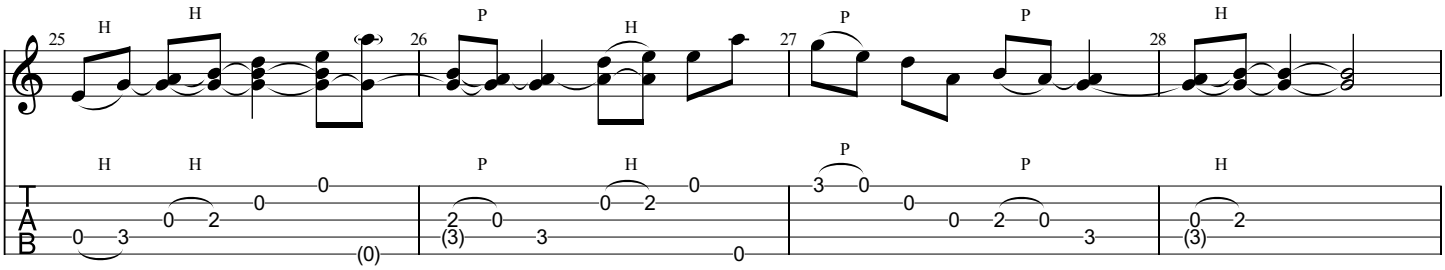
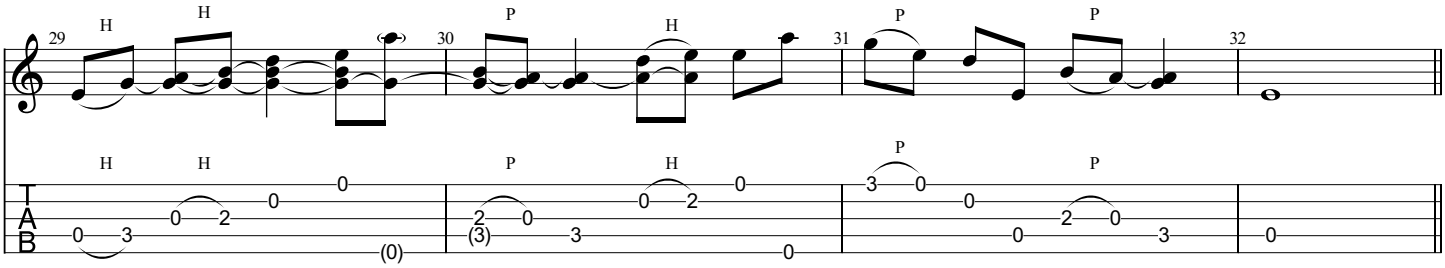

21
22
23
24
P
H
¼
T
A
B

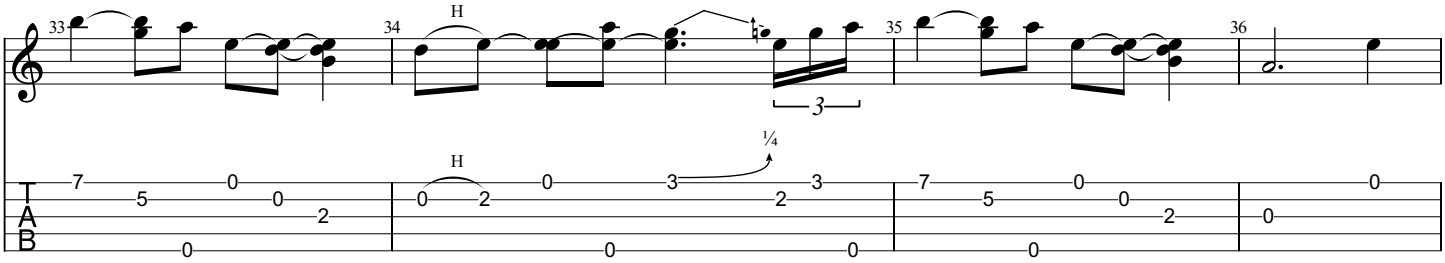
B

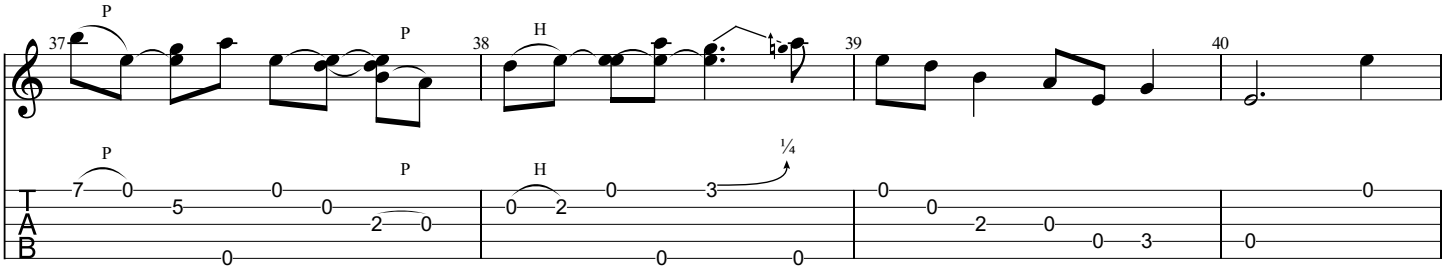

25
26
27
28
H
P
T
A
B

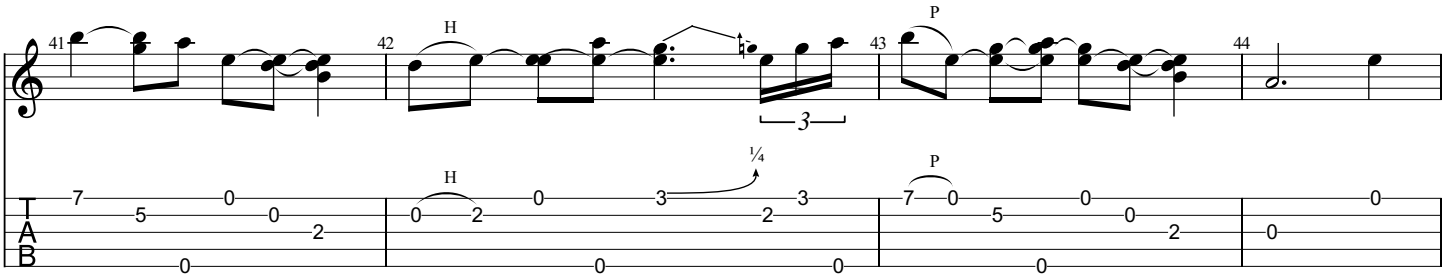
Da Coda


29
30
31
32
H
P
T
A
B

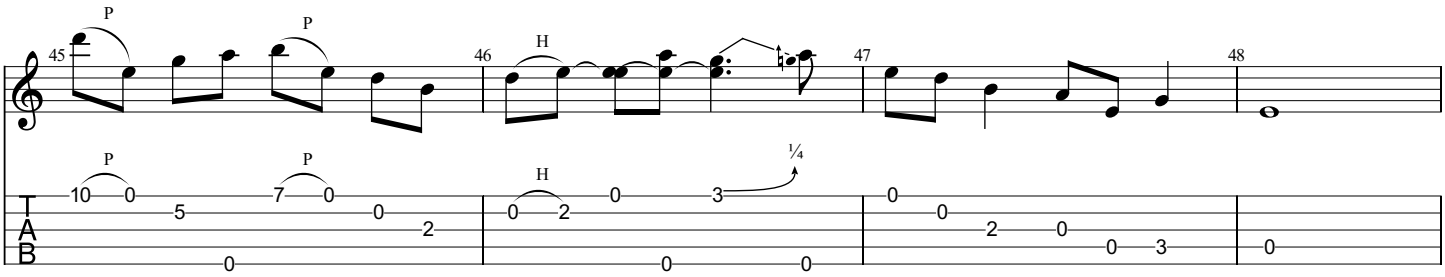
A

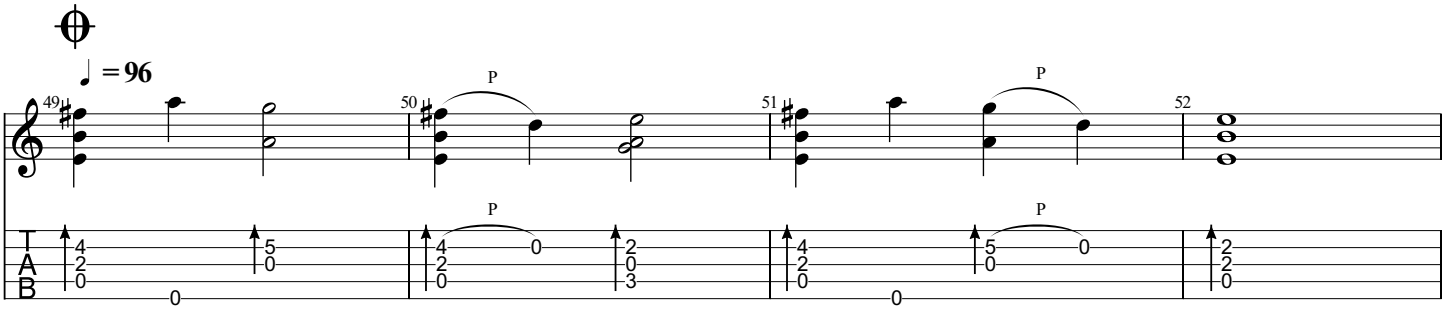

33
34
35
36
H
¼
T
A
B

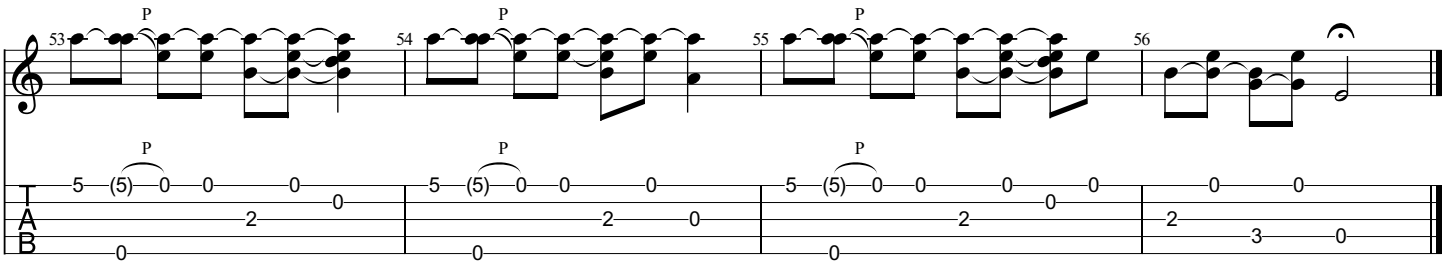

37
38
39
40
P
H
¼
T
A
B


41
42
43
44
H
P
3
¼
TAB

D.S. al Coda


45
46
47
48
P
H
¼
TAB


♩ = 96
49
50
51
52
P
TAB


53
54
55
56
P
TAB

Days Of Wrath

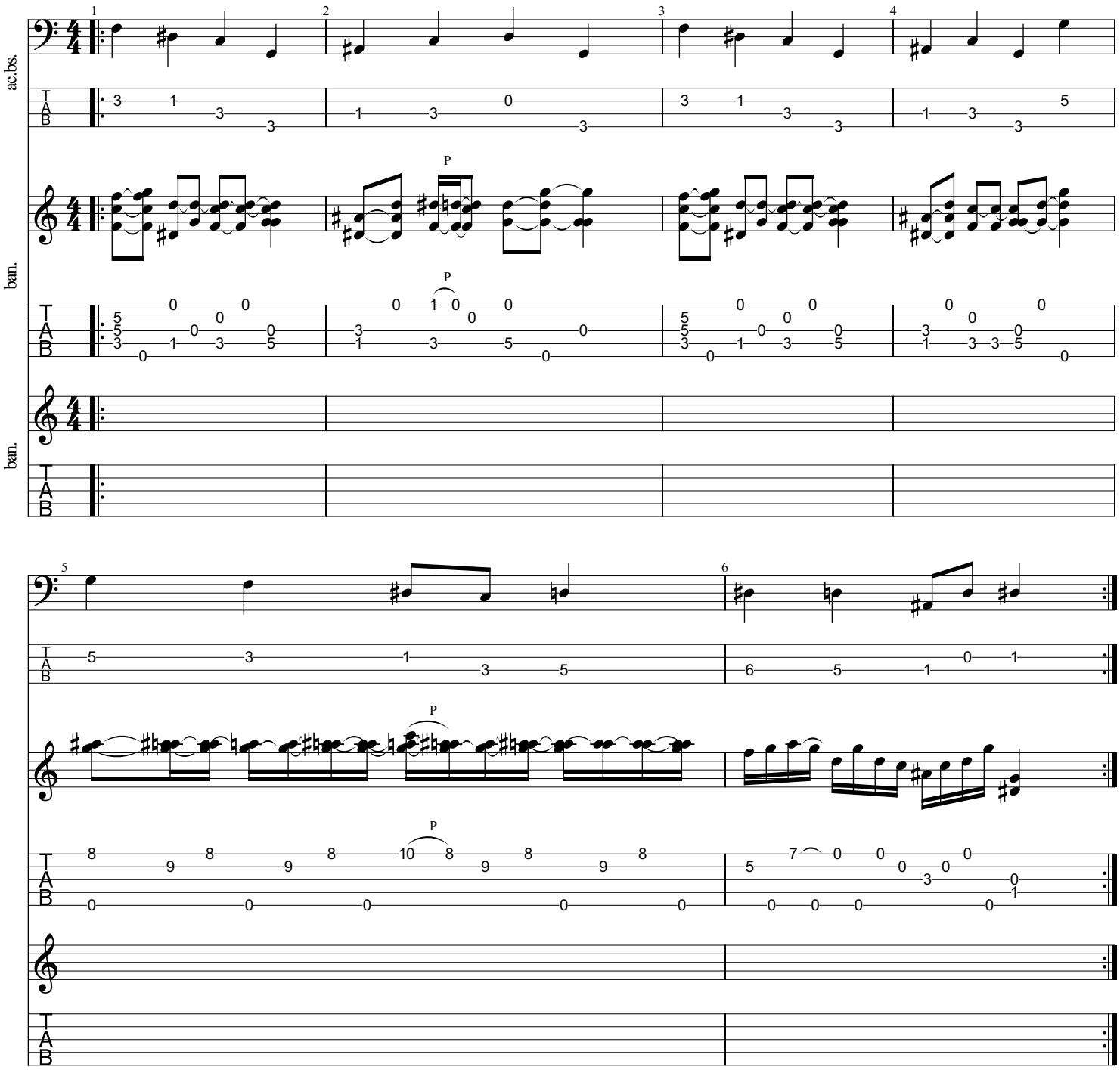
Music by Matthieu Brandt

Acoustic Bass
Standard tuning

Banjo
① = D ③ = G ⑤ = G
② = C ④ = D

Banjo
① = D ③ = G ⑤ = G
② = C ④ = D

♩ = 60



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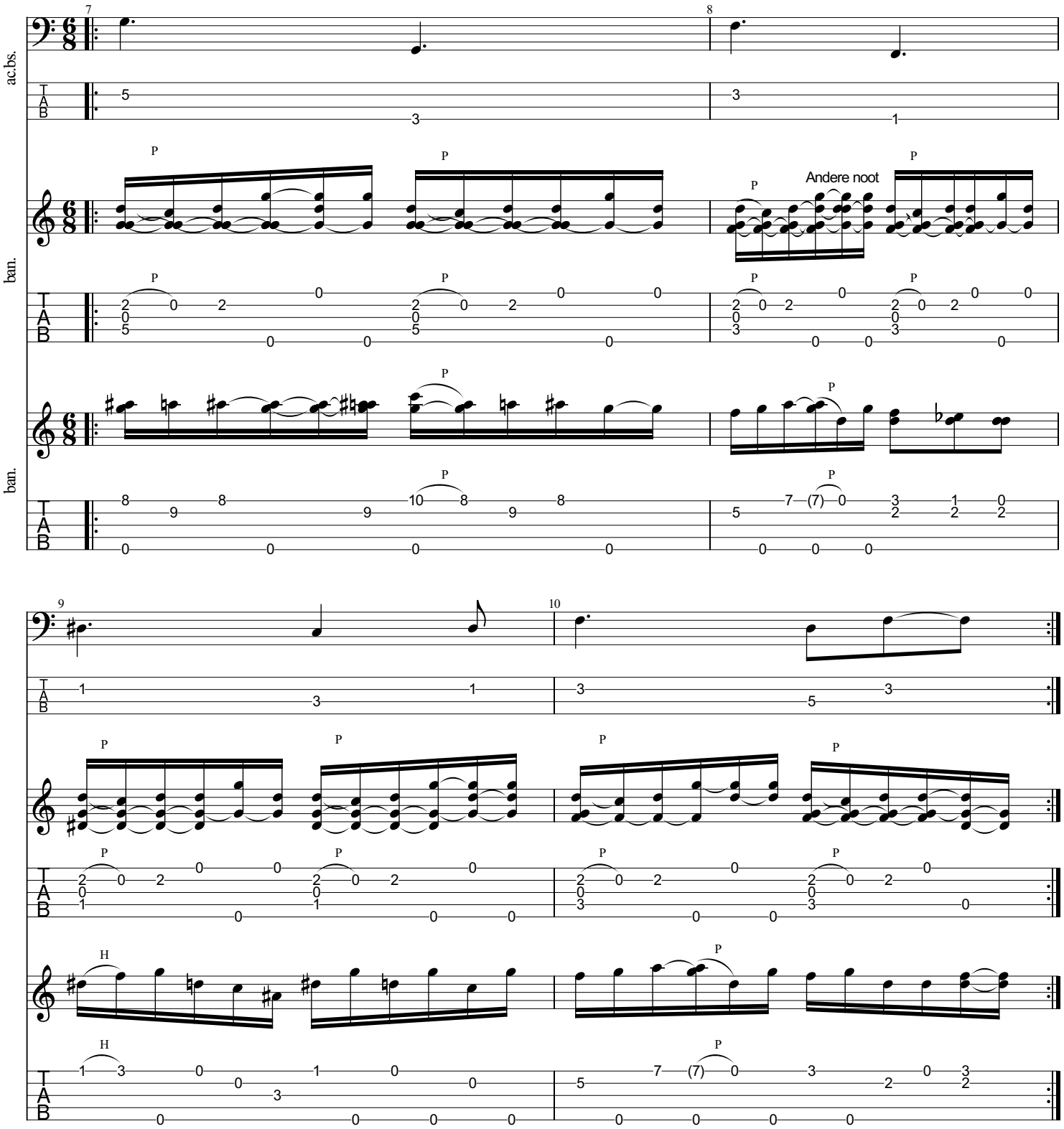
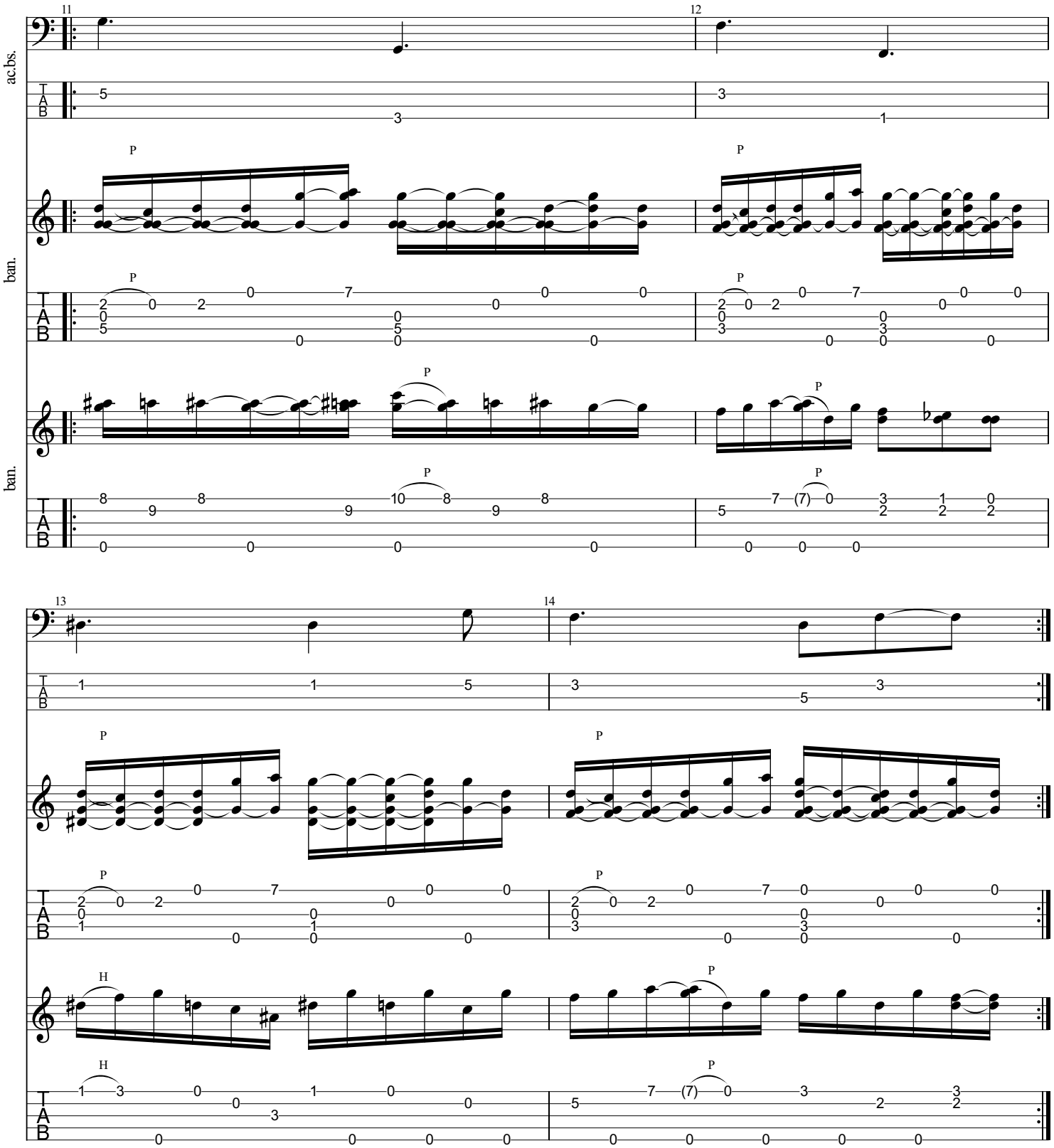

ac.bs.
ban.
ban.
Andere noot


ac.bs.
ban.
ban.
11
12
13
14
P
H

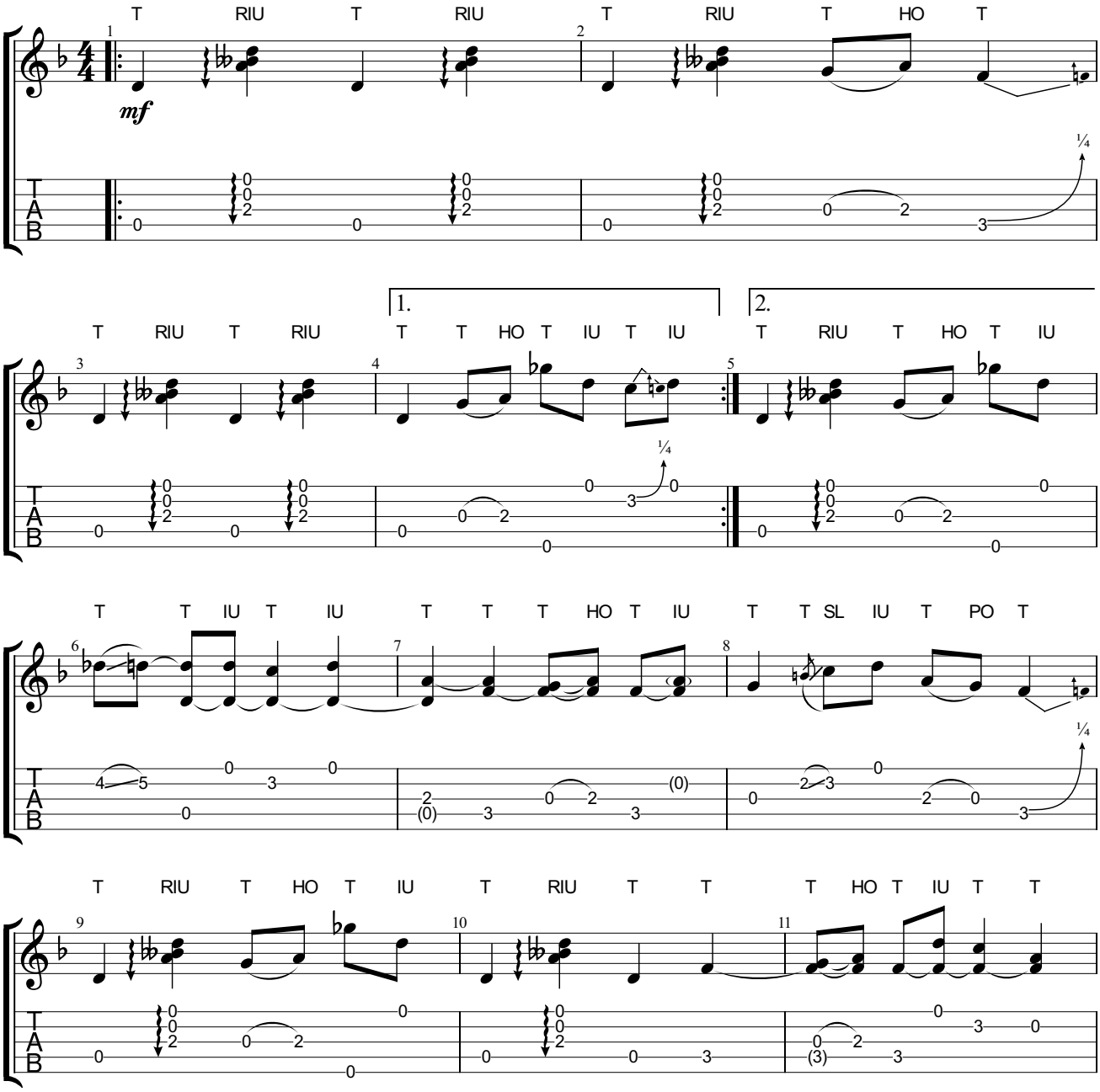
Dogg's Blues

RIU = Rake Index Finger Up

Music by Matthieu Brandt

①＝D ③＝G ⑤＝G♭
②＝A ④＝D

♩ = 160



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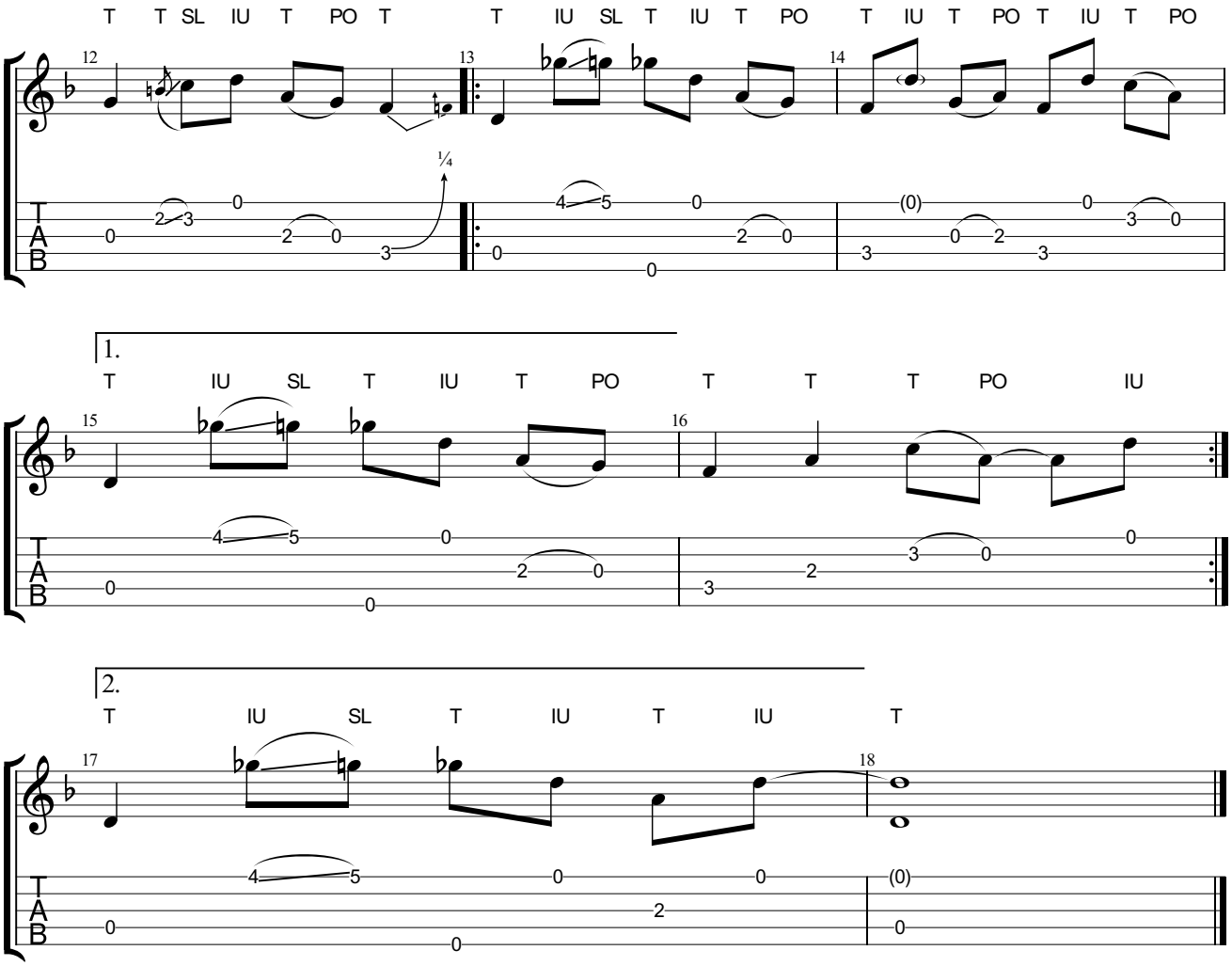
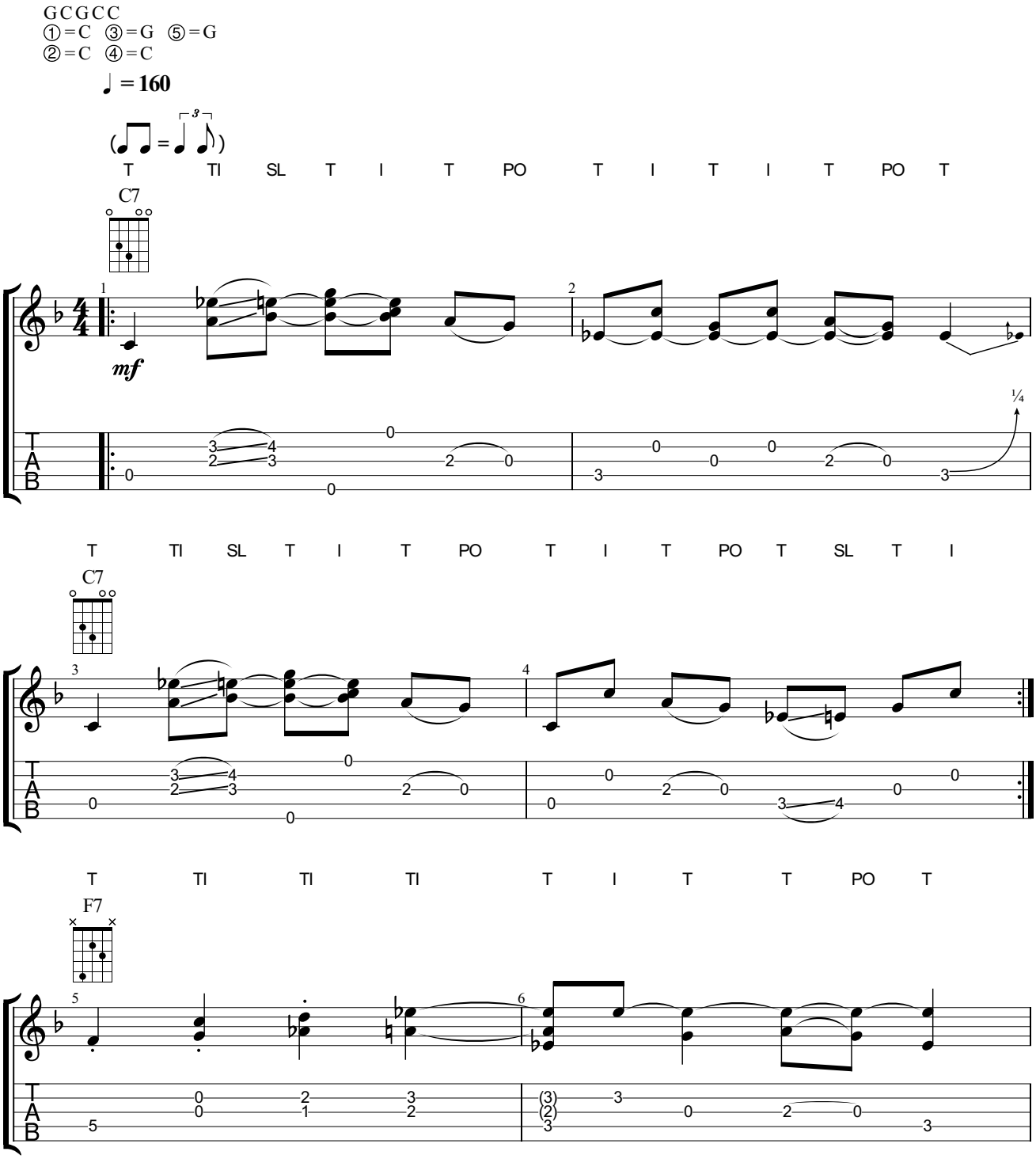

T T SL IU T PO T
T IU SL T IU T PO
T IU T PO T IU T PO
12
13
14
¼
1.
T IU SL T IU T PO
T T T PO IU
15
16
2.
T IU SL T IU T IU T
17
18

Don't Sweat The Big Stuff

Music by Matthieu Brandt



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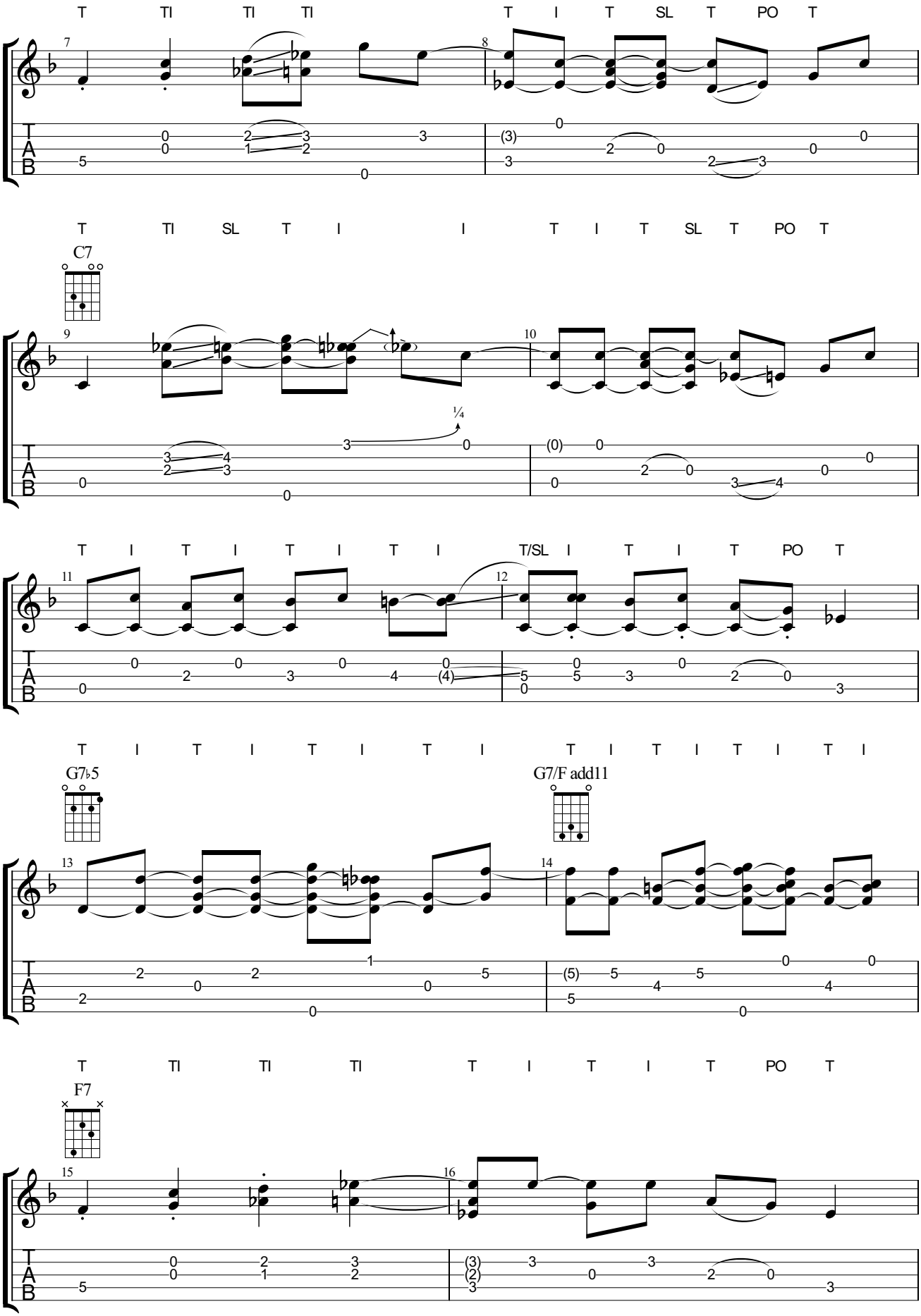
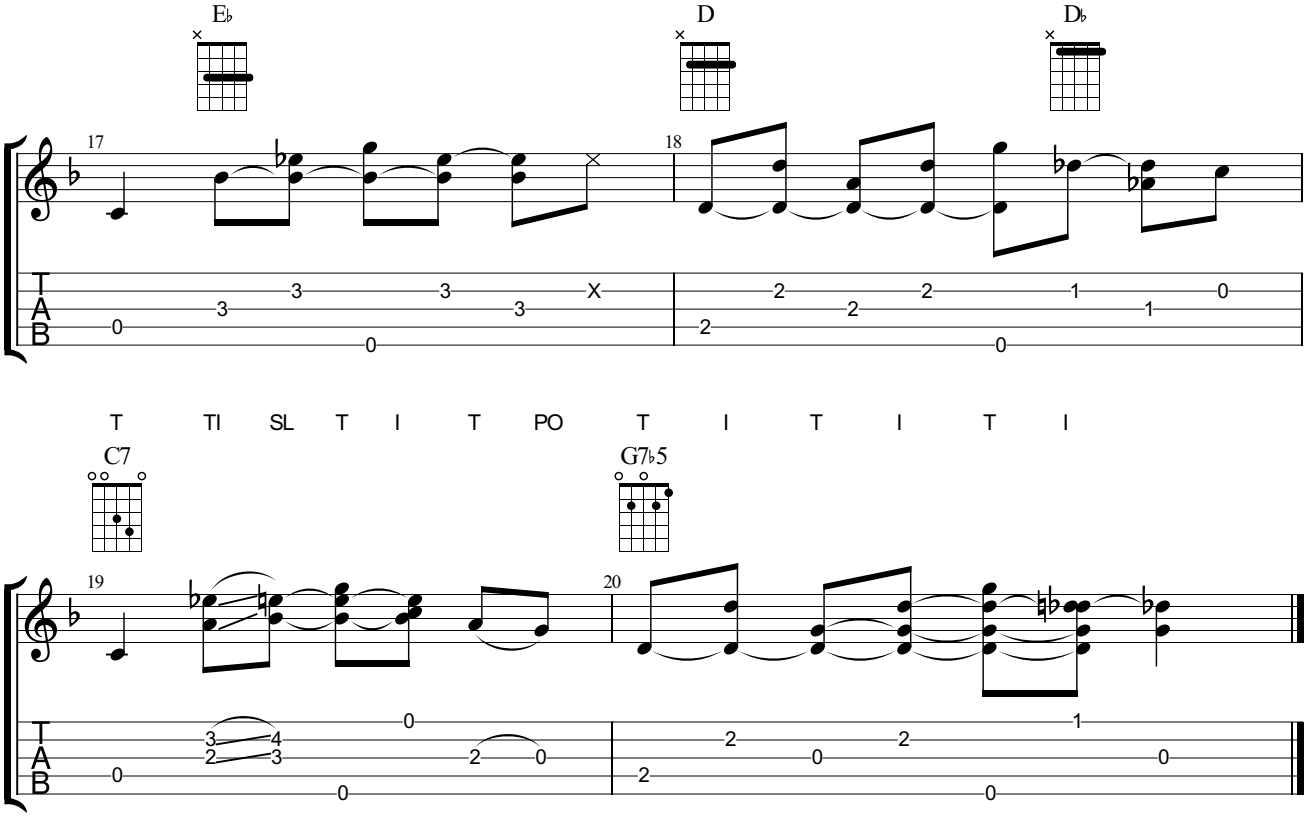

T TI TI TI T I T SL T PO T
C7
T TI SL T I I T I T SL T PO T
T I T I T I T I T/SL I T I T PO T
G7♭5
G7/F add11
T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I
F7
T TI TI TI T I T I T PO T


E♭
D
D♭
17
18
T
A
B
T TI SL T I T PO T I T I T I
C7
G7♭5
19
20

Double Stop Junction

Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan

♩ = 130

Intro

Capo fret 2

mf *mf*

let ring

let ring

let ring *let ring* *let ring*

A Verse

T

f

T

f *mf*

mf

let ringlet ringlet ring

let ring

let ring

1.

let ring

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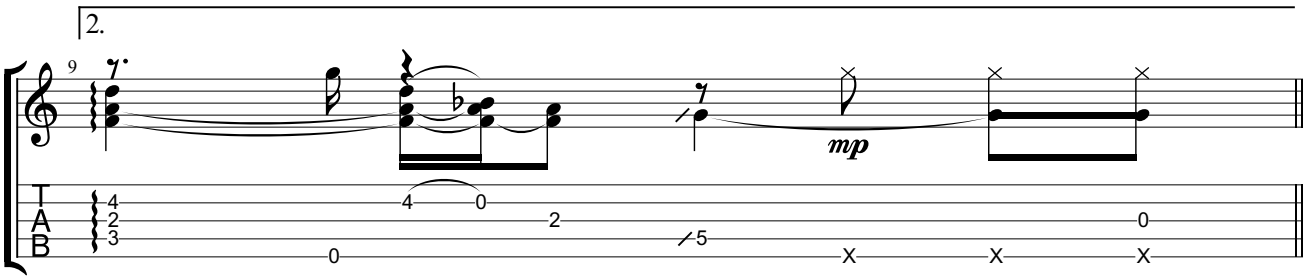
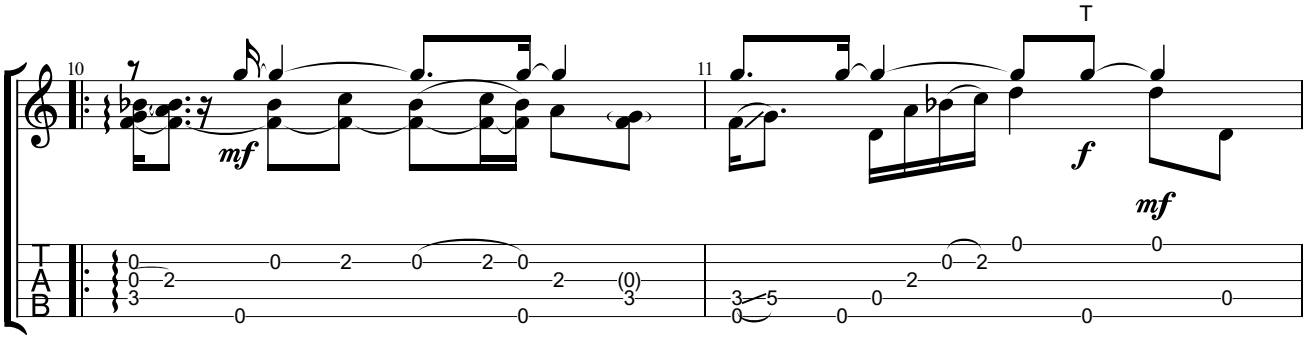
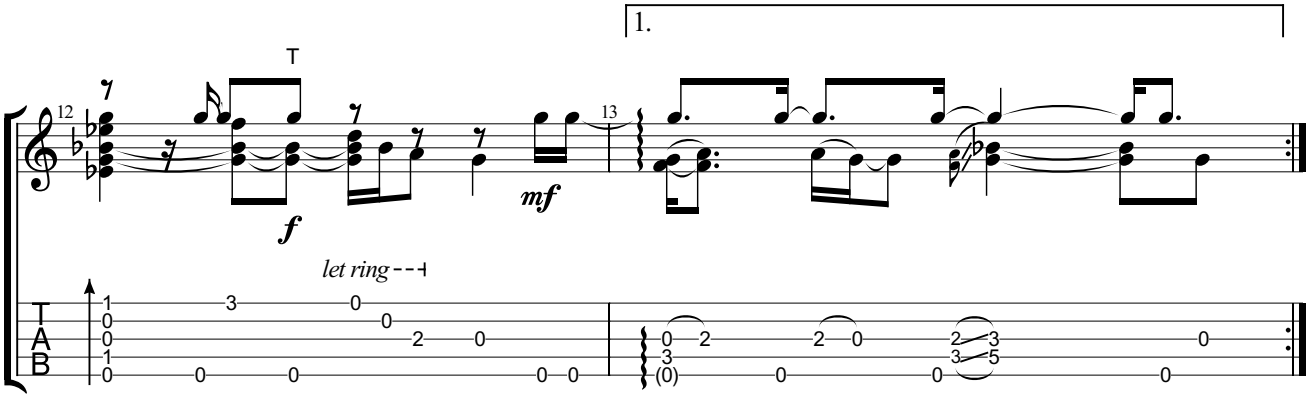
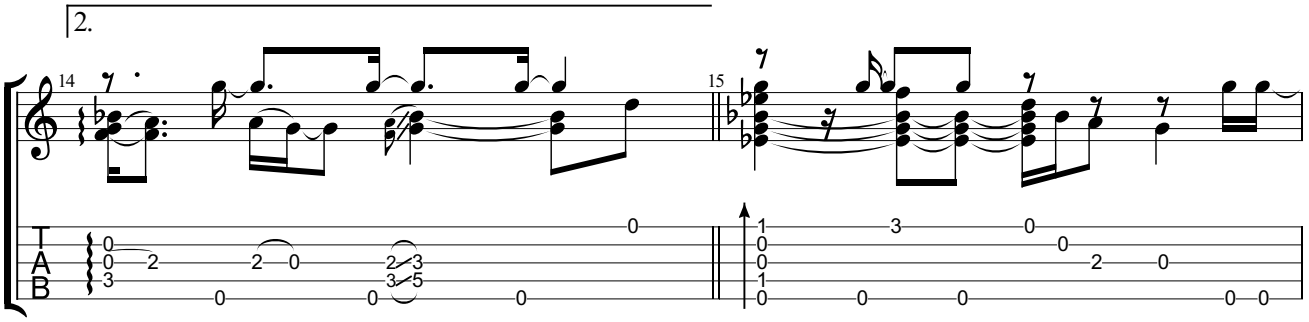


B Chorus

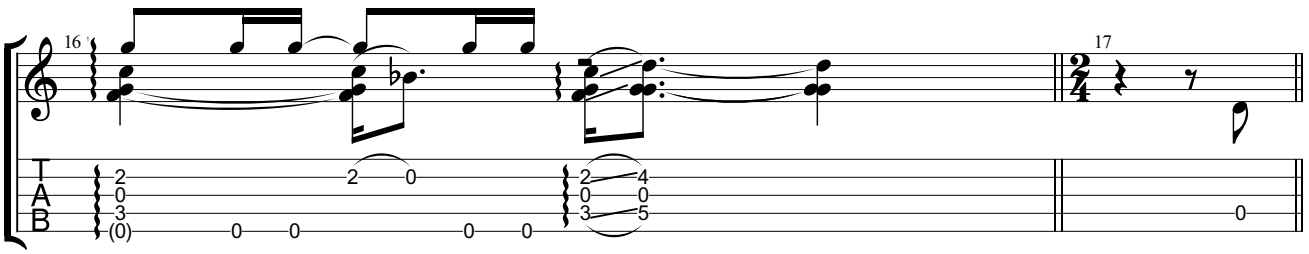


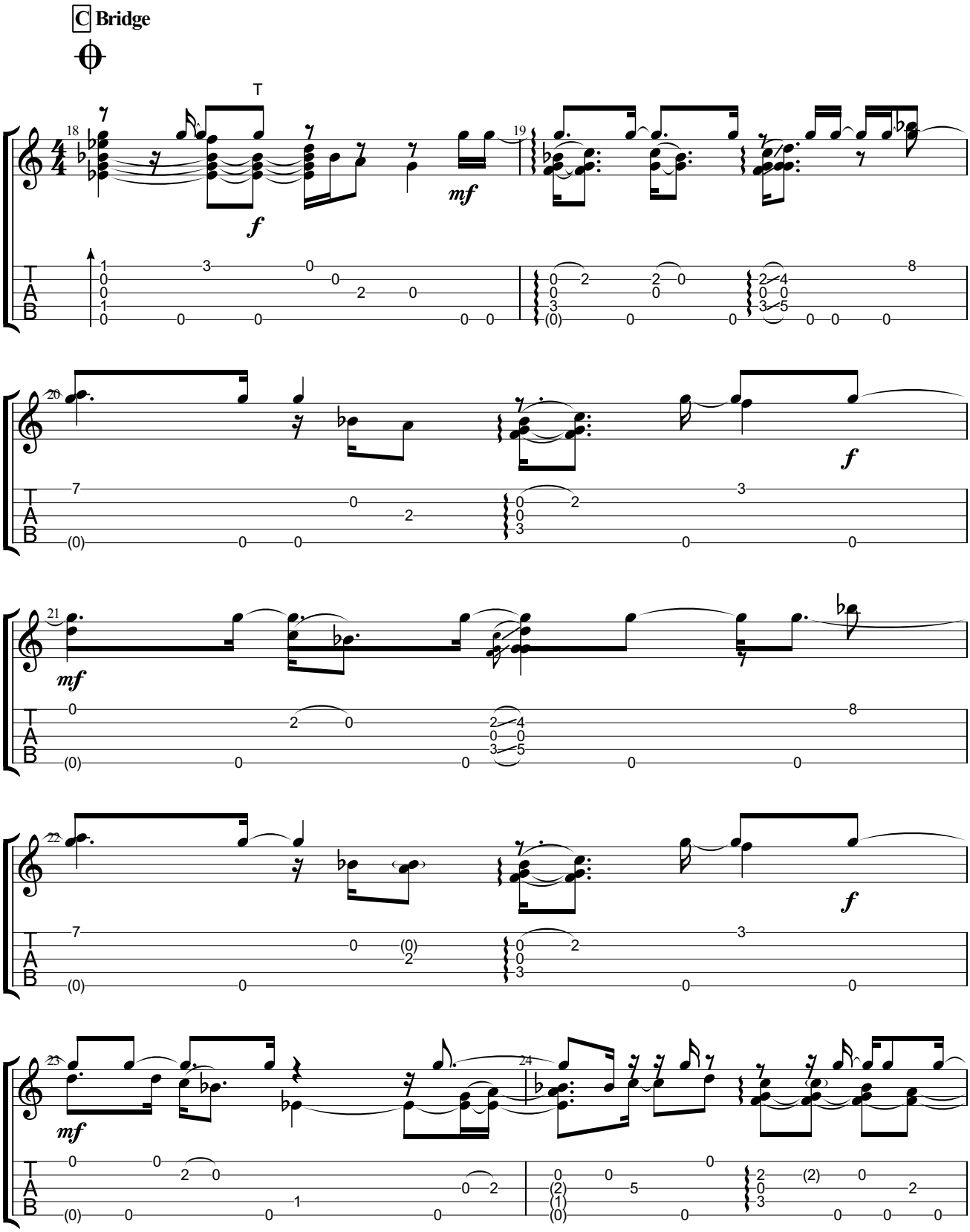


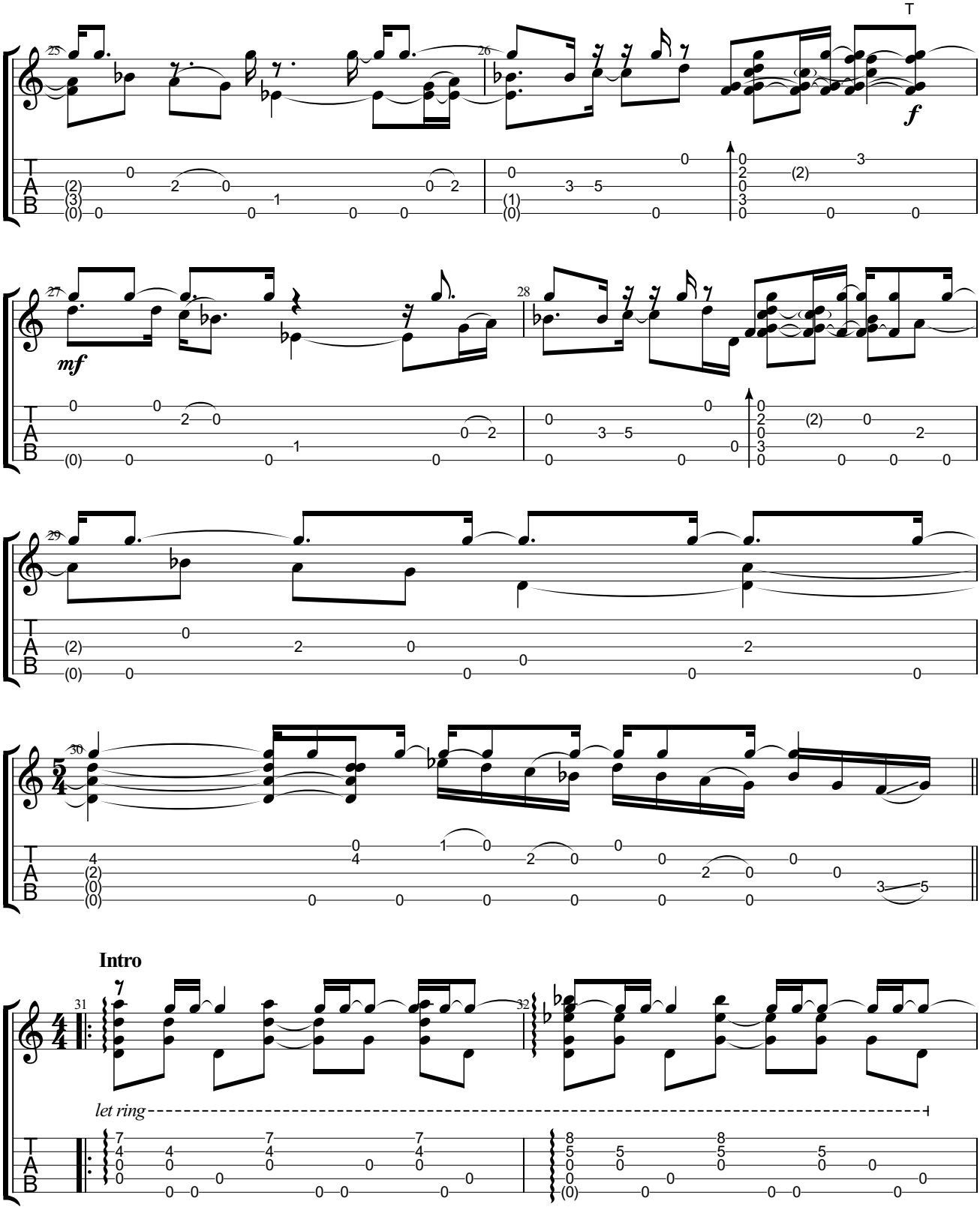
Da Coda

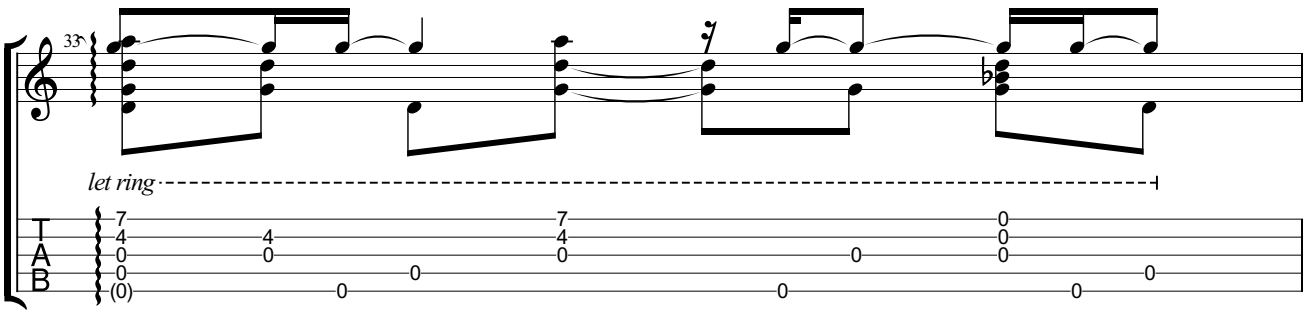


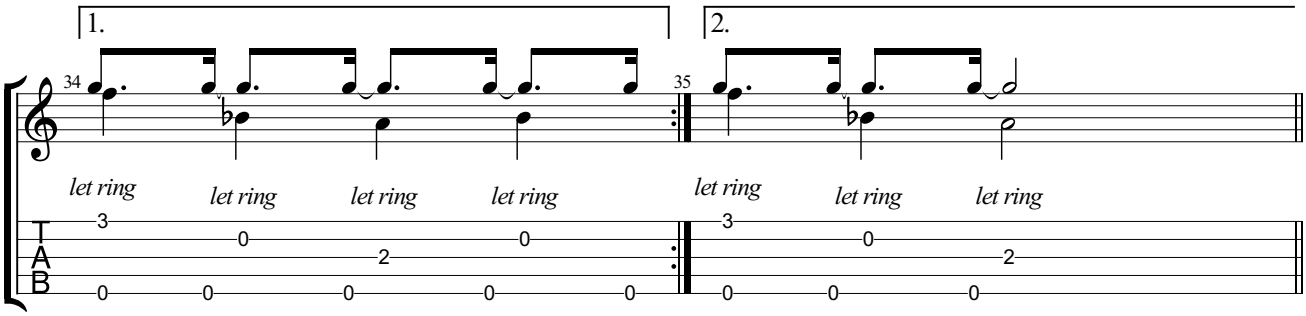
D.C. al Coda



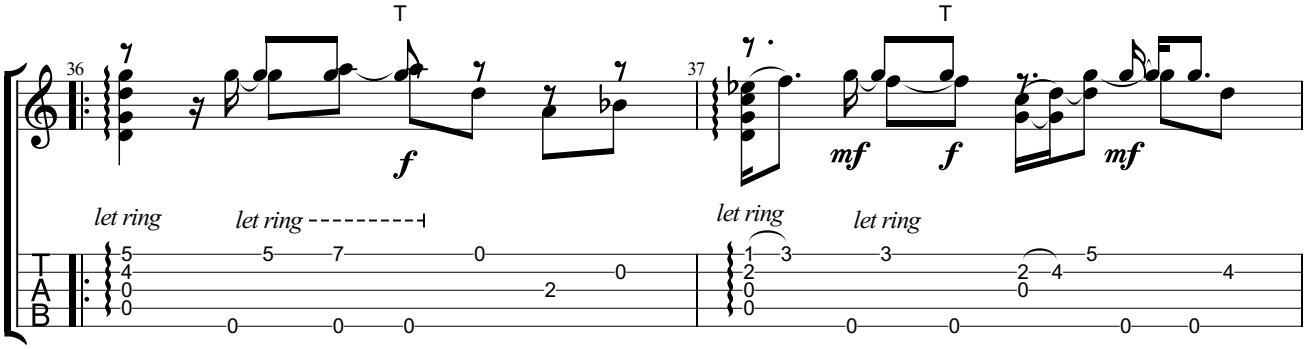

C Bridge
T
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
f
mf
f
mf
f
mf
T
A
B

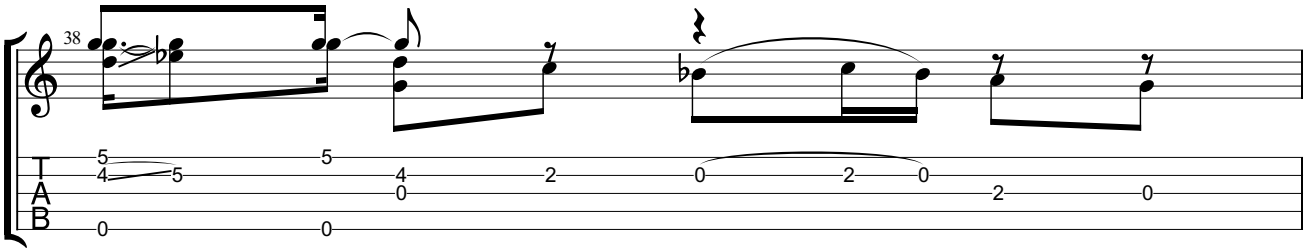

T
f
mf
Intro
let ring

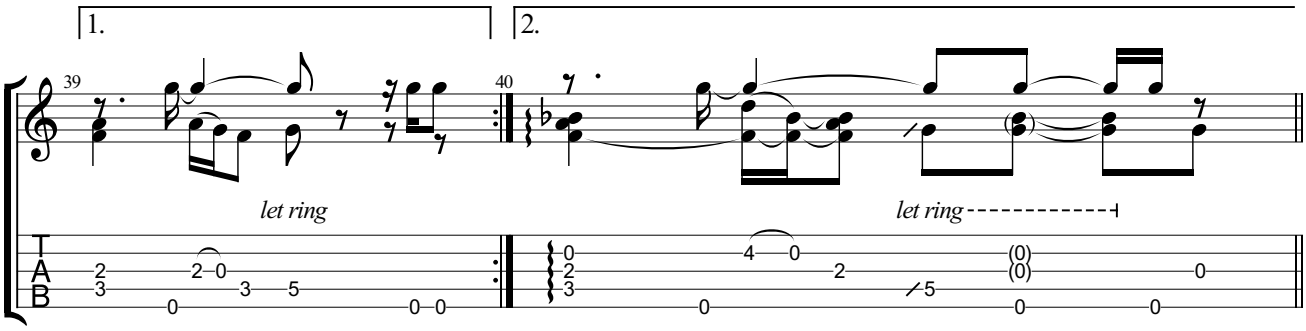

33
let ring
T
A
B

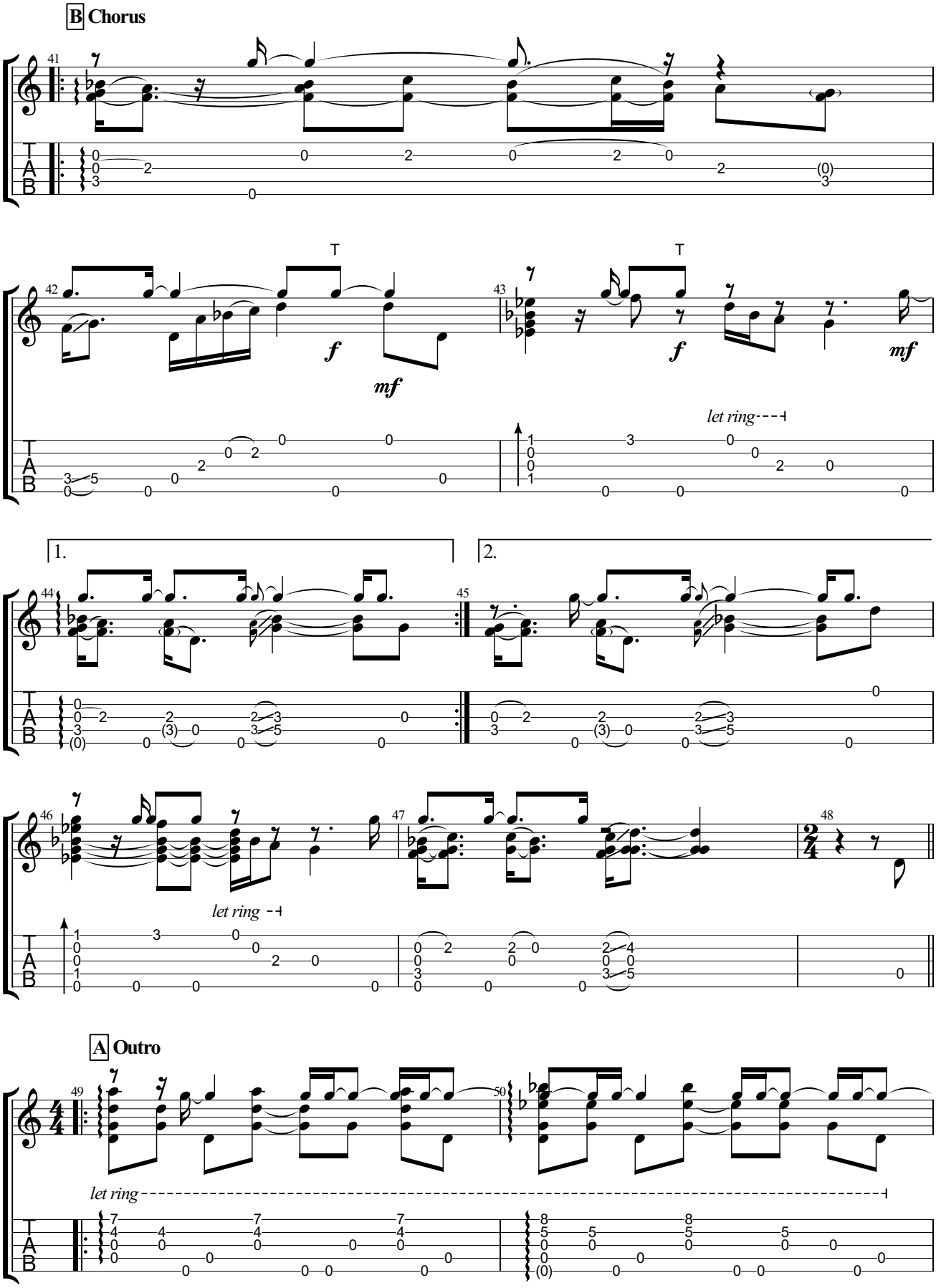

1.
2.
34
35
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
T
A
B

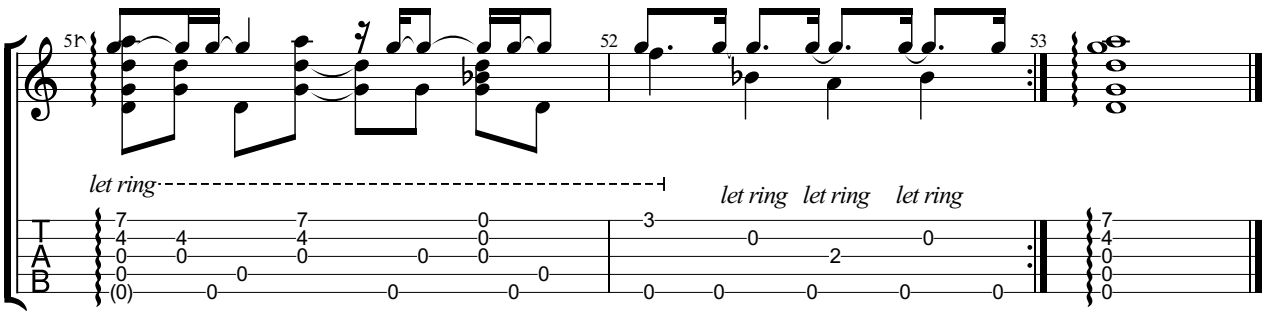
A Verse


36
37
T
T
f
mf
f
mf
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
T
A
B


38
T
A
B


1.
2.
39
40
let ring
let ring
T
A
B


B Chorus
T
f
mf
let ring
1.
2.
let ring
A Outro
let ring


51
52
53
let ring
let ring let ring let ring
T
A
B

Dust and Ashes

Frailing

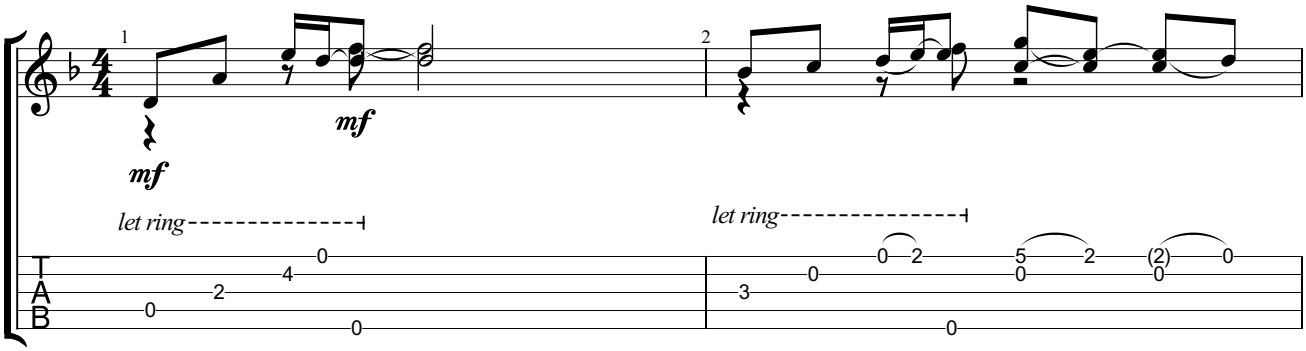
OP=Open String Pull Off

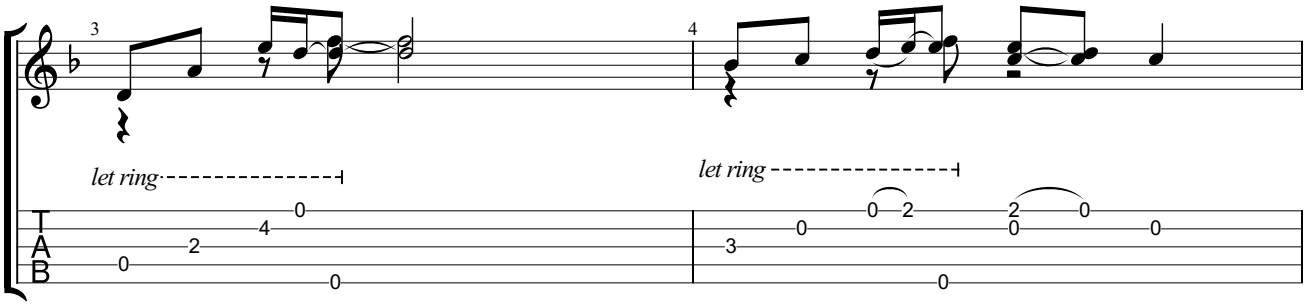
Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan

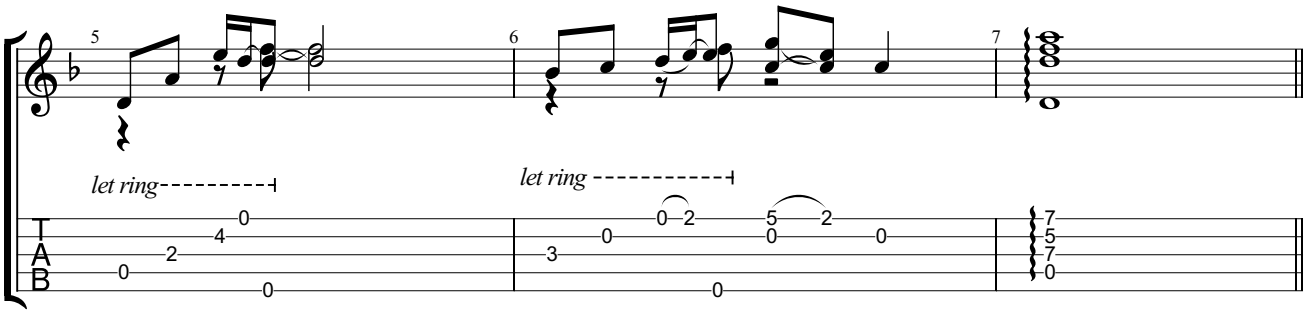
①=D ③=G ⑤=F
②=C ④=D

♩ = 70

Intro

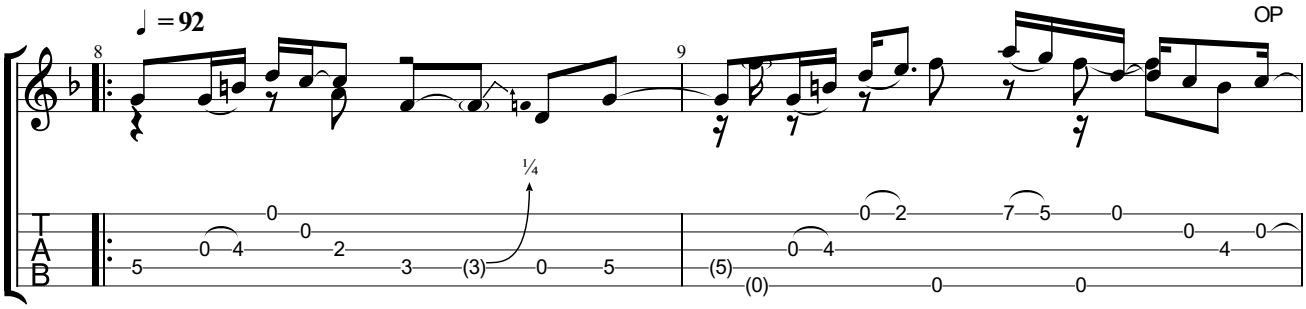






Pre-Verse

♩ = 92



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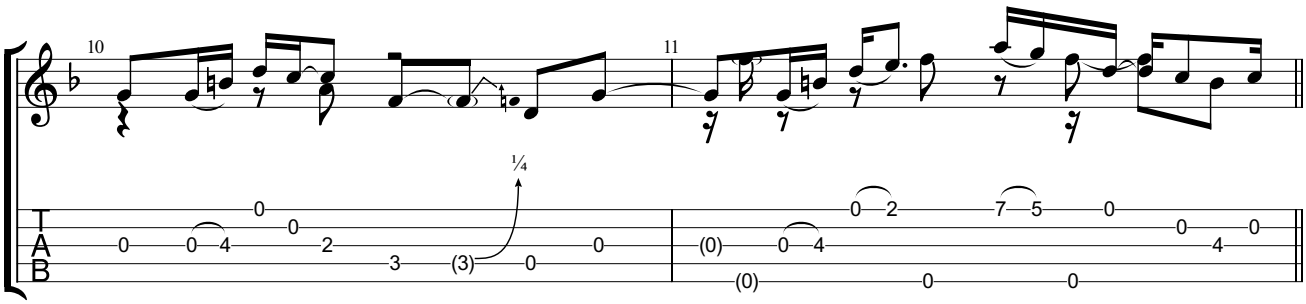
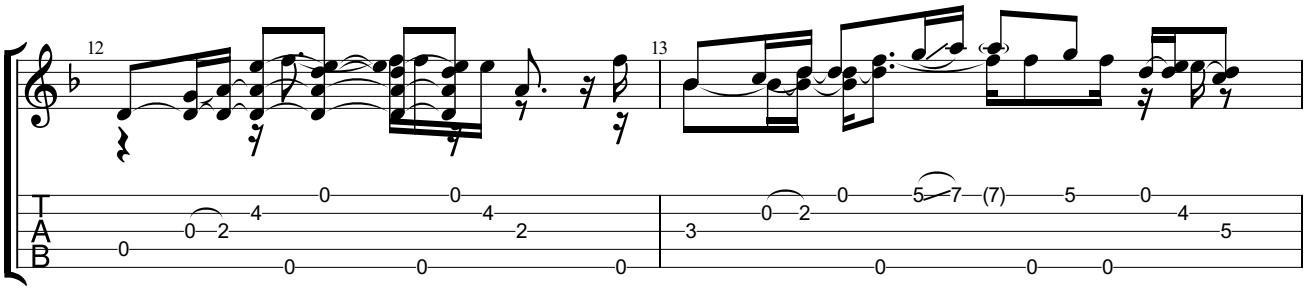
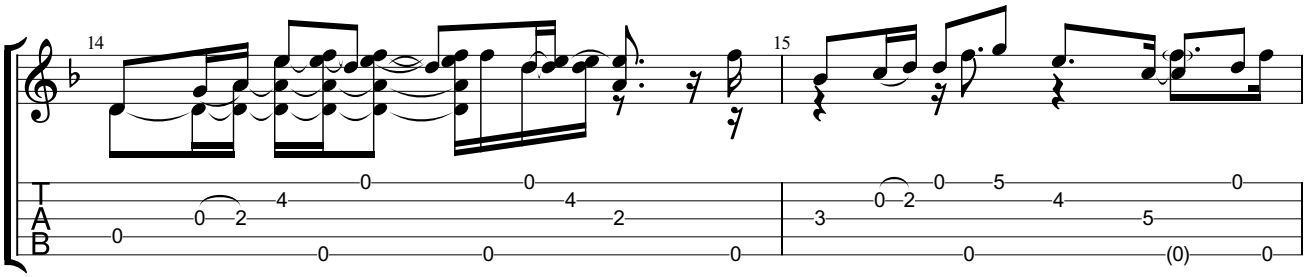
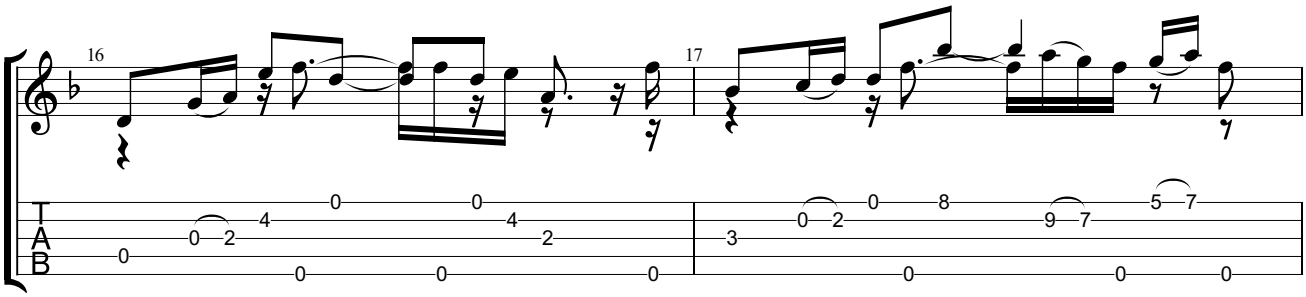
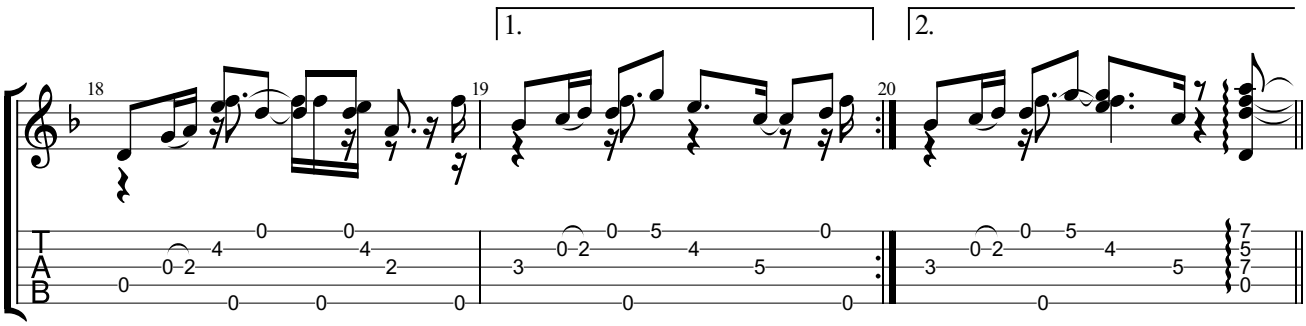


Verse

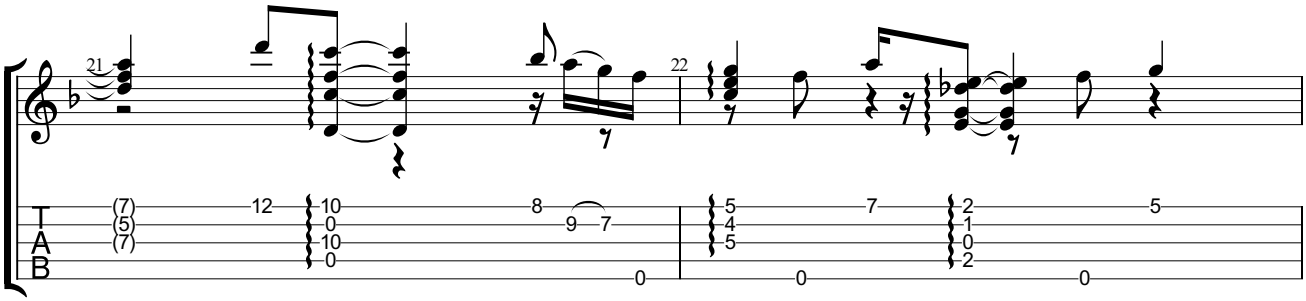


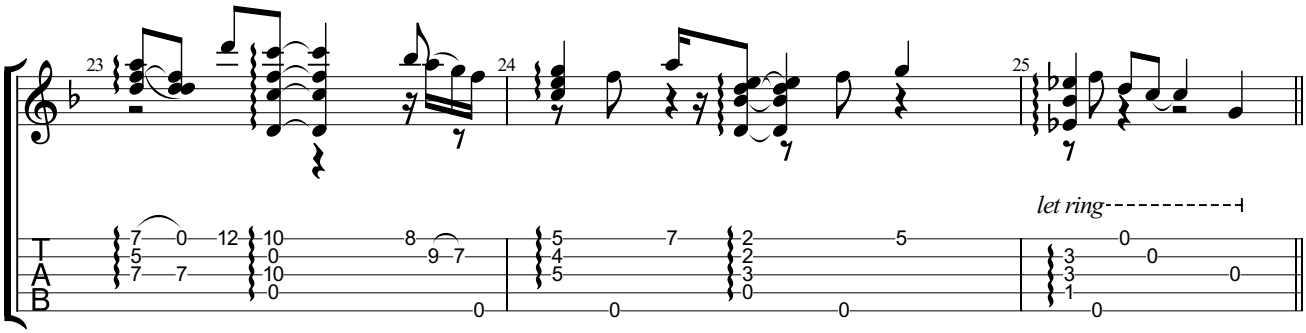




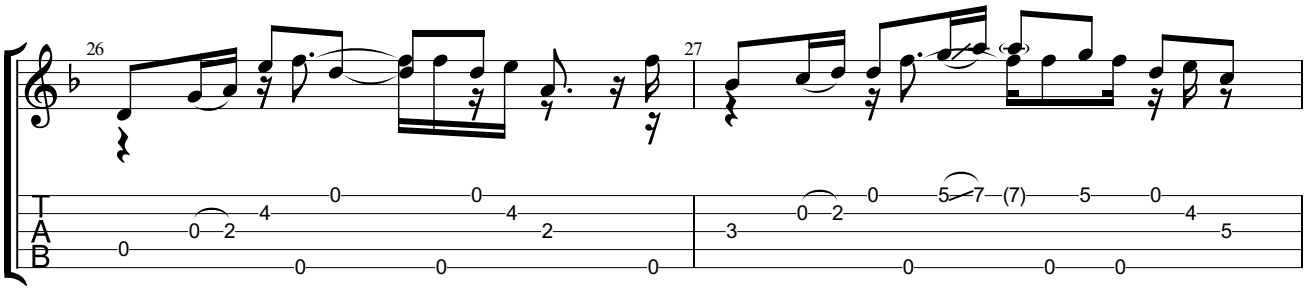


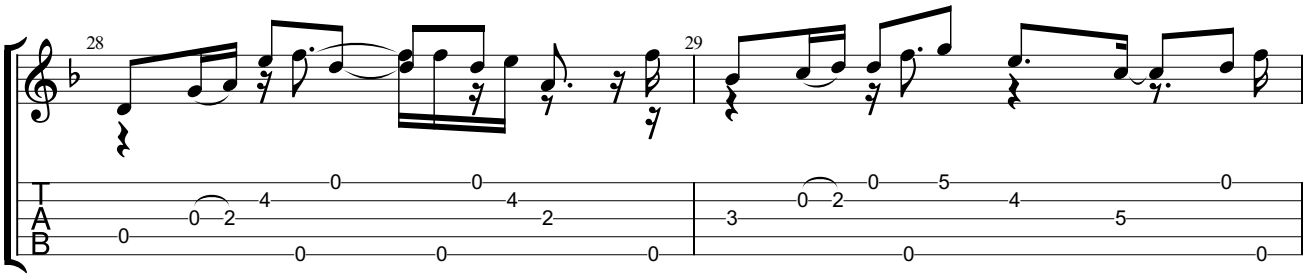
Bridge

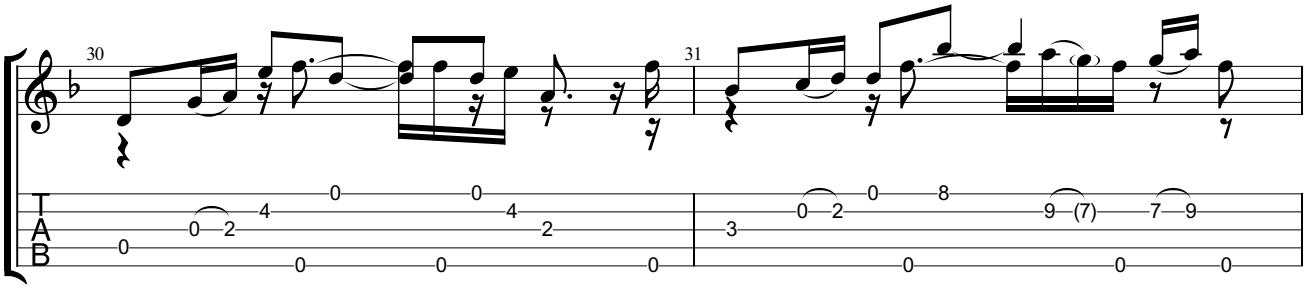


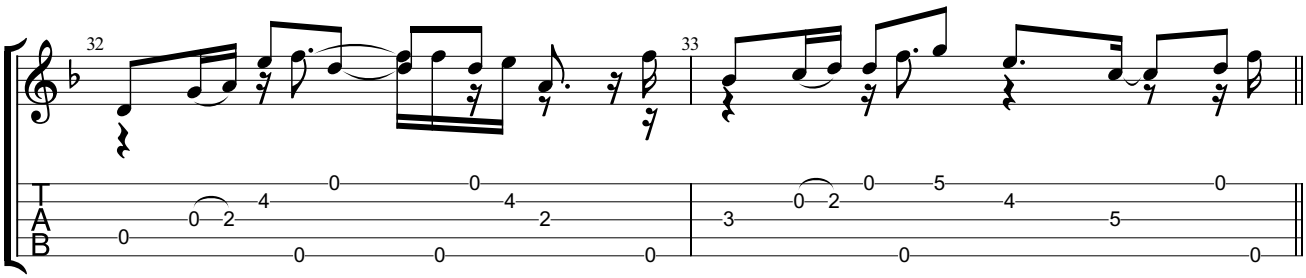


Verse

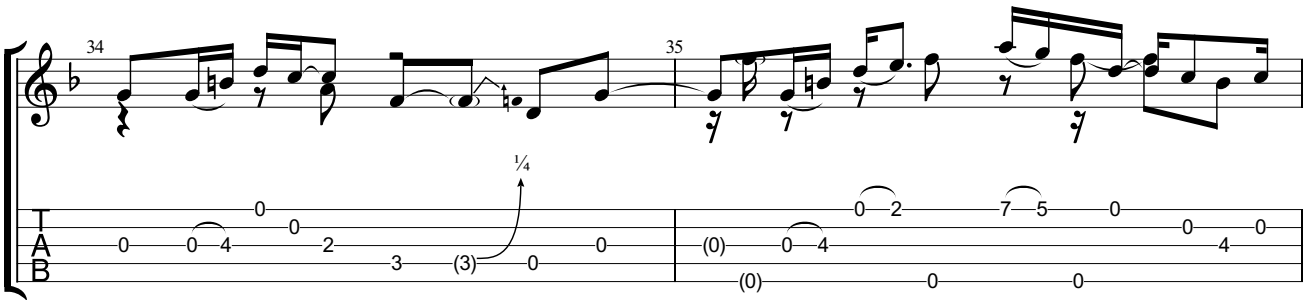


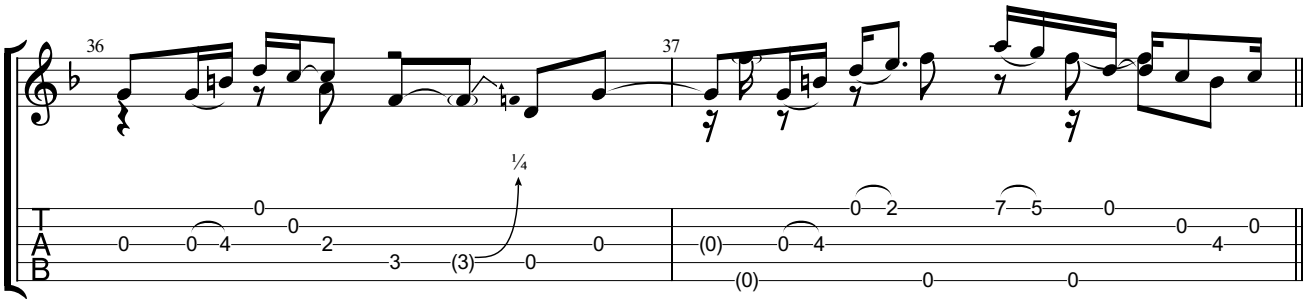




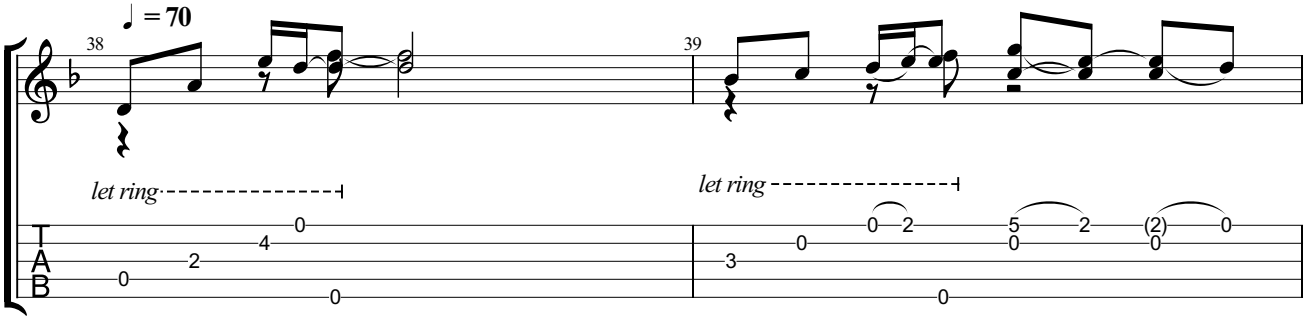


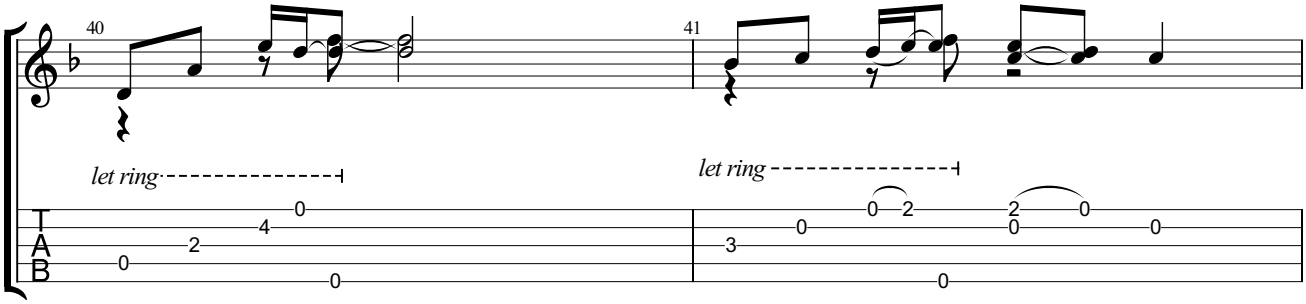
Reprise

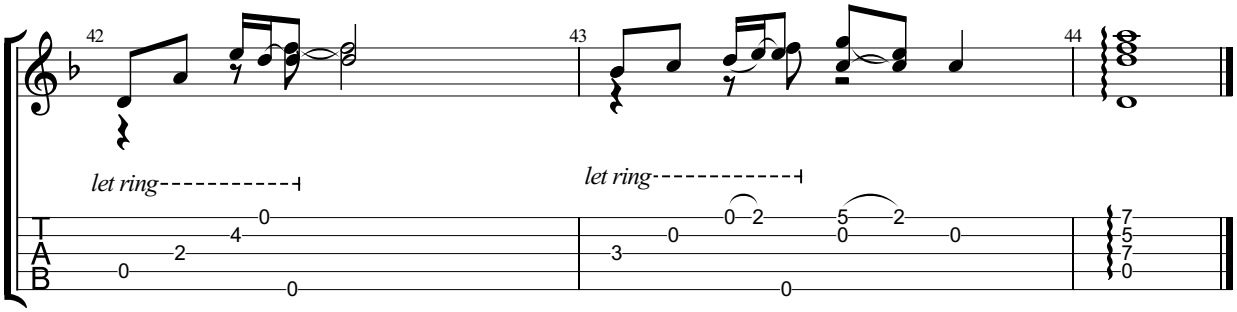




Outro






42
43
44
let ring
let ring
T
A
B

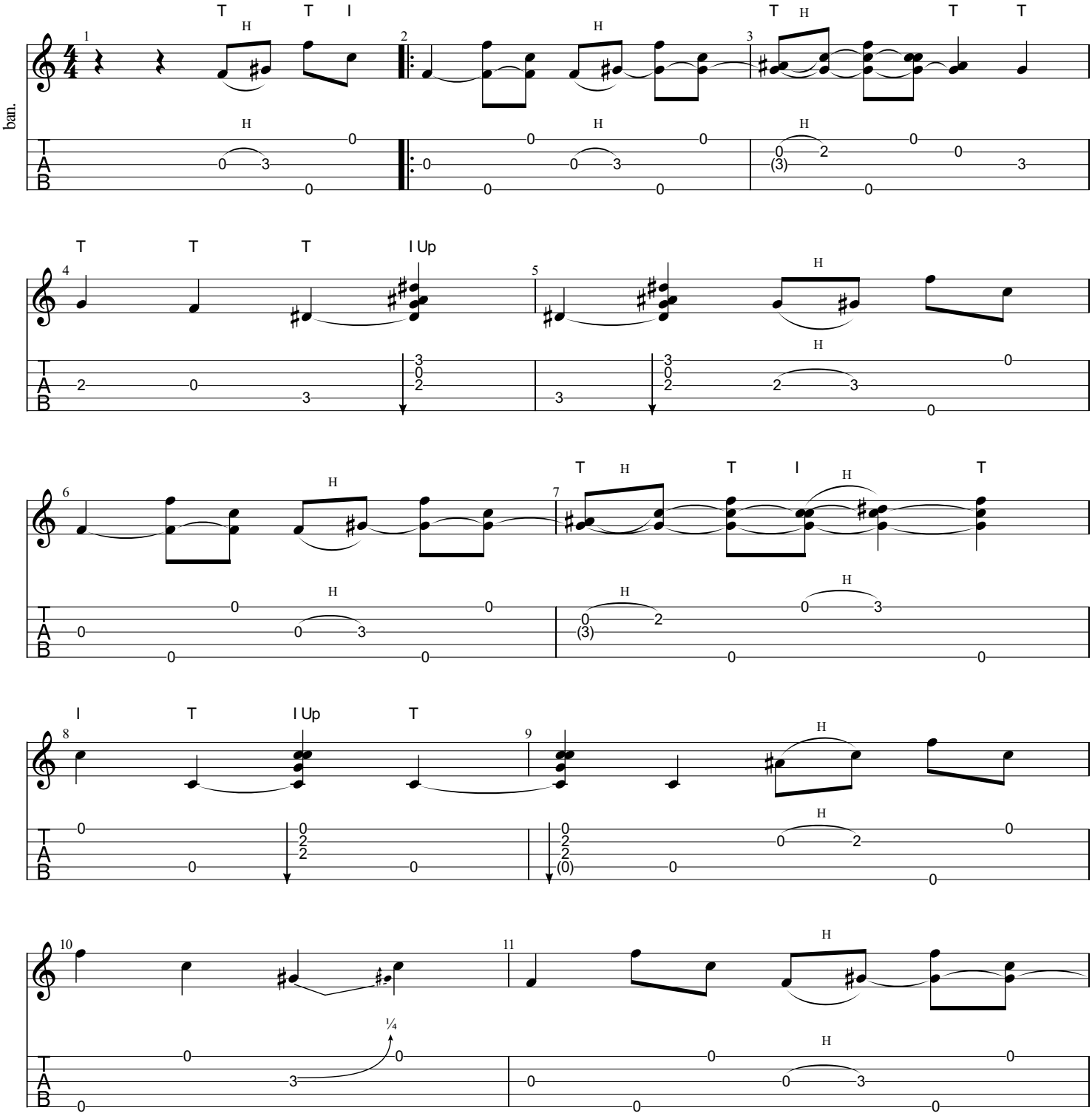
East Virginia

Uppicking

Music by Matthieu Brandt

①＝C　③＝F　⑤＝F
②＝B♭　④＝C

♩＝156



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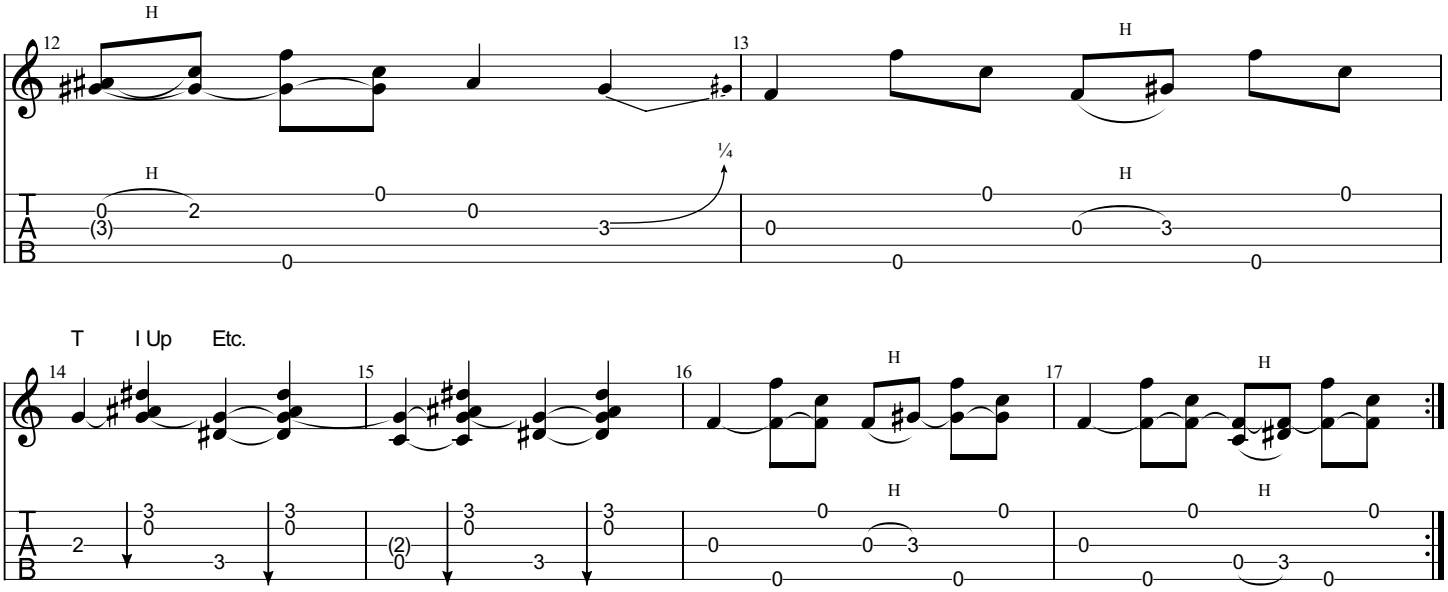

12
13
H
H
H
H
¼
T
A
B
0
(3)
2
0
0
3
0
0
0
0
0
3
0
0
0

T
I Up
Etc.
14
15
16
17
H
H
H
H
T
A
B
3
0
2
3
3
0
(2)
0
3
3
0
0
0
0
3
0
0
0
0
0
0
3
0

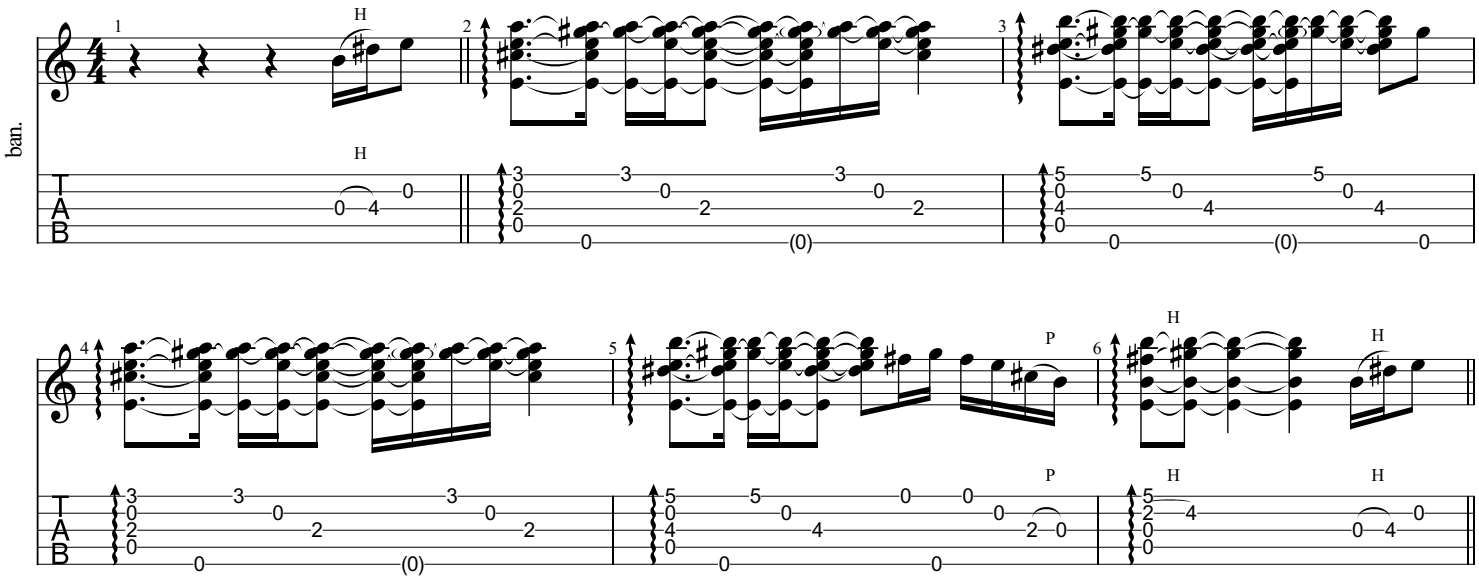
Elegy

Music by Matthieu Brandt

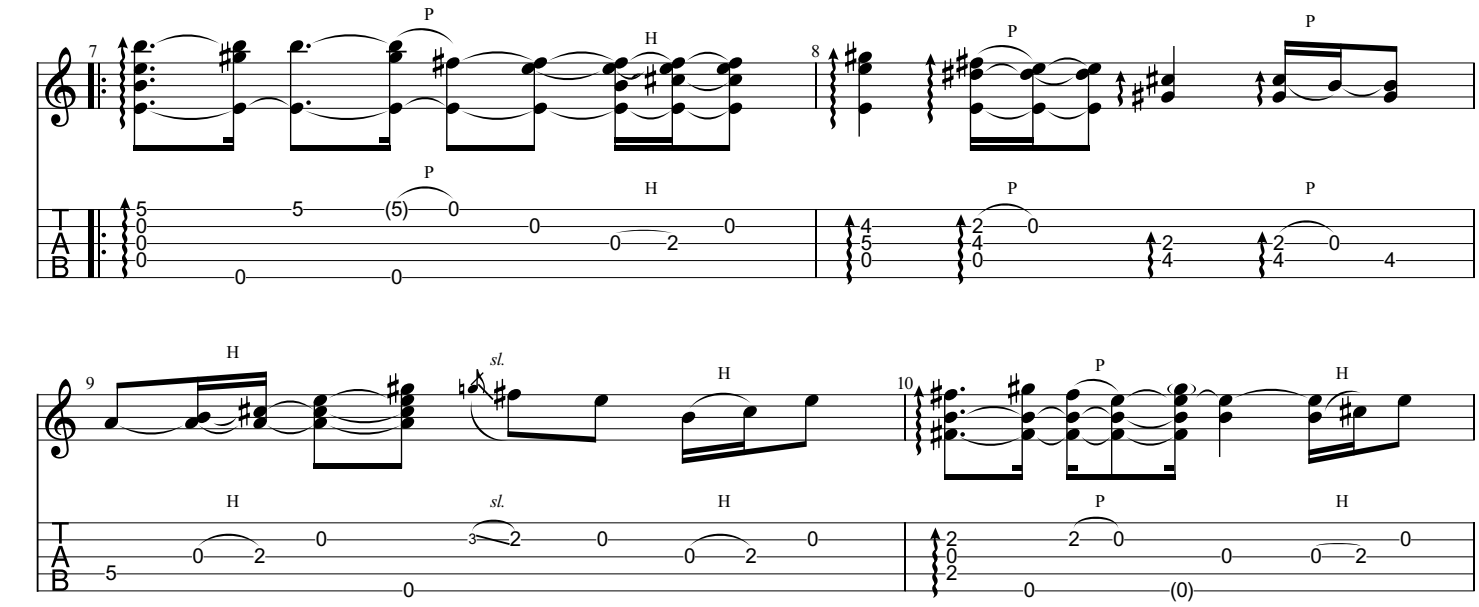
①＝G♭　③＝B　⑤＝A♭
②＝E　④＝E

♩＝80

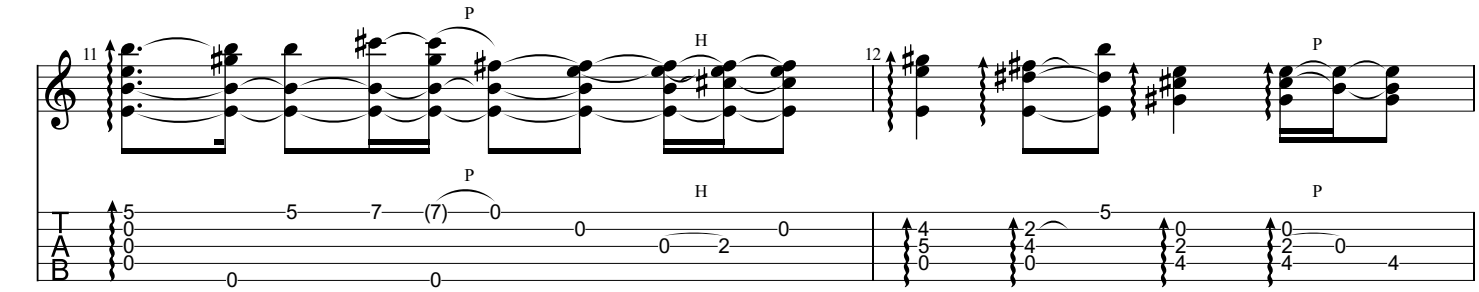
Intro



Verse



1.



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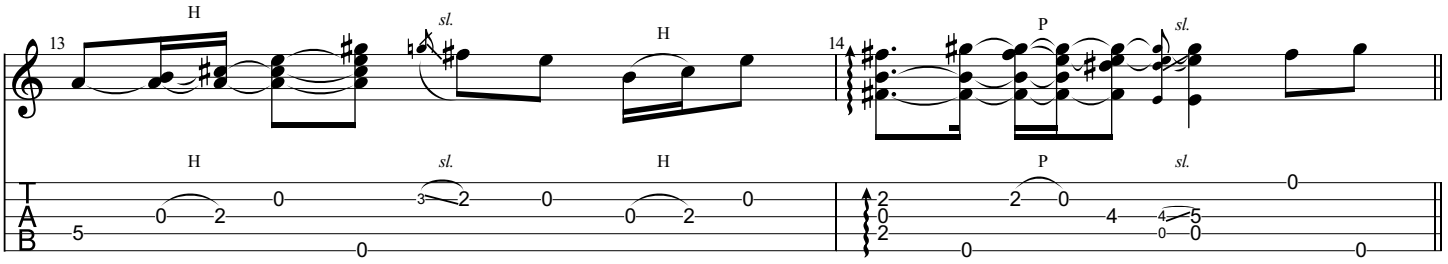
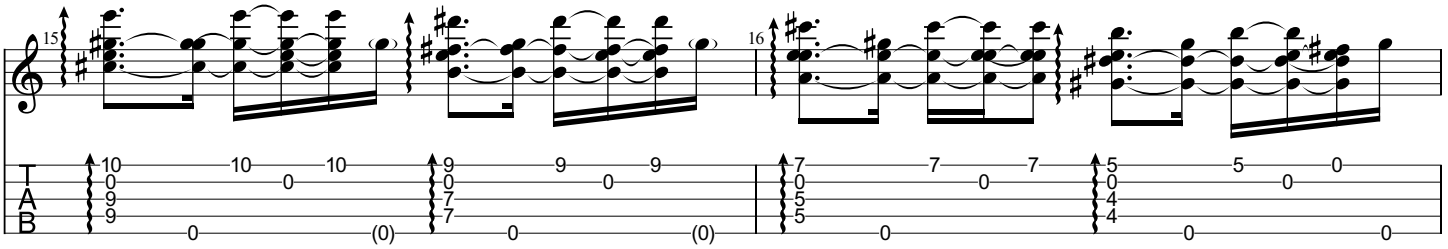
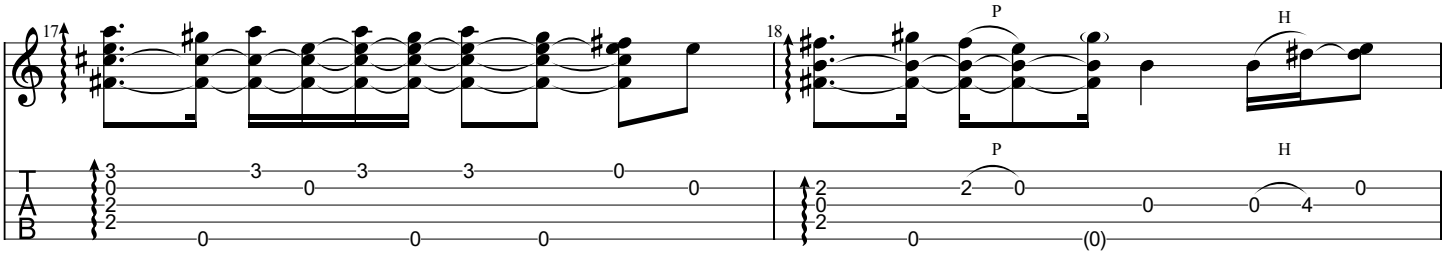
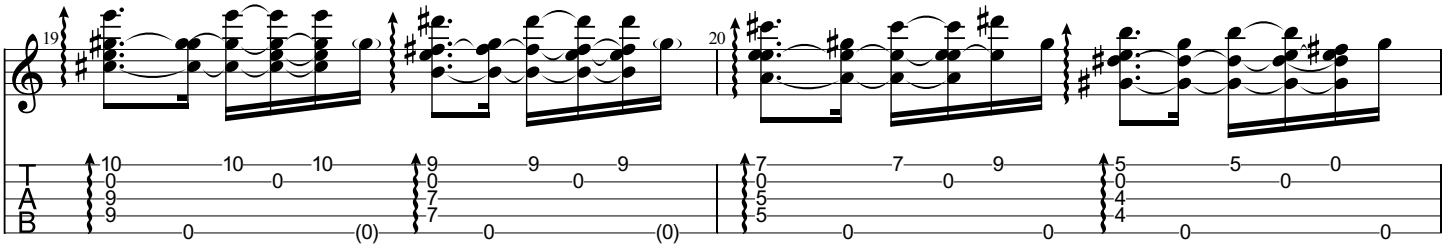
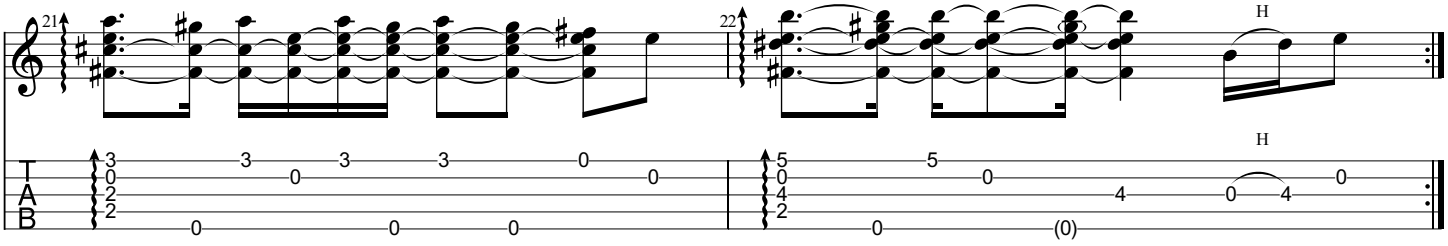

13
14
H
sl.
P
TAB

Bridge

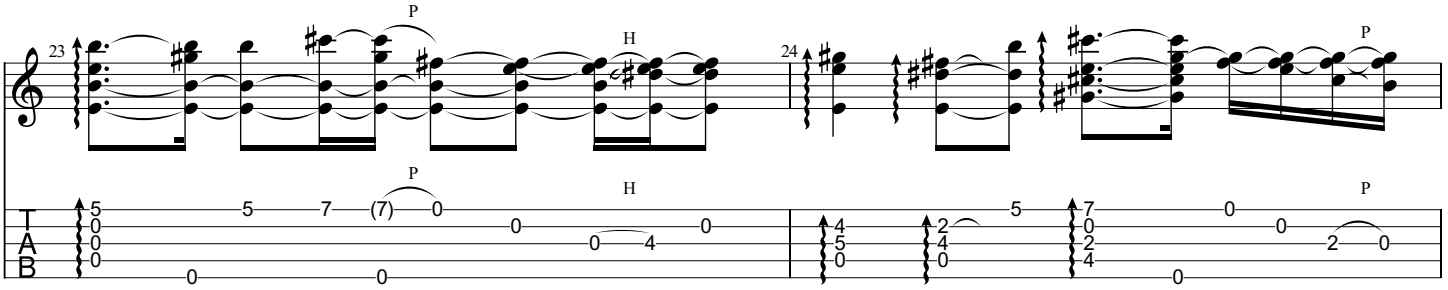

15
16
TAB

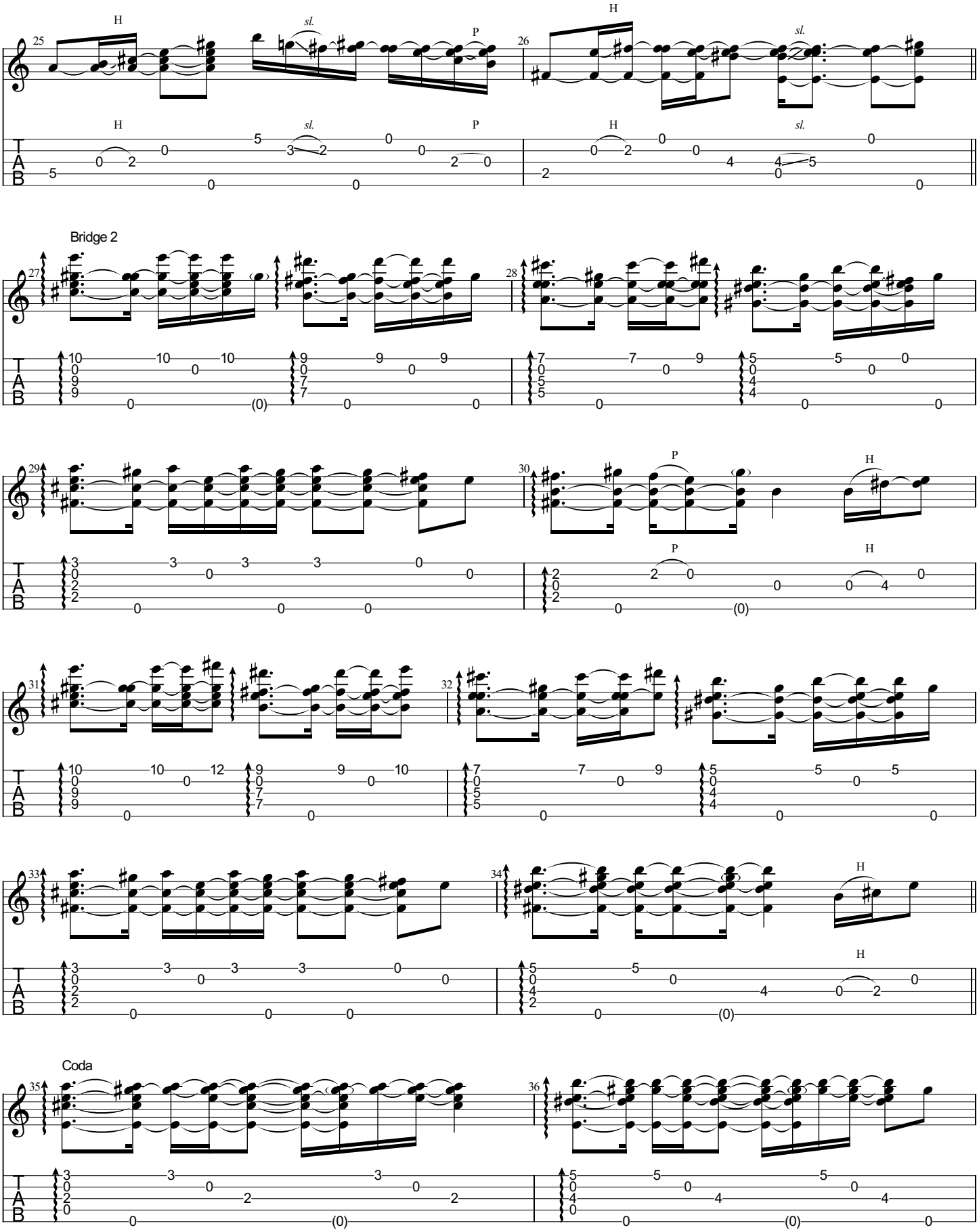

17
18
P
H
TAB

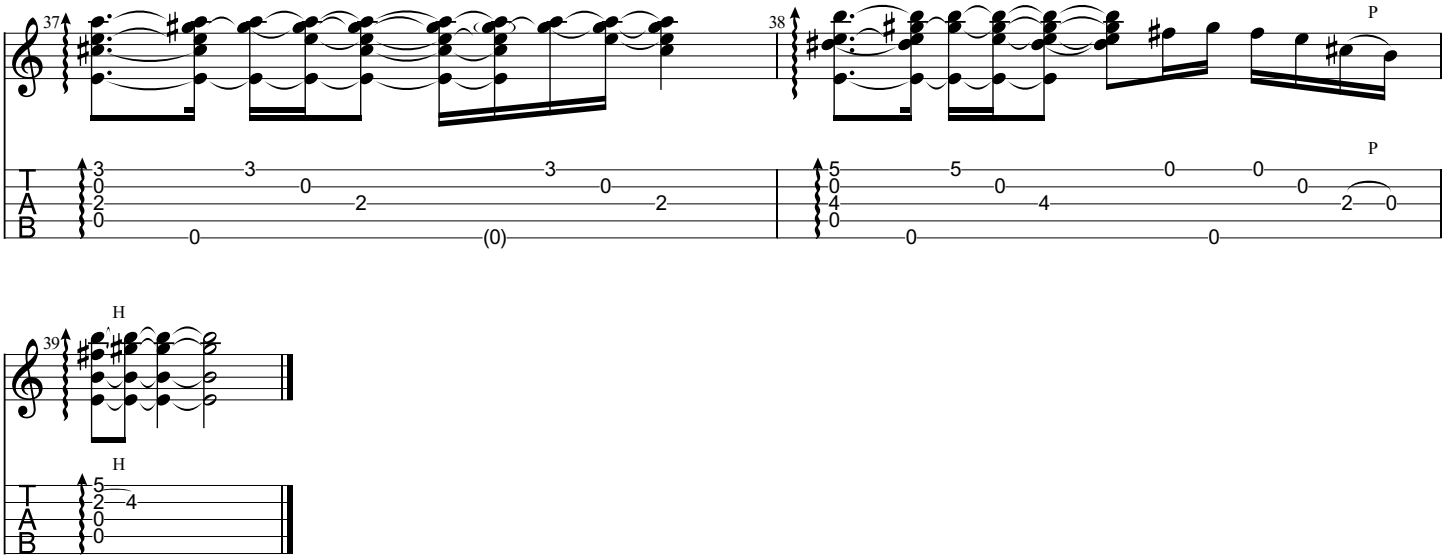

19
20
TAB


21
22
H
TAB

2.


23
24
P
H
TAB

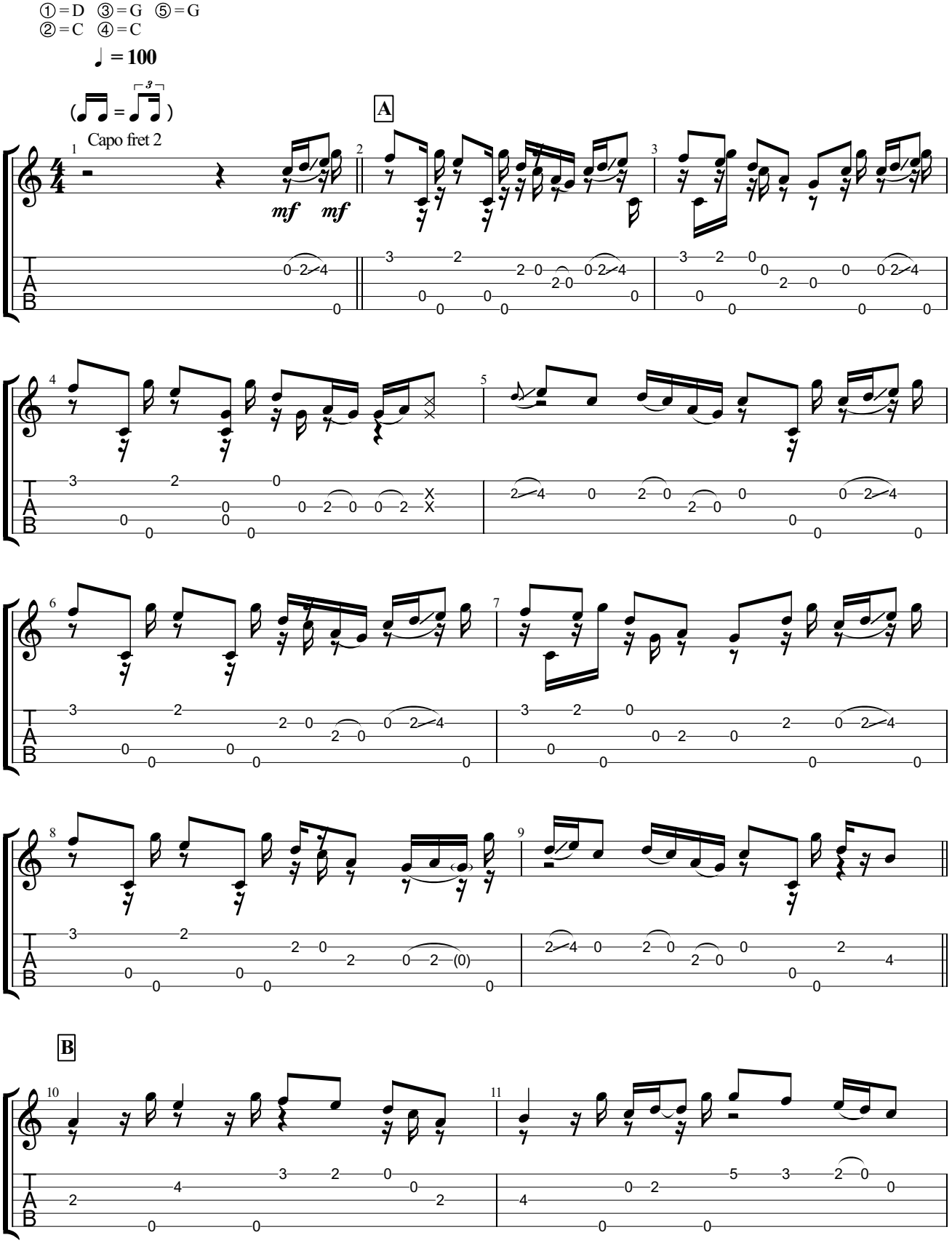

Bridge 2
Coda


37
38
P
P
T
A
B
3 3 3
0 0 0
2 2 2
0 0 (0)
5 5 0 0
0 0 0
4 4 2 0
0 0 0

39
H
H
T
A
B
5
2 4
0
0

Flat Foot and Knock Knee

Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan



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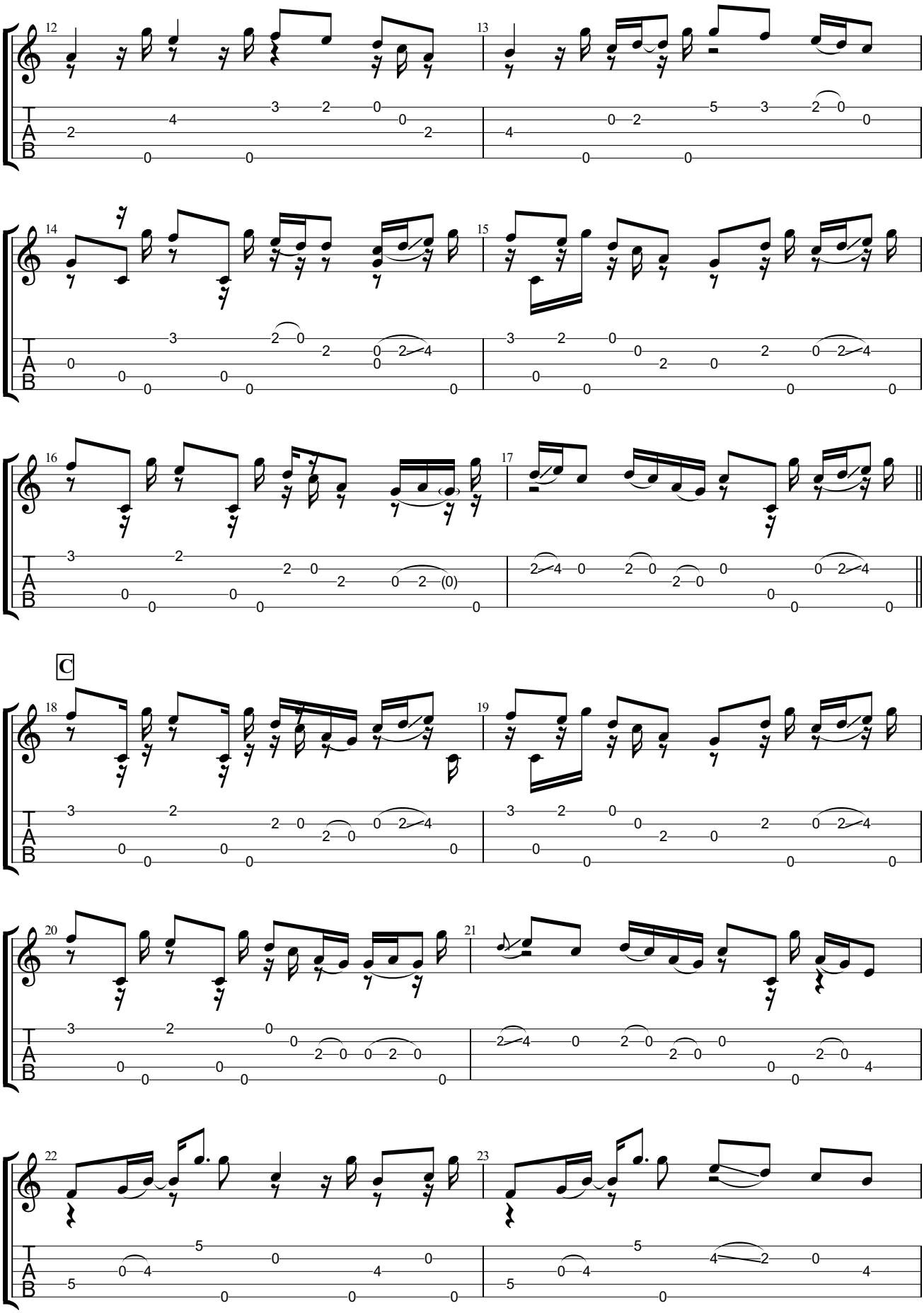
12
13
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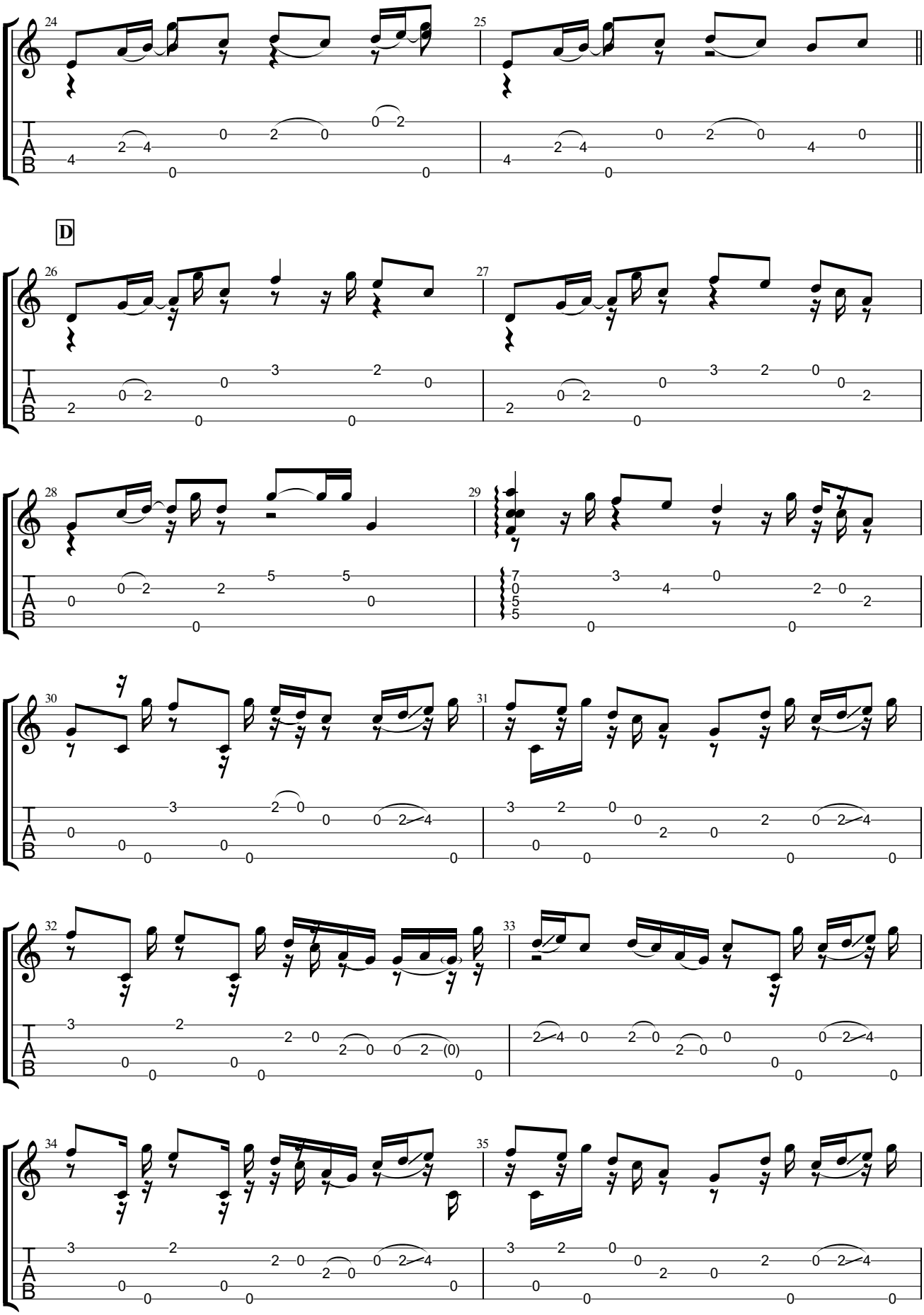
16
17
C
18
19
20
21
22
23
T
A
B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25
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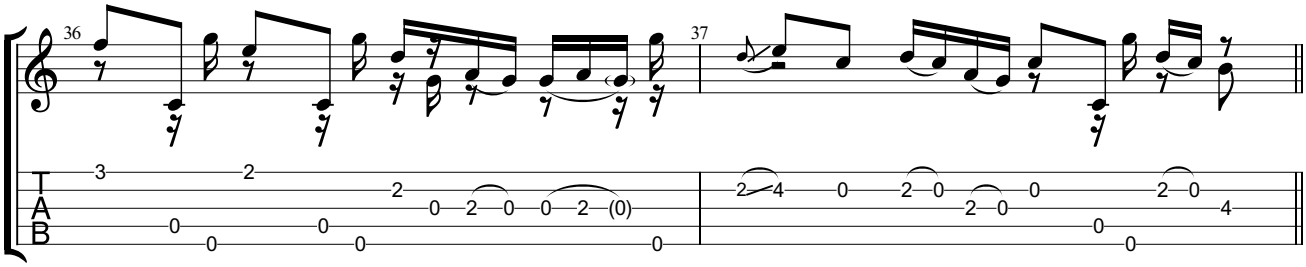
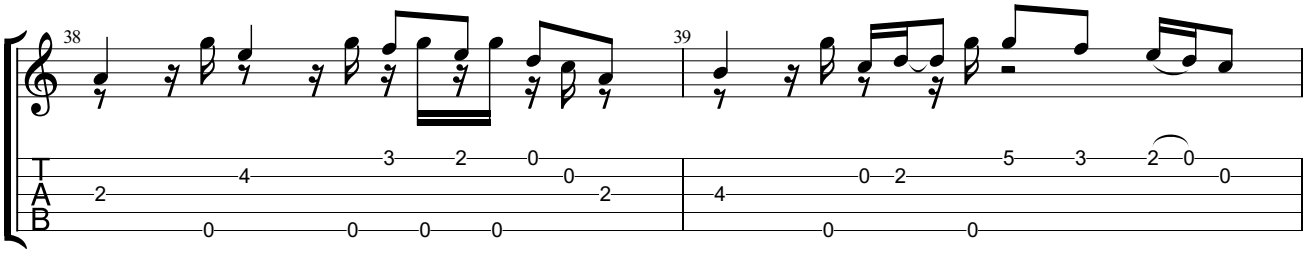
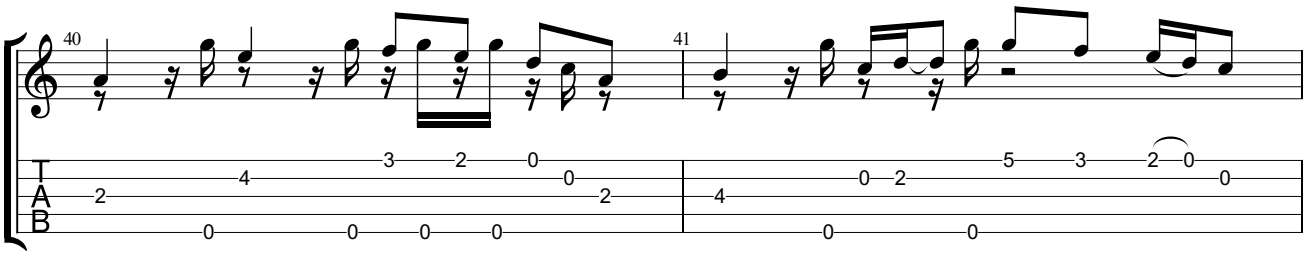
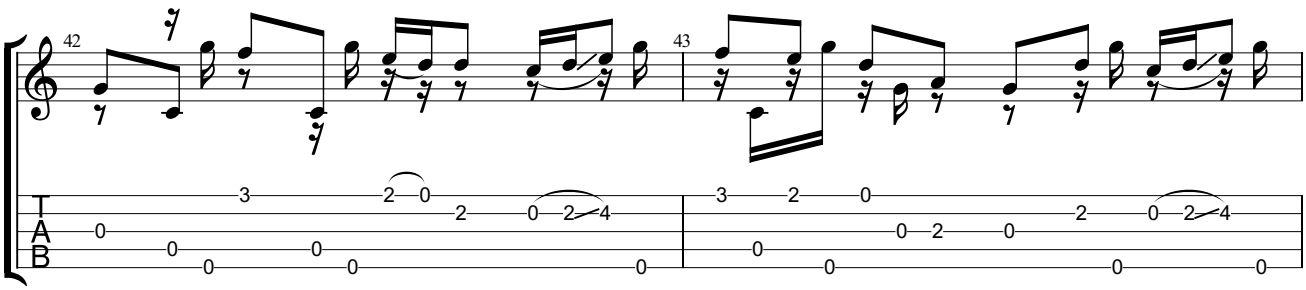
34
35
T
A
B

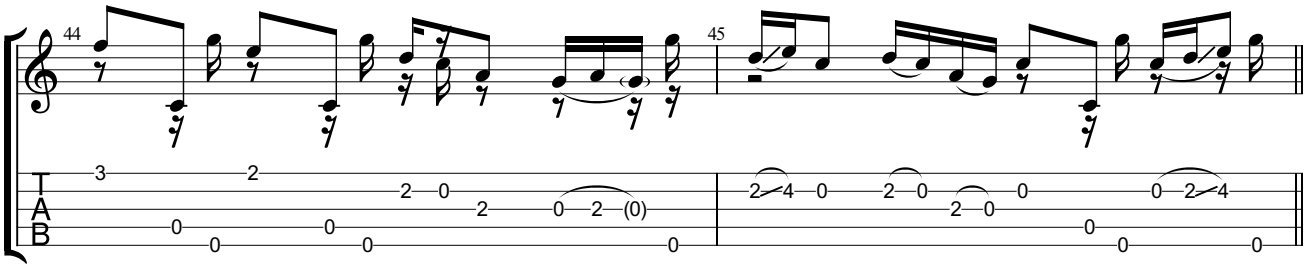


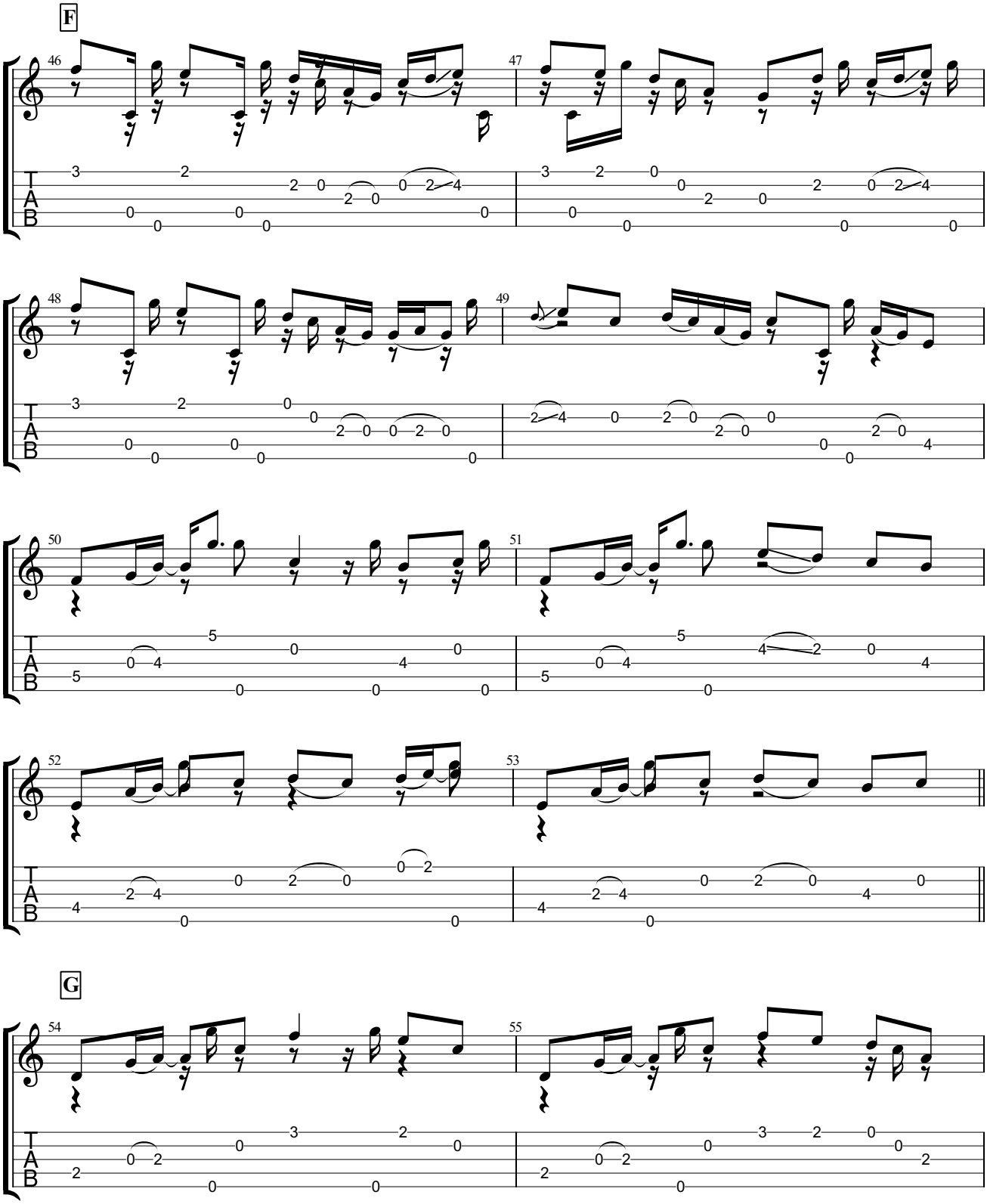
E

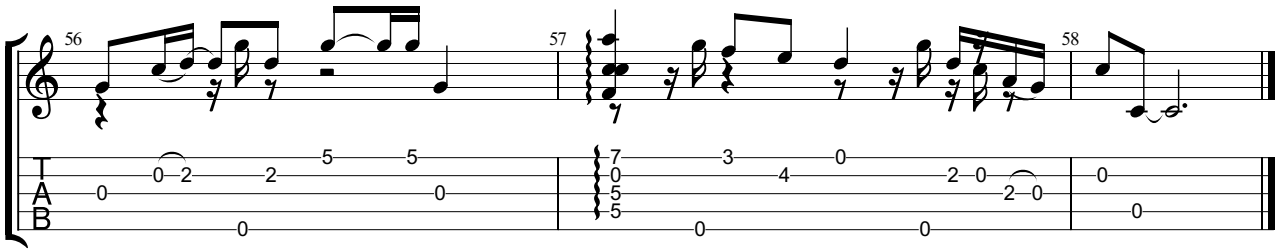









F
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
G
54
55
T
A
B


56
57
58
T
A
B

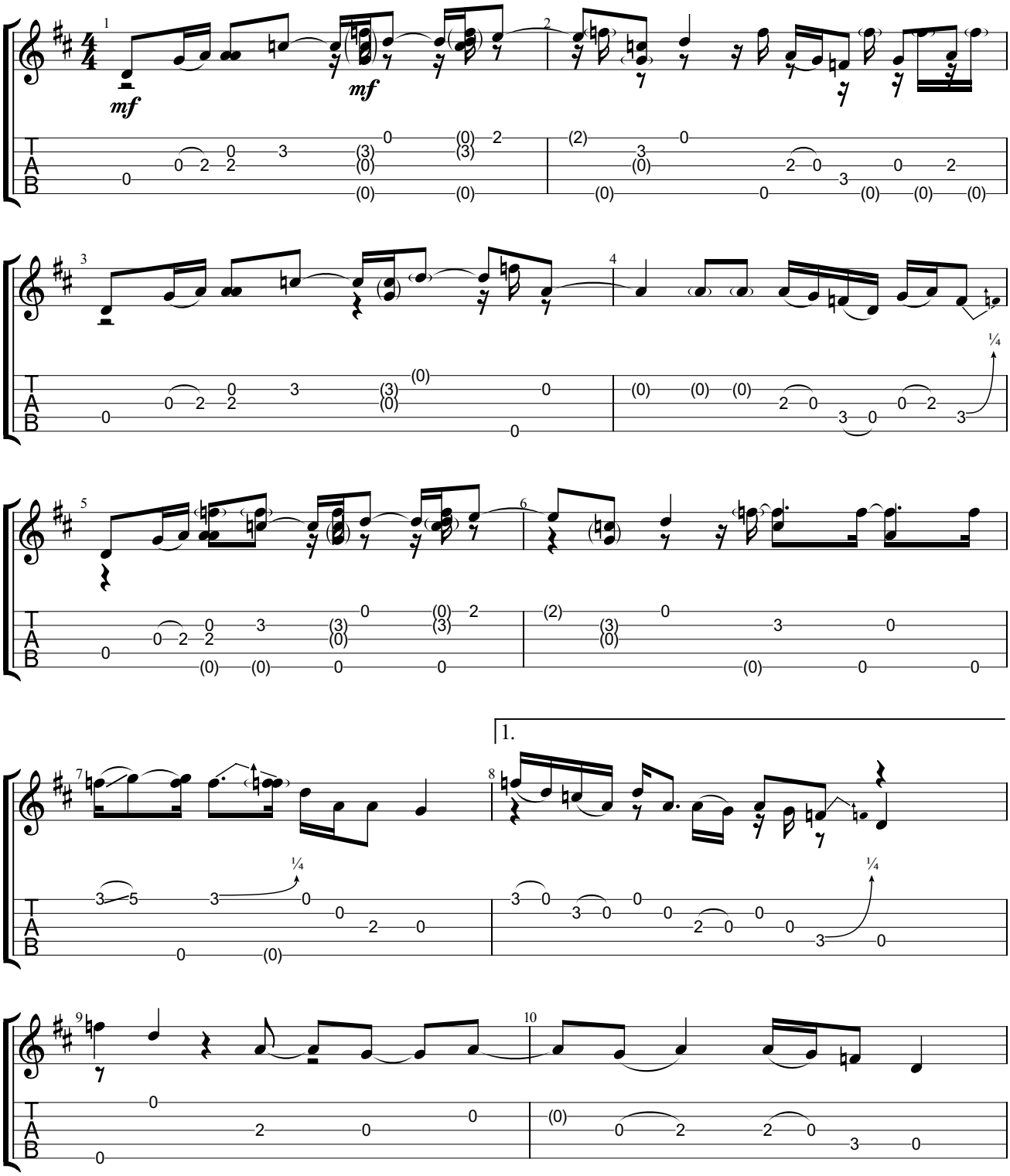
Frantic

Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan

①=D ③=G ⑤=F
②=A ④=D

♩ = 130

A



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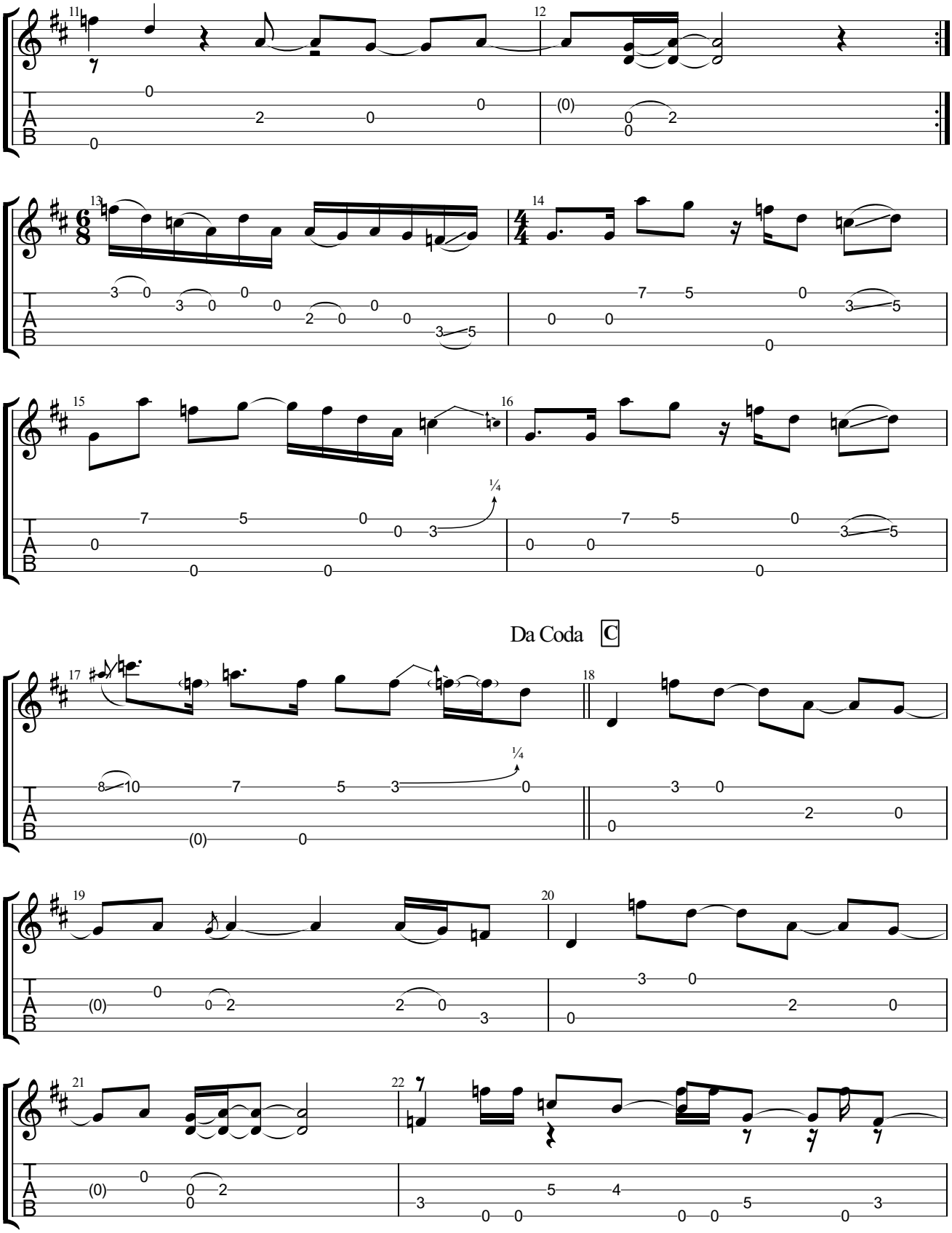
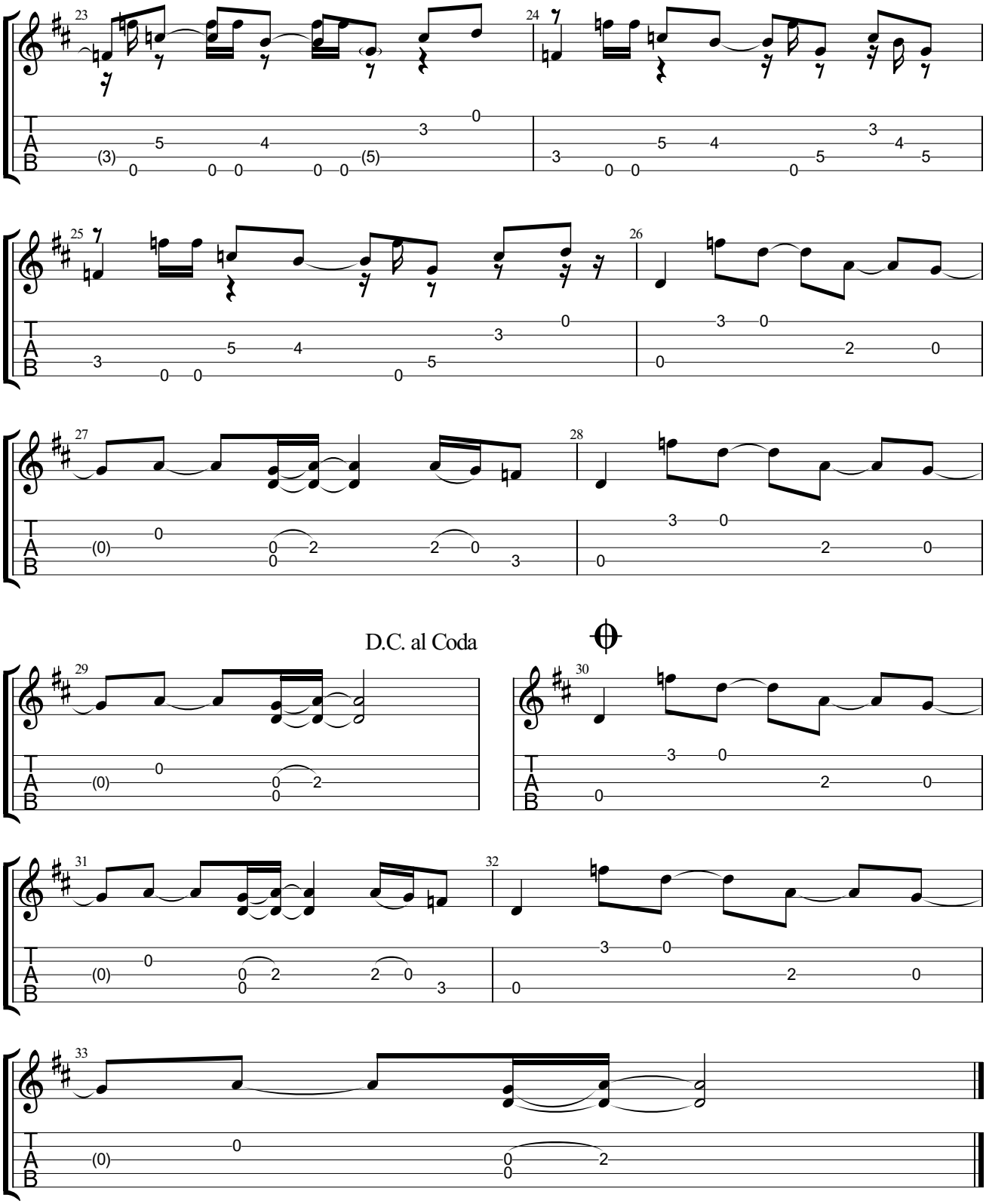

Da Coda C


D.C. al Coda

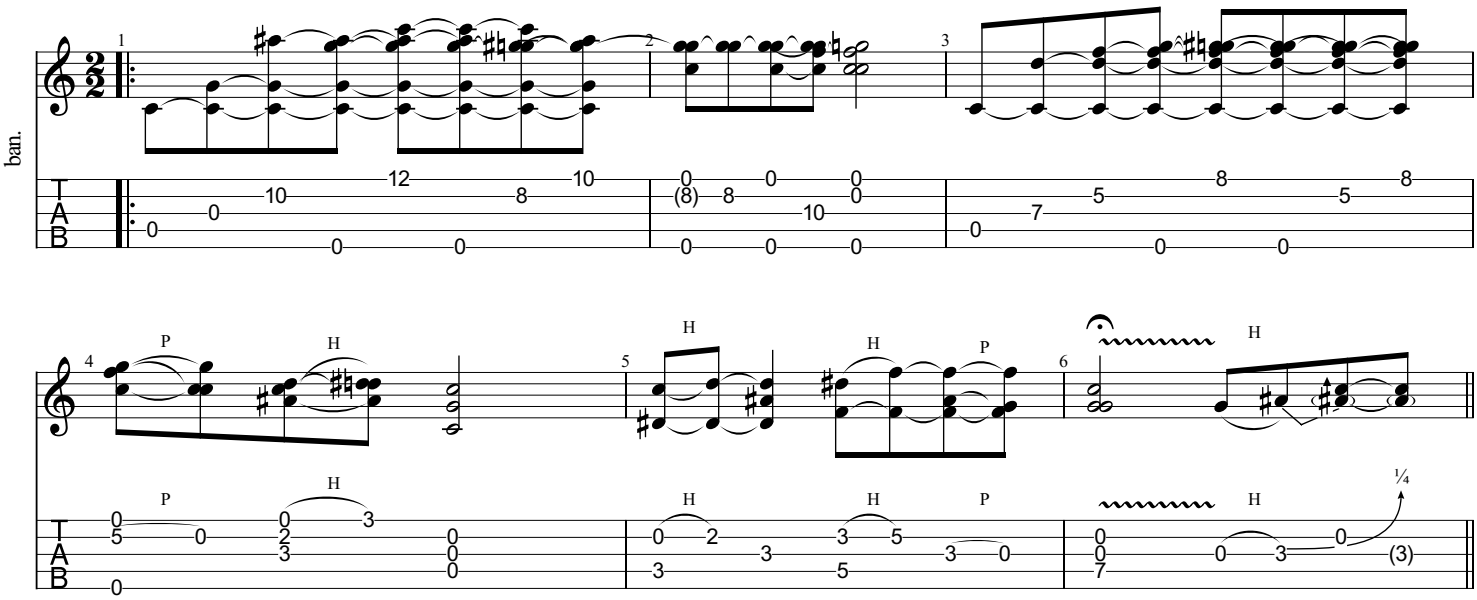
Funeral March

Music by Matthieu Brandt

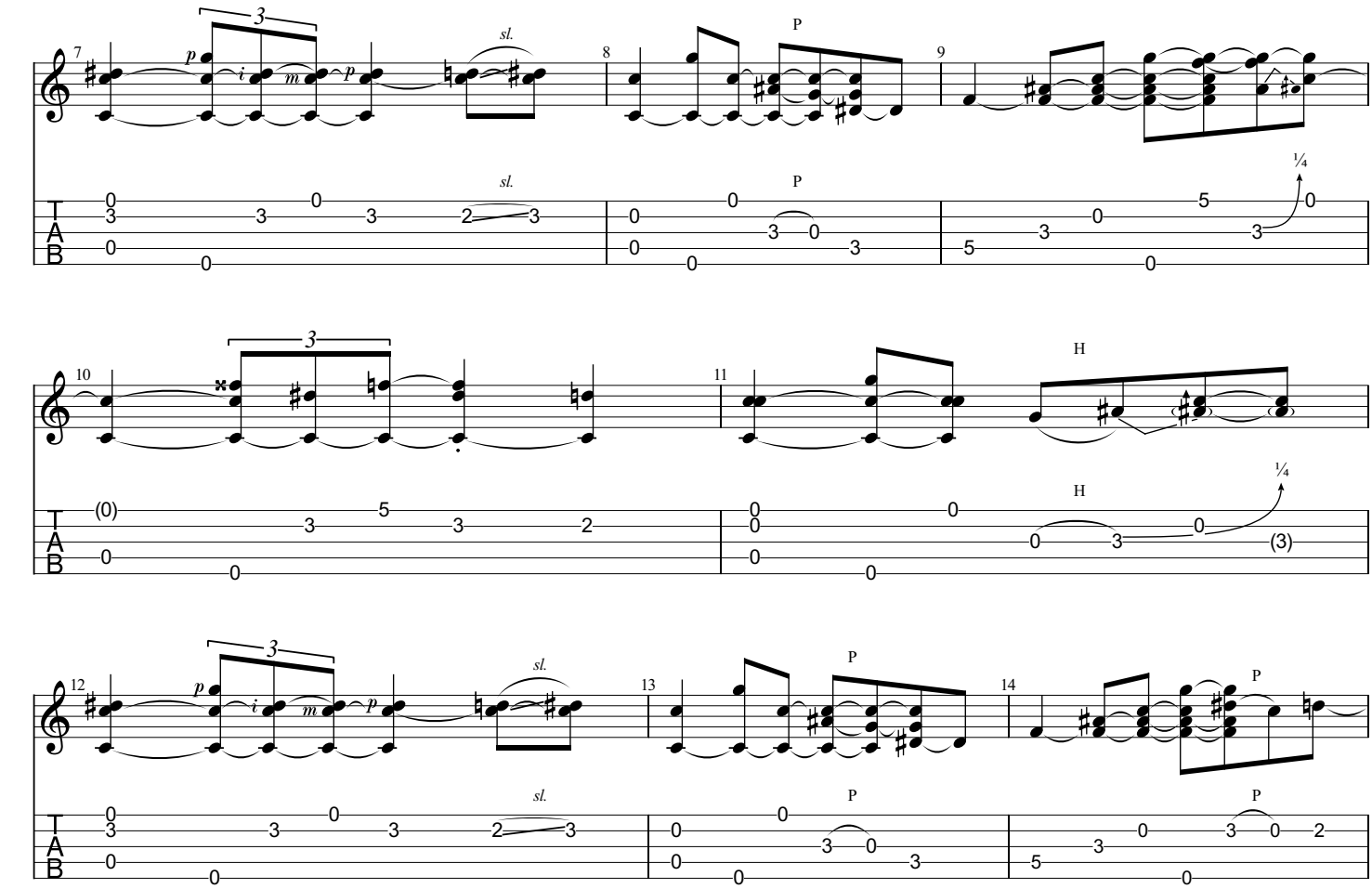
①＝C ③＝G ⑤＝G
②＝C ④＝C

♩ = 120

Intro



Verse



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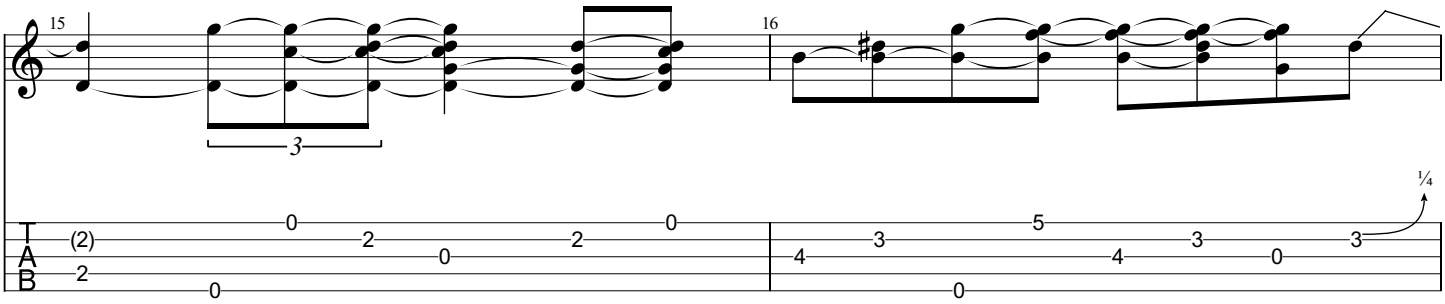
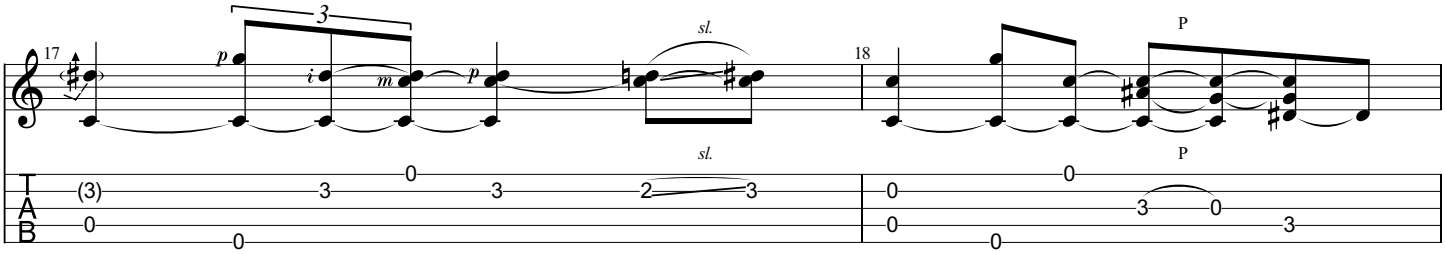
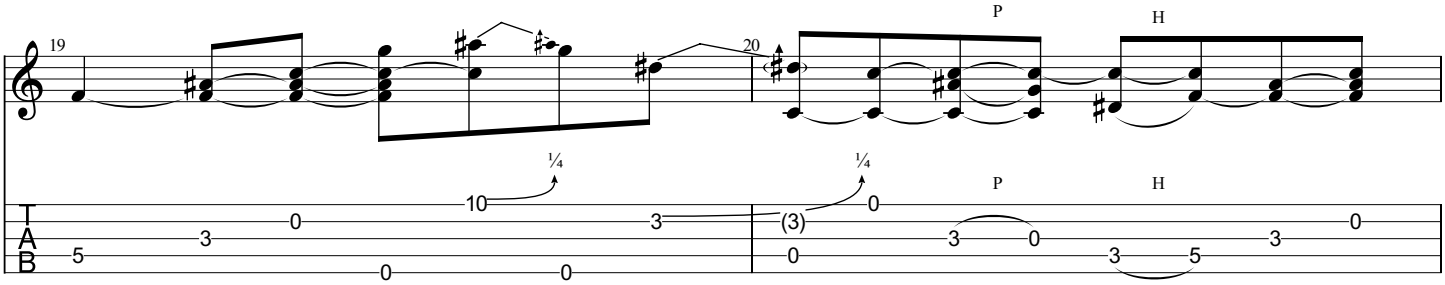
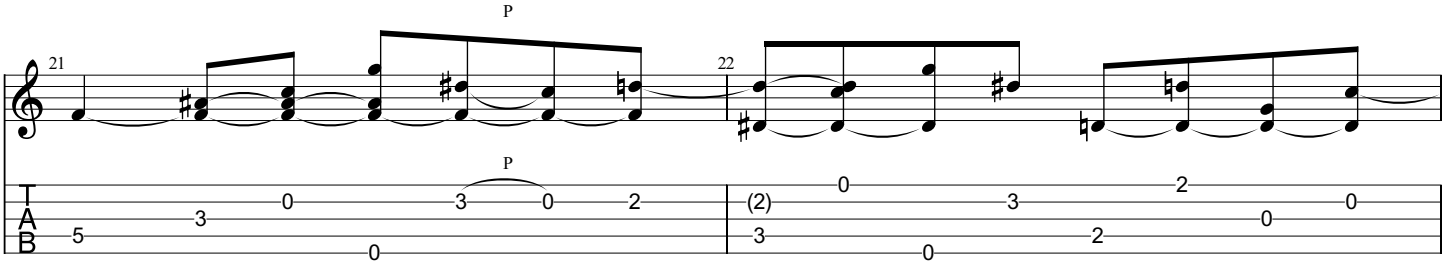
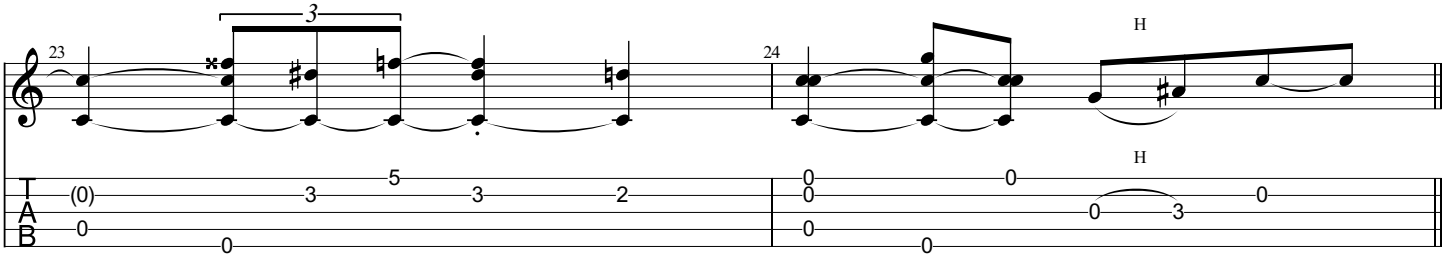

15
16
3
¼
T
A
B

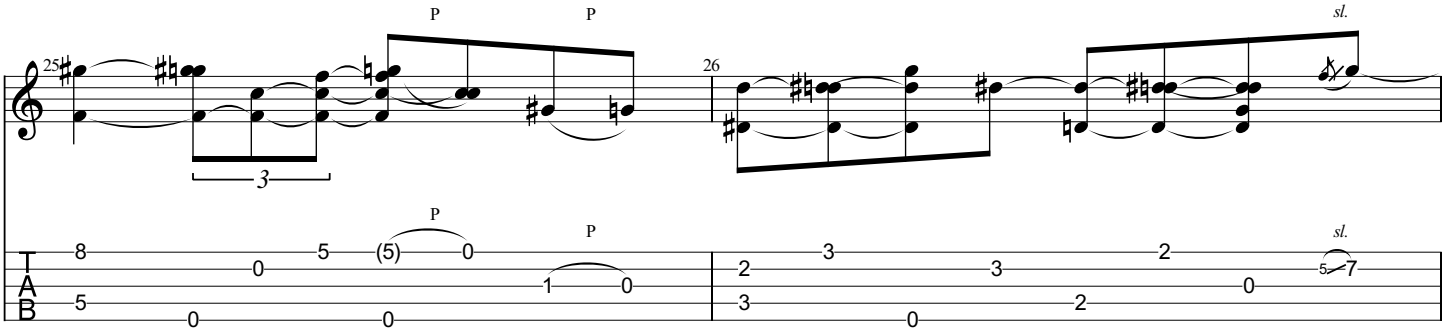

17
18
3
p
i
m
p
sl.
P
T
A
B

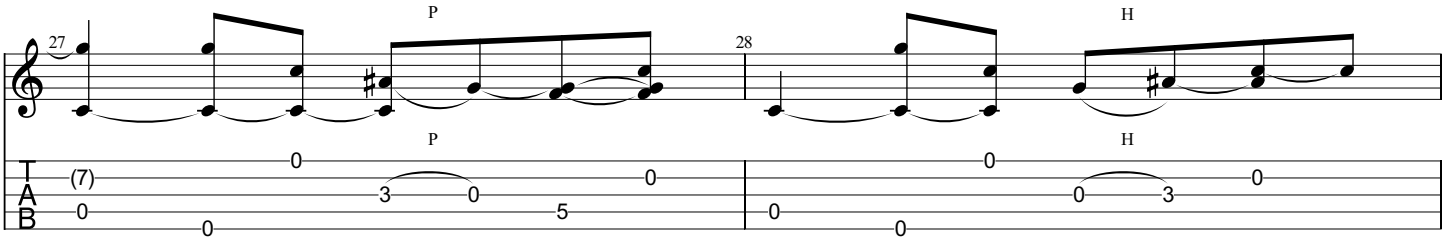

19
20
P
H
¼
T
A
B

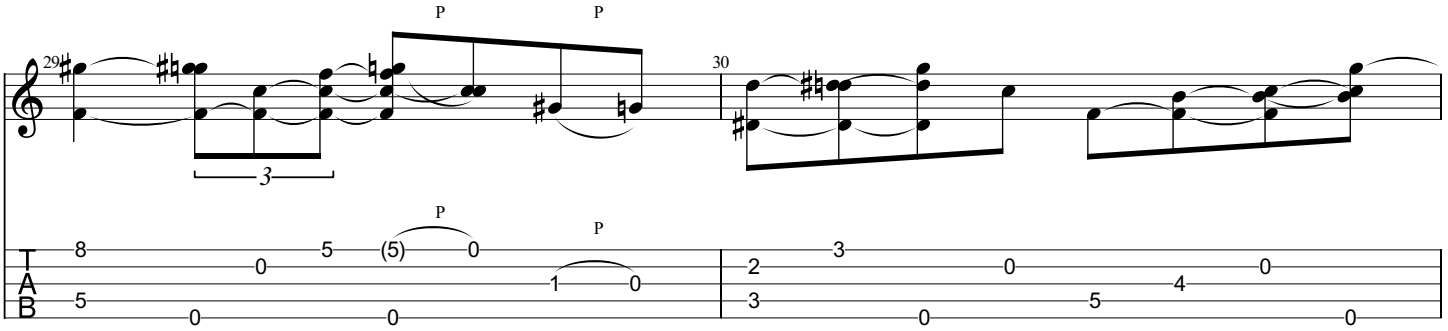

21
22
P
T
A
B

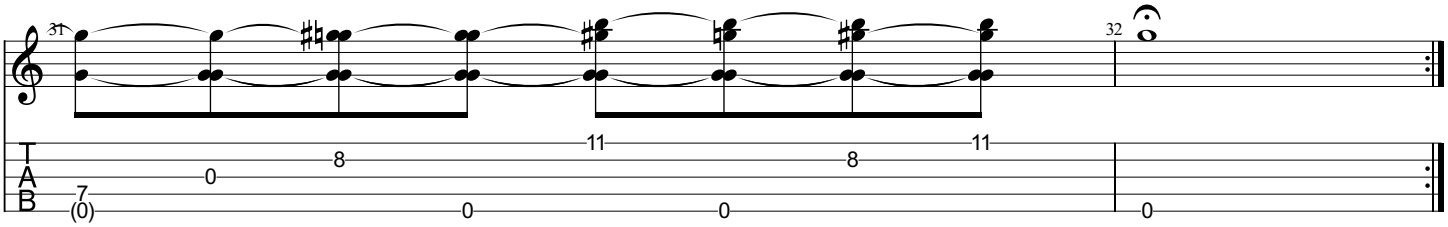

23
24
3
H
T
A
B

Bridge

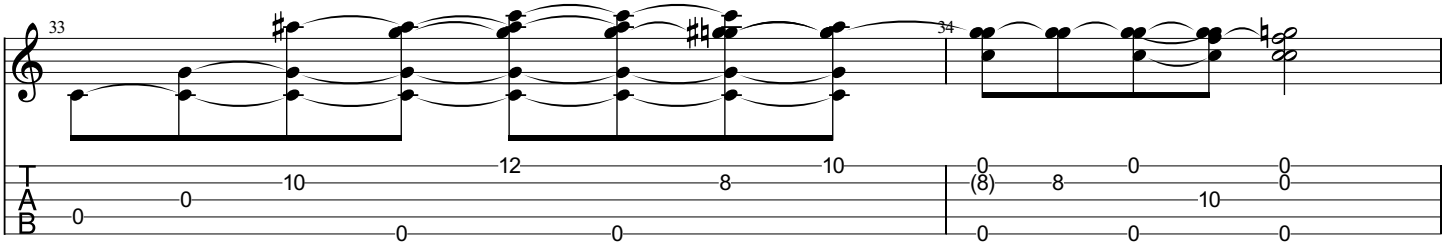

25
26
3
P
sl.
T
A
B

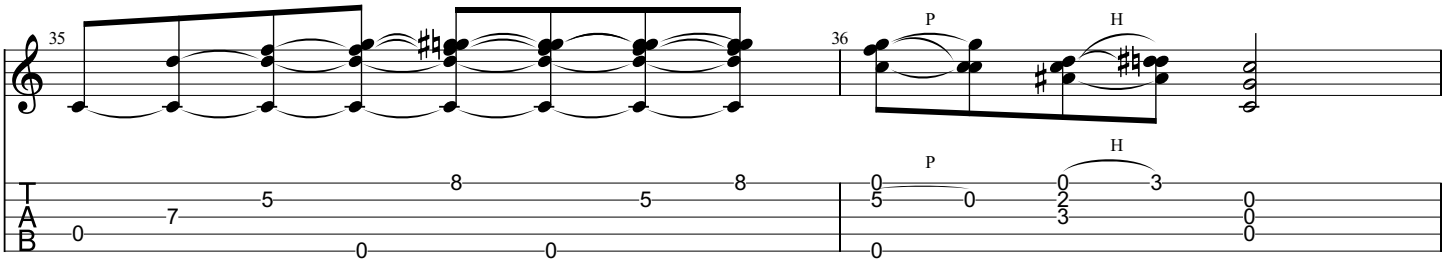


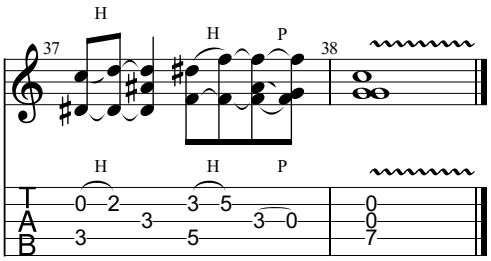




Outro







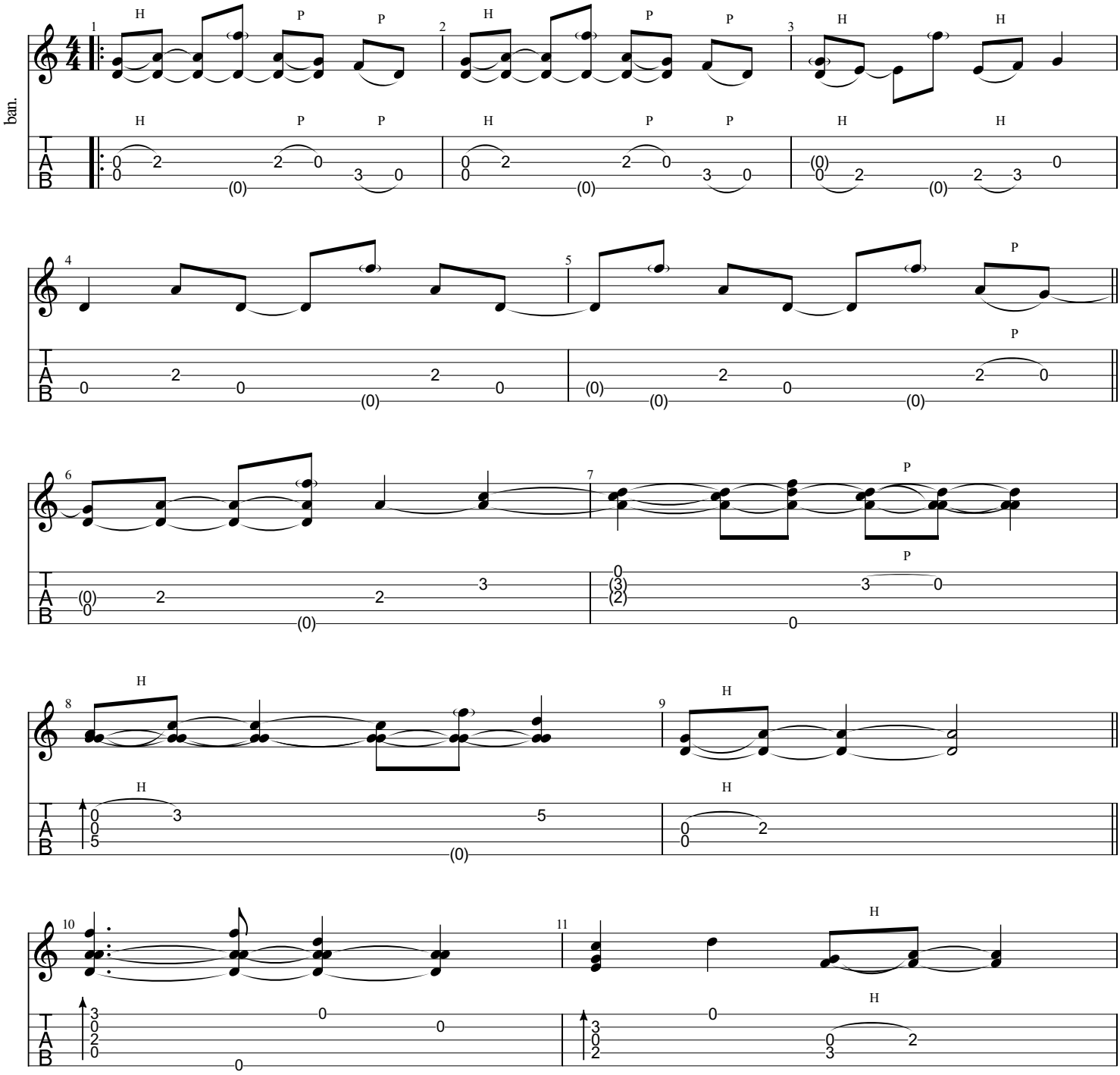
Guilty All Around

Music by Matthieu Brandt

①＝D ③＝G ⑤＝F
②＝A ④＝D

♩ = 164

A Main Groove



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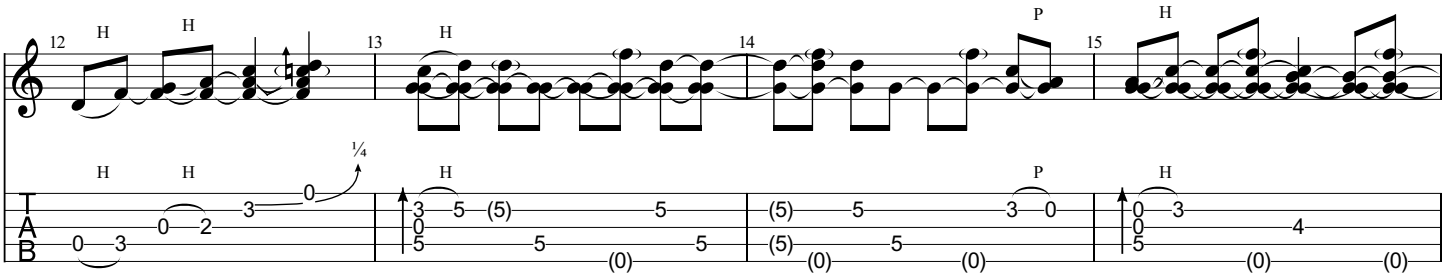
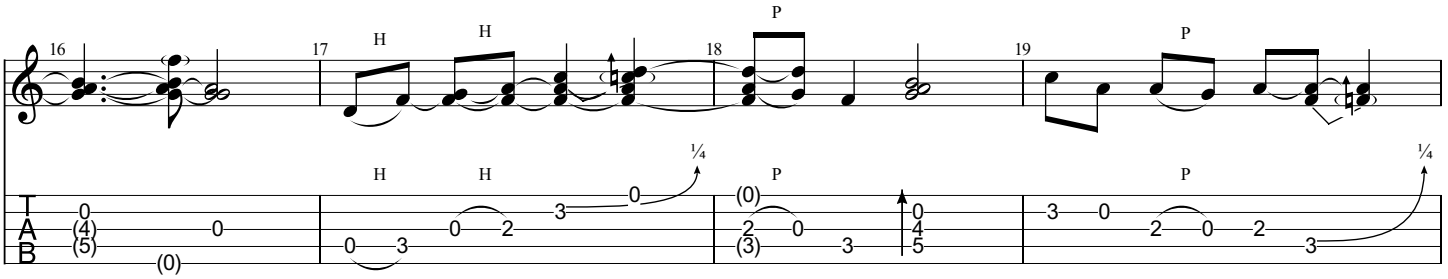
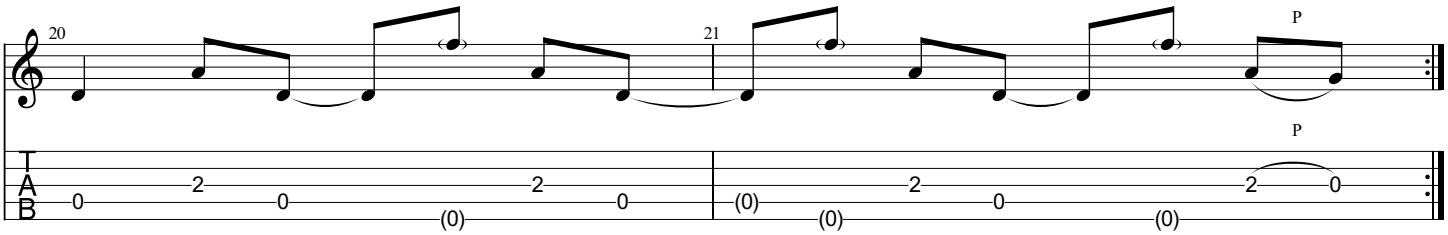
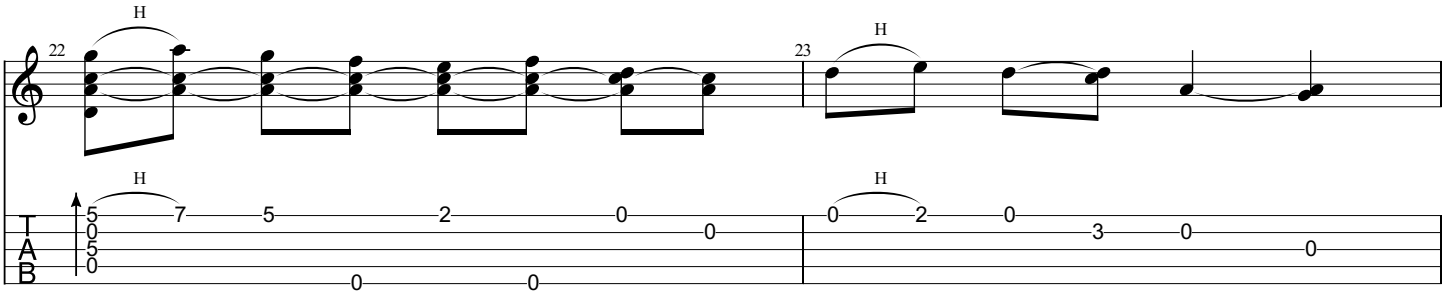
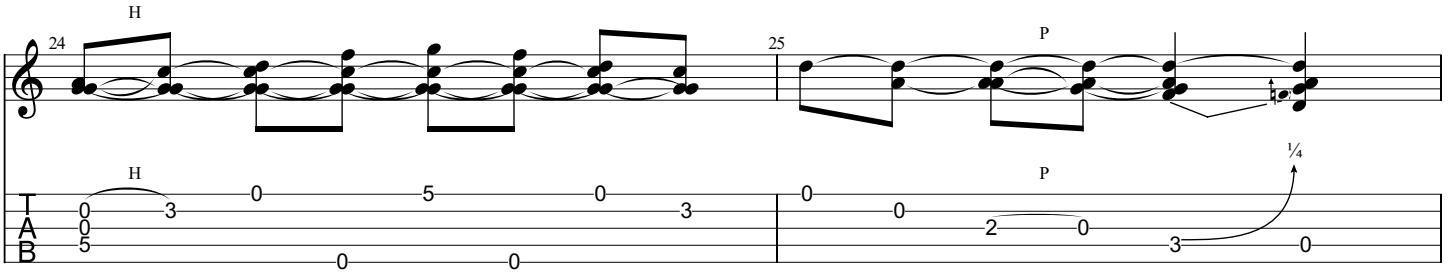


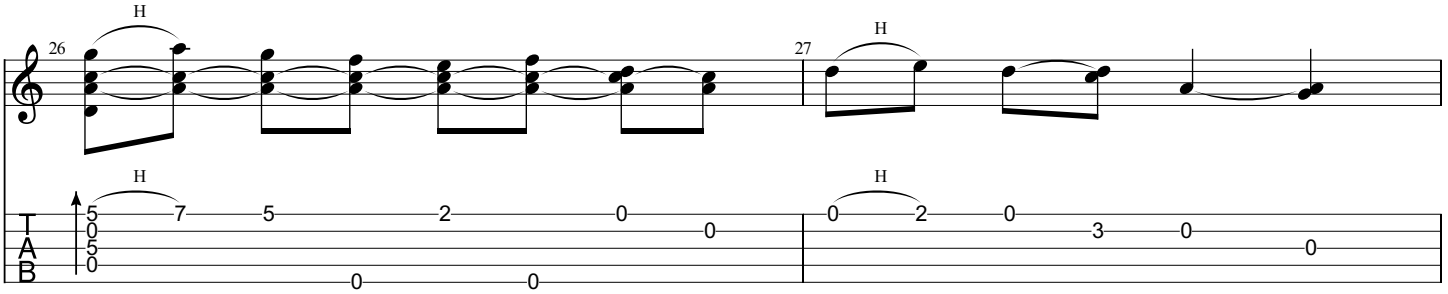


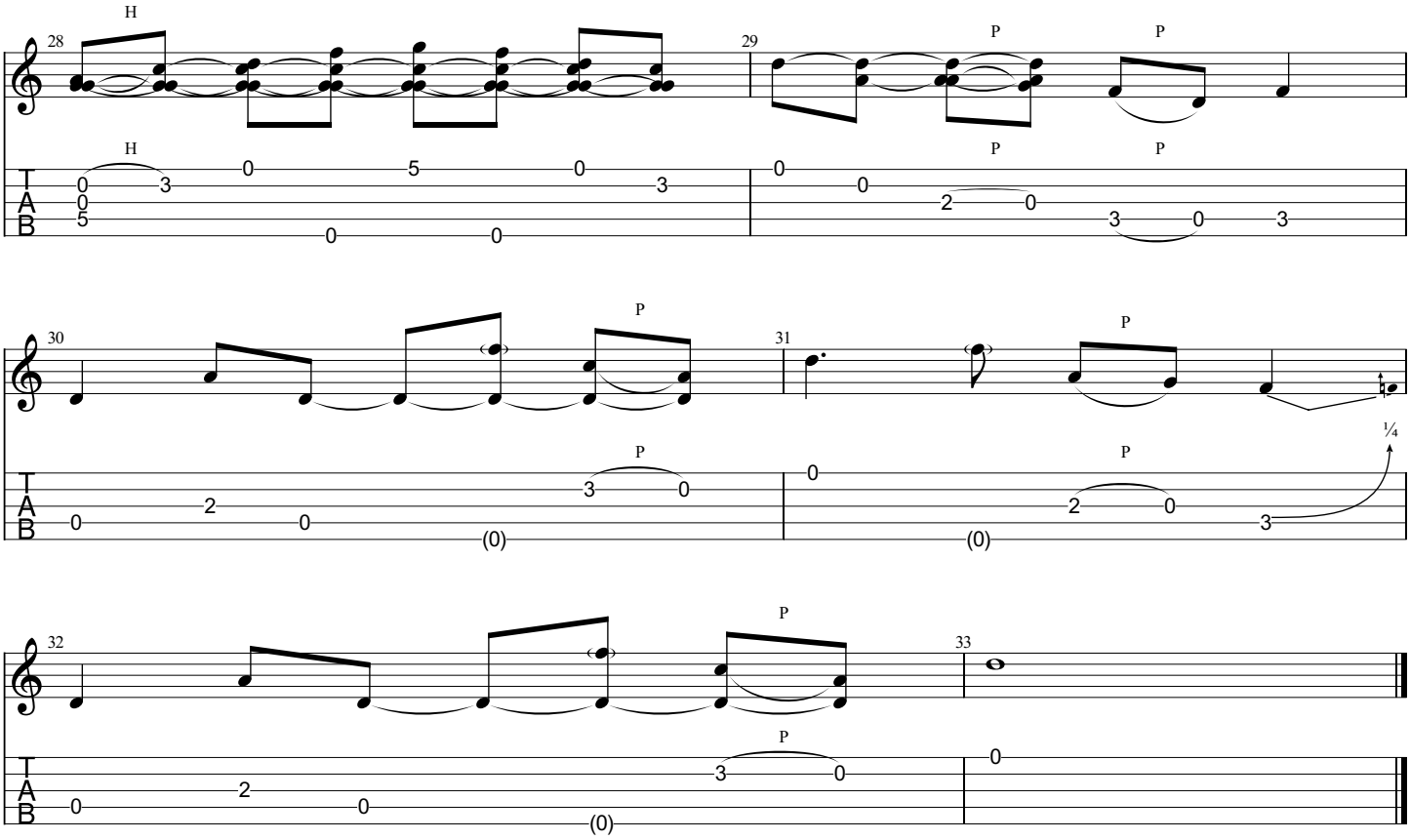


B Instrumental Riff








28
H
29
P
P
30
31
32
33
¼

Hurtful Ducks

Music by Matthieu Brandt

①＝E ③＝G ⑤＝G
②＝C ④＝C

♩ = 80

Capo fret 2

mf

1.

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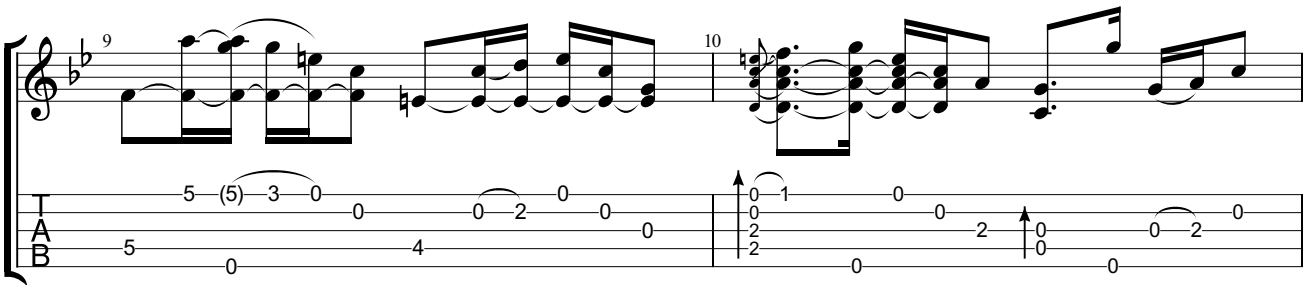

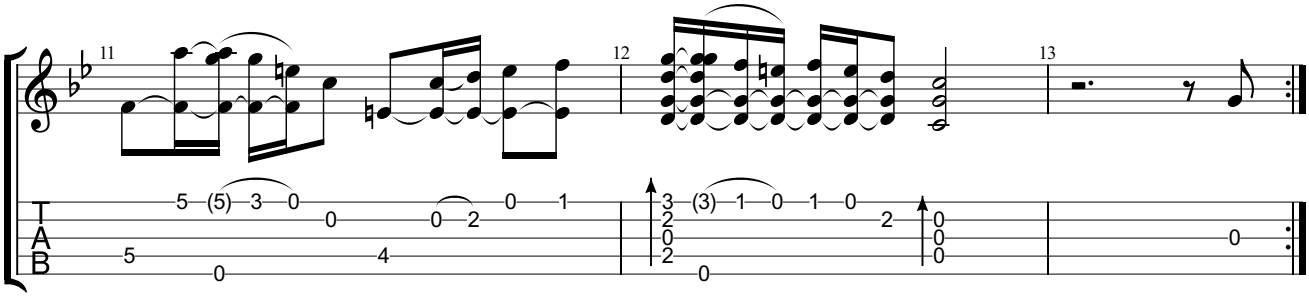

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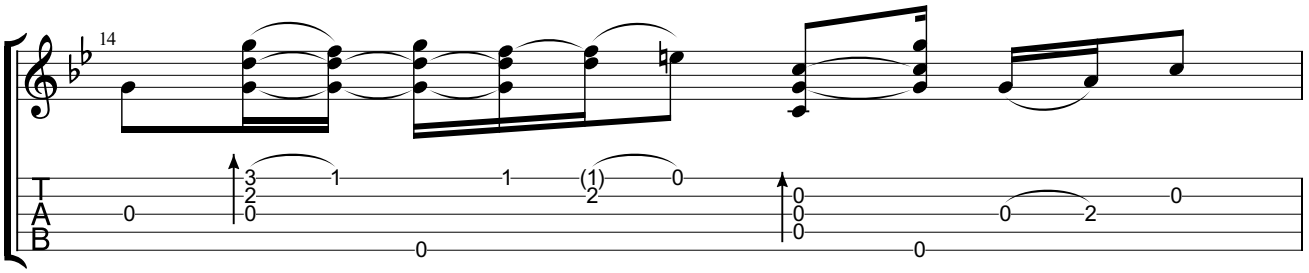

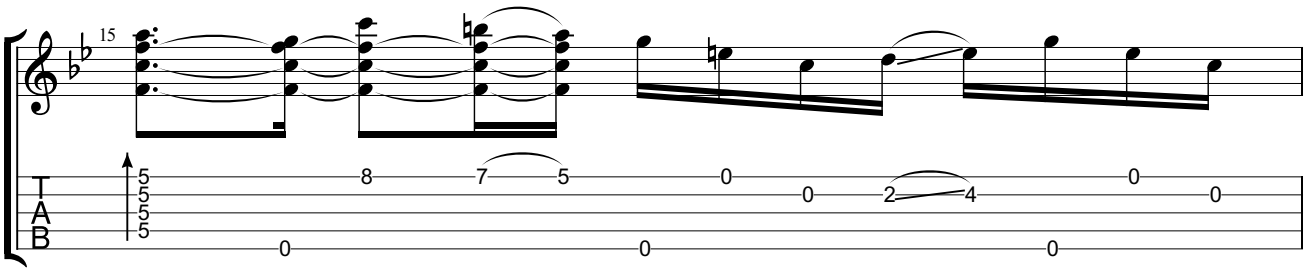

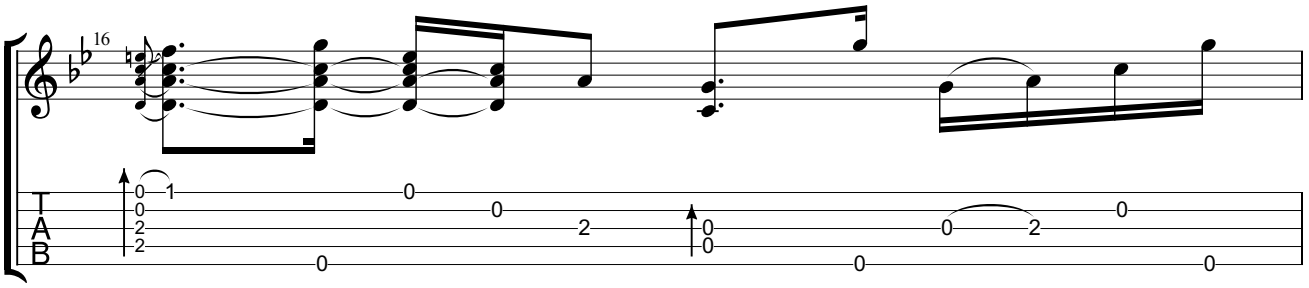

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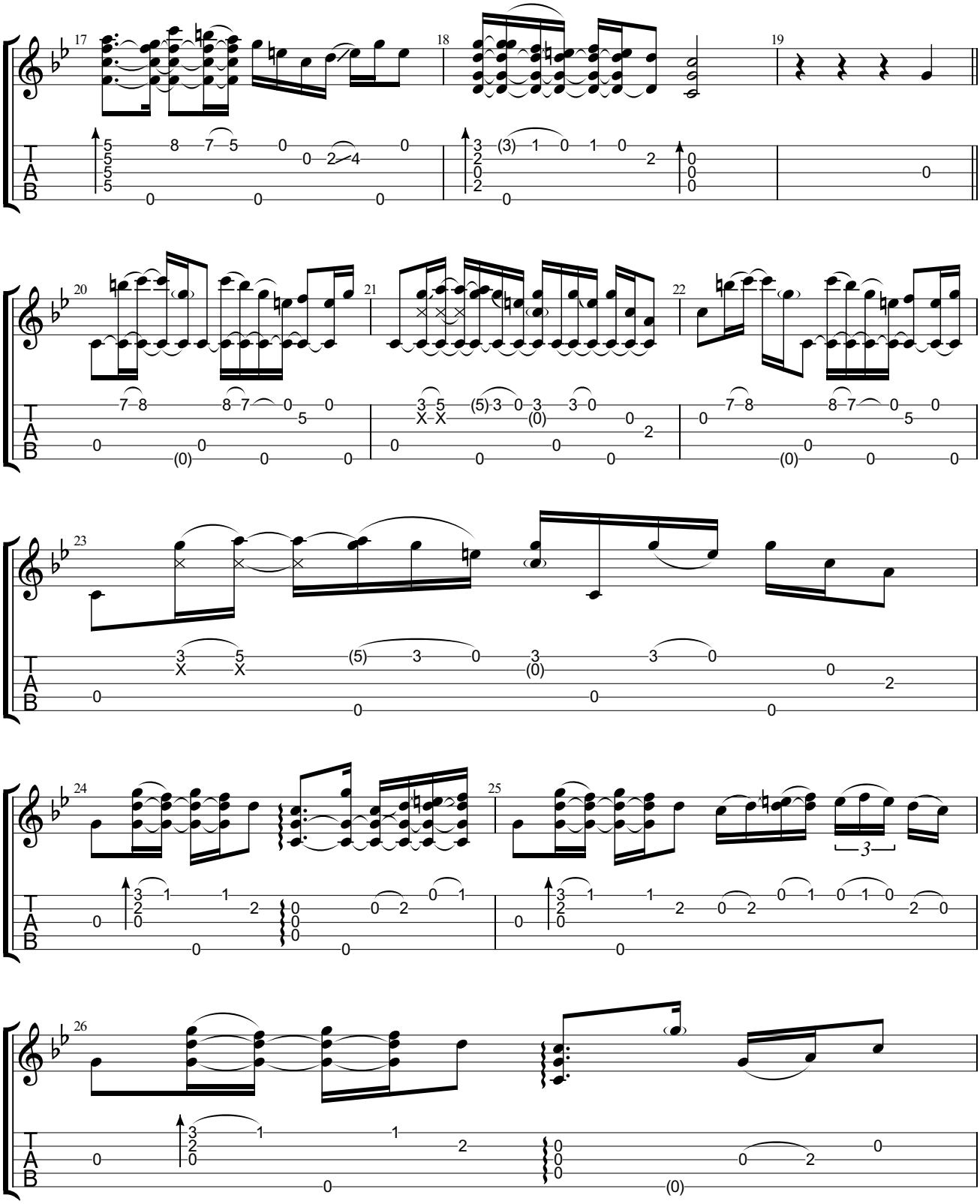

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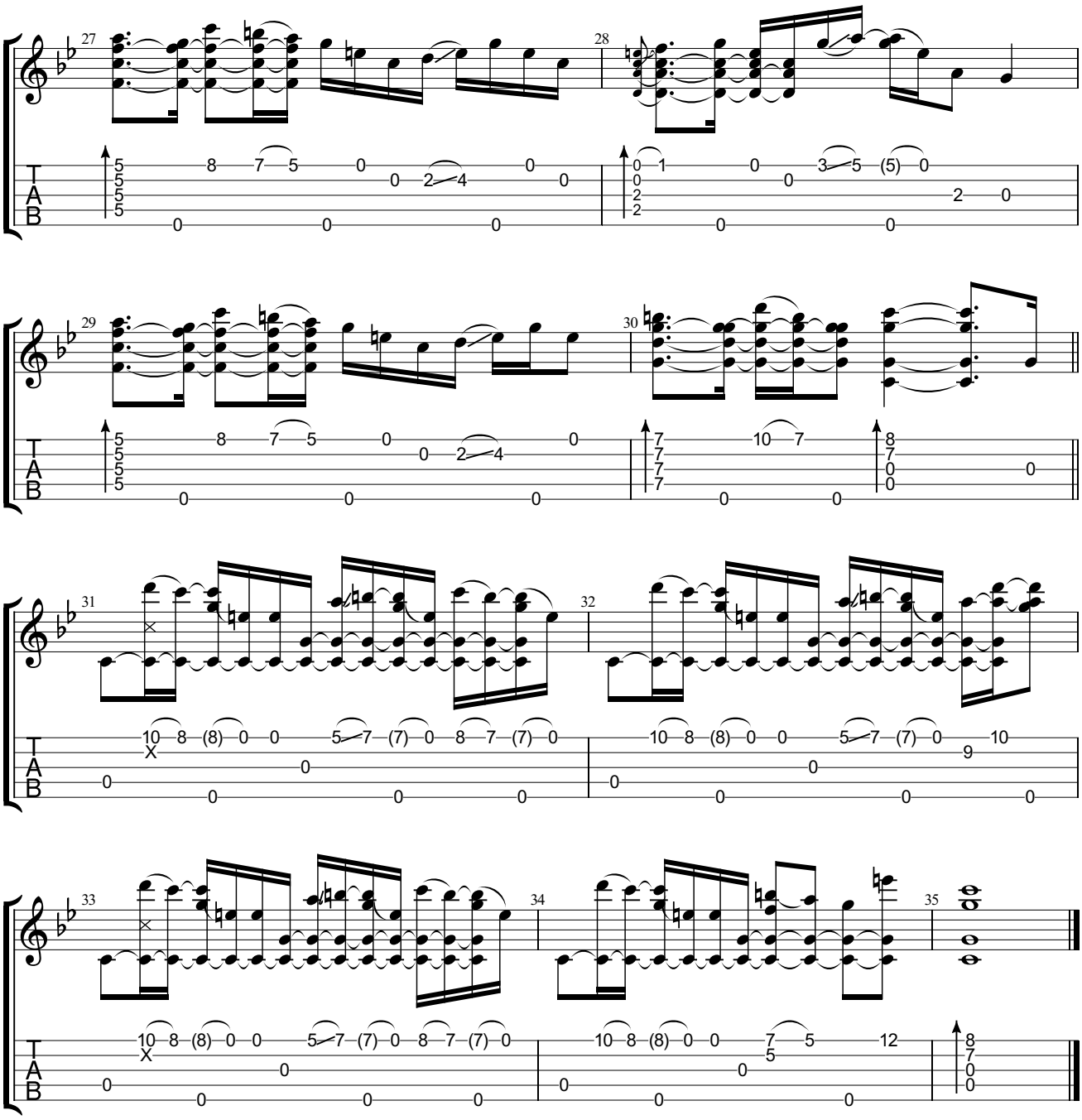
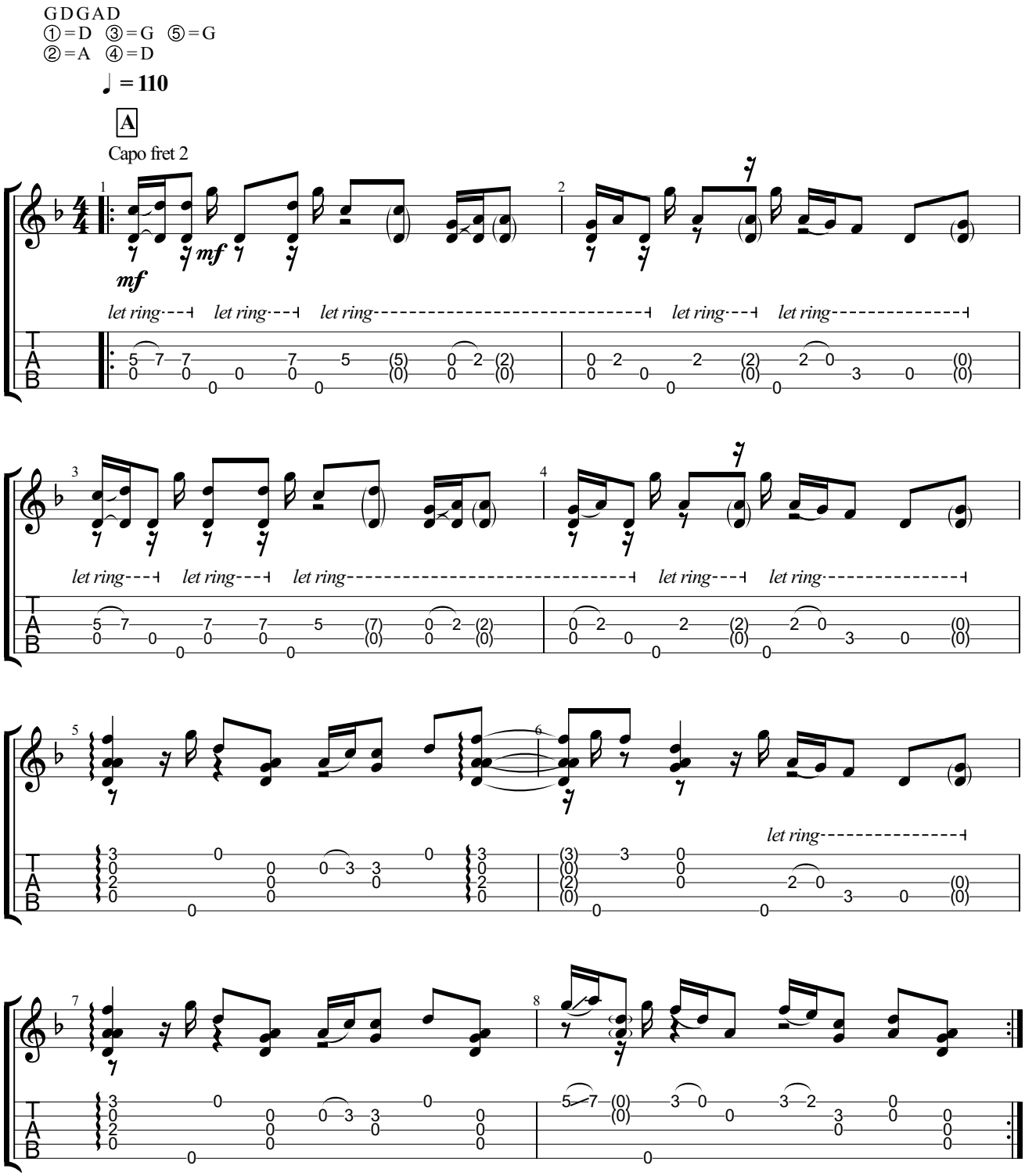

27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
T
A
B

Mountain Stroll

Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan



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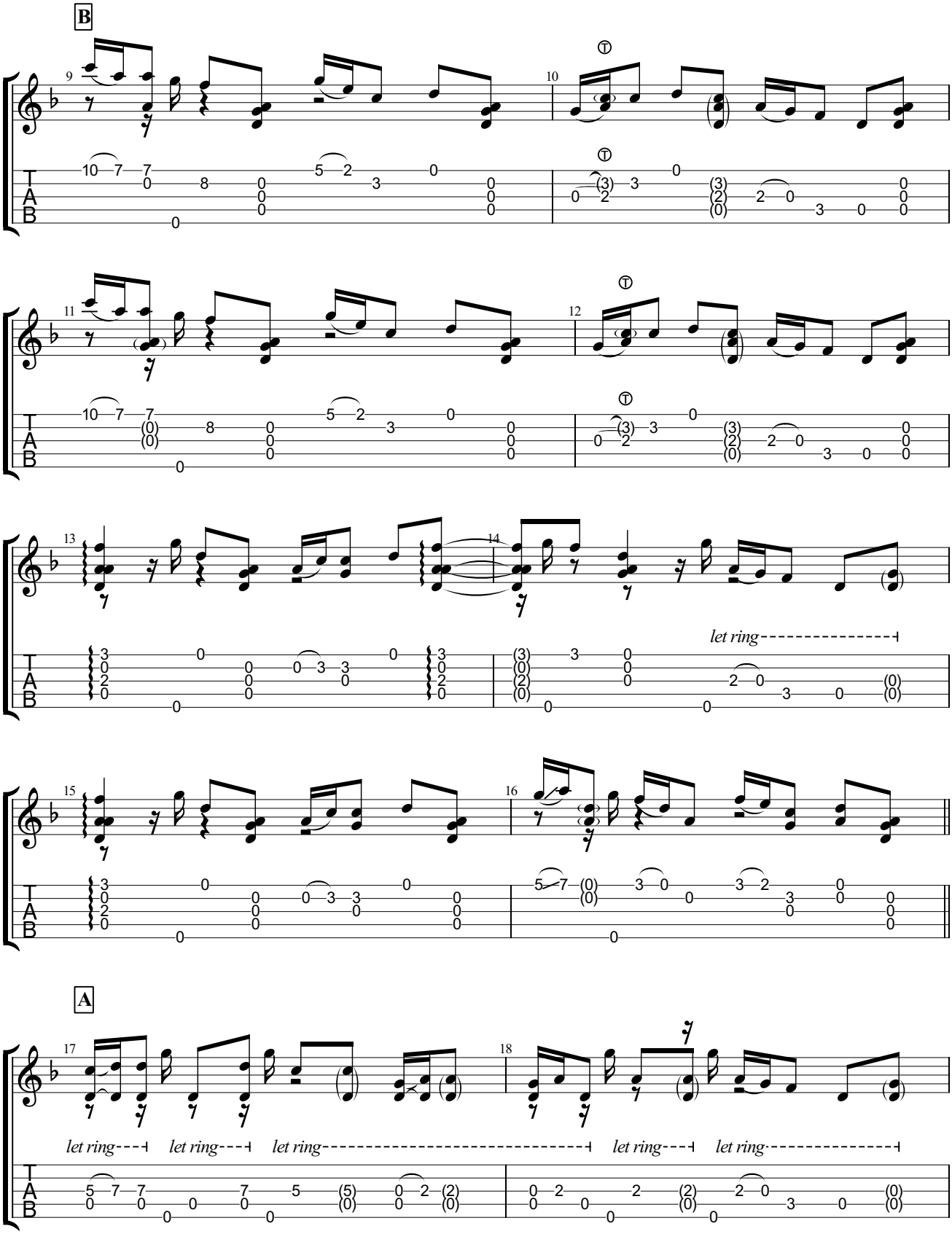
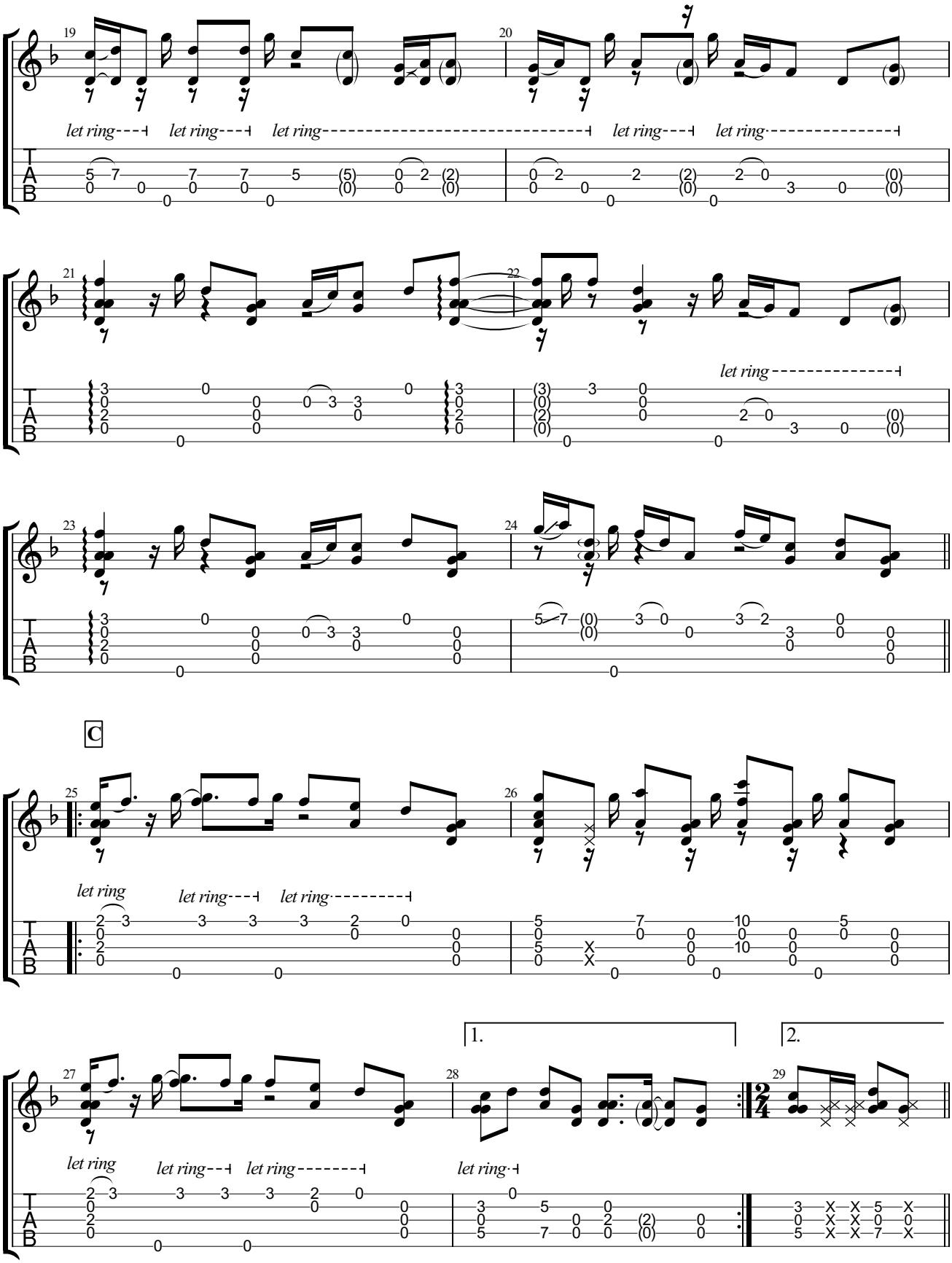
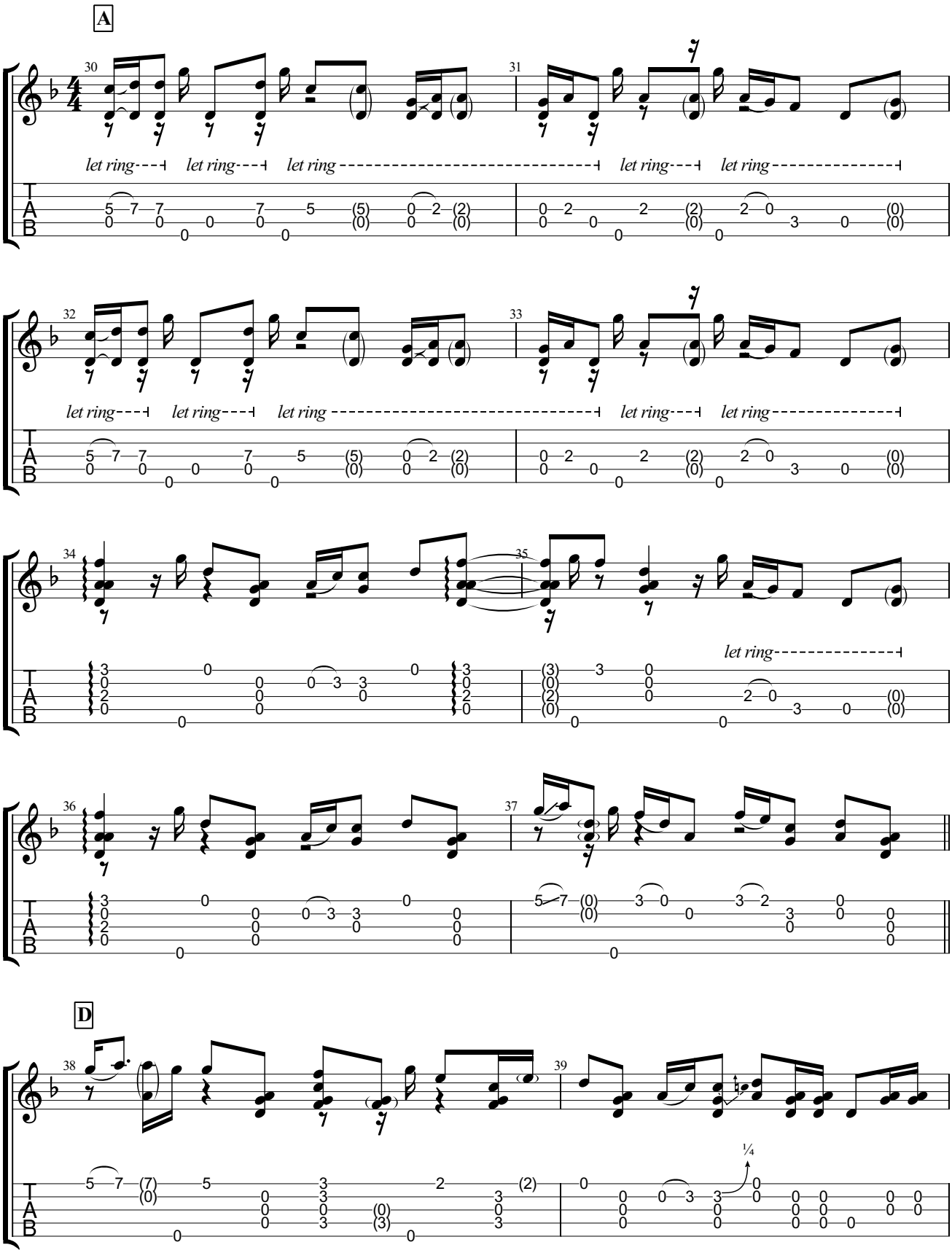
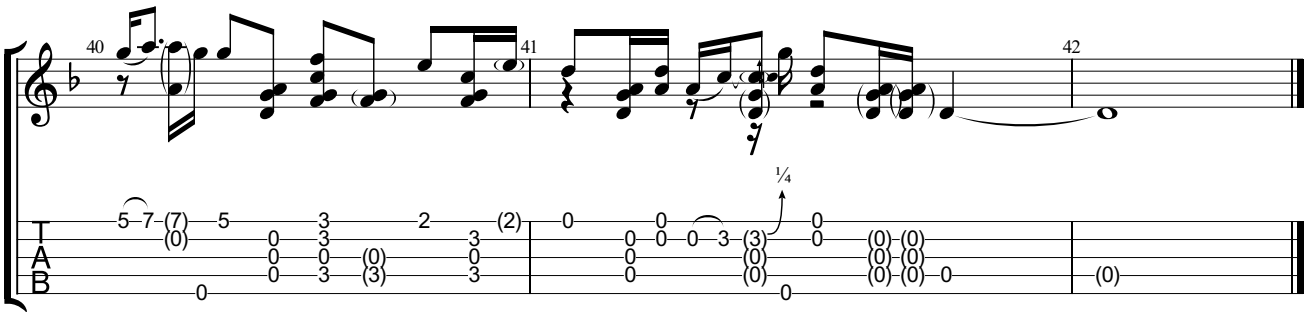

B
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
A


let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
C
1.
2.


A
30
31
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
32
33
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
34
35
let ring
36
37
D
38
39
¼
T
A
B


40
41
42
¼
T
A
B

Portrait Of Dorian Gray

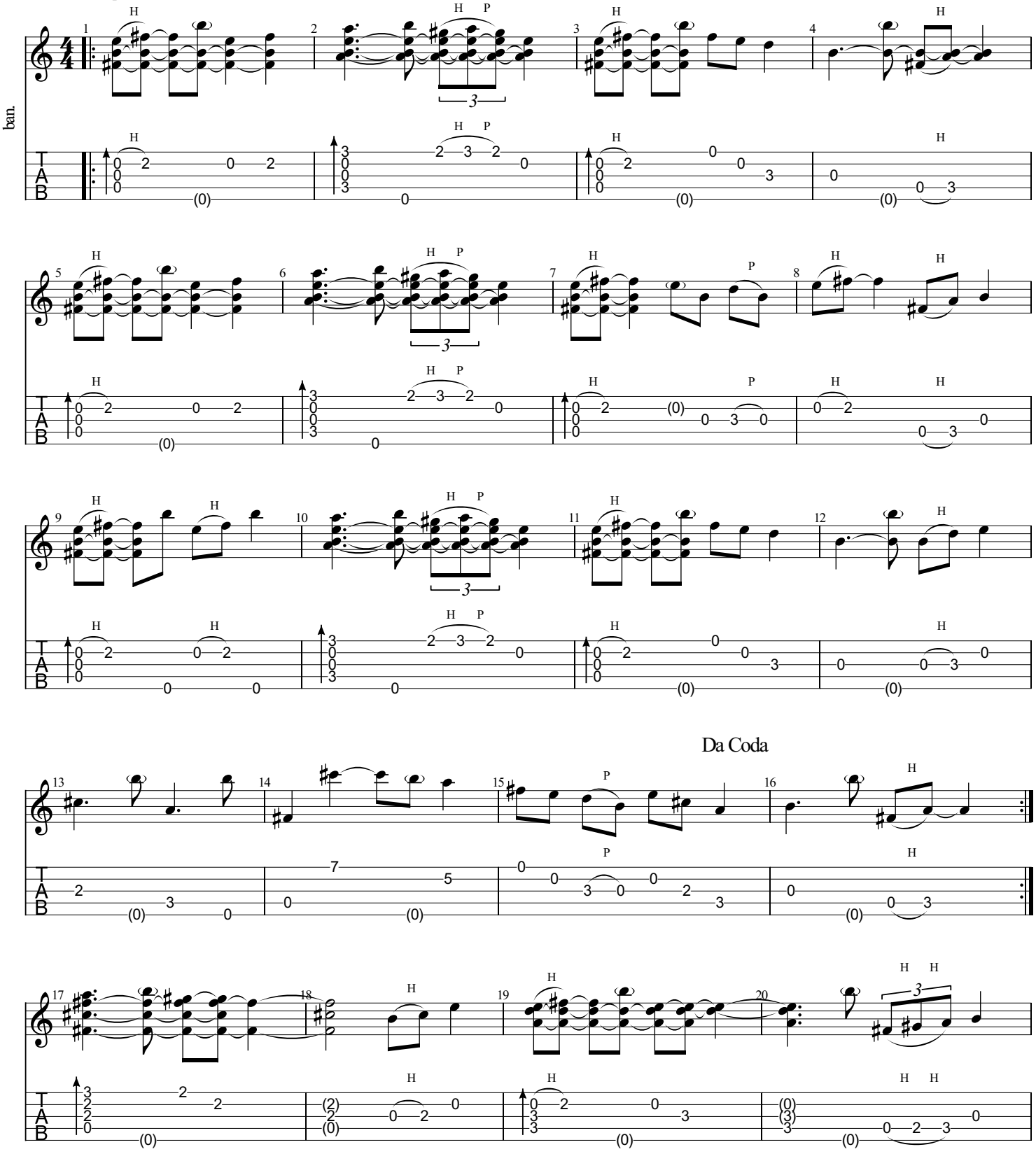
Music by Matthieu Brandt

①=D ③=G ⑤=G
②=C ④=D

♩ = 200

𝄋

Capo fret 4



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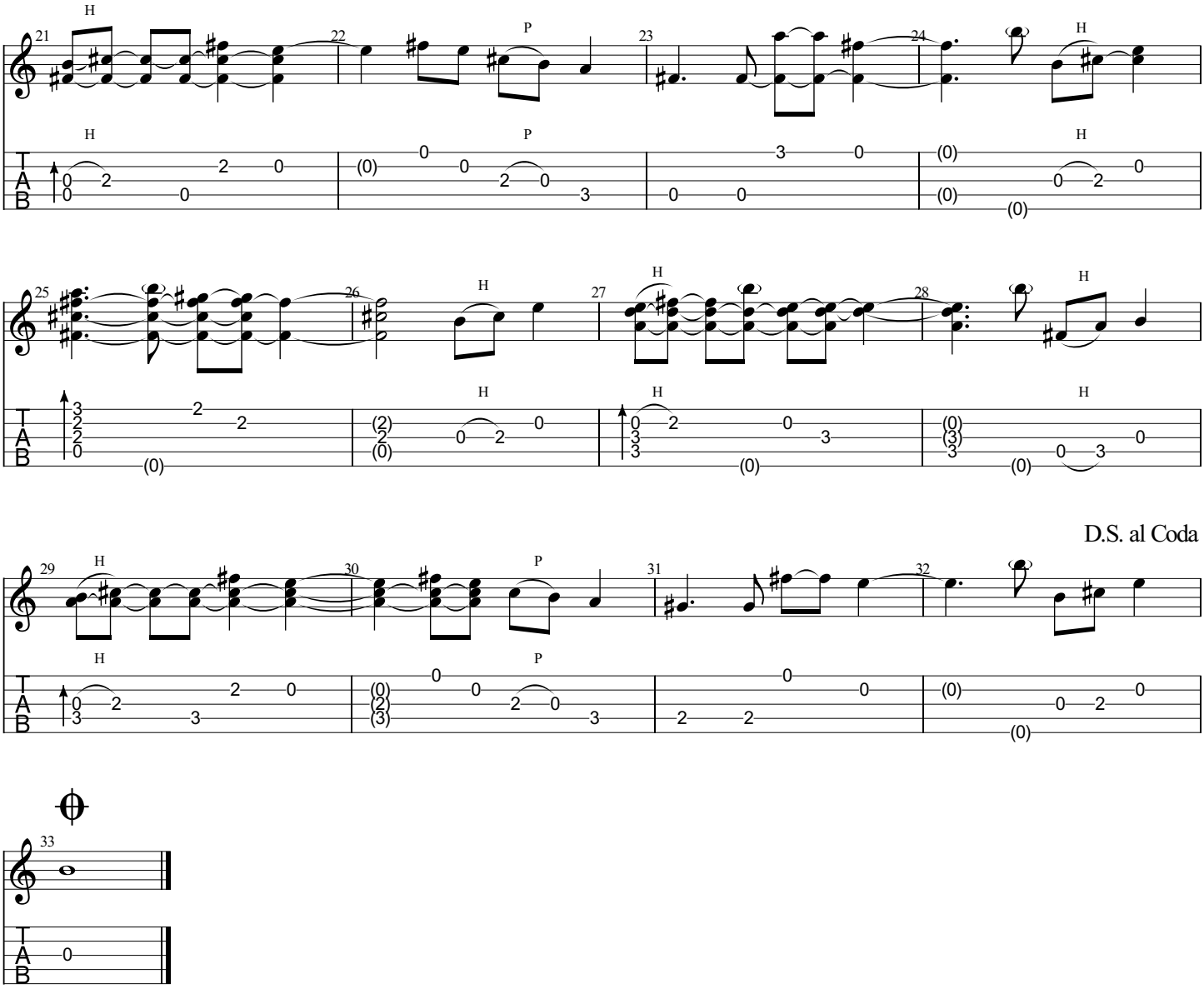
D.S. al Coda

Raise The Dust

Music by Matthieu Brandt

①=D ③=G ⑤=E
②=C ④=C

♩ = 92

Capo fret 2

mf

1.

O.P.

O.P.

2.

O.P.

Drop Thumb

Drop Thumb

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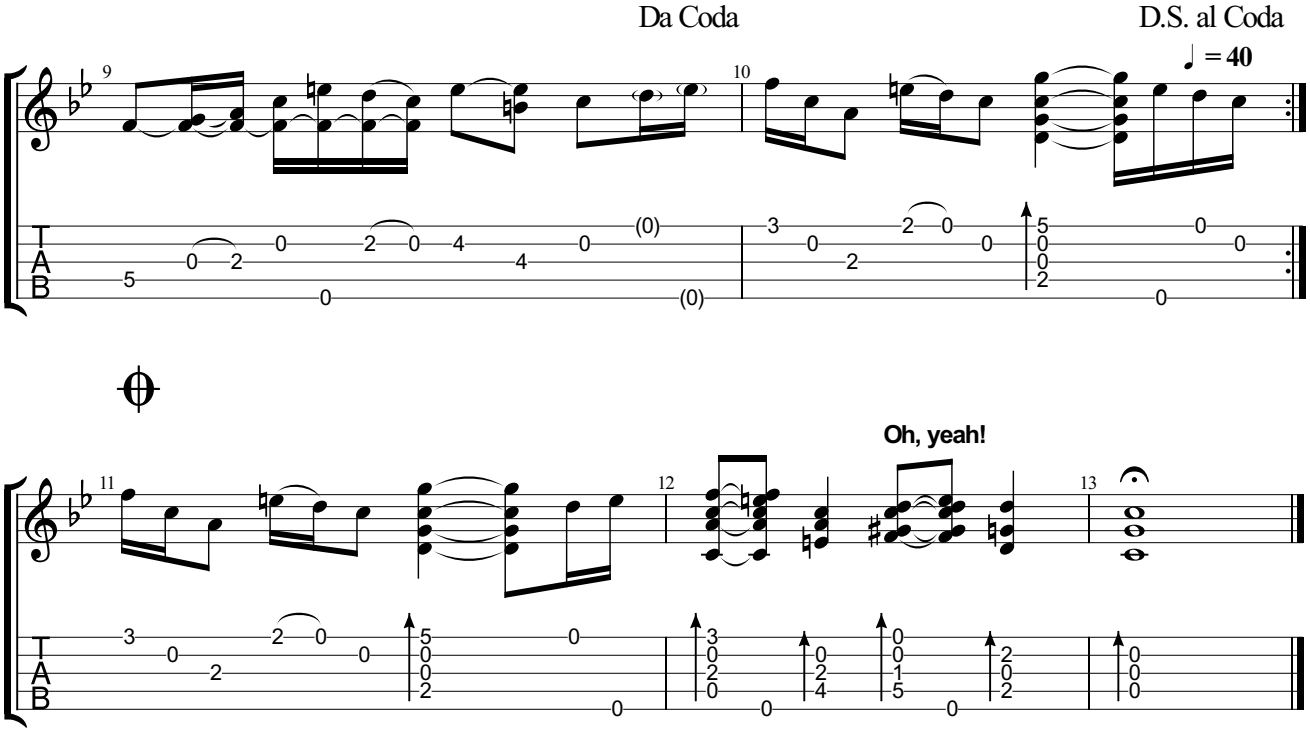
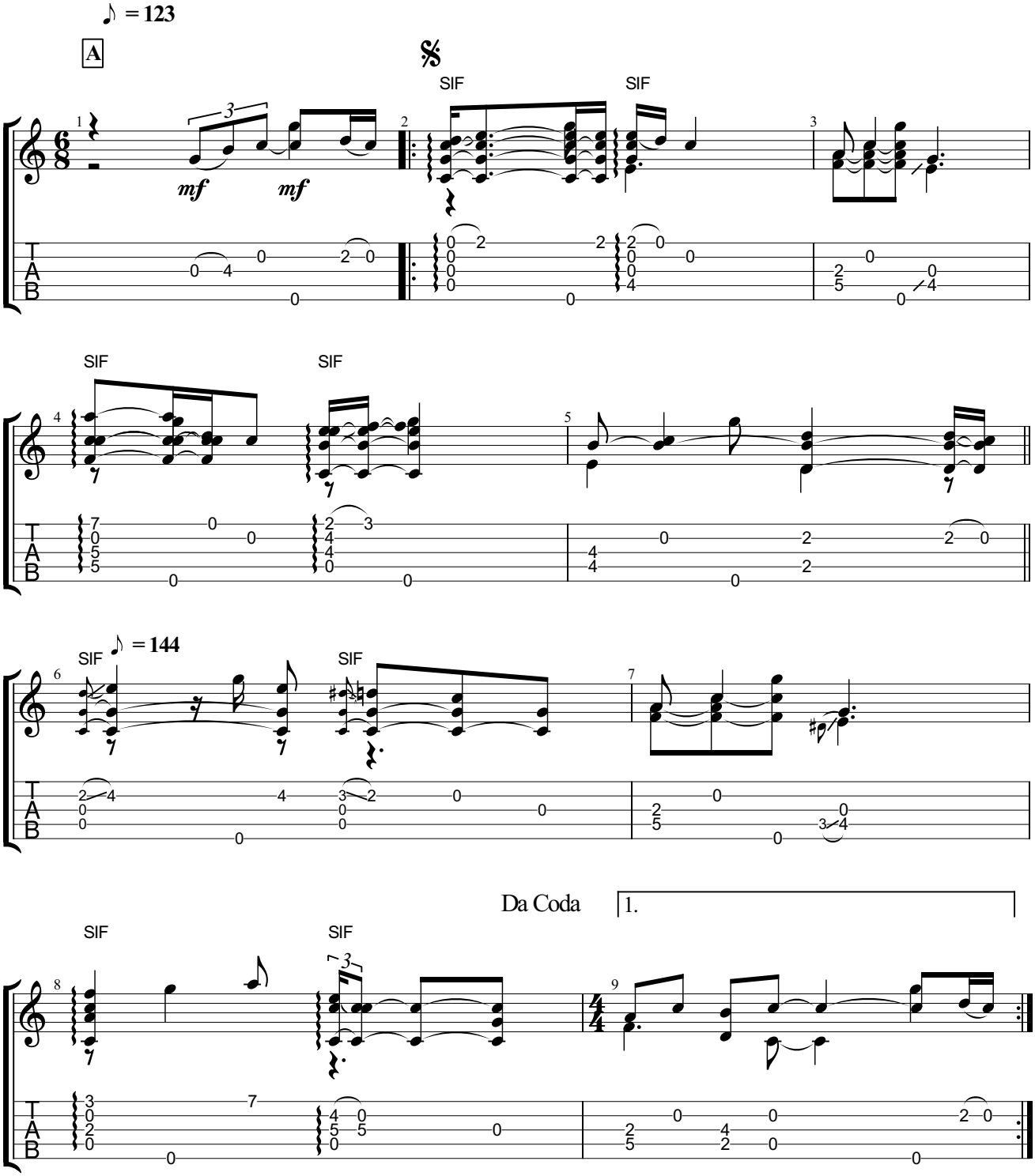

Da Coda
D.S. al Coda
= 40
Oh, yeah!

Scrimshaw

SIF= Slow Index Frail with back of the index finger

Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan



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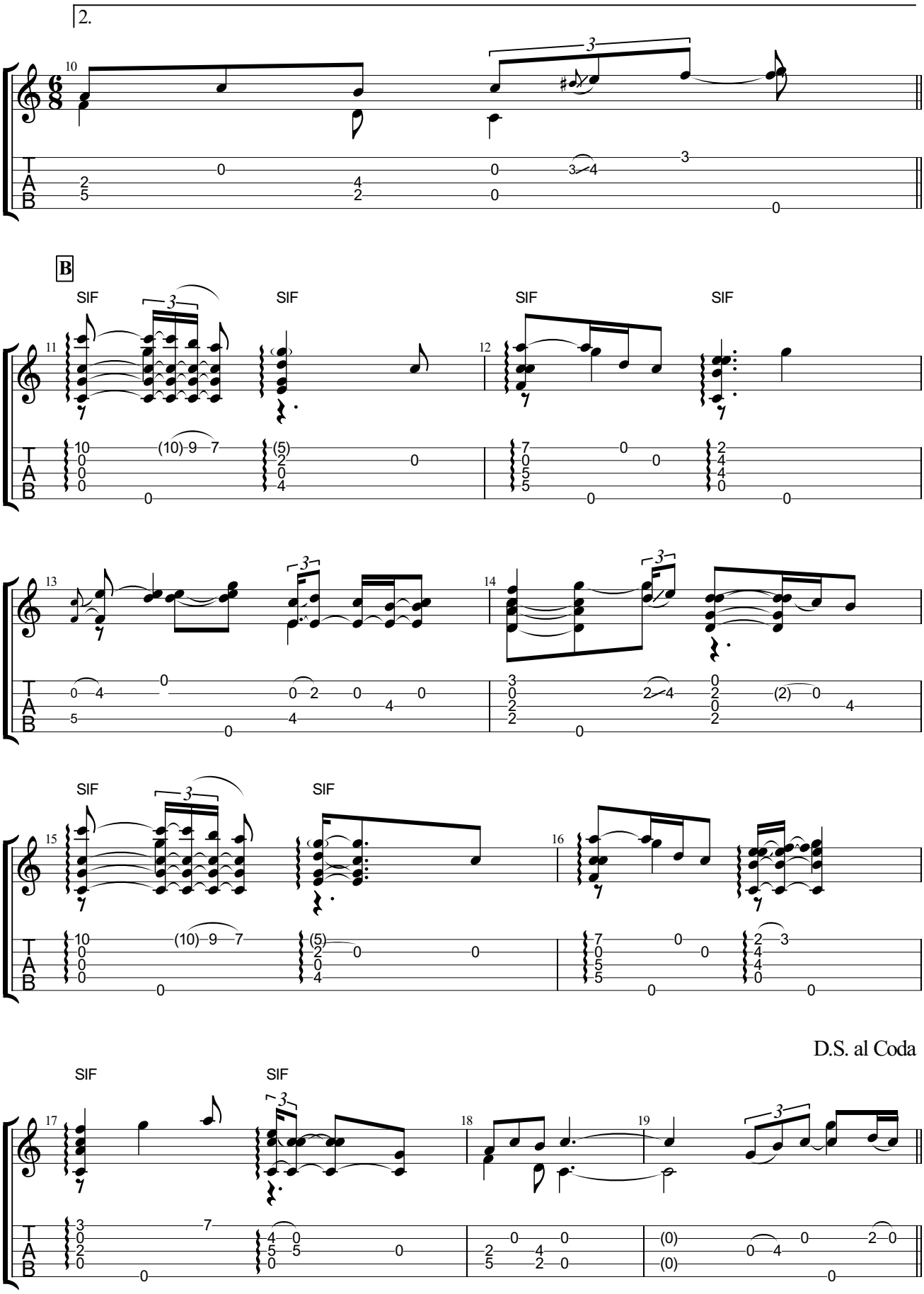
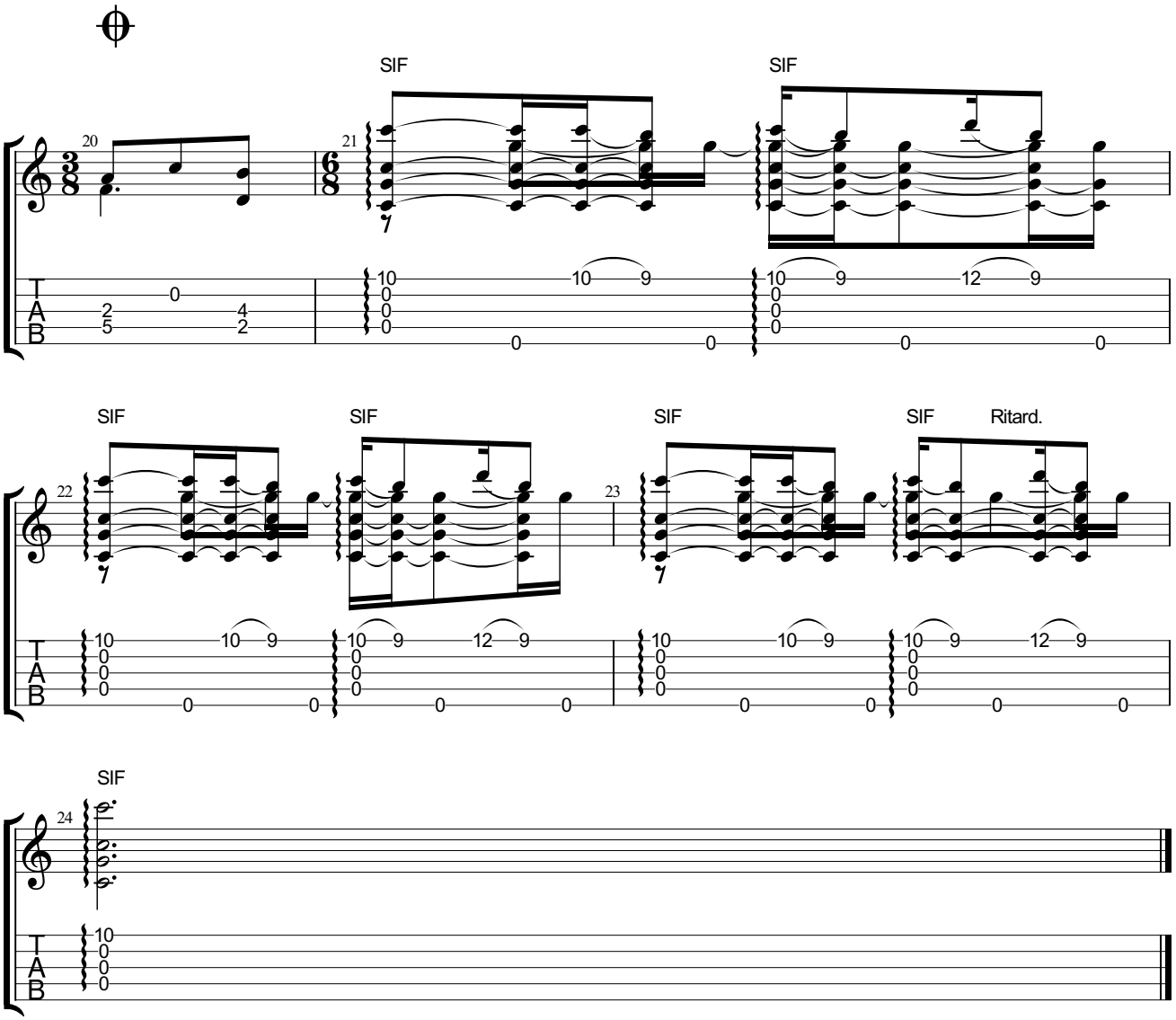

2.
B
SIF
SIF
SIF
SIF
SIF
SIF
D.S. al Coda
SIF
SIF

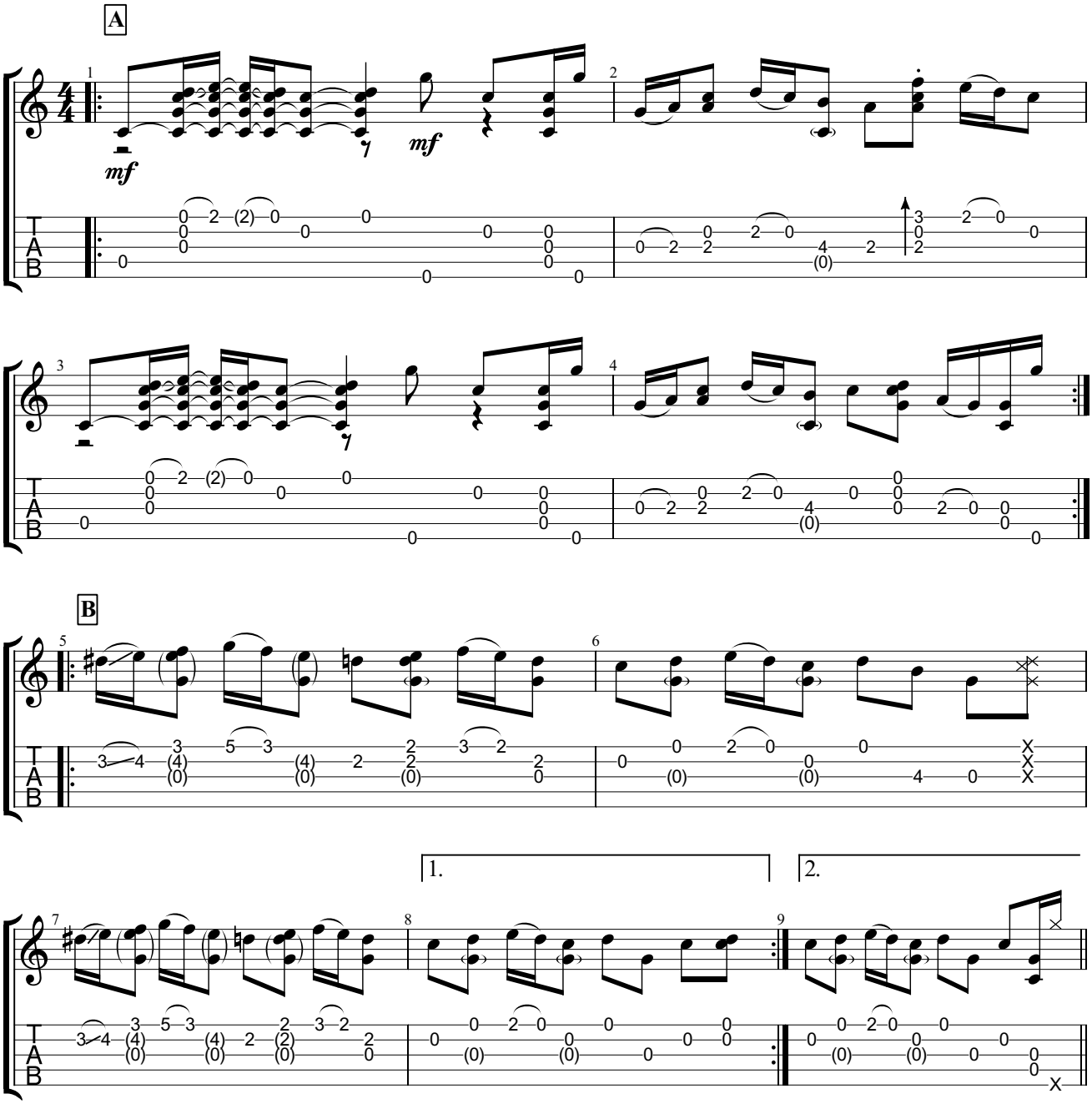

SIF
SIF
SIF
SIF
SIF
SIF
Ritard.
SIF

Sequential Rain

Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan

Double C
①=D ③=G ⑤=G
②=C ④=C

♩ = 116



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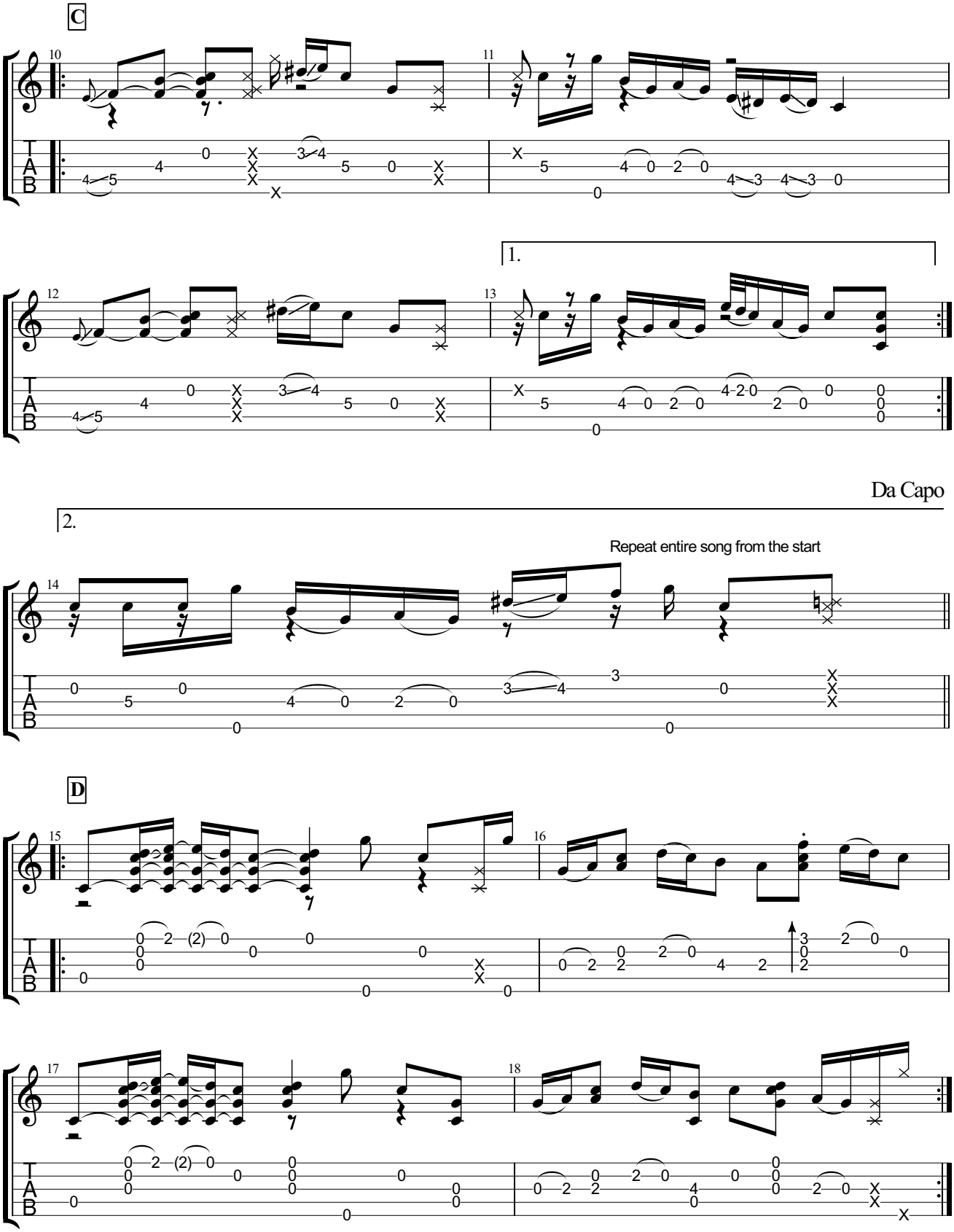
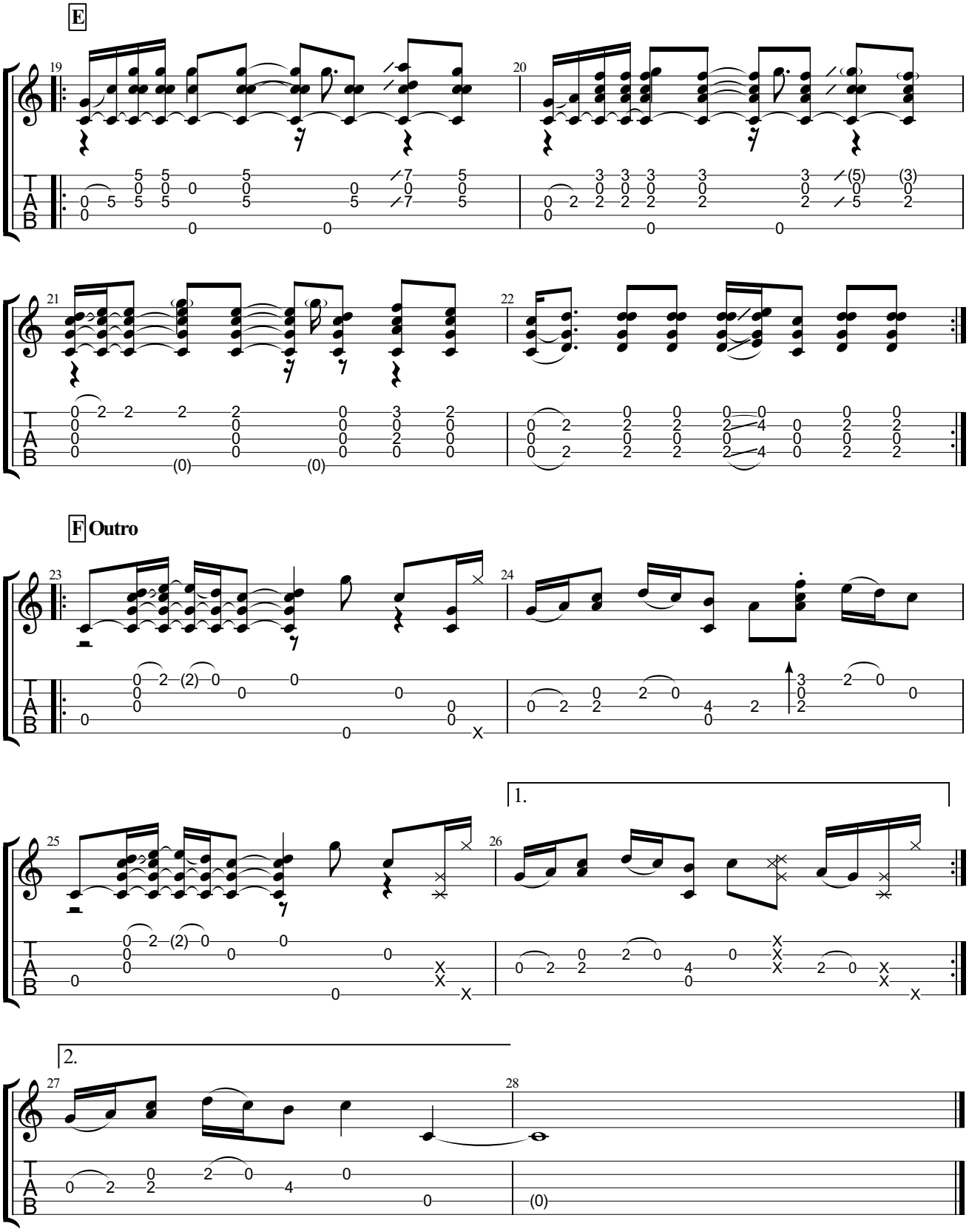

C
1.
Da Capo
2.
Repeat entire song from the start
D


E
19
20
21
22
F Outro
23
24
25
26
1.
27
28
2.
T
A
B

Southern Solace

Music by Matthieu Brandt

①＝D ③＝G ⑤＝G
②＝C ④＝C

♩＝80

A

ban.

1. 2.

B

sl.

A

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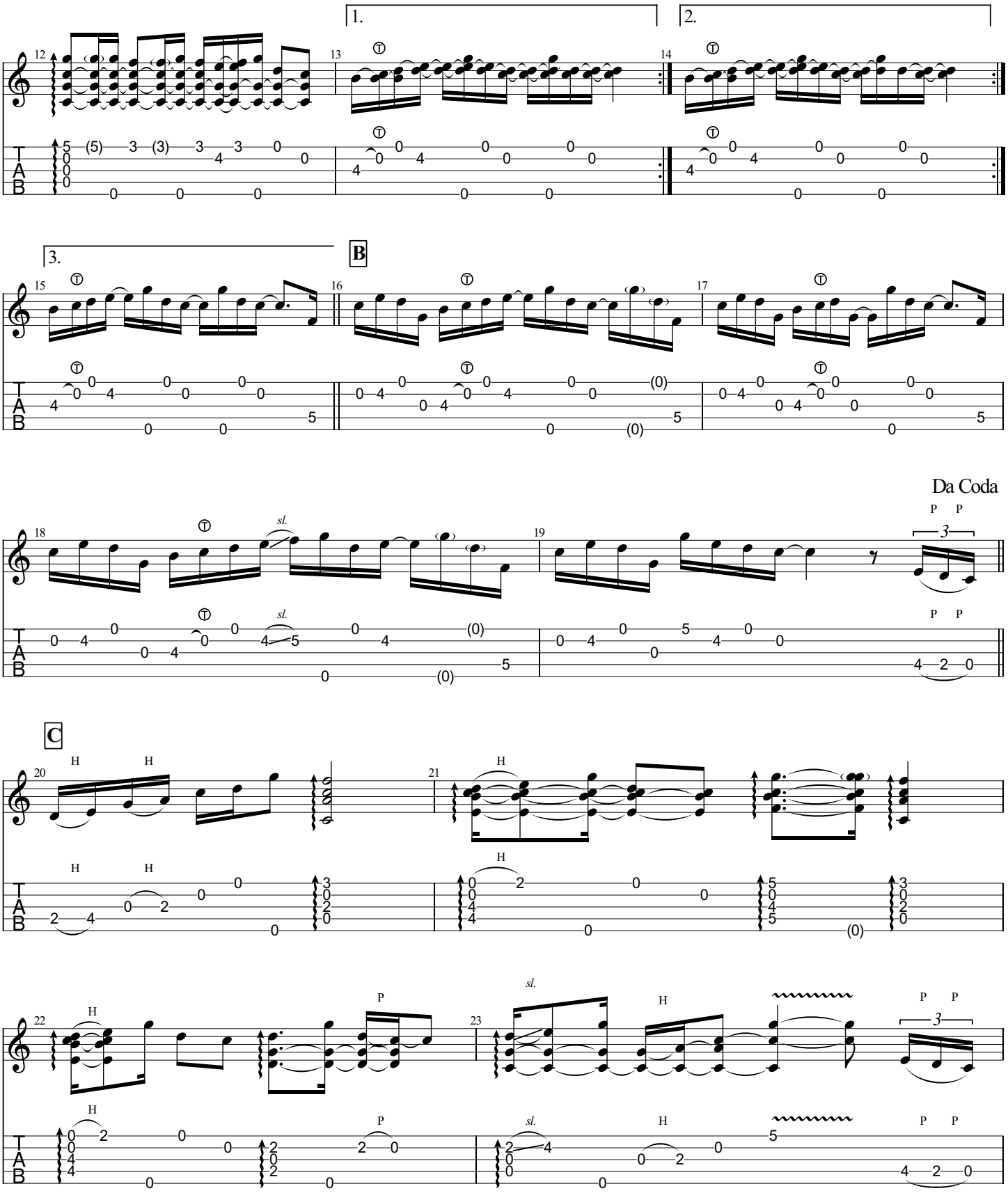
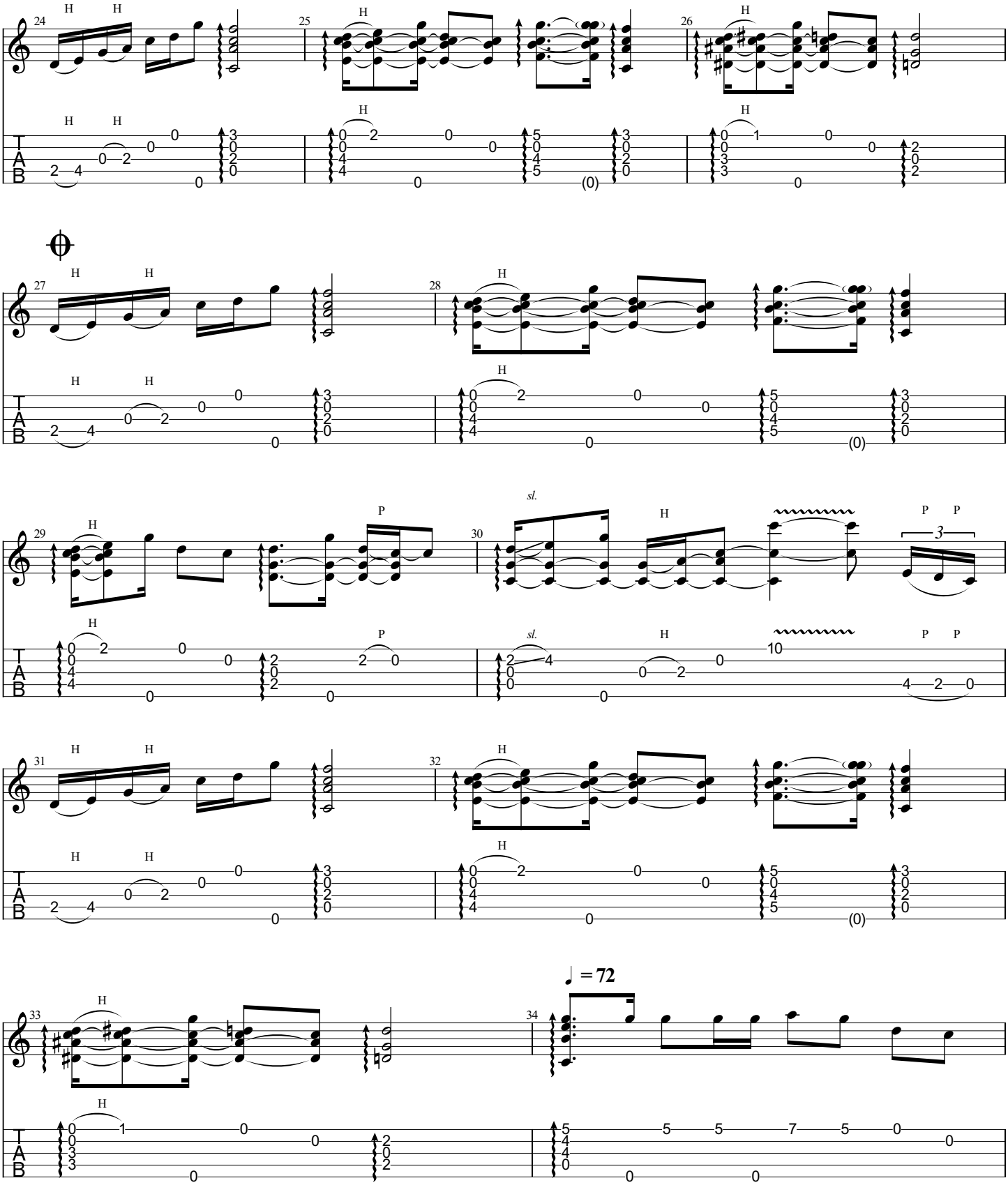
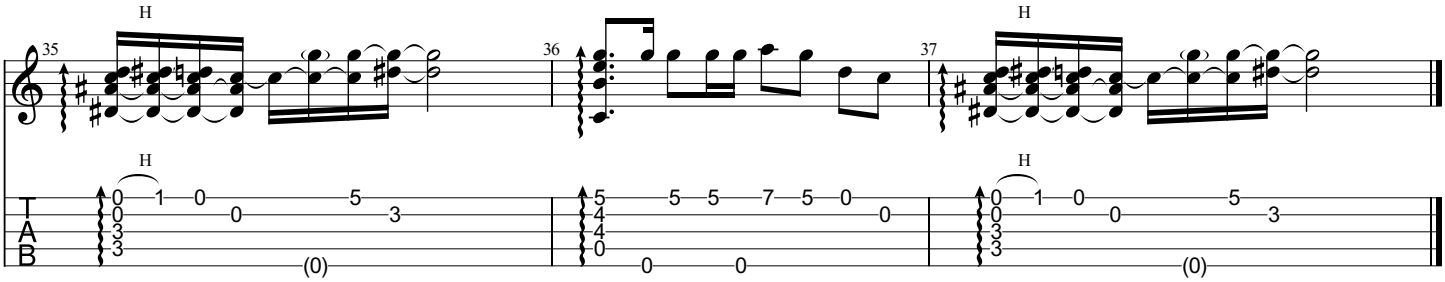

1.
2.
3.
B
Da Coda
C
sl.
H
P
T
A
B

D.S. al Coda




35
36
37
H
H
H
H
T
A
B
0 1 0 5
0 0 3
3
(0)
5 5 5 7 5 0
4 0
4
0
0 0
0 1 0 5
0 0 3
3
(0)

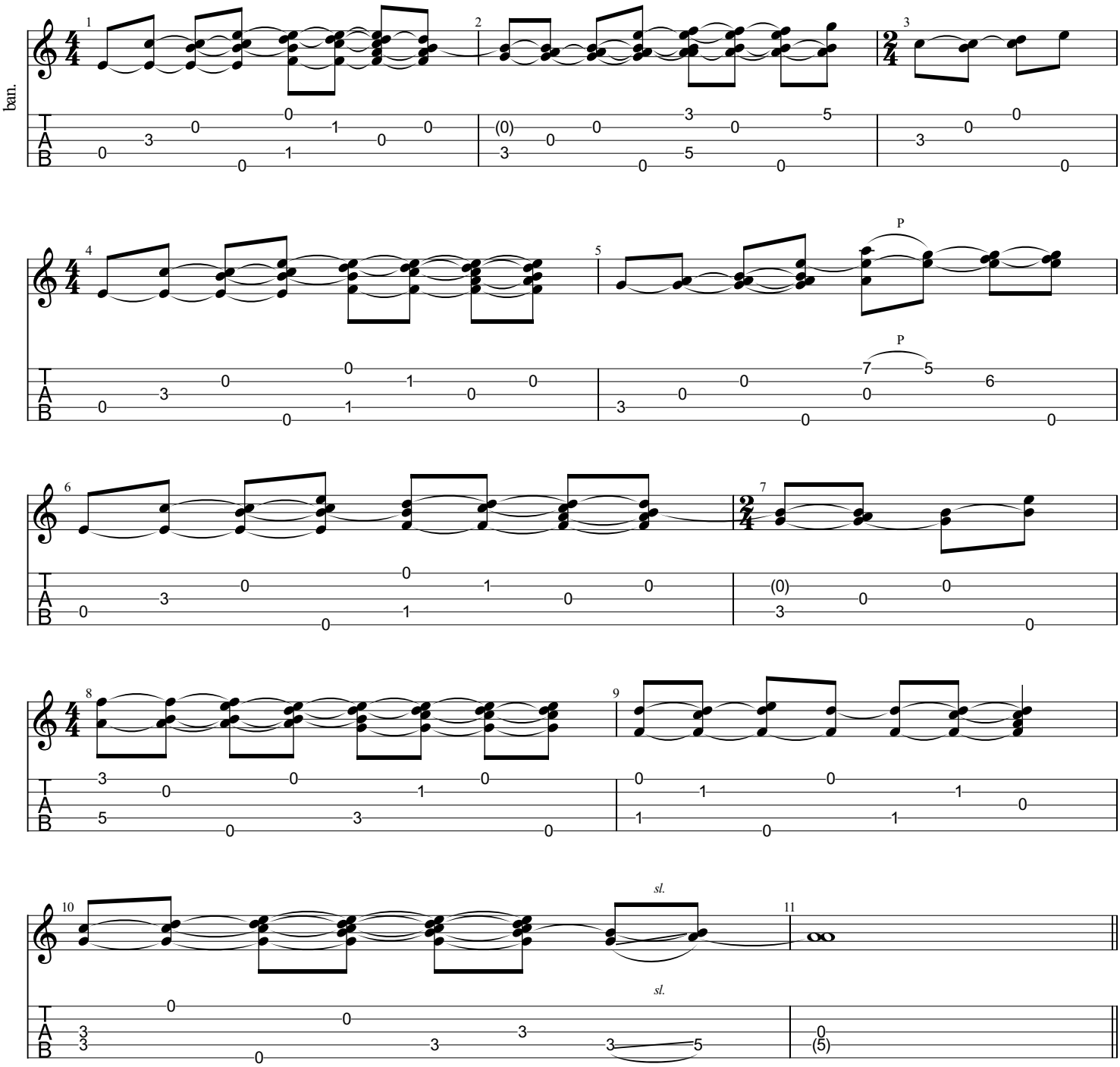
Temporary Tension

Music by Matthieu Brandt

①＝D ③＝A ⑤＝E
②＝B ④＝E

♩ = 120

Intro



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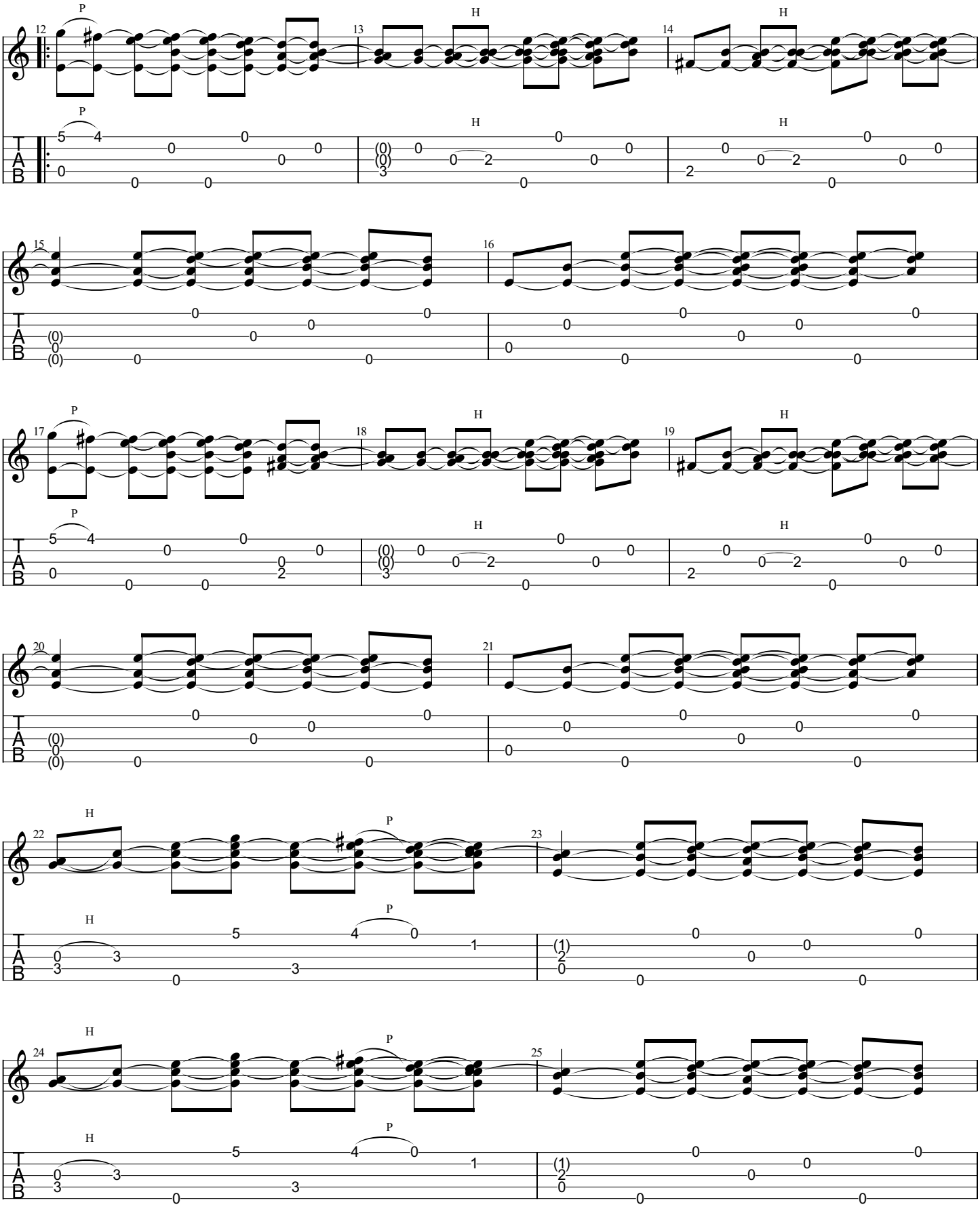
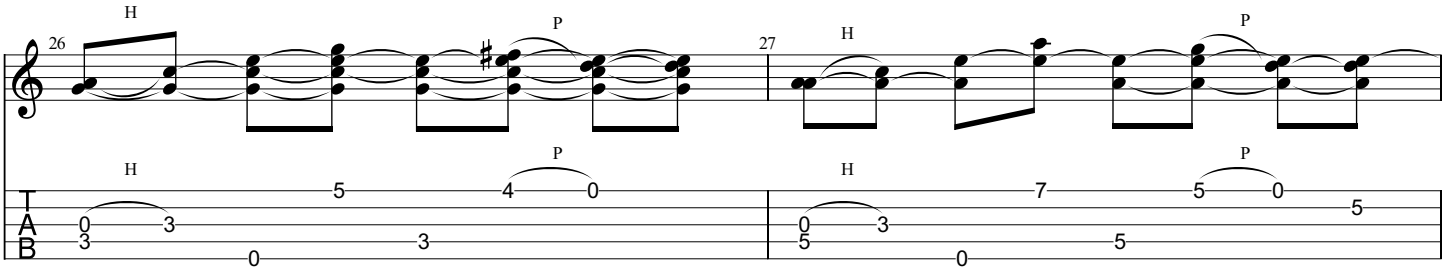
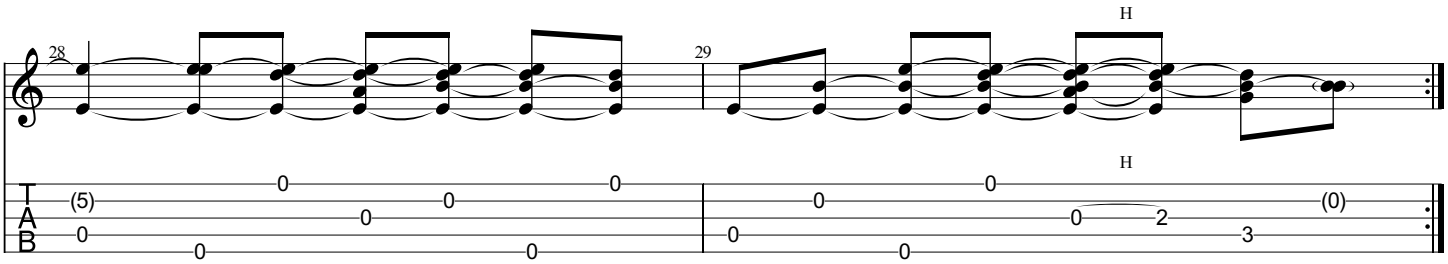
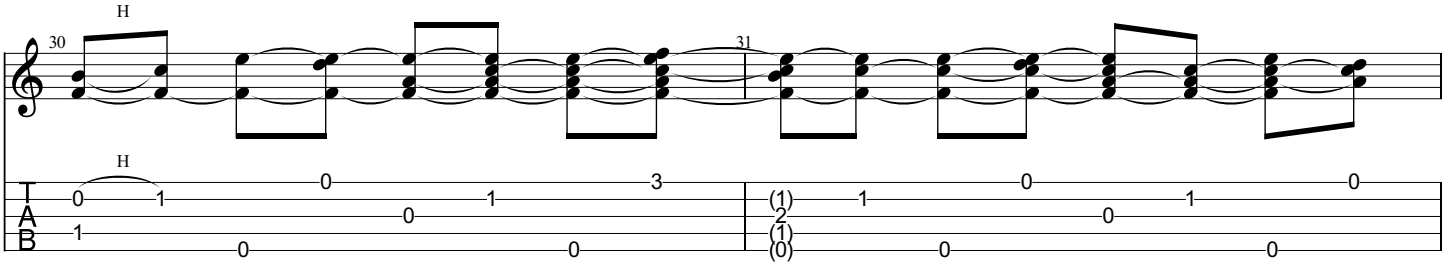
Verse

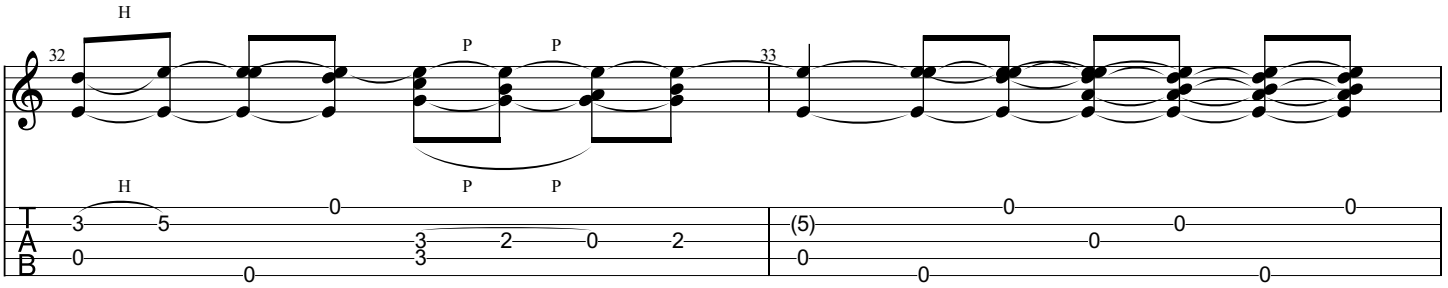


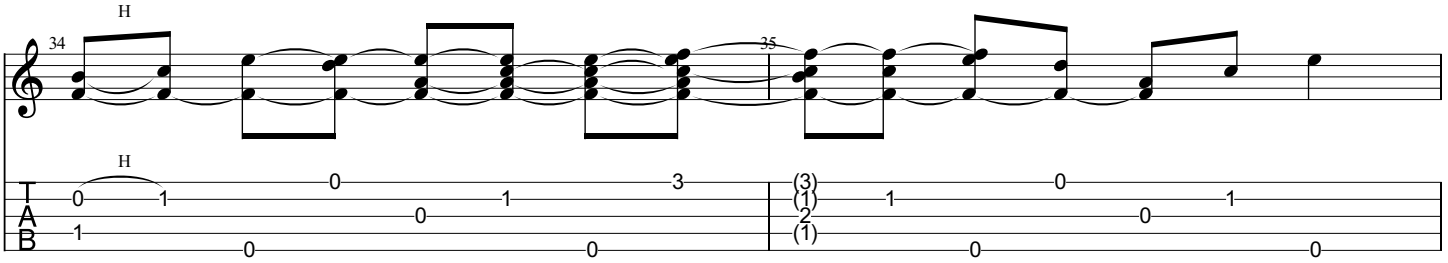

26
27
H
P
T
A
B

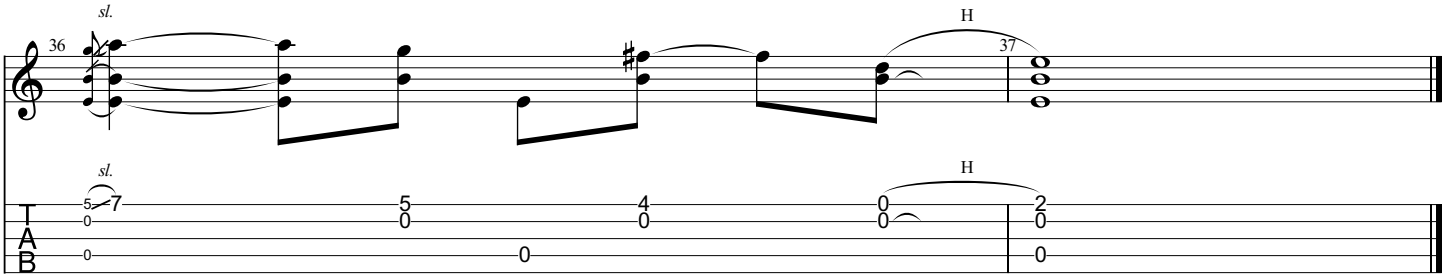

28
29
H
T
A
B

Bridge


30
31
H
T
A
B


32
33
H
P
T
A
B


34
35
H
T
A
B


36
37
sl.
H
T
A
B

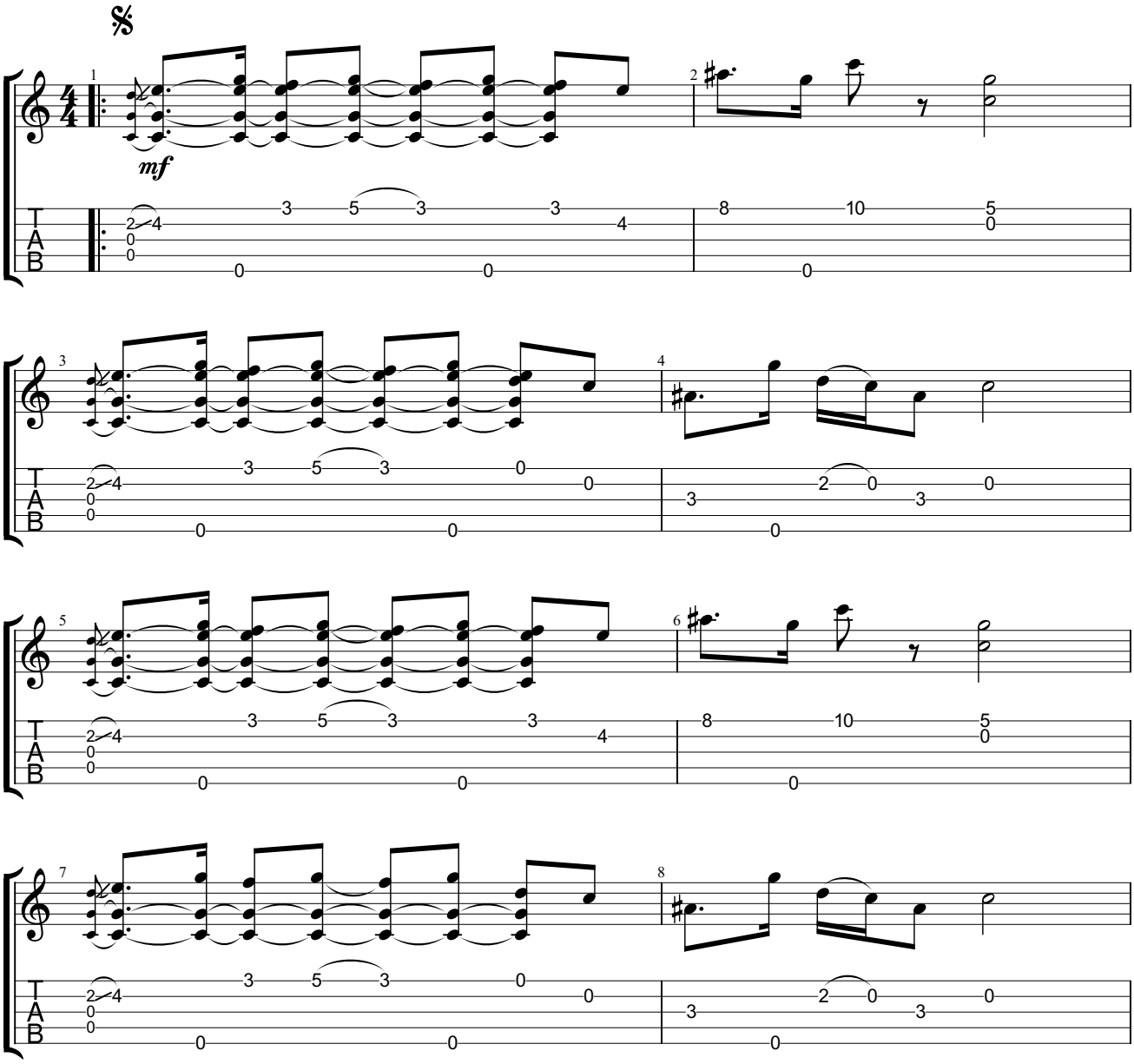
The 42nd Street Cavalry

Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan

①=D ③=G ⑤=G
②=C ④=C

♩ = 125

Played Freely



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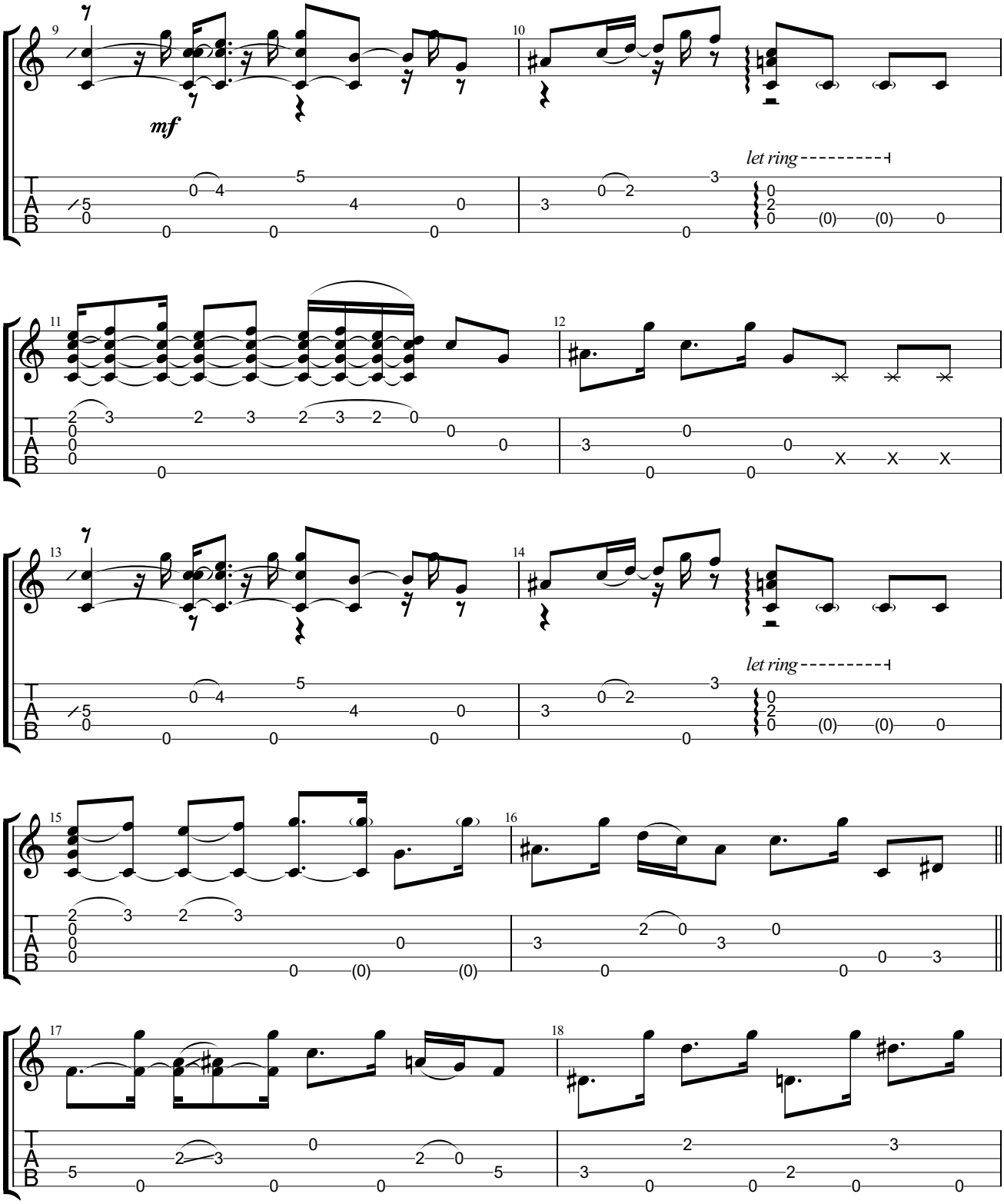

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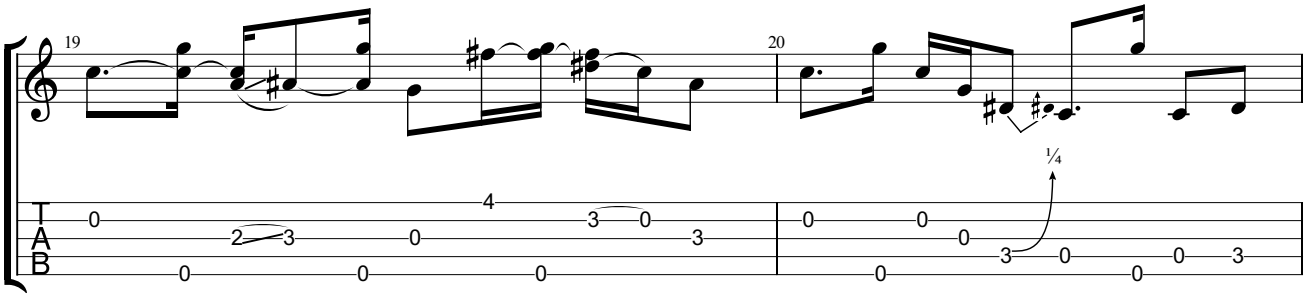
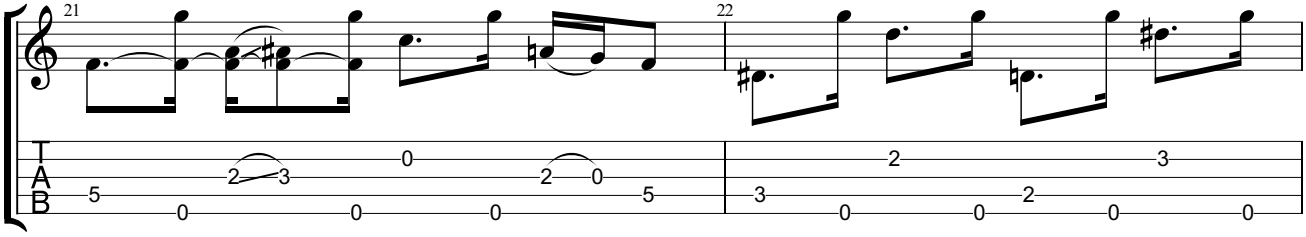
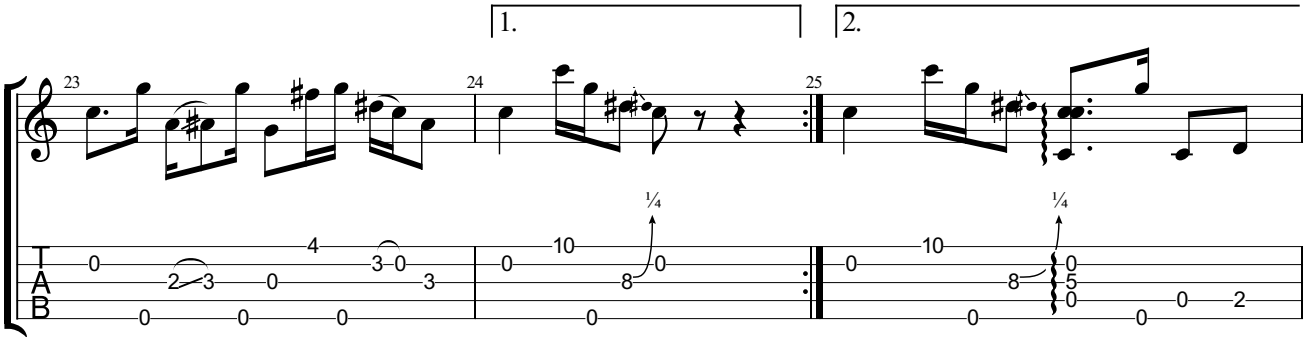
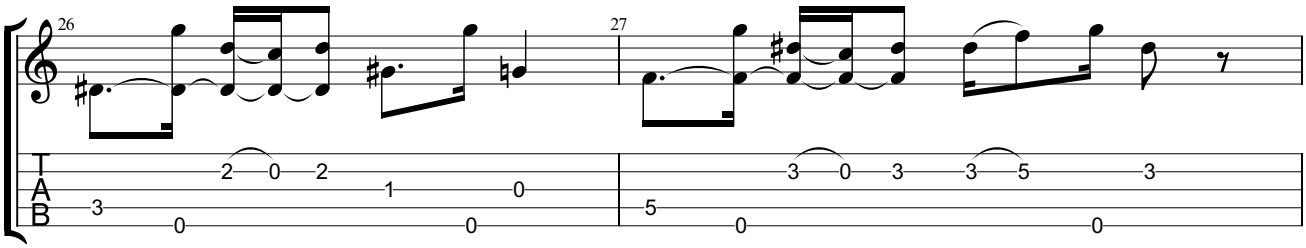
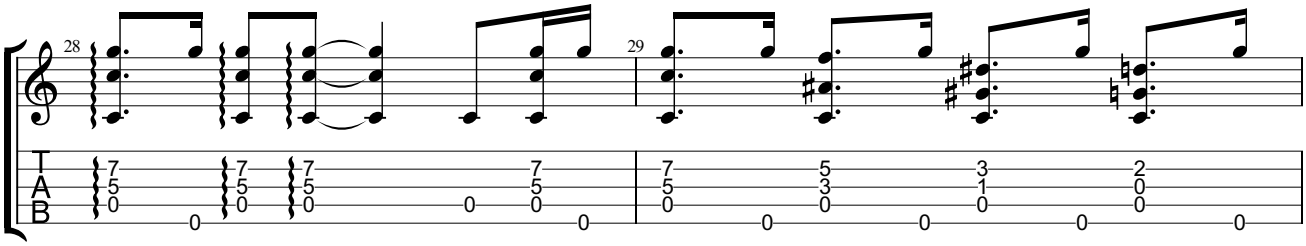


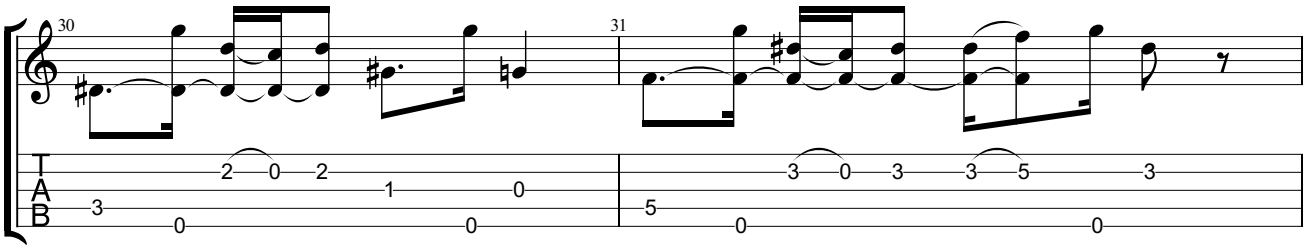
Da Coda











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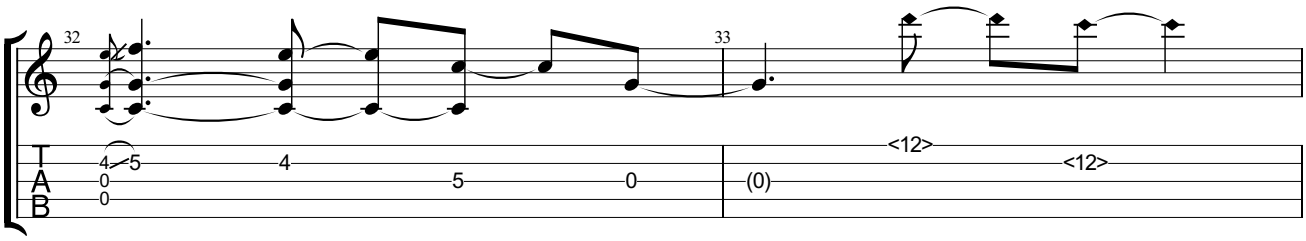
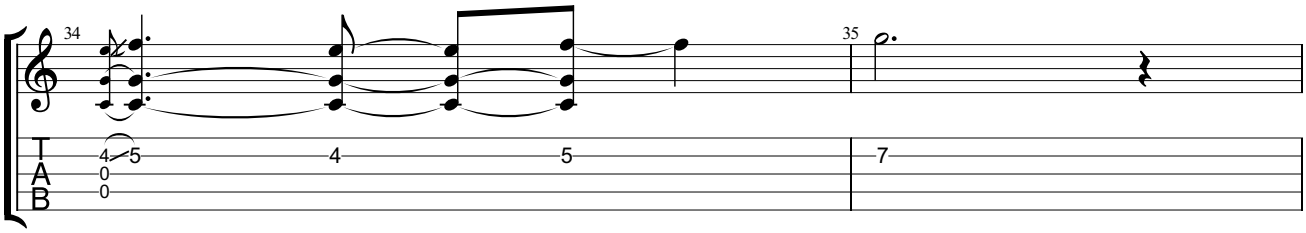
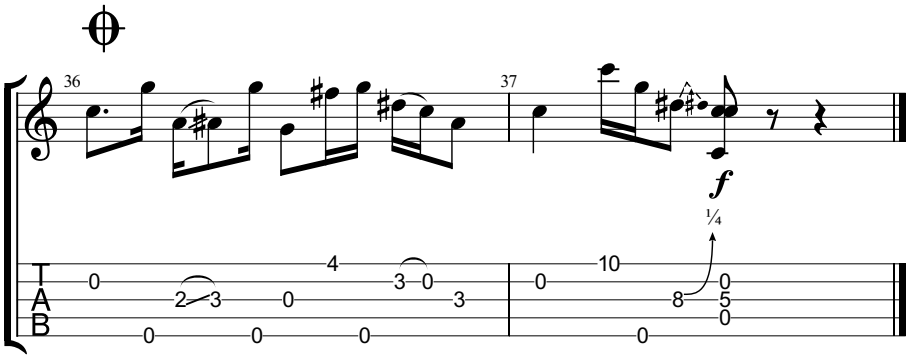

32
33
T
A
B
4
5
0
0
4
5
0
(0)
<12>
<12>

D.S. al Coda


34
35
T
A
B
4
5
0
0
4
5
7

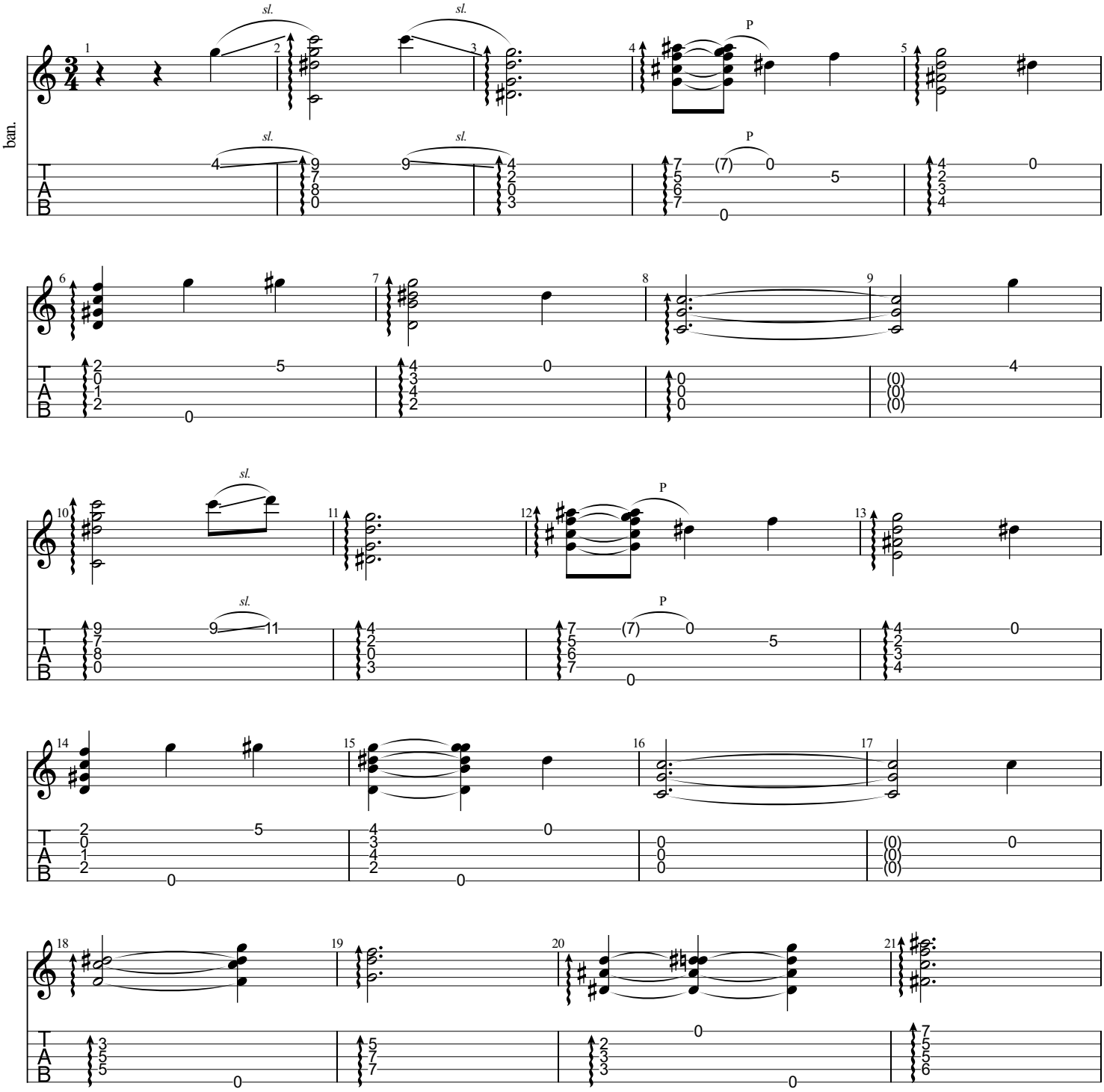

36
37
f
¼
T
A
B
0
2
3
0
4
3
0
3
0
0
0
0
0
10
0
8
0
5
0
0

The Devil's Prelude

Music by Matthieu Brandt

①＝E♭ ③＝G ⑤＝G
②＝C ④＝C

♩＝96



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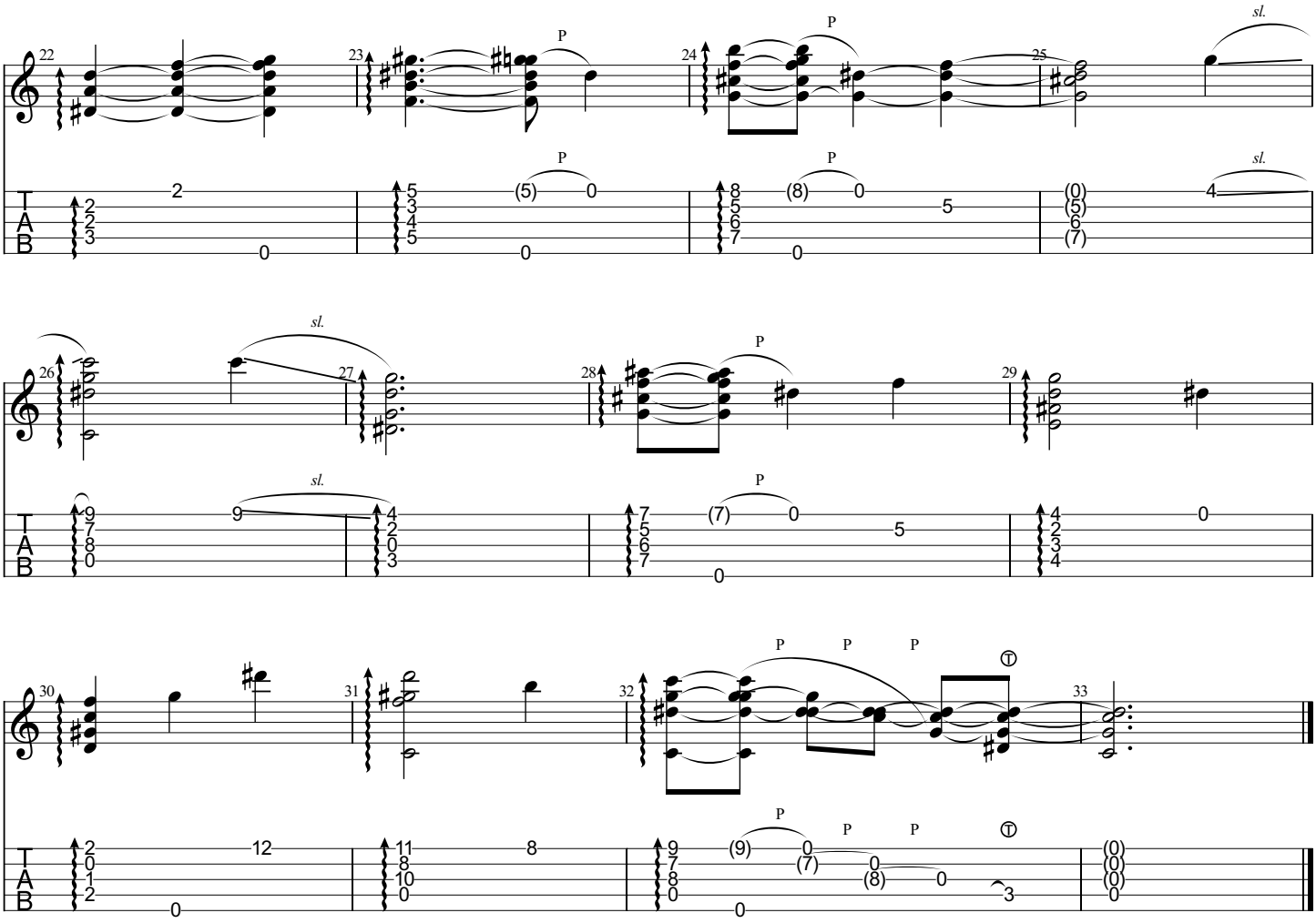
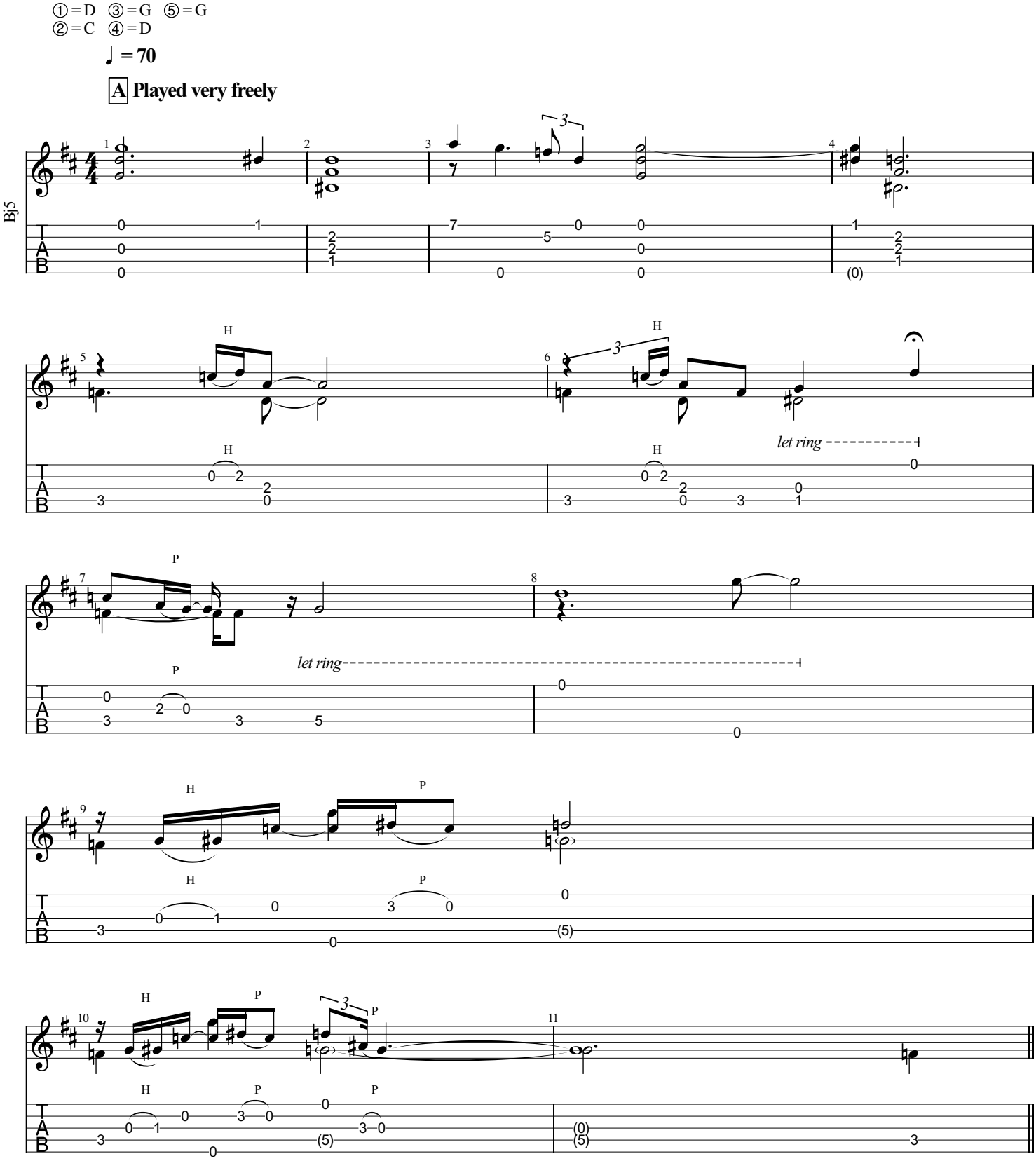

22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
P
sl.
T
A
B

Tranquil

Music by Matthieu Brandt



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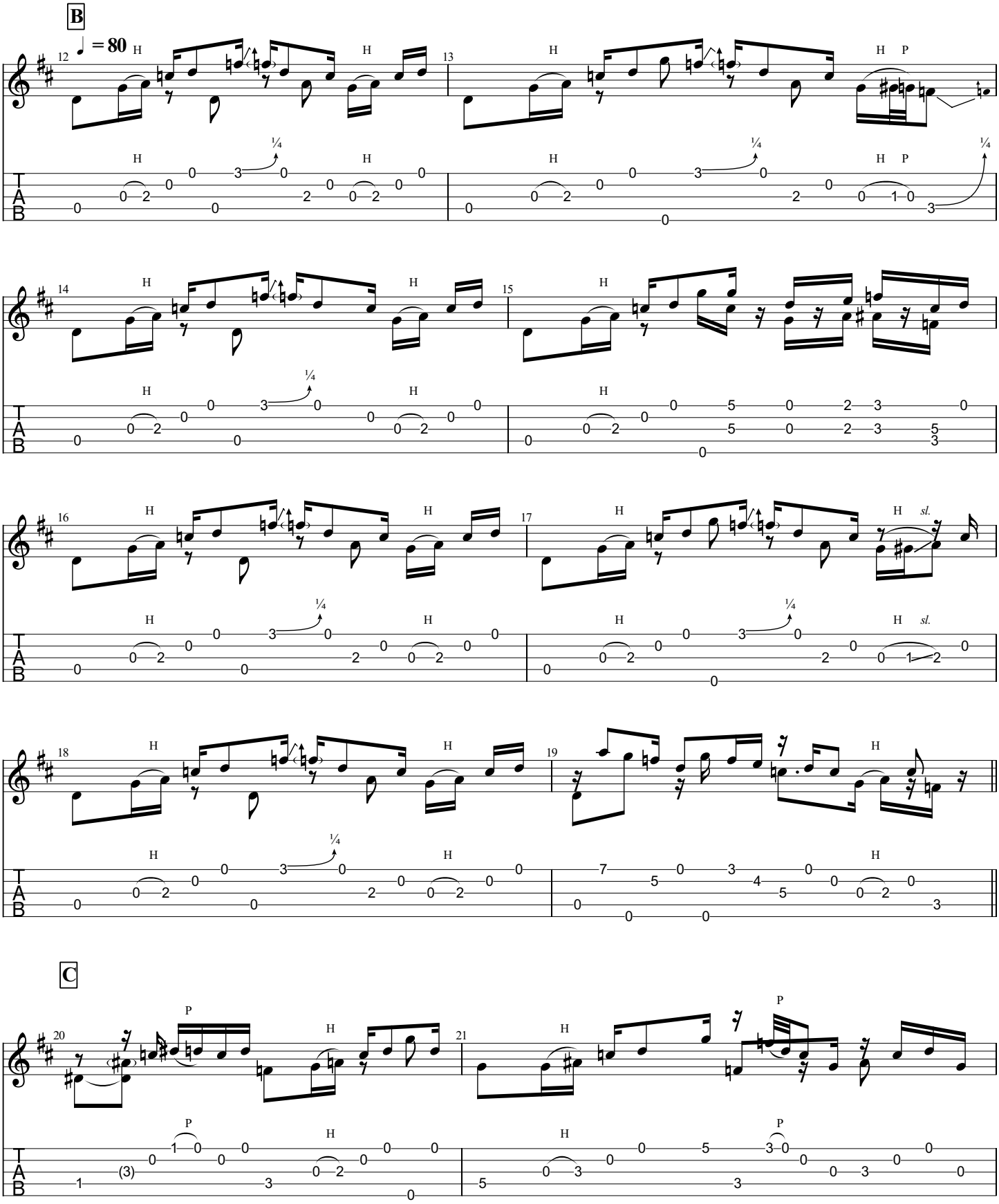
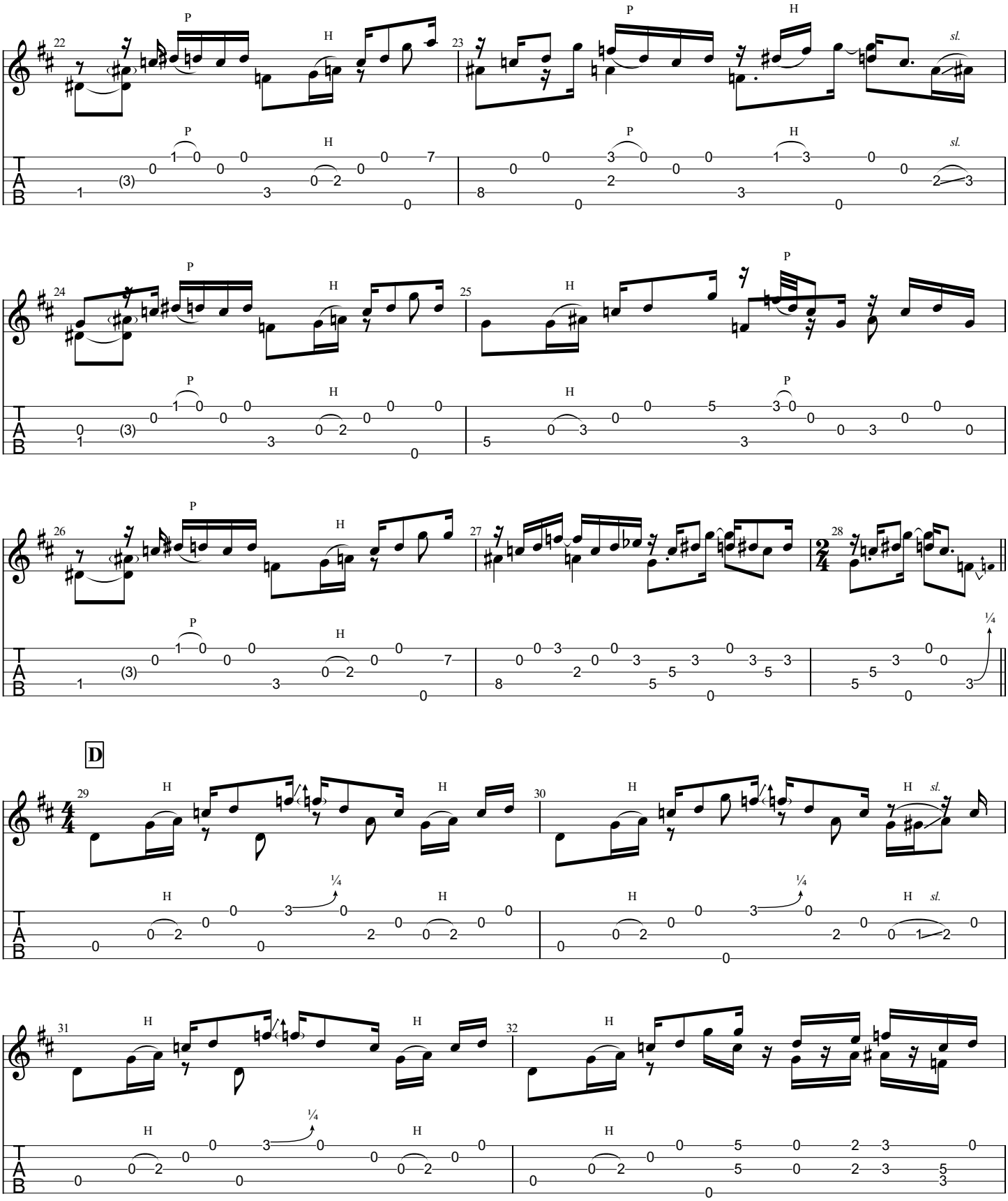
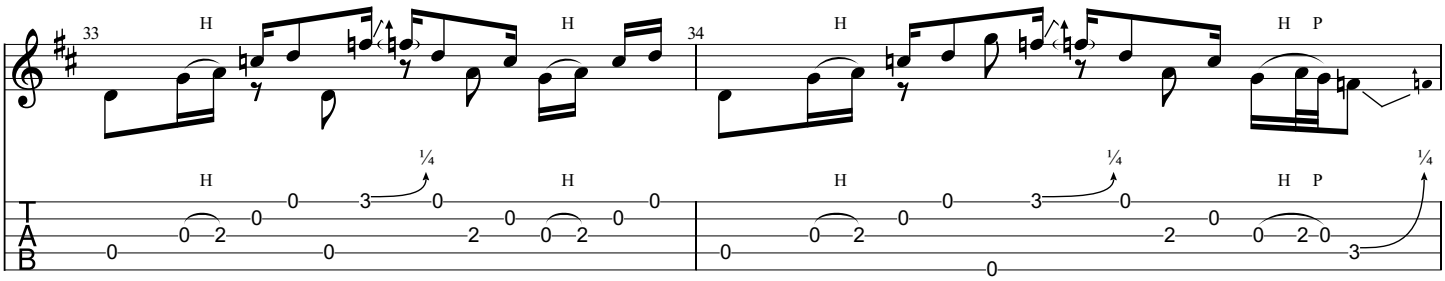
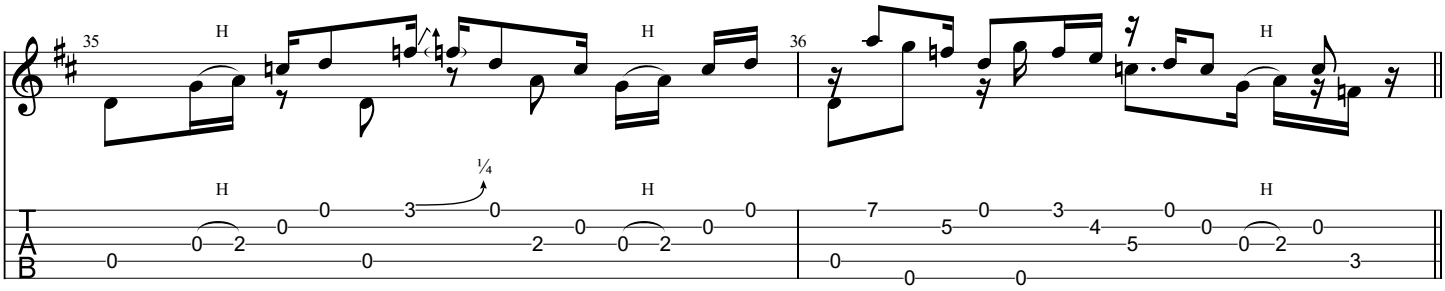
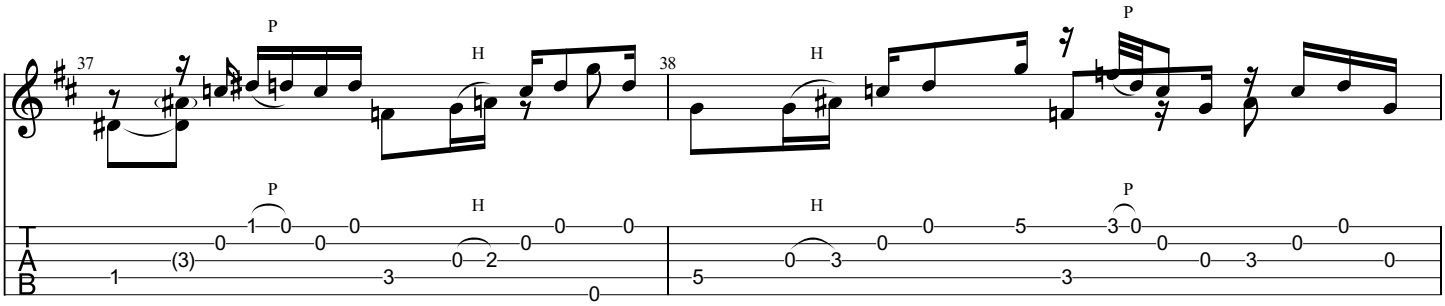

B
= 80
C

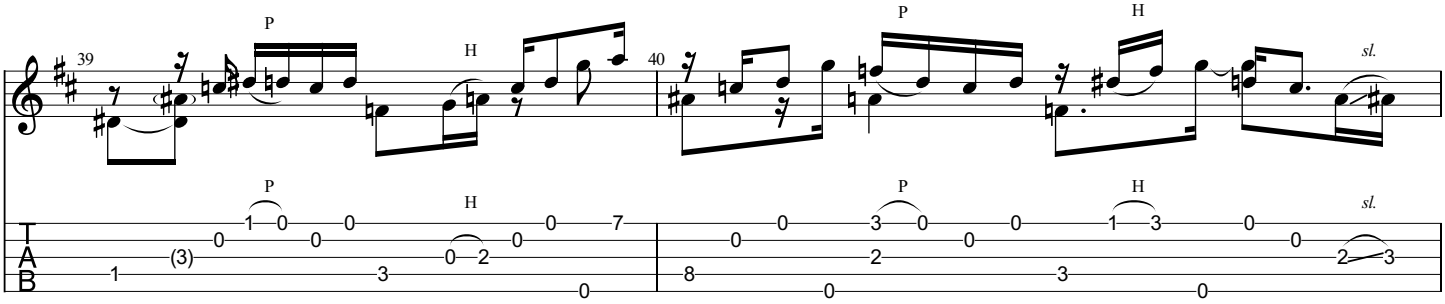

22
23
24
25
26
27
28
D
29
30
31
32
P
H
sl.
¼

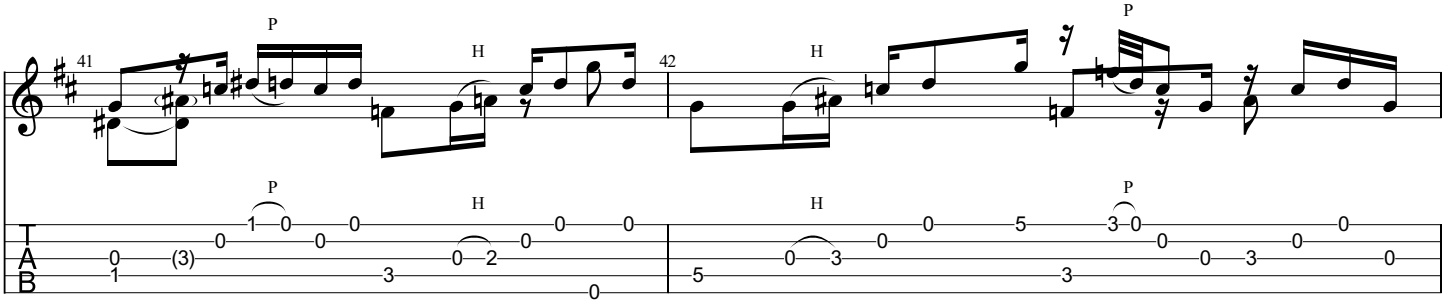


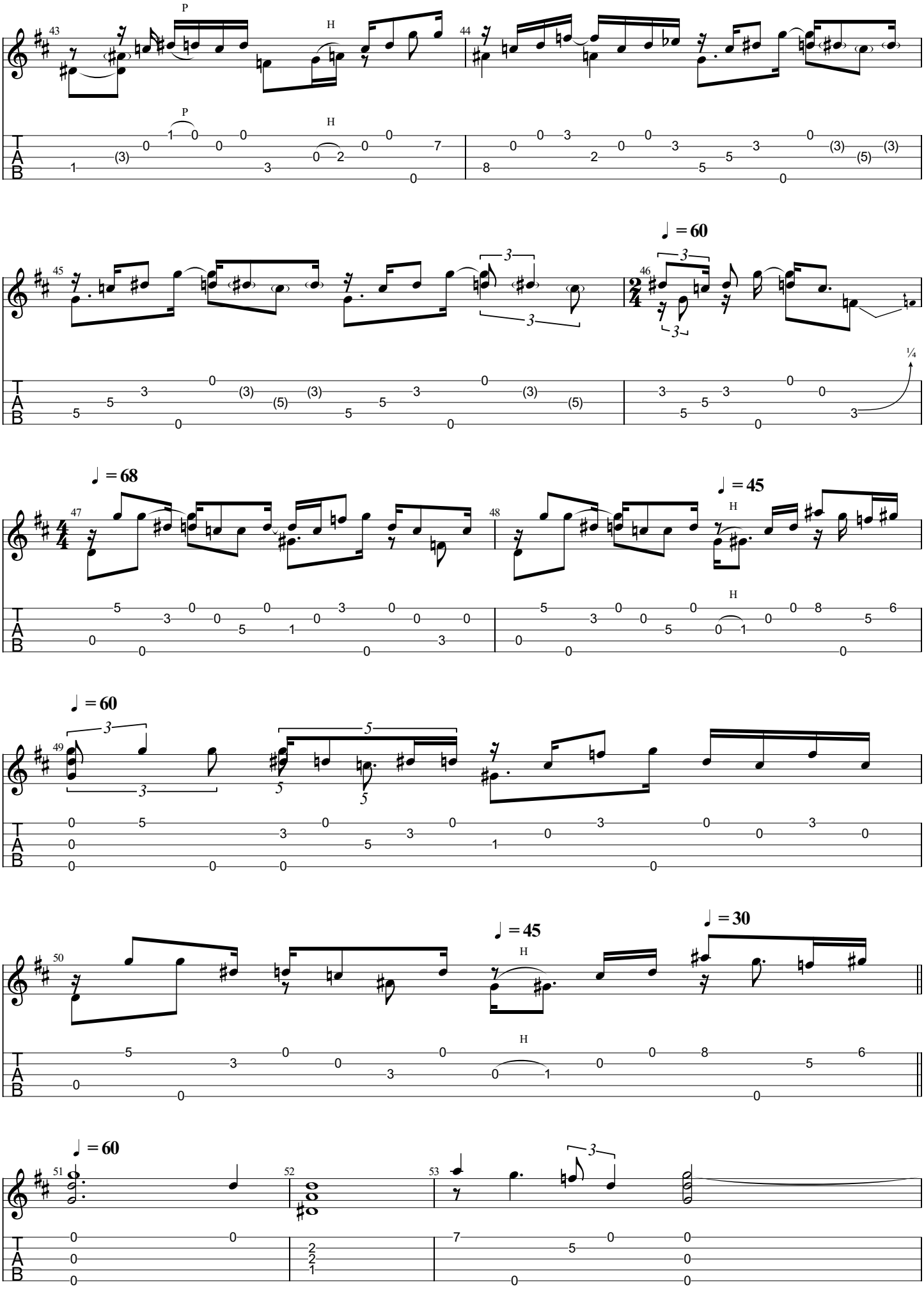


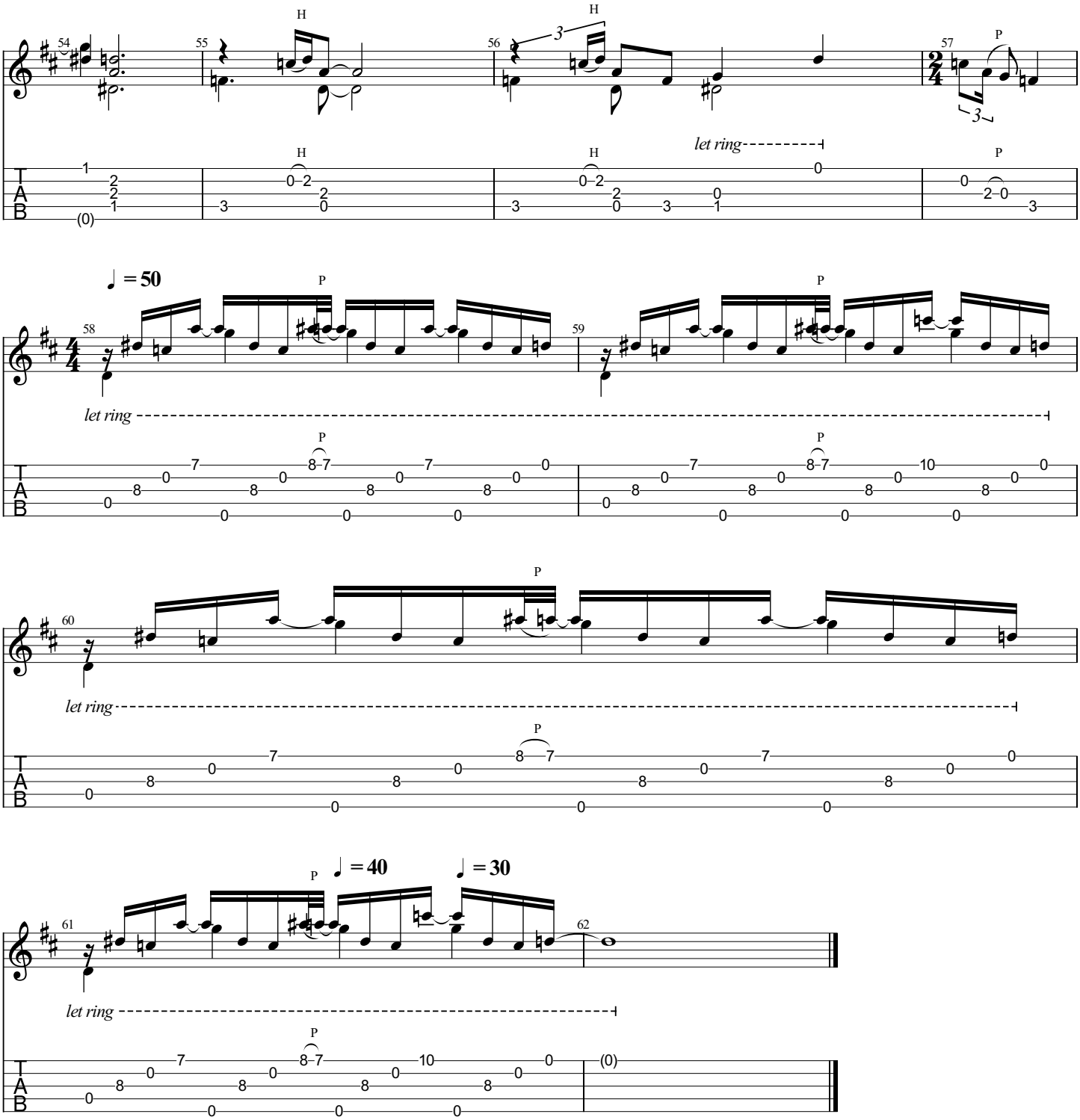
E








43
44
P
H
45
46
♩ = 60
¼
47
48
♩ = 68
♩ = 45
49
50
51
52
53
TAB


let ring
let ring
let ring
let ring
♩ = 50
♩ = 40
♩ = 30

Trip To The Creek

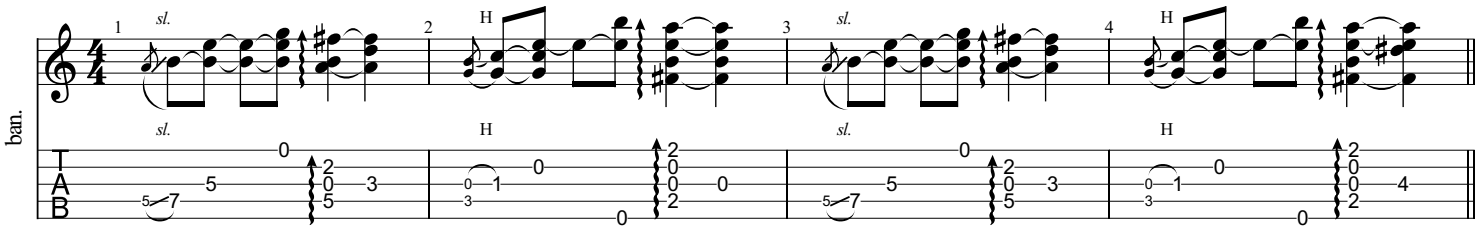
Mix of Pete Seeger Up Picking and Frailing

Music by Matthieu Brandt

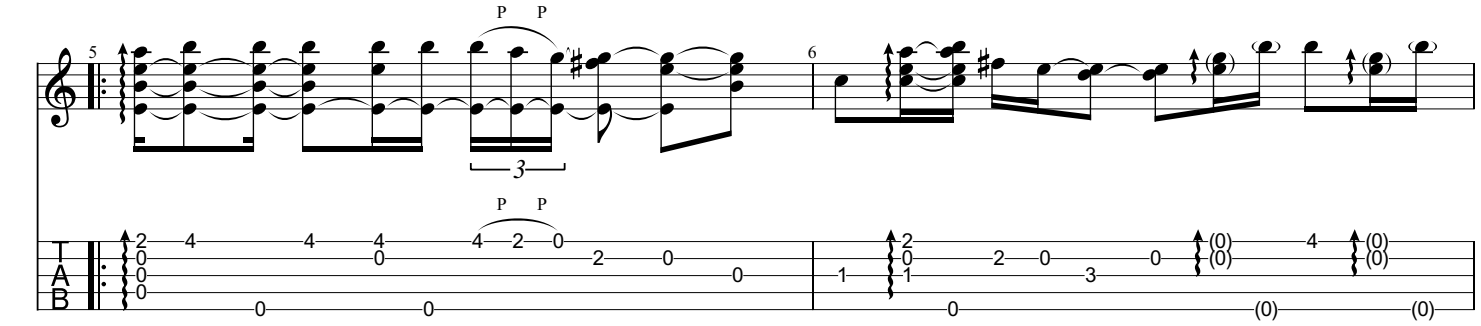
①＝G ③＝B ⑤＝B
②＝E ④＝E

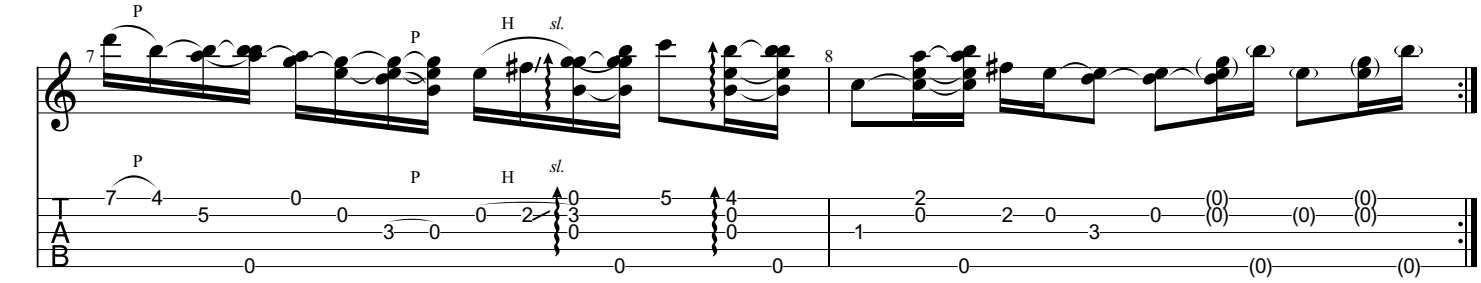
♩＝92

Intro

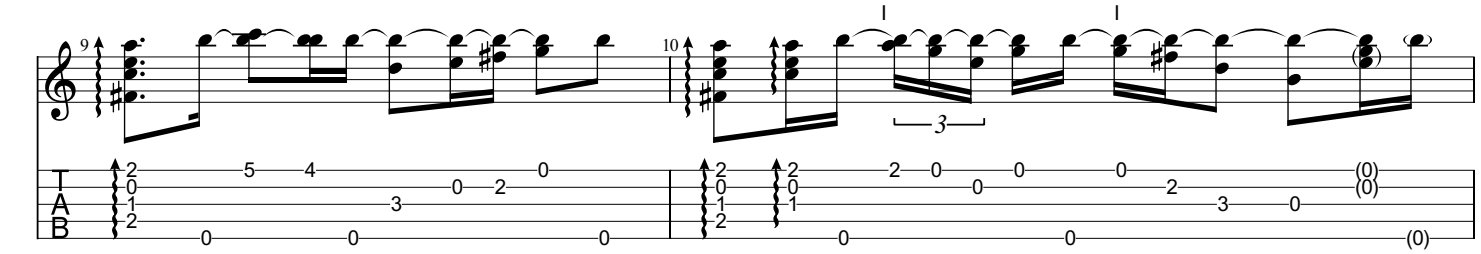


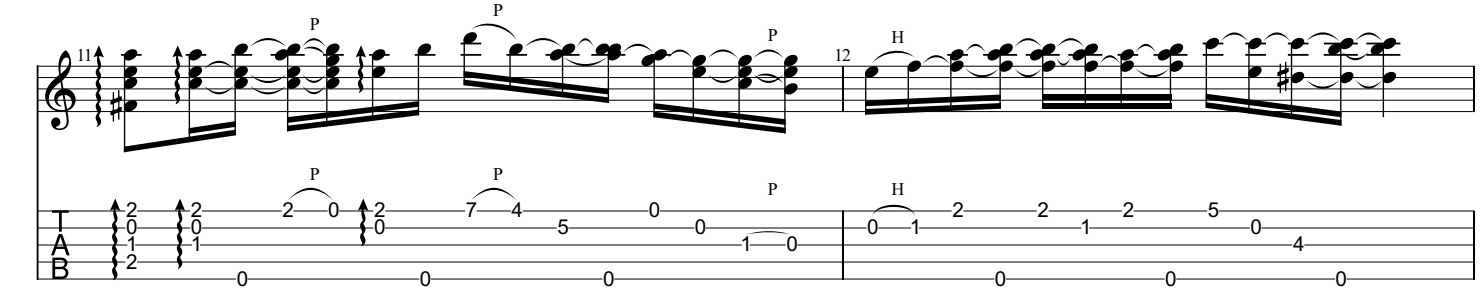
Verse





Chorus





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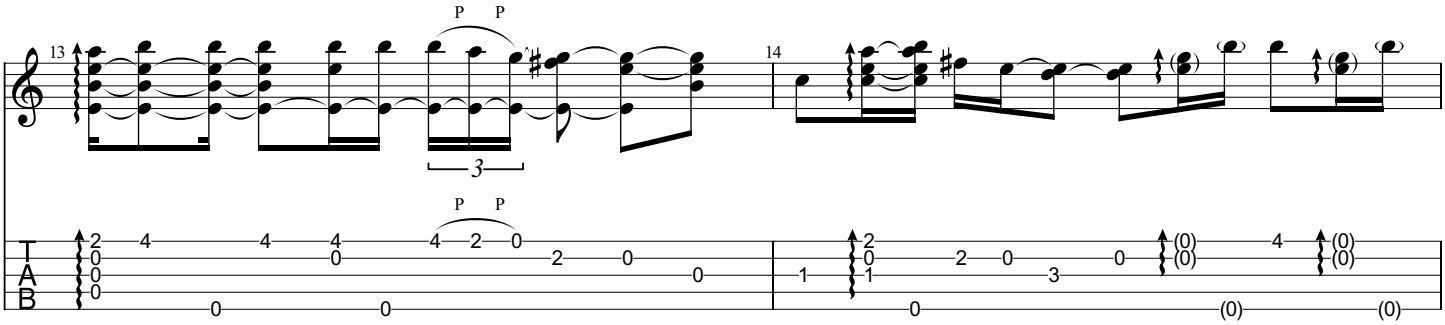
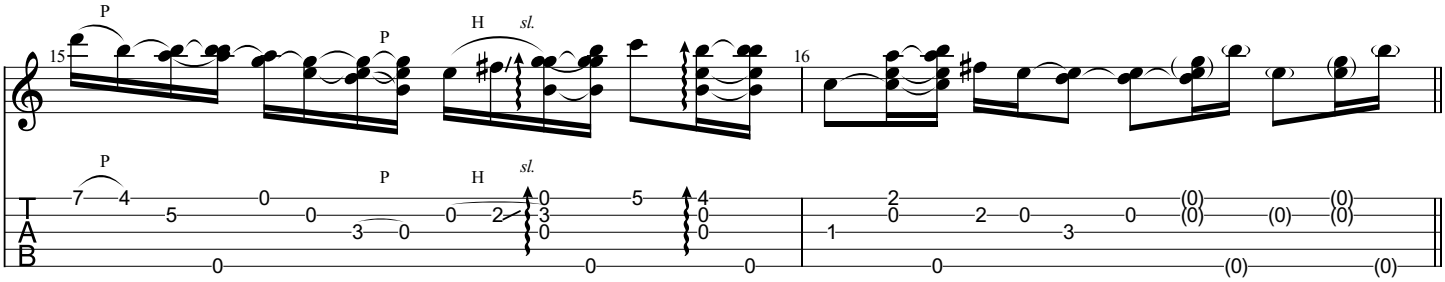
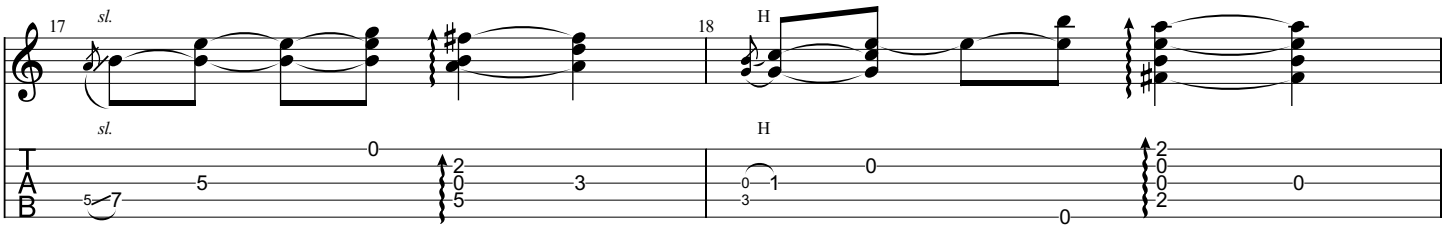
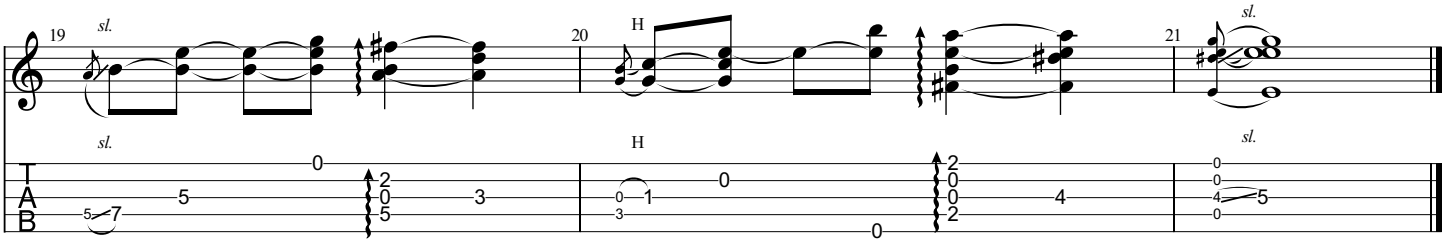




Outro





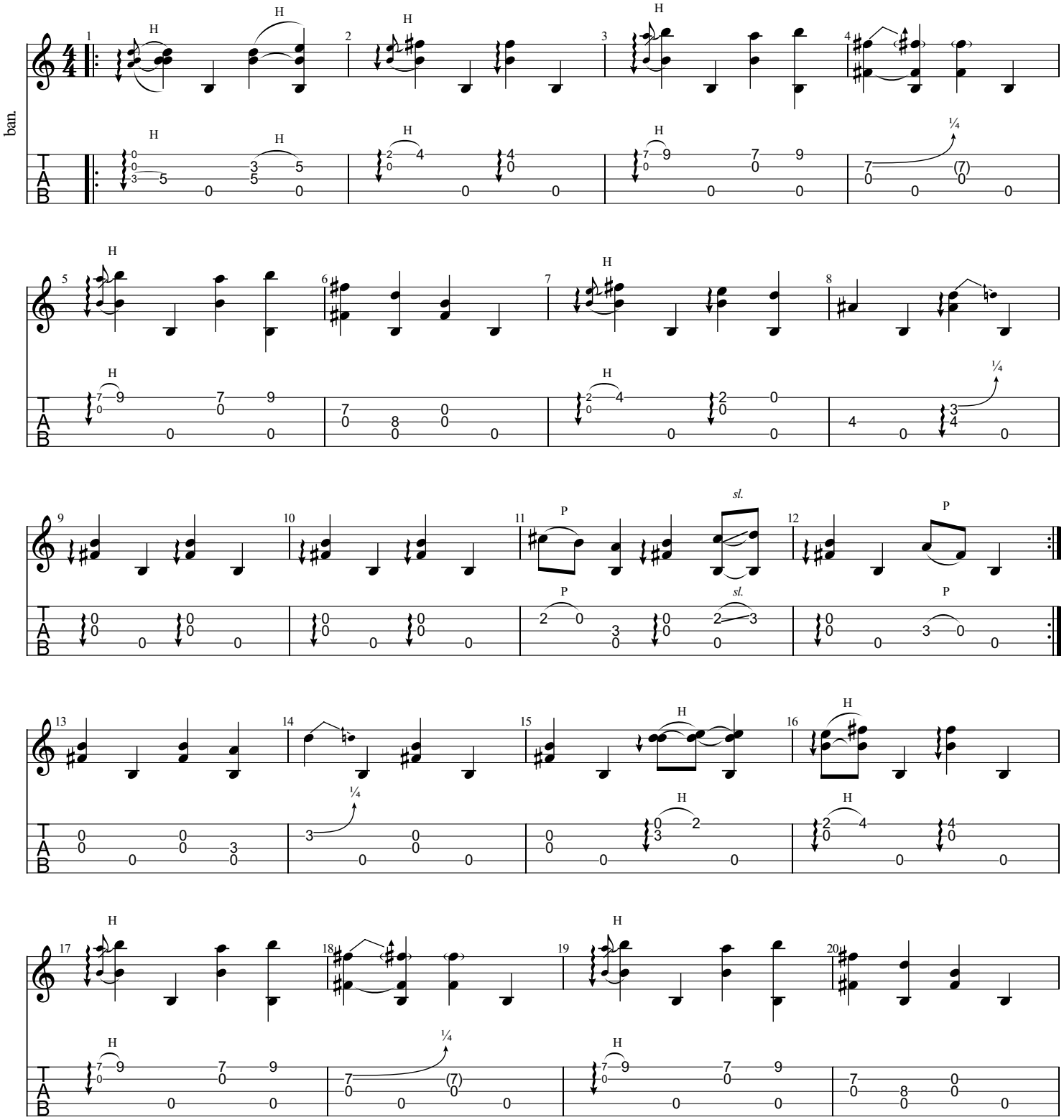
Two Hobos

Uppicking

Music by Matthieu Brandt

①＝D ③＝F♯ ⑤＝F♯
②＝B ④＝B

♩ = 156



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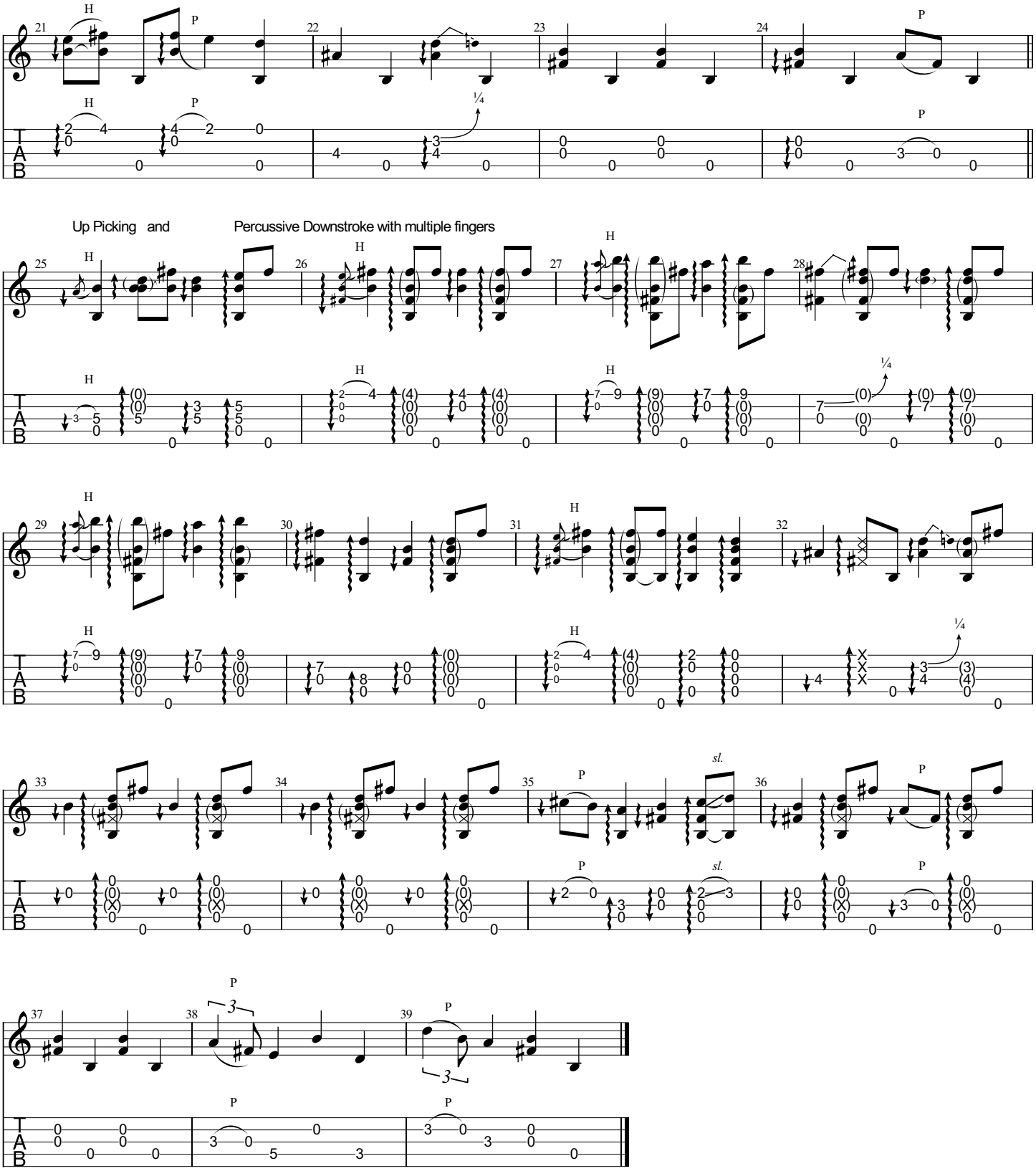

Up Picking and
Percussive Downstroke with multiple fingers
H
P
¼
sl.
T
A
B

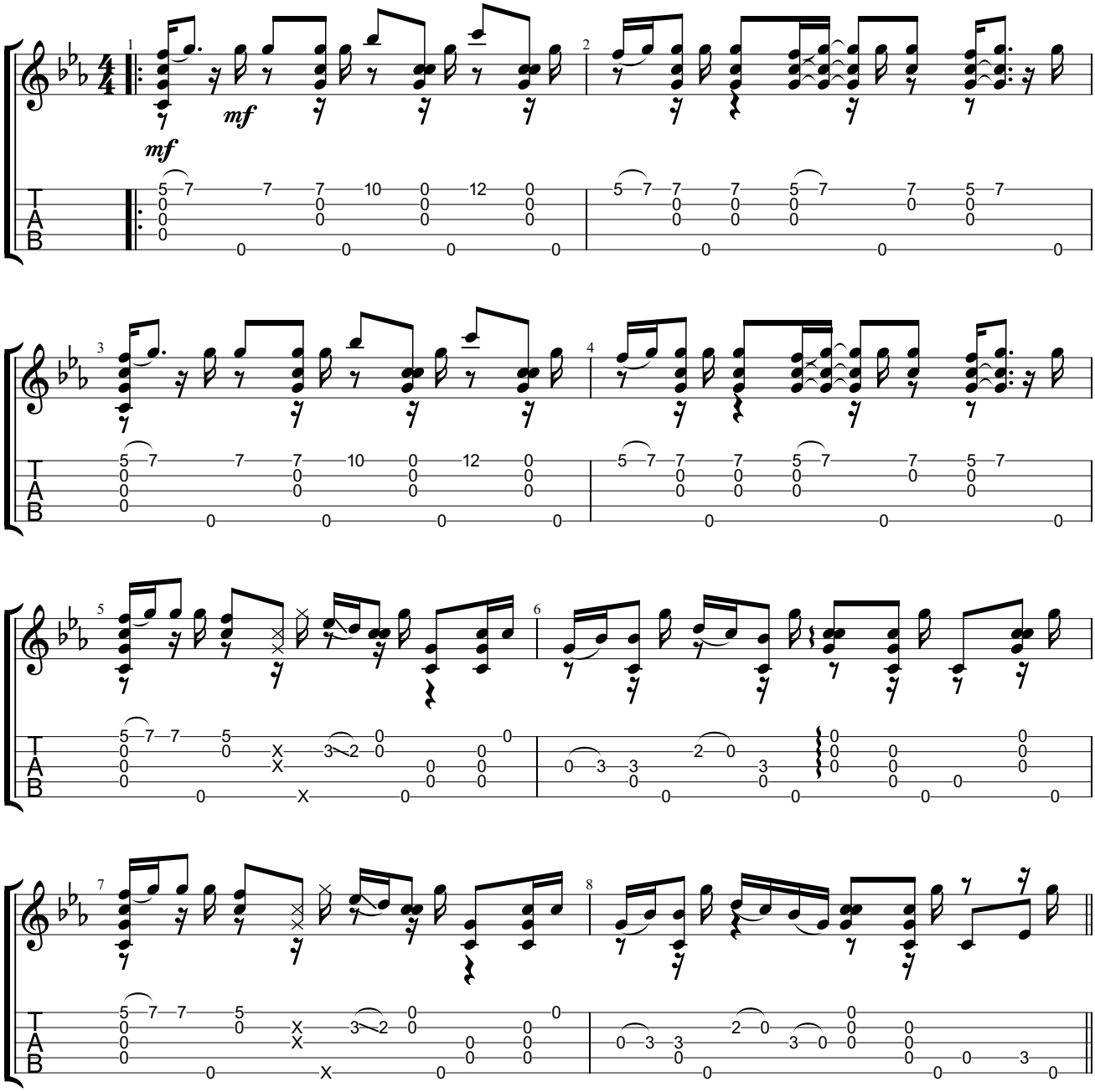
Updraft

Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan

①＝C ③＝G ⑤＝G
②＝C ④＝C

♩ = 132

Verse



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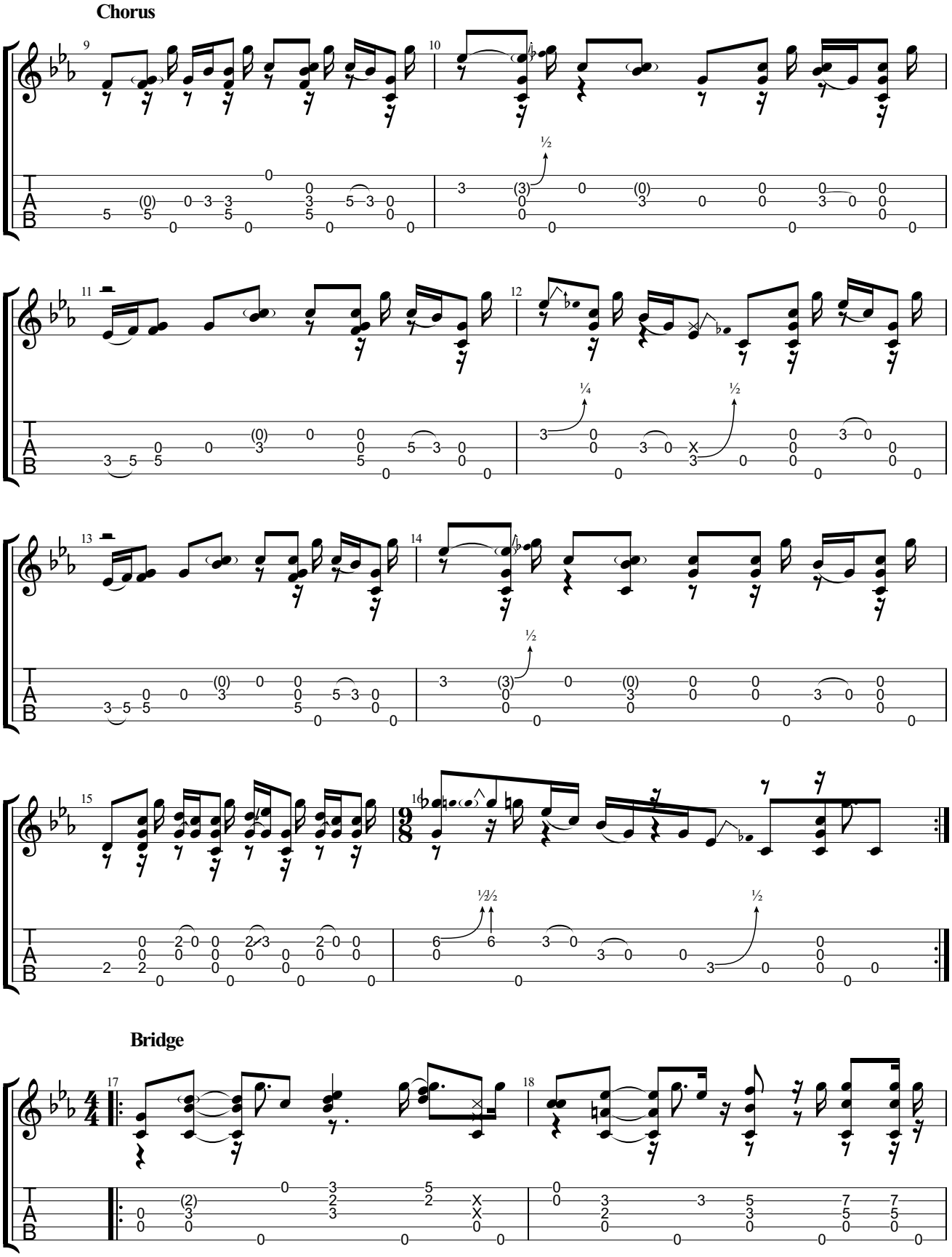
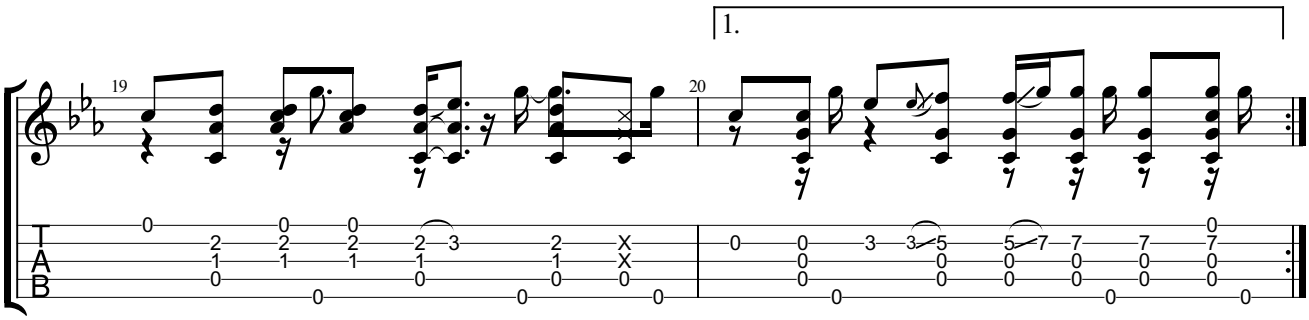
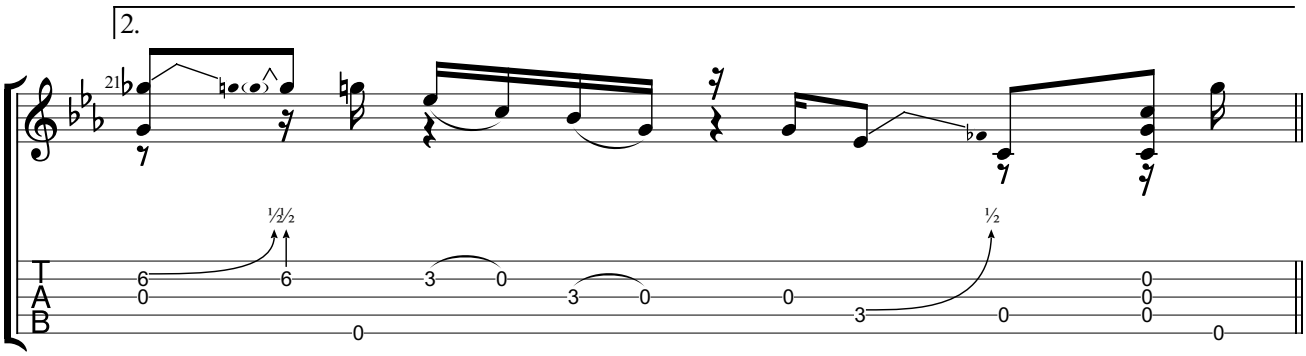
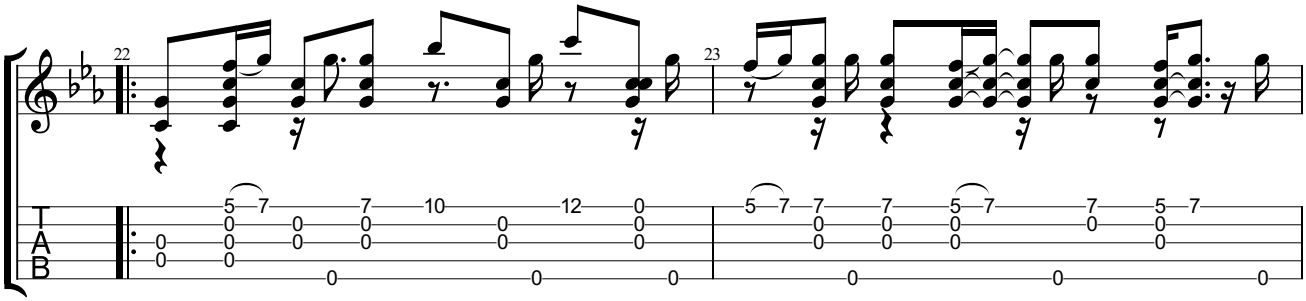
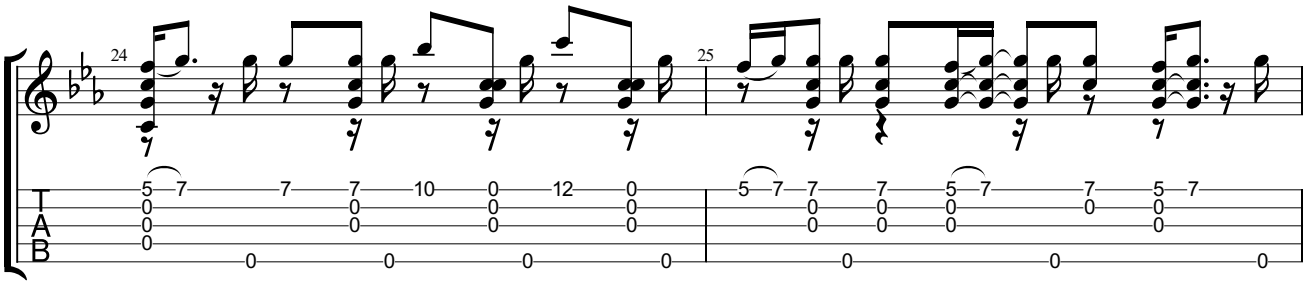

Chorus
Bridge

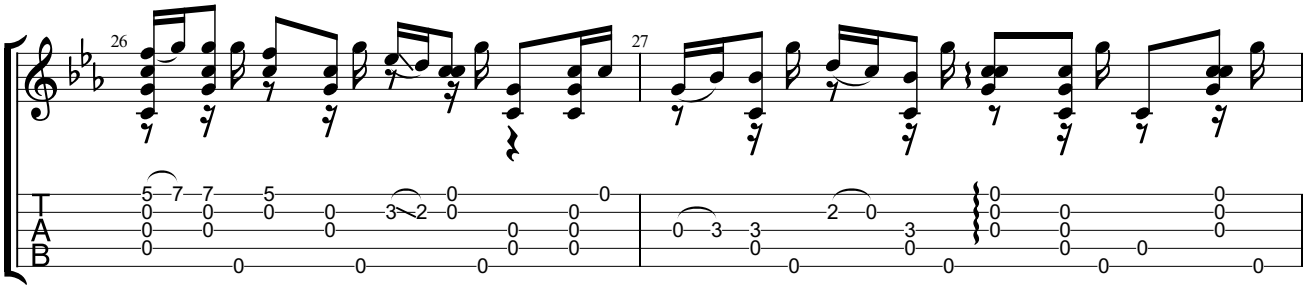


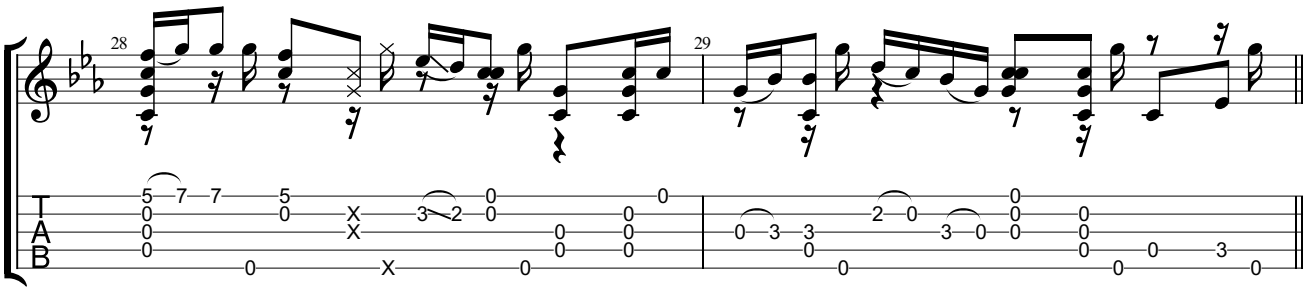


Verse

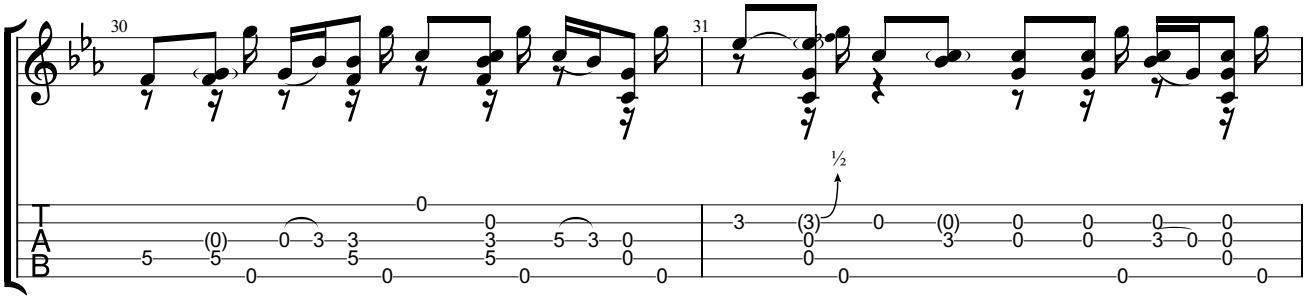


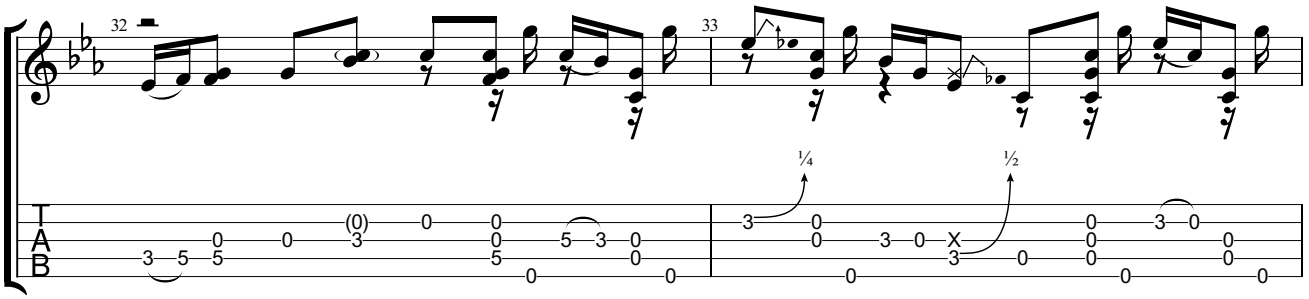


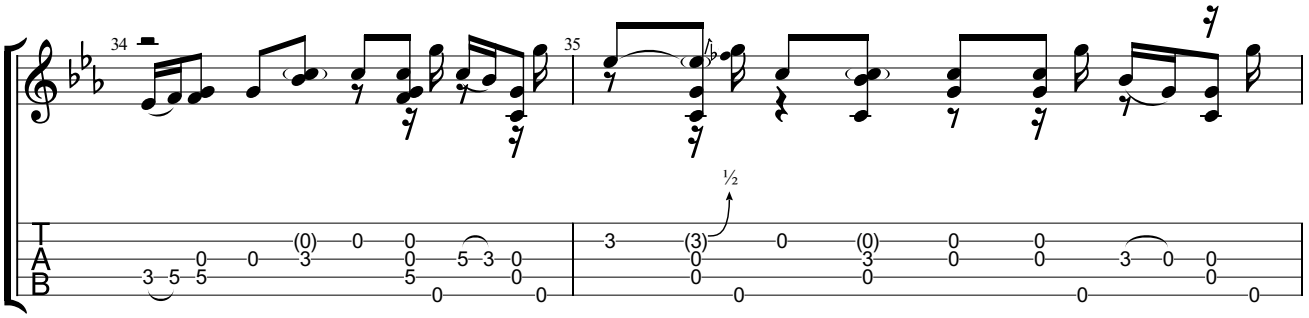


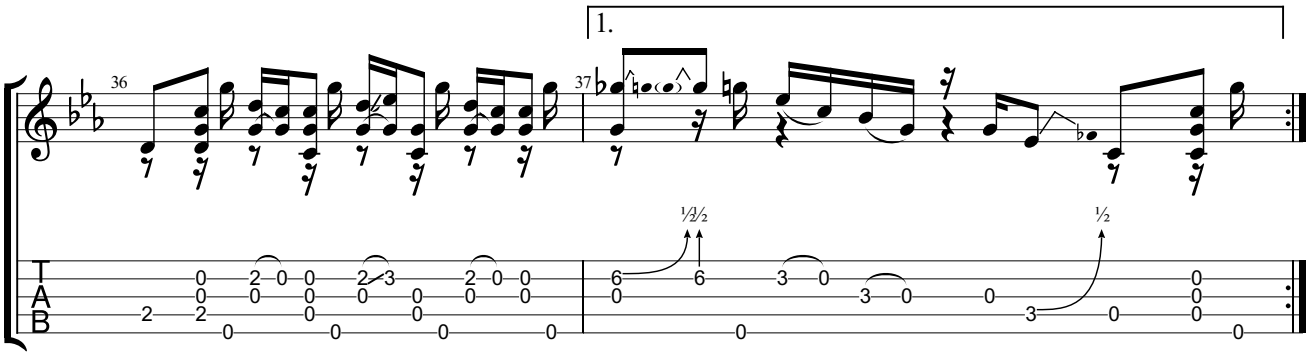


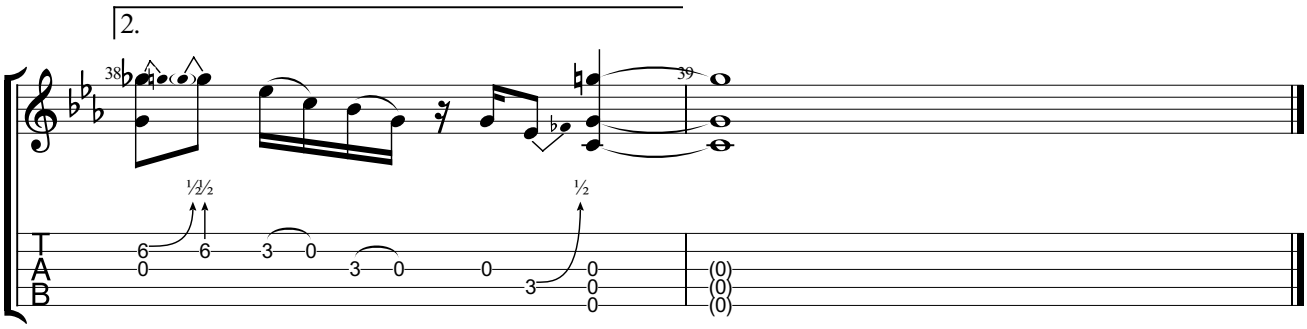
Chorus










2.
38
39
½½
½
T
A
B
6
0
6
3
0
3
0
0
3
0
0
0
(0)
(0)
(0)

Walt's Cooking

Music by Matthieu Brandt

①＝D ③＝G ⑤＝G
②＝B ④＝D

♩ = 180

(♫ = ♩ ♪)

A

MD HO HO MD HO HO MD MD MD MD MD

mf

MD SL MD T MD T MD PO MD MD MD PO MD PO MD MD HO HO MD MD

D D7 G

Da Coda 1. 3.

MD MD BRUSH with MD T MD PO MD T MD T MD PO MD T MD SL MD HO HO

D G

2.

B

MD T MD SL MD MD MD MD T MD PO MD MD MD PO MD T MD

G G

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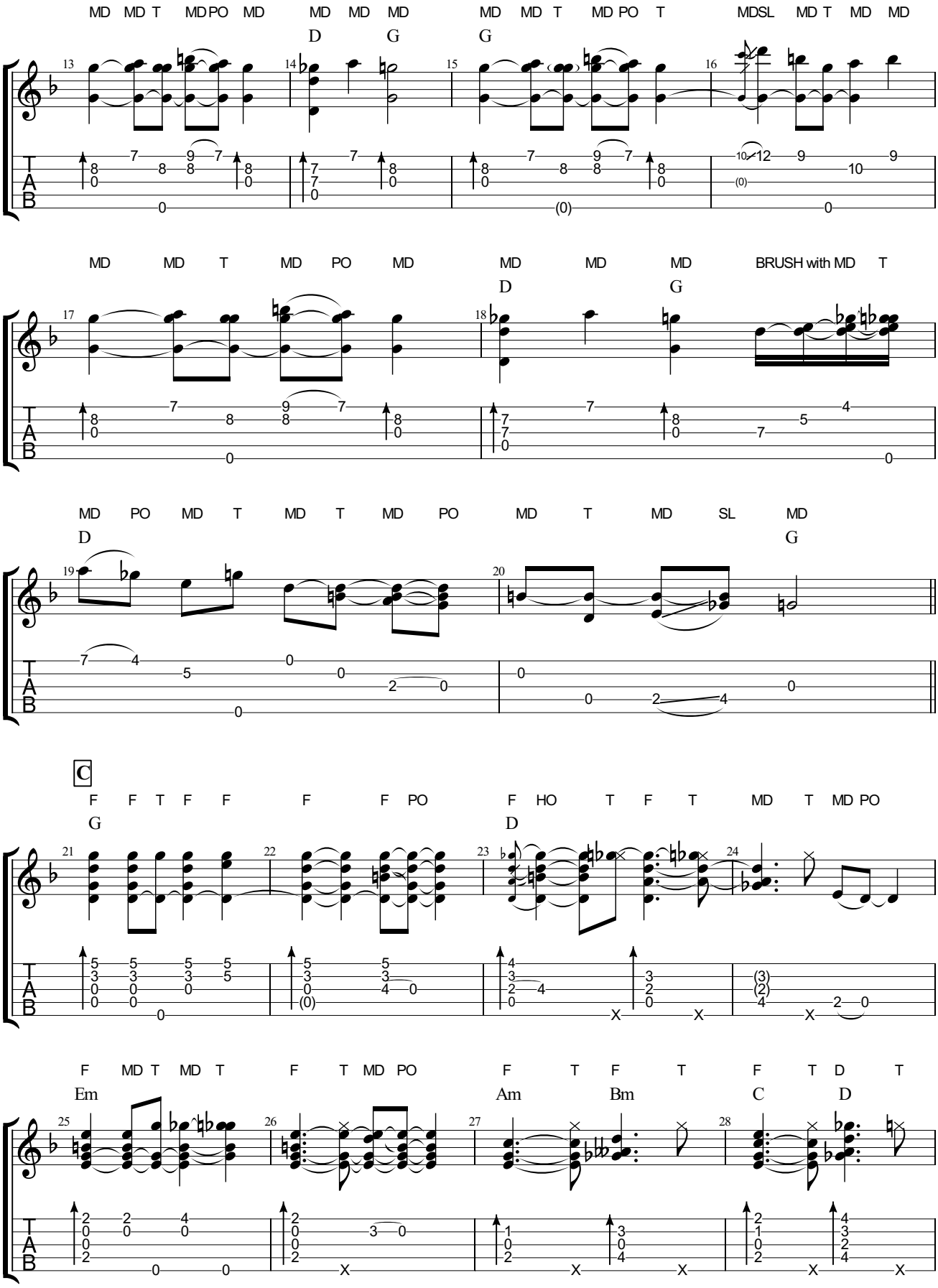
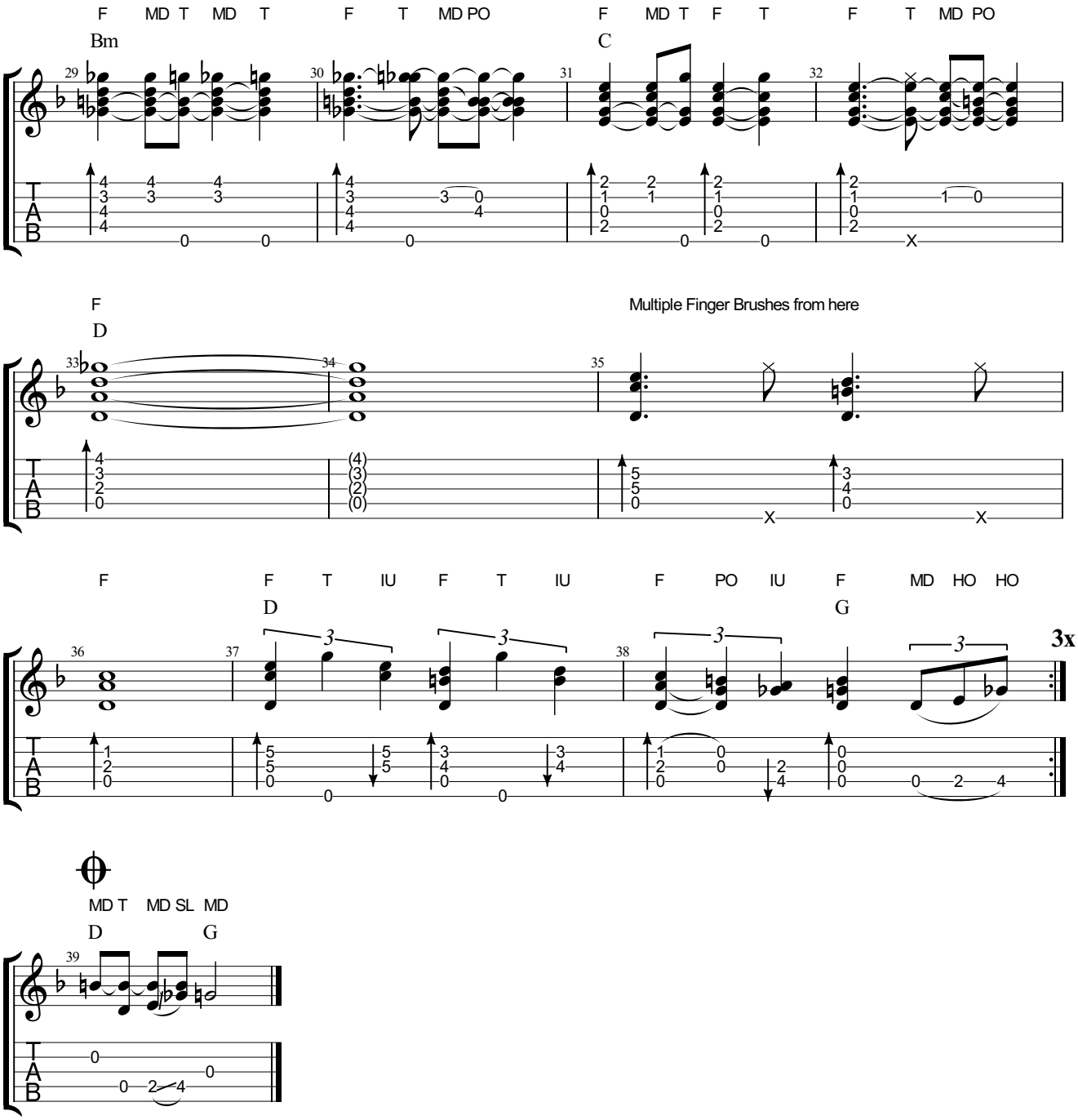
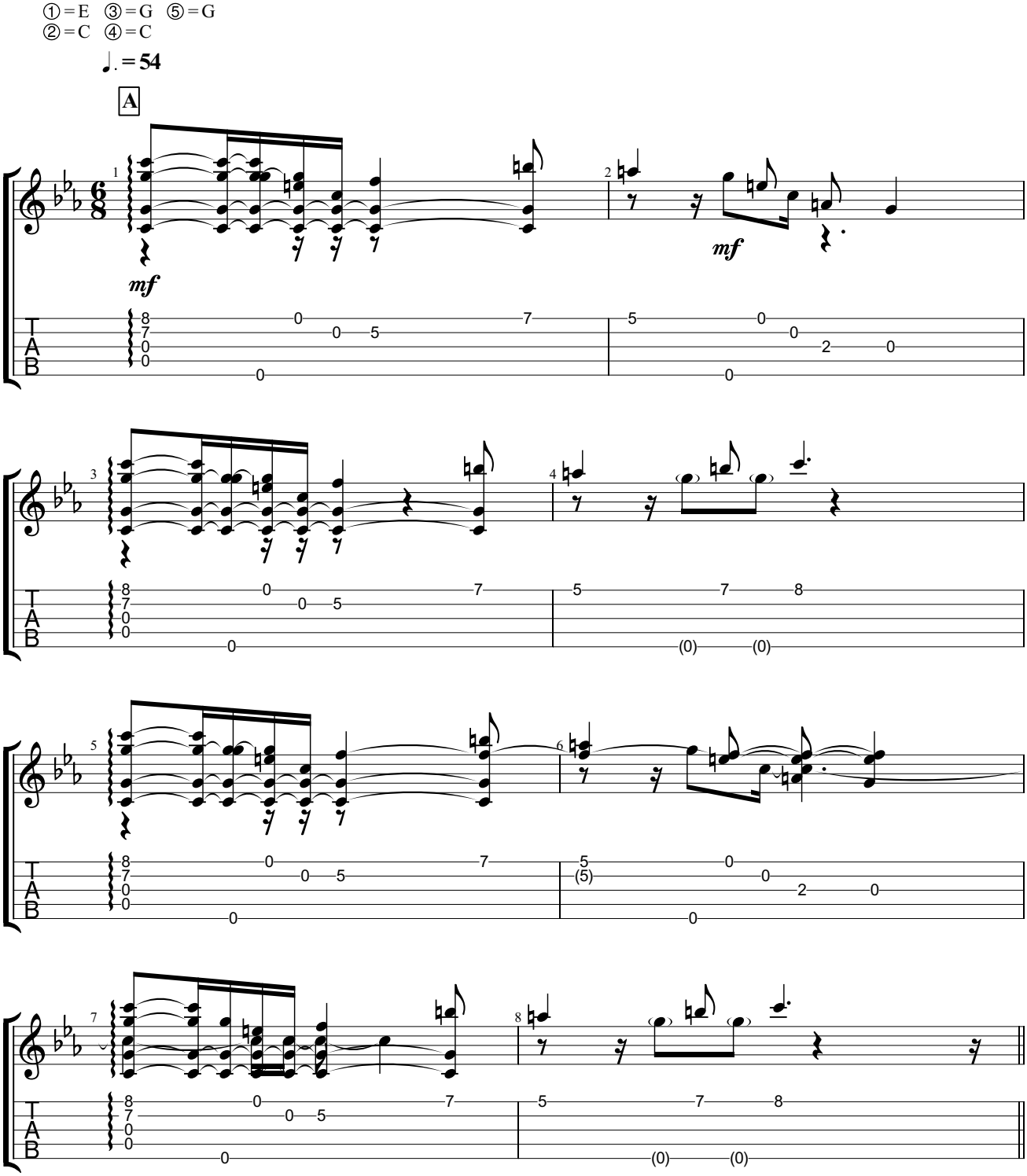

MD MD T MD PO MD MD MD MD MD MD T MD PO T MDSL MD T MD MD
D G G
MD MD T MD PO MD MD MD MD BRUSH with MD T
D G
MD PO MD T MD T MD PO MD T MD SL MD
D G
C
F F T F F F F PO F HO T F T MD T MD PO
G D
F MD T MD T F T MD PO F T F T F T D T
Em Am Bm C D


F MD T MD T F T MD PO F MD T F T F T MD PO
Bm
C
29 30 31 32
F
D
Multiple Finger Brushes from here
33 34 35
F F T IU F T IU F PO IU F MD HO HO
D
G
36 37 38
3x
MD T MD SL MD
D
G
39

Waltzing Towards the End

Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan



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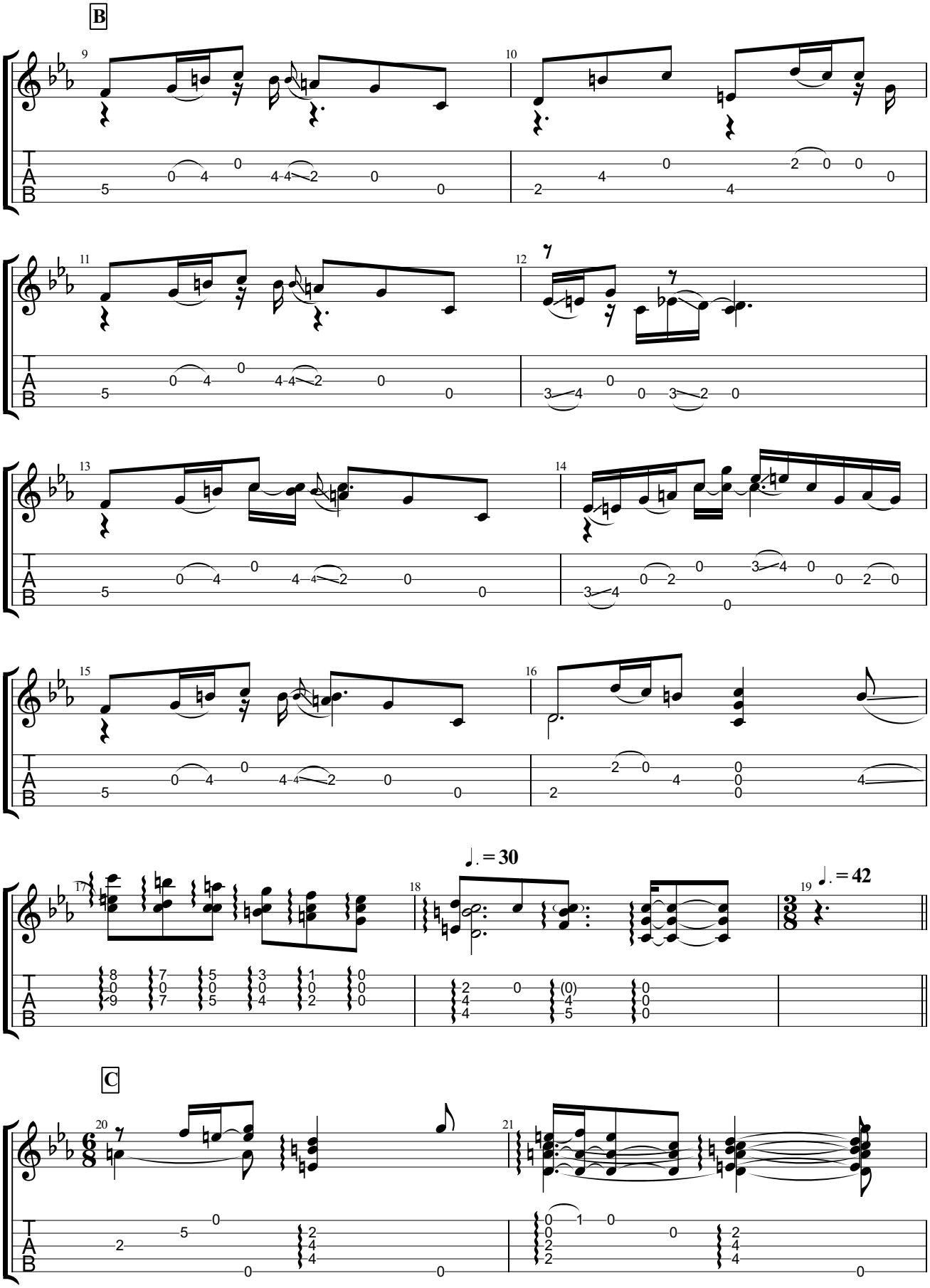

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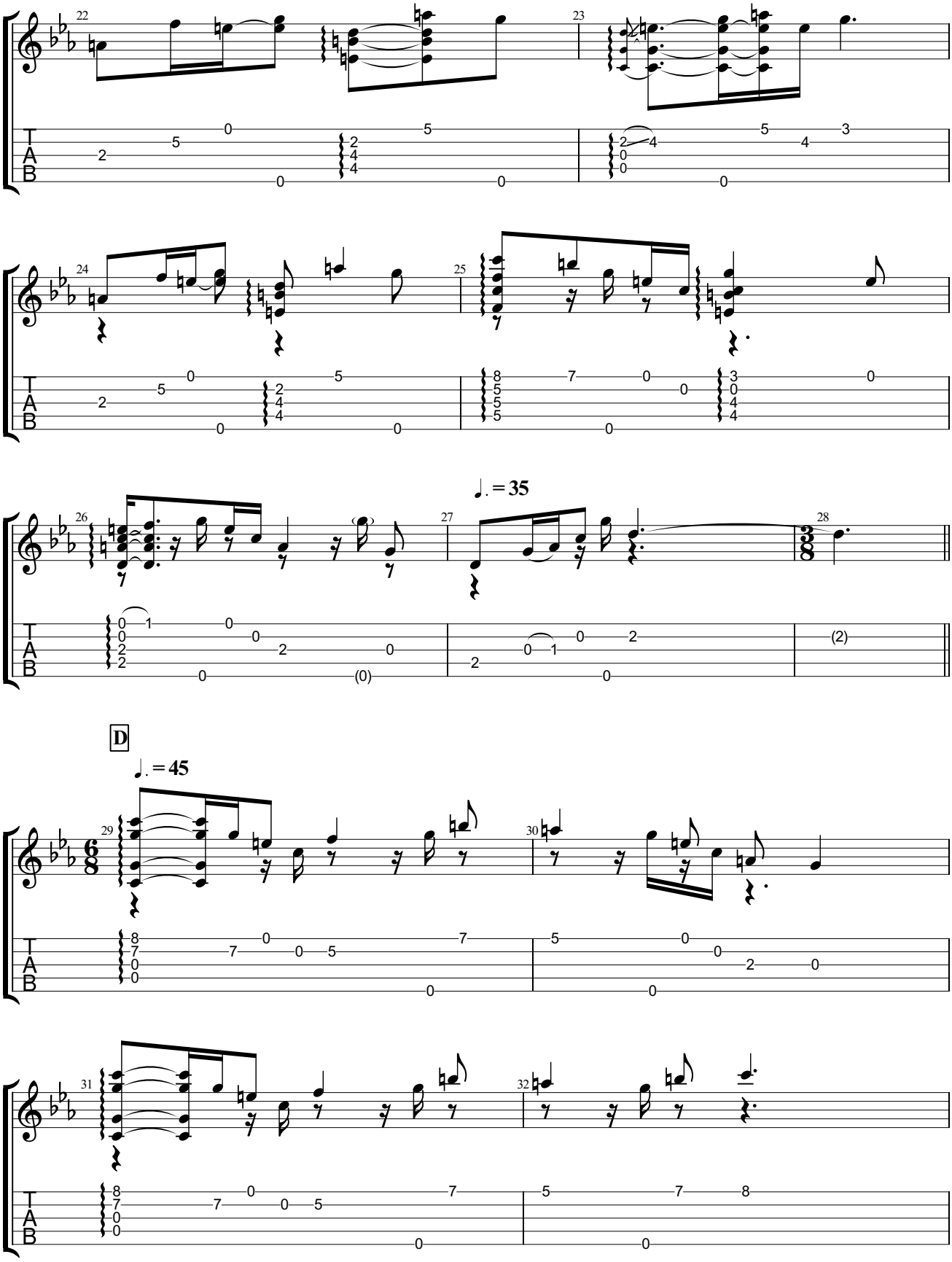

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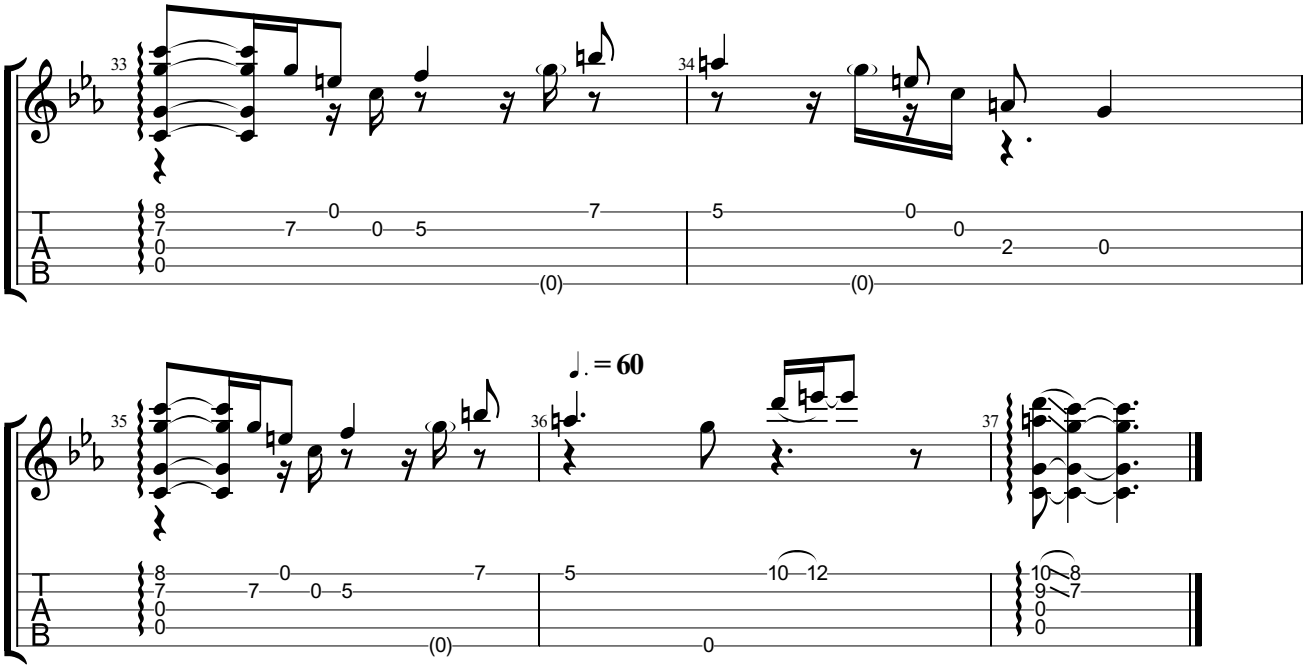

33
34
35
36
37
♩. = 60
T
A
B

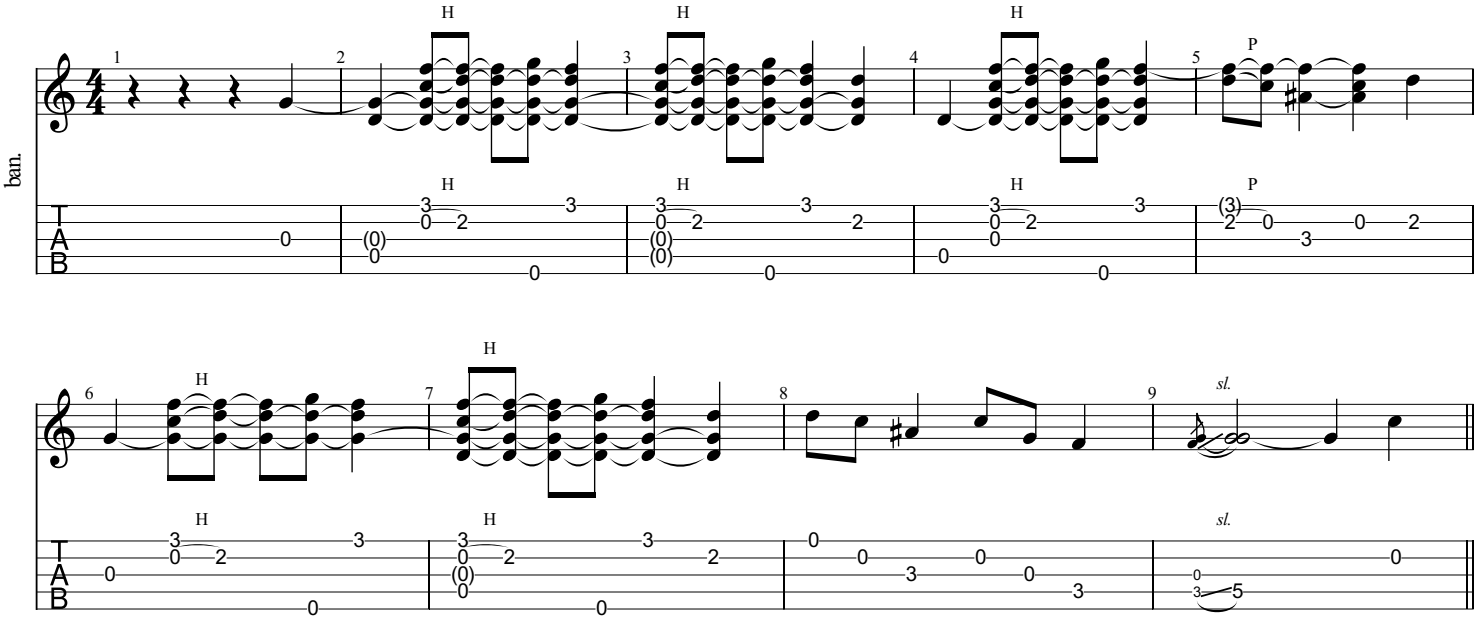
We Don't Take Kindly To Strangers Here

Music by Matthieu Brandt

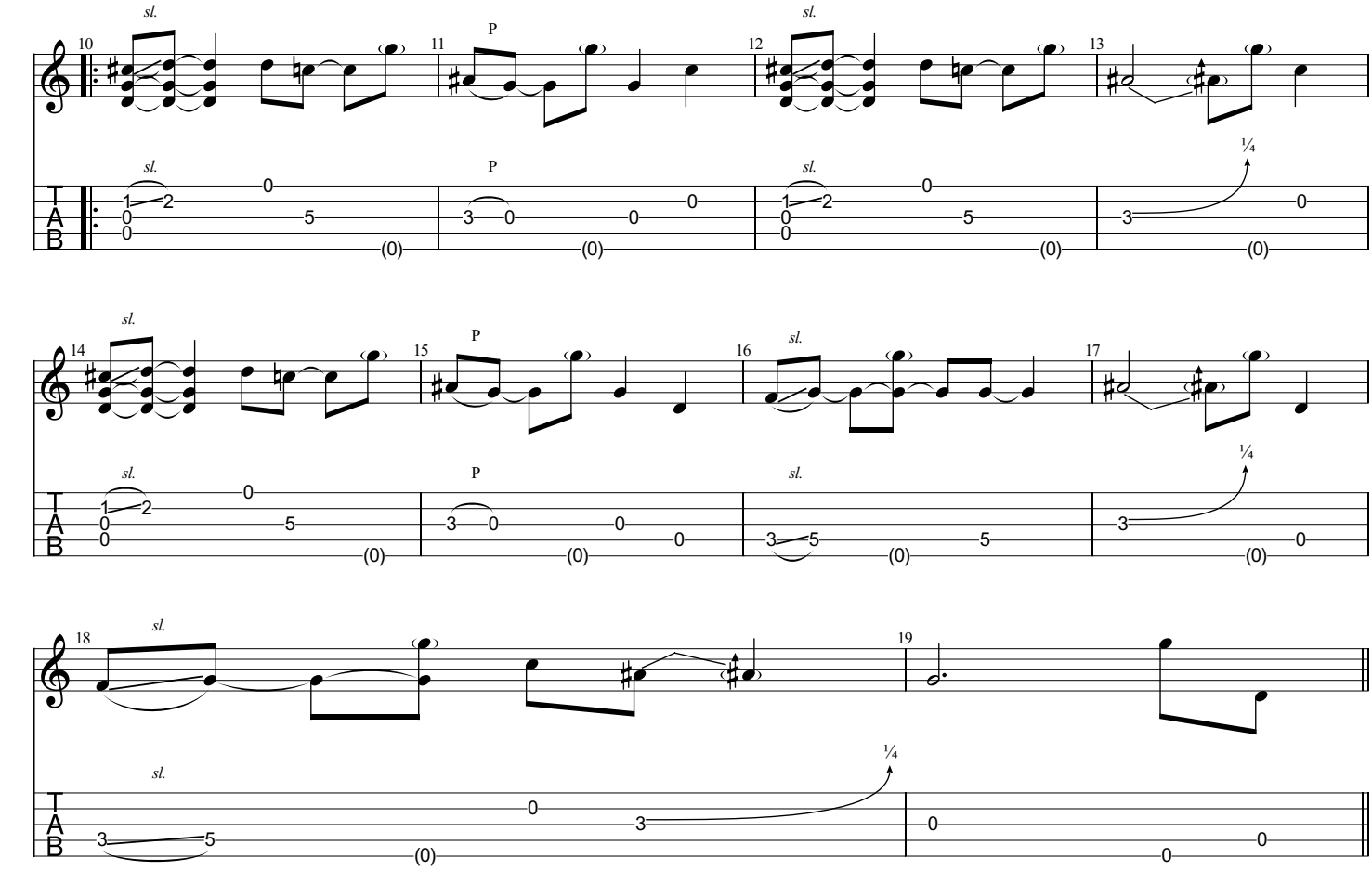
①＝D ③＝G ⑤＝G
②＝C ④＝D

♩＝184

A Intro



B Verse



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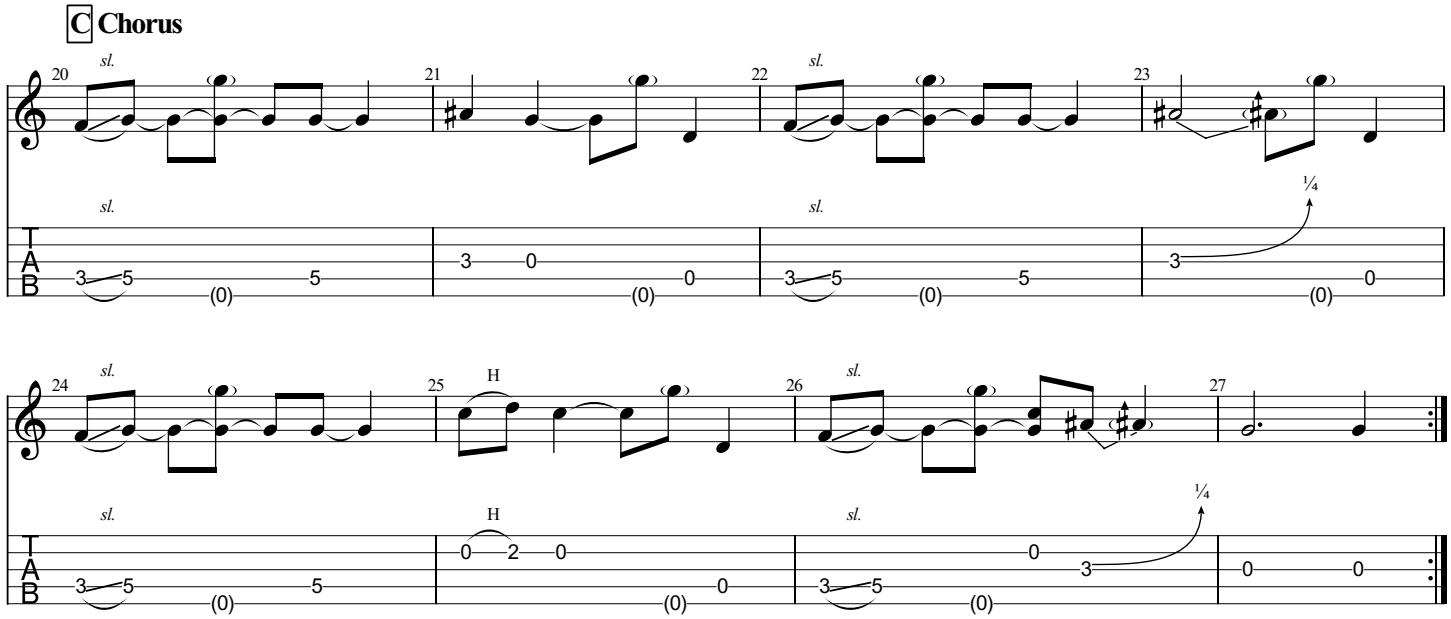

C Chorus
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
sl.
H
¼
T
A
B

When Words Run Dry

(Actual tuning is g# EBEE)

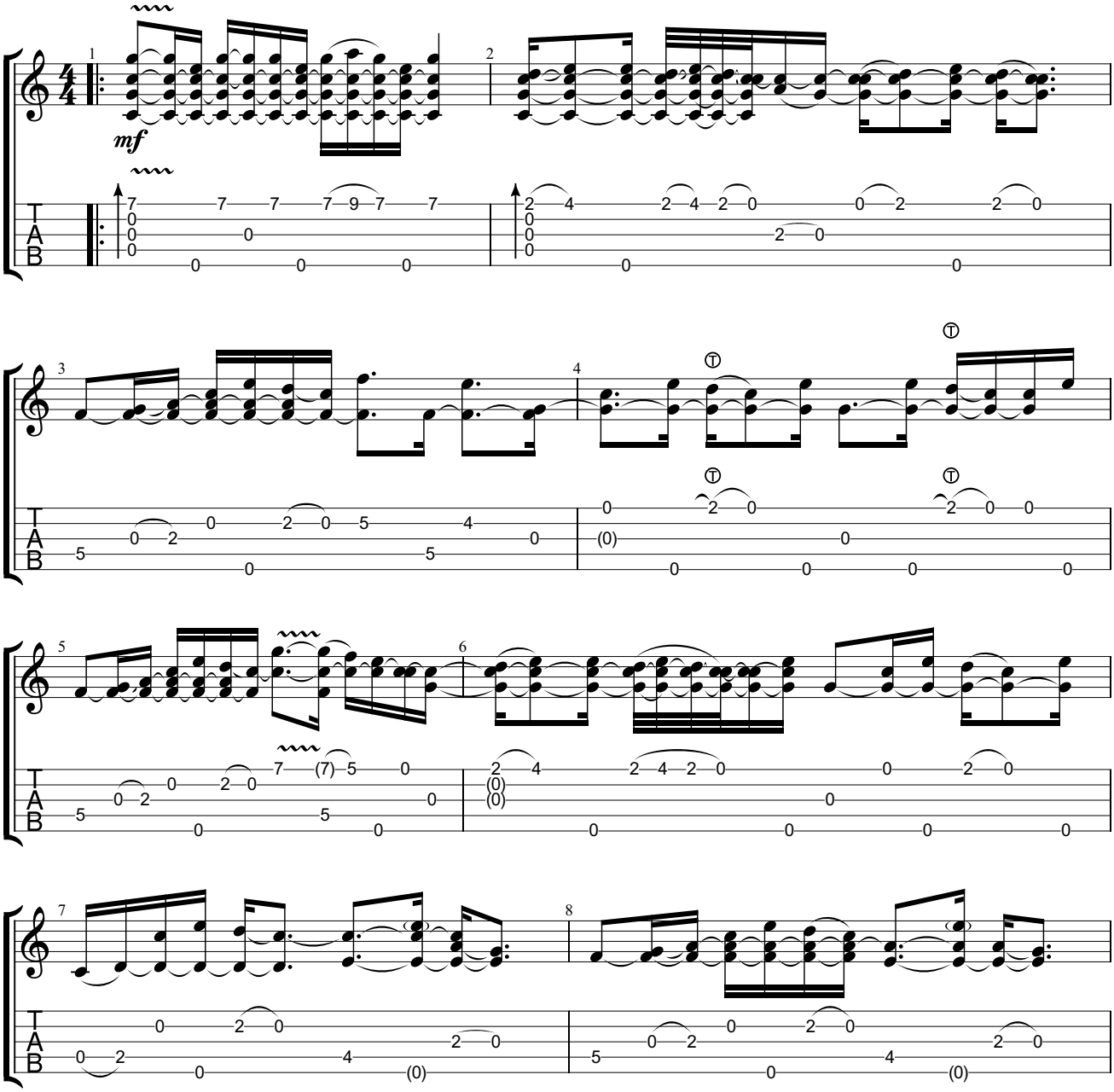
Music by Matthieu Brandt
Transcribed by Glen Morgan

①=C ③=G ⑤=E
②=C ④=C

♩ = 82

Played Freely

Capo fret 4



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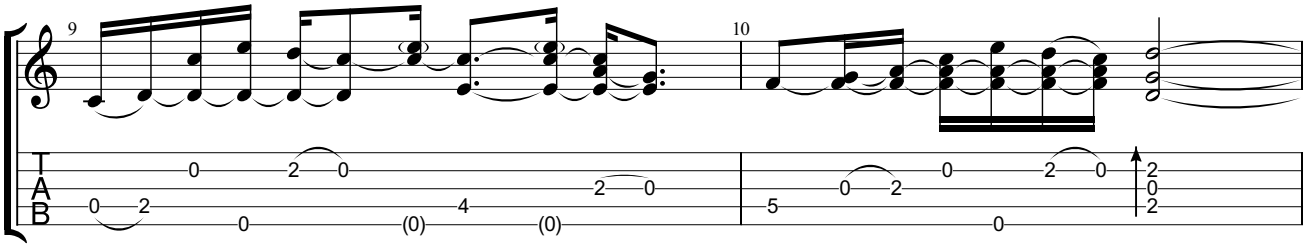
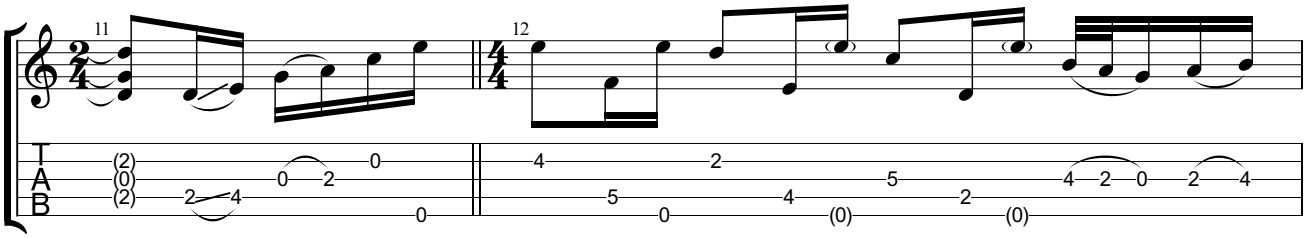
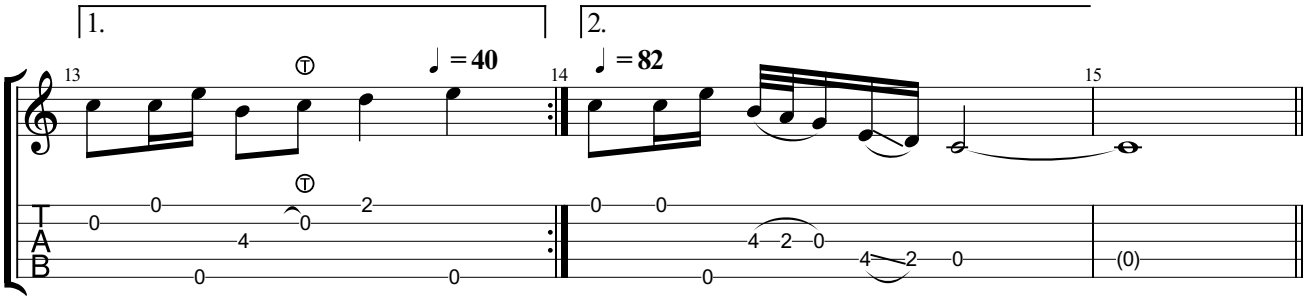
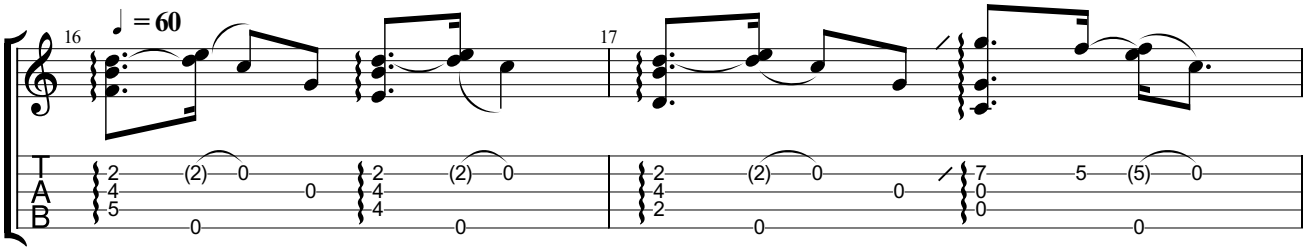
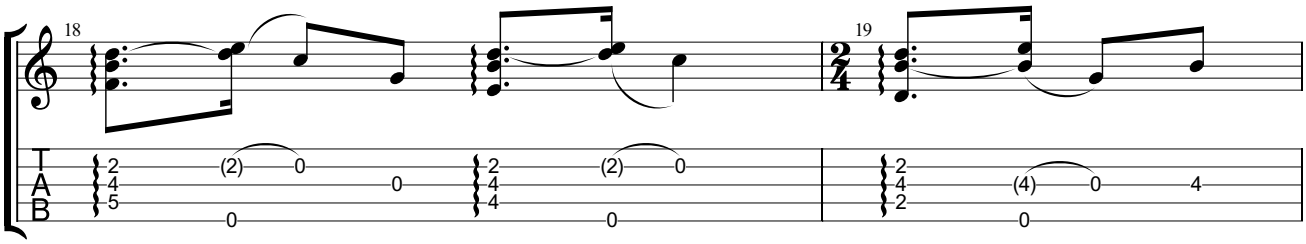


Da Coda

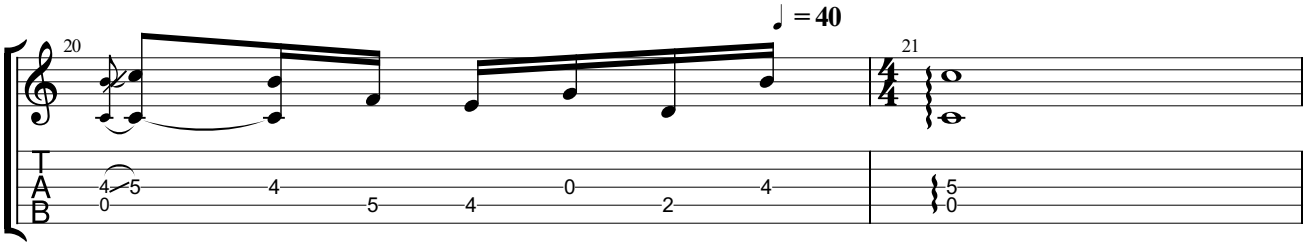


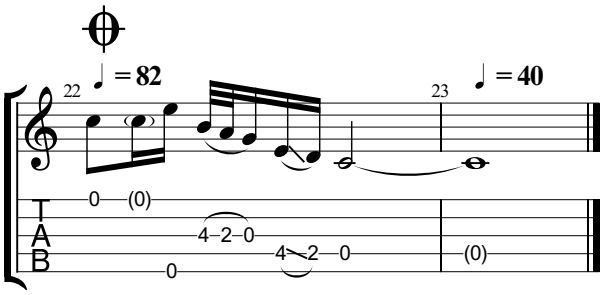






D.C. al Coda




22
= 82
23
= 40
T
A
B
0
(0)
4
2
0
4
2
0
0
(0)