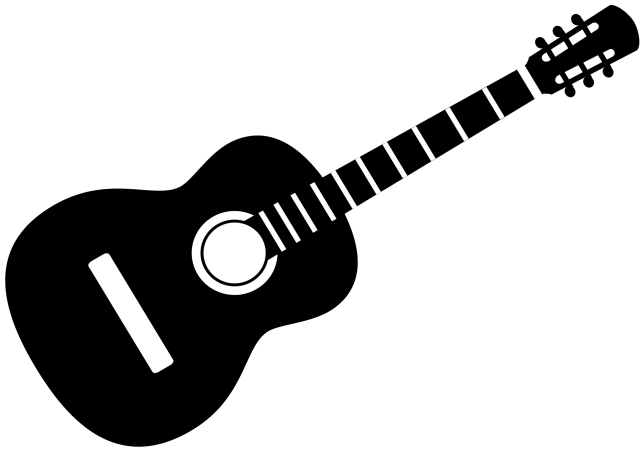
Simple Solos

in guitar-friendly keys



by

Ray Hume

book 1

A True Story

Once when I was very young I was poorly in bed. To keep me amused my mum found me a jigsaw in a dusty old cardboard box. This was no ordinary jigsaw. It was made of big chunky wooden pieces. There was no picture on the front of the box, so I just had to fit it together as best as I could. Gradually a beautiful picture of woodland and a lake appeared. It took me quite a while, but when it was finished I felt pleased because I'd worked it out all by myself, and discovered something I'd never seen before. None of the jigsaws I did after that one were as exciting, because I always knew what they would look like before I started them.

About this book

Many years ago, long before all the wonders of the modern world, it used to be the same with music. There was no Youtube. No downloads, no CDs. Nothing. If you wanted to play a piece of music, you had to work it out for yourself from the notes written on the stave.

That's how you should use this book.

You have never heard any of these tunes before. I know that because I made them up myself! The only way you can find out how they sound is to work it out for yourself. It will take time. It will take perseverance. But when you finally get there, you will have discovered something new by your own efforts, and you will appreciate it much more than you would have done if you had just copied the sound of someone else playing it.

RH

In music, the word 'key' has two meanings:-

1. The black and white things on a piano that you press down to make sounds.

2. A kind of musical family – a collection of notes that belong together.

If you didn't know the meaning of the word '**person**',
you wouldn't understand the idea of a '**family**'.

Similarly, you have to meet some *notes* (musical **sounds**)
before you can get to understand what we mean by '**key**'.

Notes for Teachers (and other grown-ups)

In this selection of pieces in eight of the most guitar-friendly keys, interpretive information (dynamics, etc.) is minimal. This is to allow for the development of the student's own creative imagination.

Though optional, left-hand fingering indications are recommended
as being the most effective, both technically and musically.

As regards right-hand fingering, I generally favour the use of free strokes (tirando) and the following simple system:-

'p' for all bass strings,
'i' for 3rd string,
'm' for 2nd string
'a' for 1st string,

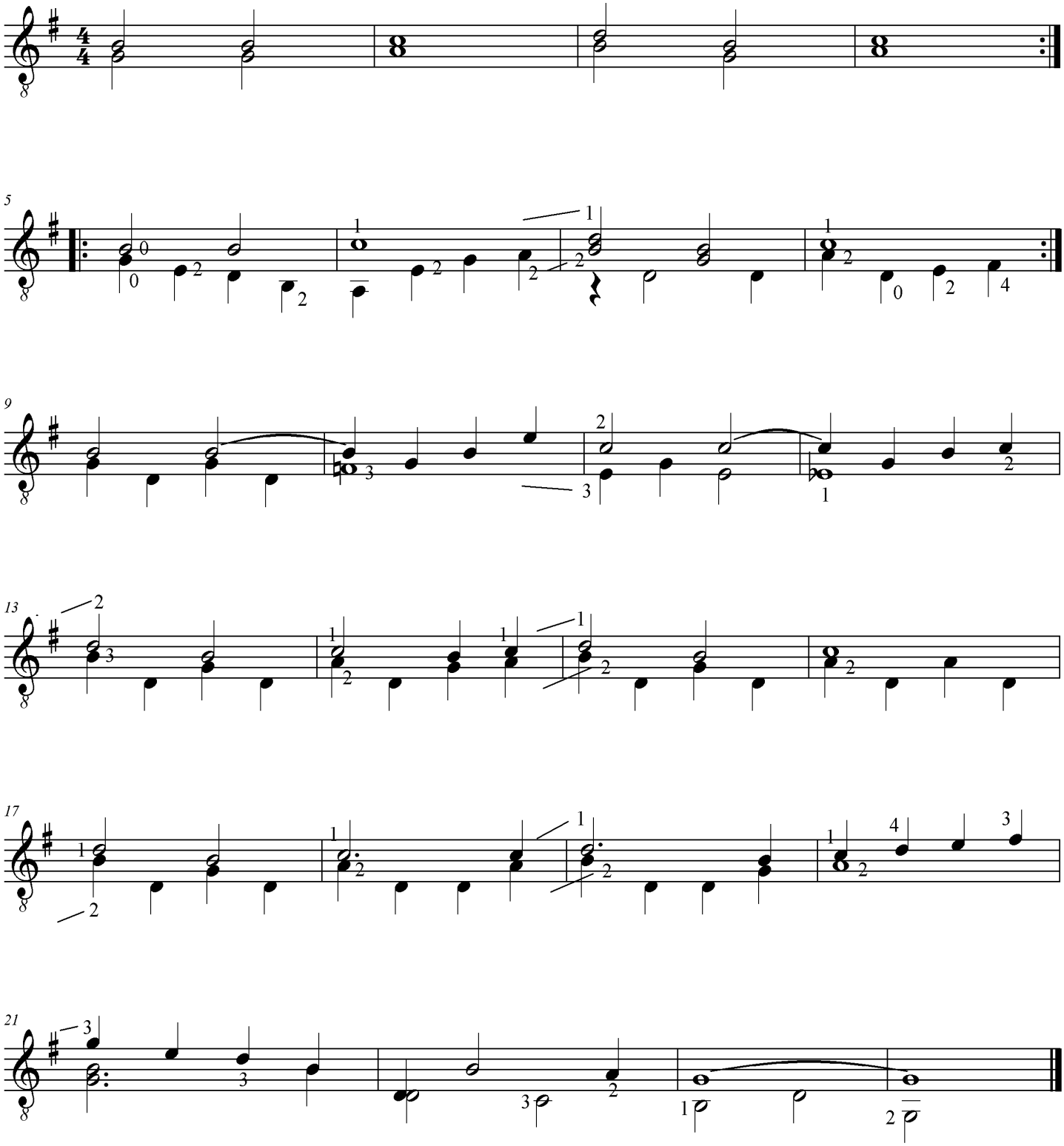
- even though this will often require the plucking of the same string with the same finger repeatedly.

The level of these pieces doesn't exceed grade 3 of the classical guitar syllabuses of the established music colleges.

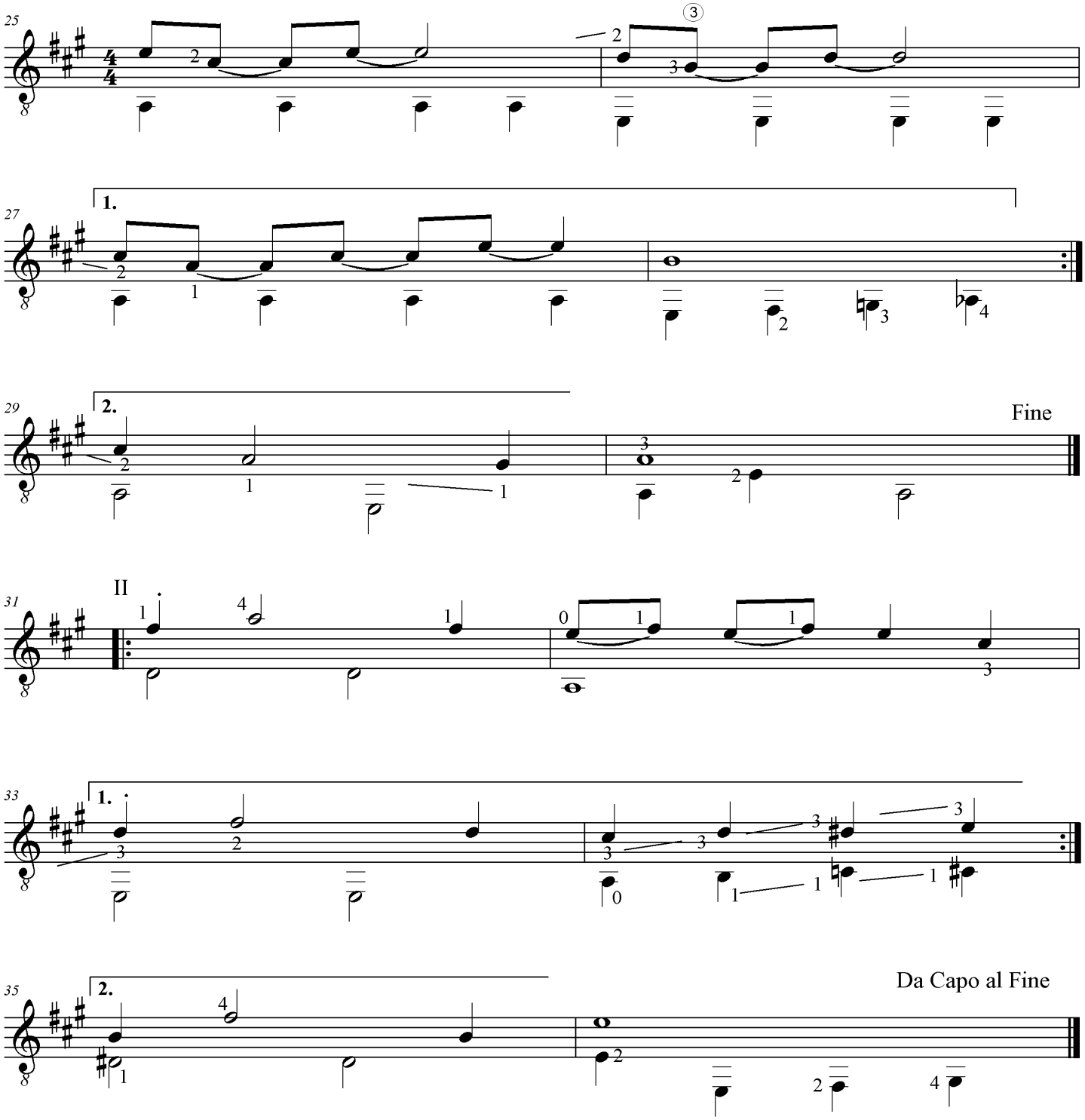
RH

produced by R. Hume February 2021
www.ray-hume.com

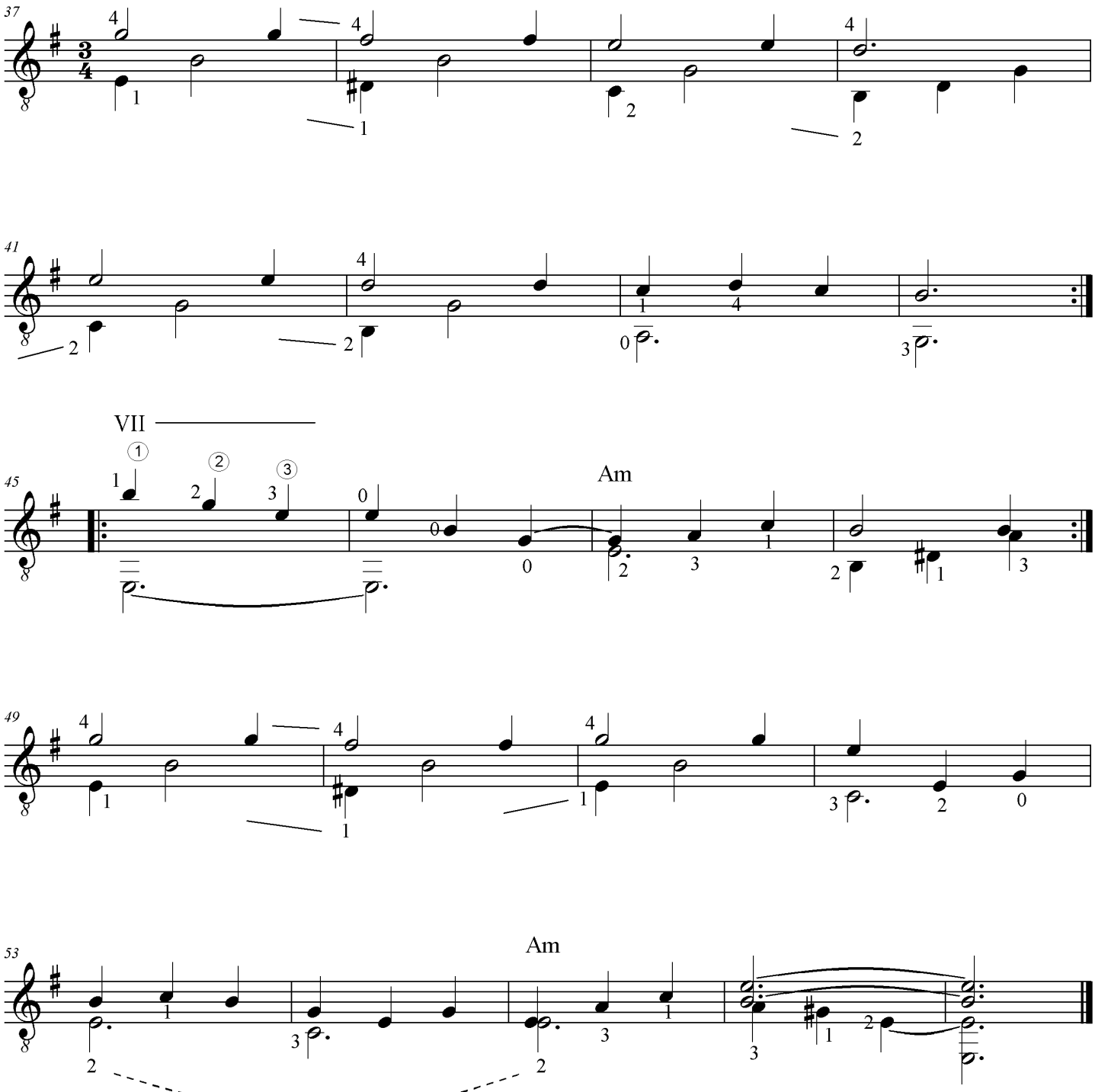
Wishing Well



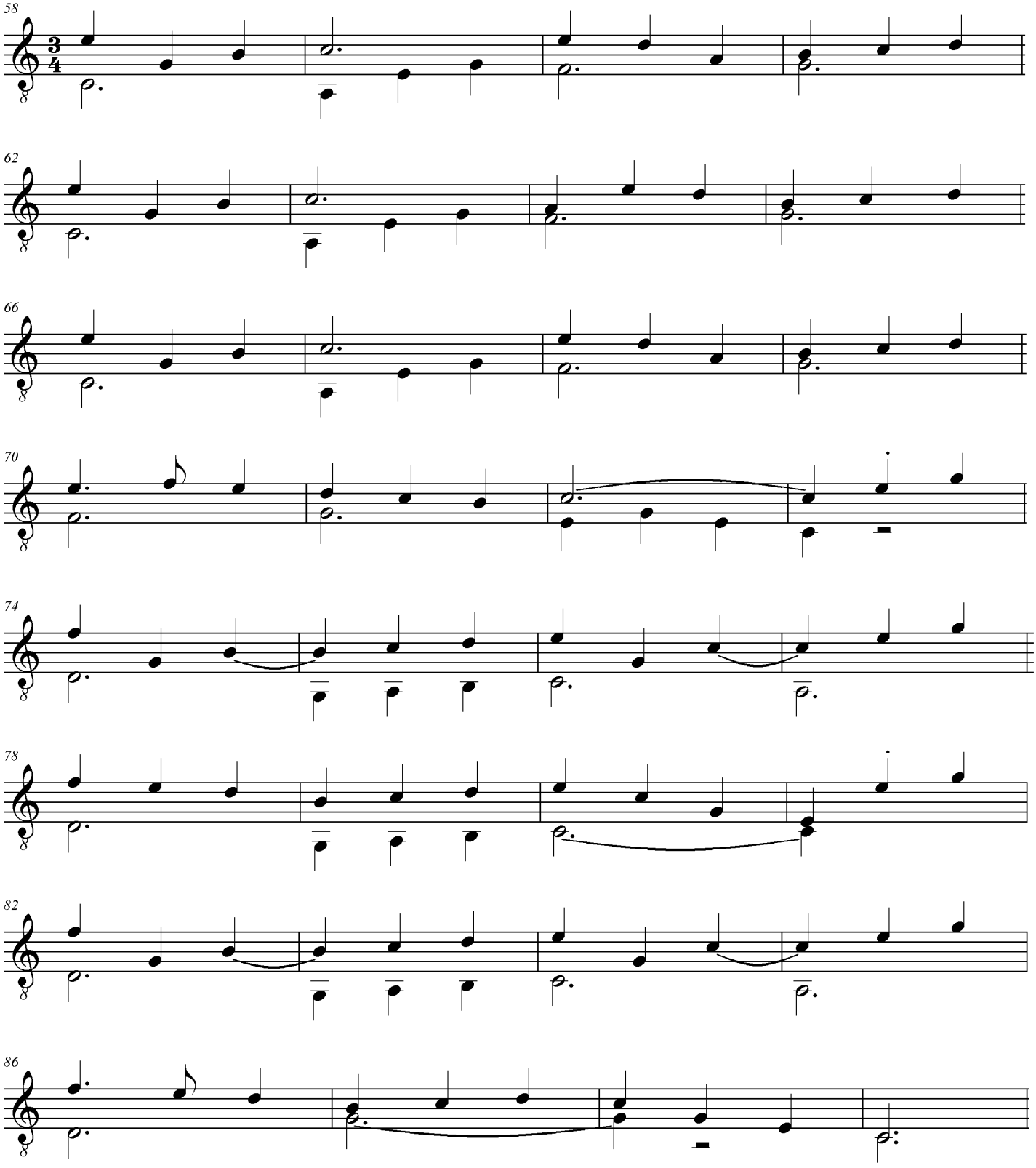
Syncoswing



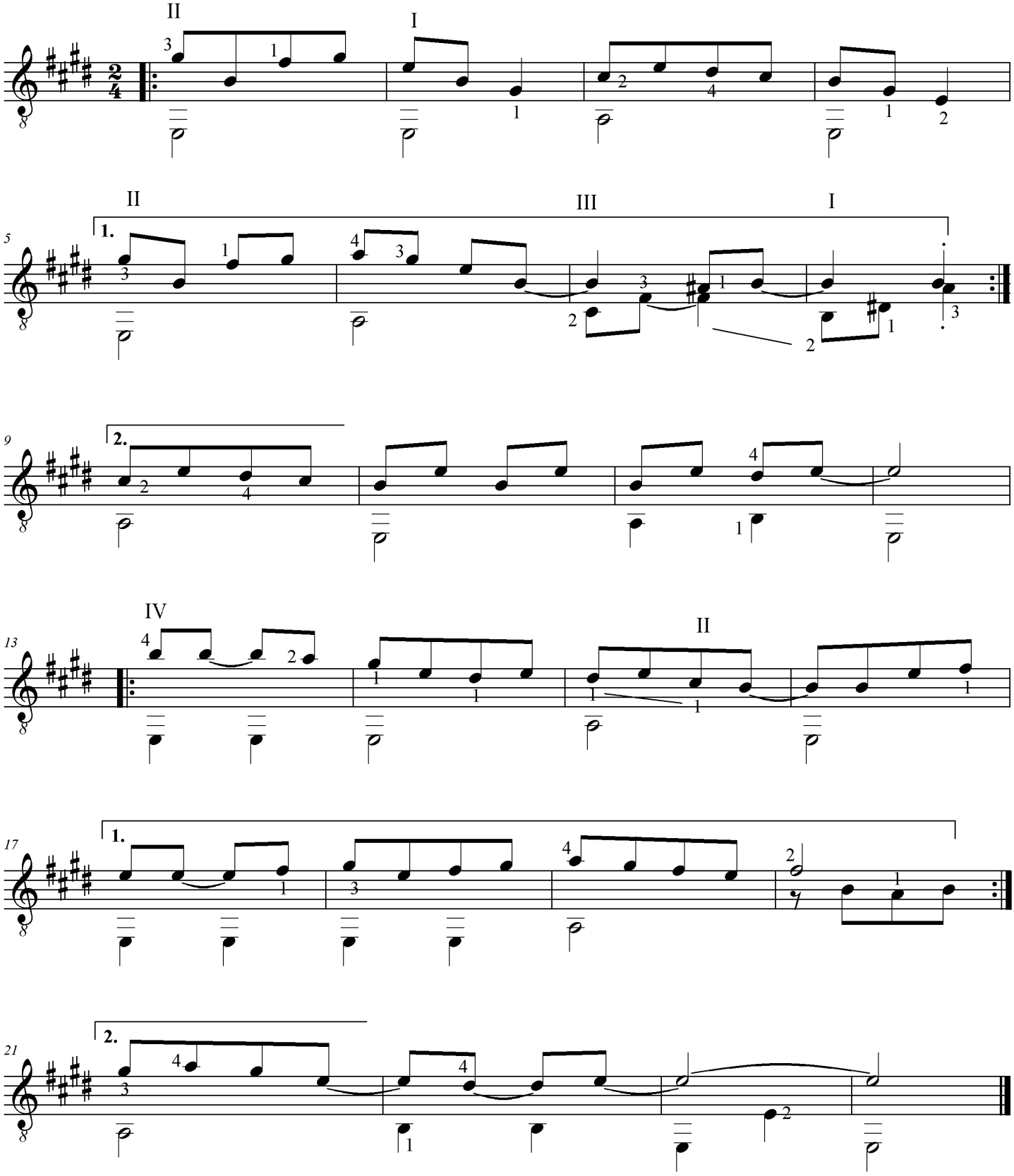
Magical Dawn



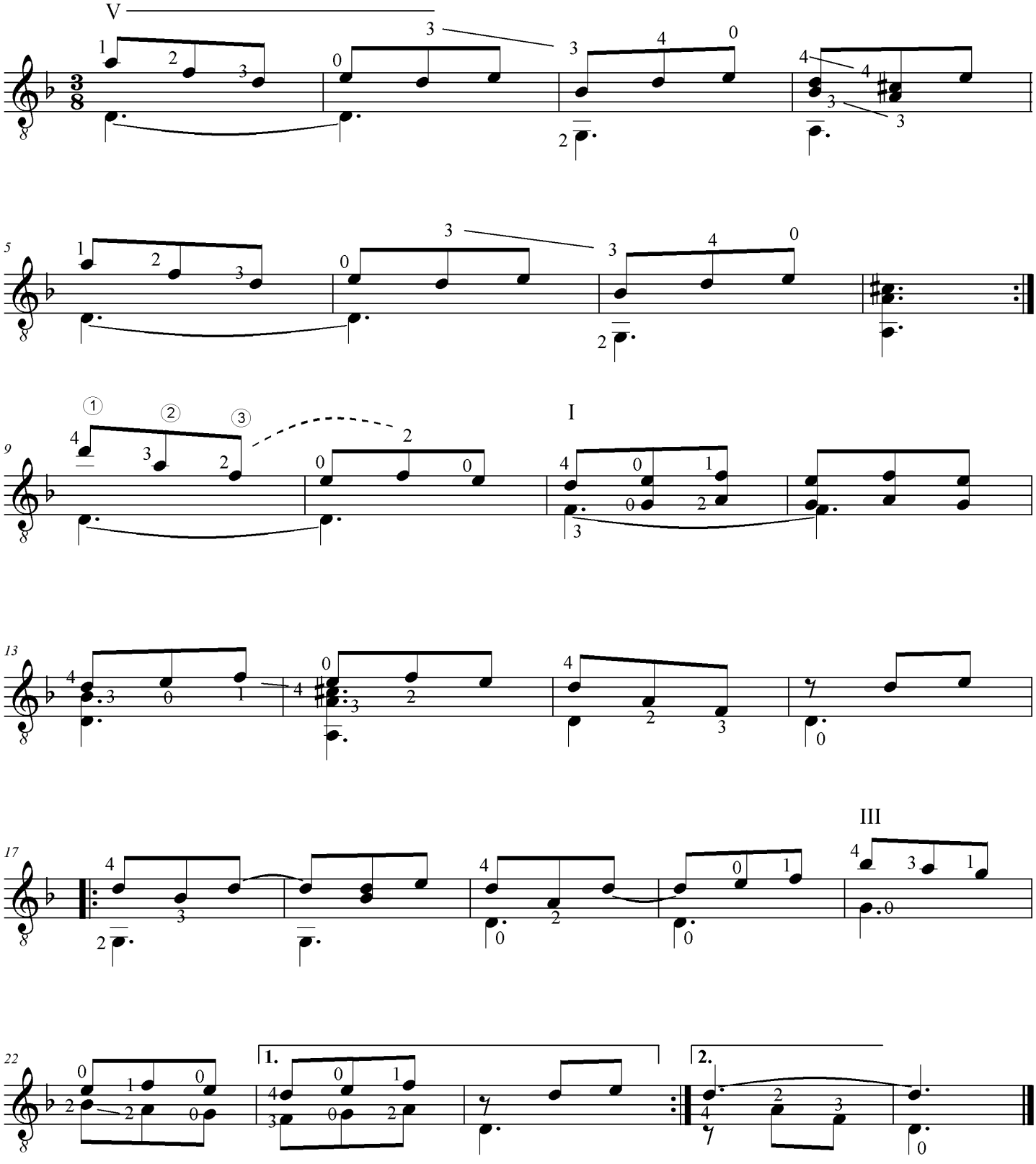
Lullaby for an Edible Dormouse



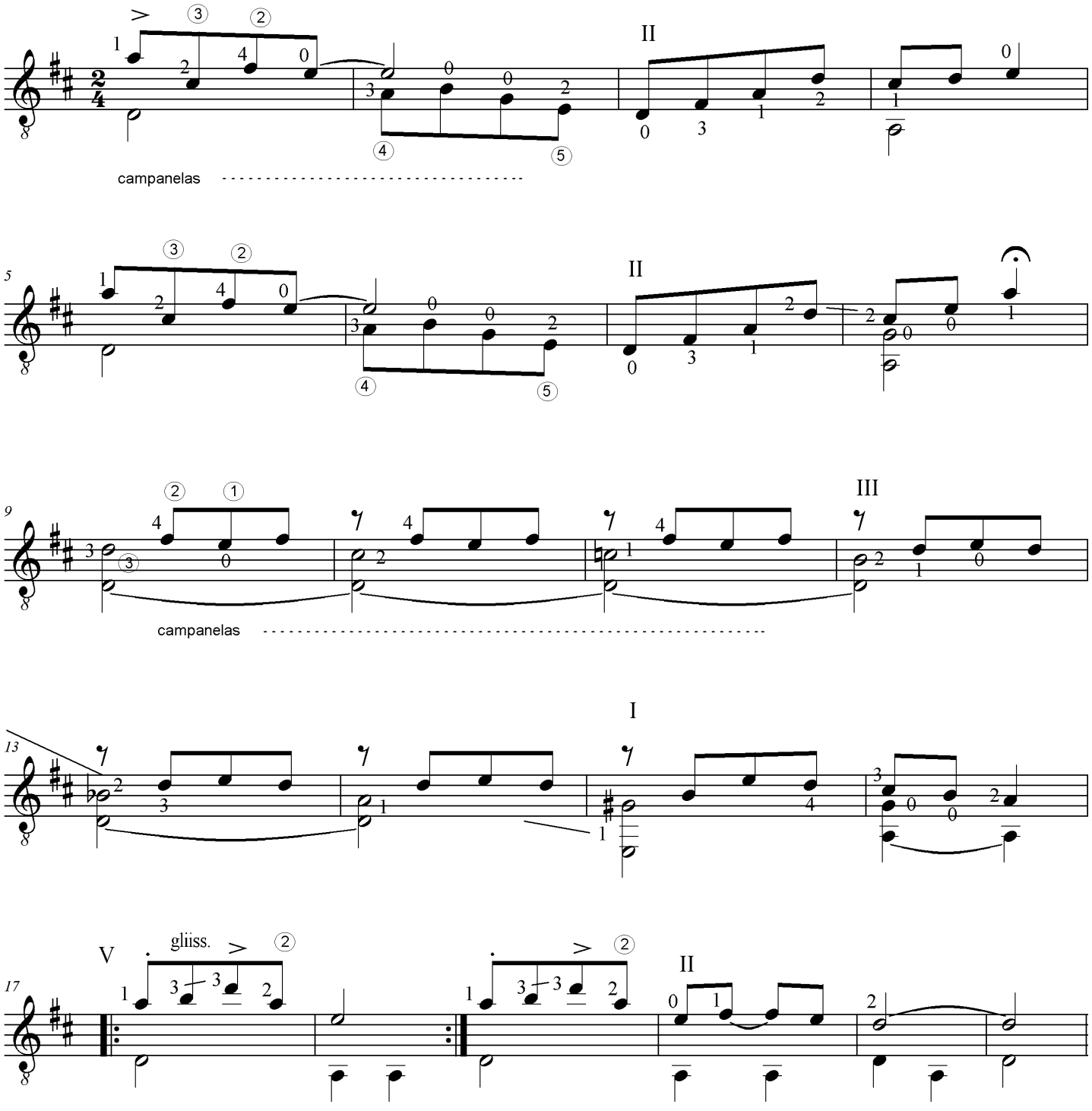
Beneath a Bright Blue Sky



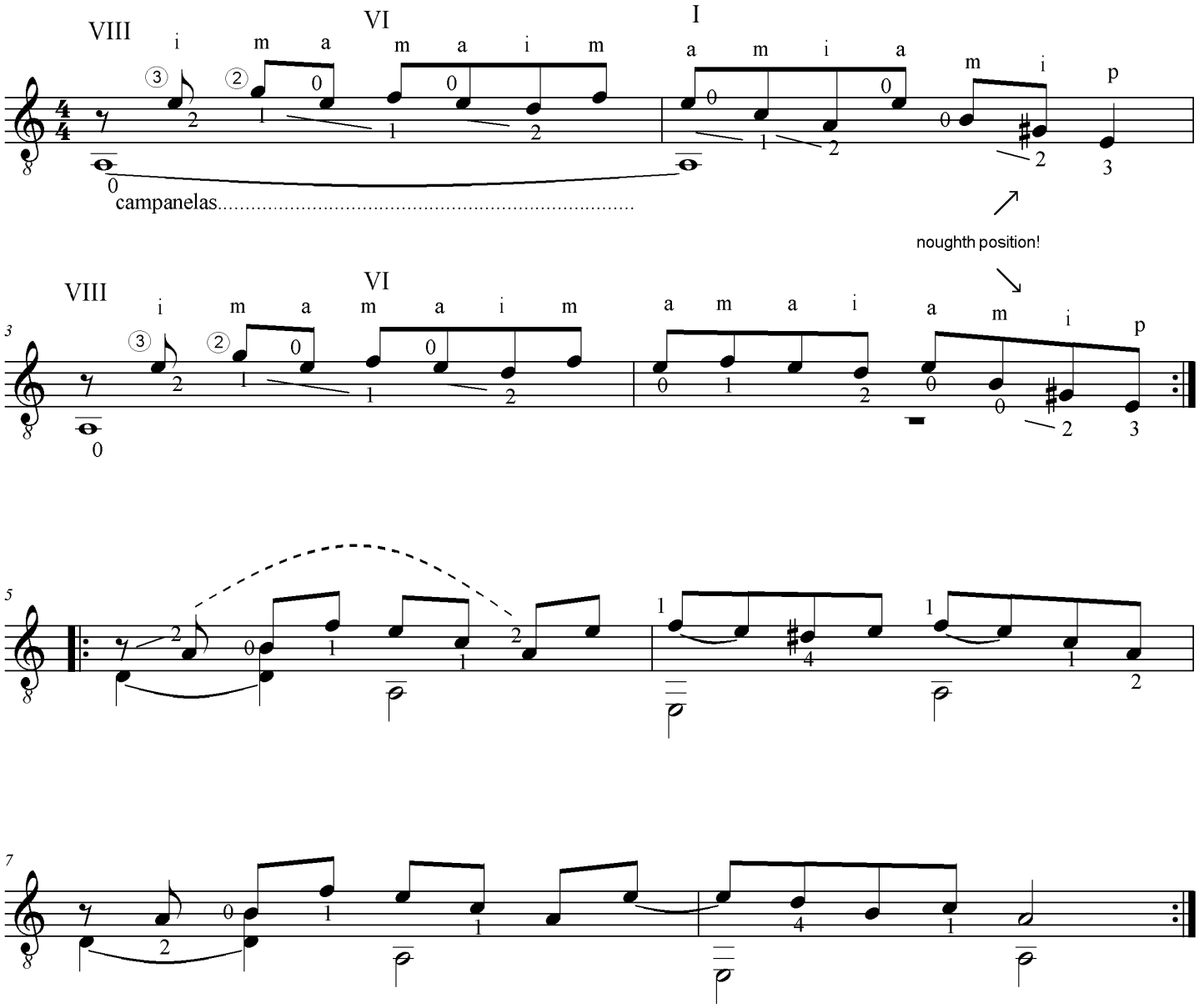
El Costa del Cleethorpes



Lazy Daze

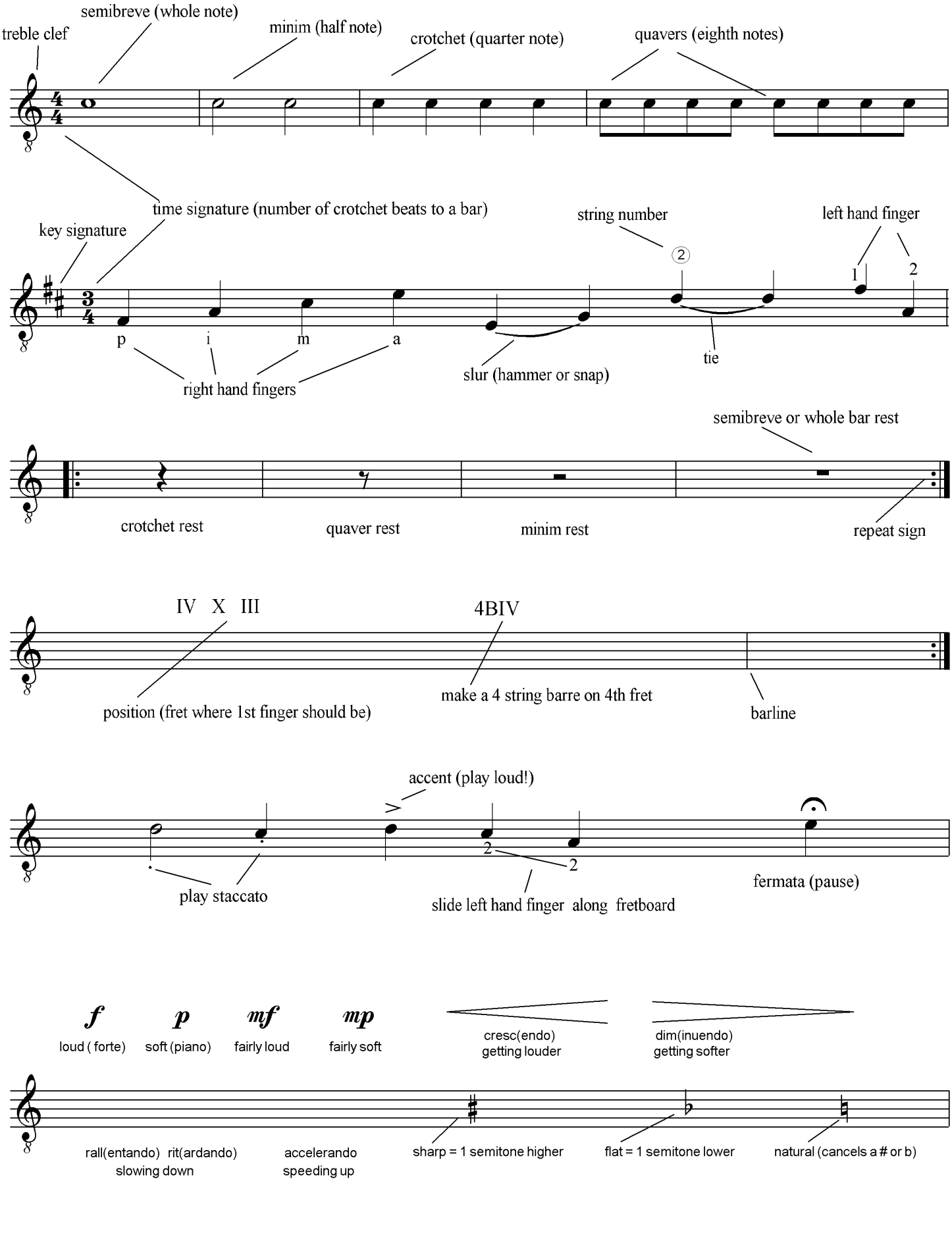


Iberian Impromptu



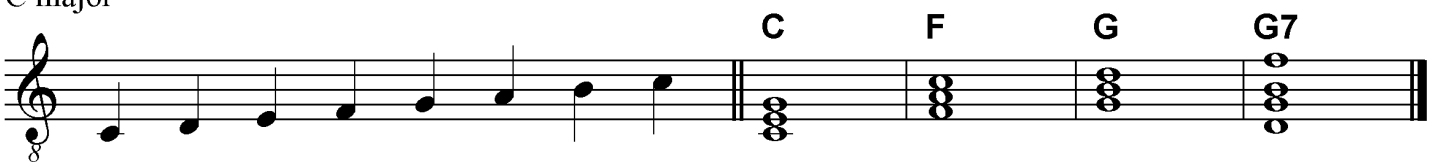
..... then improvise using the three main chords in the key of A minor - Am, Dm and E

Everyday Symbols and Terms

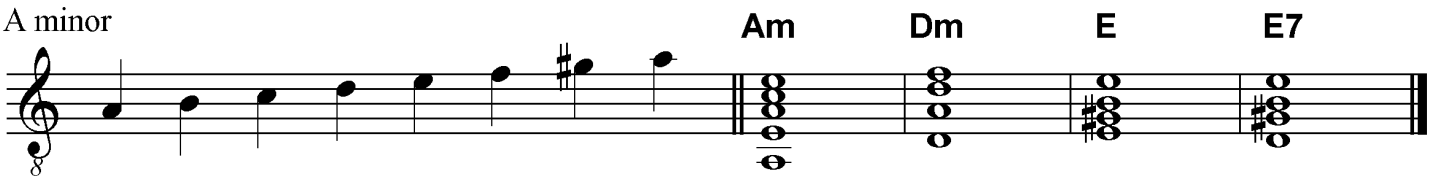


Scales and Chords

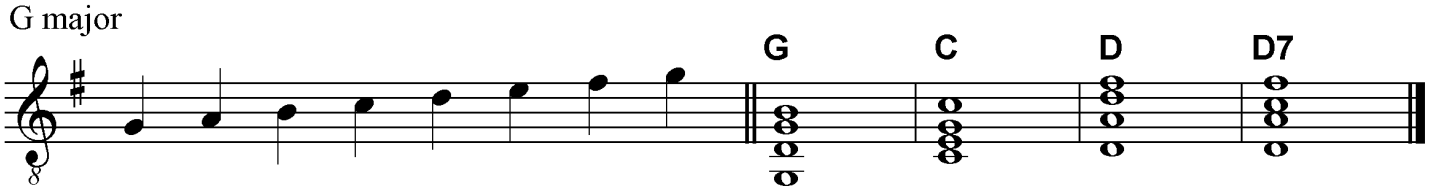
C major



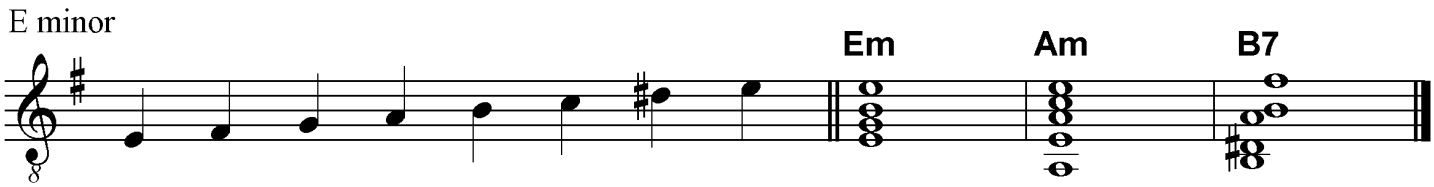
A minor



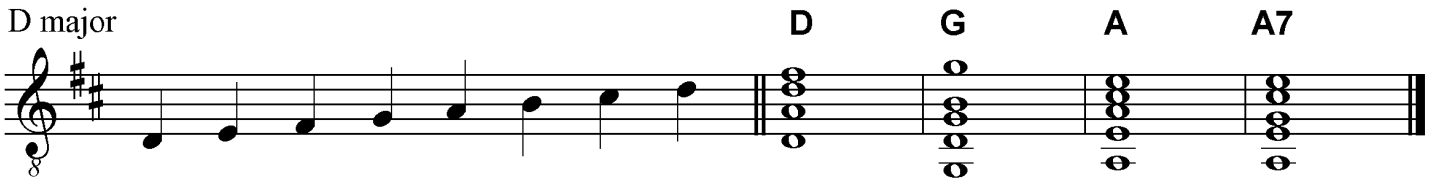
G major



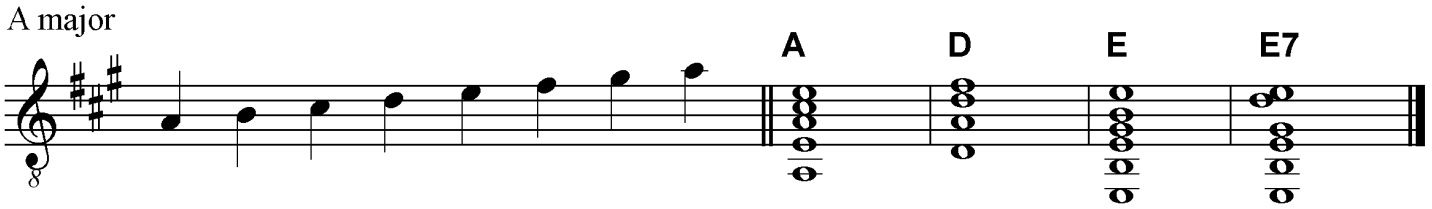
E minor



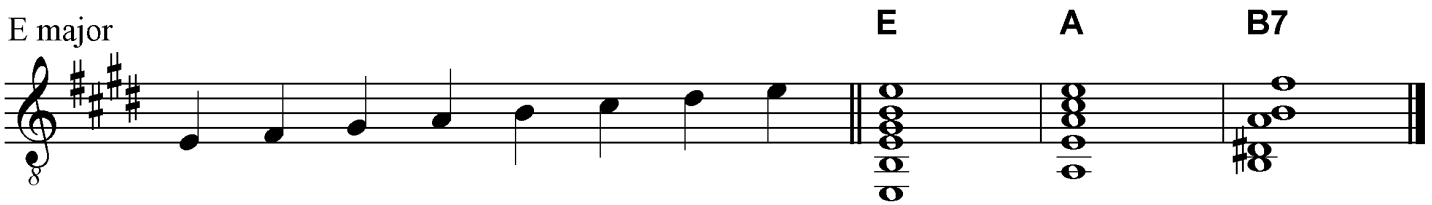
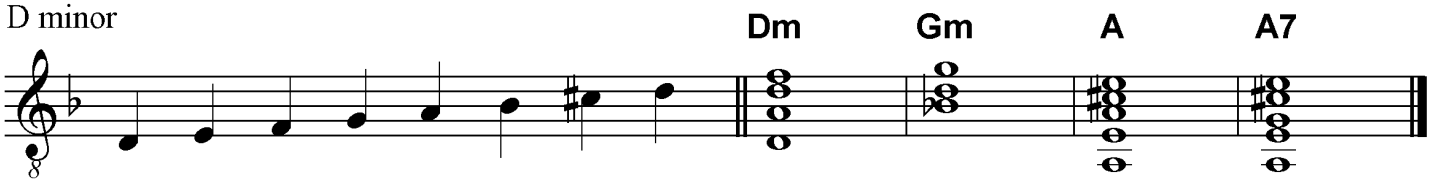
D major



A major



E major



D minor