Mel Bay presents

Pioneer Suite

American Classics for Solo Guitar, Vol. I

arranged by James Edwards

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

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About This Book

I hope this project will help spark an interest in the development of an American repertoire for the classical guitar. In the course of putting this collection together I learned a lot about—and became more fascinated by—the evolution of our American musical culture. Traditional Scottish and Irish tunes were transformed by the African rhythms of the banjo players, which in turn influenced popular music and led to ragtime, jazz, and blues. Our country was a fantastic melting pot! The huge amount of folk music in America is staggering; this collection could be expanded into many volumes.

Scott Joplin was one of our great composers—he still doesn't get enough recognition and play from our concert artists. Joplin's pieces are difficult on the guitar, although that hasn't stopped guitarists from trying to play transcriptions of Albeniz or Bach. Stephen Foster's songs are a rich source for the arranger and his melodies fit beautifully on the guitar. MacDowell was a pianist-composer who also used American folk music as an inspiration. The nineteenth century gave birth to many unique American styles and its songs are an important part of our heritage. Most of us will find quite a few of the tunes here very familiar, even now at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

—James Edwards

About the Author

James Edwards discovered the guitar at the age of fourteen, exploring folk, jazz, and pop styles before finding his true musical love, the classical guitar. Inspired by Christopher Parkening—with whom he later studied—James also worked with Ray Reussner, one of Andres Segovia's most devoted pupils. Other teachers have included Manuel Barrueco and Michael Lorimer. James plays renaissance lute as well and has studied with Donna Curry, Toyohiko Satoh, and Jurgen Hubscher. In addition to the traditional classical guitar repertoire, James performs his own vibrant arrangements of Handel, Mozart, Puccini, Debussy, Brahms, and others. James has also created a unique American repertoire with his treatments of well-known works by Gershwin, Joplin, and Copland, along with original compositions blending the classical style with his early influences of folk and jazz.

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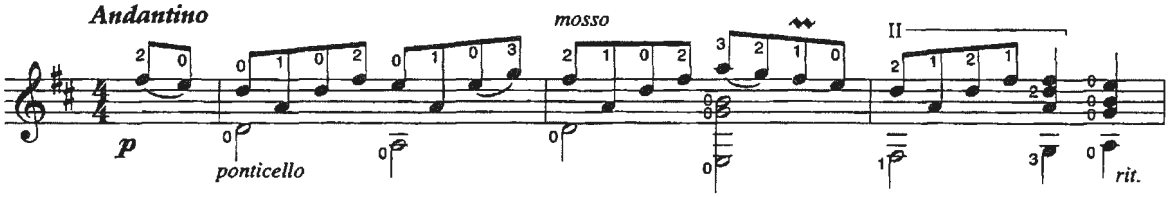
Pioneer Suite

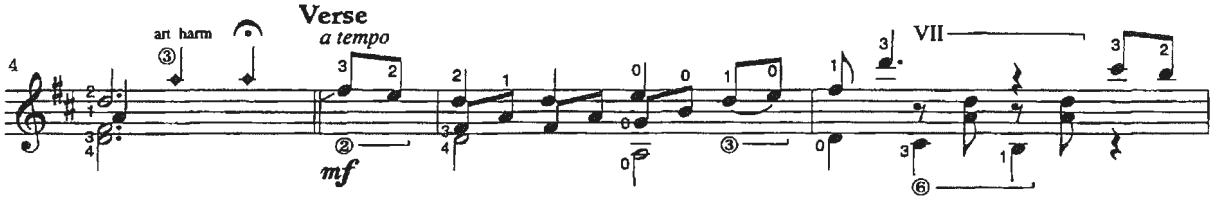
(on American folksongs)

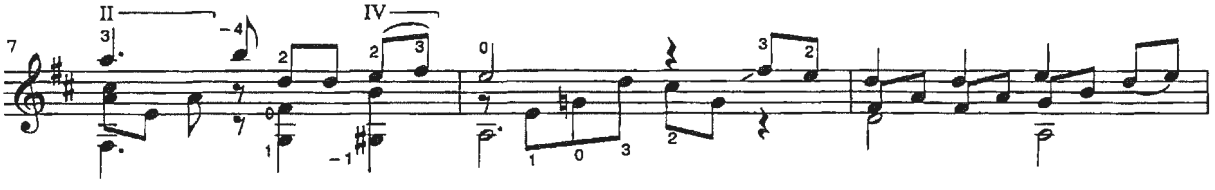
Gentle Annie *(Stephen Foster)*

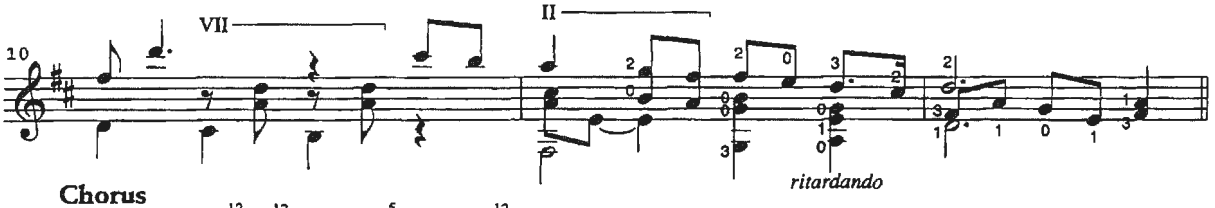
Andantino



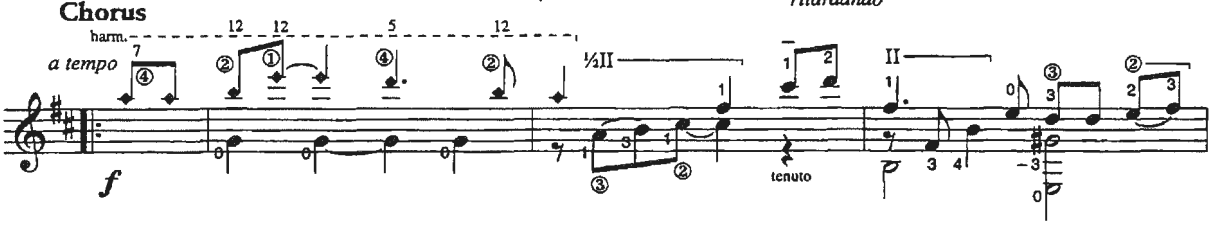
Verse

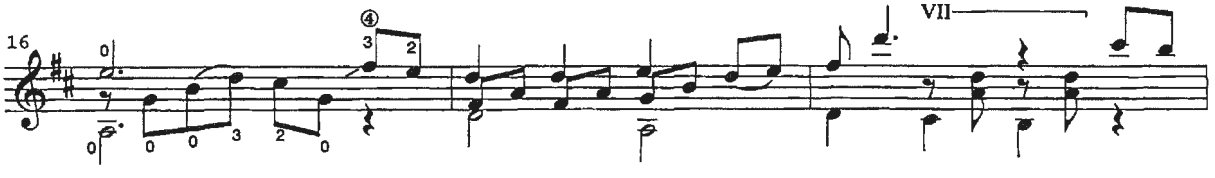


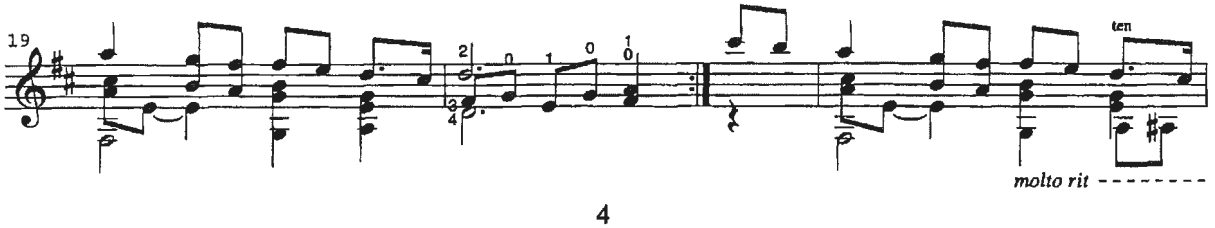


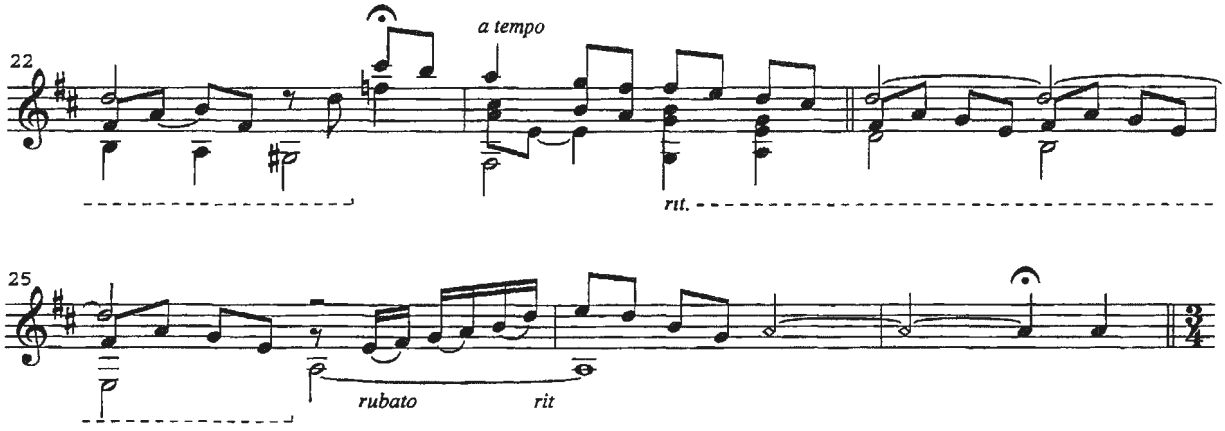


Chorus

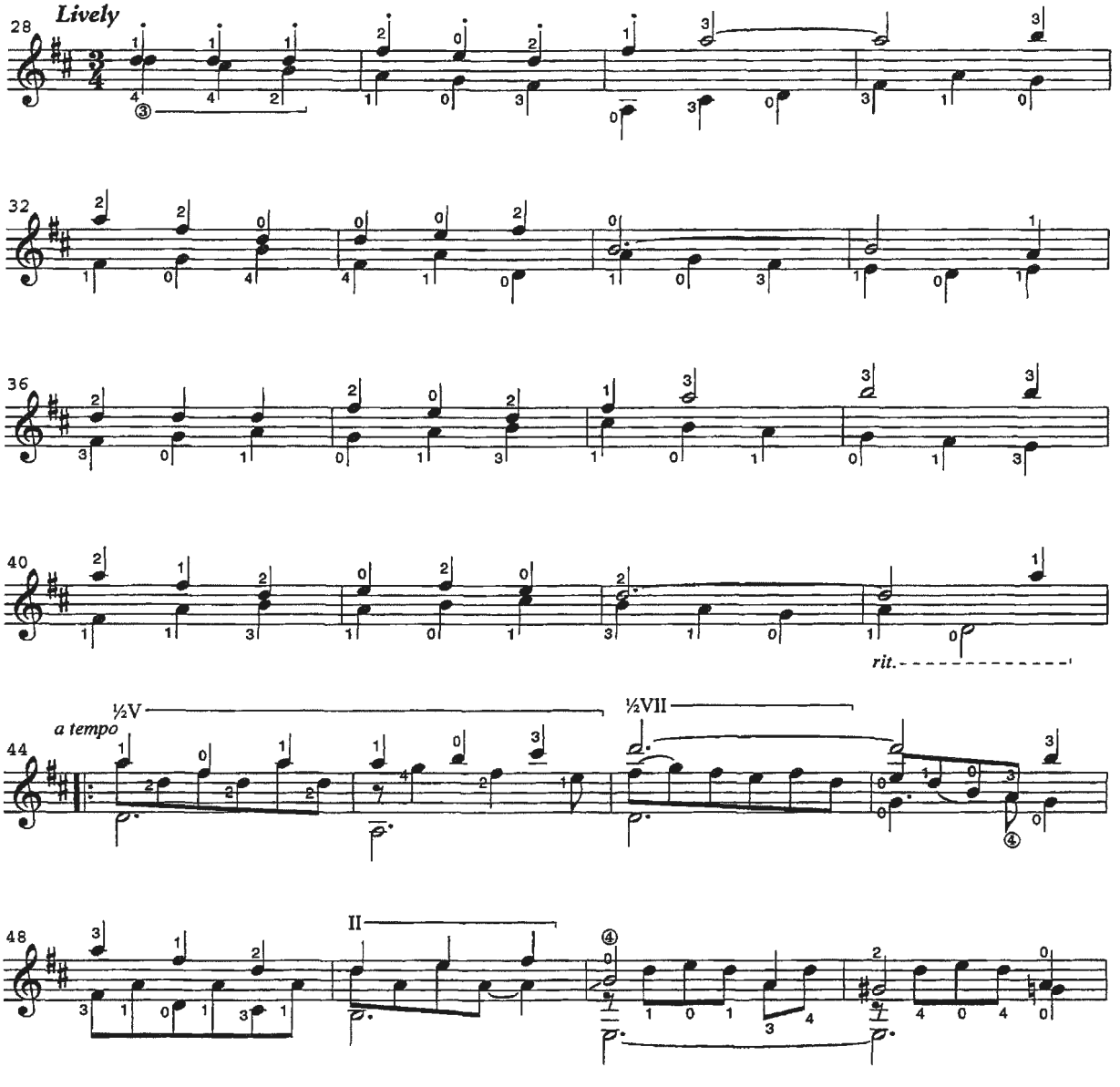


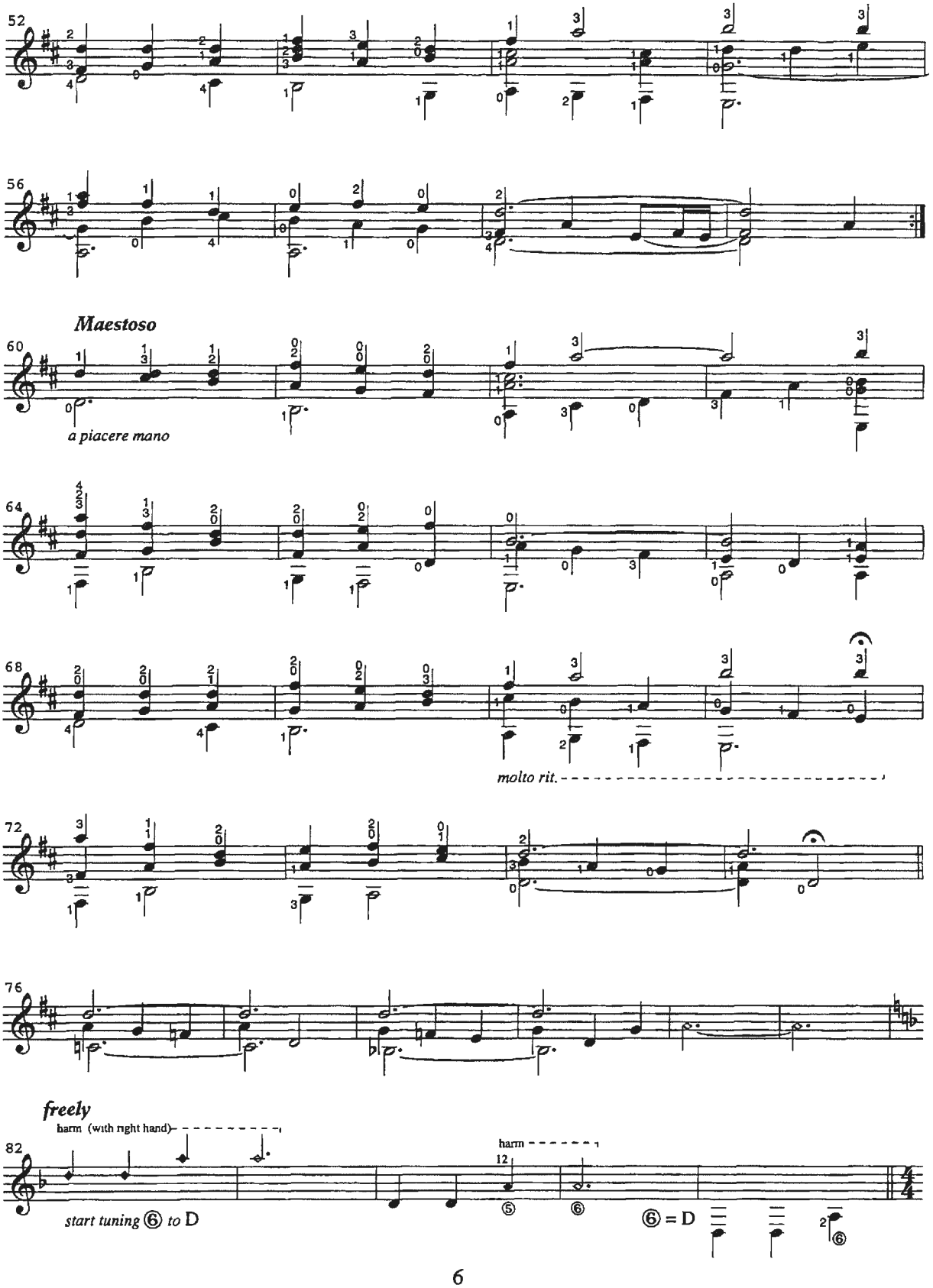






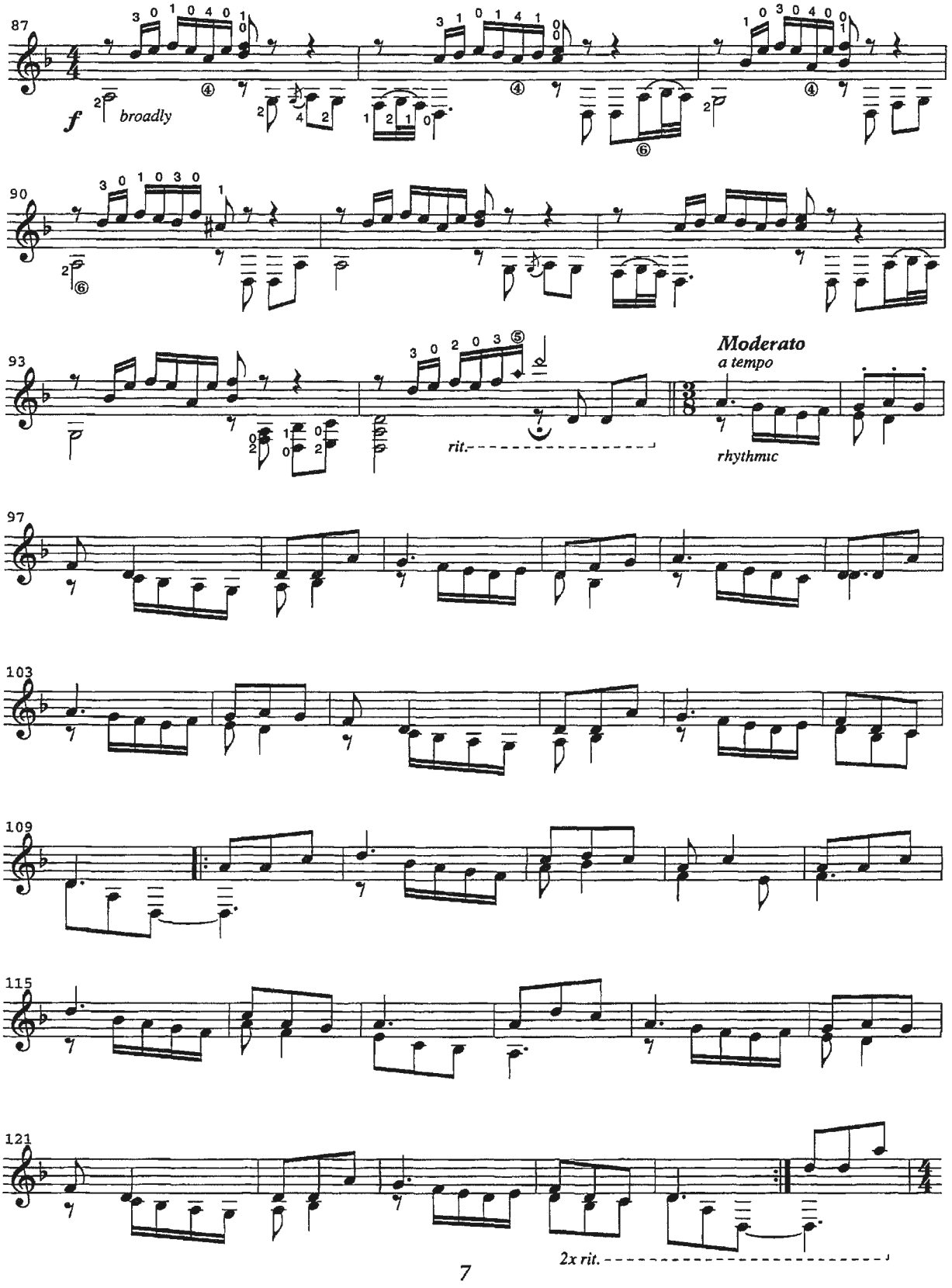
Rosin the Beau *(anon.)*

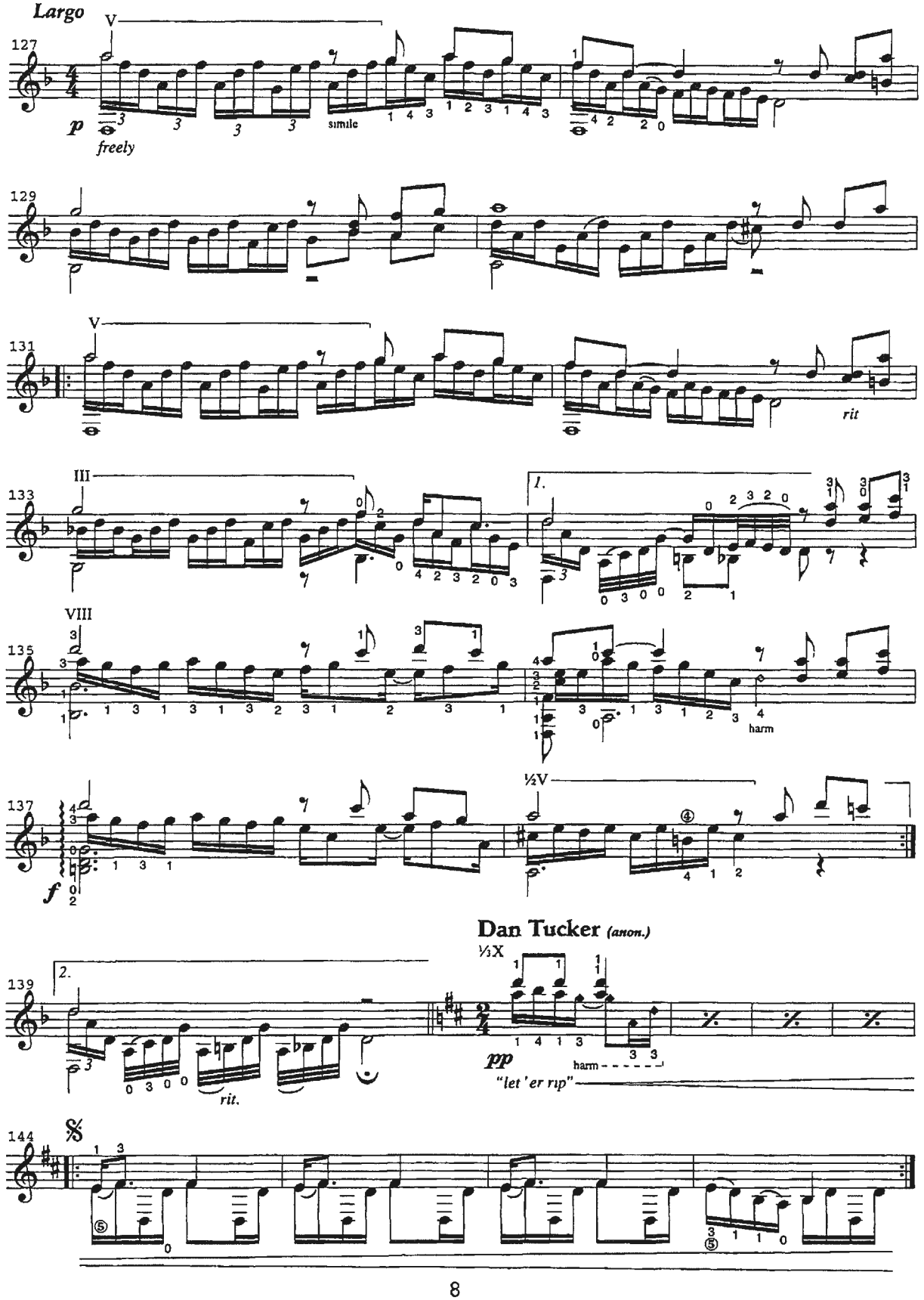


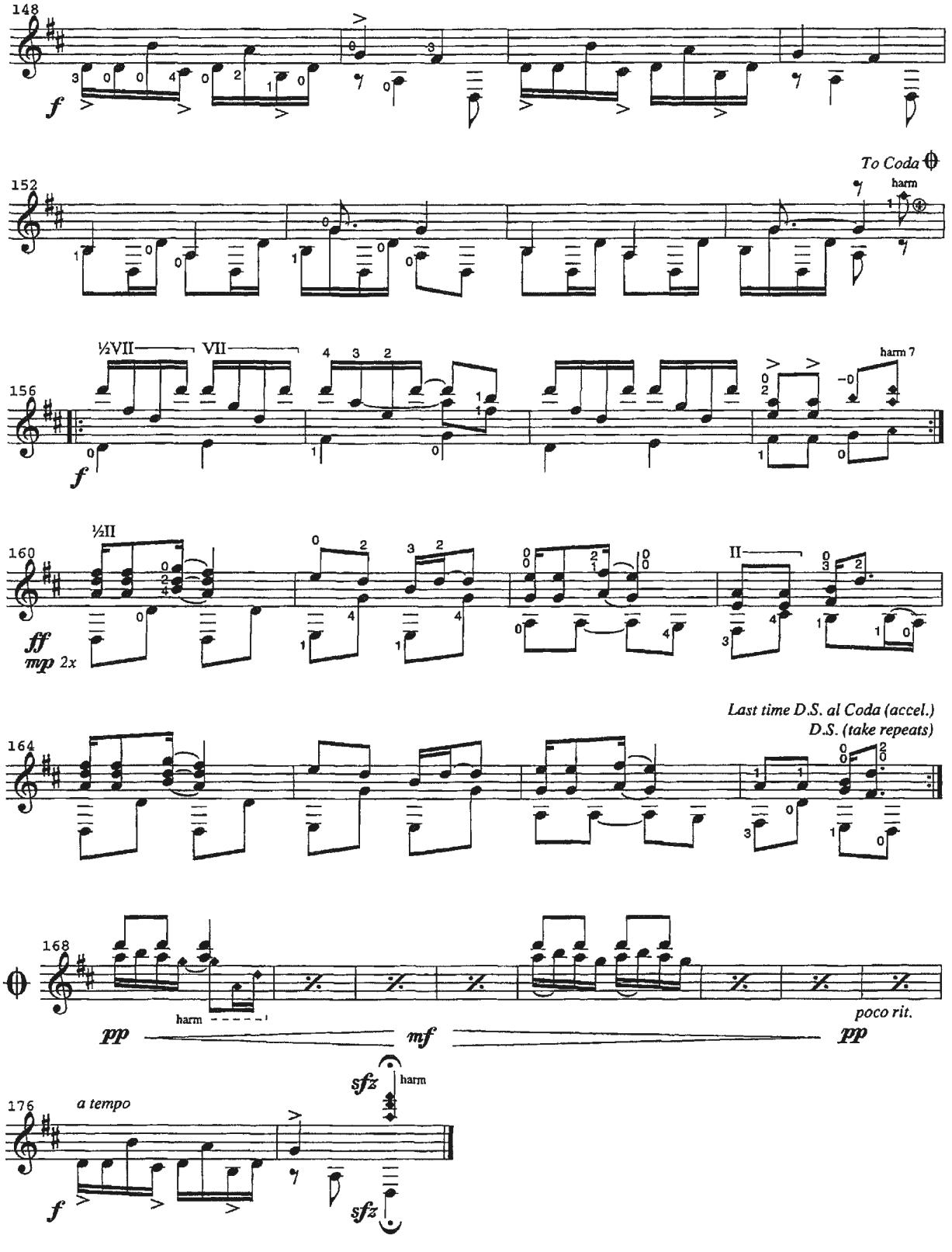

52
56
Maestoso
60
a piacere mano
64
68
molto rit.
72
76
freely
harm (with right hand)
82
start tuning ⑥ to D
harm
⑤
⑥
⑥ = D

Wayfaring Stranger *(anon.)*

Largo




Largo
127
p
freely
simile
129
131
rit
133
1.
135
harm
137
f
½V
Dan Tucker (anon.)
139
2.
⅓X
pp
harm
"let 'er rip"
rit.
144

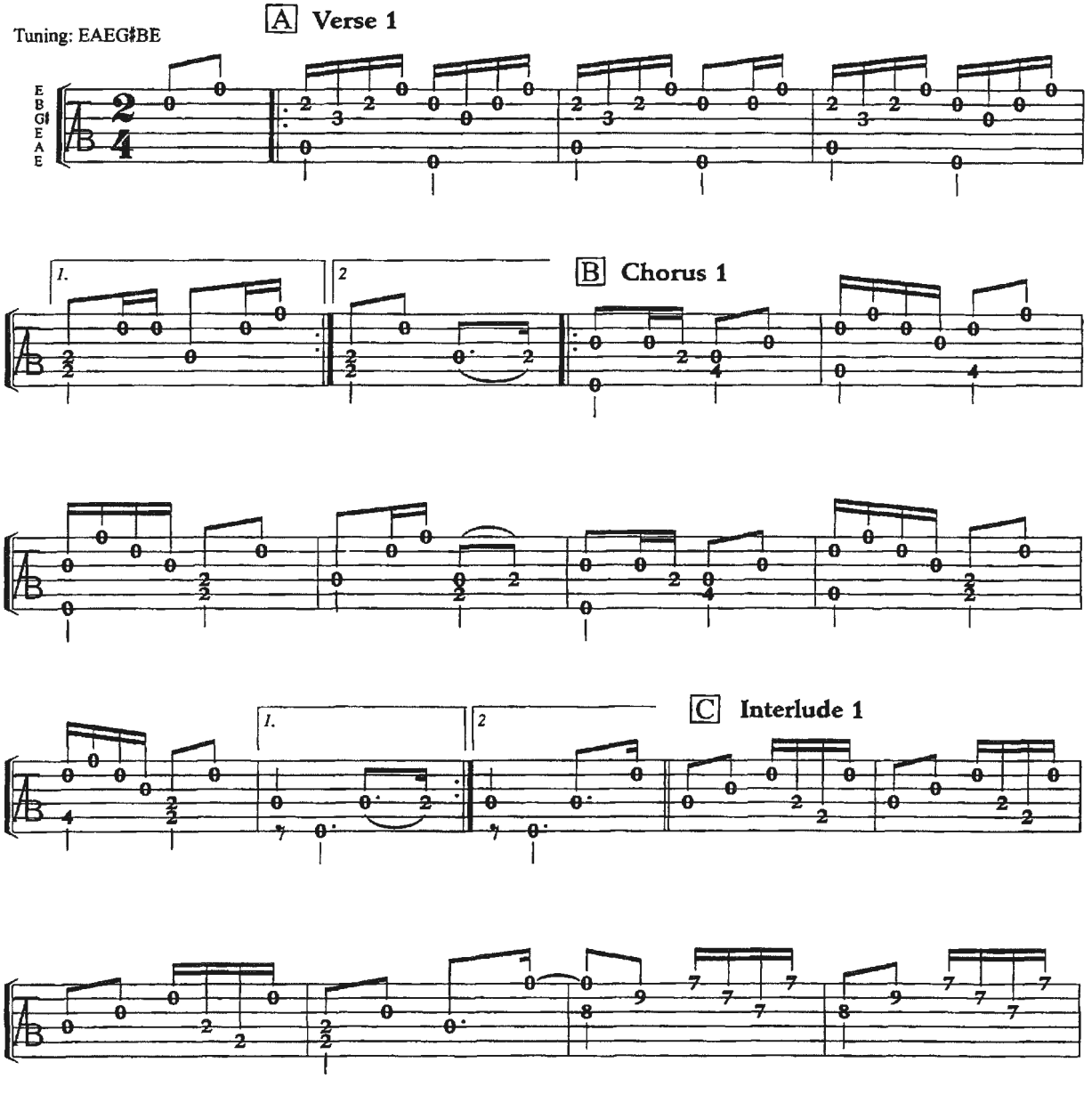

148
f
To Coda
152
harm
156
½VII
VII
harm 7
f
160
½II
II
ff
mp 2x
Last time D.S. al Coda (accel.)
D.S. (take repeats)
164
168
harm
pp
mf
pp
poco rit.
sfz
harm
176
a tempo
f
sfz

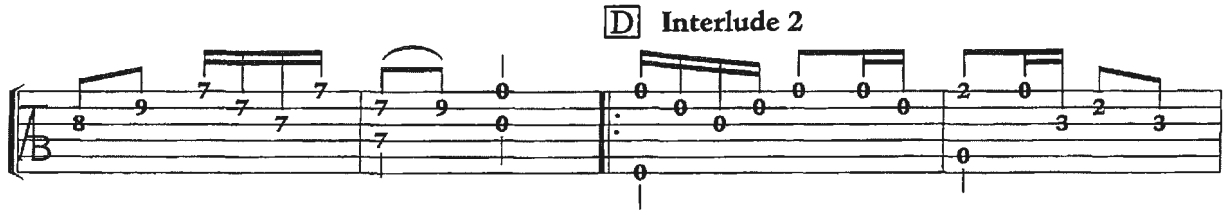
The Boatman's Dance

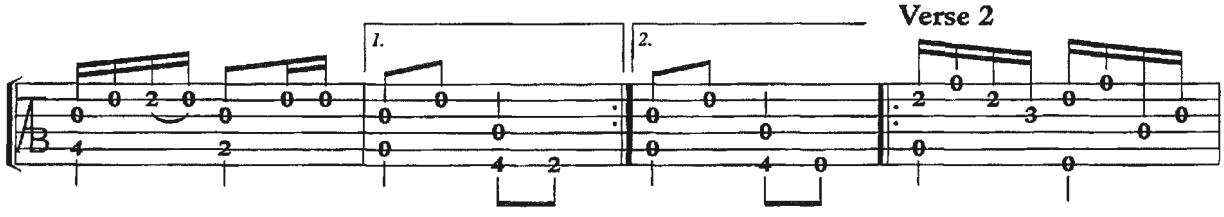
Arranged for guitar by James Edwards

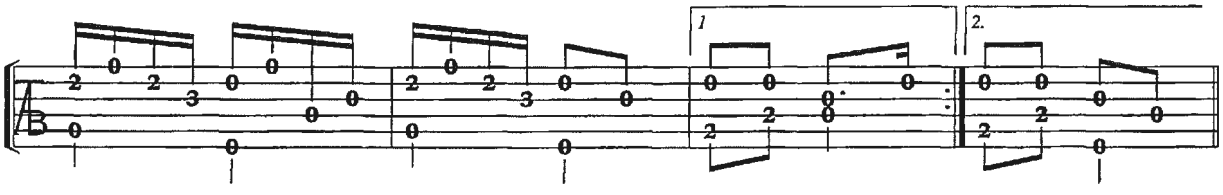
Dan Emmet

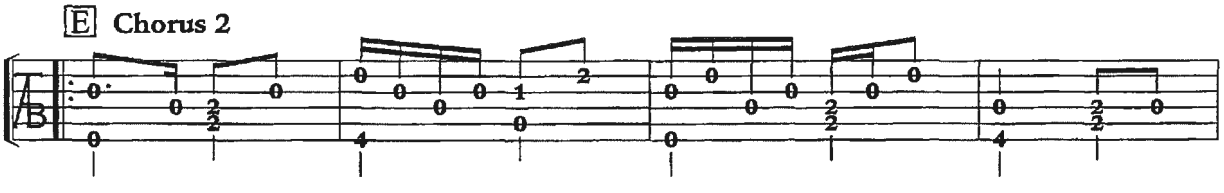
Because of the odd tuning, it was considered more appropriate to set this piece, and the following piece, in tablature.

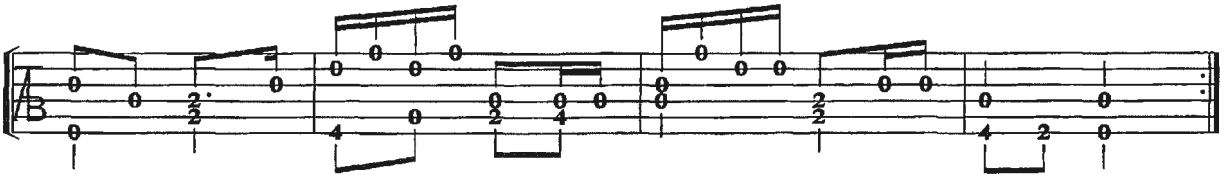



D
Interlude 2


Verse 2
1.
2.


1
2.


E
Chorus 2



Golden Slippers

Arranged for guitar by James Edwards

Attributed to James Bland

Play A²B²AB-Ending

Tuning. EAEG♯BE

A

B

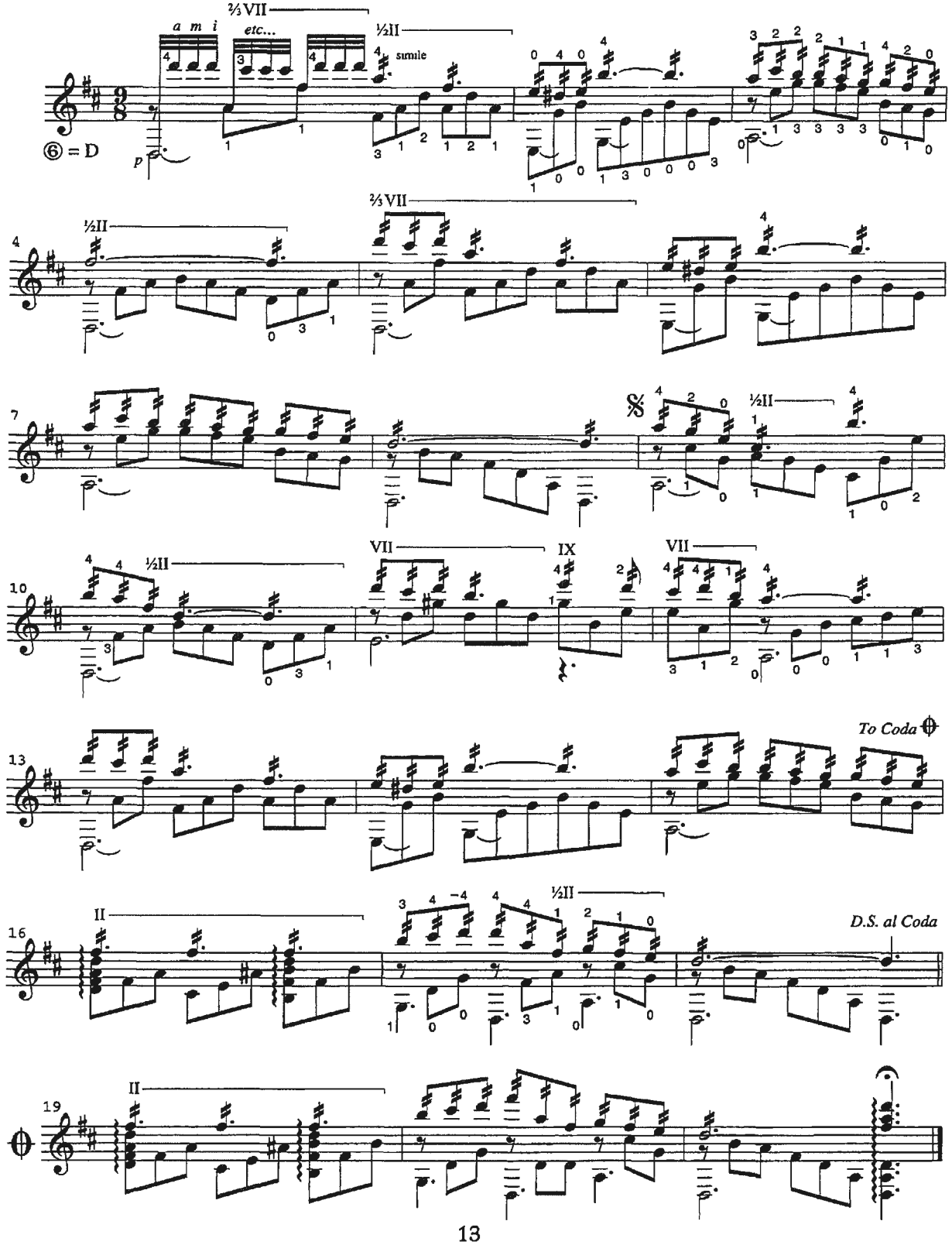
Ending

disc 3

Beautiful Dreamer

Arranged for guitar by James Edwards

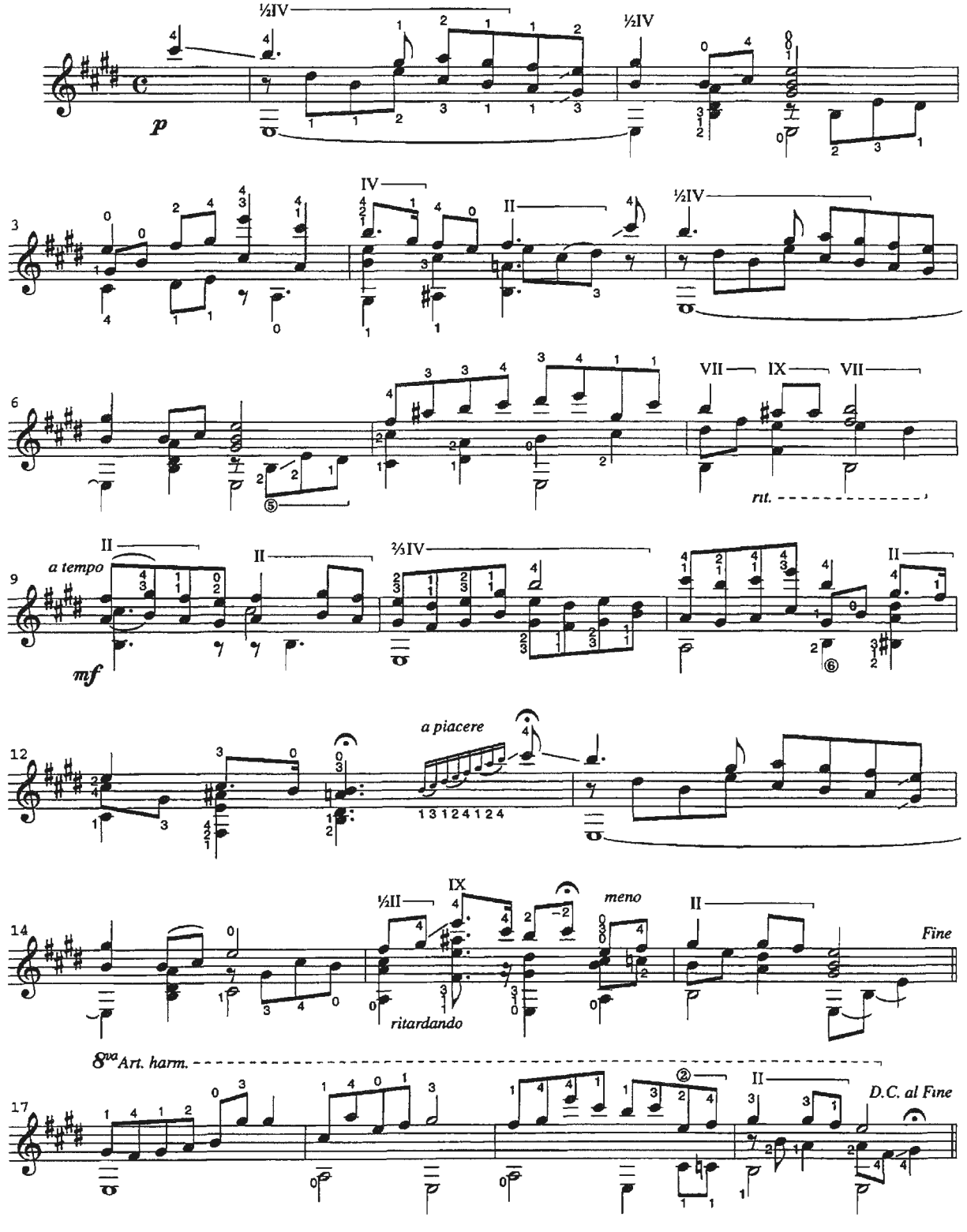
Stephen Foster



disc 4 Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair

Arranged for guitar by James Edwards

Stephen Foster

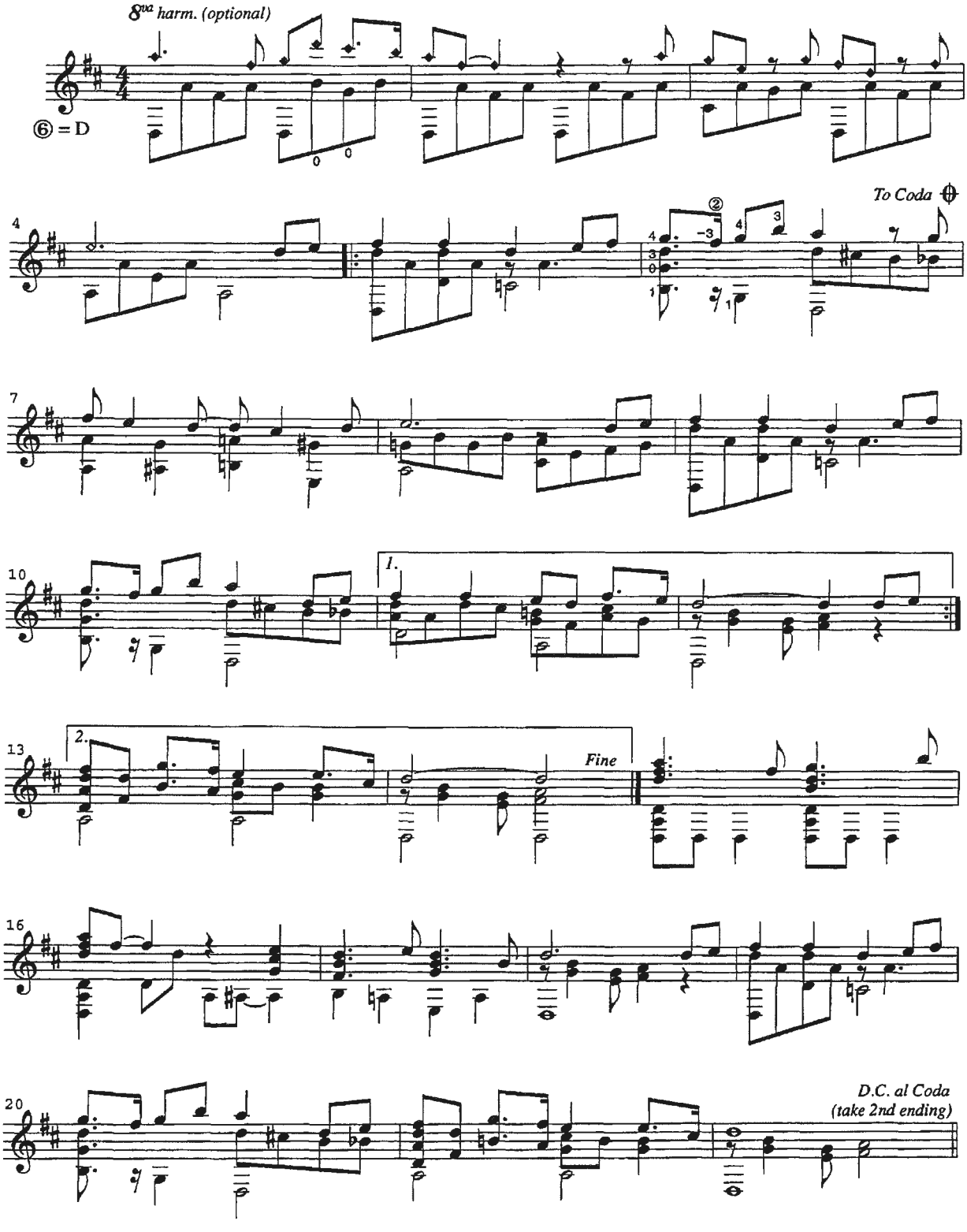


disc 5

My Old Kentucky Home

Arranged for guitar by James Edwards

Stephen Foster

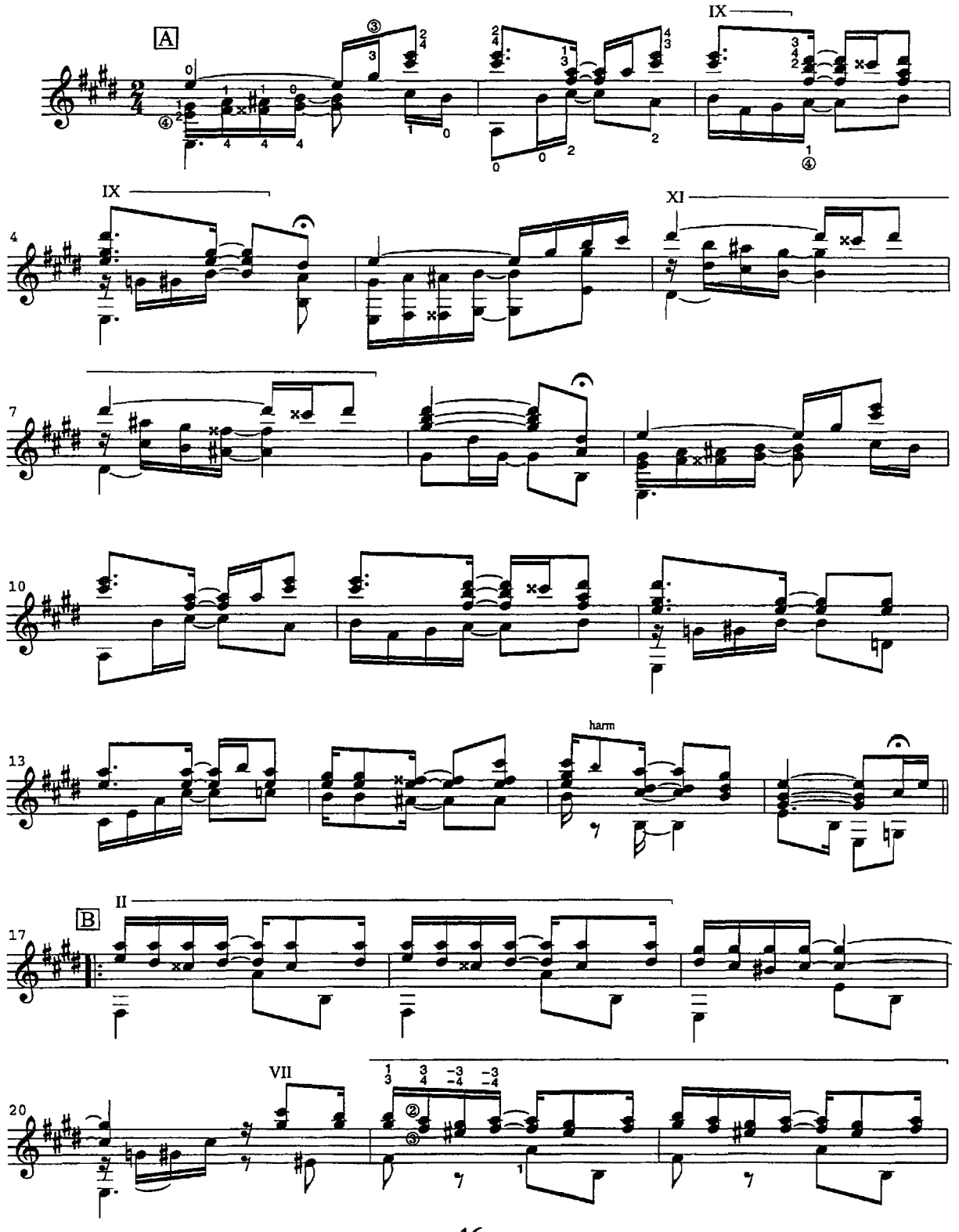


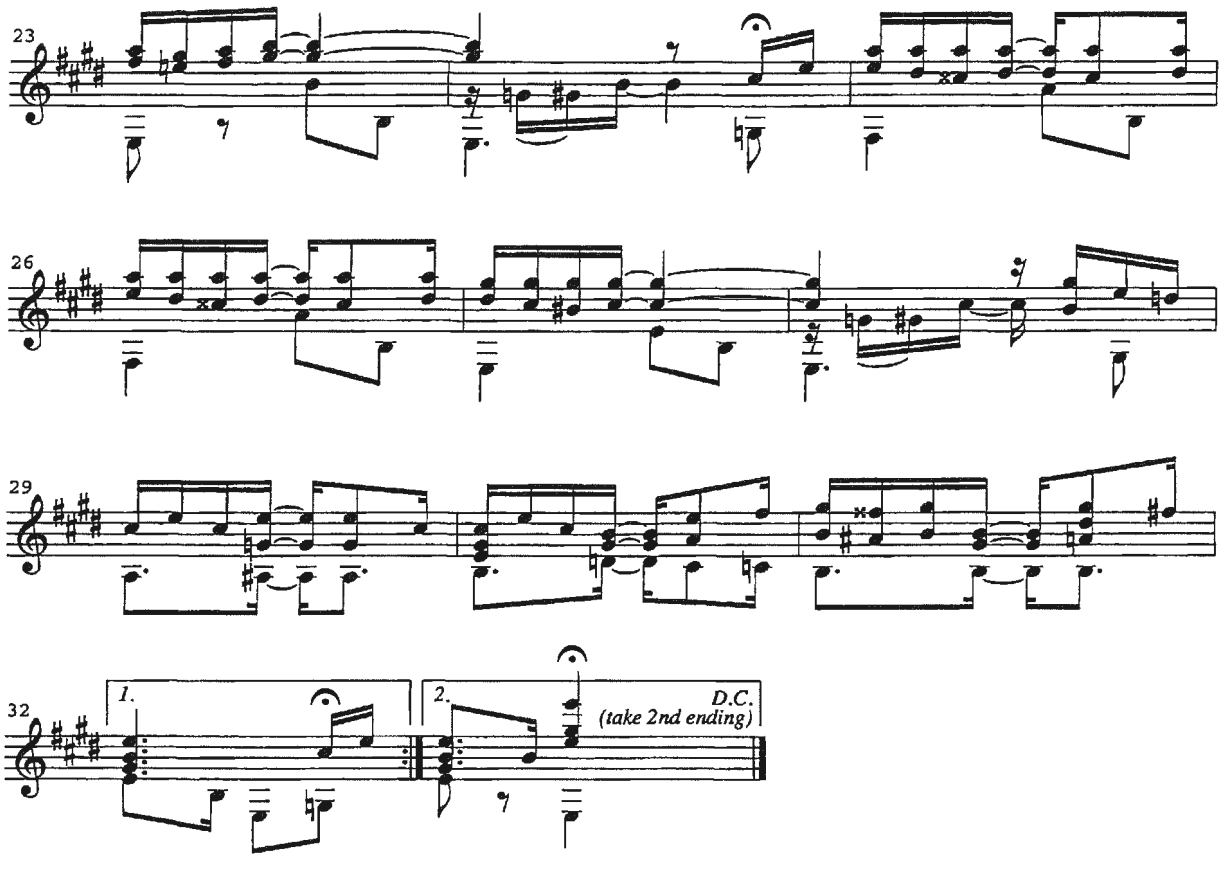
disc 6

Solace

Arranged for guitar by James Edwards

Scott Joplin



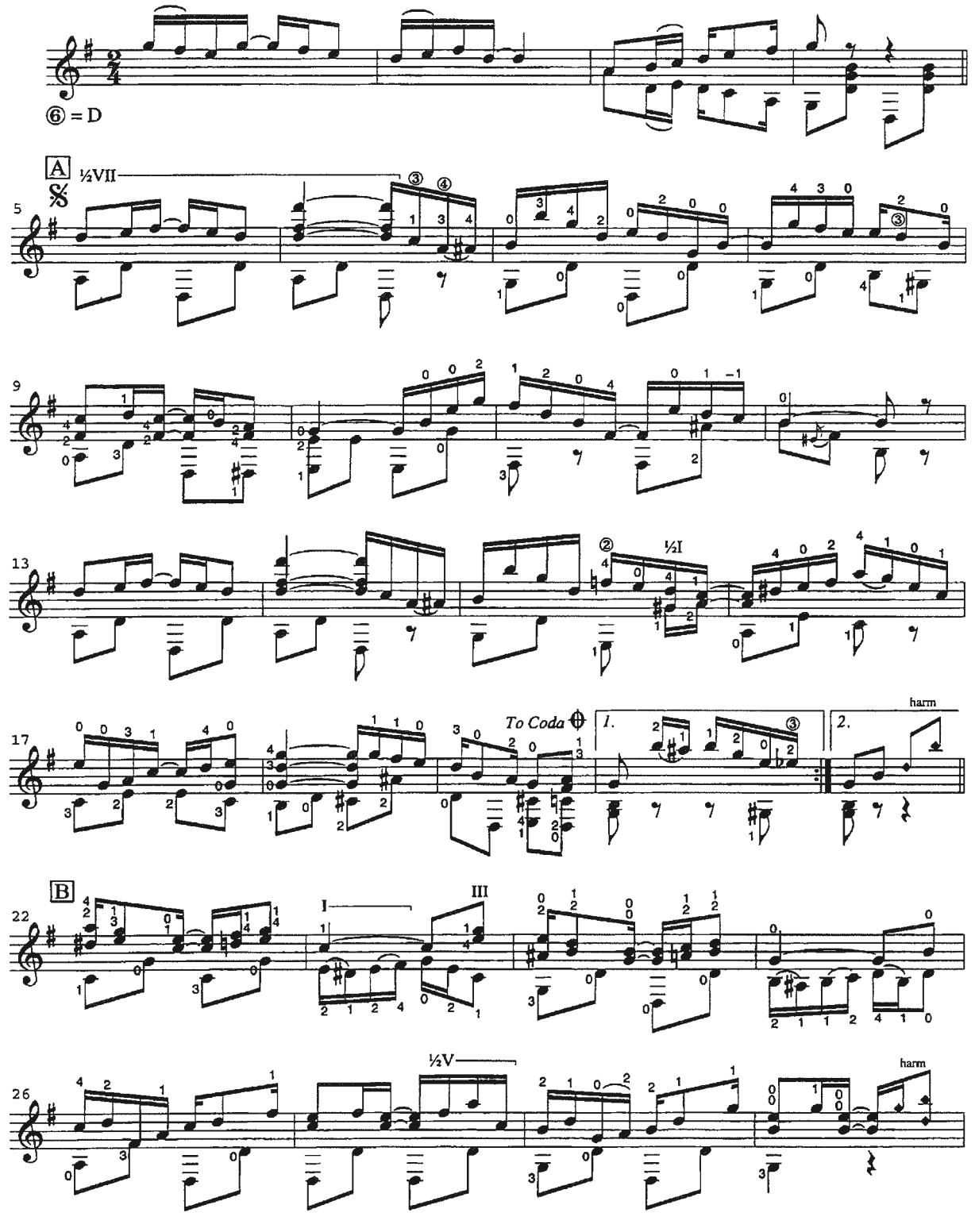

23
26
29
32
1.
2.
D.C.
(take 2nd ending)

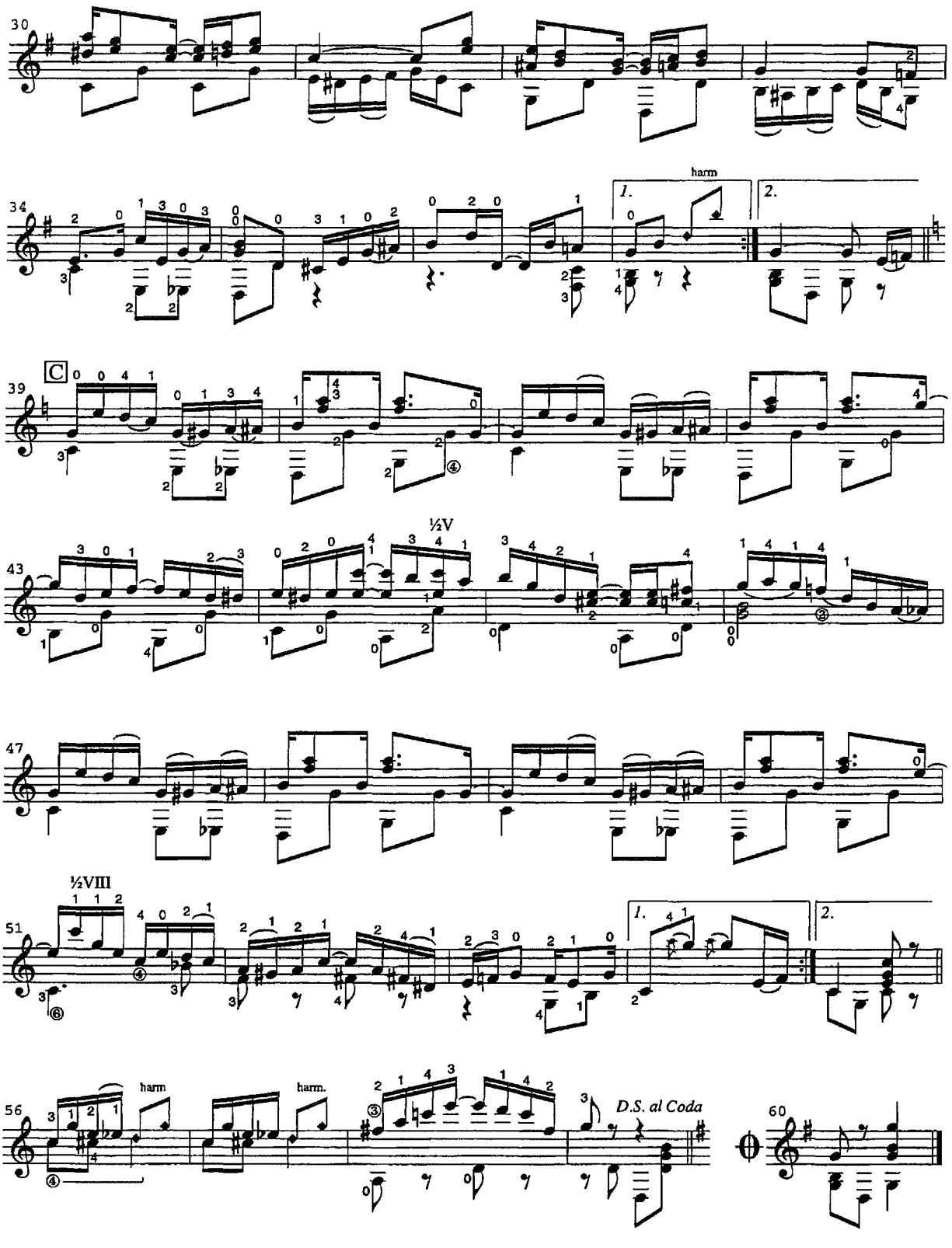
disc 7

Palm Leaf Rag

Arranged for guitar by James Edwards

Scott Joplin



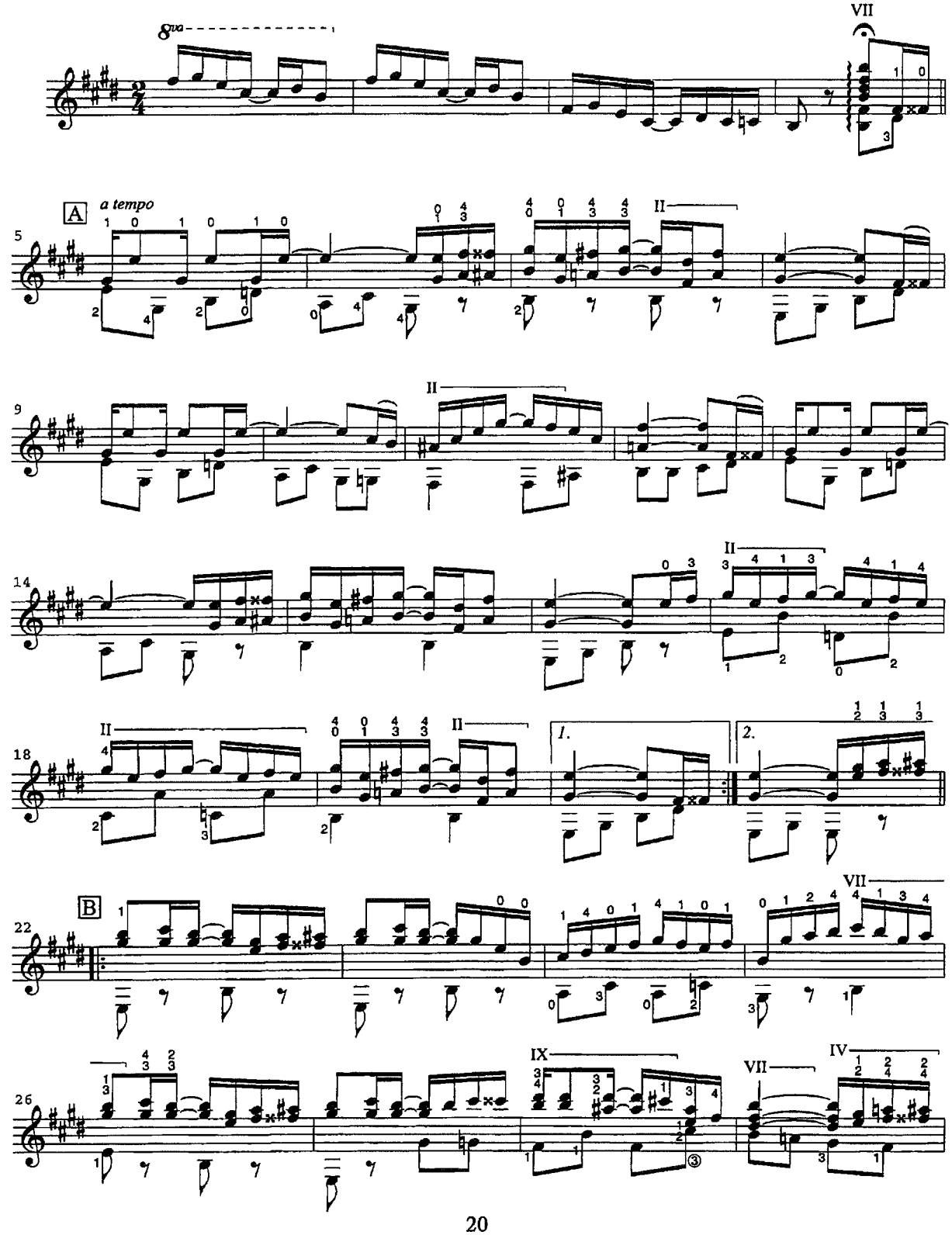

30
34
harm
1.
2.
C
39
½V
43
47
½VIII
51
1.
2.
56
harm
harm.
D.S. al Coda
60

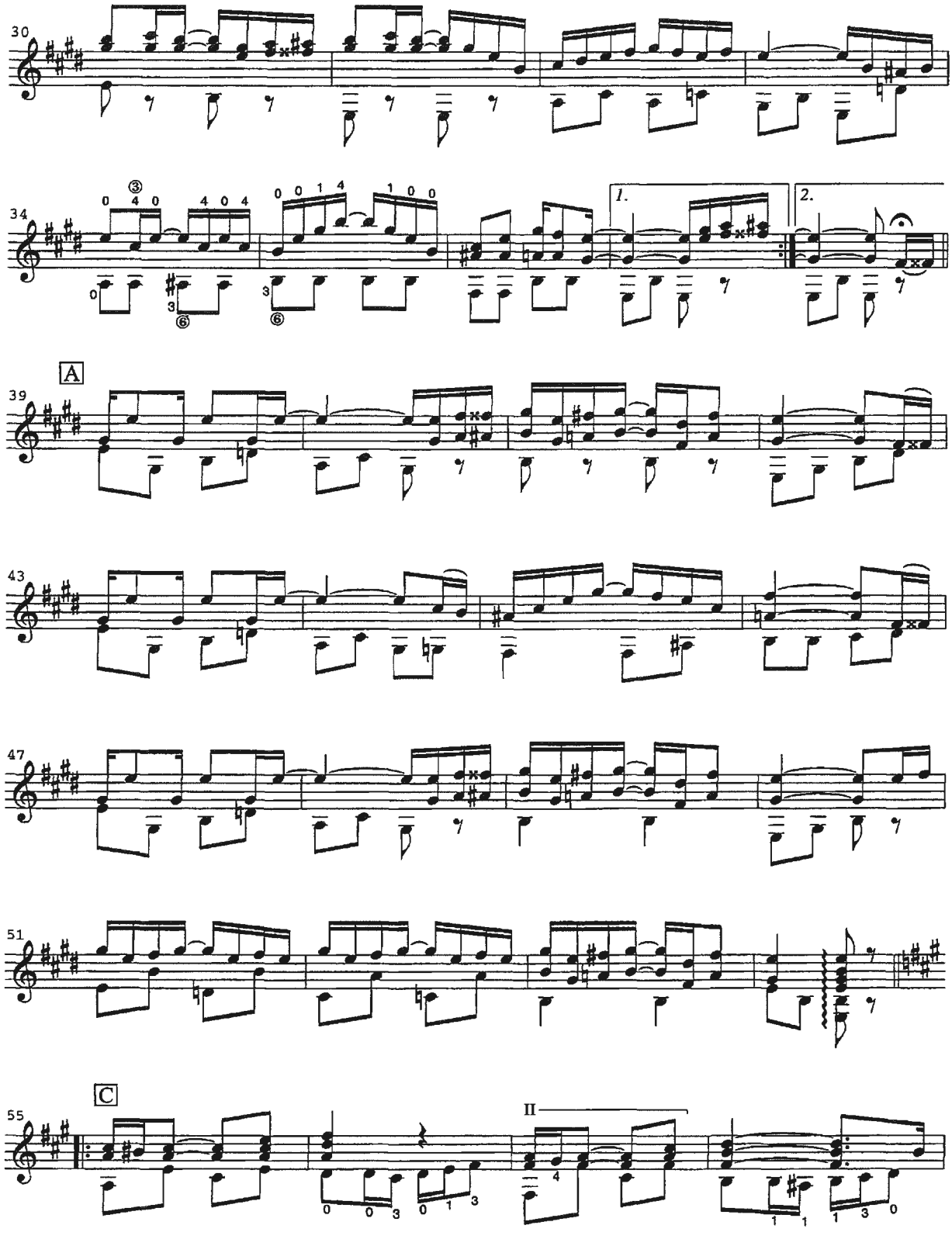
8

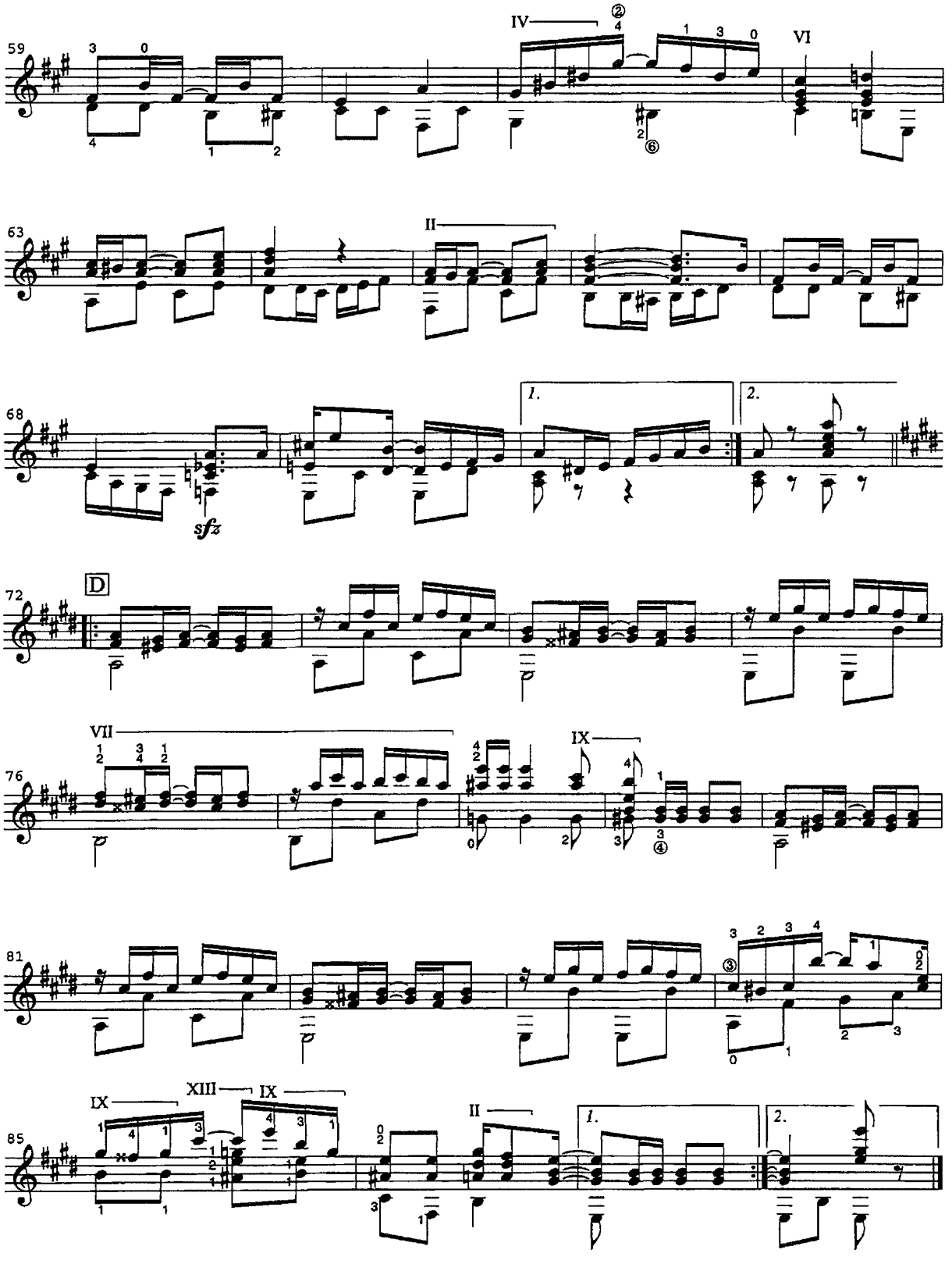
The Entertainer

Arranged for guitar by James Edwards

Scott Joplin




30
34
1.
2.
A
39
43
47
51
C
55
II

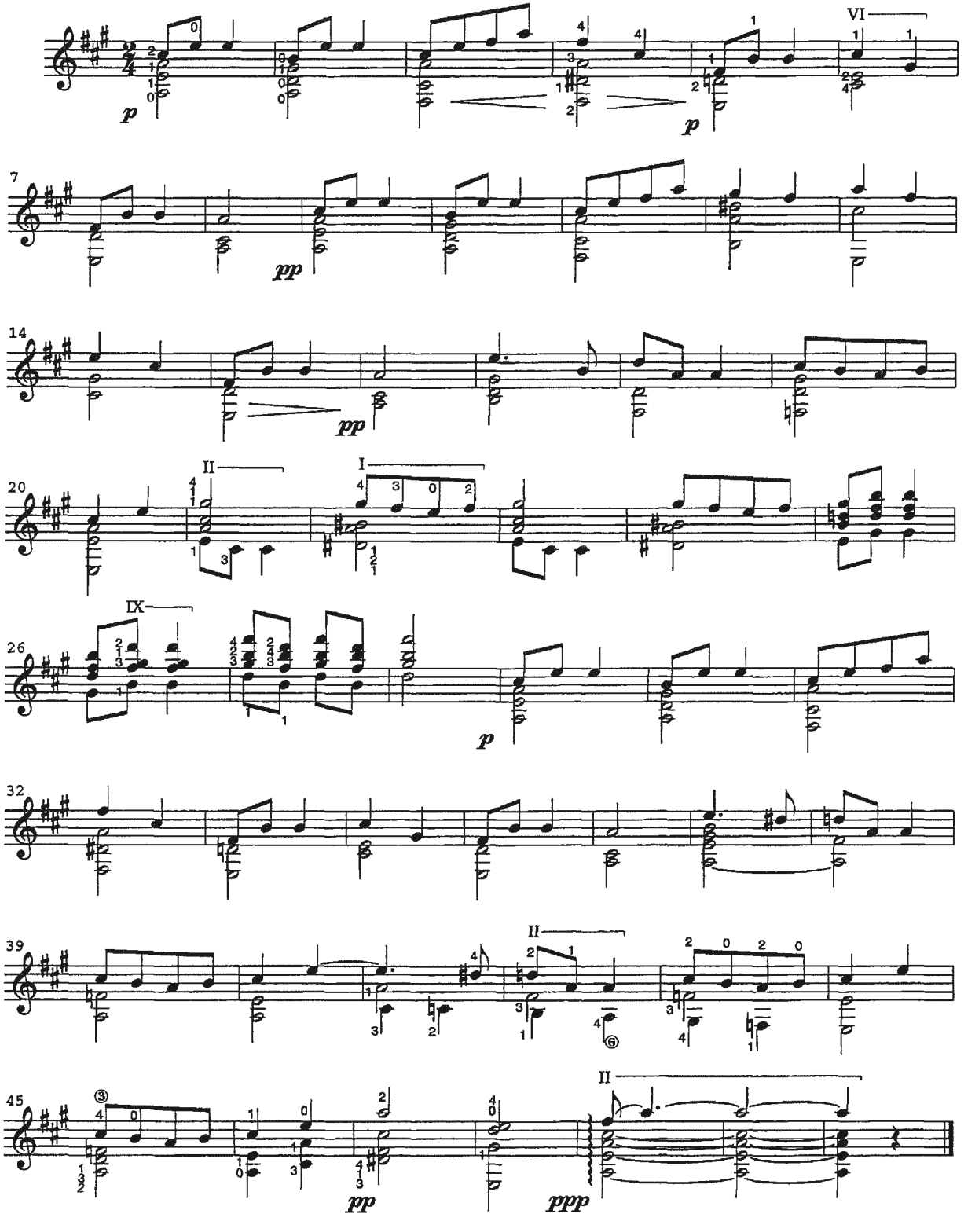

59
IV
VI
63
II
68
1.
2.
sfz
72
D
76
VII
IX
81
85
IX
XIII
IX
II
1.
2.

disc 9

To a Wild Rose

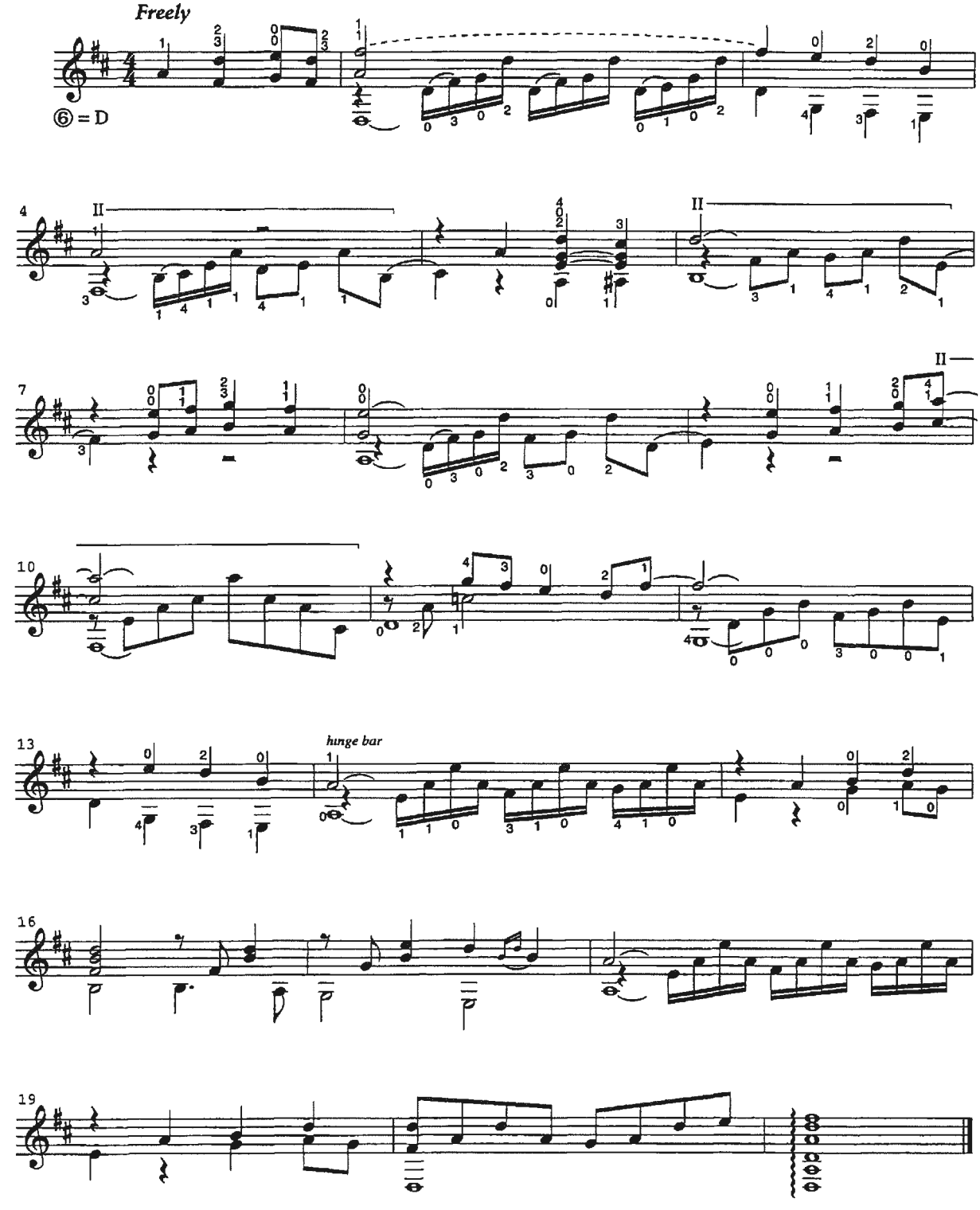
Arranged for guitar by James Edwards

Edward MacDowell



disc 10

The Water Is Wide

Arranged for guitar by James Edwards

Traditional