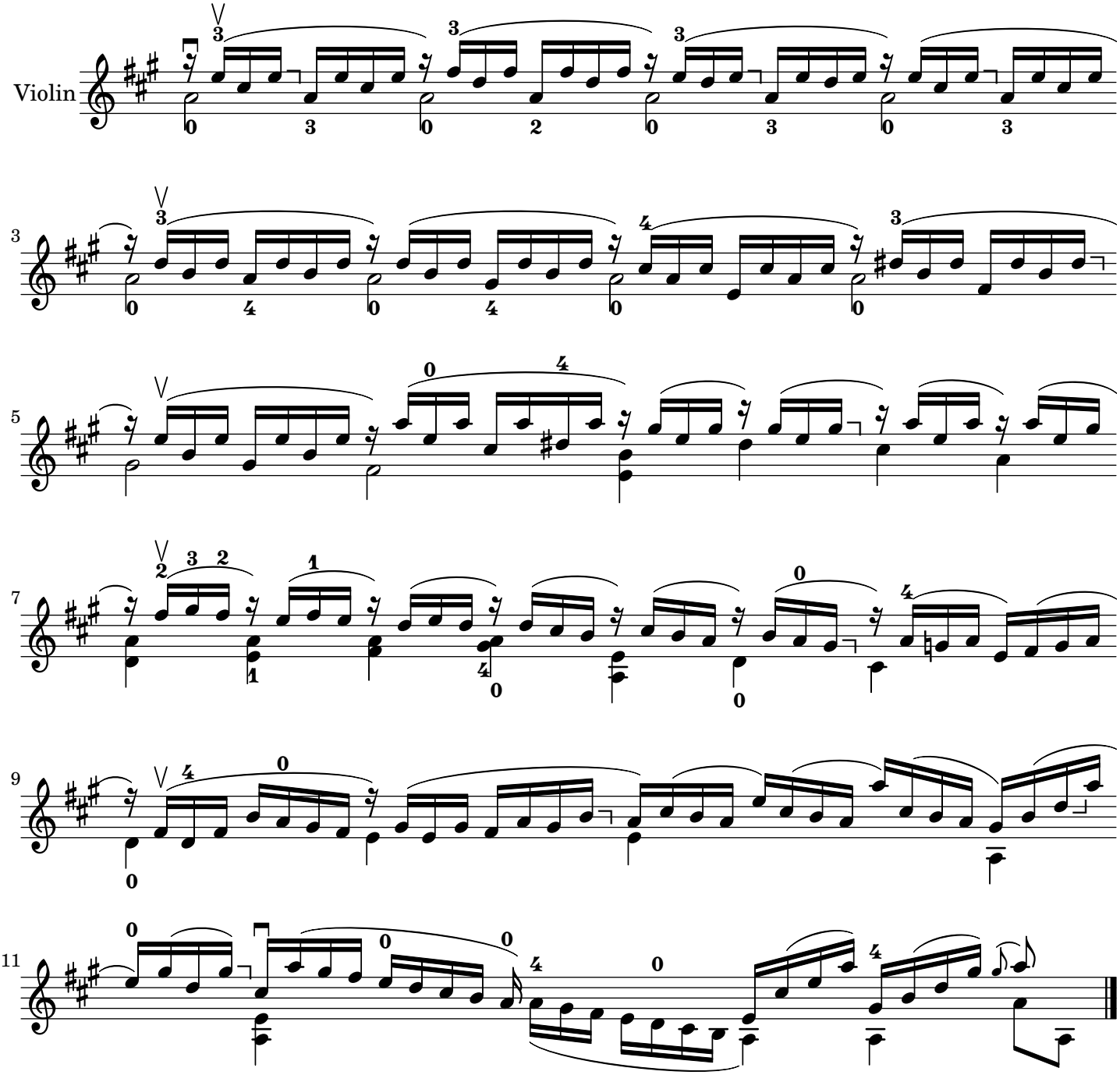
Suite in A Major

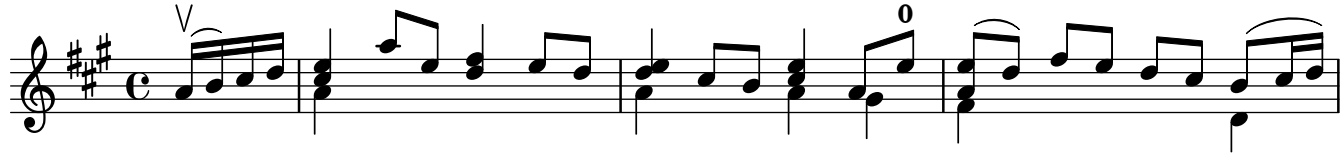
Transcribed from the lute score
by Stelian Dumitrascu

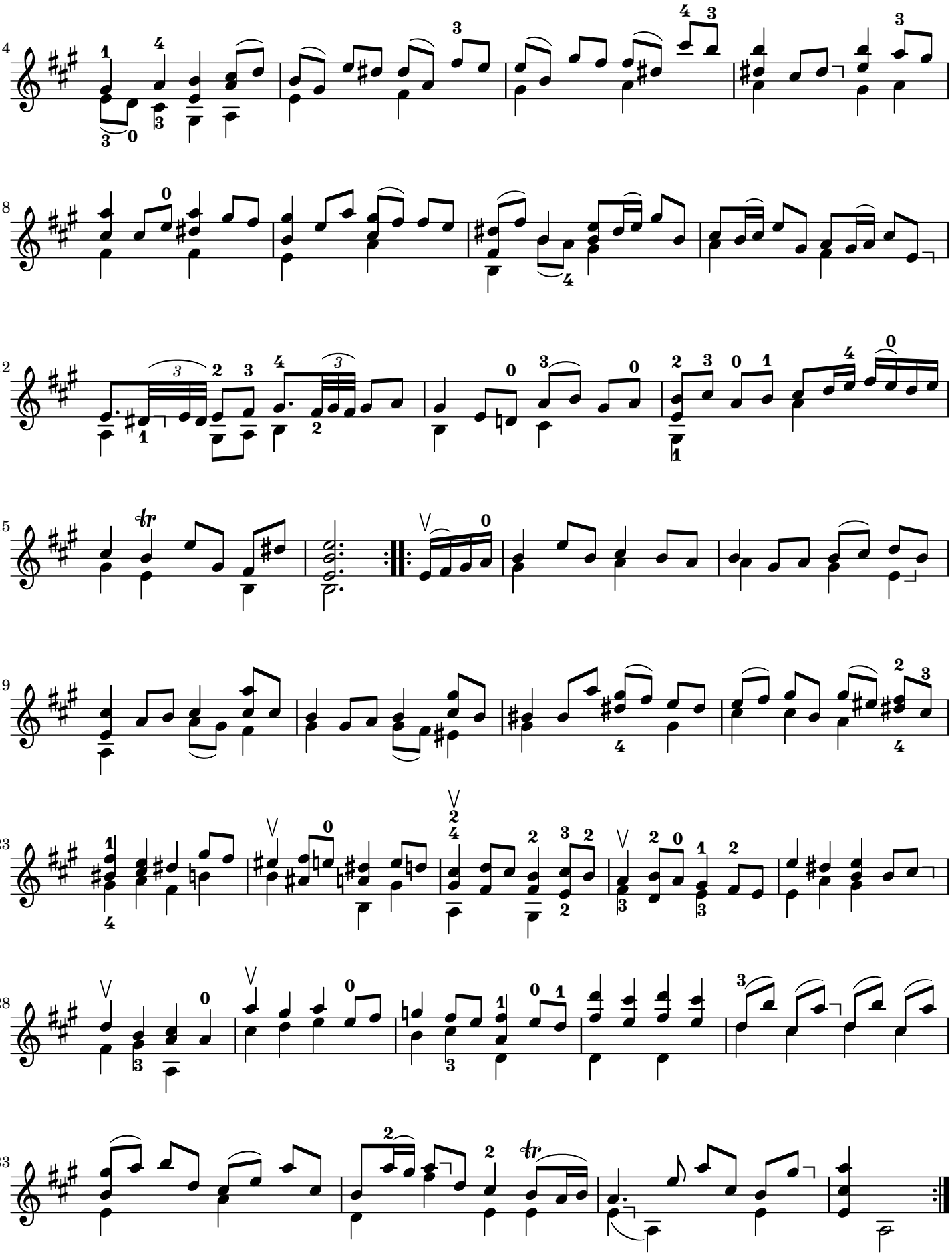
Silvius Leopold Weiss (1687-1750)

Prelude

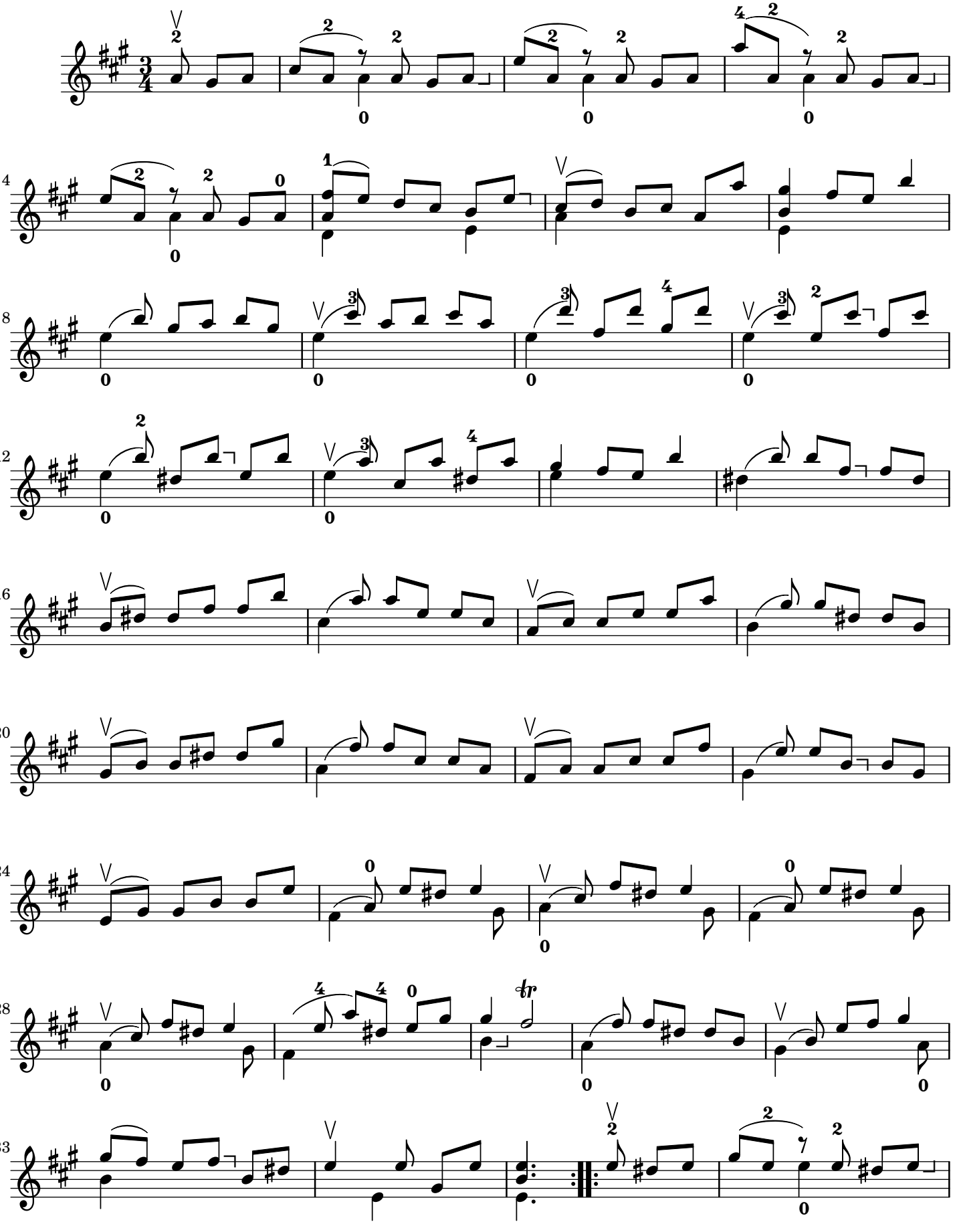


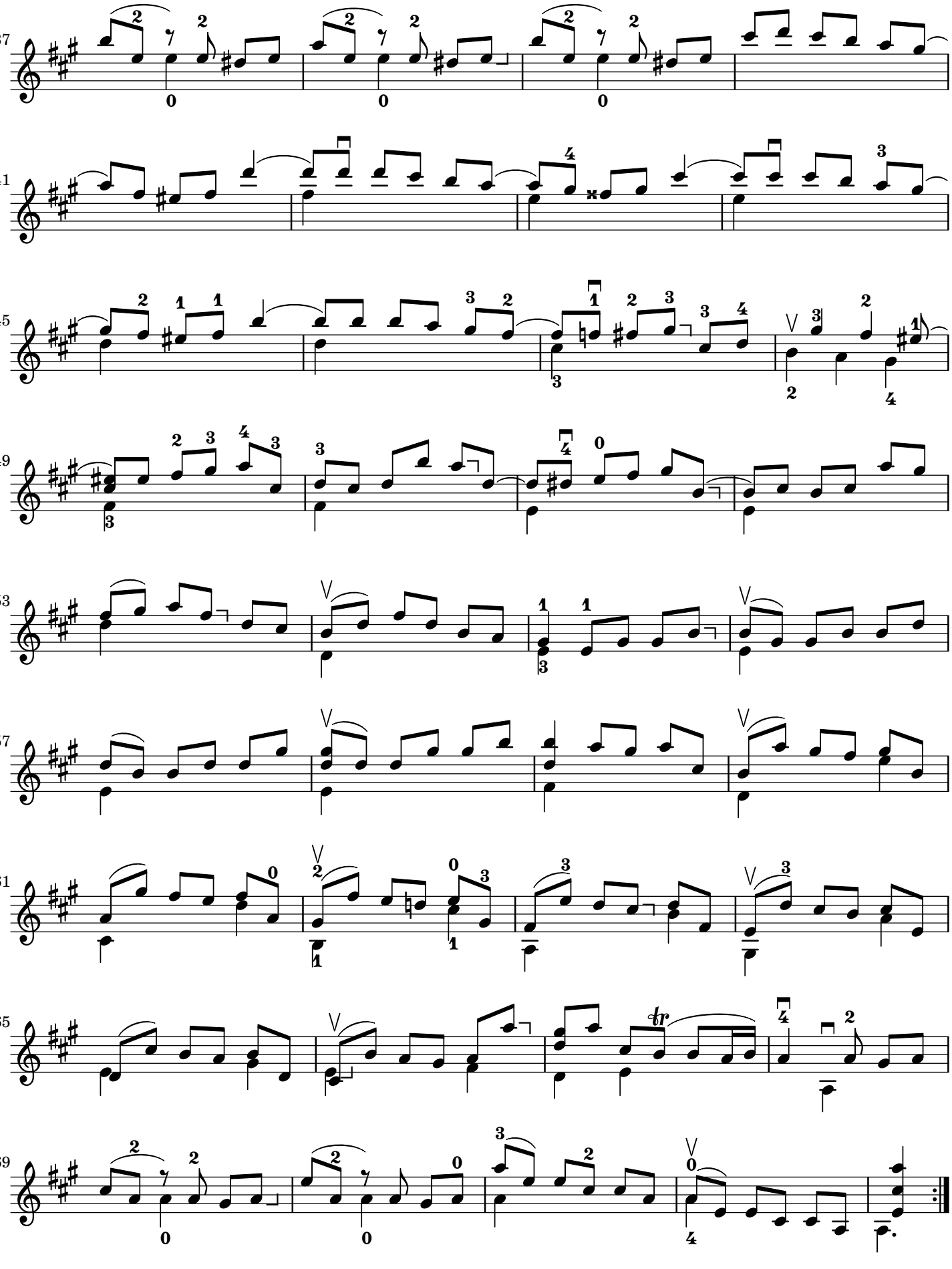
Allemande



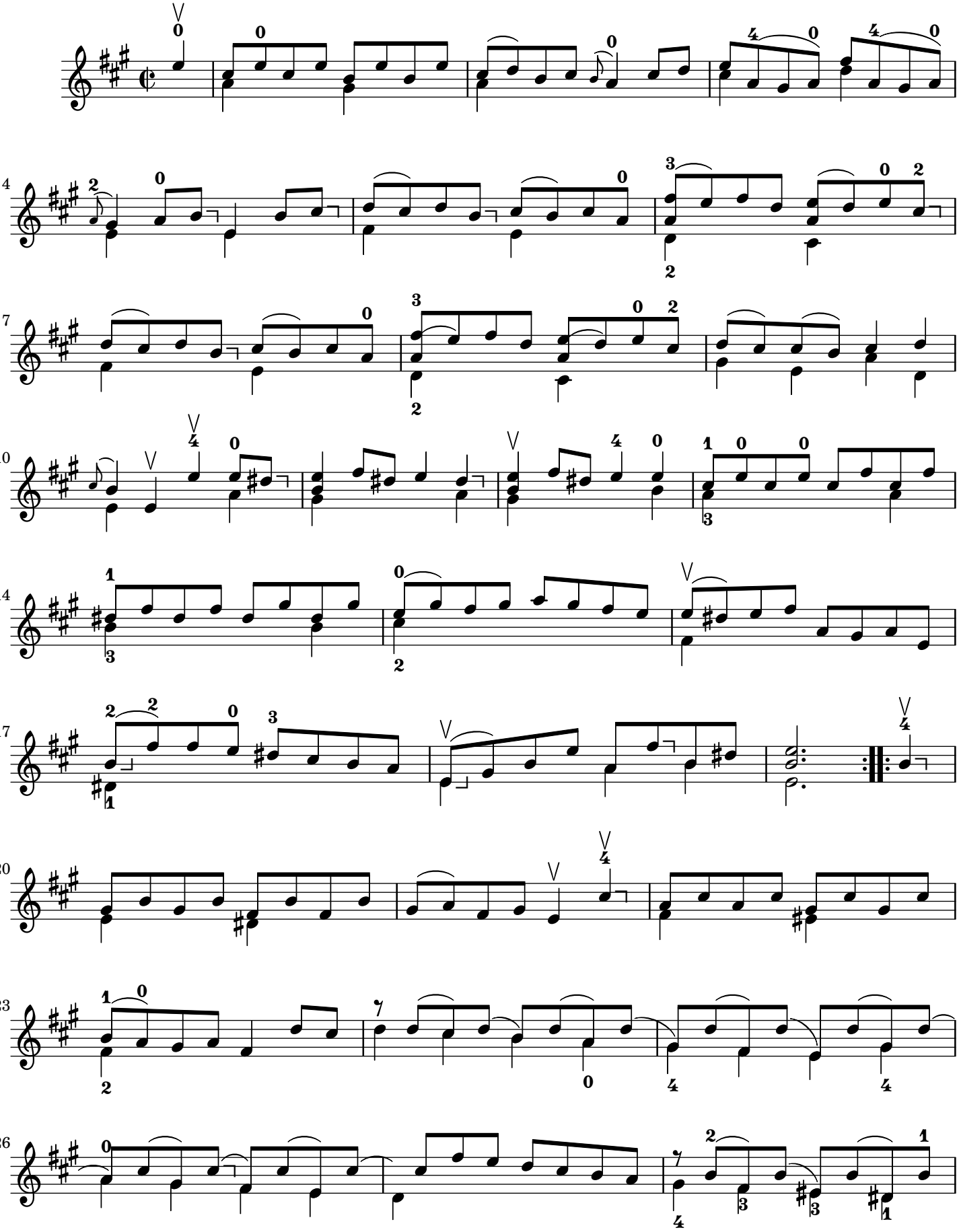


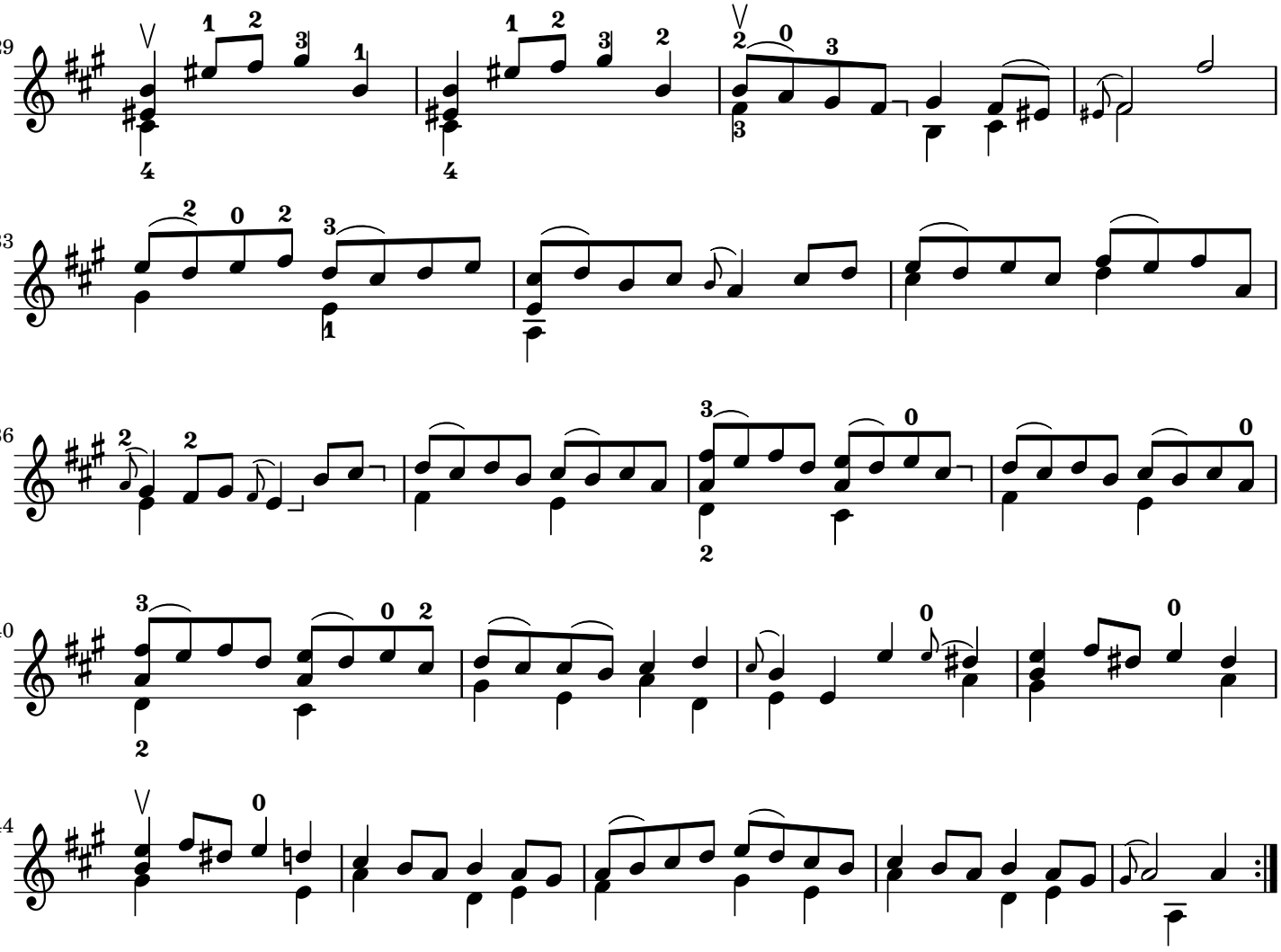
Courante



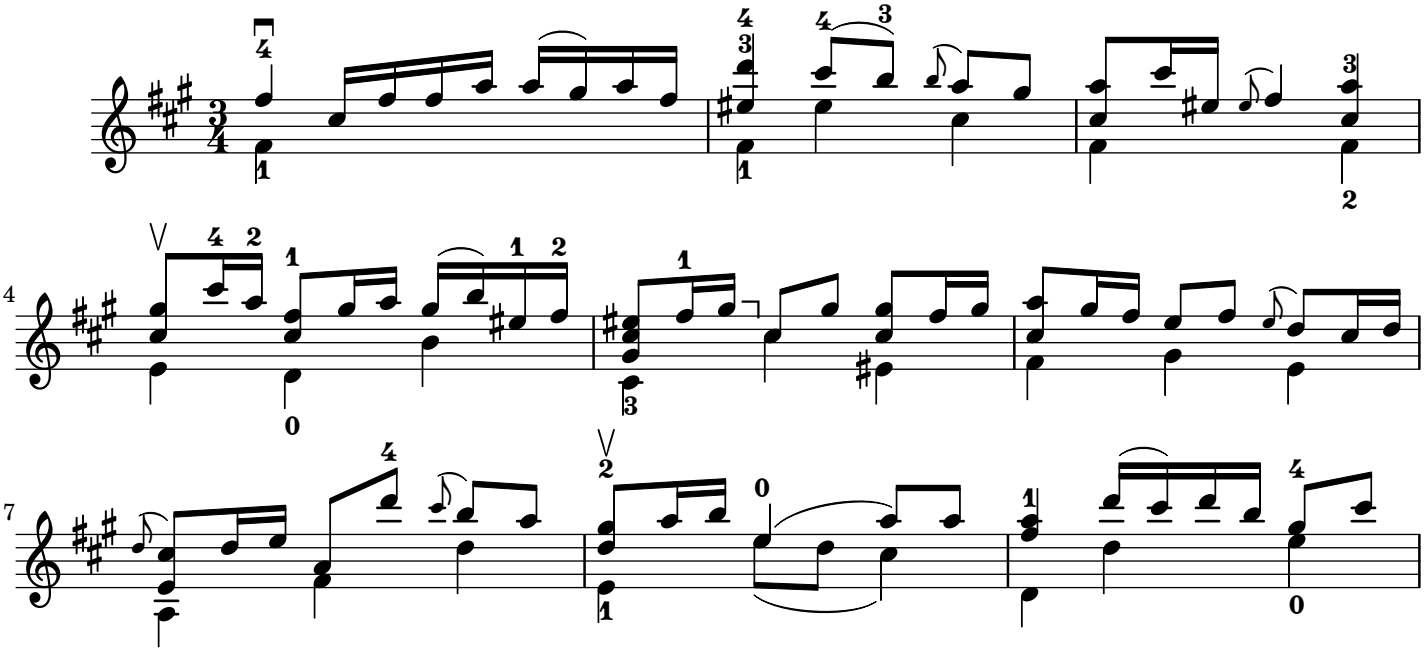


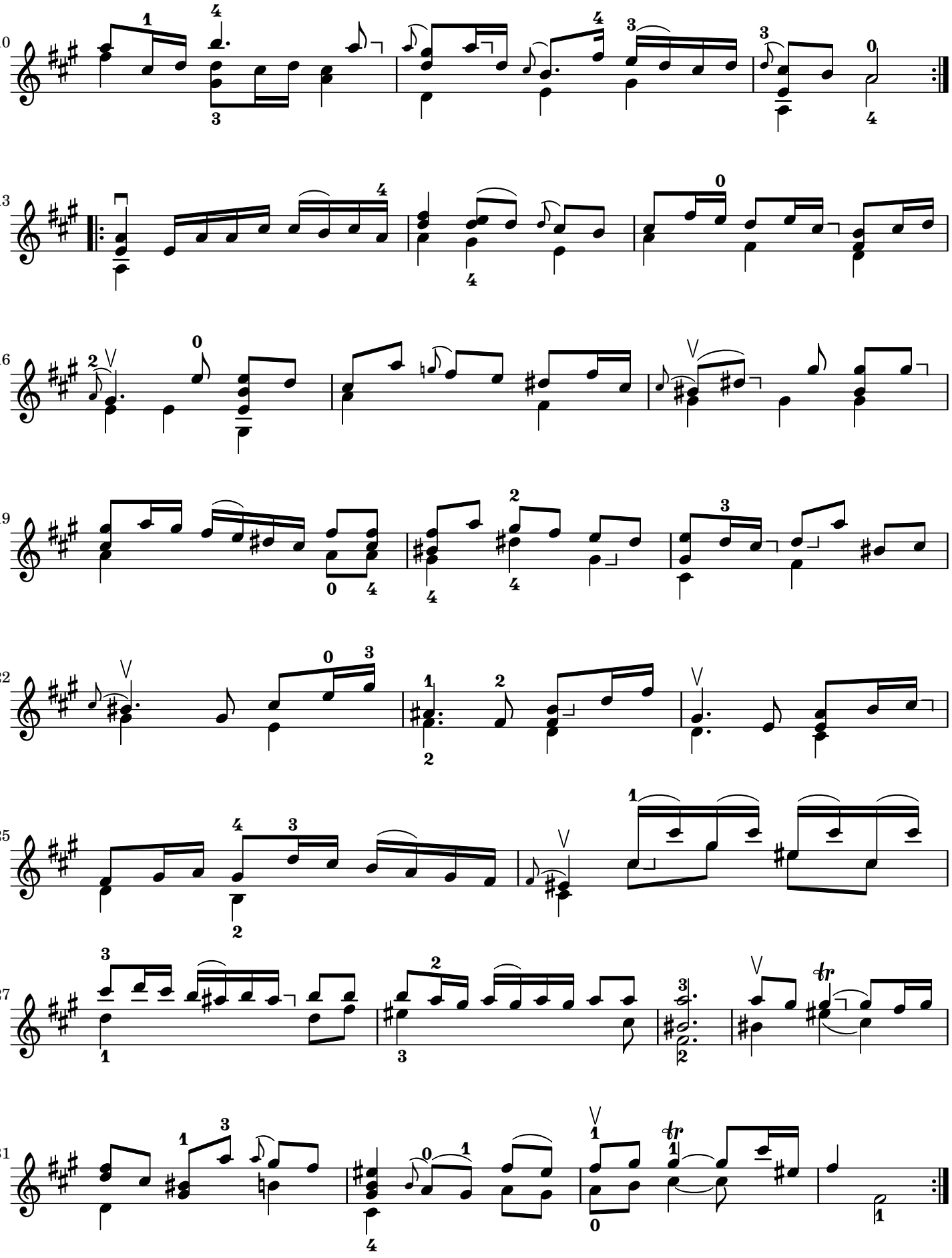
Bourée



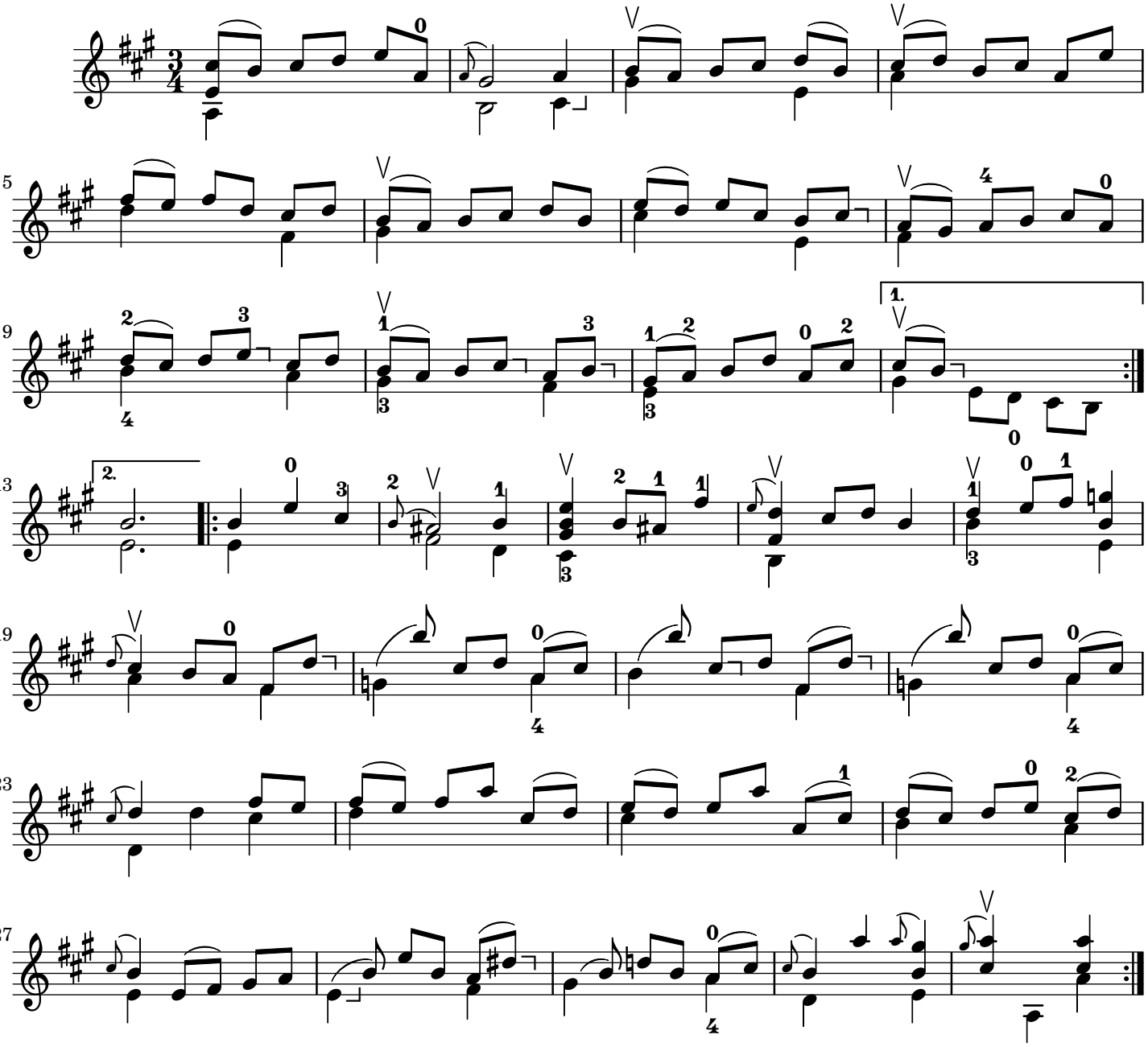


Sarabanda

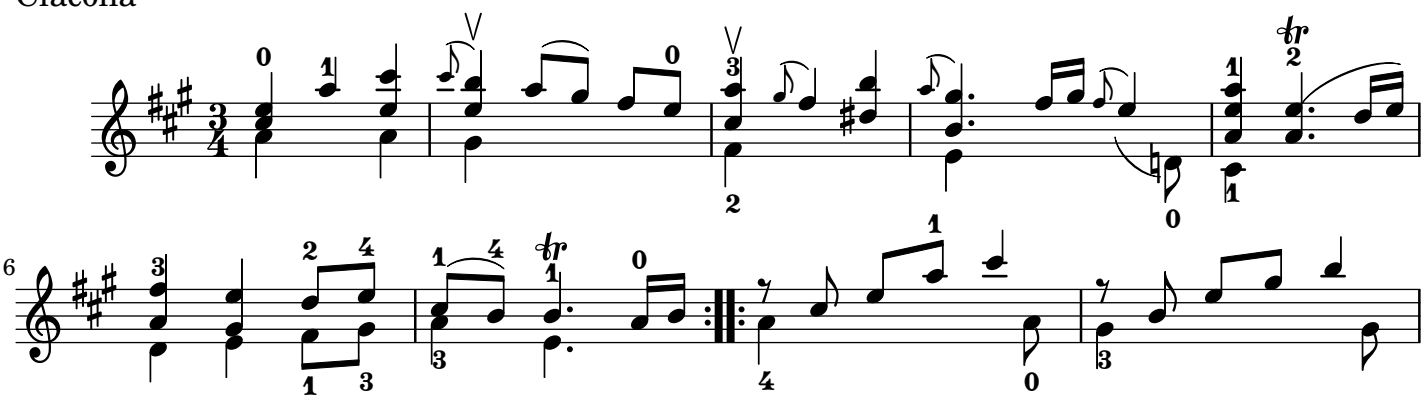


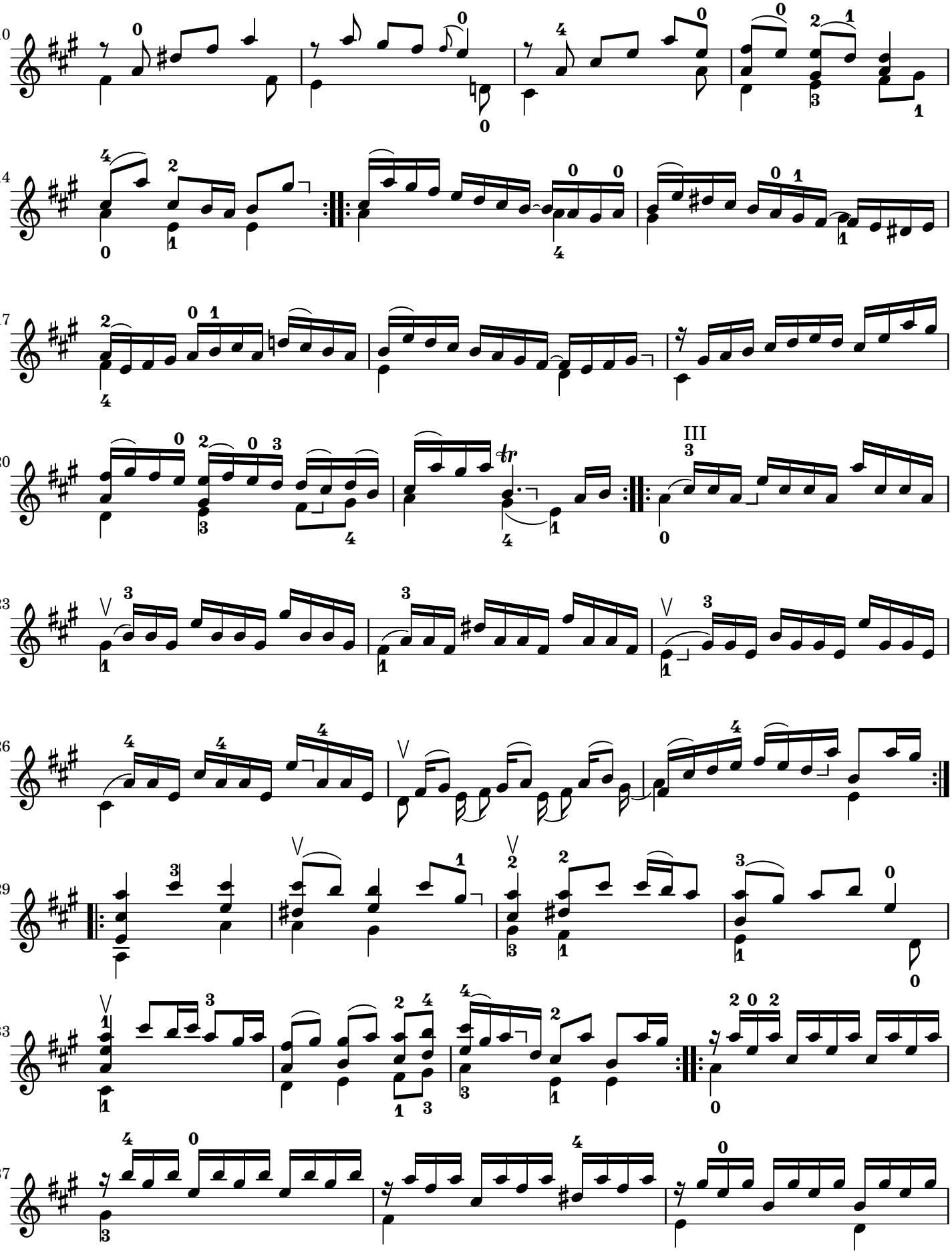


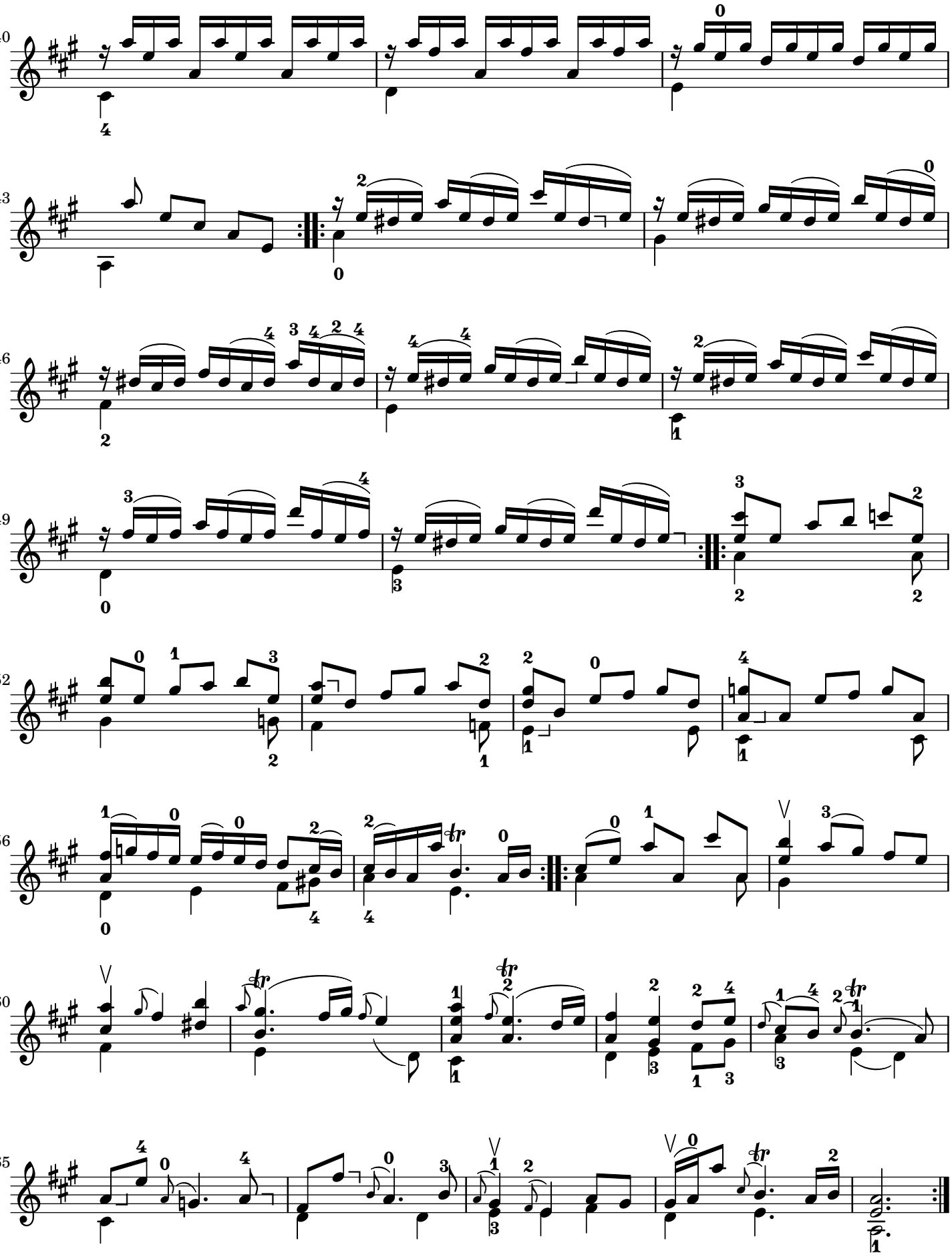
Menuet



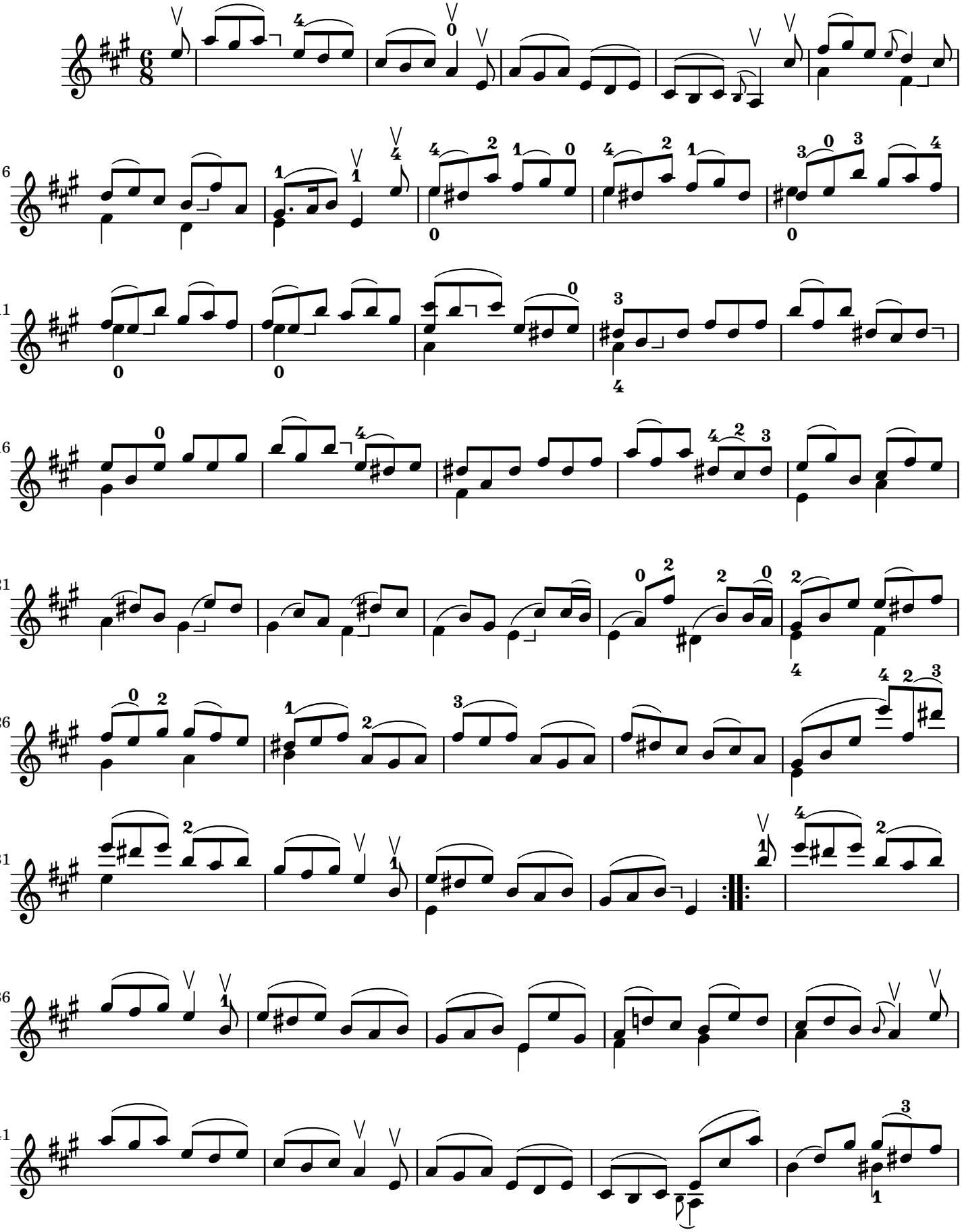
Ciacona

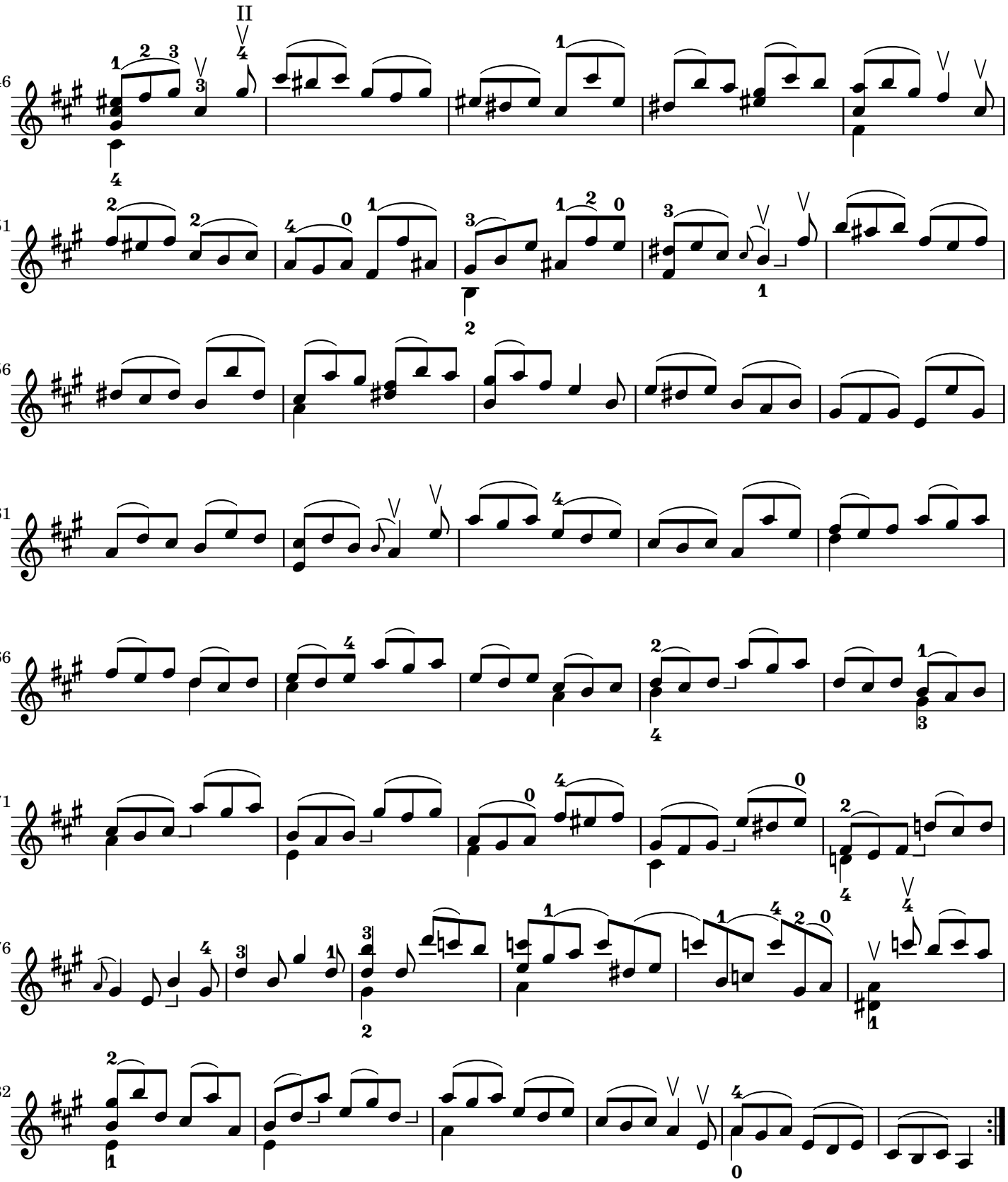



10
14
17
20
III
tr
23
26
29
33
37



Gigue




II
46
51
56
61
66
71
76
82

Notes

Original score

The original lute tablature for this piece can be found in the so called London Manuscript :

> The British Library
> GB-Lbl Add. Ms. 30387, pages 102 to 111

In the lute world, the piece is known as London Suite #8 .

Harmonic choice

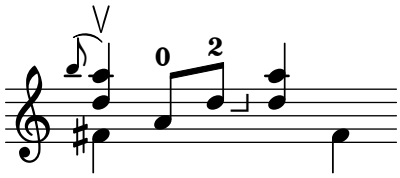
A performer familiar with the sonority of the existing offering of Baroque music for unaccompanied string instruments, such as J.S.Bach's Sonatas and Partitas, as well as his Cello Suites, may see certain harmonic elements in this transcription as odd. That is because, when facing the choice between keeping close to the original lute harmonies, on the one hand, and adapting them so that they sound more *violinish* , on the other, we opted invariably for the former approach. Evidently, ad litteram chord rendition is not always possible due to limitations of range and fingering on the violin.

Extra fingerings

A rehearsal version of the suite is available on the download page below alongside with the standard version. The rehearsal version contains fingering ties: ⌟ ⌝ , which the performer may find useful during the first readings of the score, as well as when the score is visited infrequently. A tie is a finger applied on two strings simultaneously, in anticipation of a fifth interval to be played in the same position shortly thereafter.

Voicing

In order to give the performer an idea about the voicing in the original lute score, throughout most of the violin score the bass is outlined using downward stems. Durations are not stictly observed, nor the rests:



Download

The latest PDF version of this piece is available at:

> http://geocentral.net/music

together with the date of the most recent revision.

Acknowledgment

The lute score in modern notation was provided by Andrew Forrest, to whom I wish to express my gratitude.

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