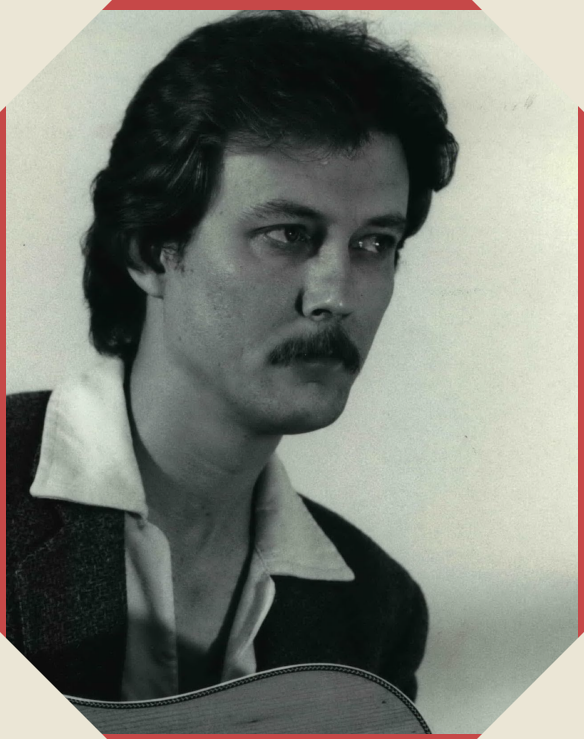
This collection is the result of hundreds of hours spent transcribing, studying, and rehearsing Tony Rice's music. Despite the time invested, the product is not perfect and with careful inspection you may find inaccuracies. Even with such mistakes, it is the most accurate resource available to Tony Rice disciples.

The Unofficial TONY RICE COLLECTION



80 BREAKS TRANSCRIBED BY

MARCEL ARDANS

The Unofficial TONY RICE COLLECTION

Produced in hopes of keeping the Tony Rice style of guitar alive and to give a new generation of pickers the head start that I didn't have.

Transcribed from 2012 to 2022 by Marcel Ardans.

FOREWARD

I'm sure we all remember being introduced to the guitar playing of Tony Rice. If you are like me, you can point to the exact song and perhaps the exact lick that left you jaw-dropped in awe of his tone, timing, and taste. Few musicians have had as much influence over an entire genre. When it comes to bluegrass flatpicking, guitar playing, and musicianship, Tony Rice is in a class if his own.

You are about to embark on the most comprehensive collection of Tony Rice transcriptions ever compiled. The material presented here covers works released from 1973-2008. There are enough Tony solos and breaks in these pages to last countless years of dedicated study. Many of us have searched far and wide for all Tony Rice instructional materials that have previously existed. While some of the tunes presented have been available in other sources, this book offers a myriad of Tony Rice transcriptions that have never before been available.

Marcel has include vintage breaks from Tony's early days with JD Crowe and the New South. Tony's solos to standards such as "Old Home Place" and "Big Spike Hammer" set the bar for all aspiring flatpickers. Next, selections off Tony's iconic album "Church Street Blues" like "Any Old Time" and "Orphan Annie" showcase Tony's mastery of chord melody and reinvented the way bluegrass guitarists perform without a full band.

In addition to Tony's celebrated bluegrass playing he is also recognized as an accomplished jazz guitarist. Tony seamlessly combined his traditional bluegrass roots with his jazzy touch to secure his mystical legendary status. Tony's Dawg flavored space-grass originals like "Mar West," "Waltz for Indira," and "Manzanita" revolutionized bluegrass guitar yet again. This book would not be complete without transcriptions of these now new-grass standards. It seems everything Tony Rice does becomes bluegrass cannon.

Marcel has also included some of Tony's singer/songwriter classics such as "Ginseng Sullivan" and my personal favorite "Streets of London." This book indeed touches on every side of Tony's vast repertoire. It is worth noting that even if you were to learn all 80 solos in this book there is still only one Tony Rice. It is my hope, and I'm sure Marcel would agree, that your musical goal should be to use Tony's ideas as a springboard to create your own musical voice. While we can learn the notes, Tony is, in many ways un-copyable. On second thought, don't learn any of these solos — you will never be Tony Rice.

Delving into the Tony Rice guitar style is a lifelong endeavor. I hope that this book aids you in your mission of Tony's seminal style of flatpicking. Marcel has put in countless hours, days, and years of listening and transcribing so we can sit back and enjoy the content in this incredible compilation. I can't imagine having this book two decades ago when I was attempting to learn how to play guitar like Tony Rice. Flipping through the pages feels like I've uncovered the Dead Sea scrolls of Tony transcriptions.

Mickey Abraham

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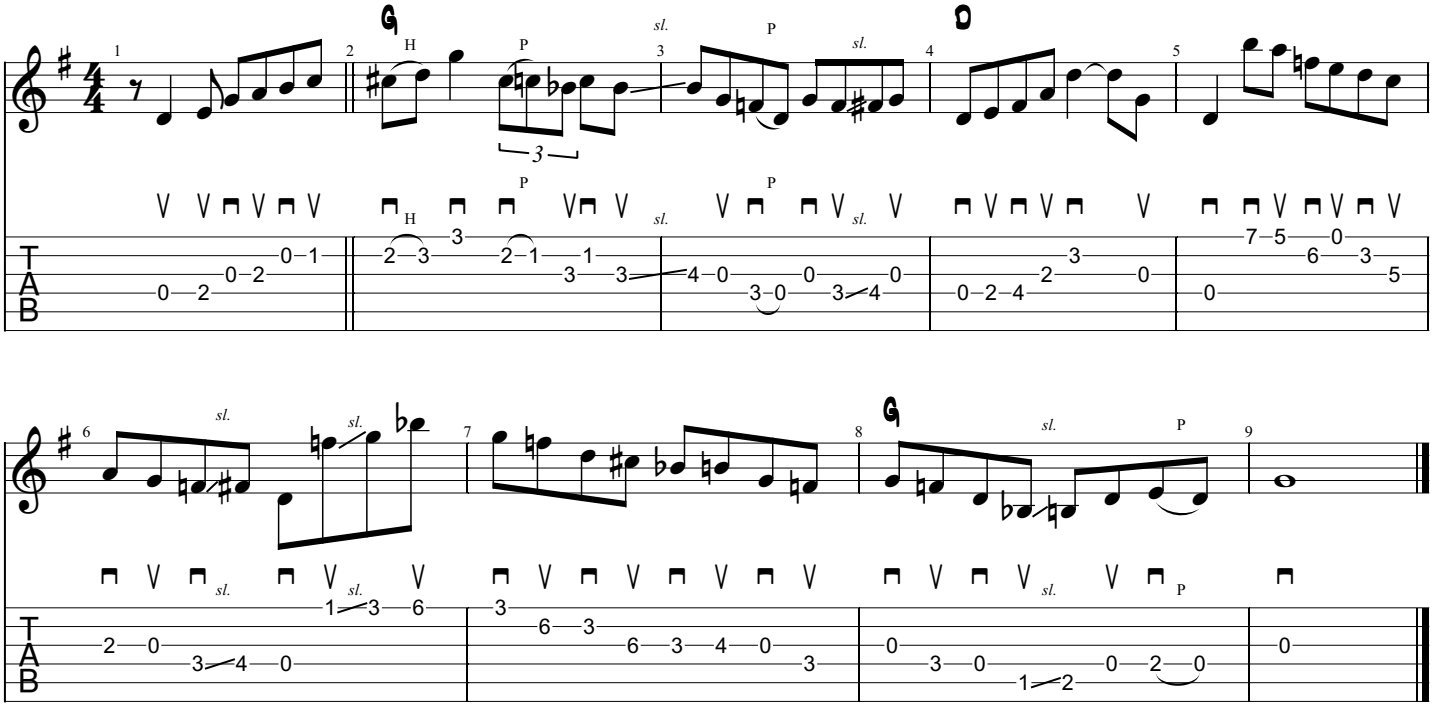
A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW (1983)

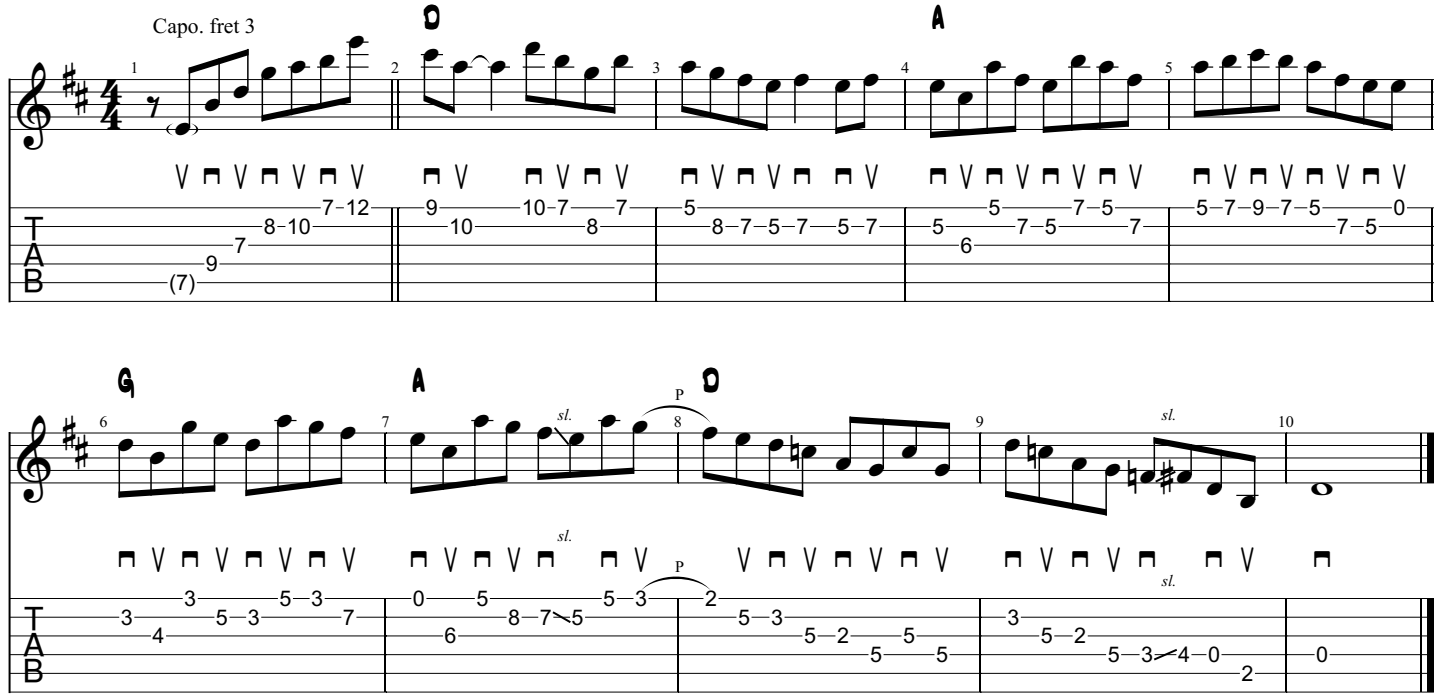
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE



AGE (1984)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning



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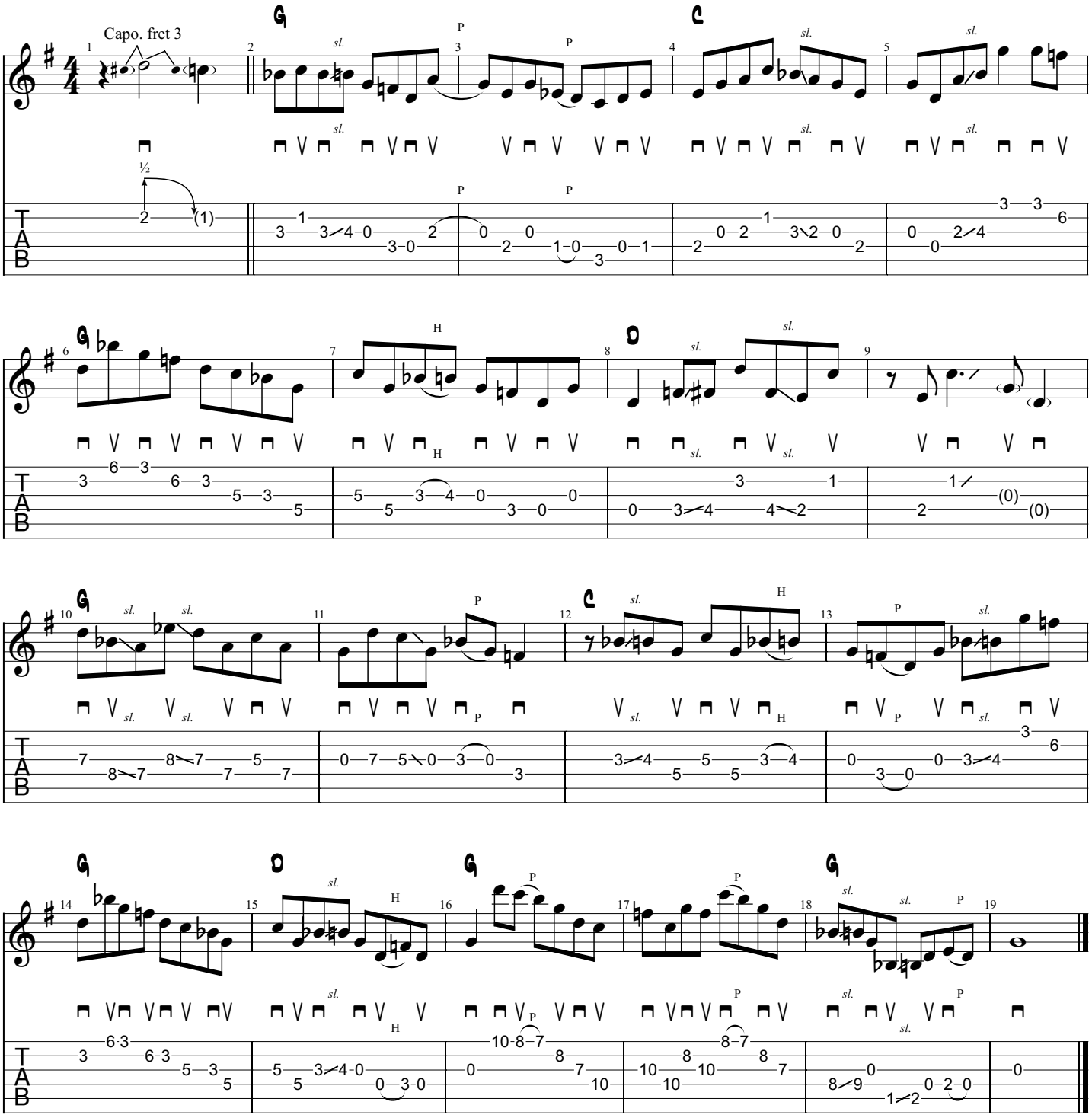
AIN'T NOBODY GONNA MISS ME WHEN I'M GONE (1993)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

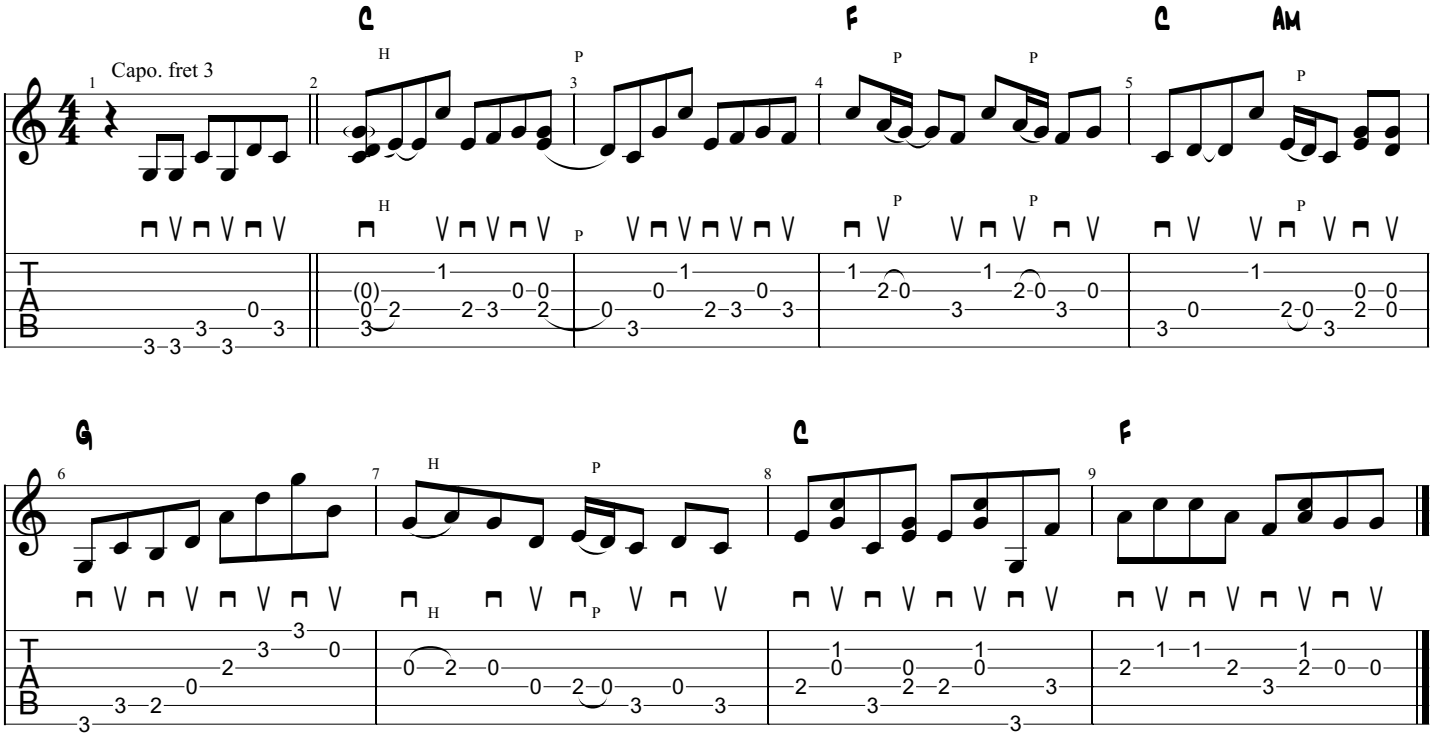
Standard tuning



ALL THE WAY TO TEXAS (1997)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

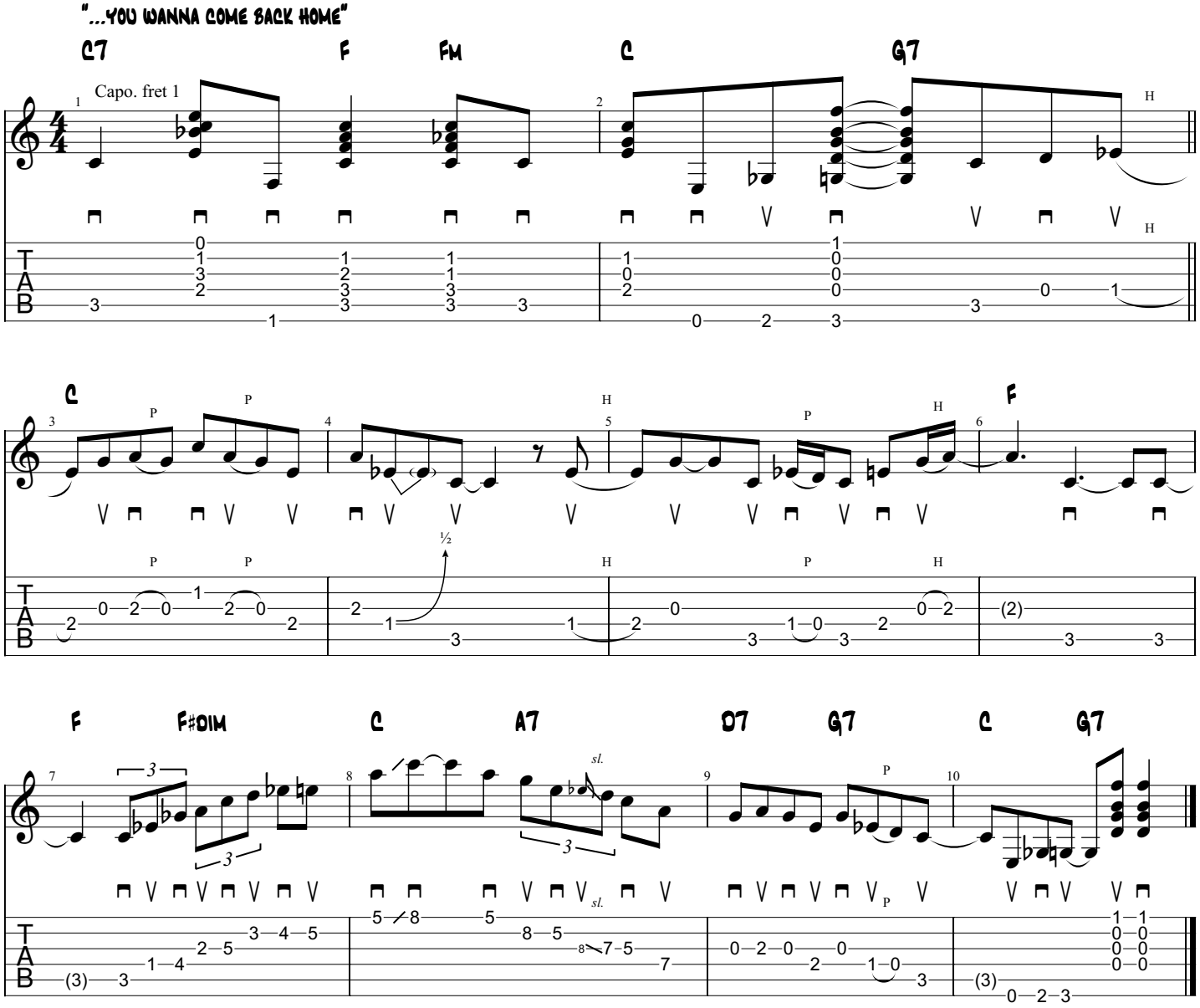
Standard tuning



ANY OLD TIME (1983)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

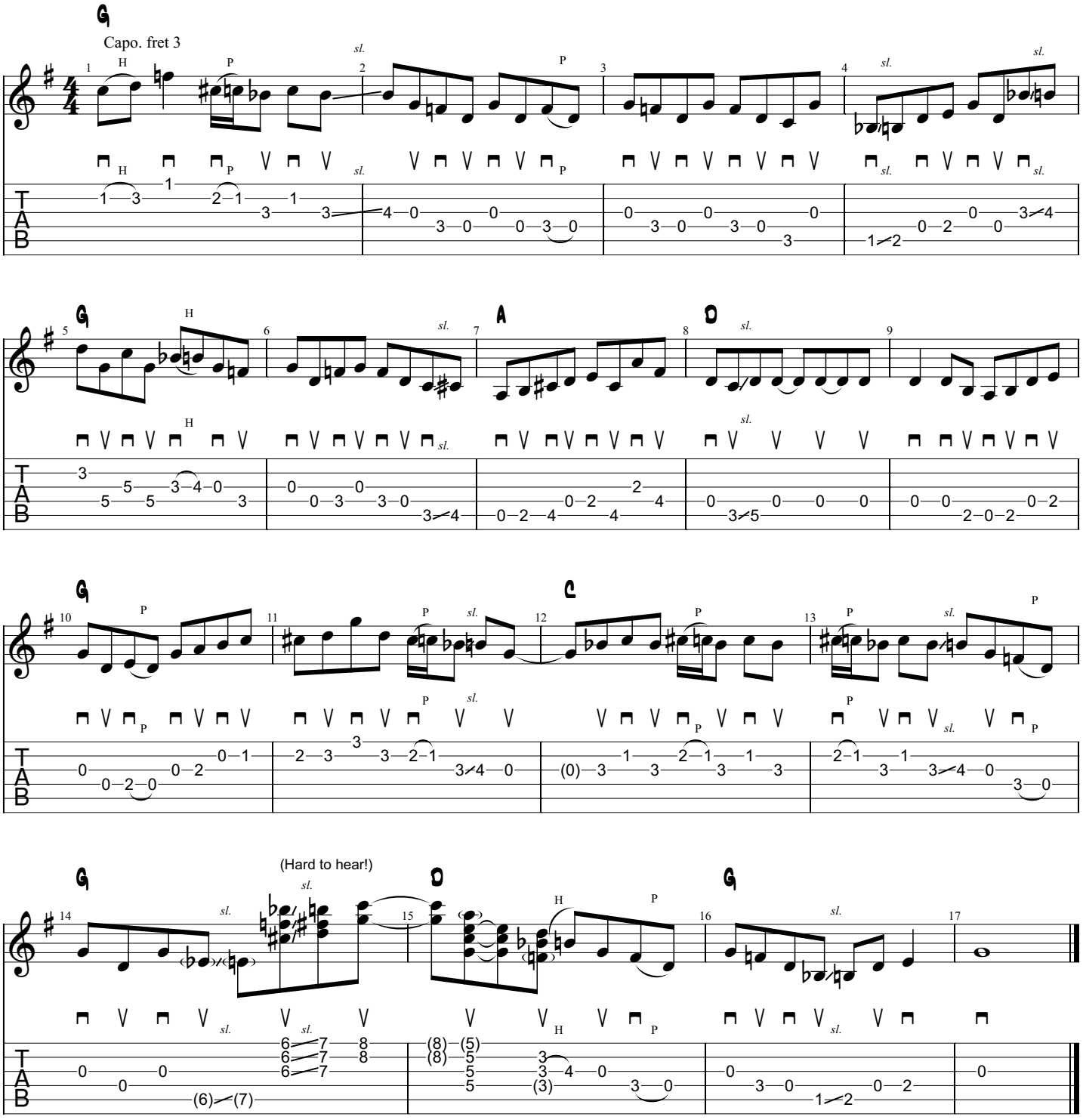
Standard tuning



BIG RIVER (1990)

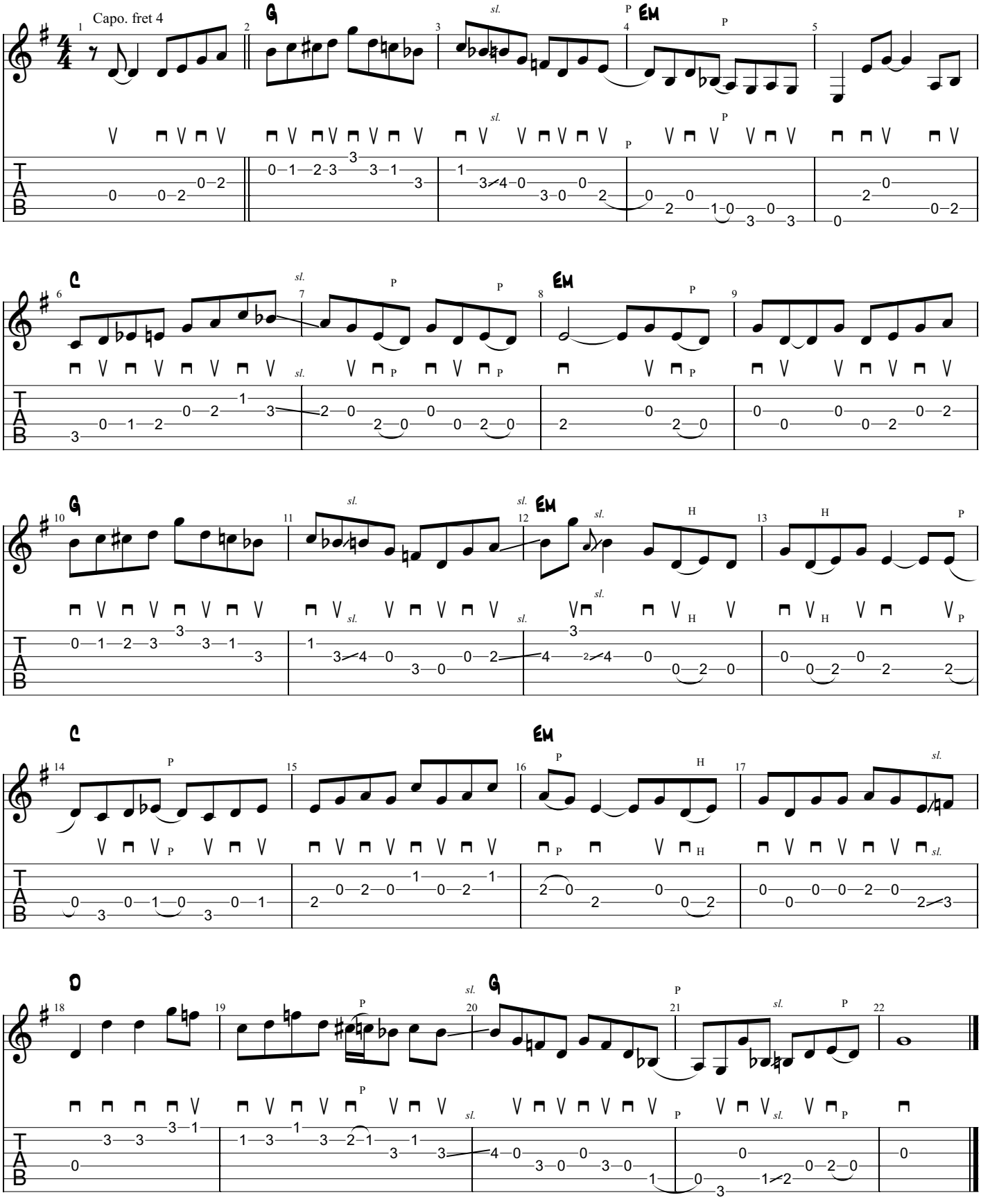
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning



BIG SPIKE HAMMER (1983)

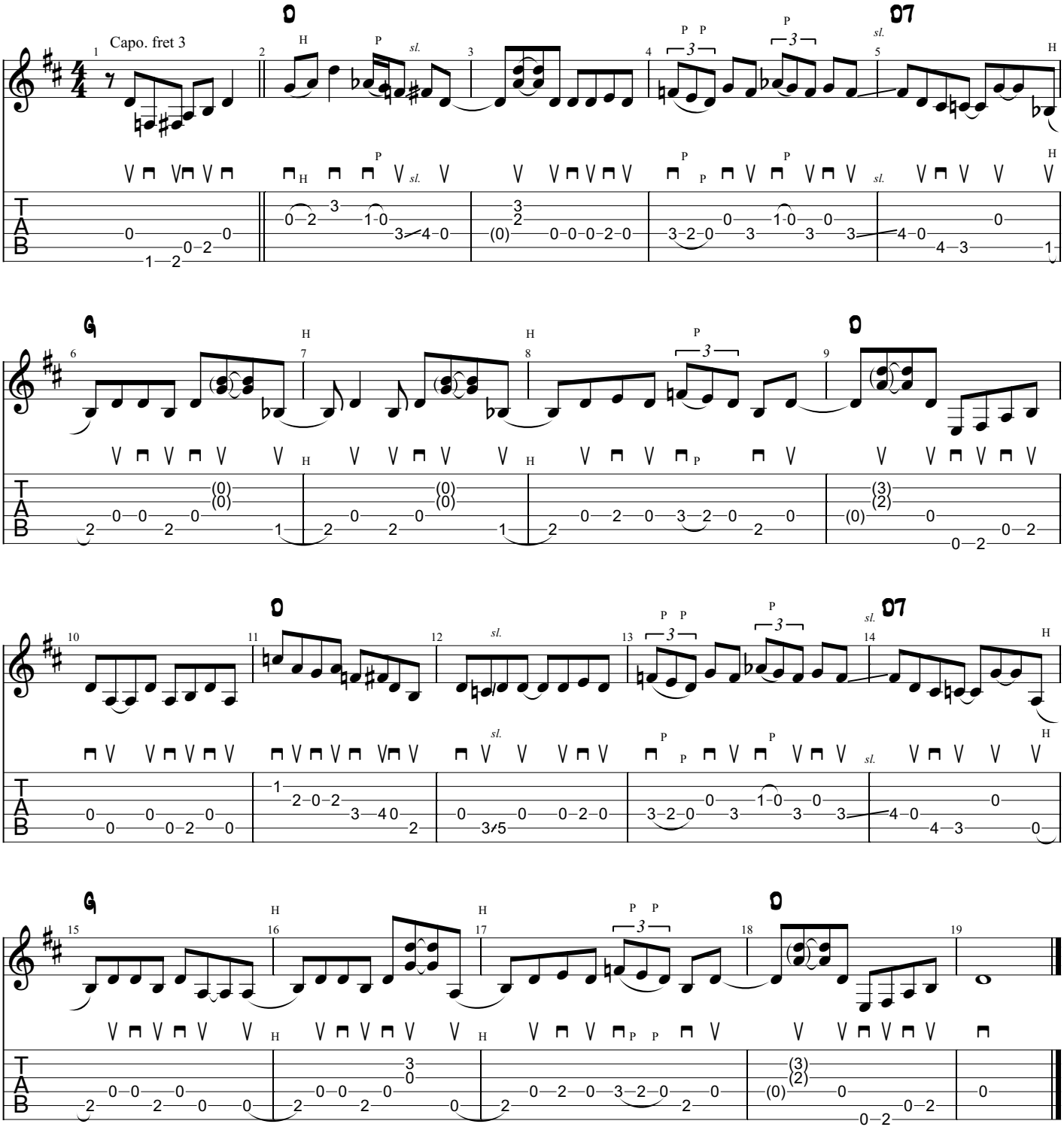
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE



BLUE RAILROAD TRAIN (1979)

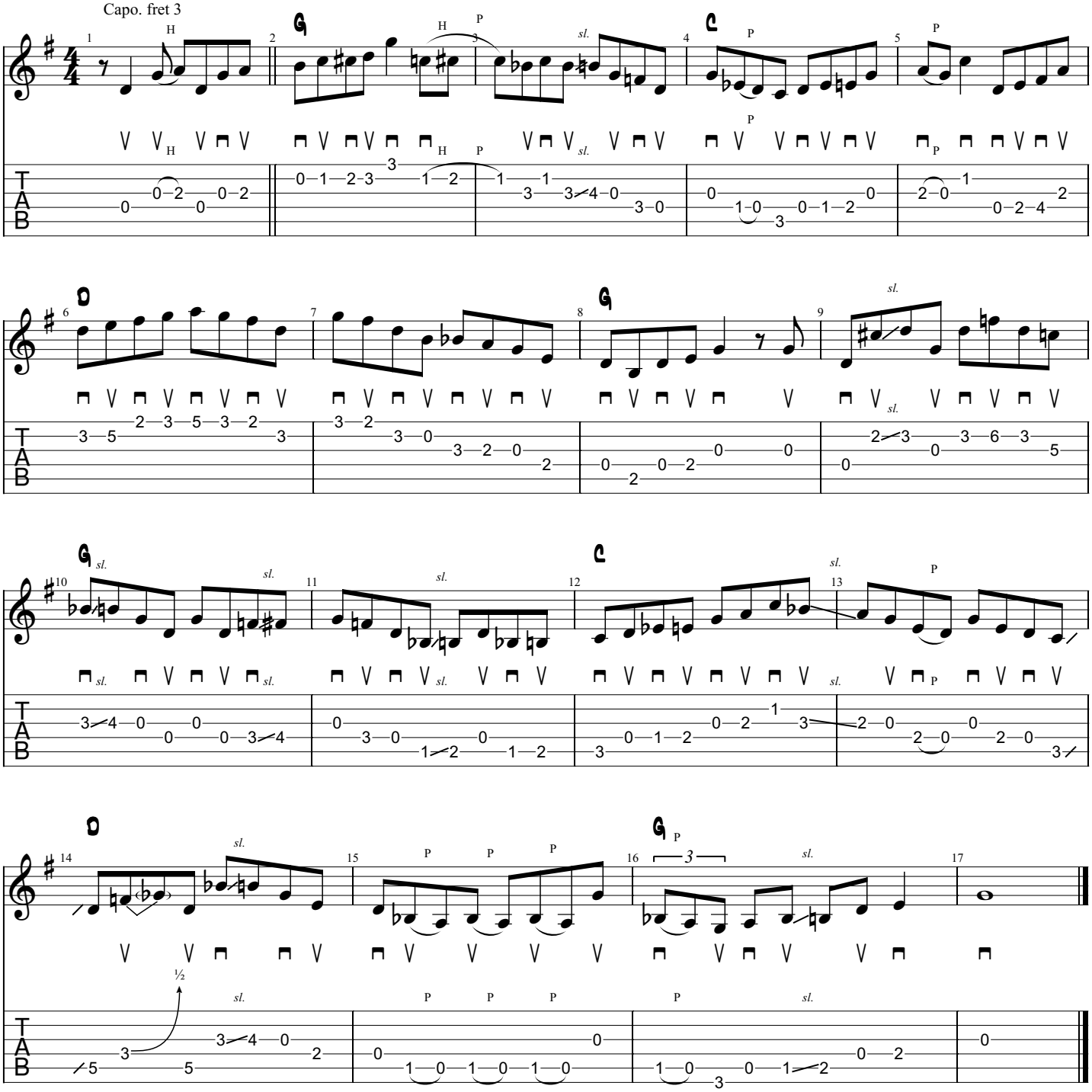
AS PERFORMED BY THE TONY RICE UNIT

Standard tuning



BLUE RIDGE CABIN HOME (1981)

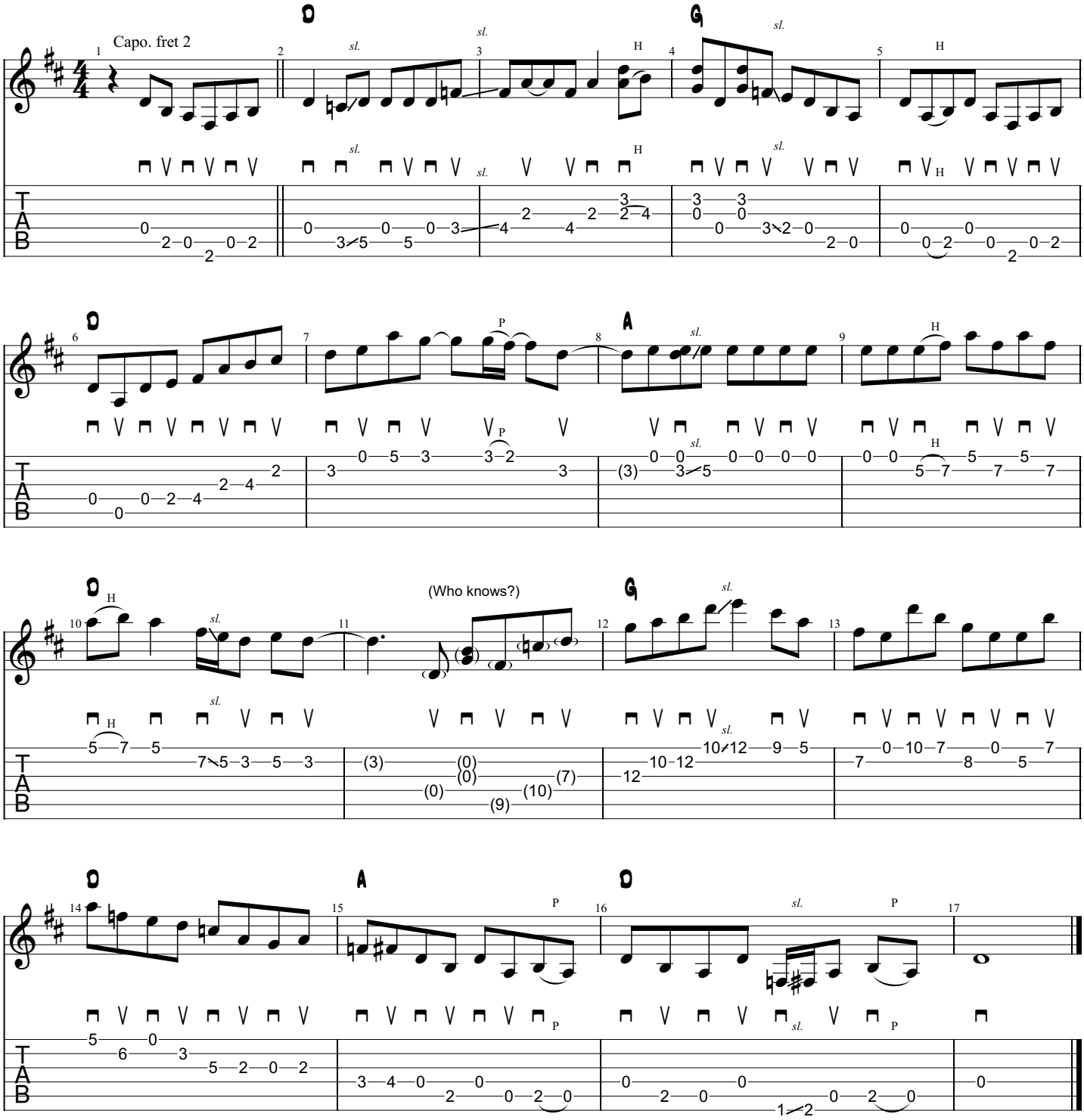
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE



BUDDIES IN THE SADDLE (2002)

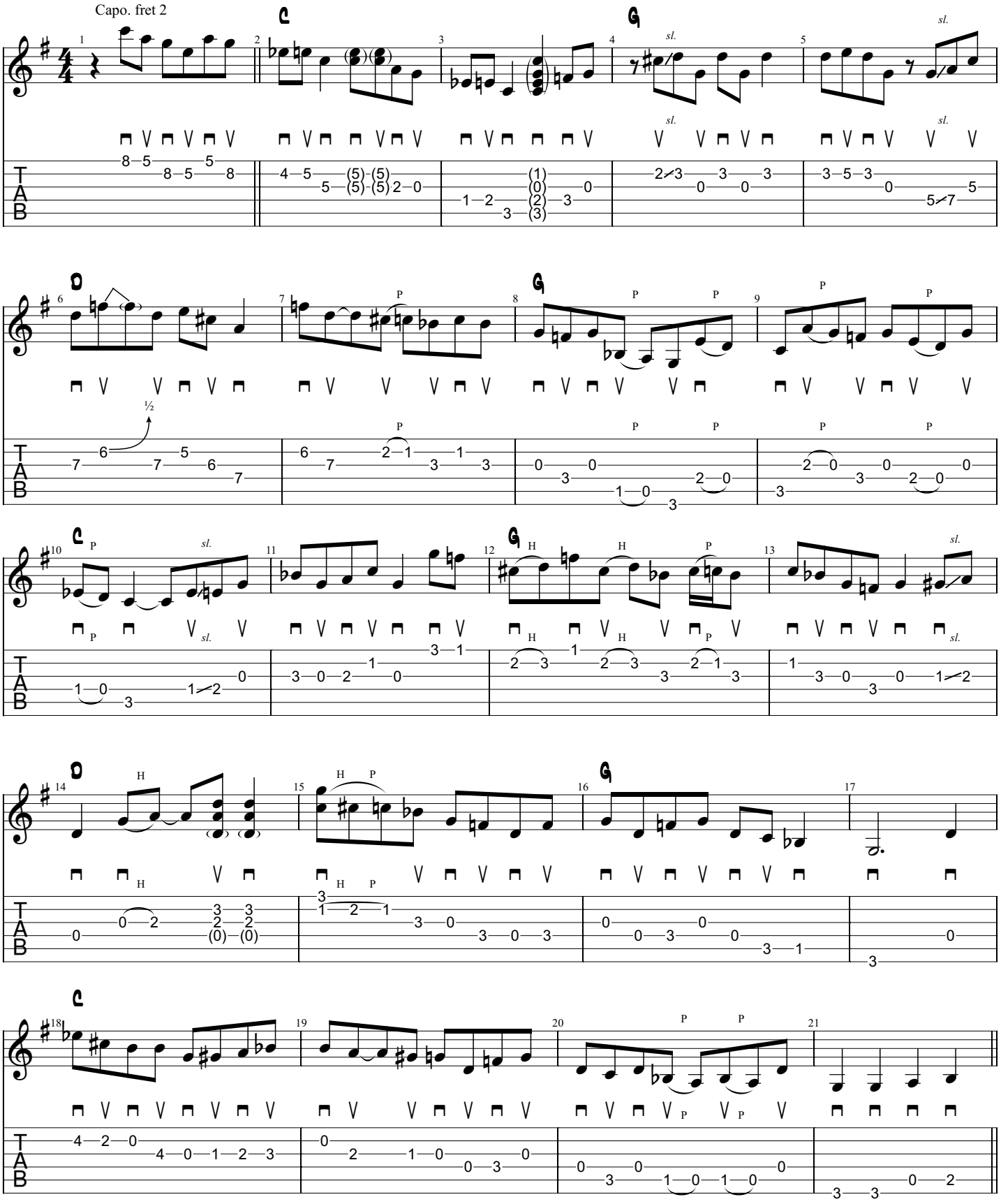
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

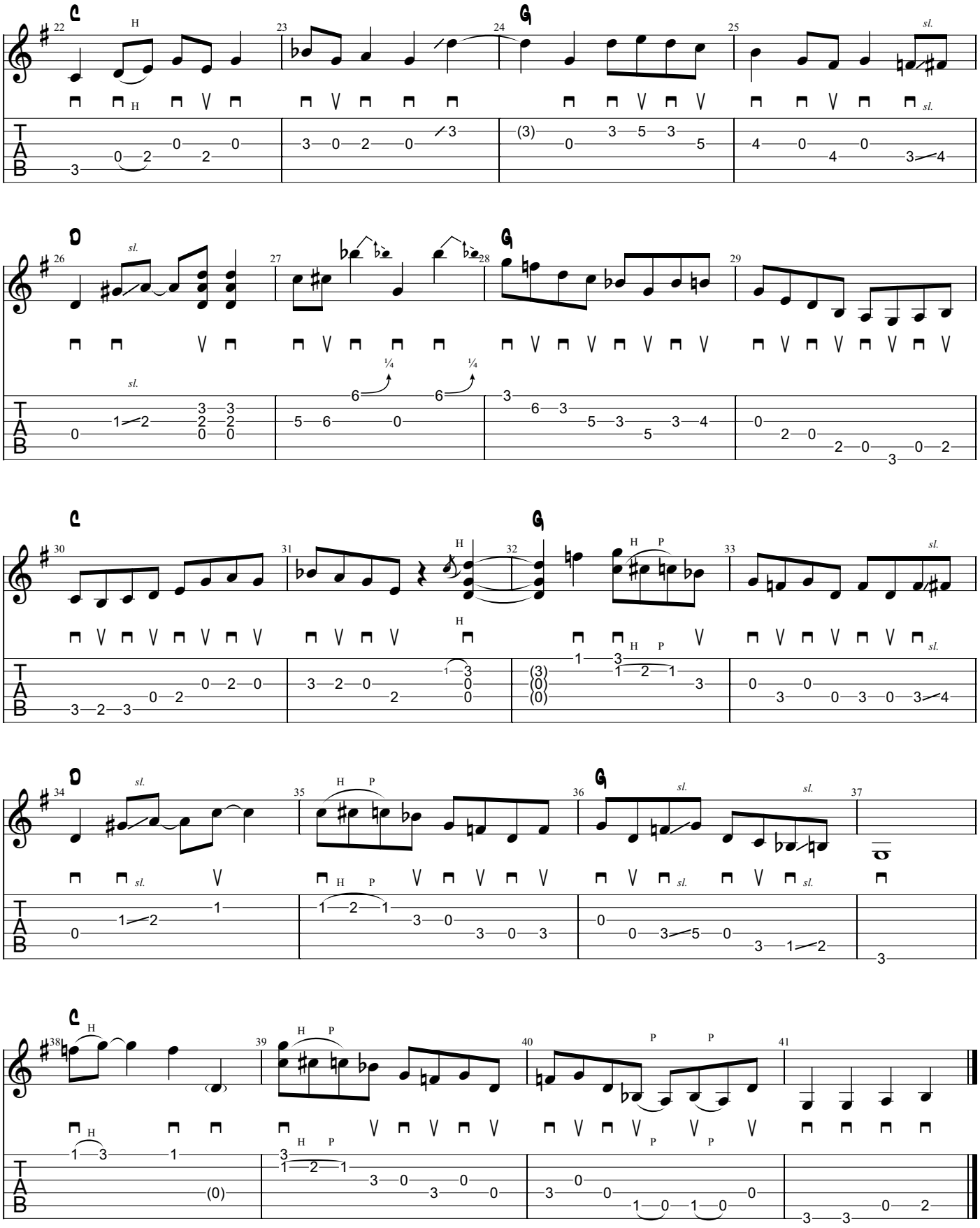
Standard tuning



BUGLE CALL RAG (1975)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

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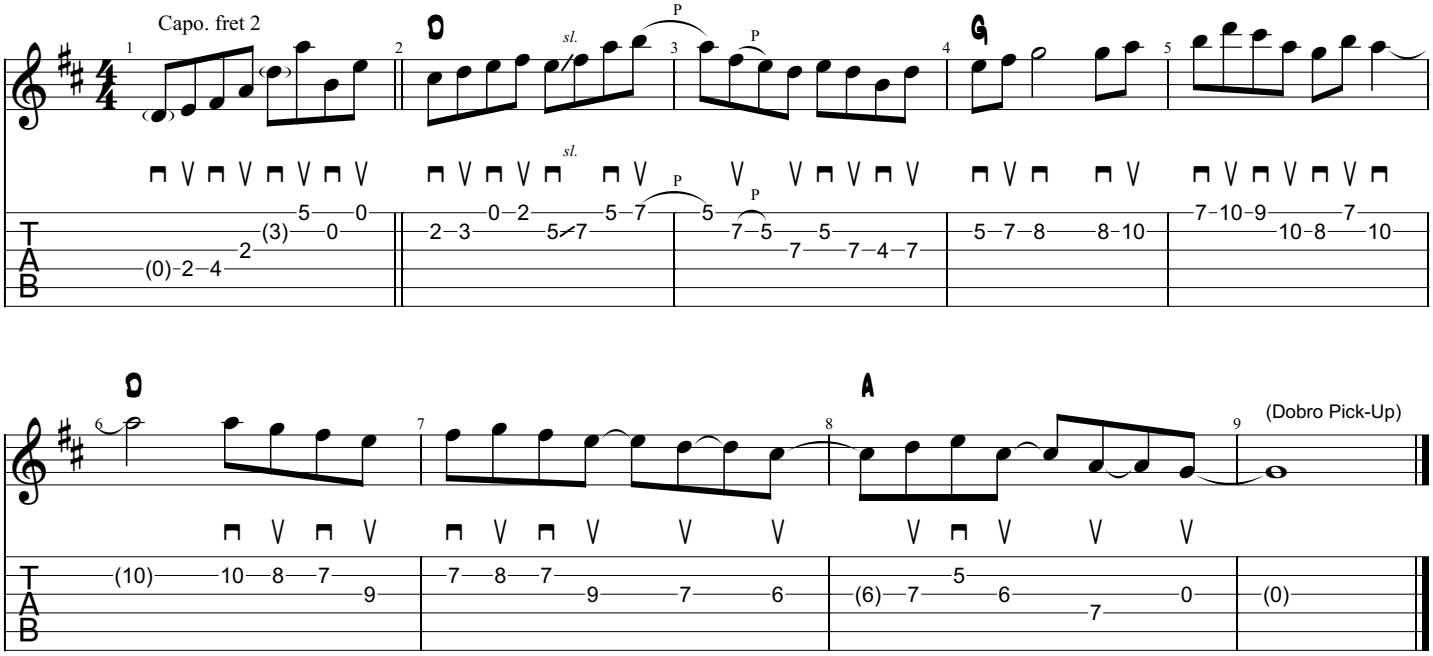
CAROLINA STAR (1993)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

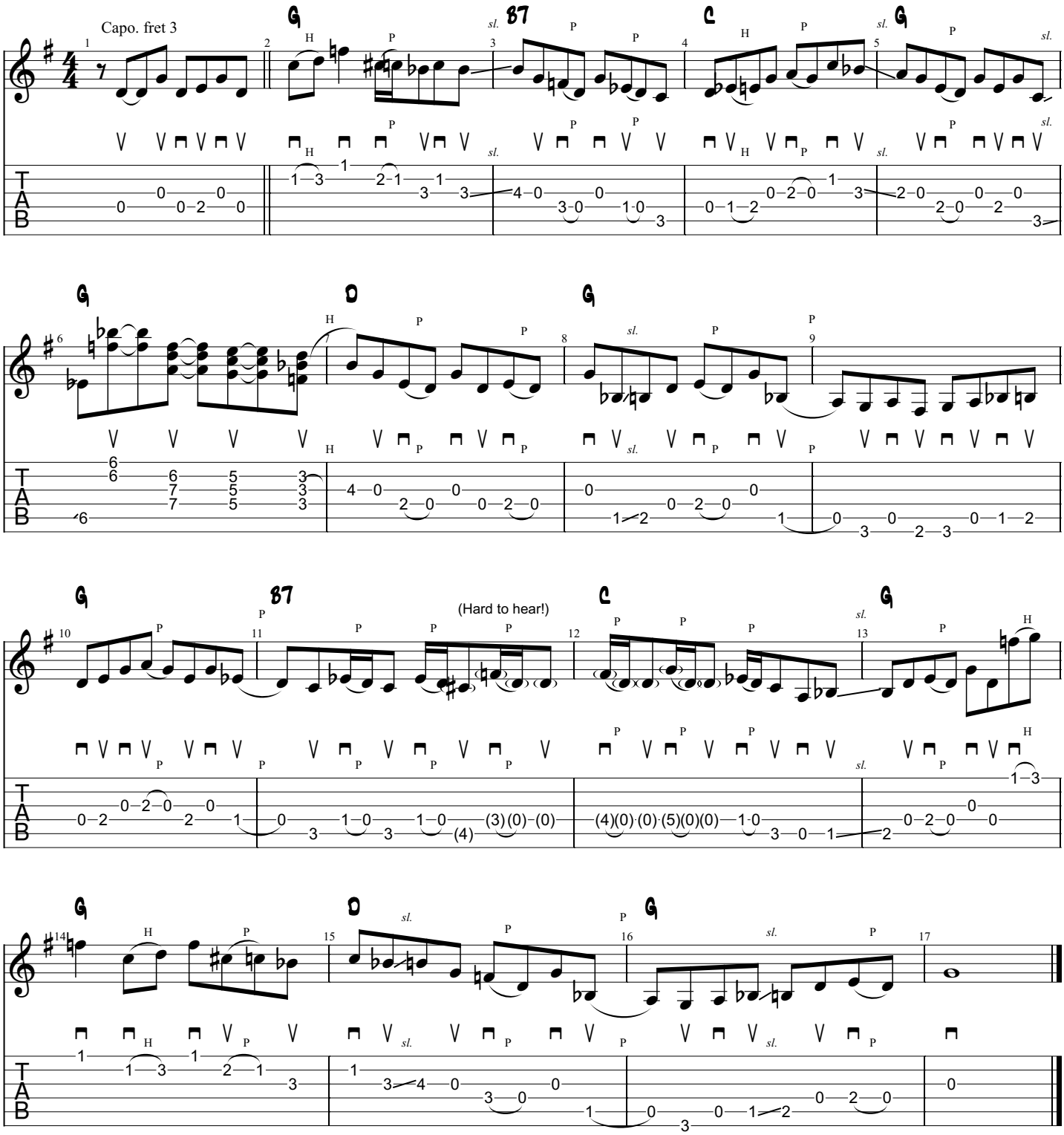
Standard tuning



CHEYENNE (1984)

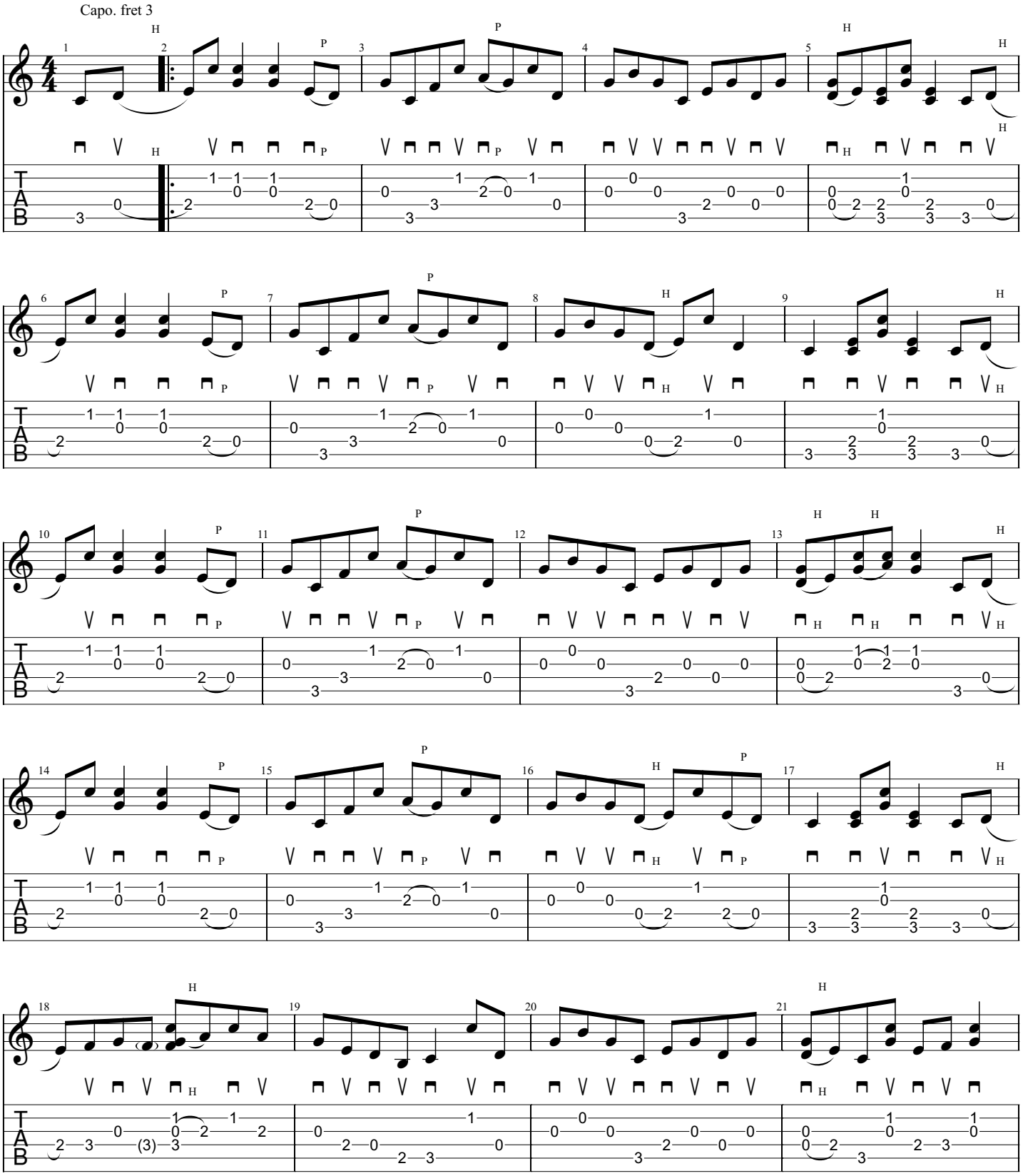
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

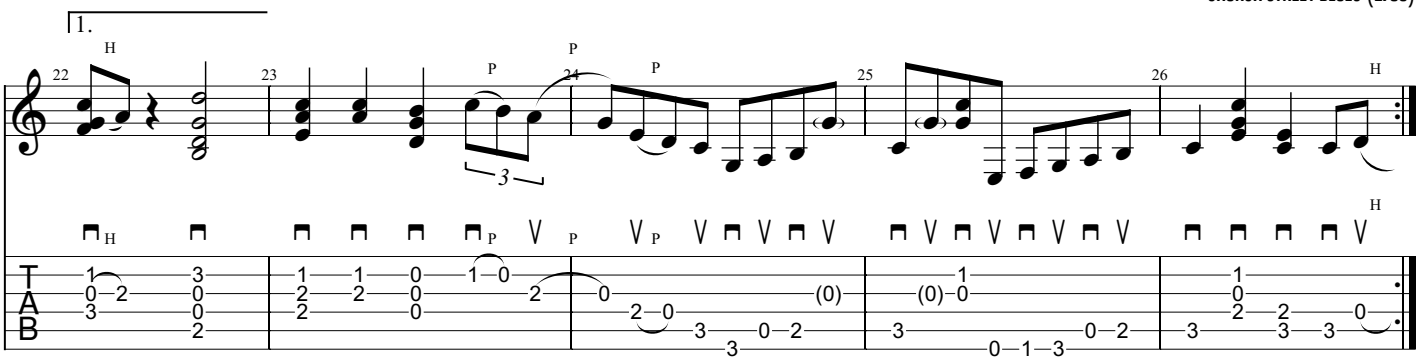
Standard tuning



CHURCH STREET BLUES (1983)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

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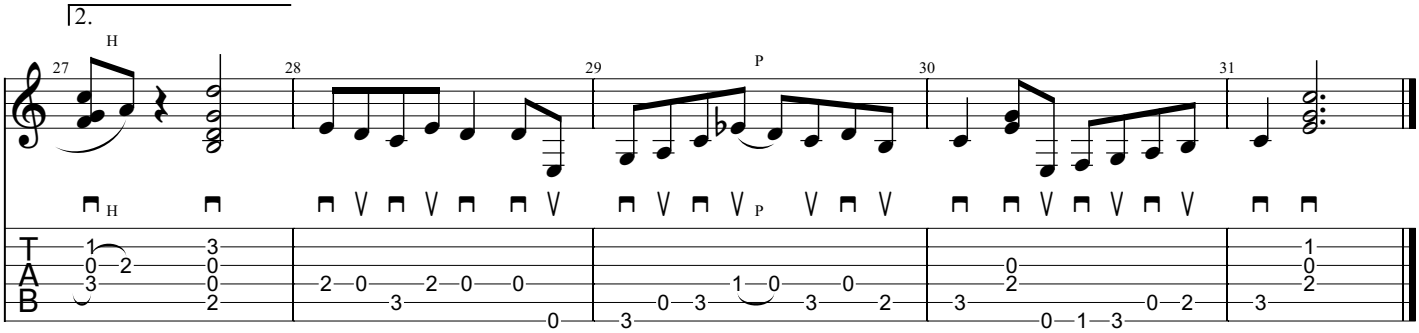
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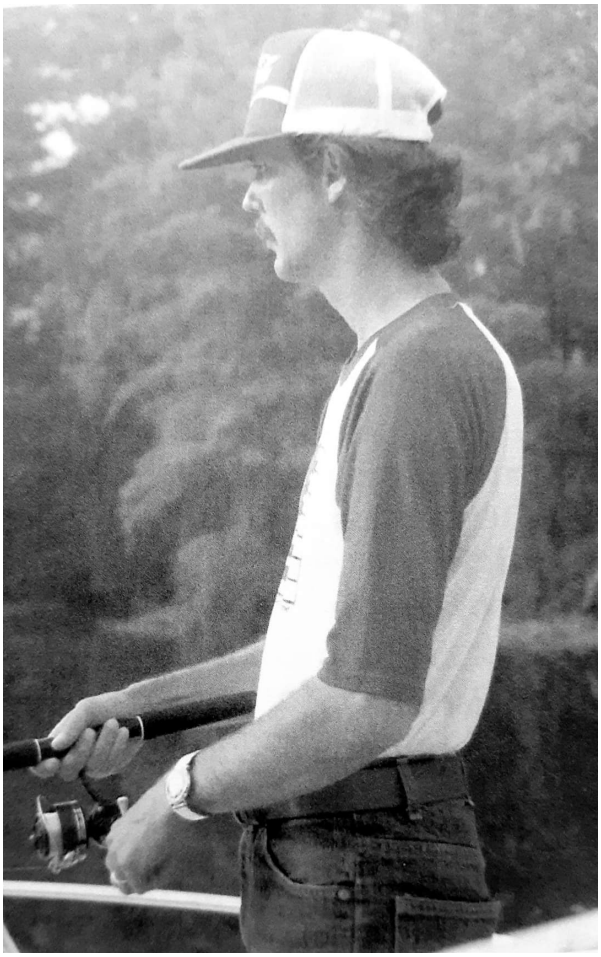
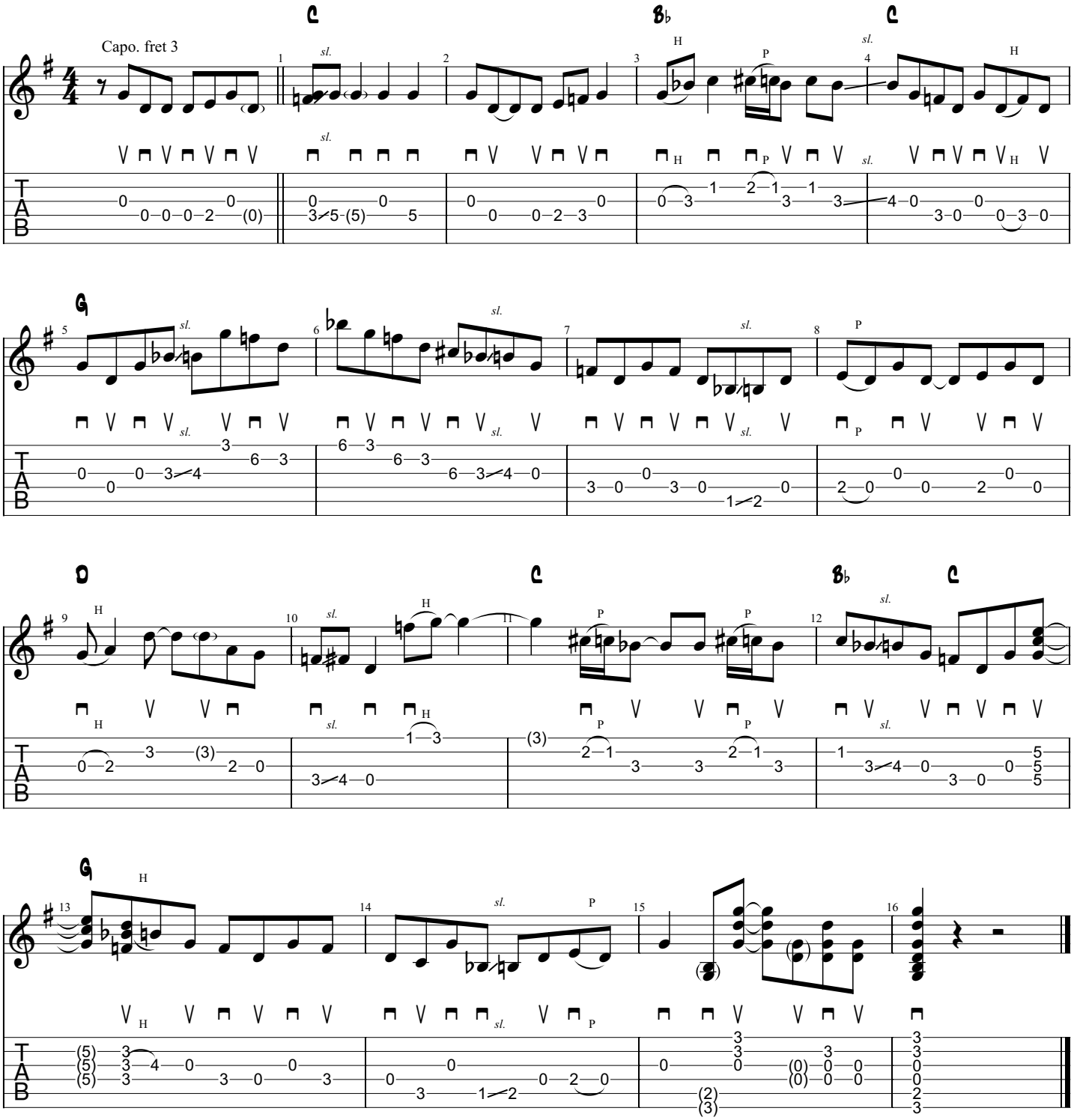


COLD ON THE SHOULDER (1984)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

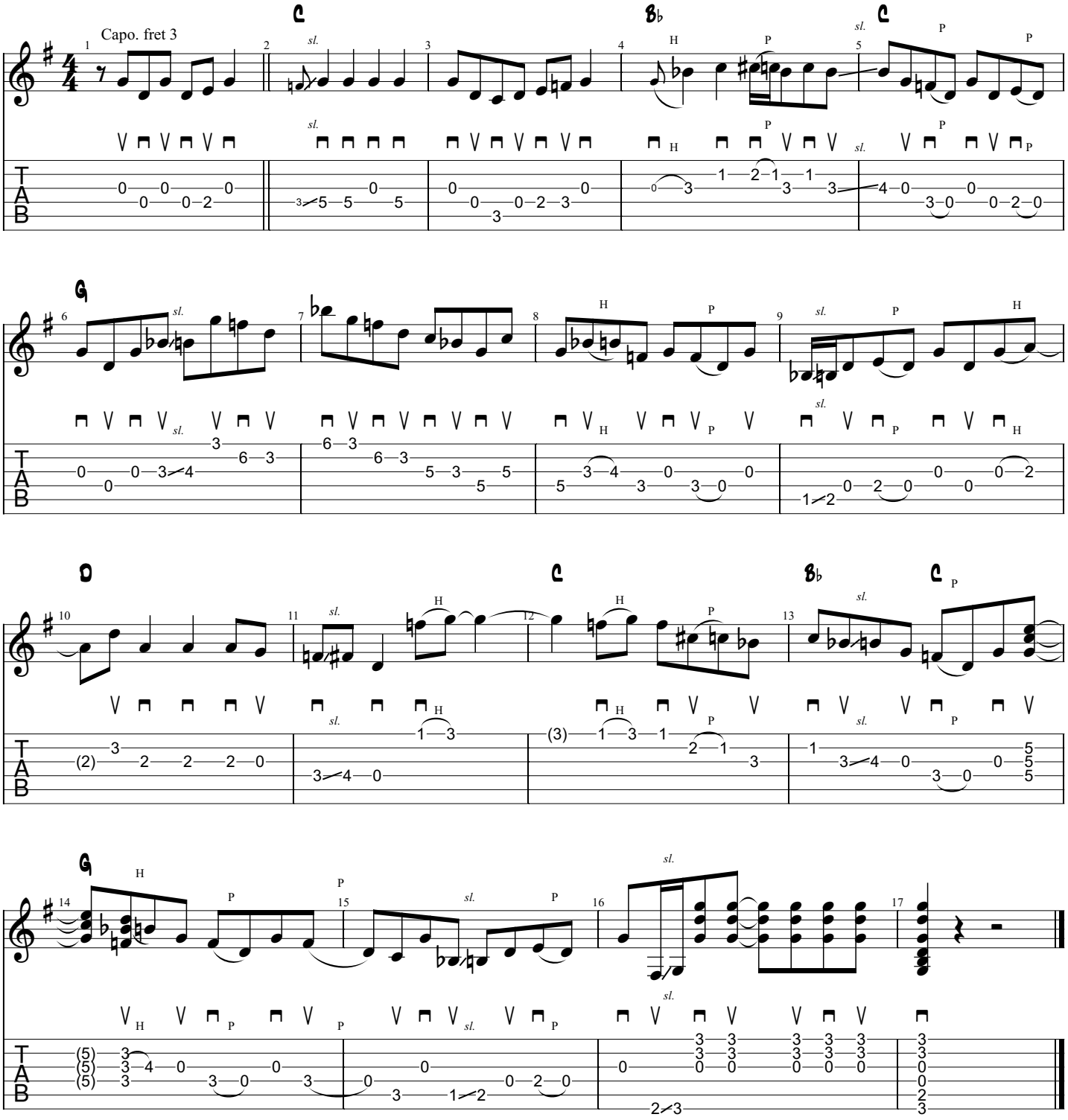
Standard tuning



COLD ON THE SHOULDER, HOMESPUN (1984)

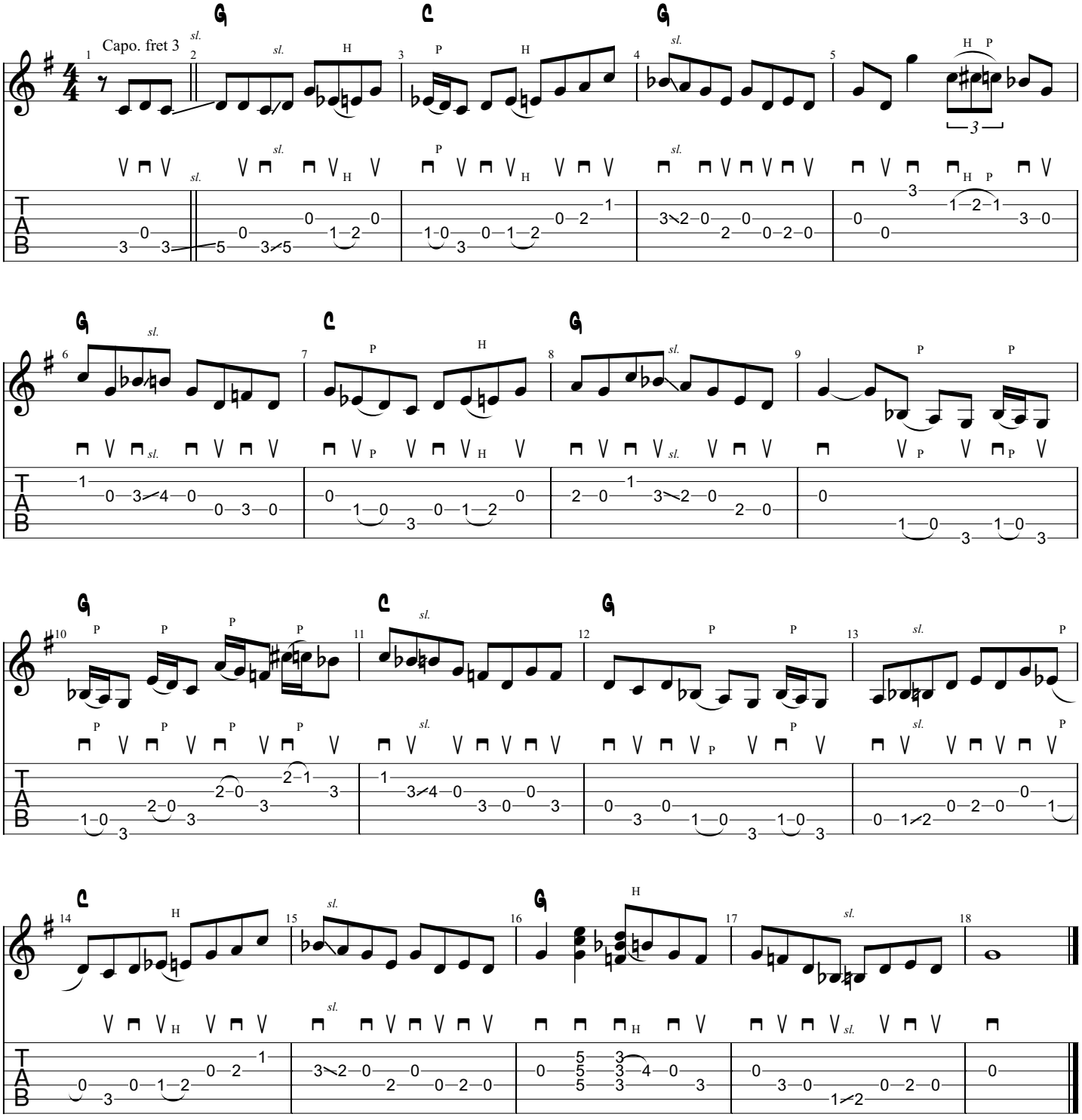
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning



DEVIL IN DISGUISE (1983)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

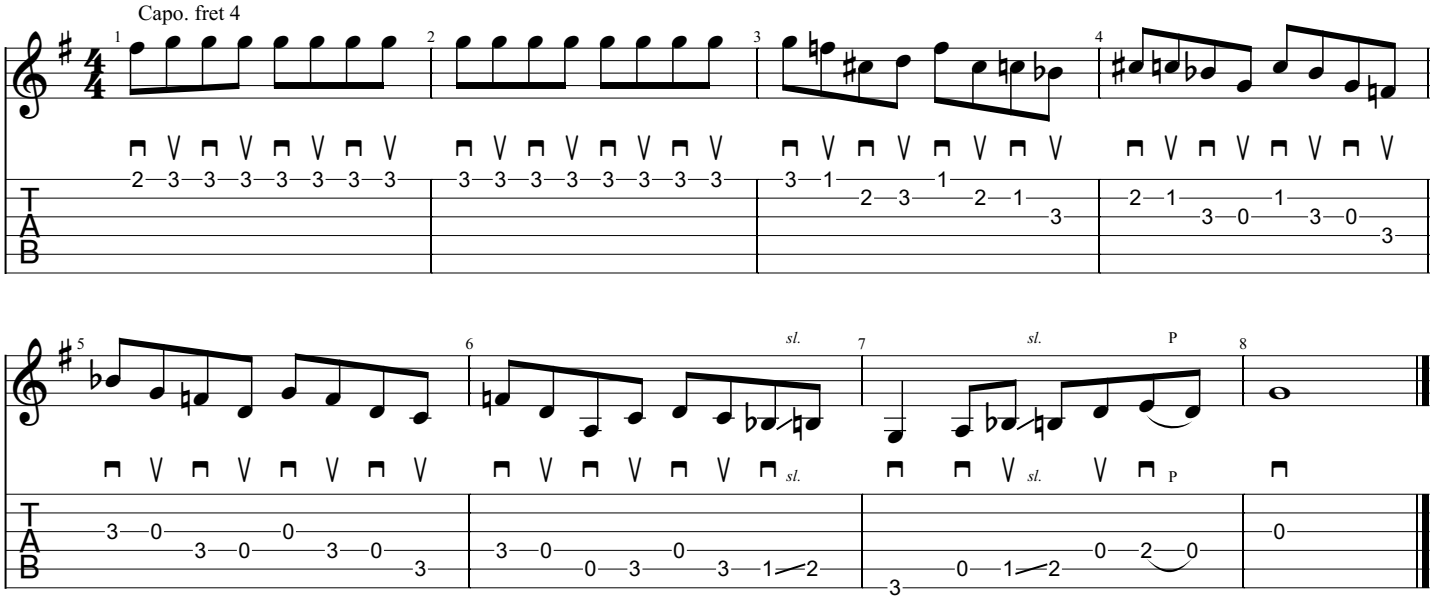


DOIN' MY TIME (1973)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning

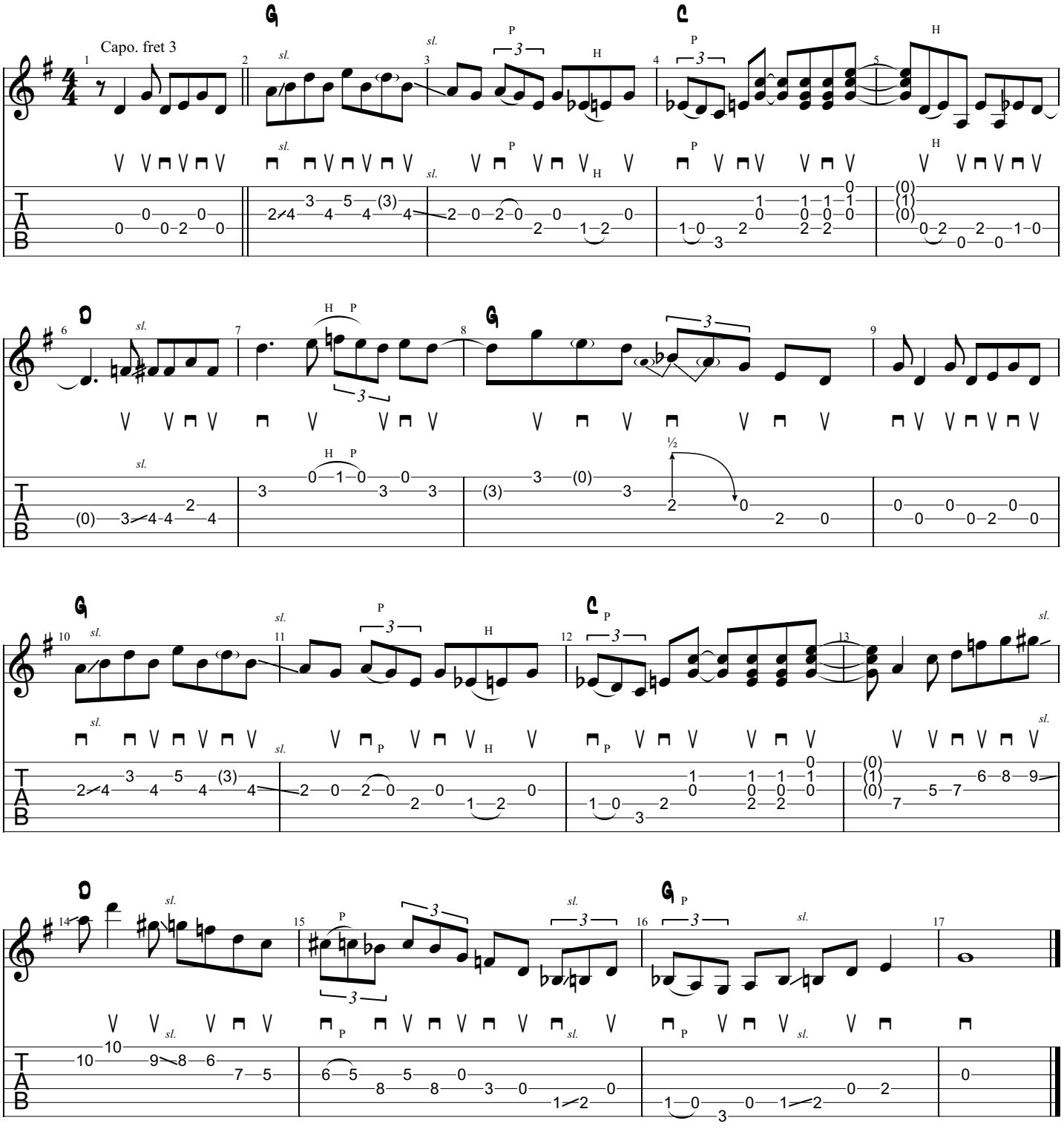
Capo. fret 4



DON'T GIVE YOUR HEART TO A RAMBLER (1977)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

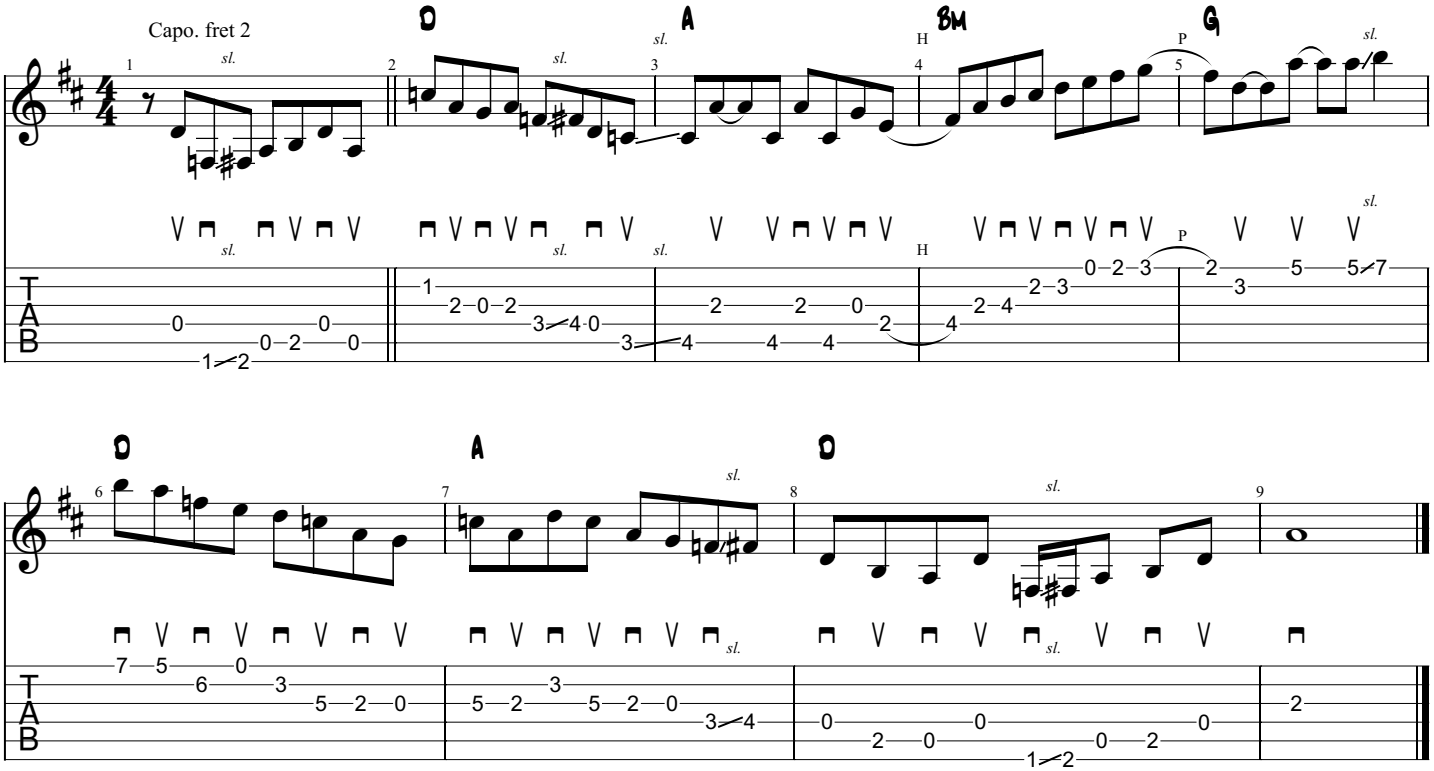
Standard tuning



DON'T THINK TWICE (1989)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning

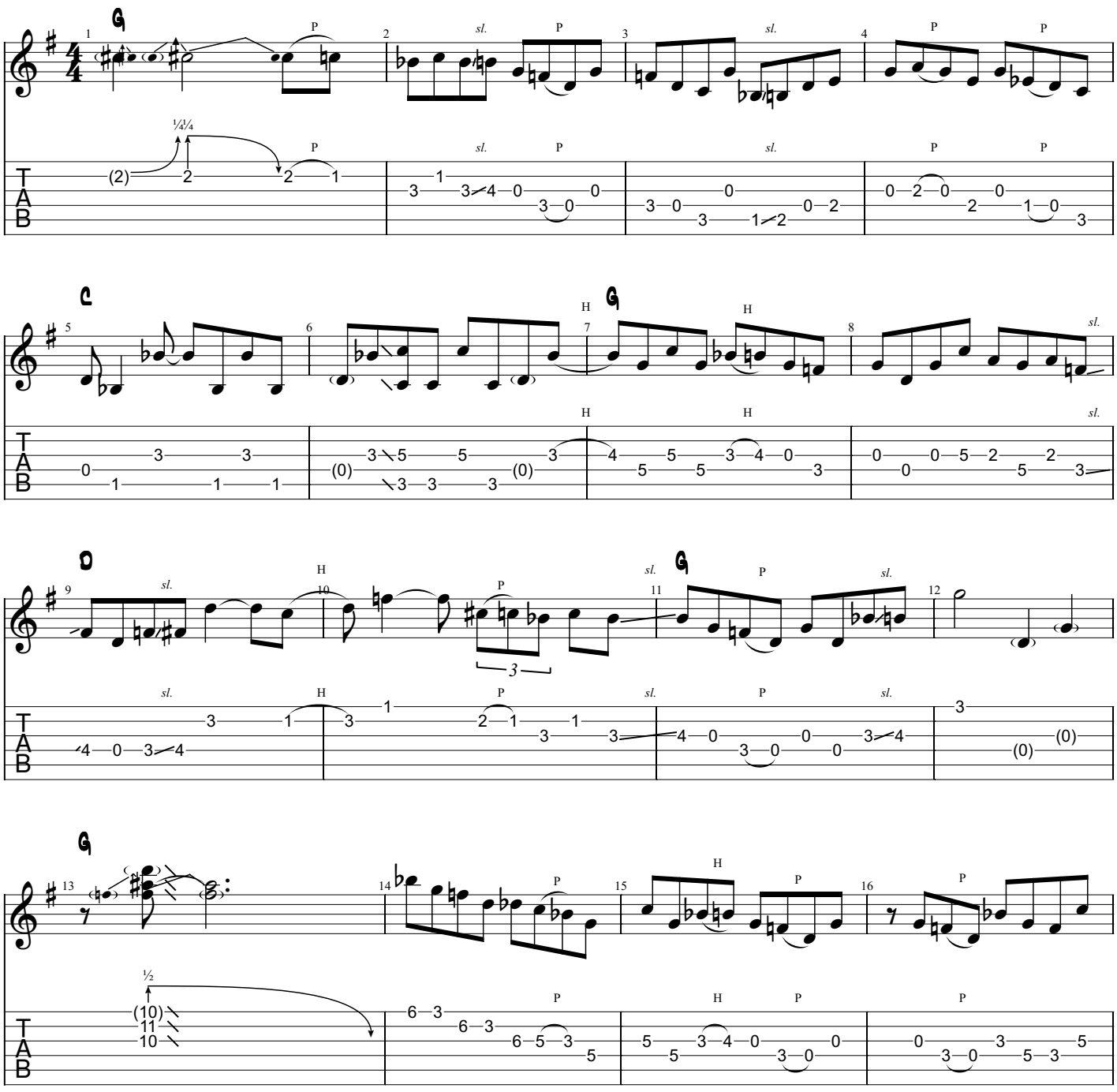


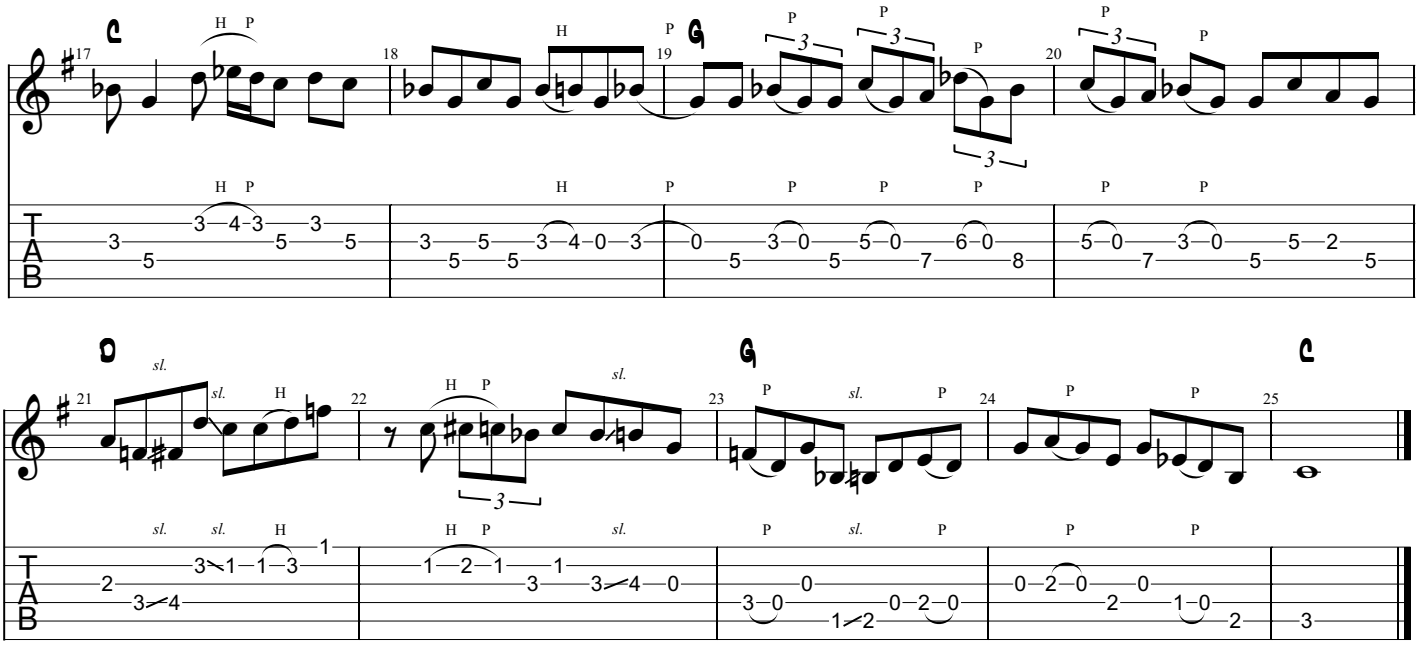
FOGGY MOUNTAIN ROCK (1989)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

TABBED BY LUKE BLACK

Standard tuning



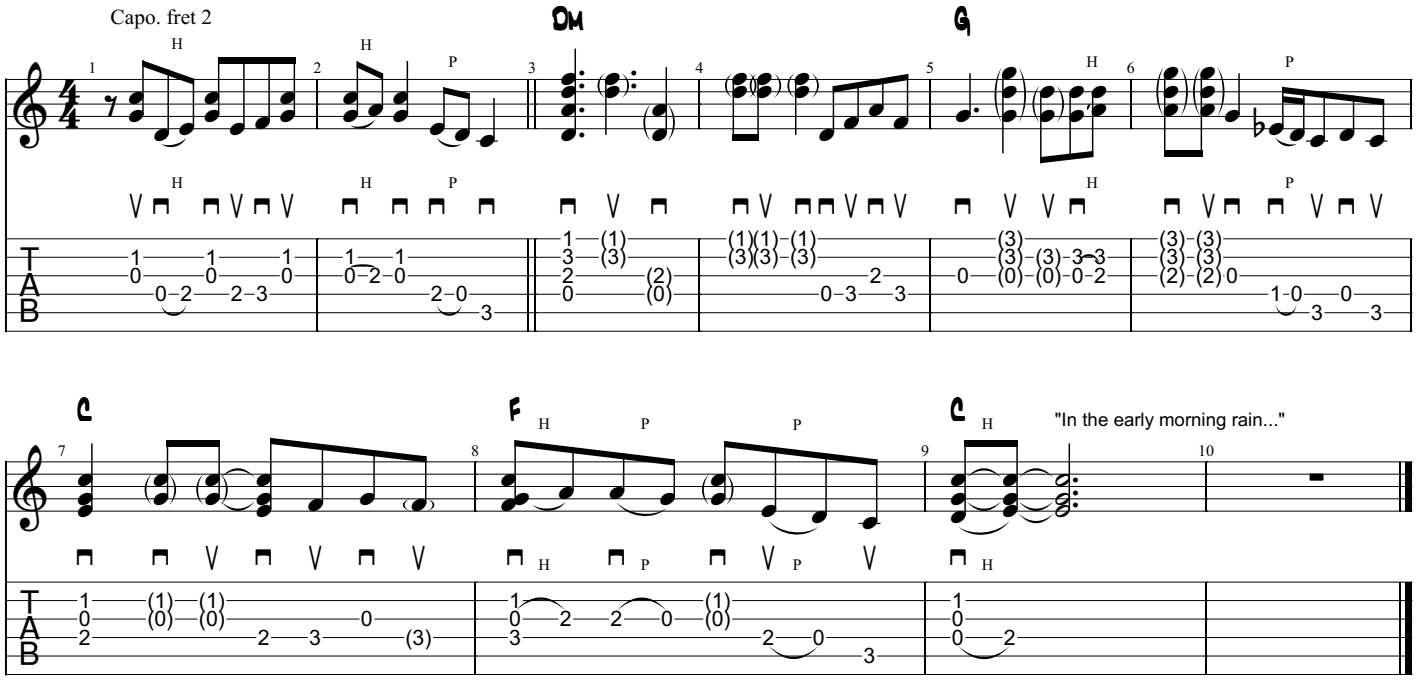


EARLY MORNING RAIN (1986)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning

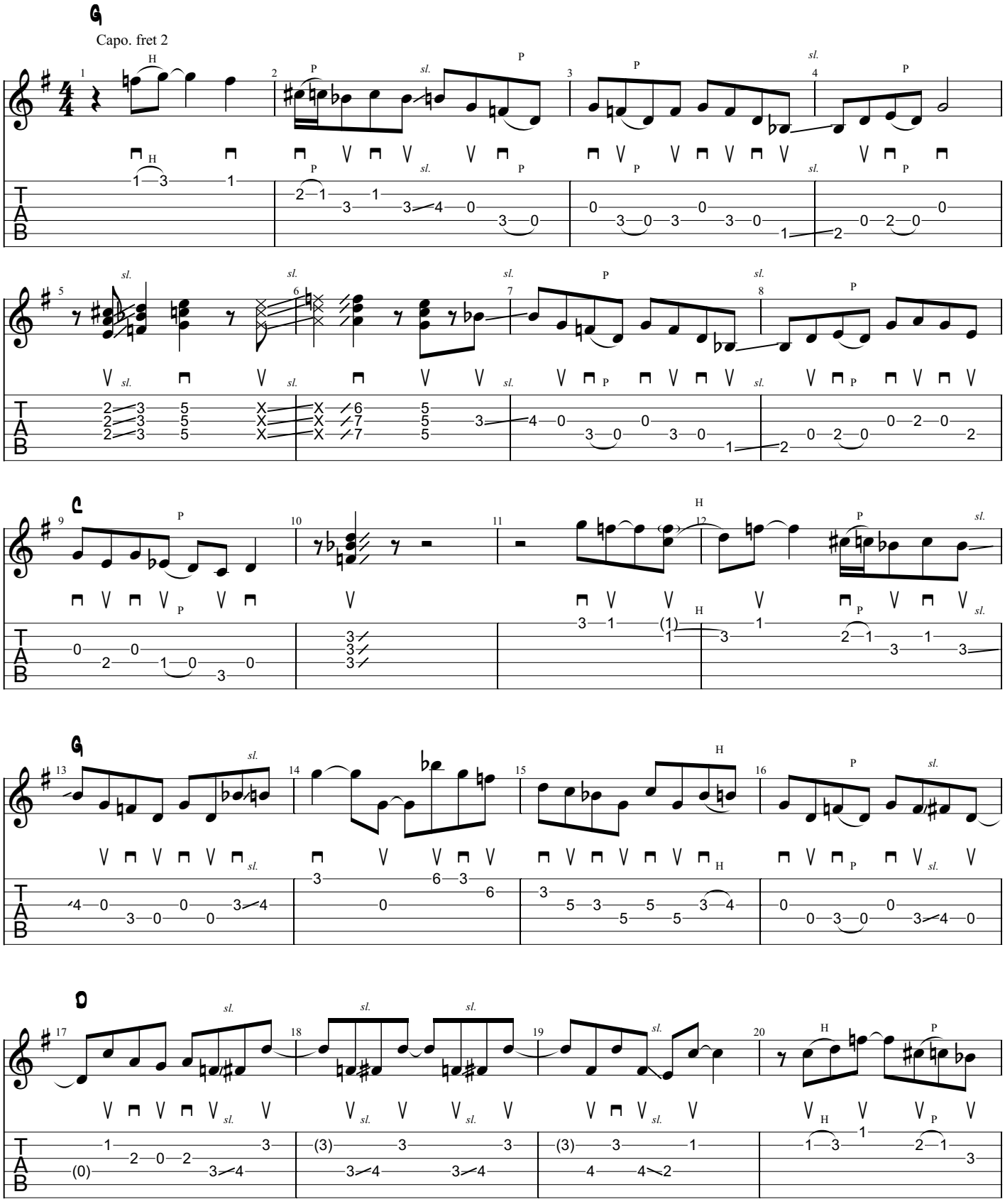
Capo. fret 2

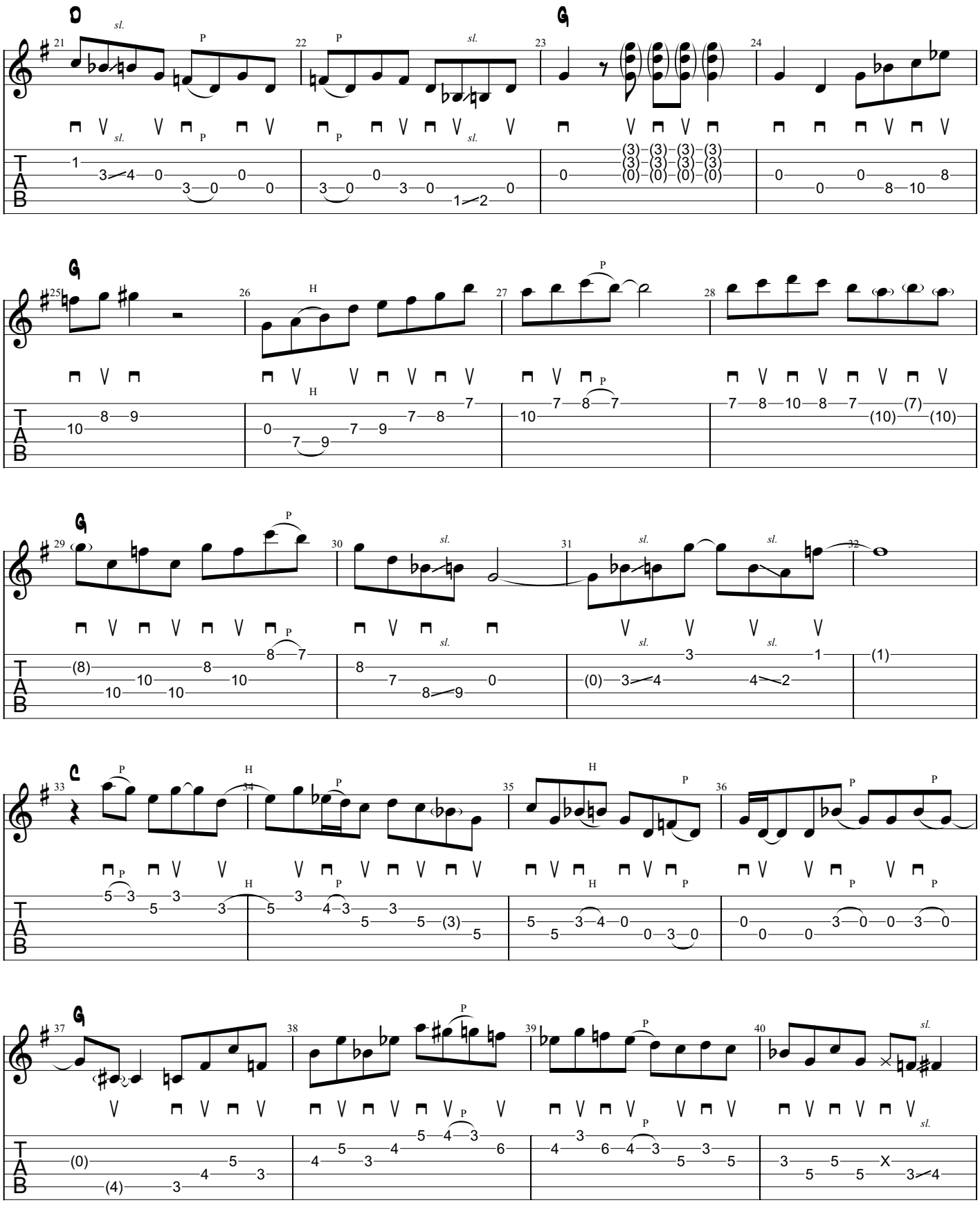


FREEBORN MAN (1992)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning

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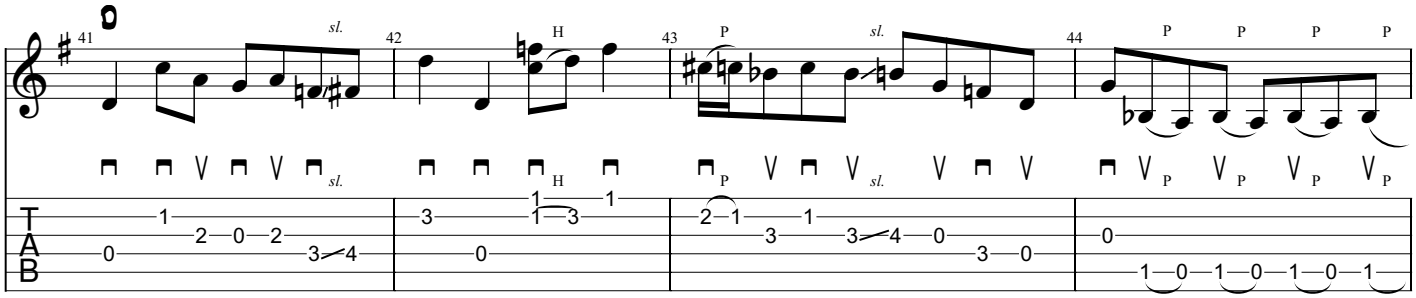
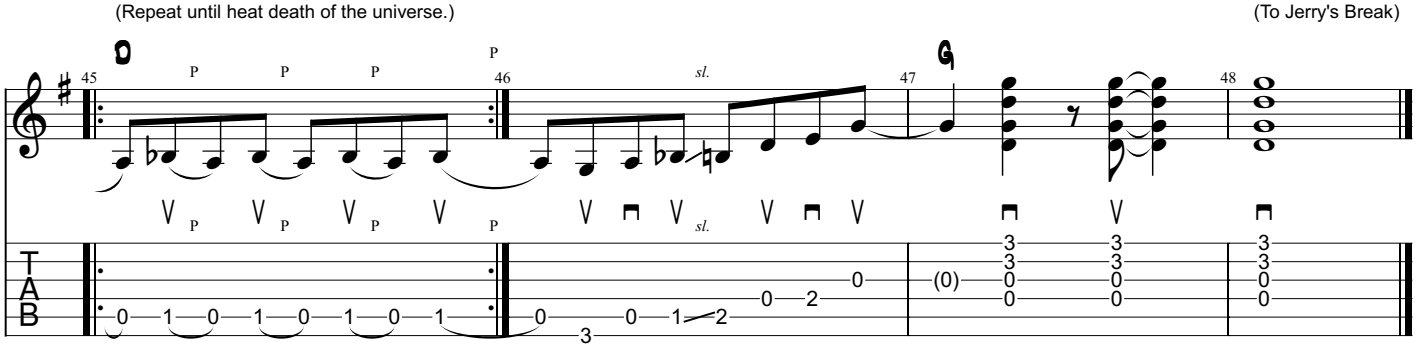
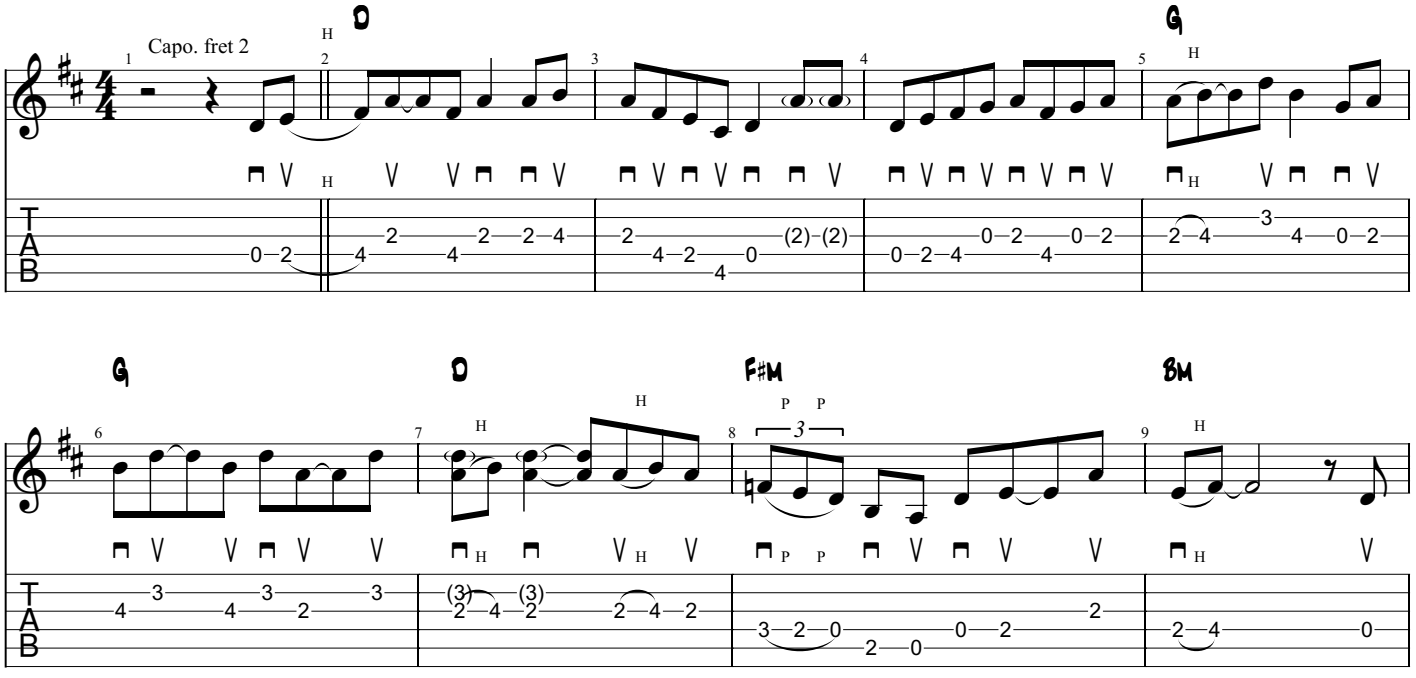


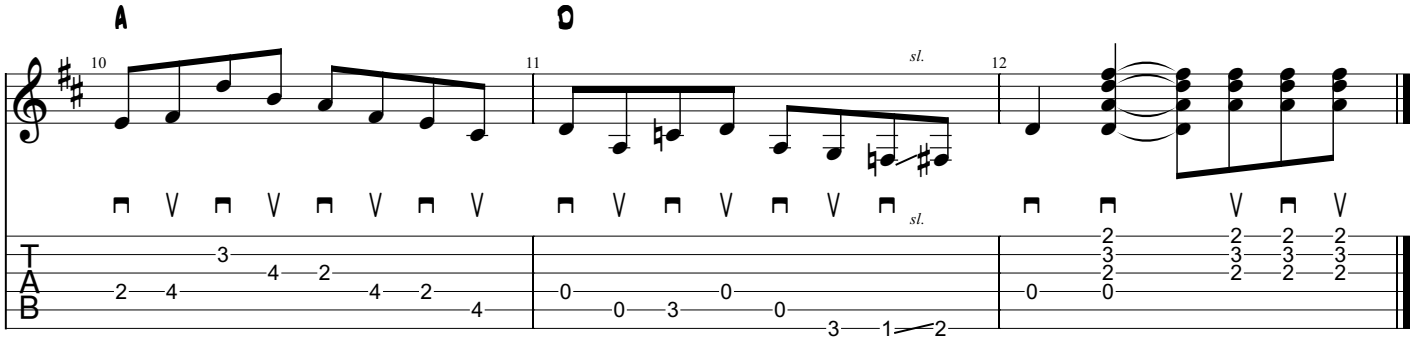


GINSENG SULLIVAN (1979)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning

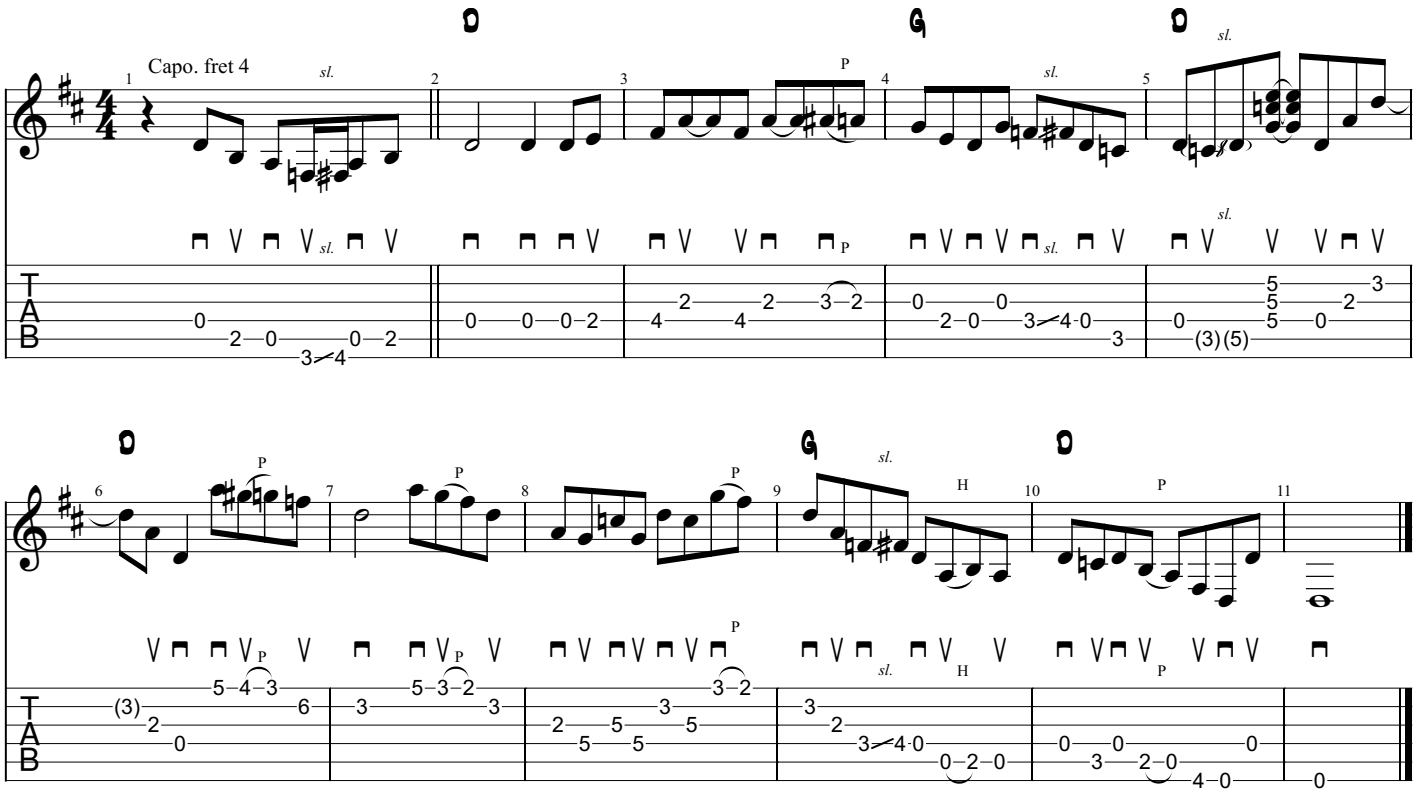




GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY (1993)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

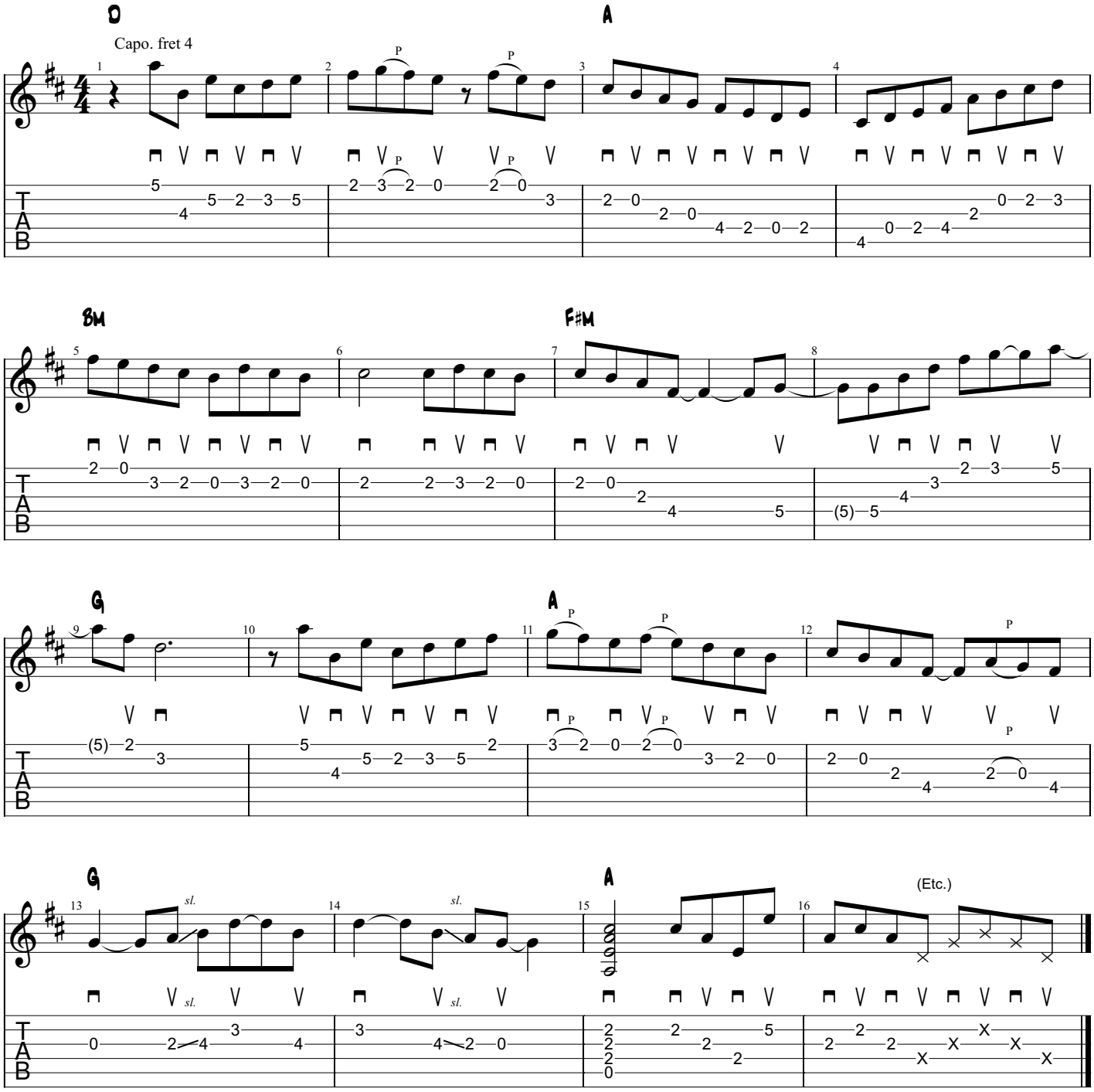
Dropped D



GO MY WAY (1988)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

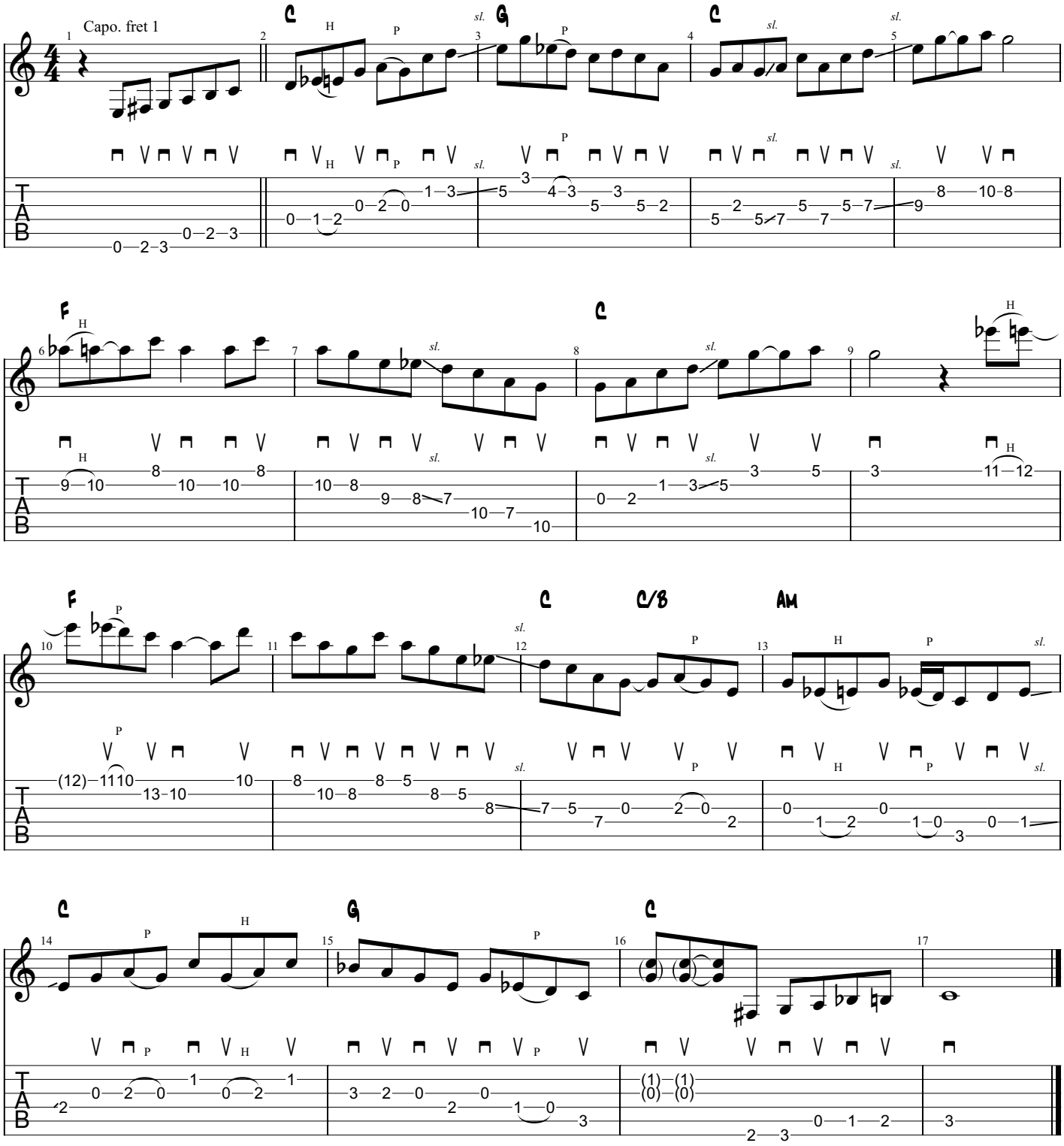
Standard tuning



GONNA LAY DOWN MY OLD GUITAR (1987)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

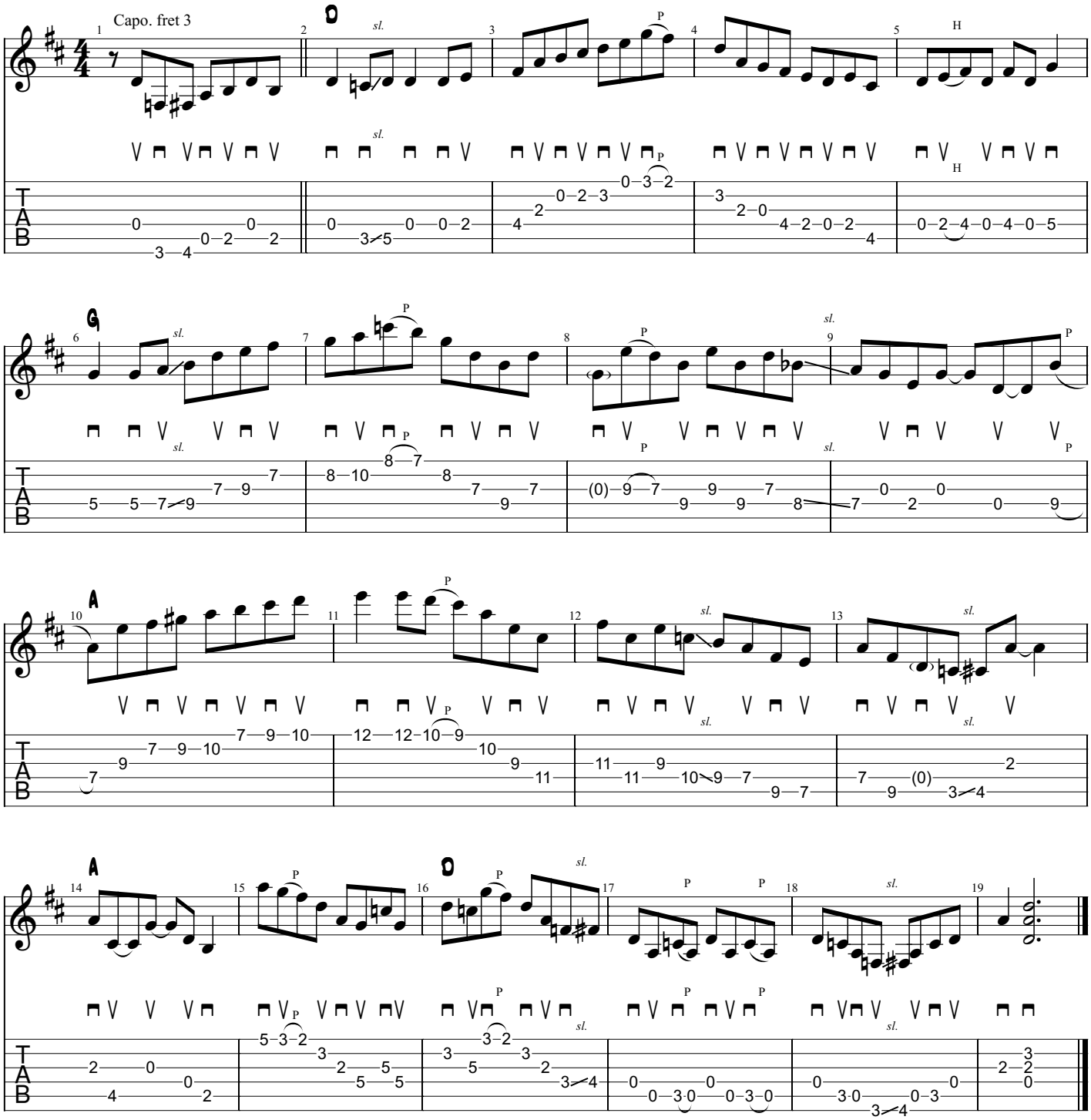
Standard tuning



GRAPES ON THE VINE (1989)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

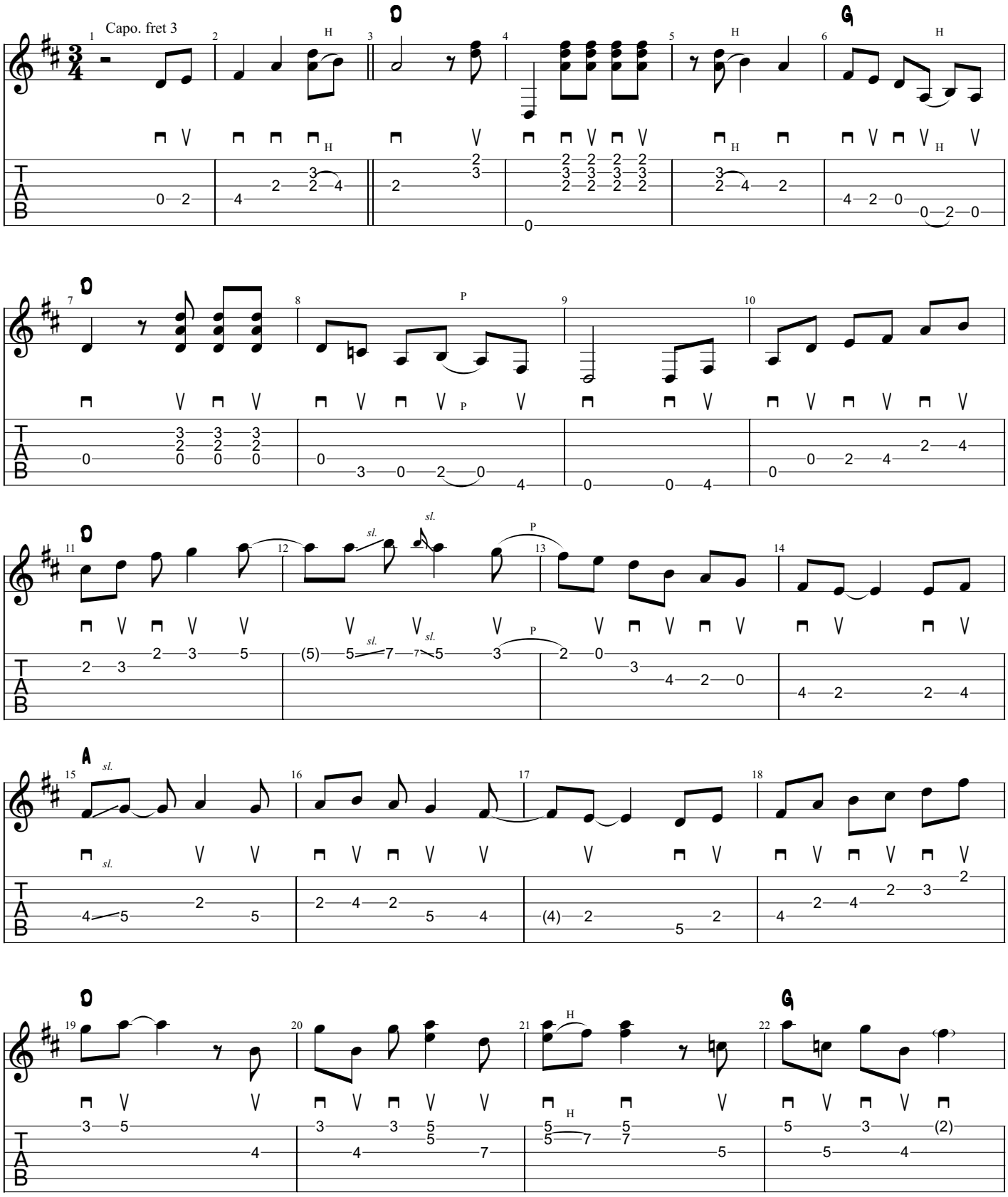
Dropped D

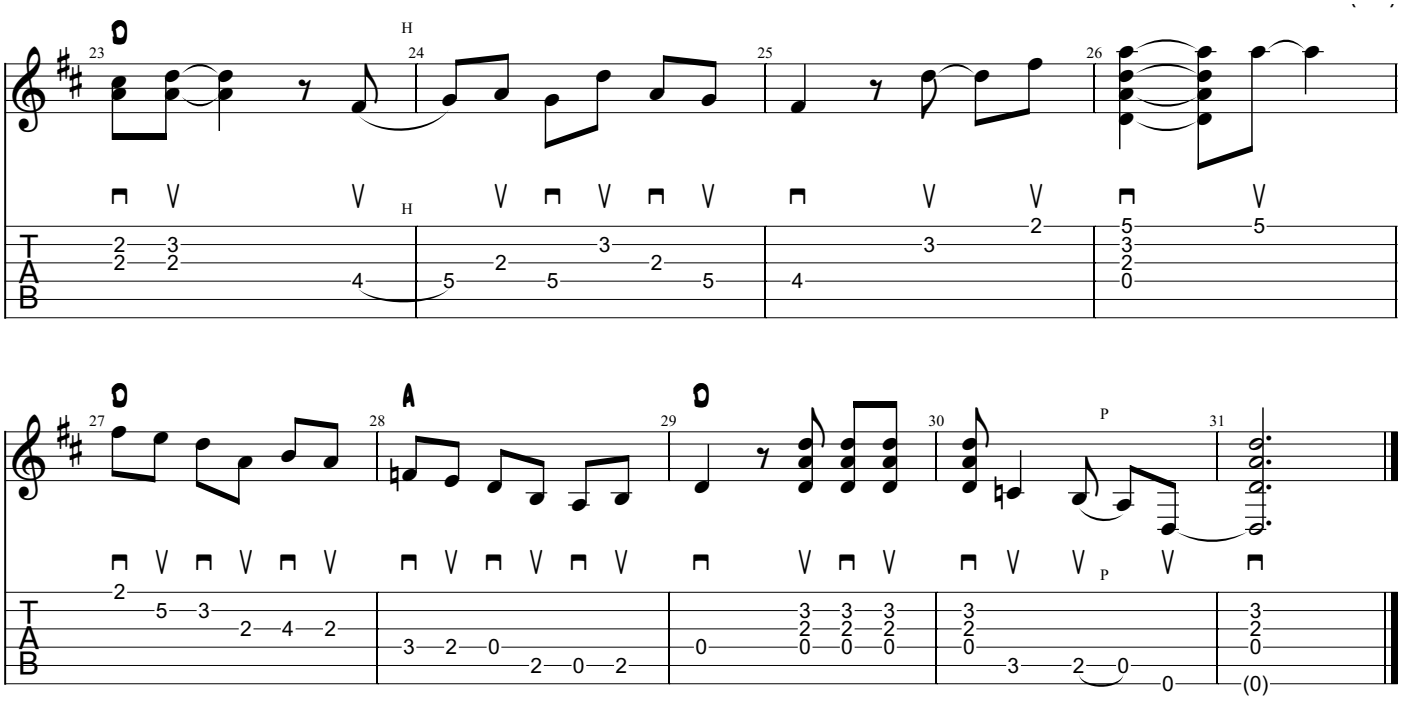


HILLS OF ROANE COUNTY (1977)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Dropped D

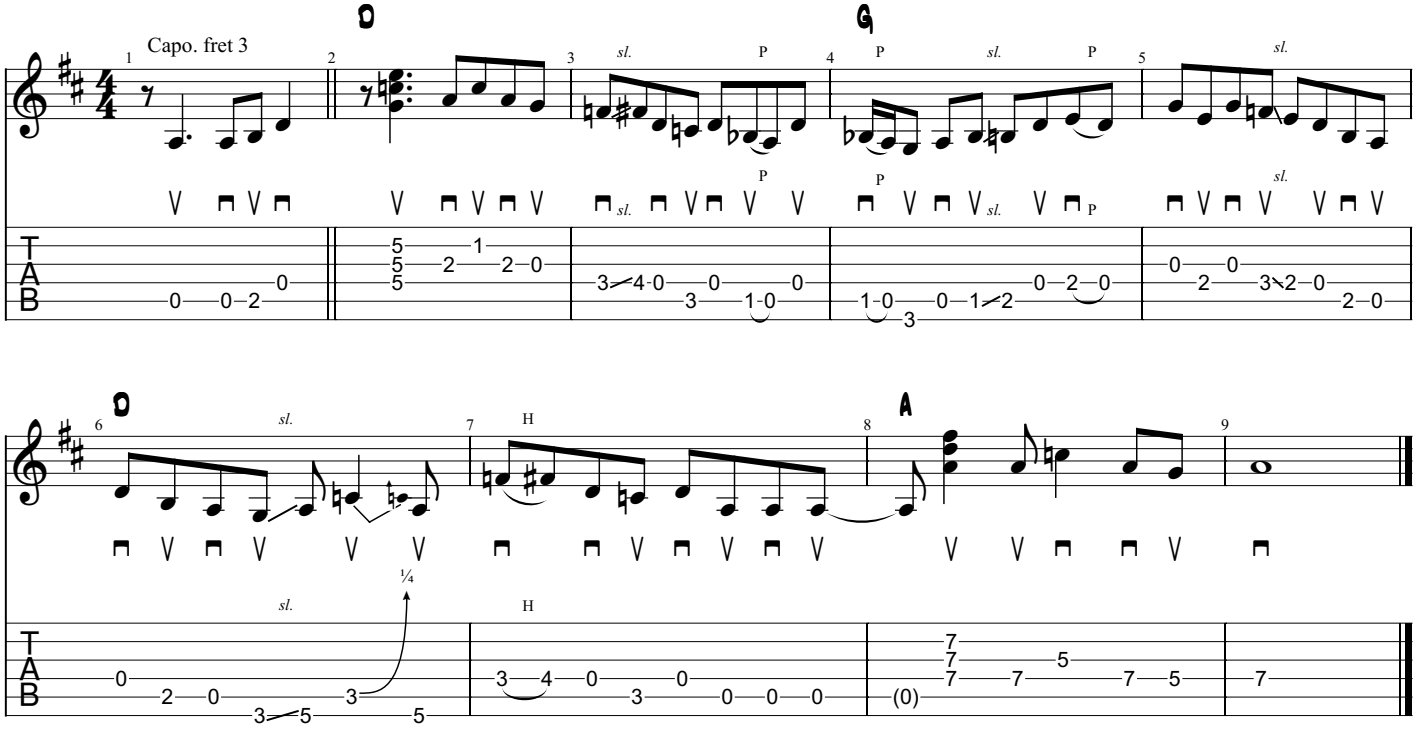




HOLD WHATCHA GOT (1979)

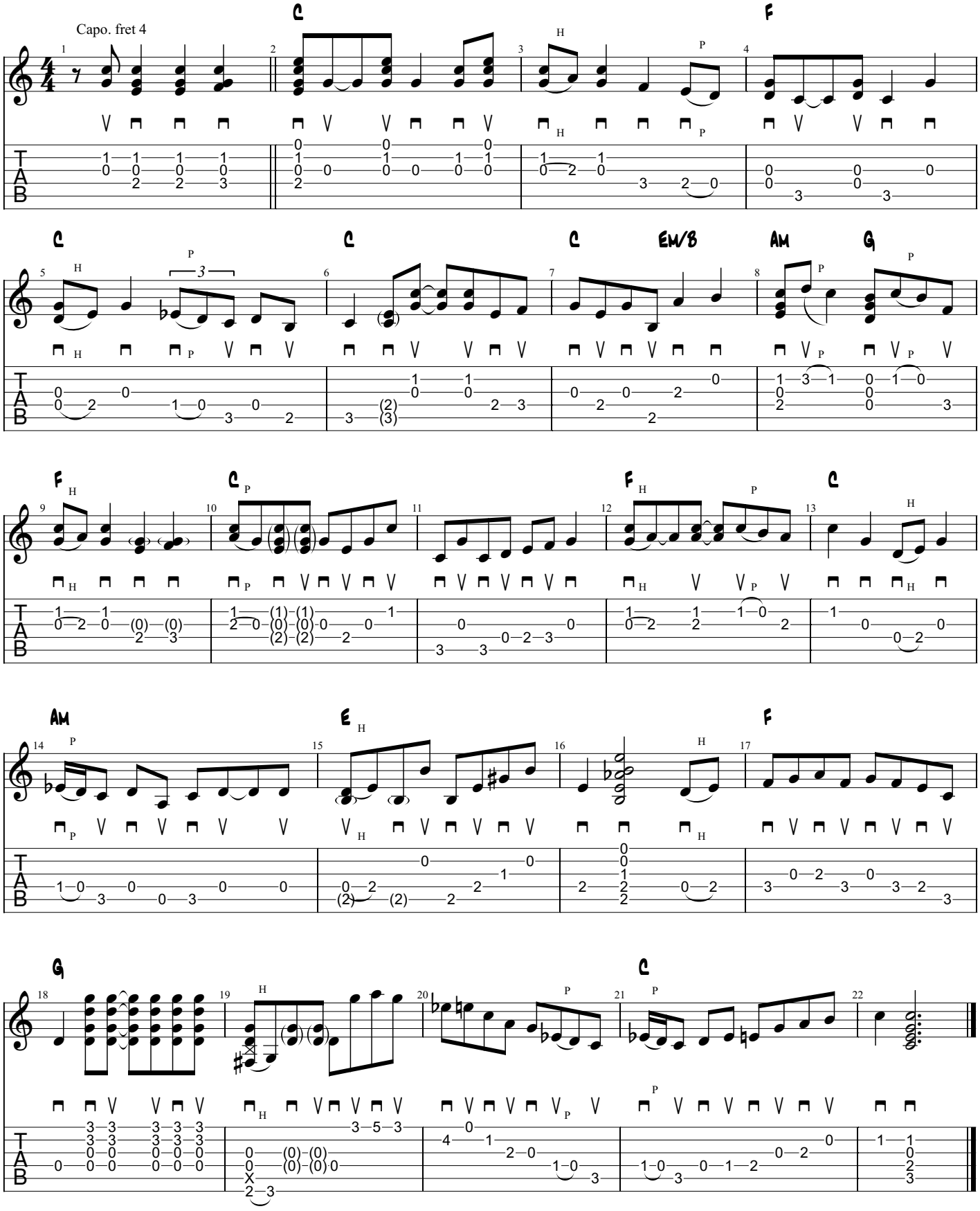
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning



HOME FROM THE FOREST (1979)

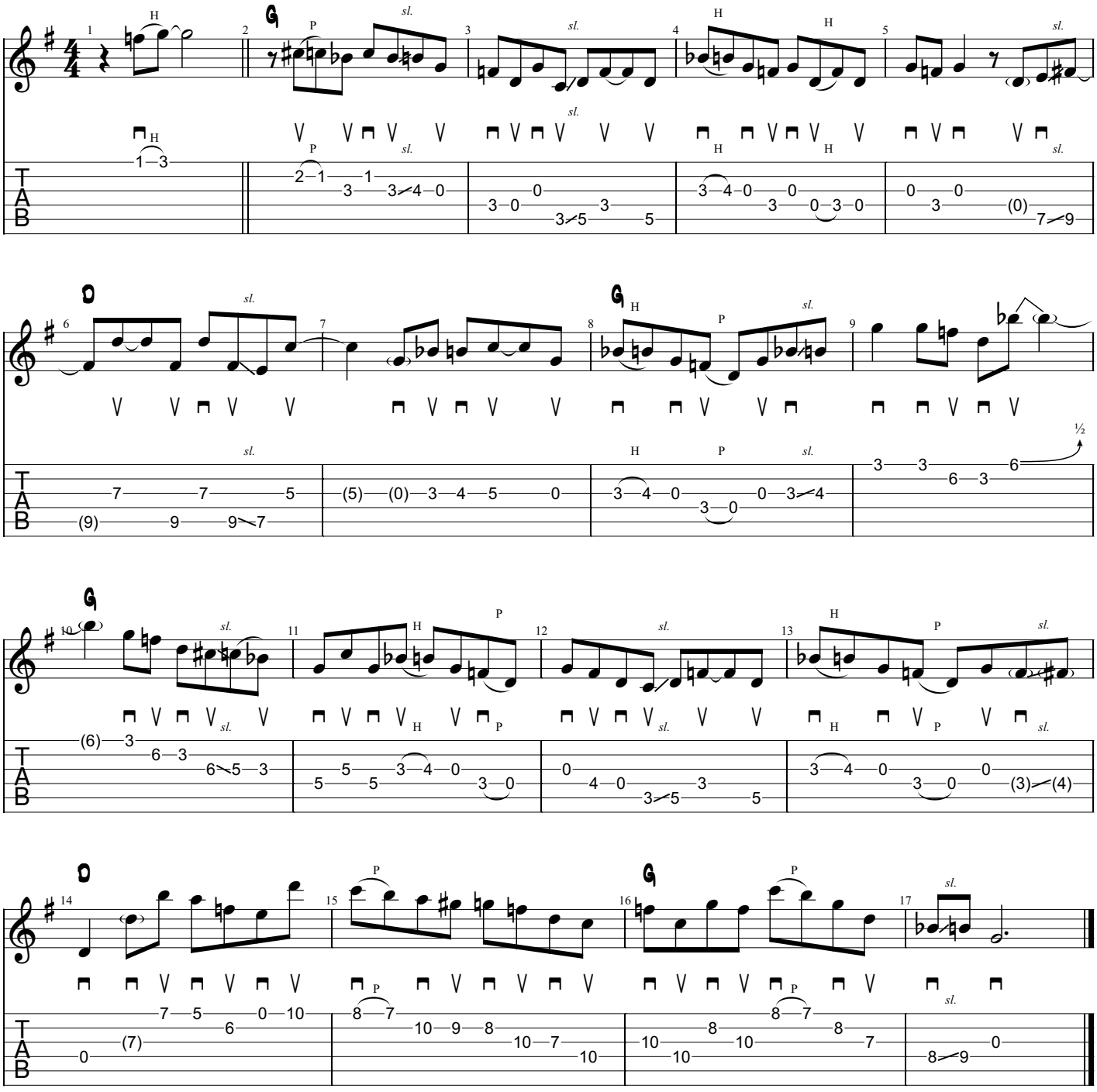
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE



HOW MOUNTAIN GIRLS CAN LOVE (1993)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

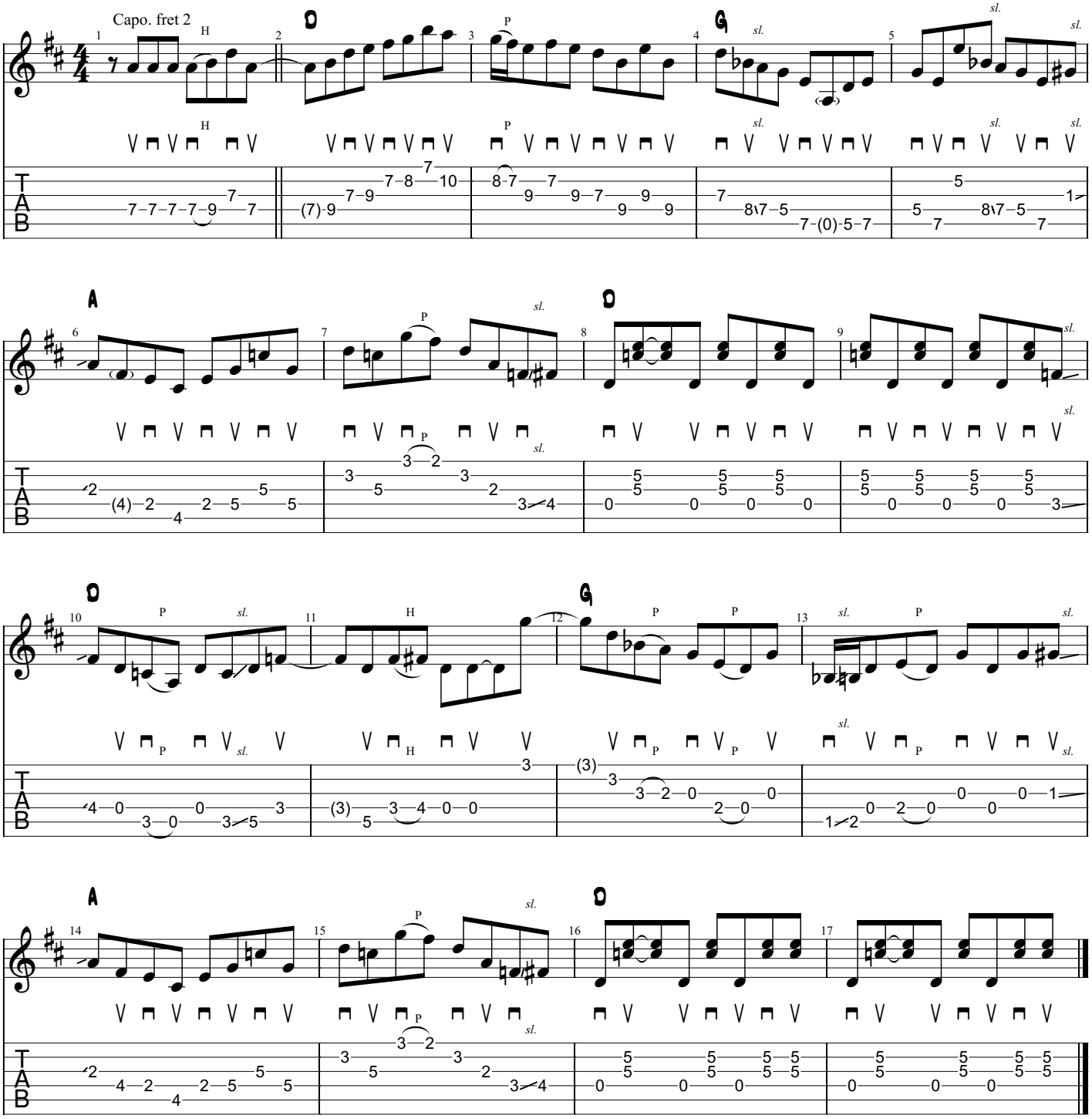
Standard tuning



I WONDER WHERE YOU ARE TONIGHT (1993)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning

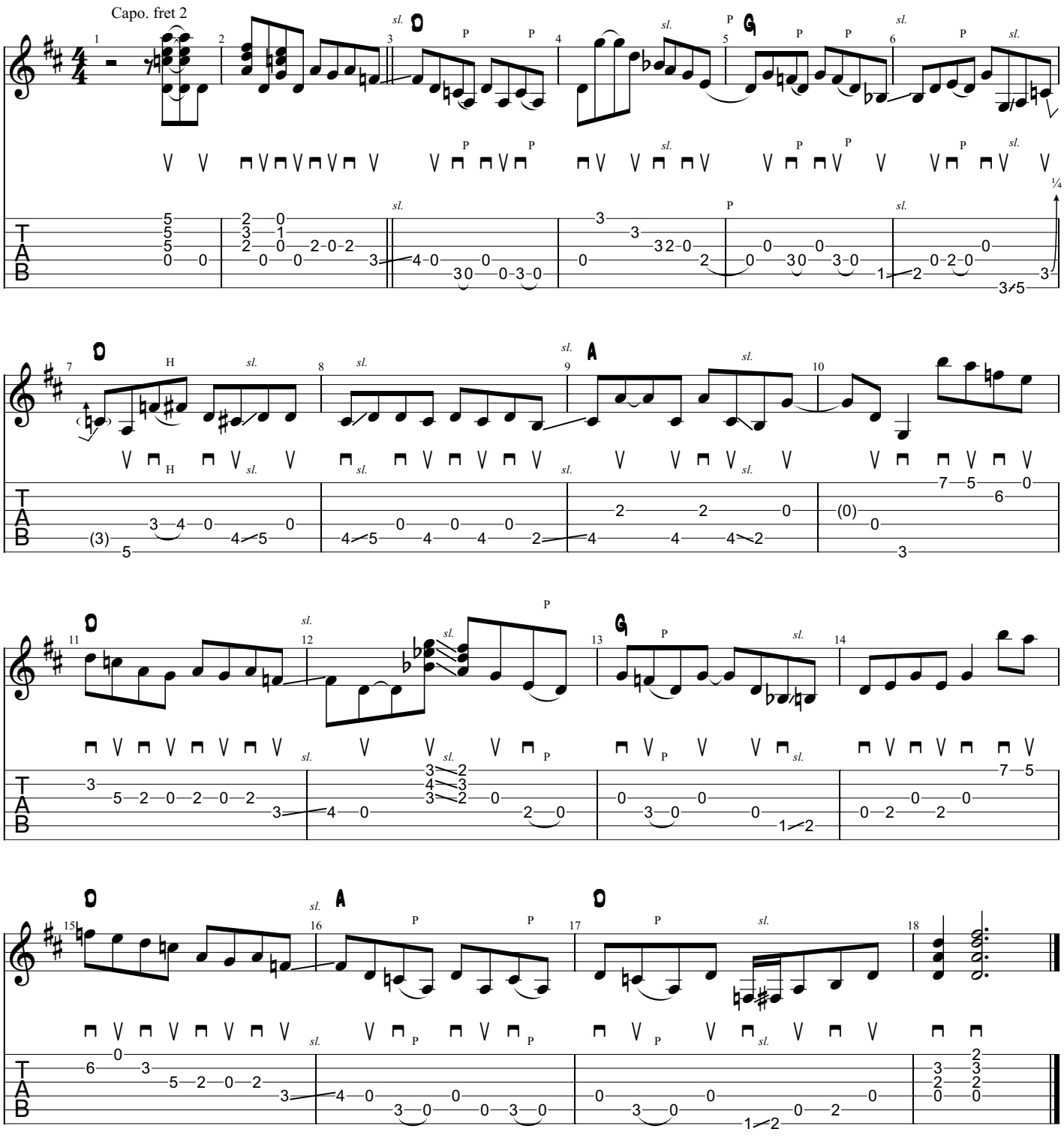


IF I SHOULD WANDER BACK TONIGHT (1992)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning

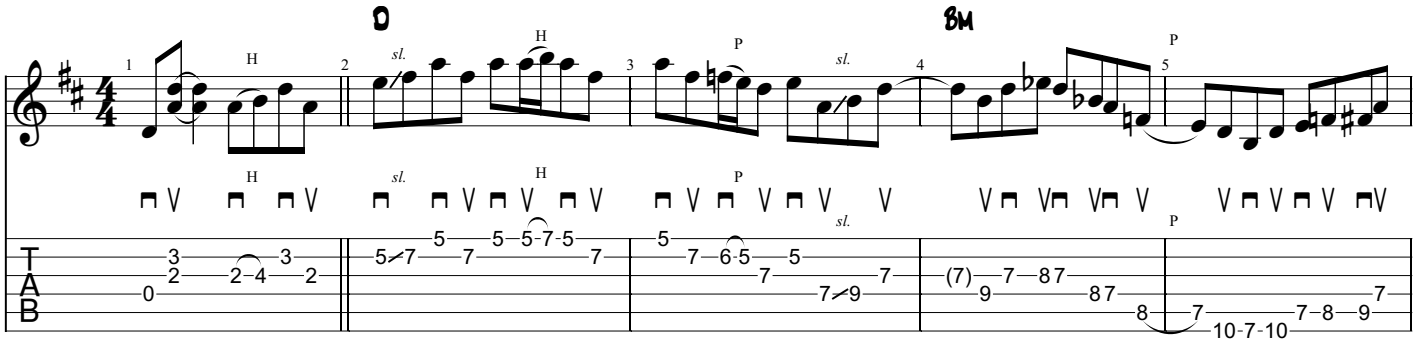
Capo. fret 2

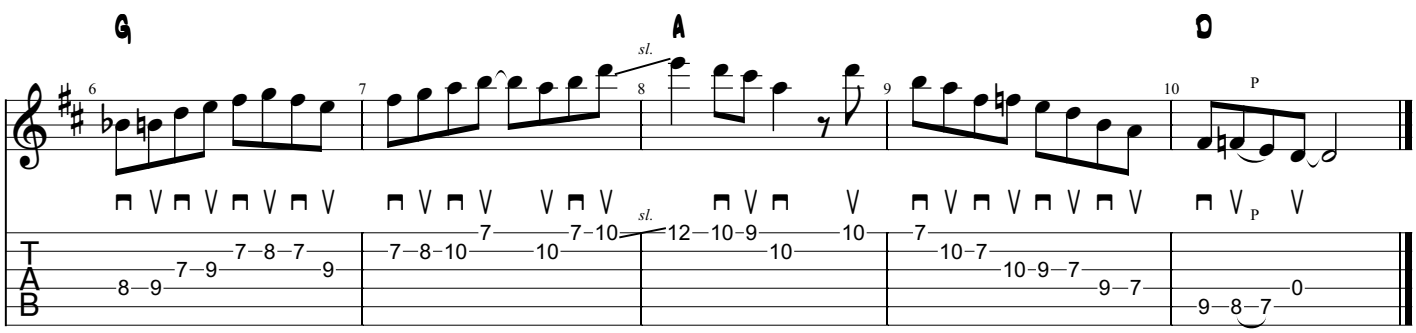


IF YOU ONLY KNEW (1984)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning



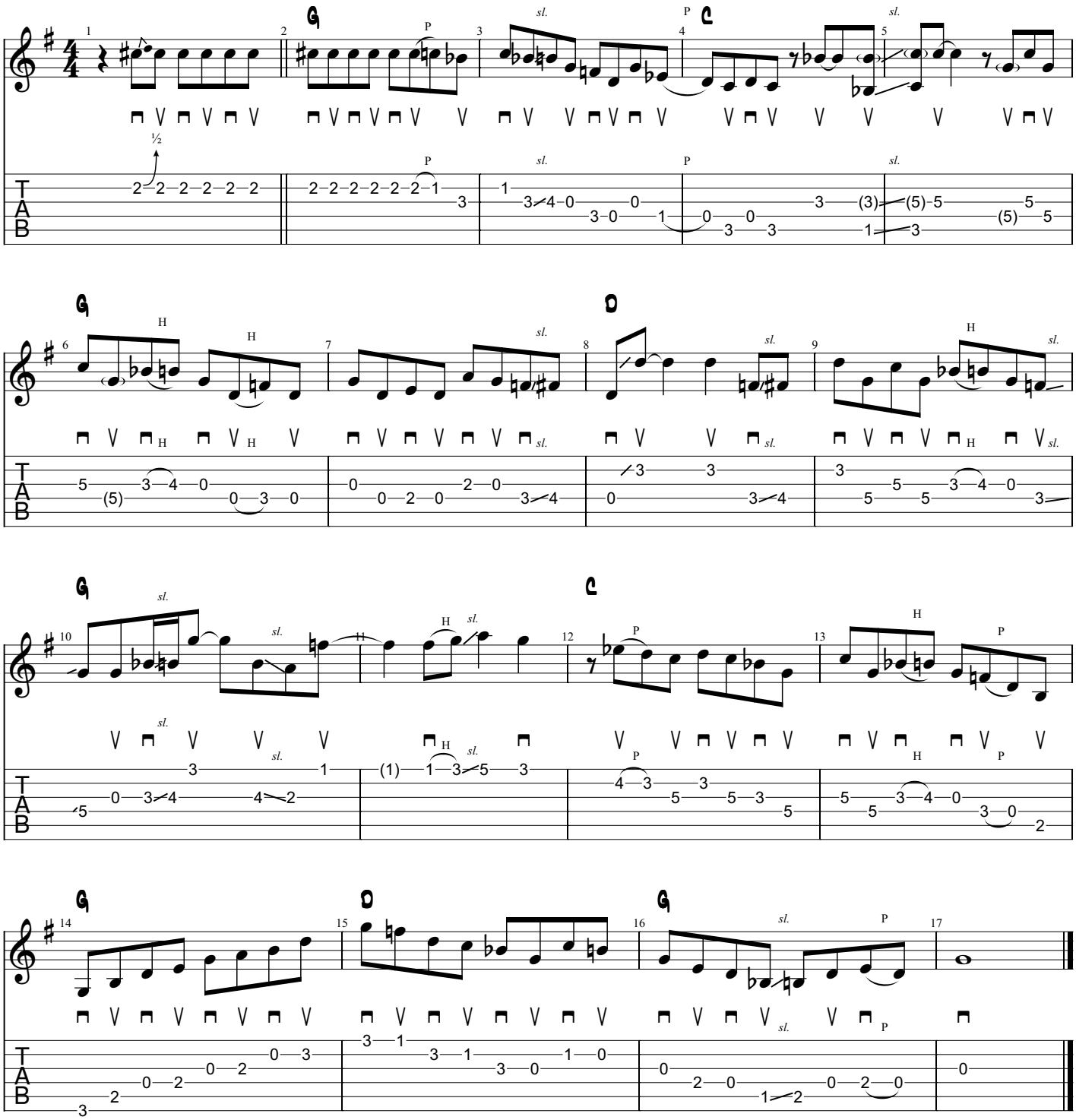


I'VE WAITED AS LONG AS I CAN (1993)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning

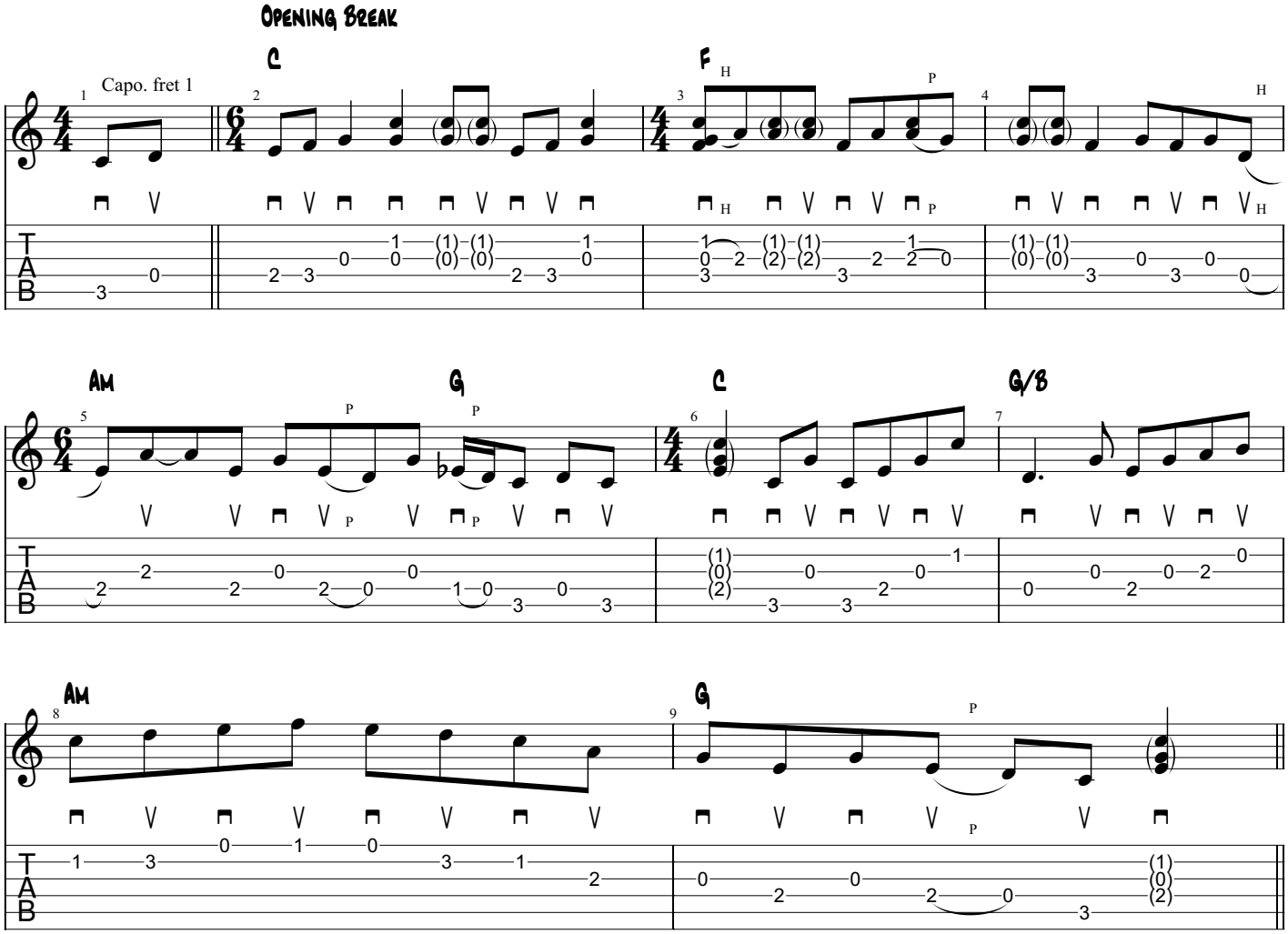
Slowly release bend over first two measures!

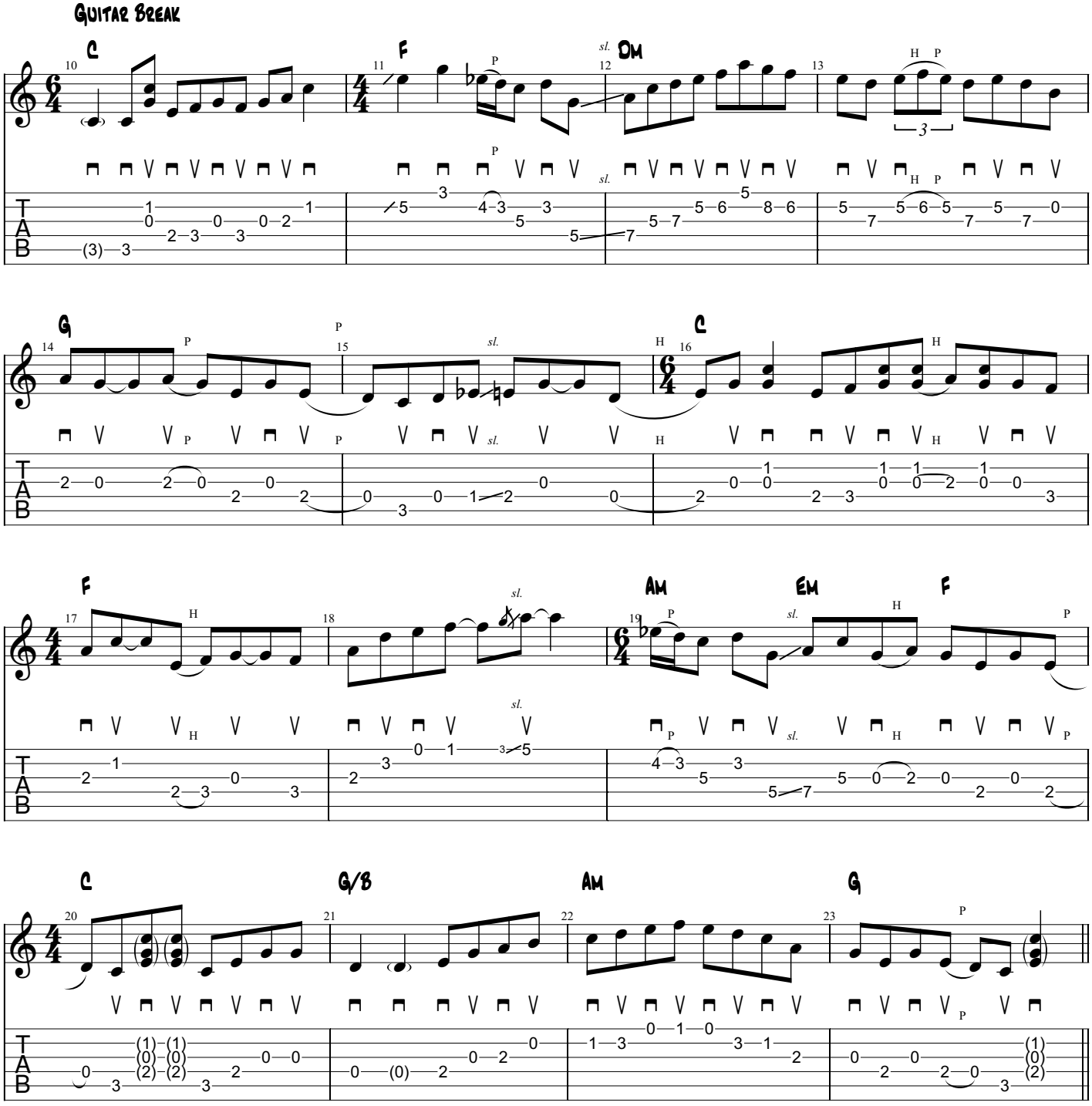


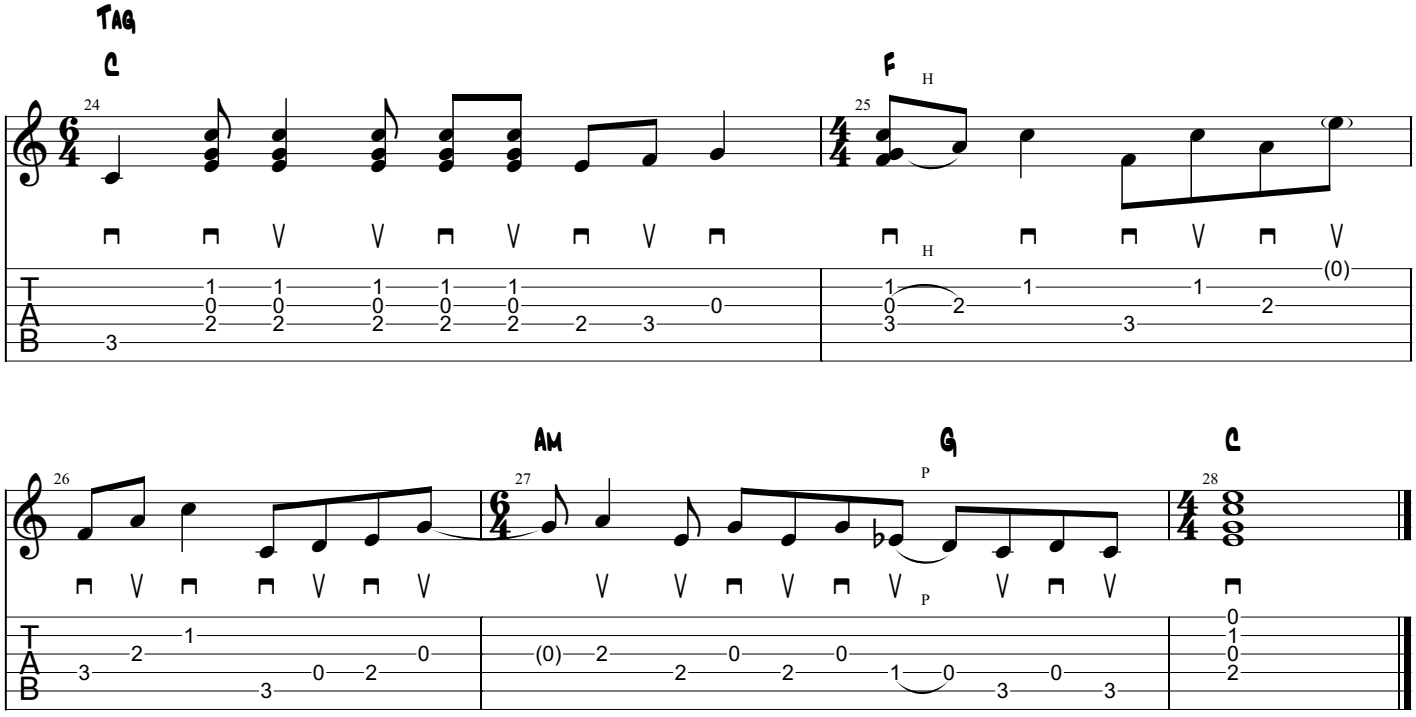
JOHN WILKES BOOTH (1988)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard Tuning



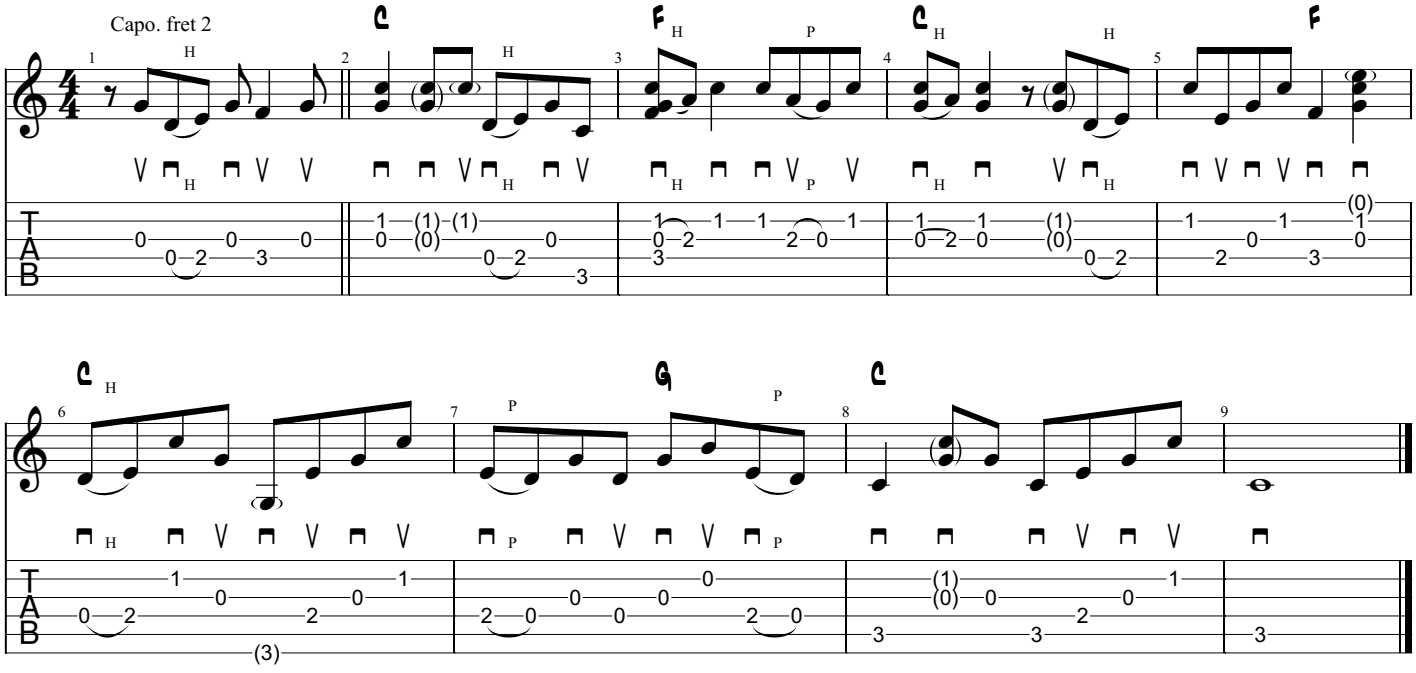

Guitar Break
C
F
Dm
G
C
F
Am
Em
F
C
G/B
Am
G



LAST THING ON MY MIND (1983)

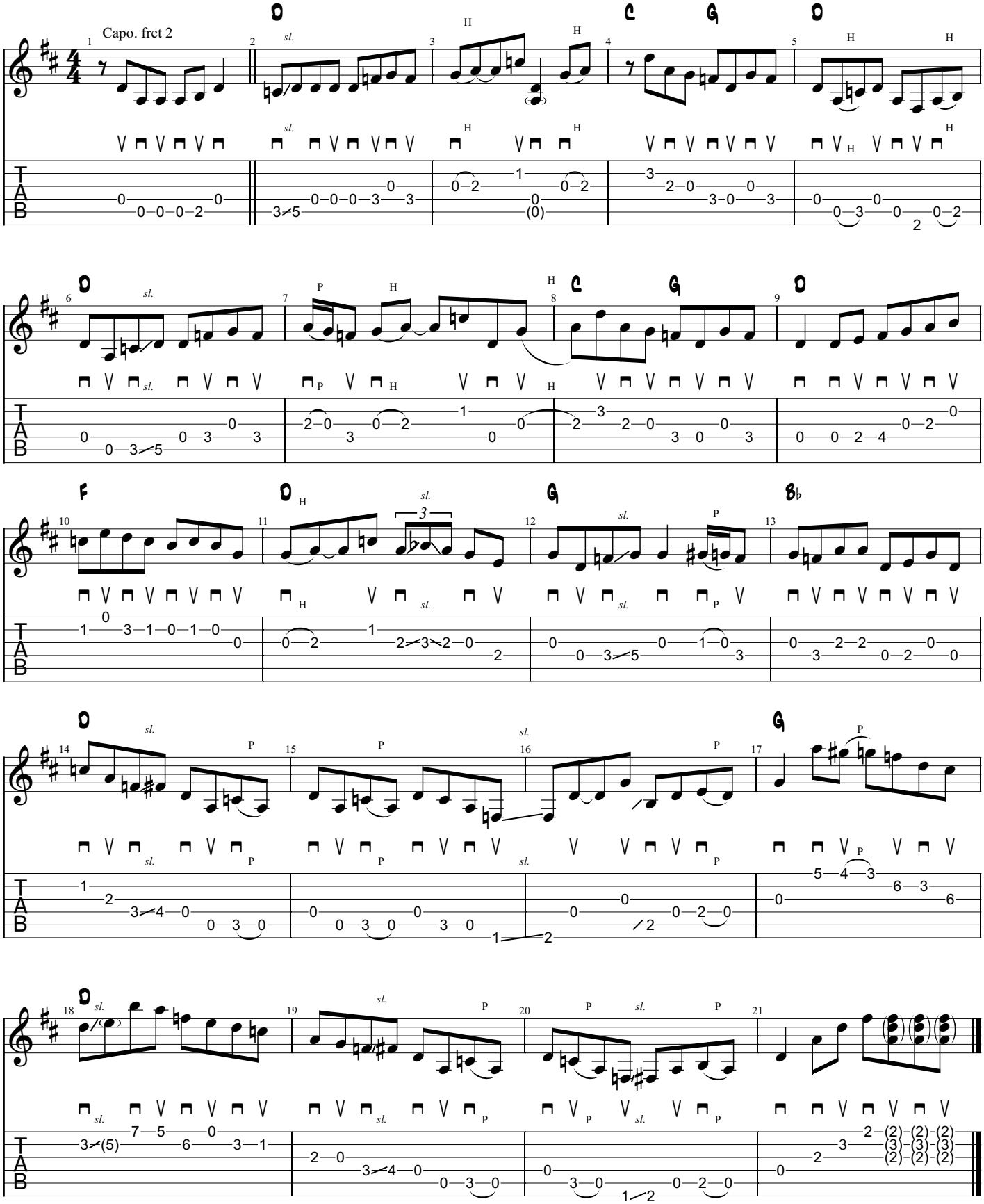
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning



LIKES OF ME (1984)

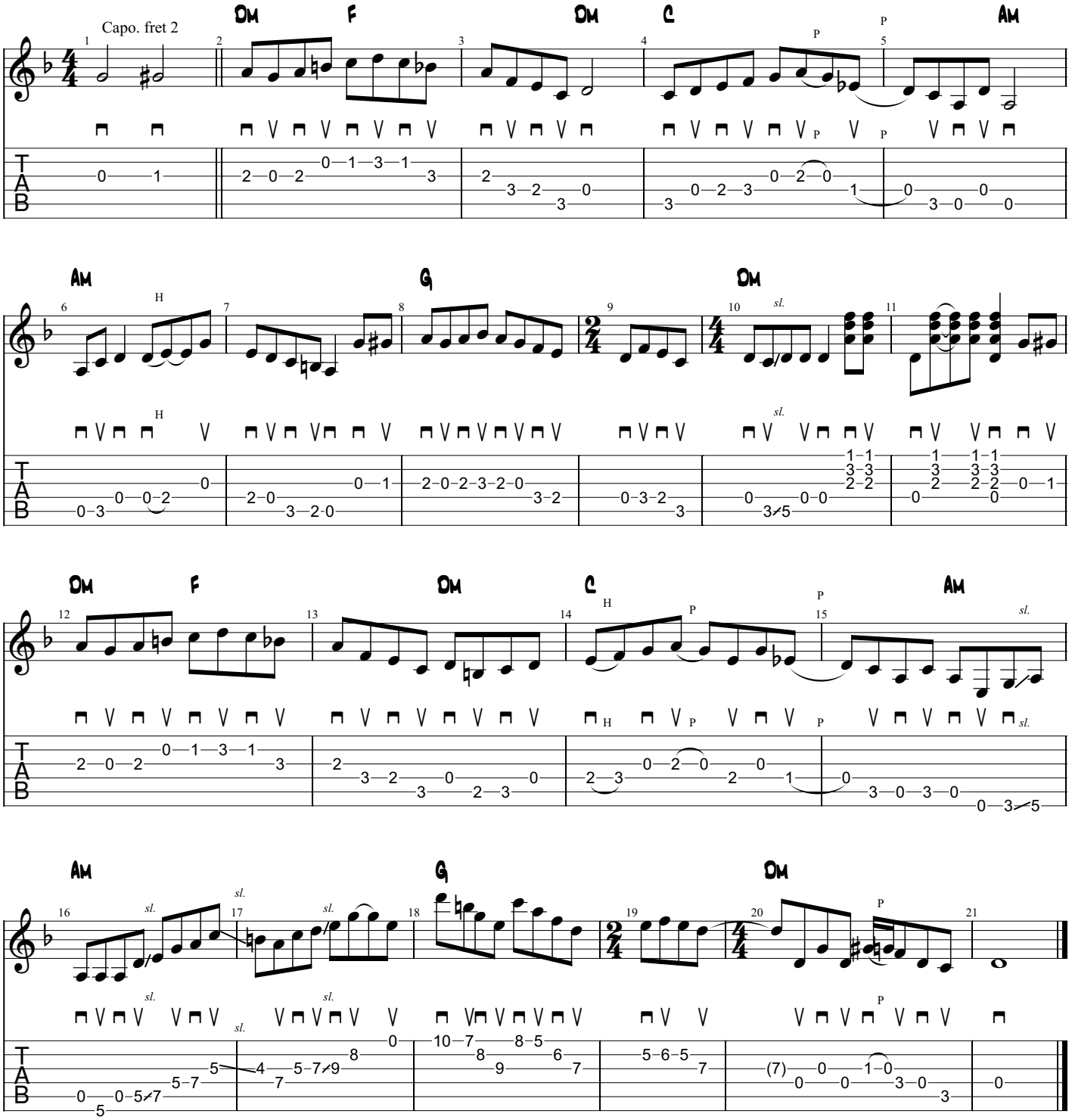
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE



LITTLE SADIE (1979)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

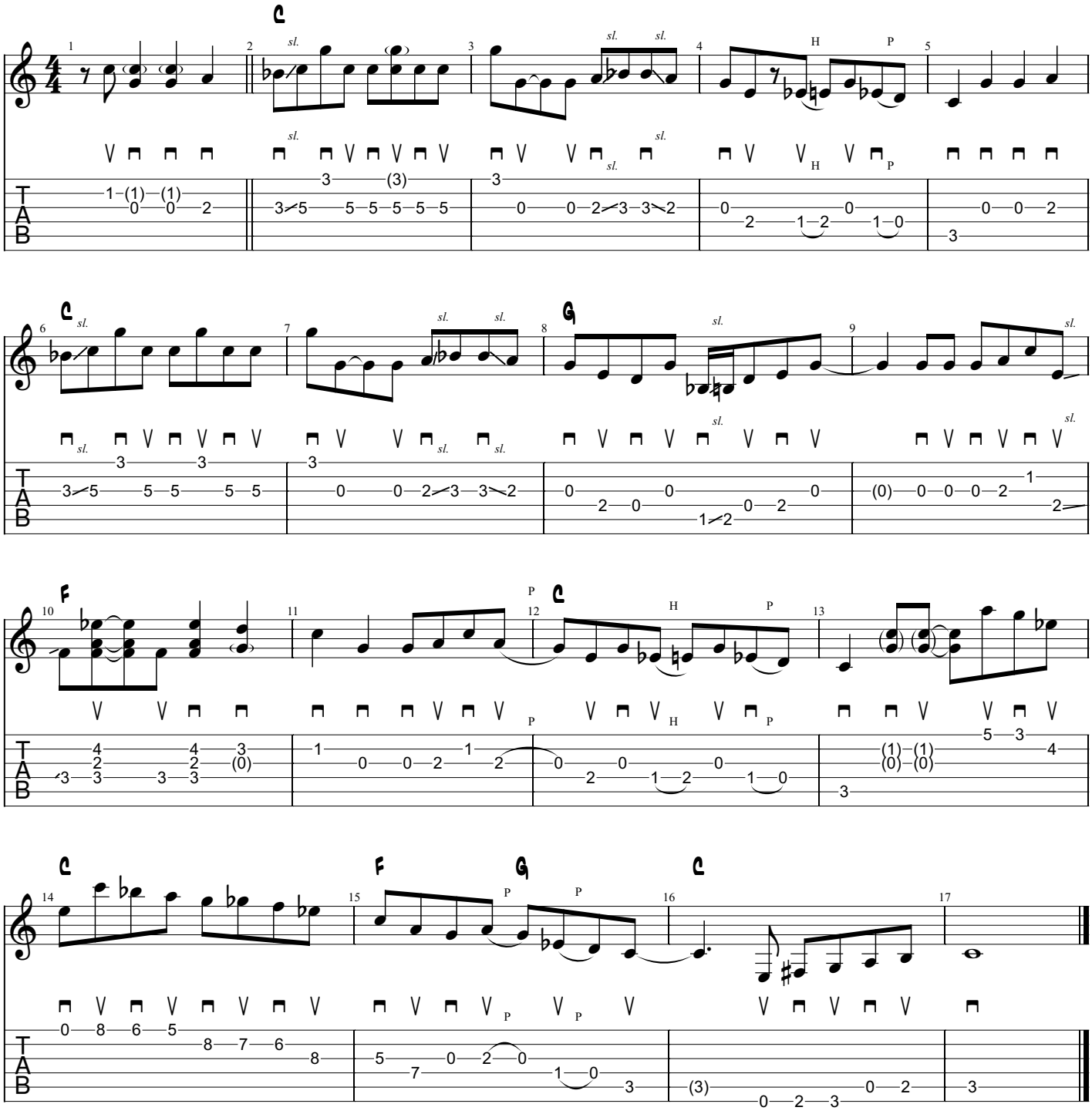
Standard tuning



LONESOME WIND BLUES (1984)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning

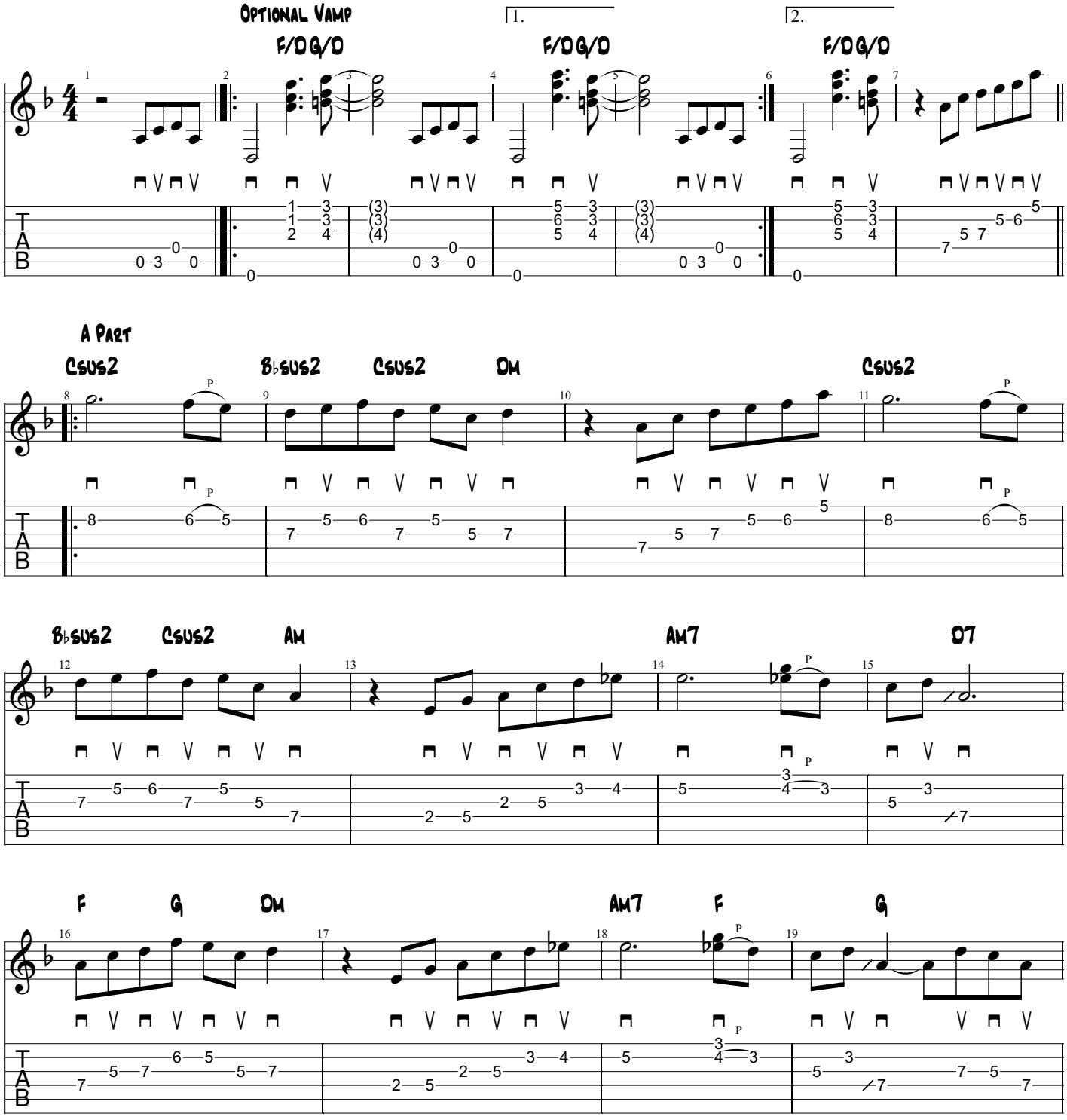


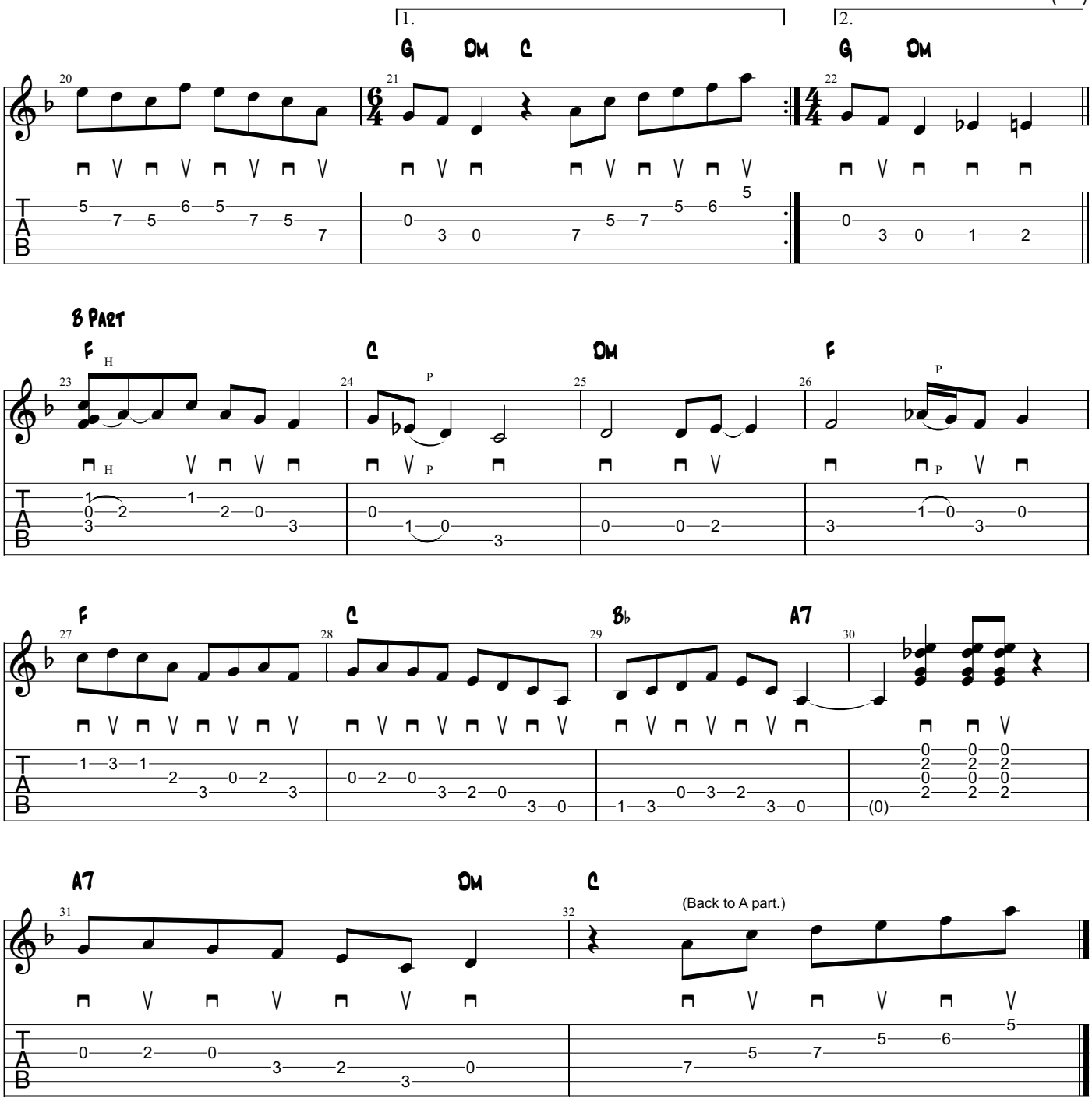
Ricky Skaggs Nobuharu Komoriya Photographer Tony Rice

MANZANITA (1979)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Dropped D



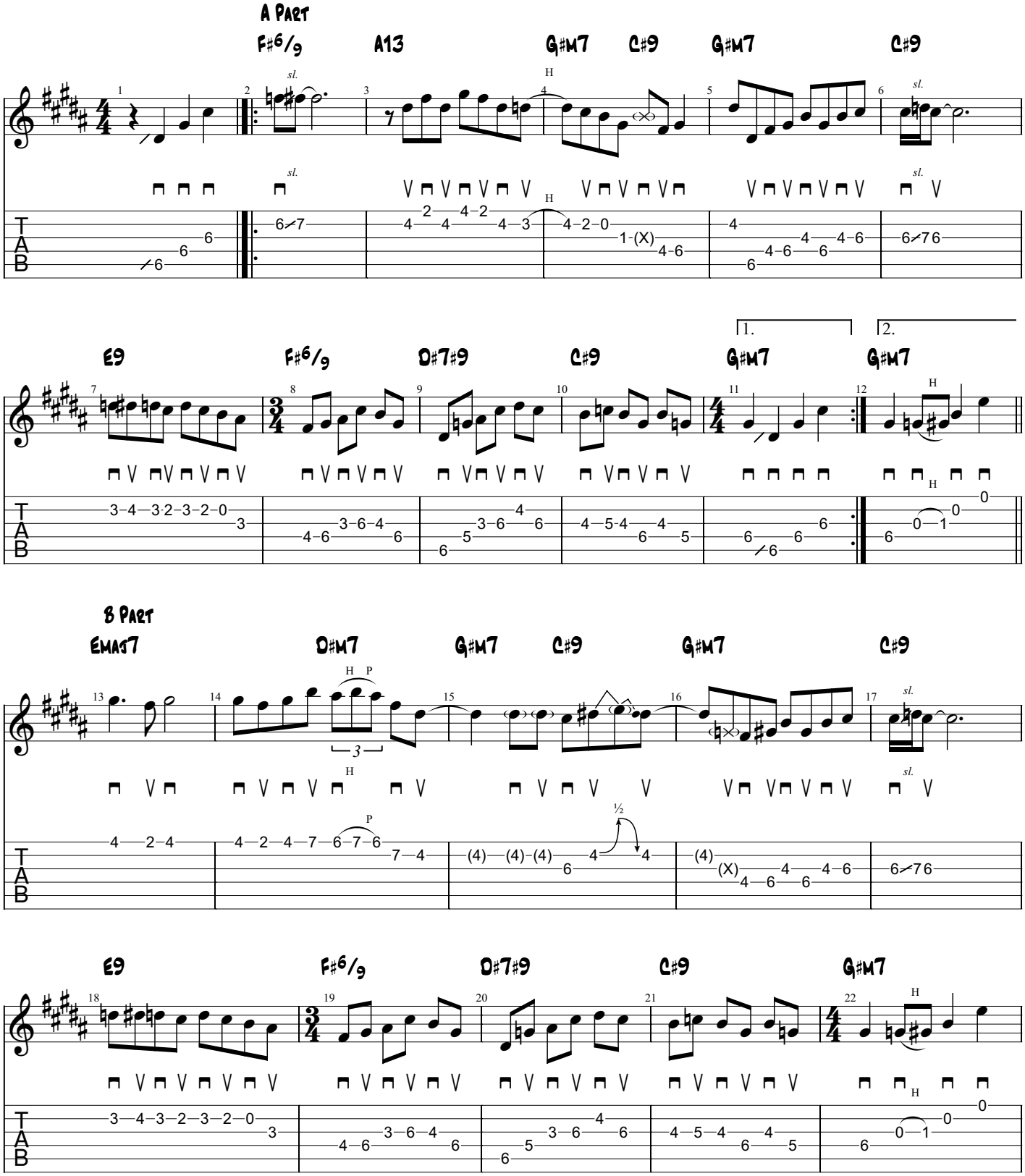

1.
2.
G
Dm
C
G
Dm
B Part
F
C
Dm
F
F
C
B♭
A7
A7
Dm
C
(Back to A part.)

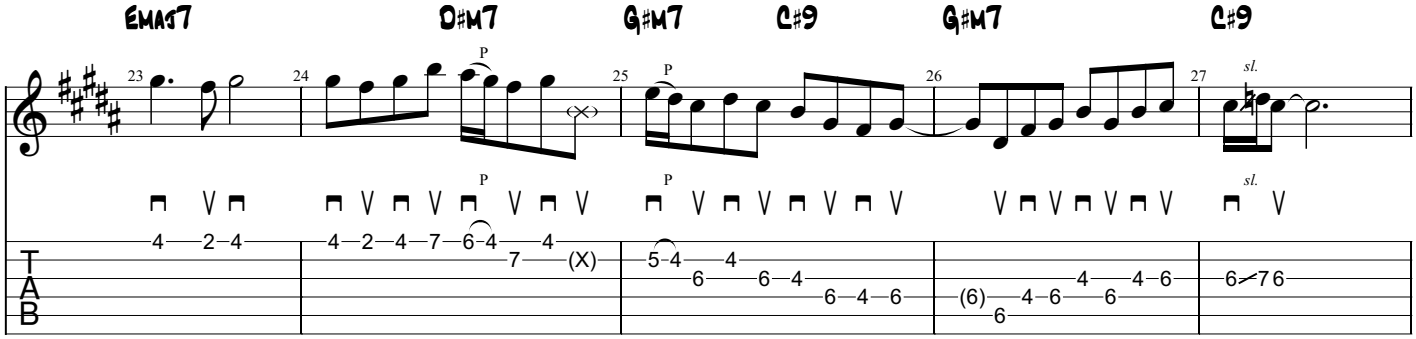
MAR EAST (1980)

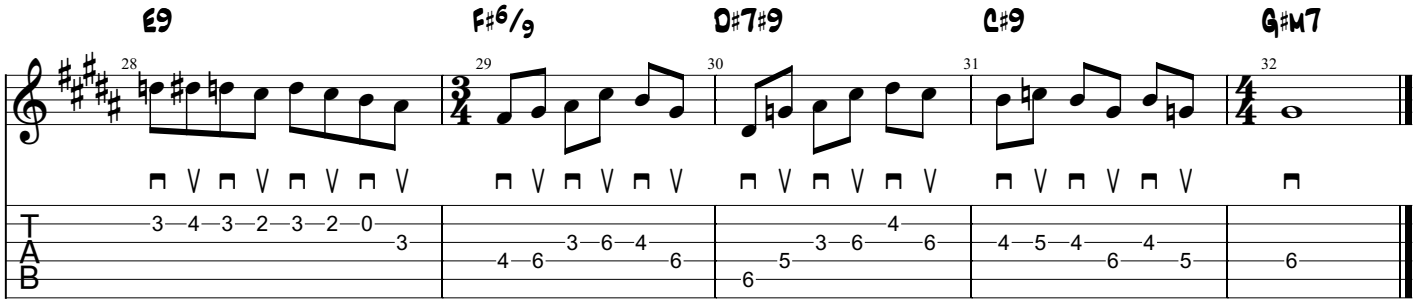
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

TABBED BY ANDREA ARNONE, MARCEL ARDANS, AND ANDY HATFIELD

Standard tuning

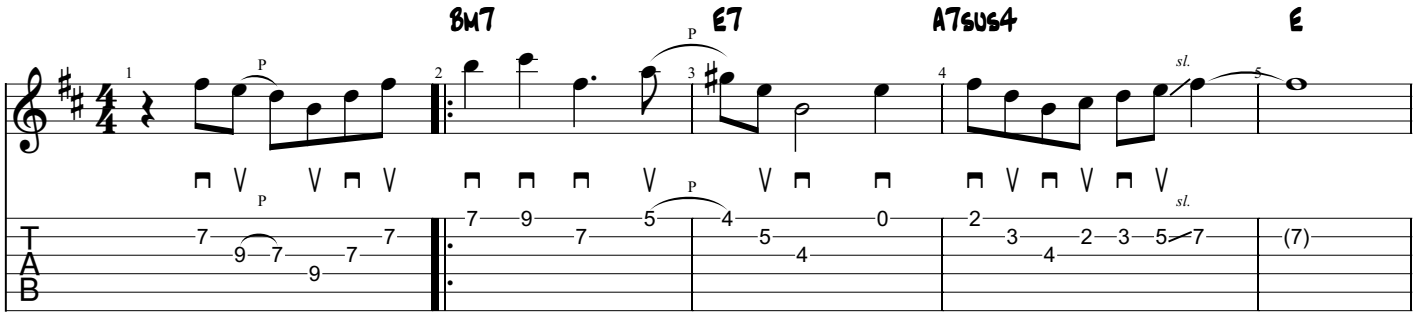


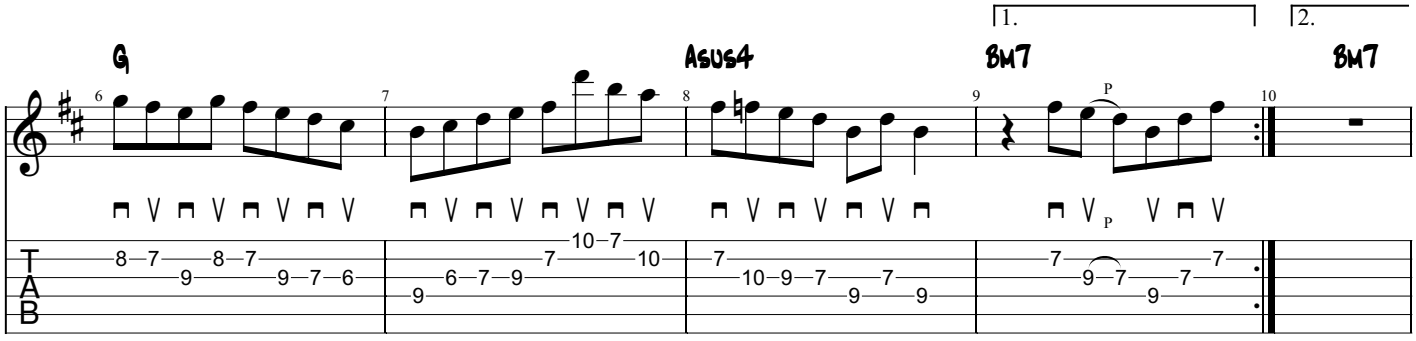


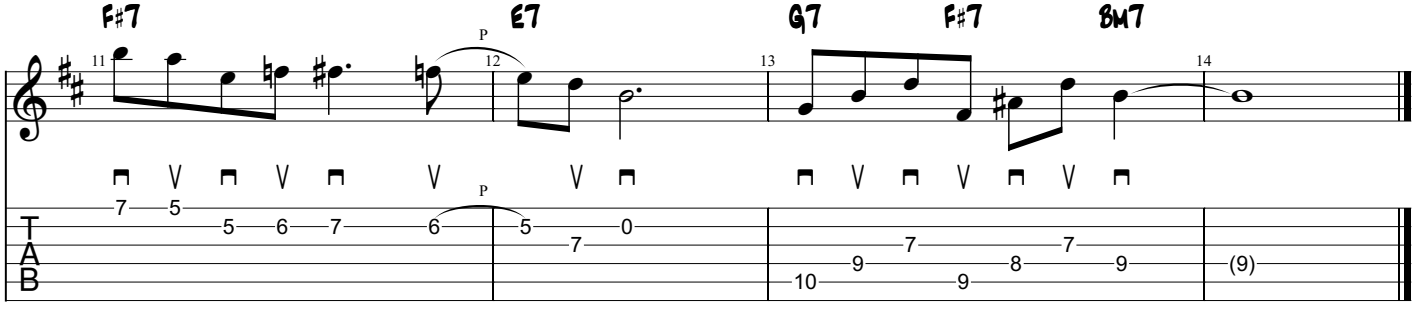


MAR WEST (1980)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

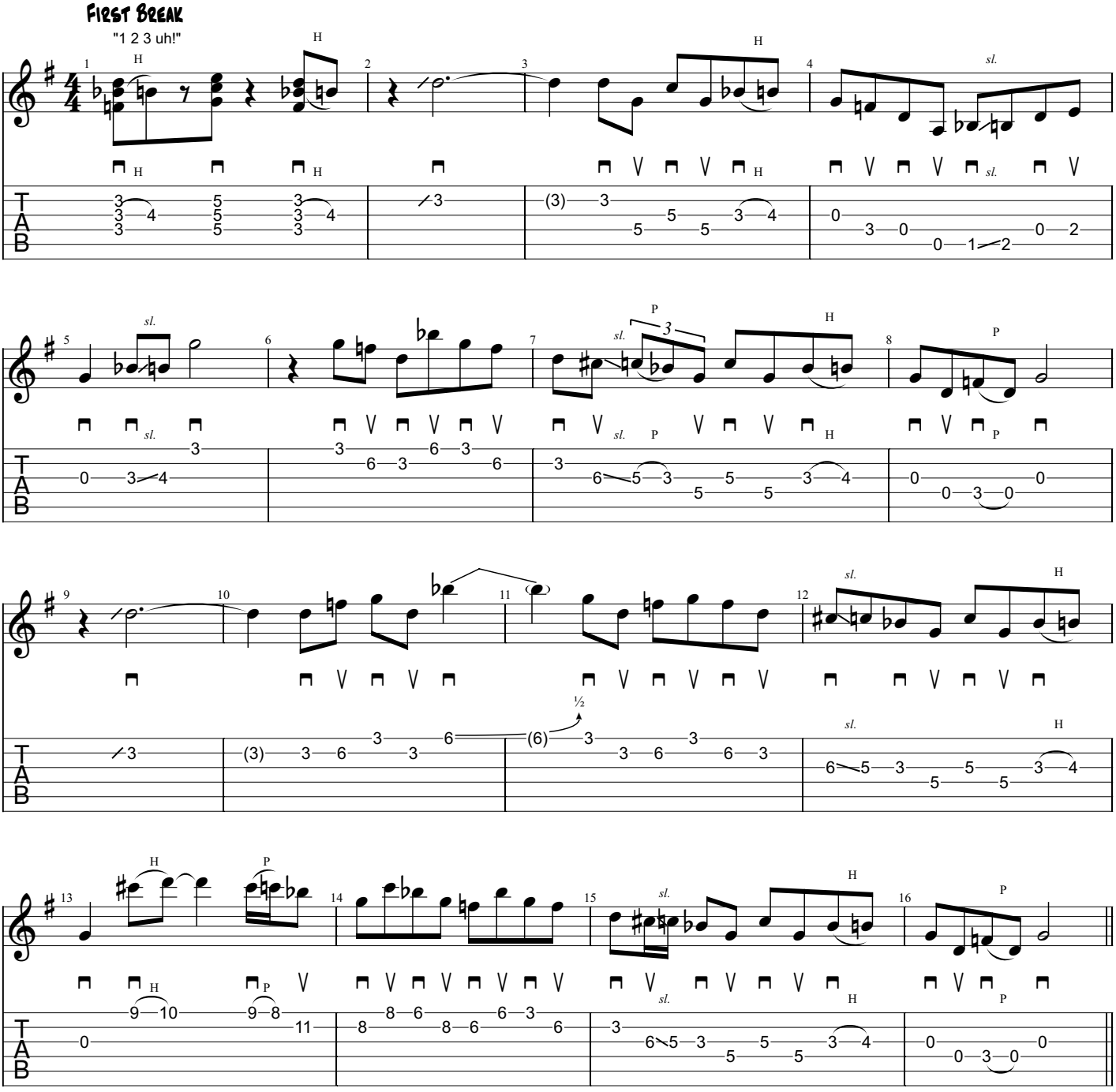




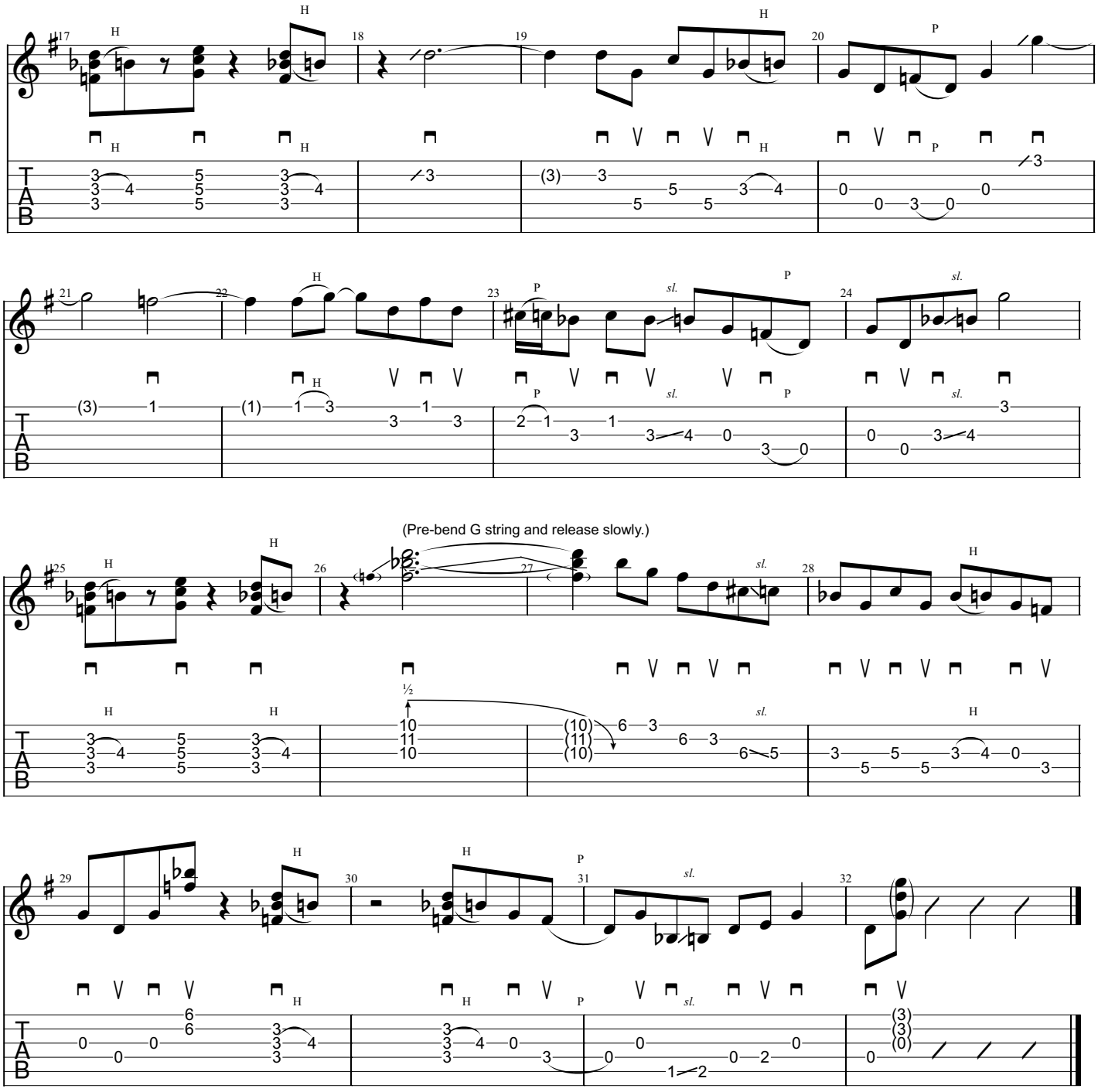


ME & MY GUITAR (1986)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE



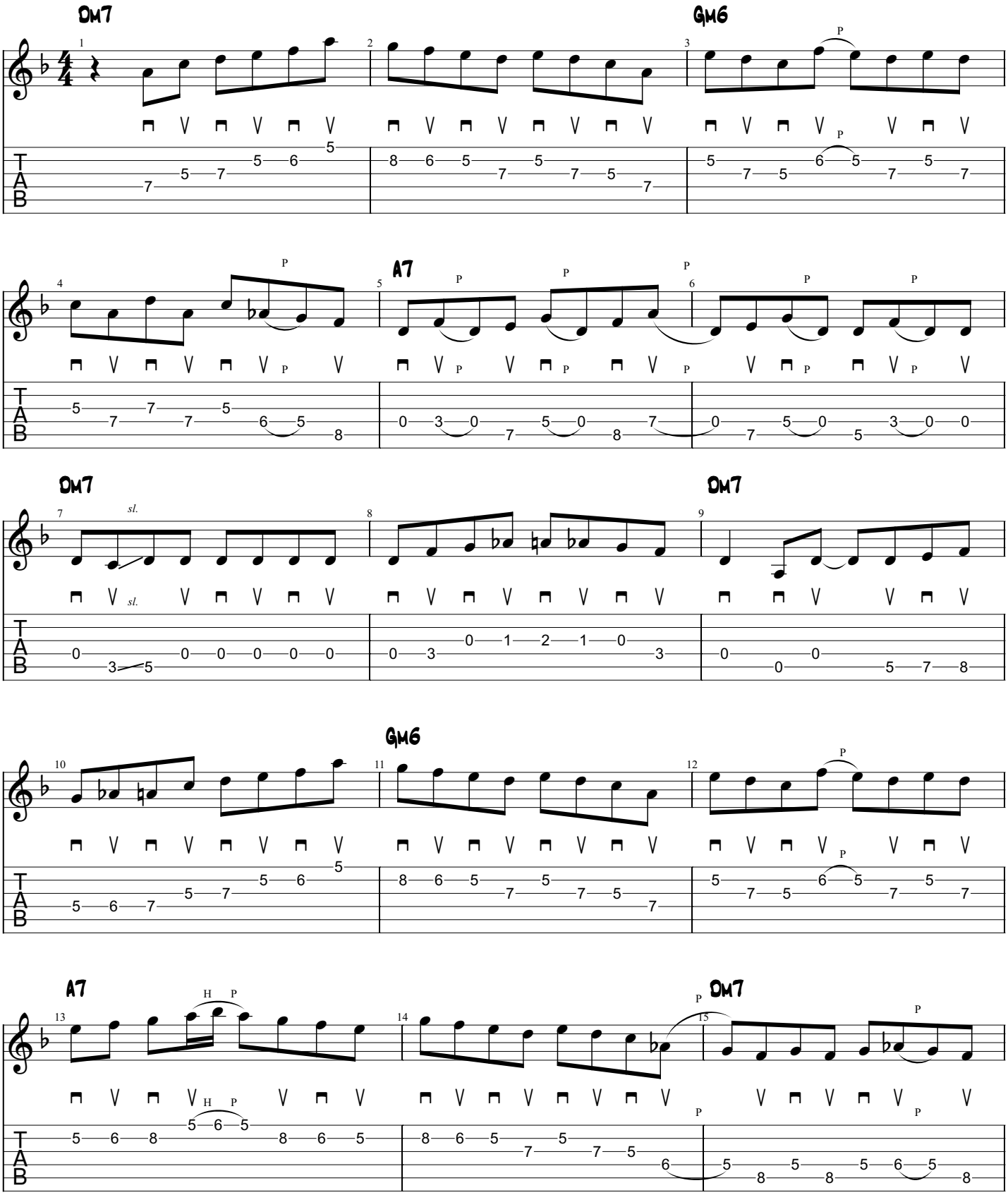
Second Break

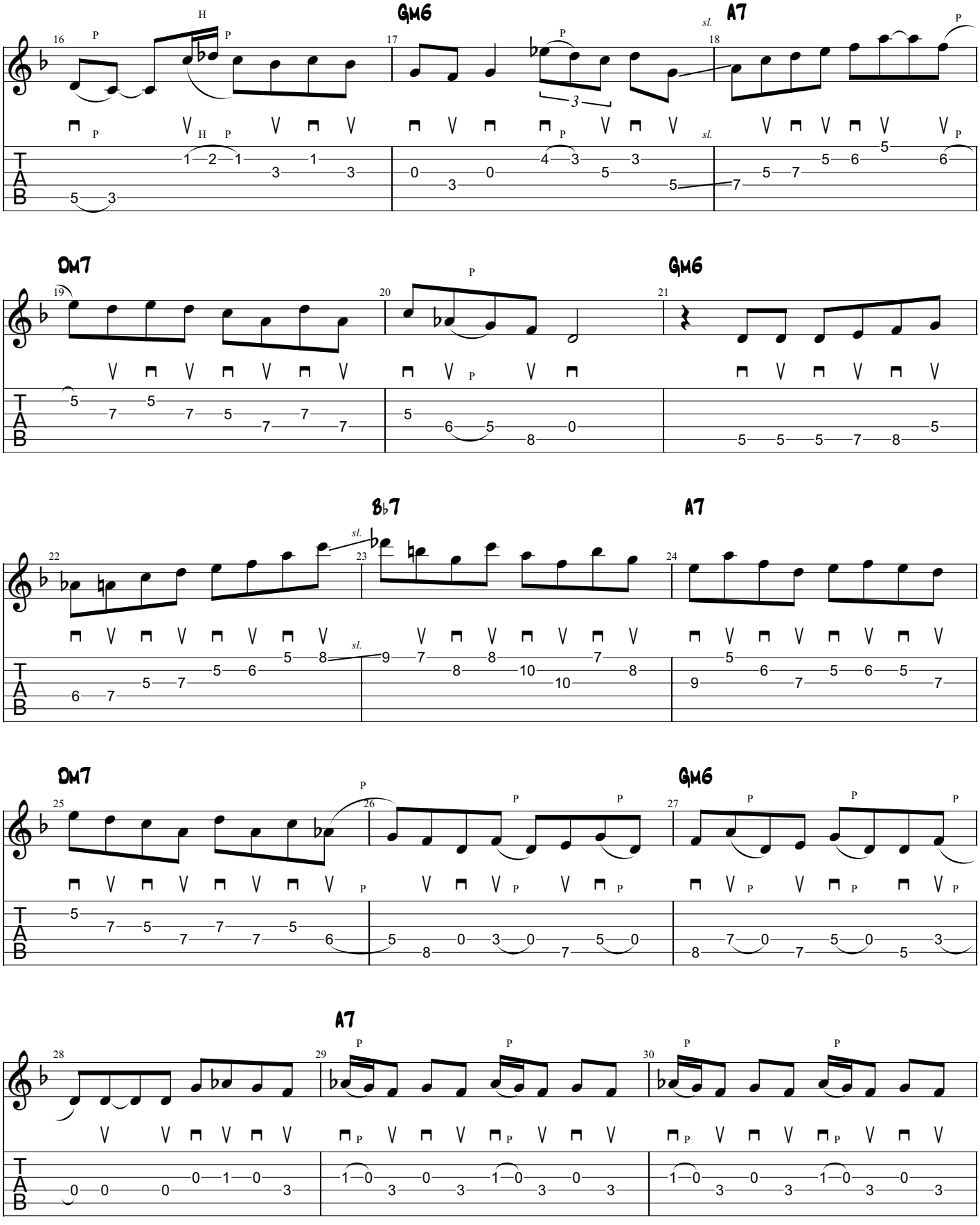


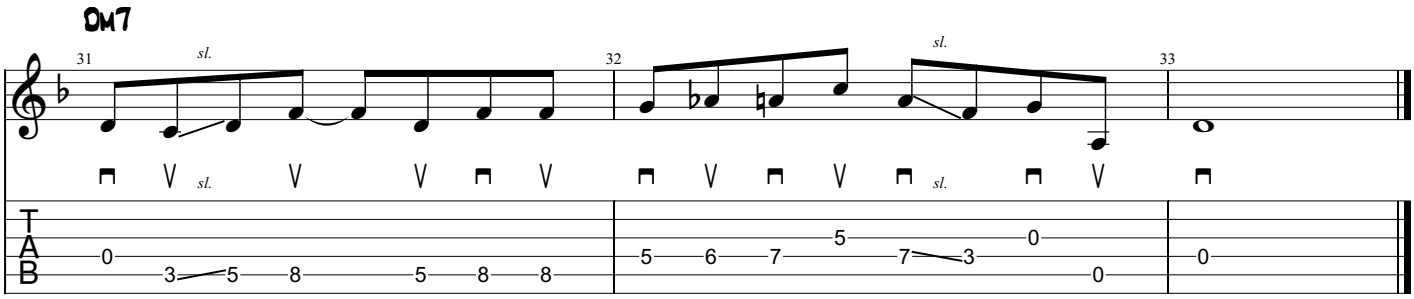
MINOR SWING (1978)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard Tuning




Gm6
A7
Dm7
Gm6
B♭7
A7
Dm7
Gm6
A7


Dm7
31
sl.
32
sl.
33
sl.
sl.
T
A
B
0 3 5 8 5 8 8
5 6 7 5 7 3 0 0
0

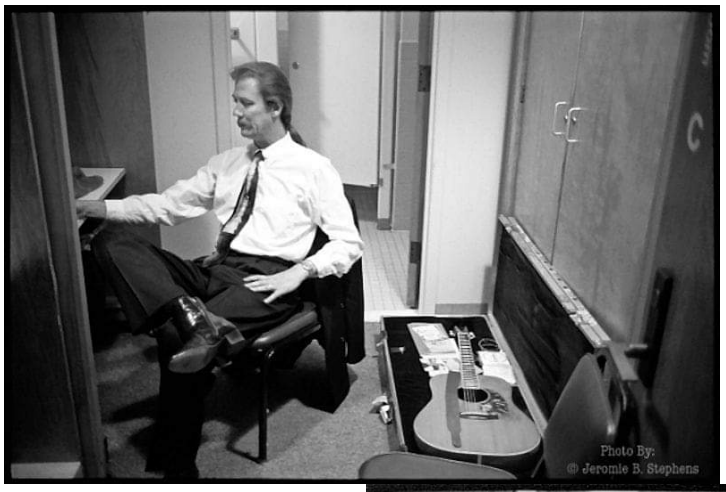
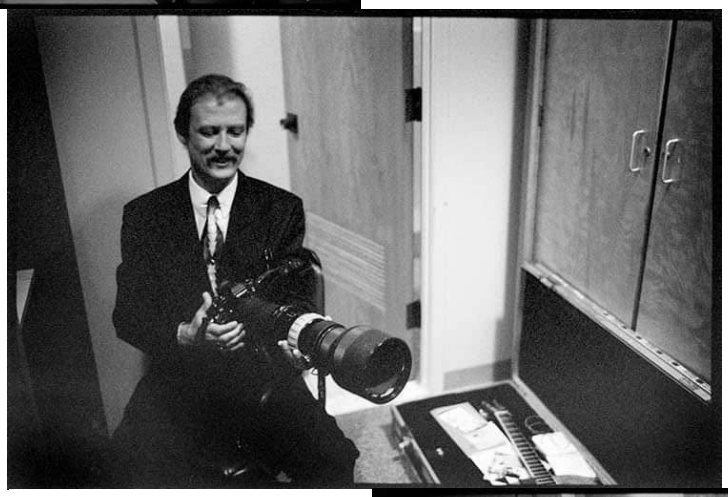


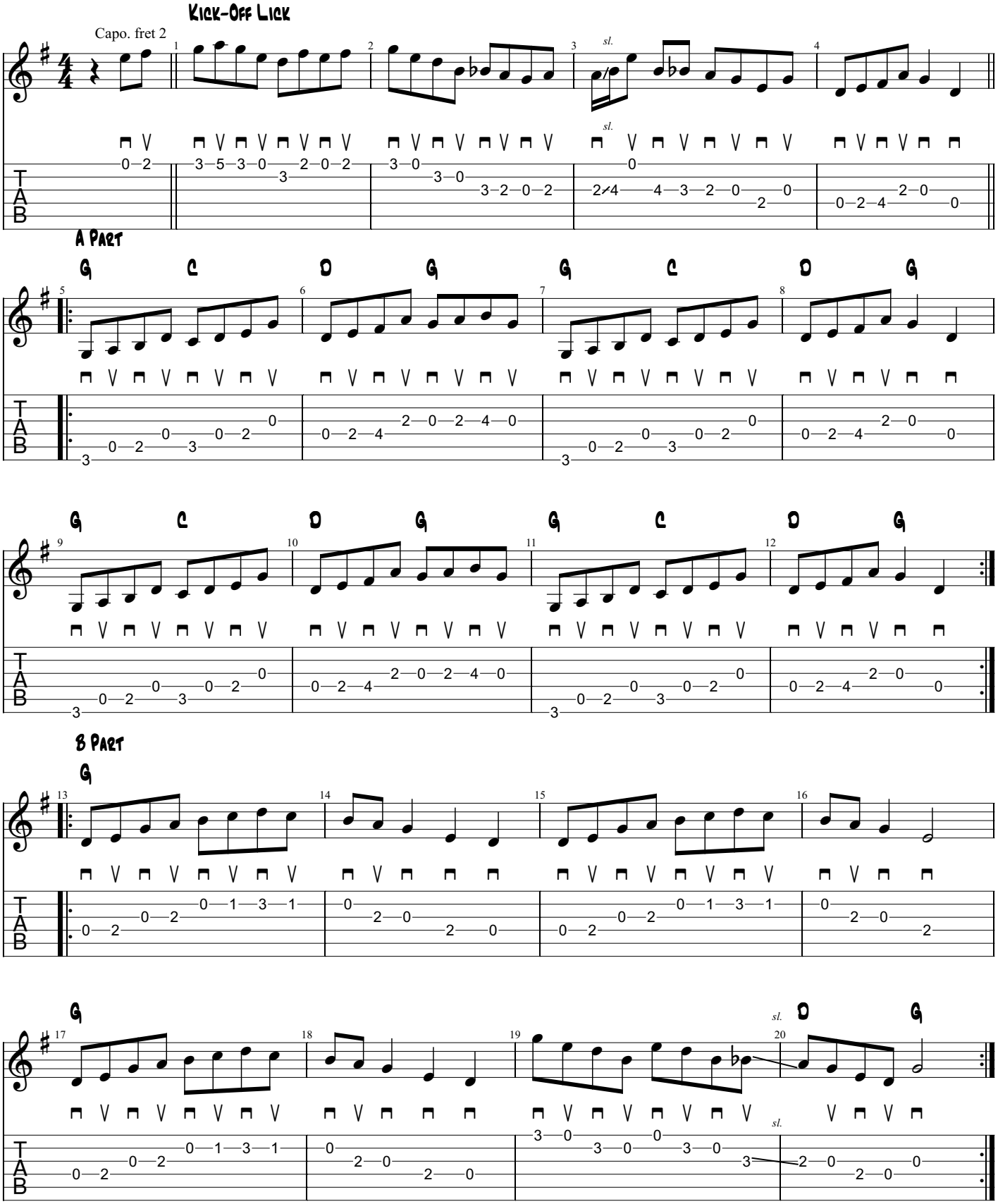
Photo By:
© Jeromie B. Stephens



MONROE'S HORNPIPE (1987)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

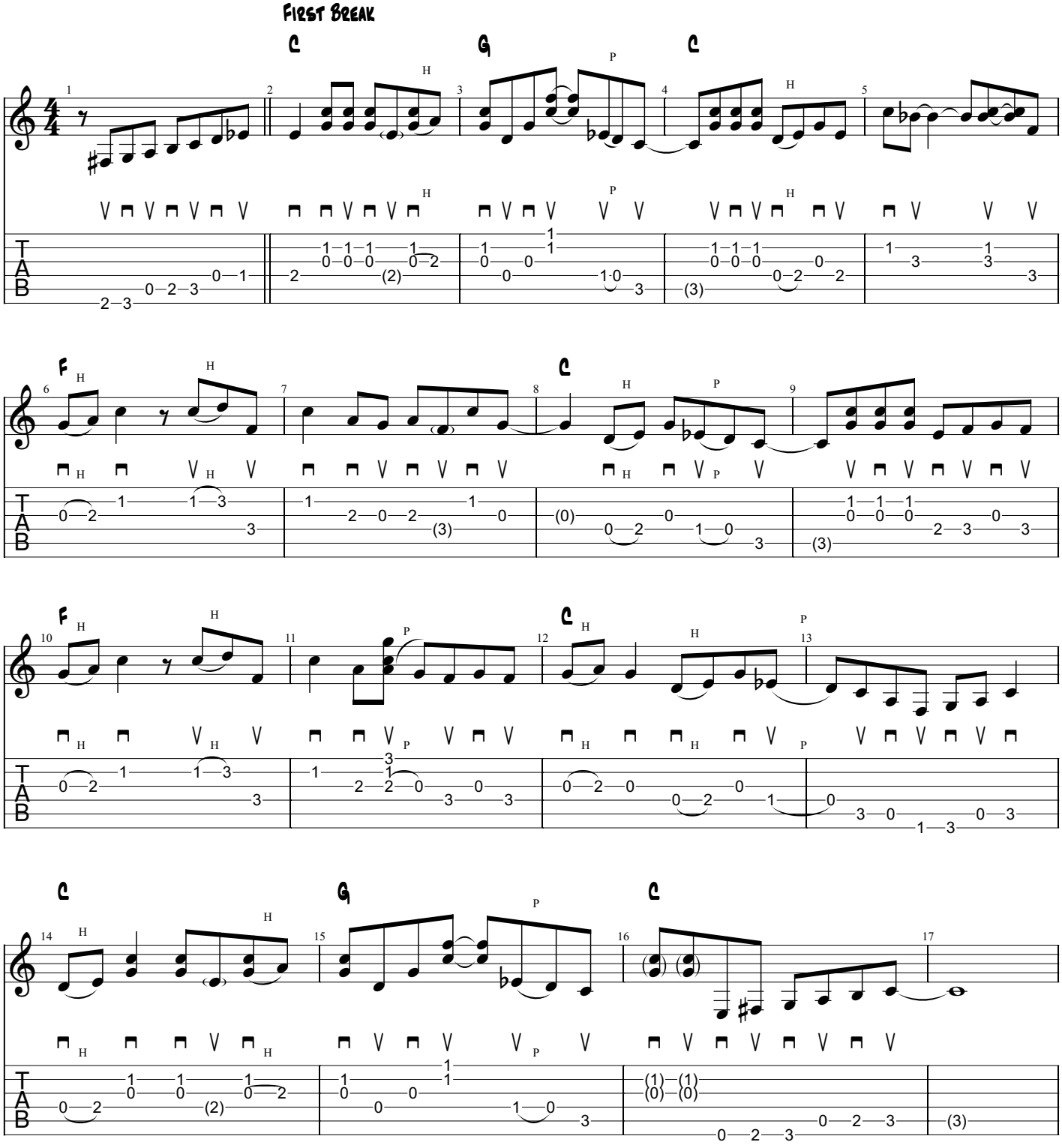
Standard tuning



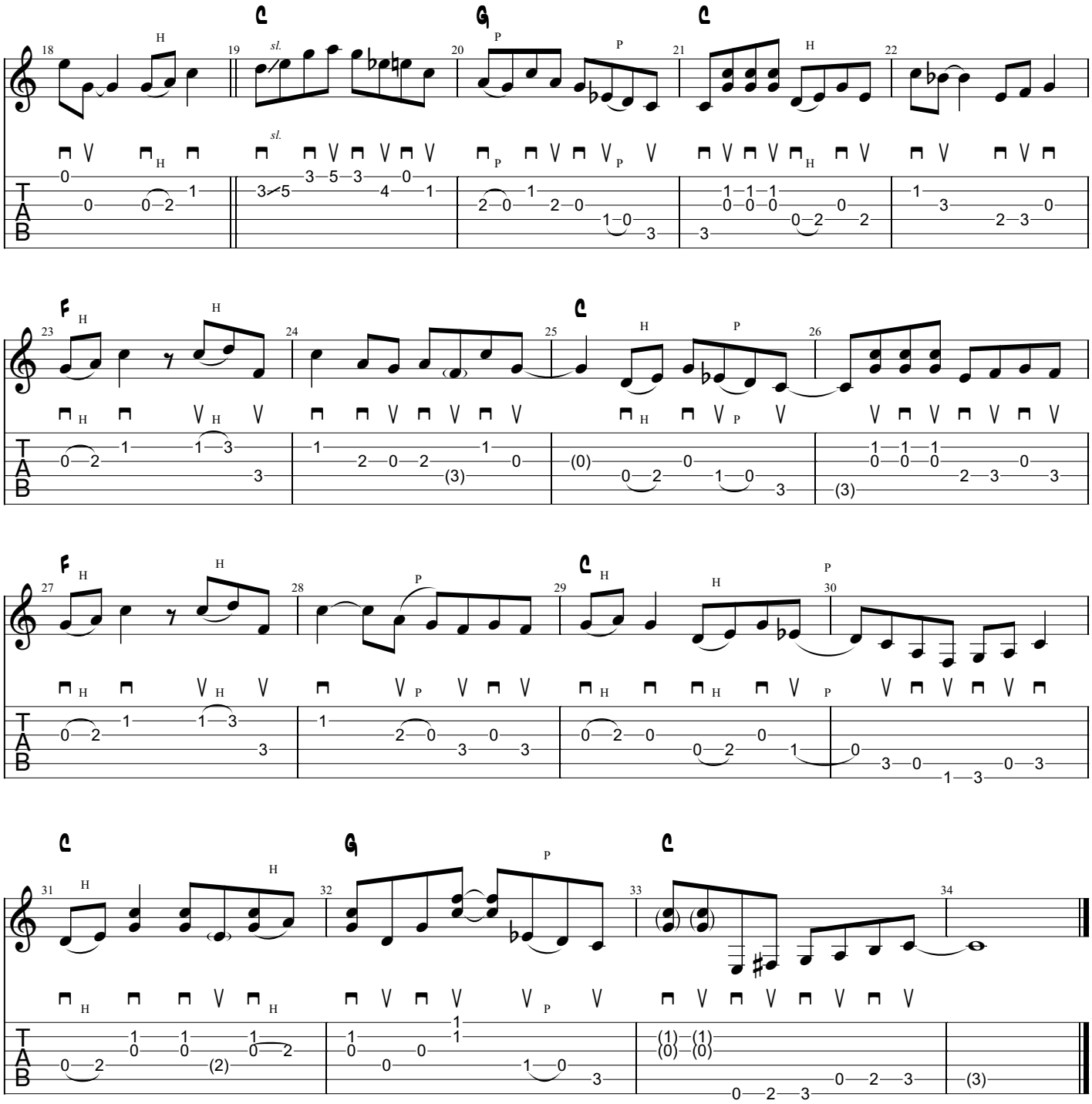
MORE PRETTY GIRLS THAN ONE (1980)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning



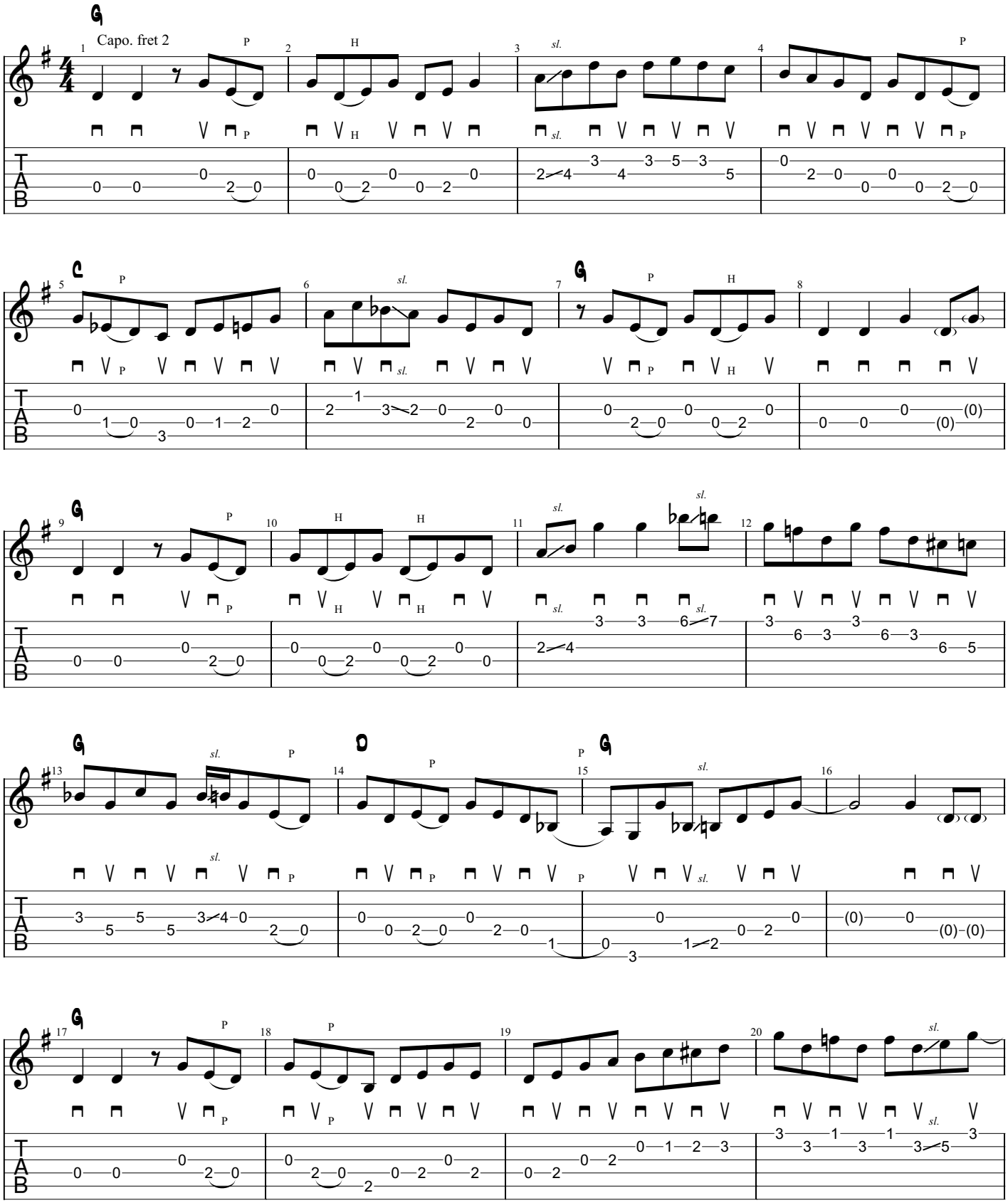
Second Break

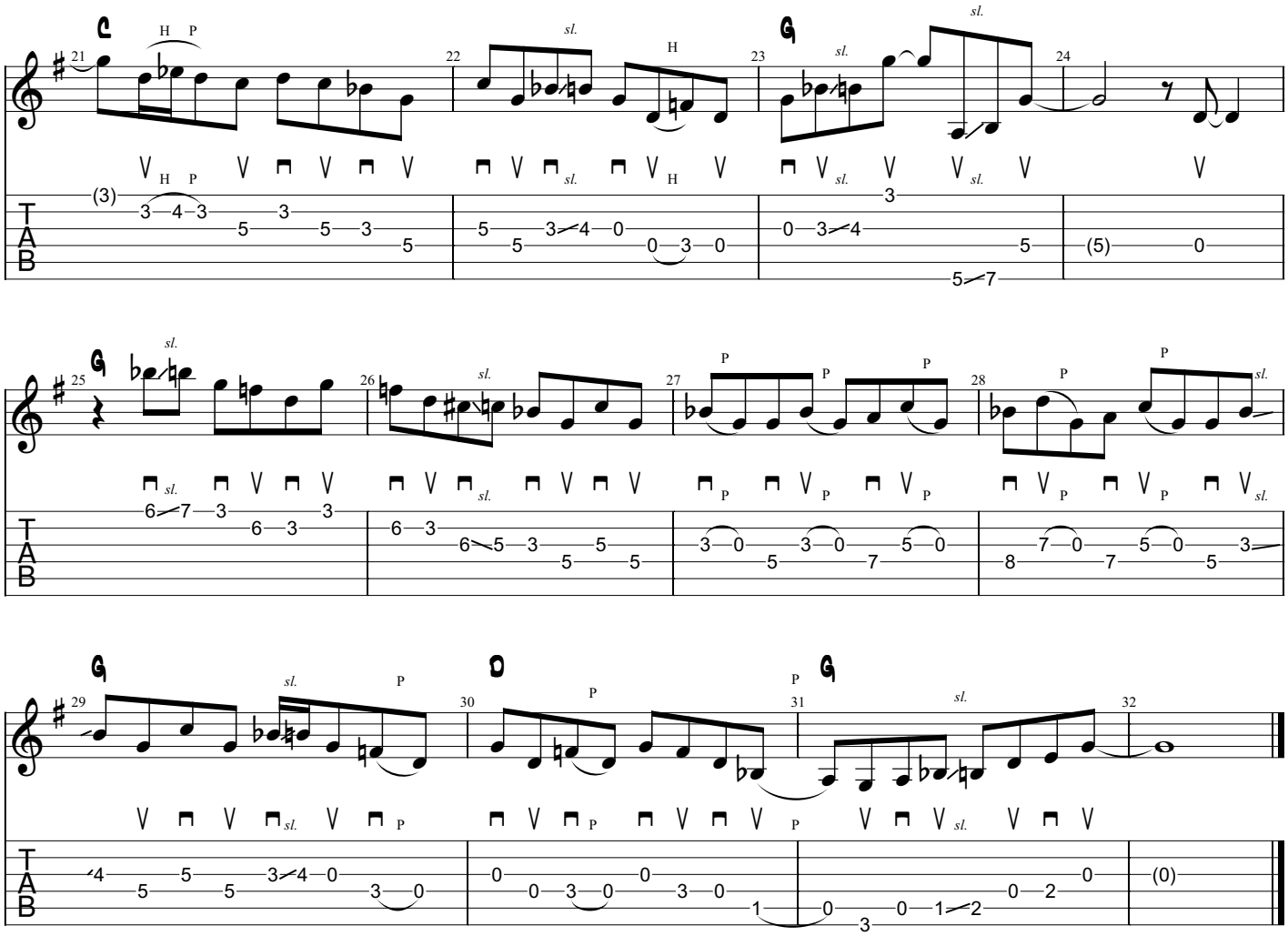


MOUNTAIN DEW (1994)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

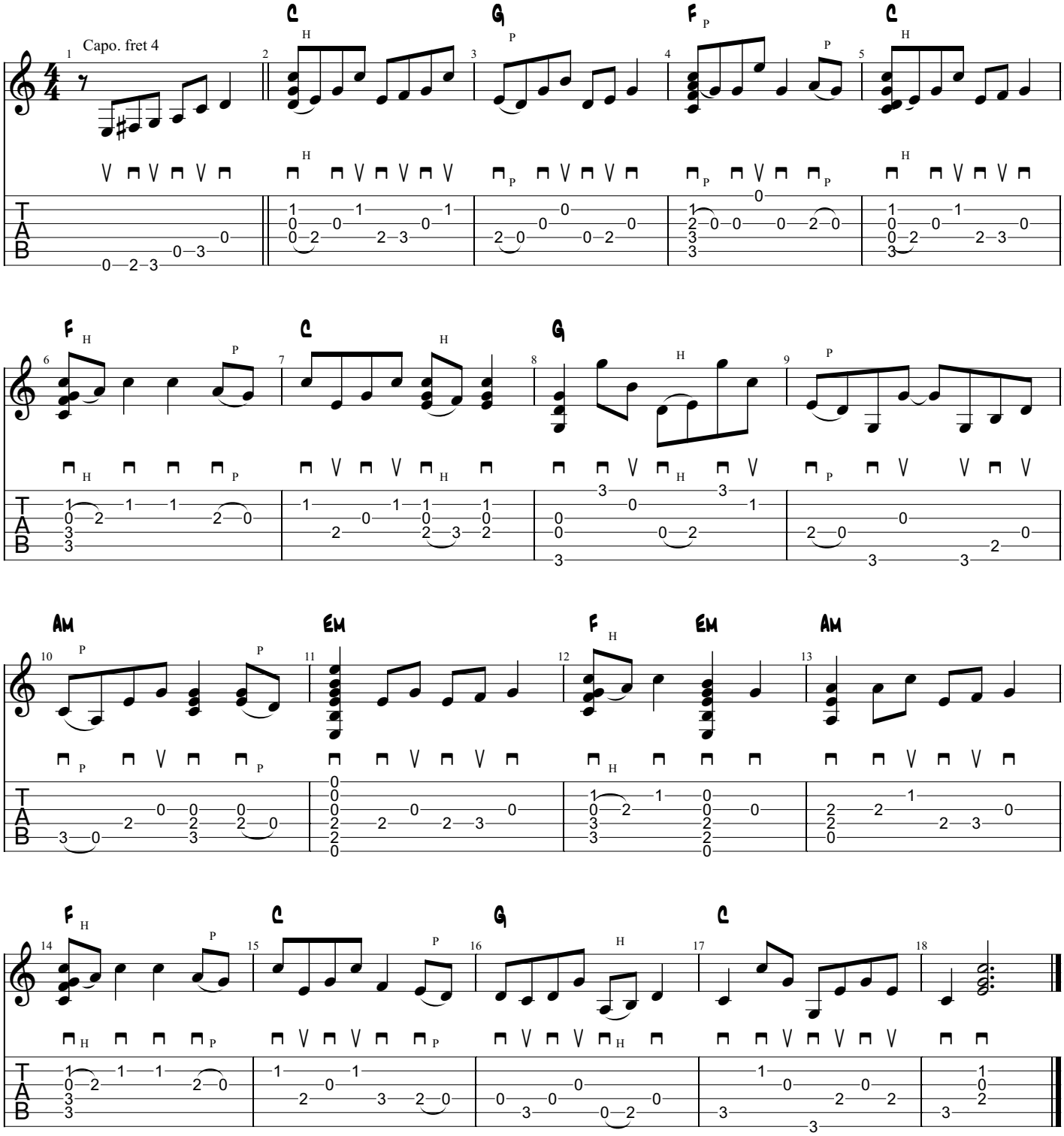
Standard tuning

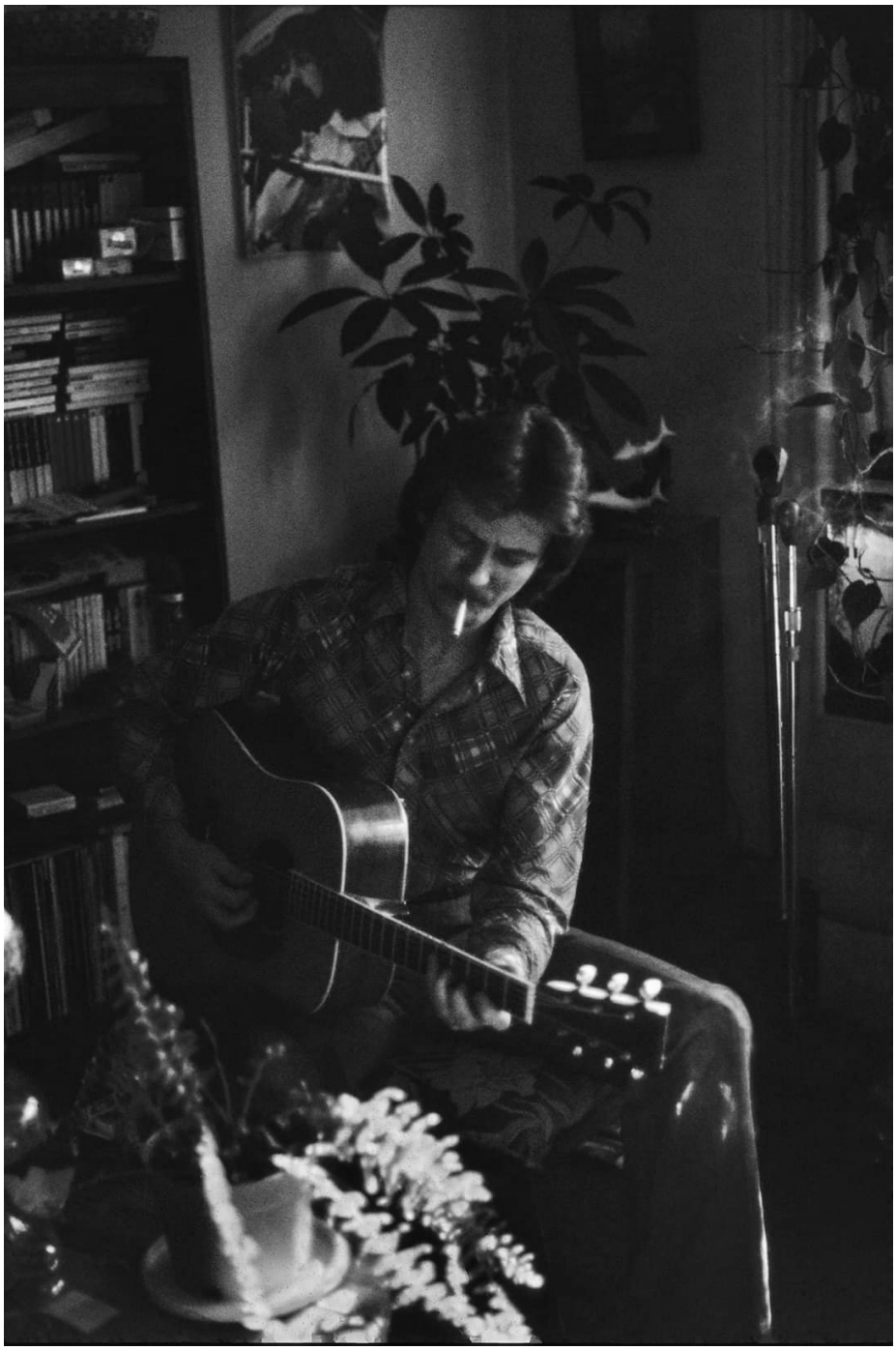



C
G
G
G
D
G
sl.
H
P

NEVER MEANT TO BE (2008)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

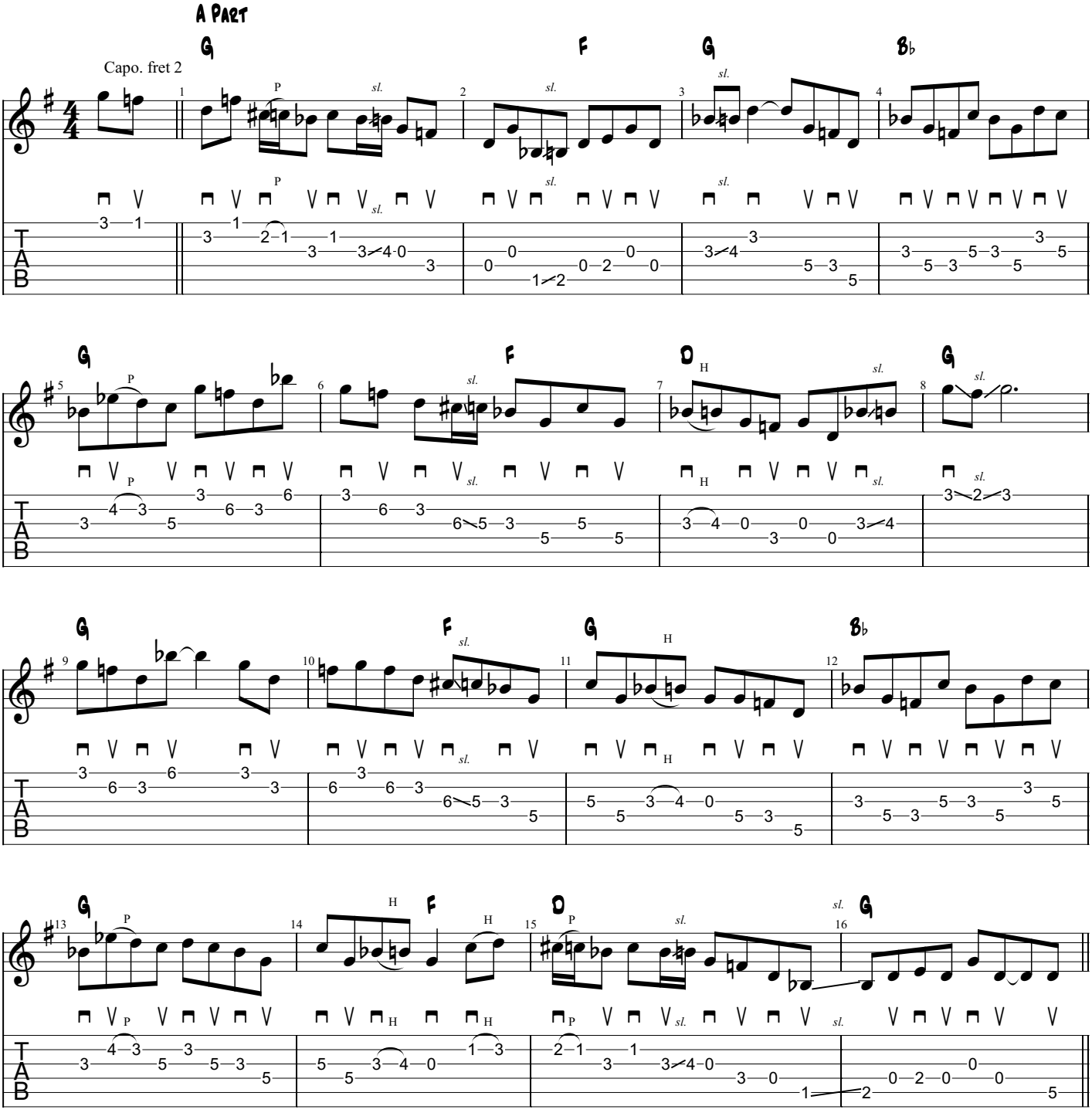




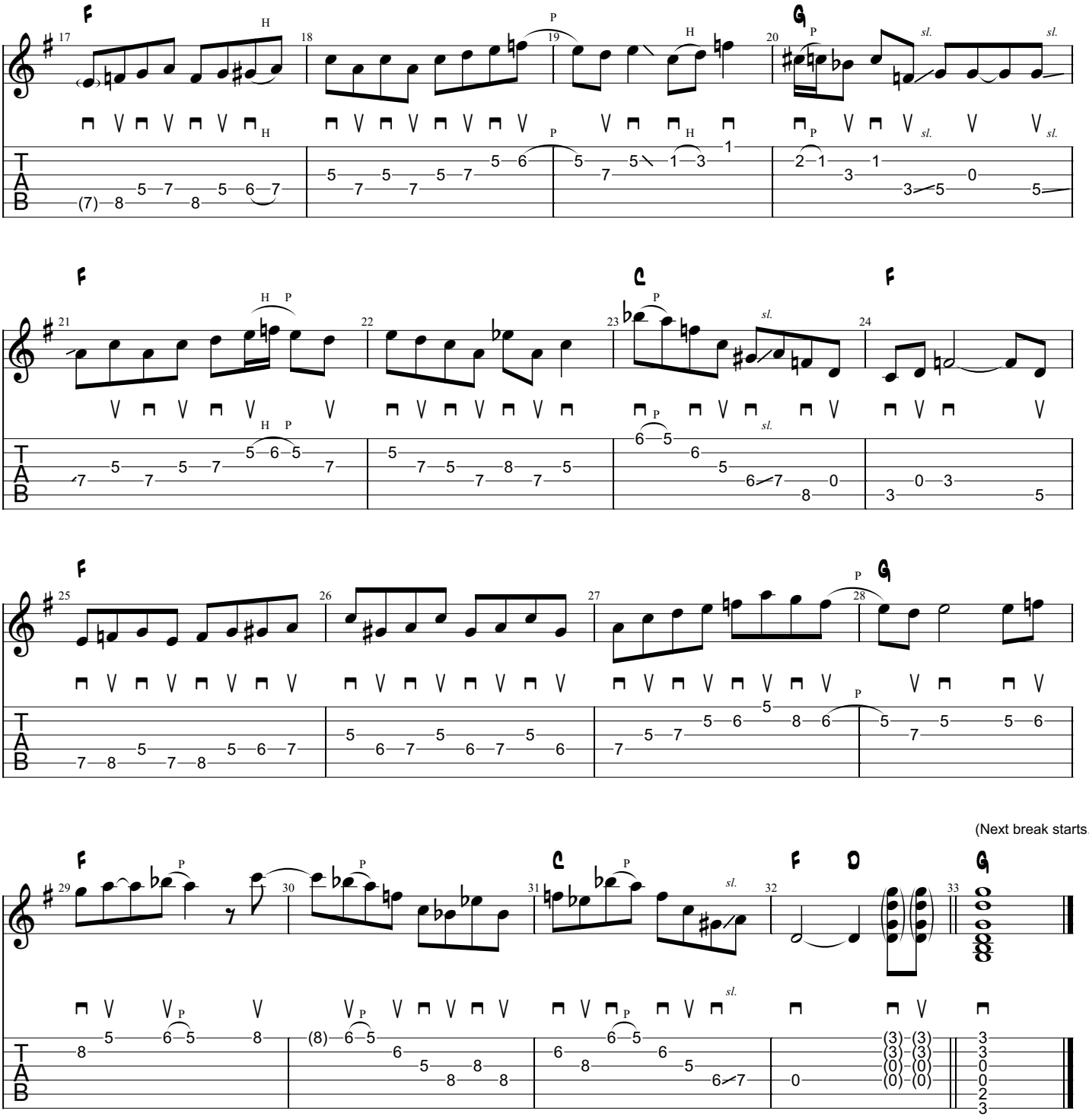
NEW CHANCE BLUES (1987)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning



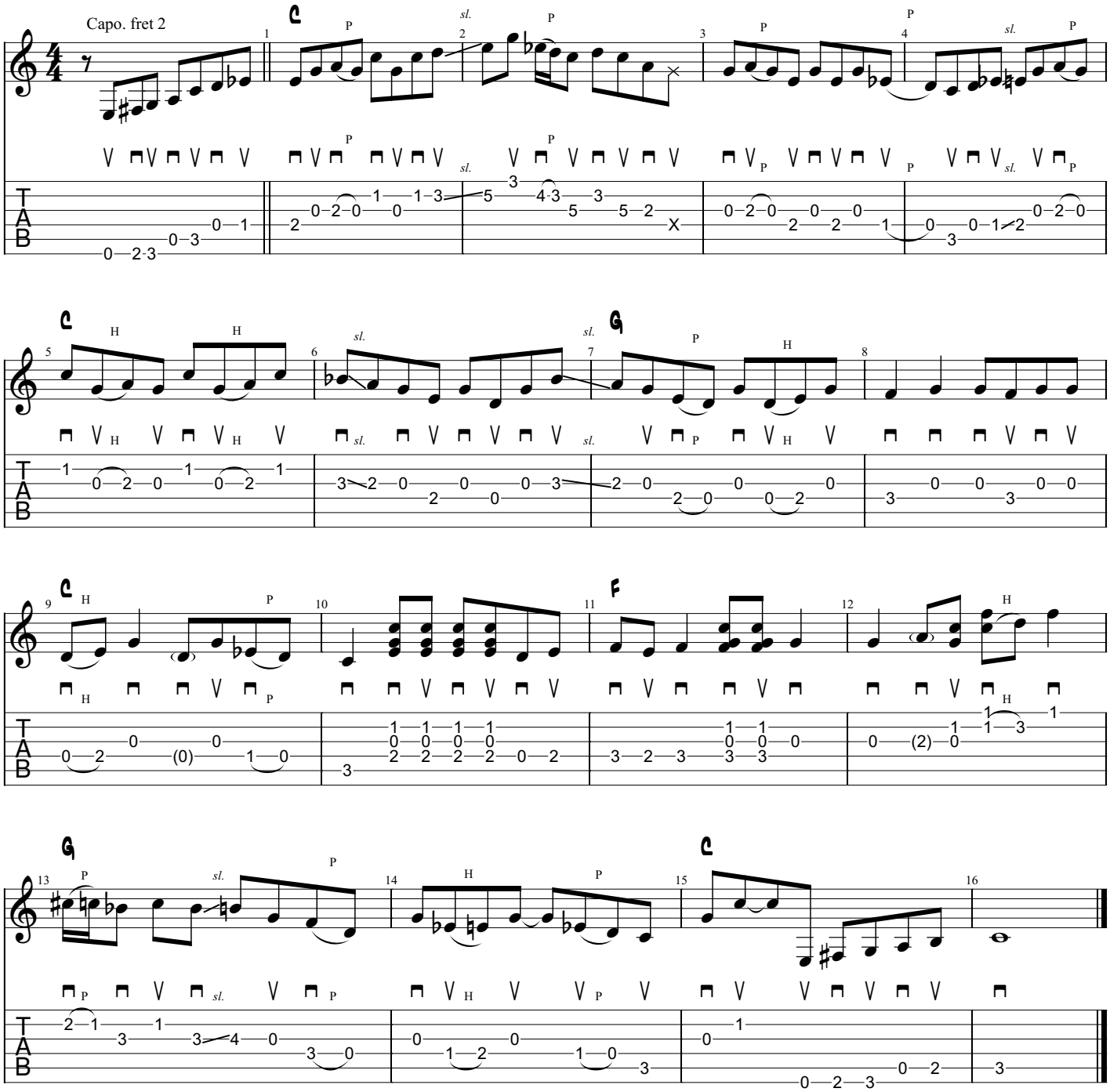
B Part



NEW RIVER TRAIN (1987)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

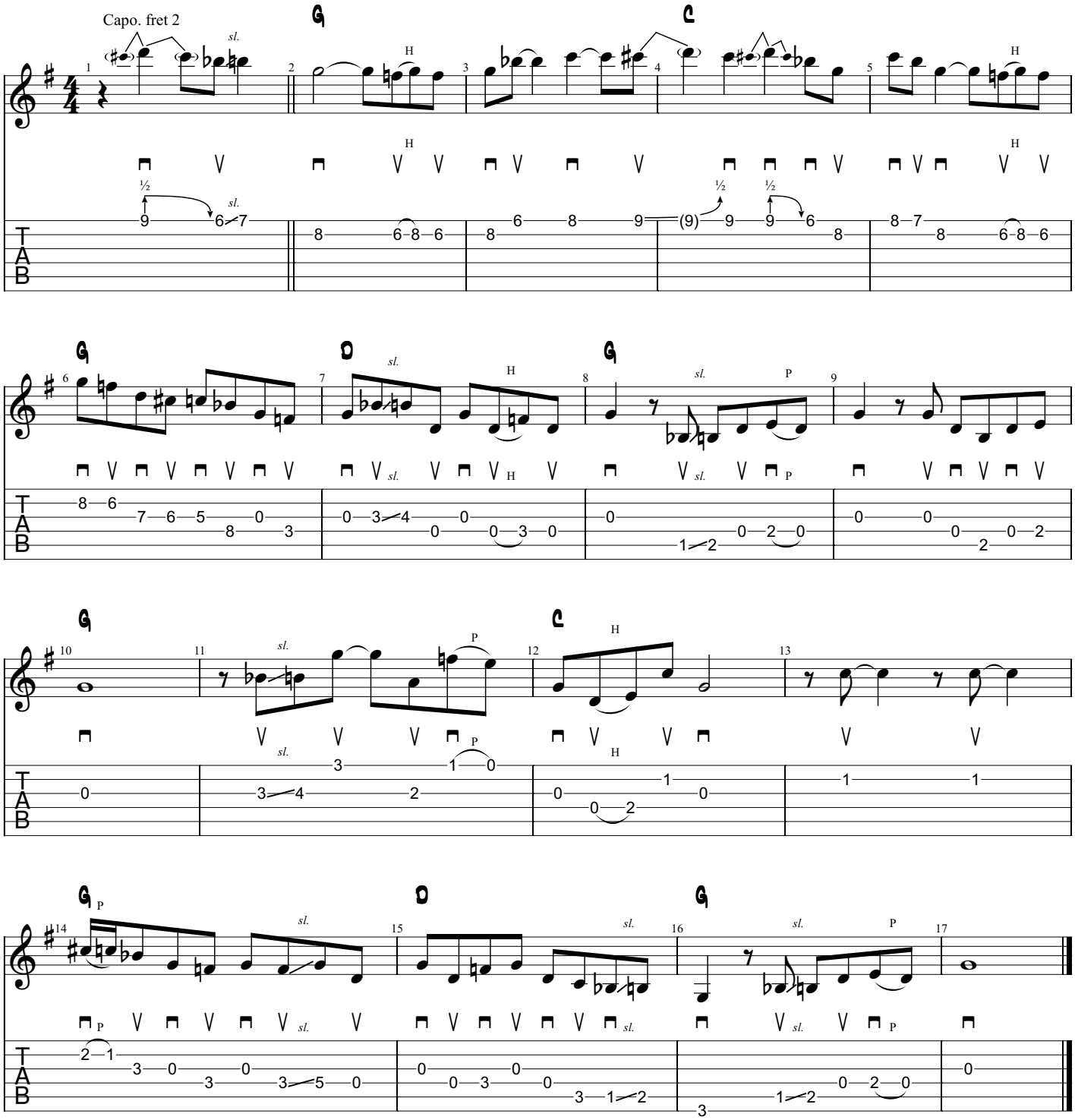
Standard tuning



NINE POUND HAMMER (1973)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

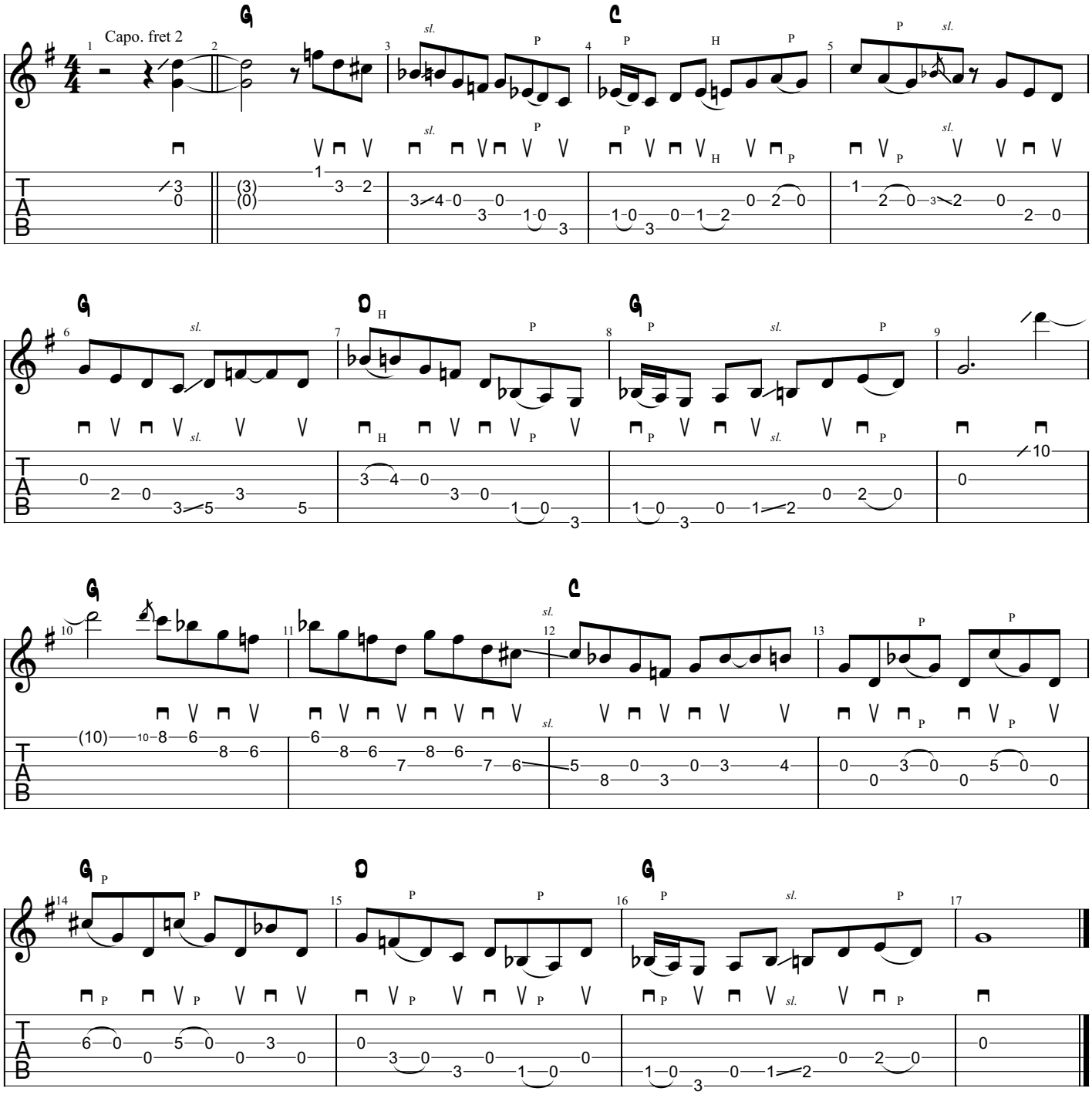
Standard tuning



NINE POUND HAMMER (1979)

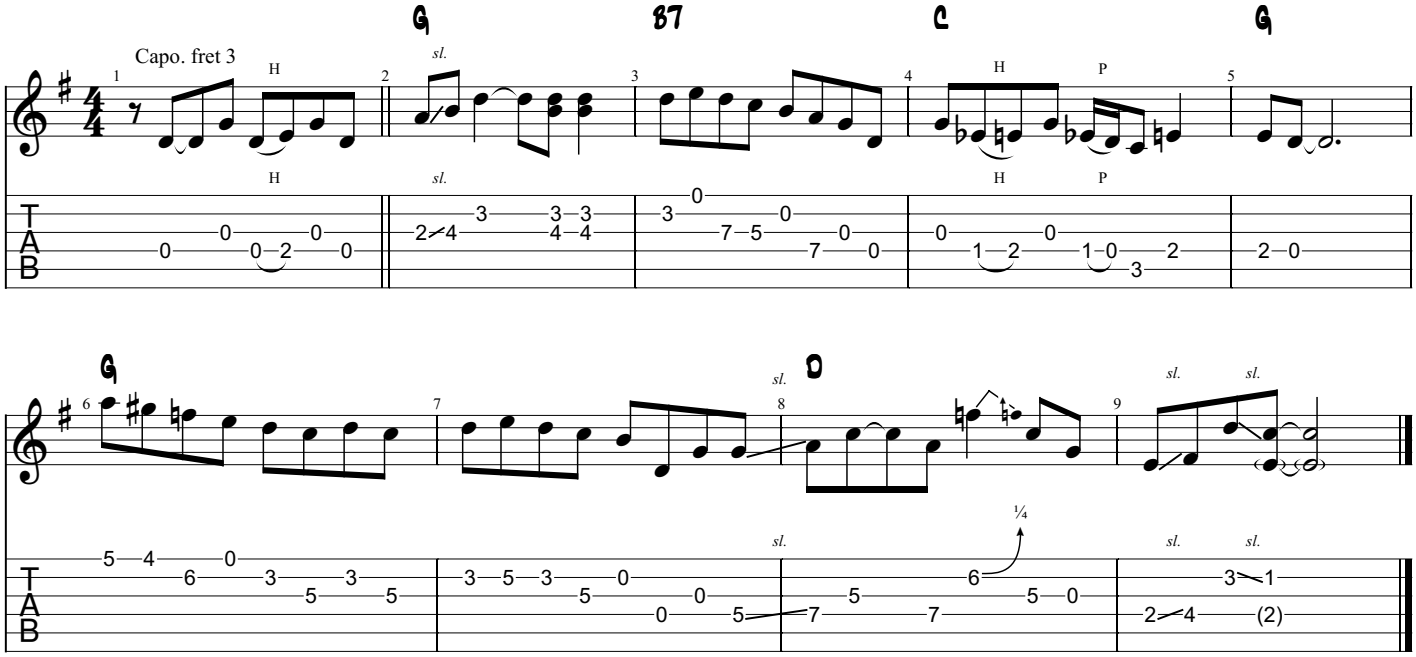
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning



OLD HOME PLACE (1975)

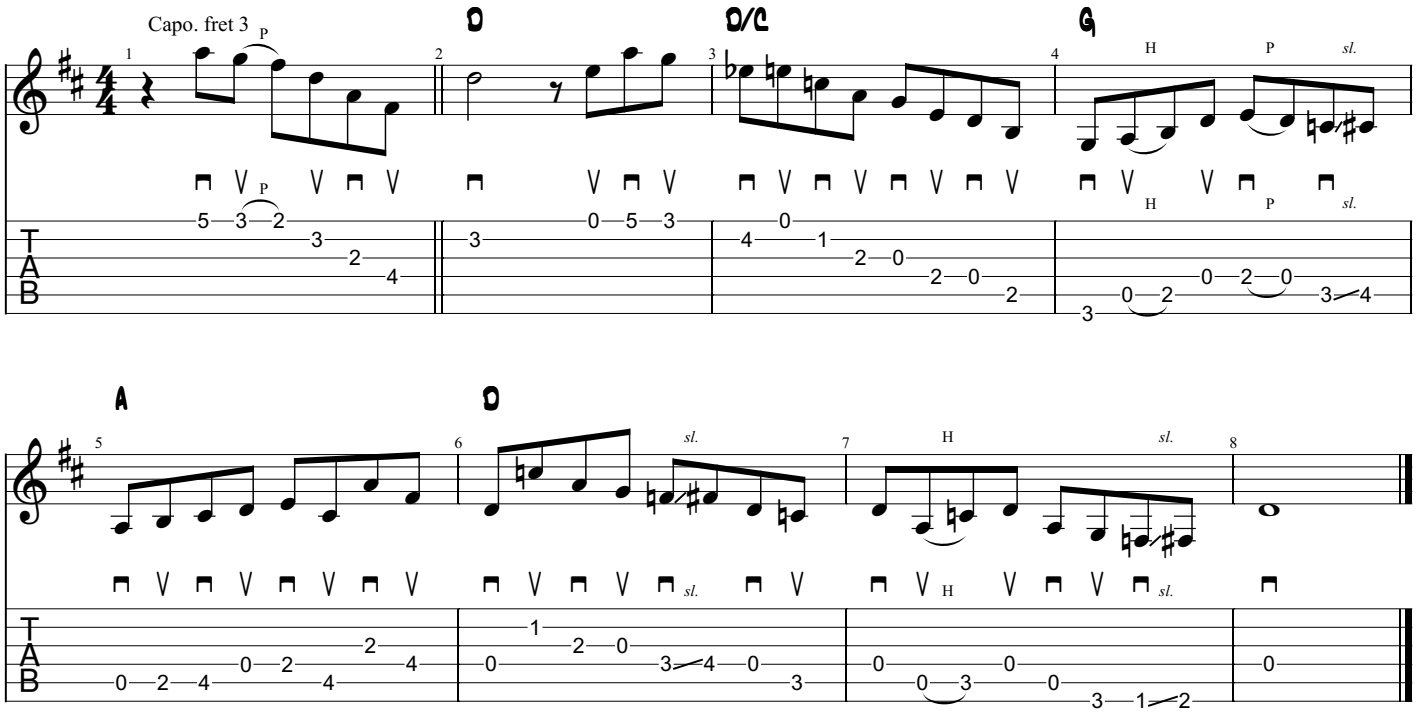
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE



OLD TRAIN (1979)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

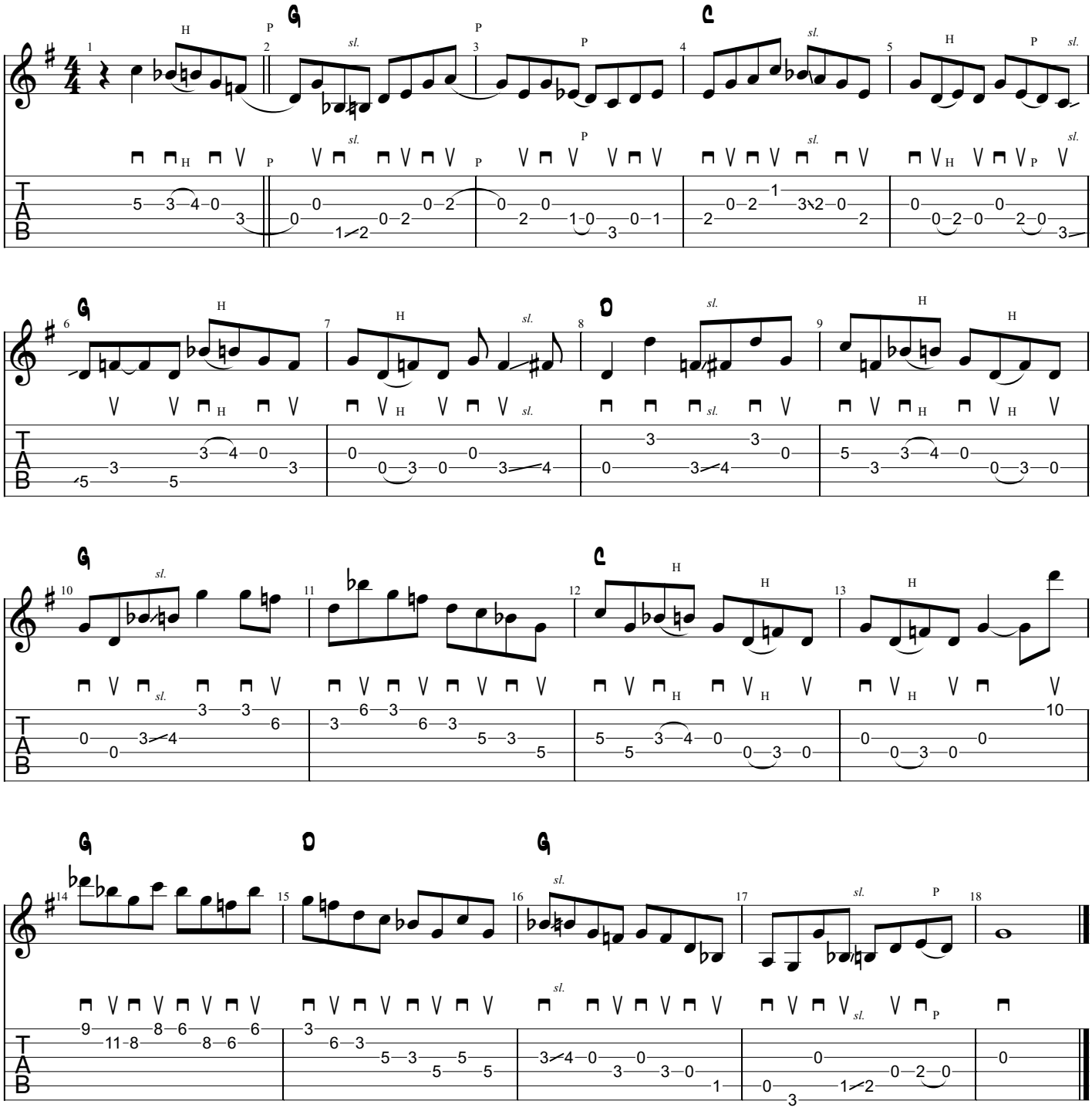
Standard tuning



ON AND ON (1993)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

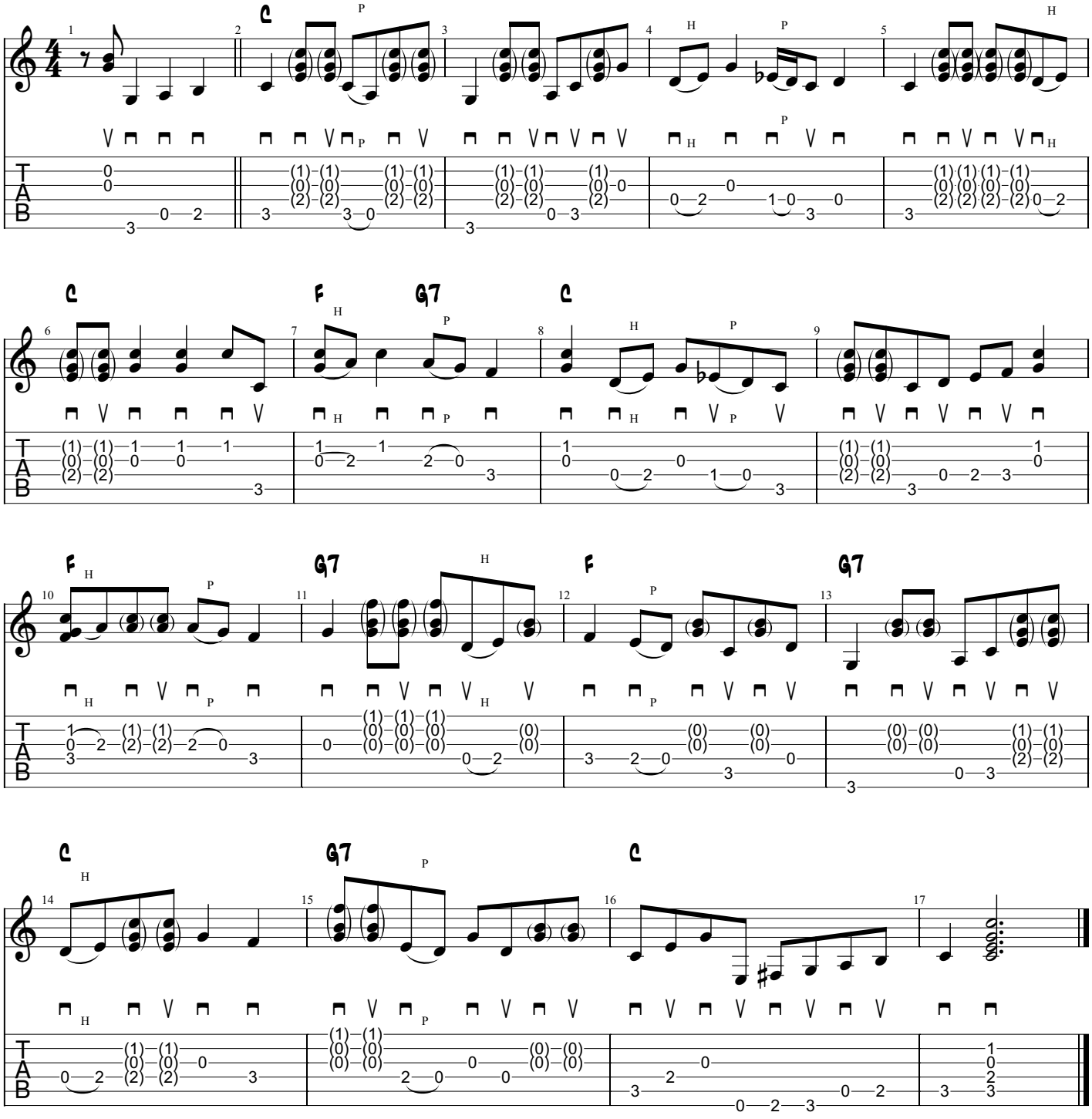
Standard tuning



ONE MORE NIGHT (1983)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

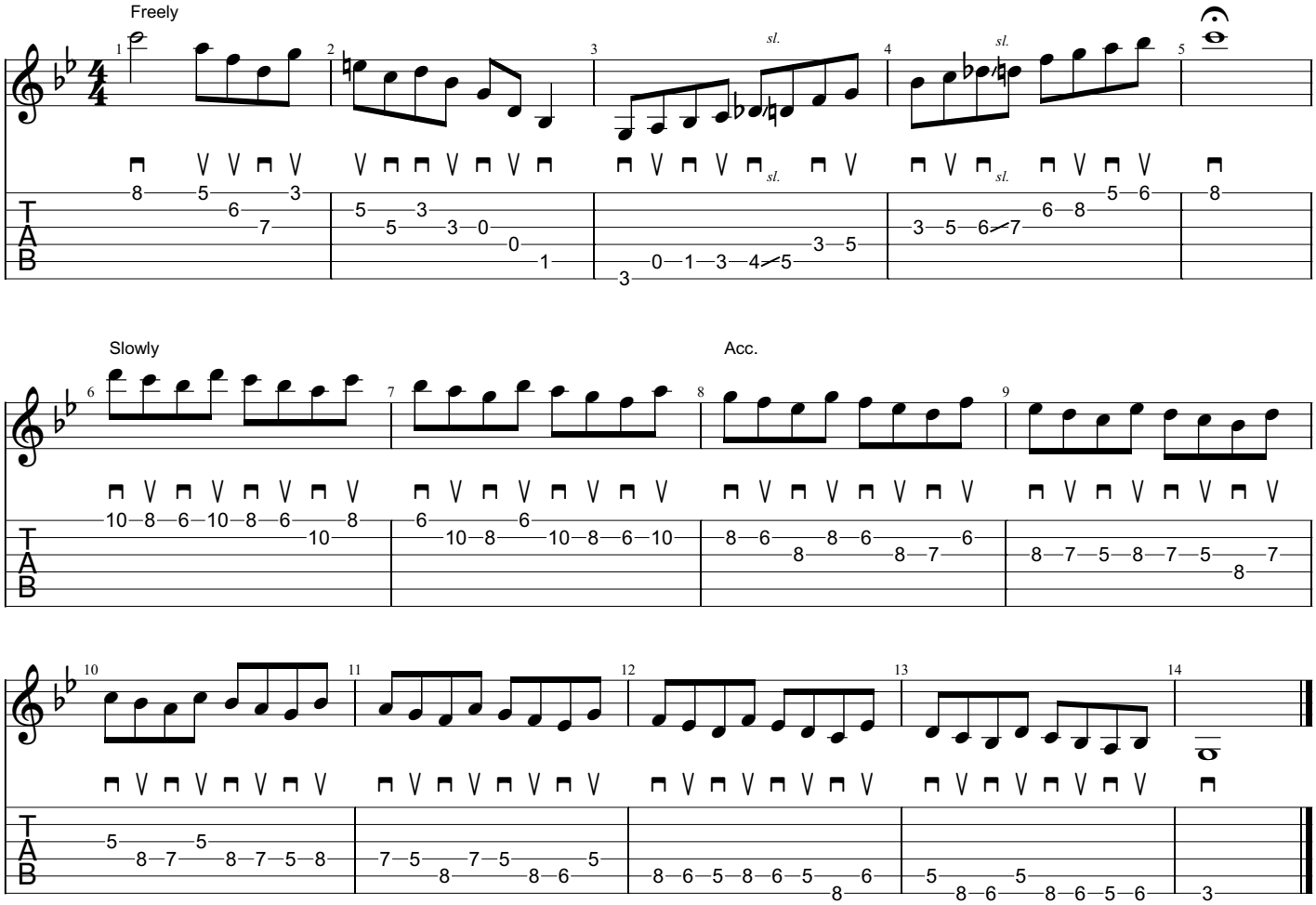
Standard tuning



OPUS 57 (1977)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

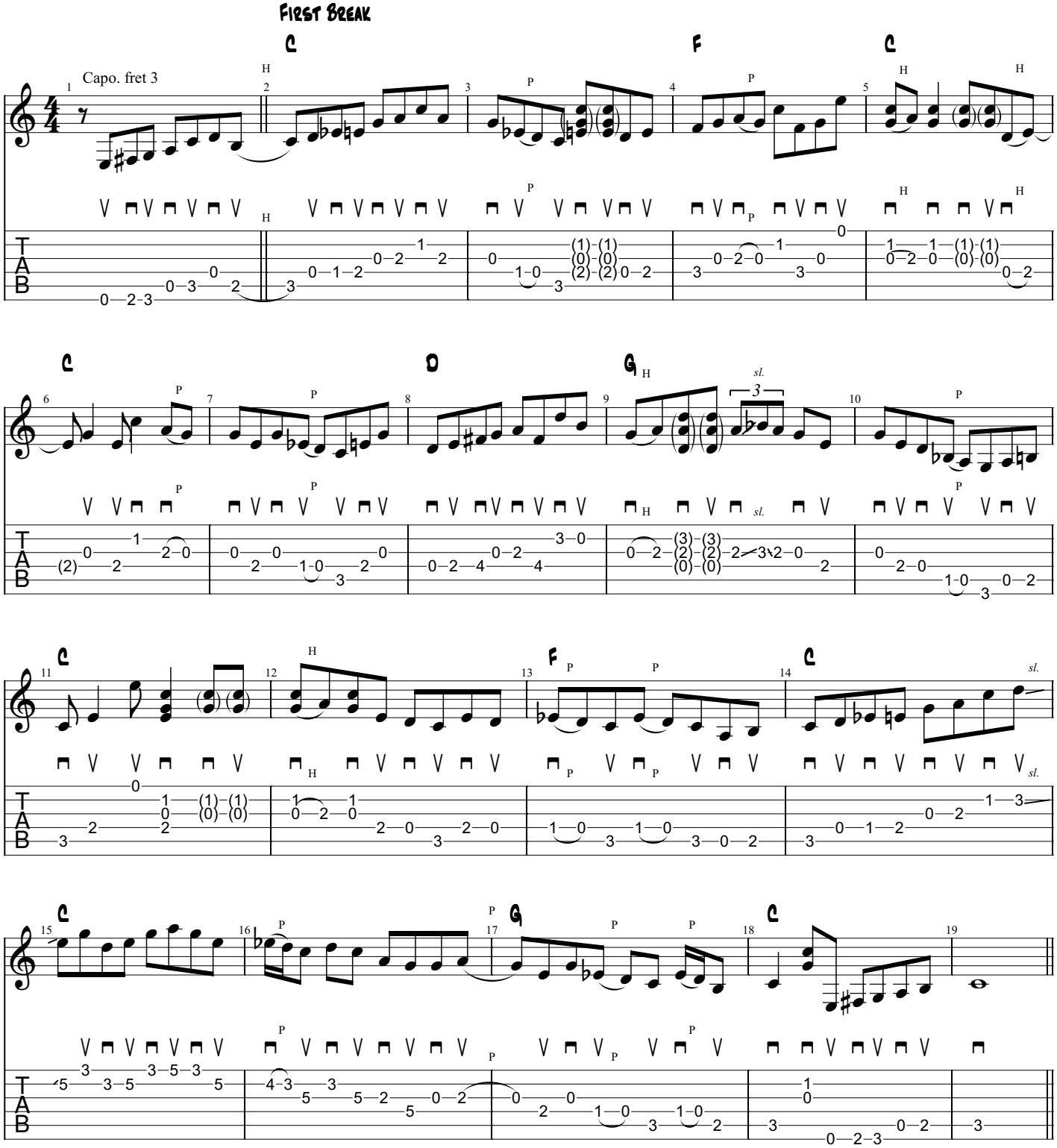
Standard tuning

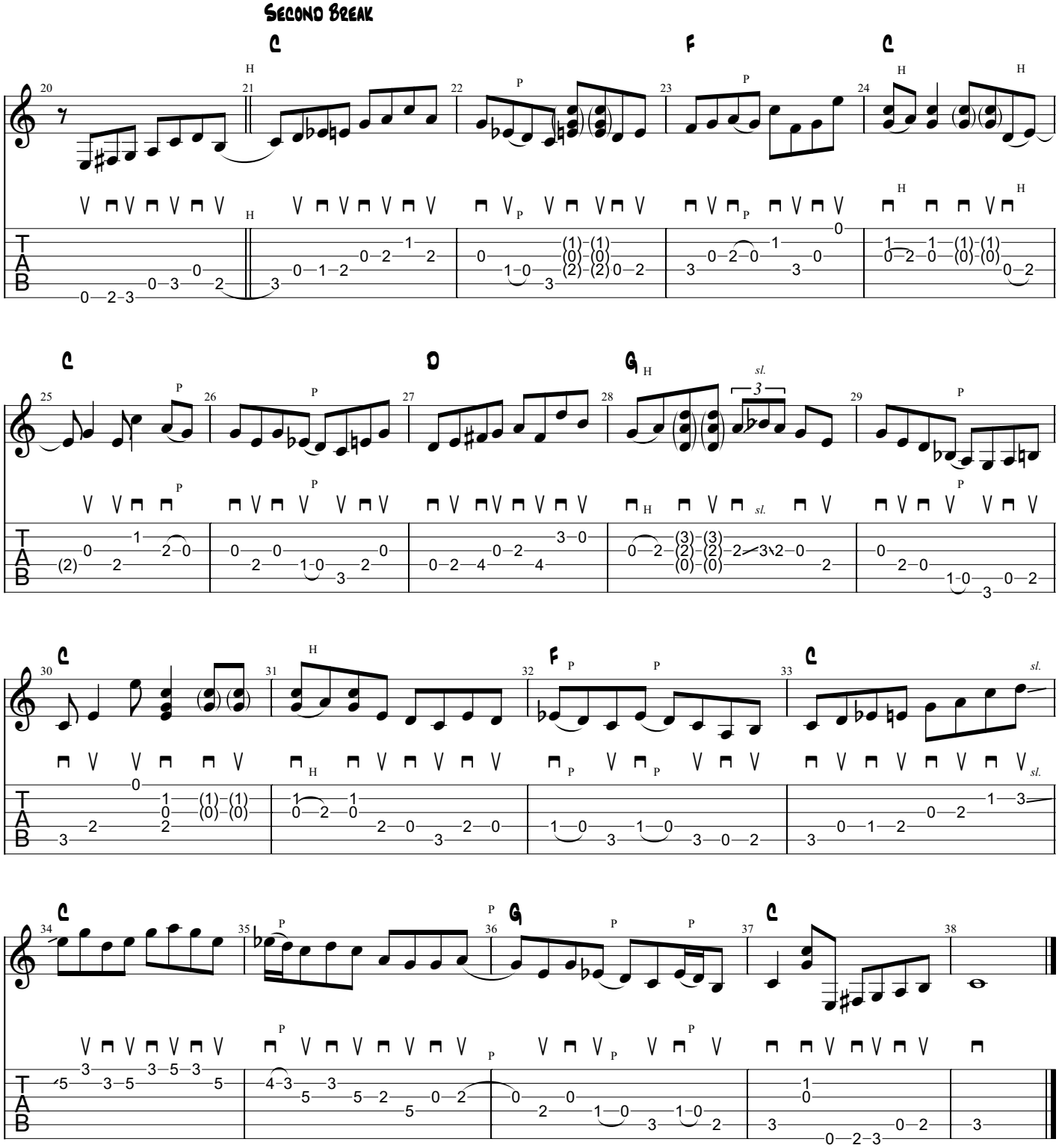


ORPHAN ANNIE (1983)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning



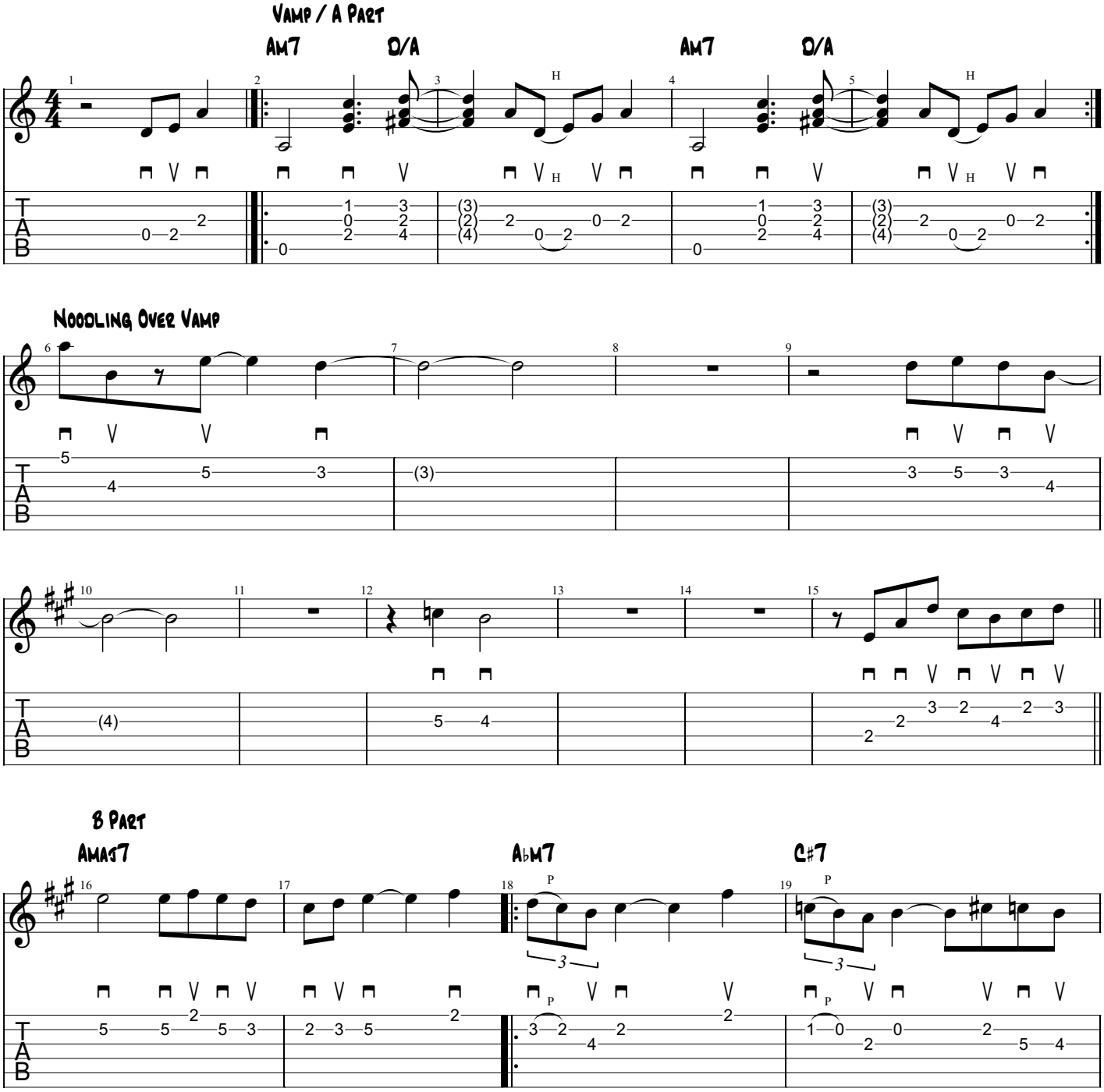

Second Break
C
F
C
C
D
G
C
F
C
C
G
C

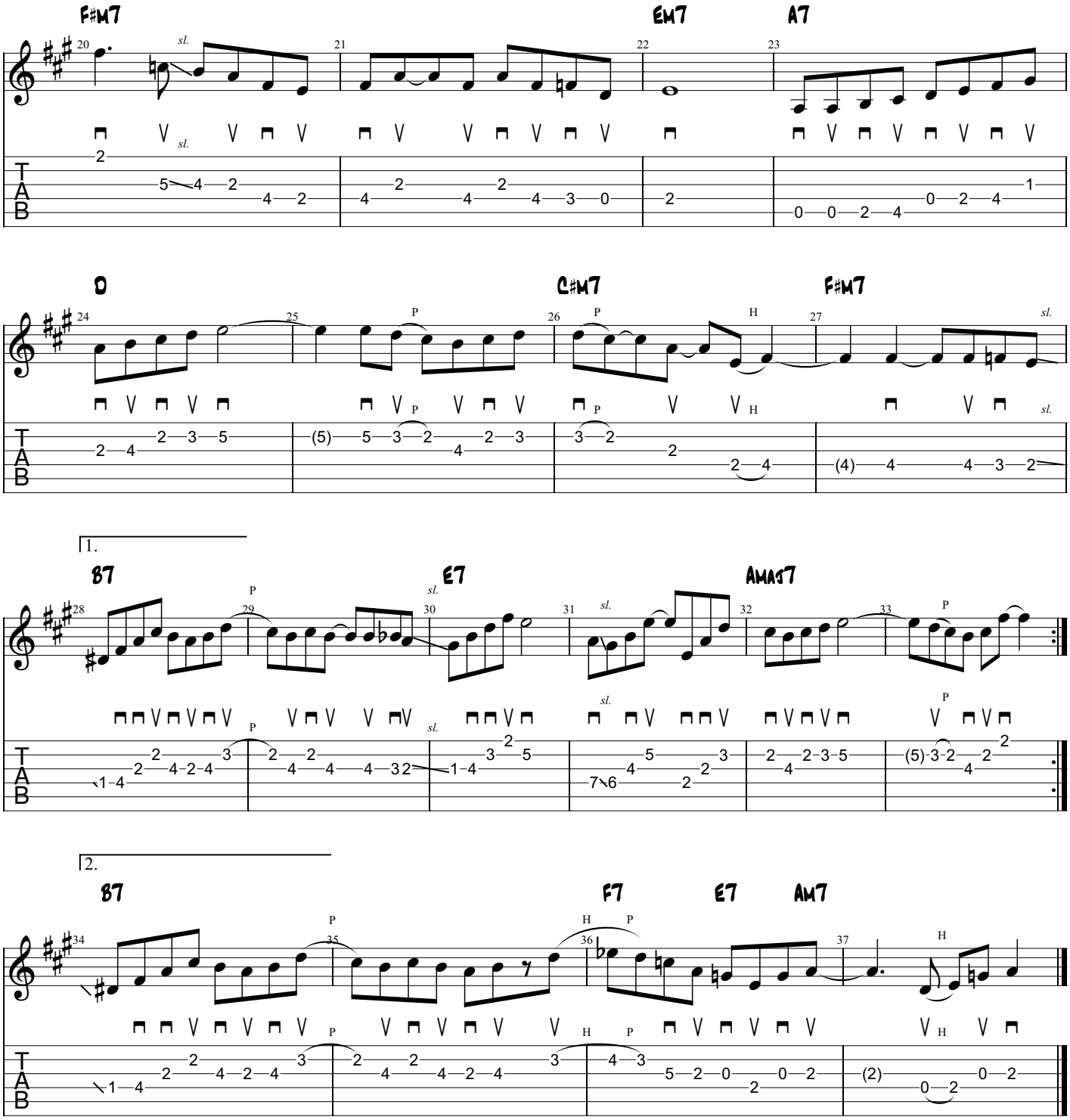
RICK GARDNER PHOTO

PORT TOBACCO (1986)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

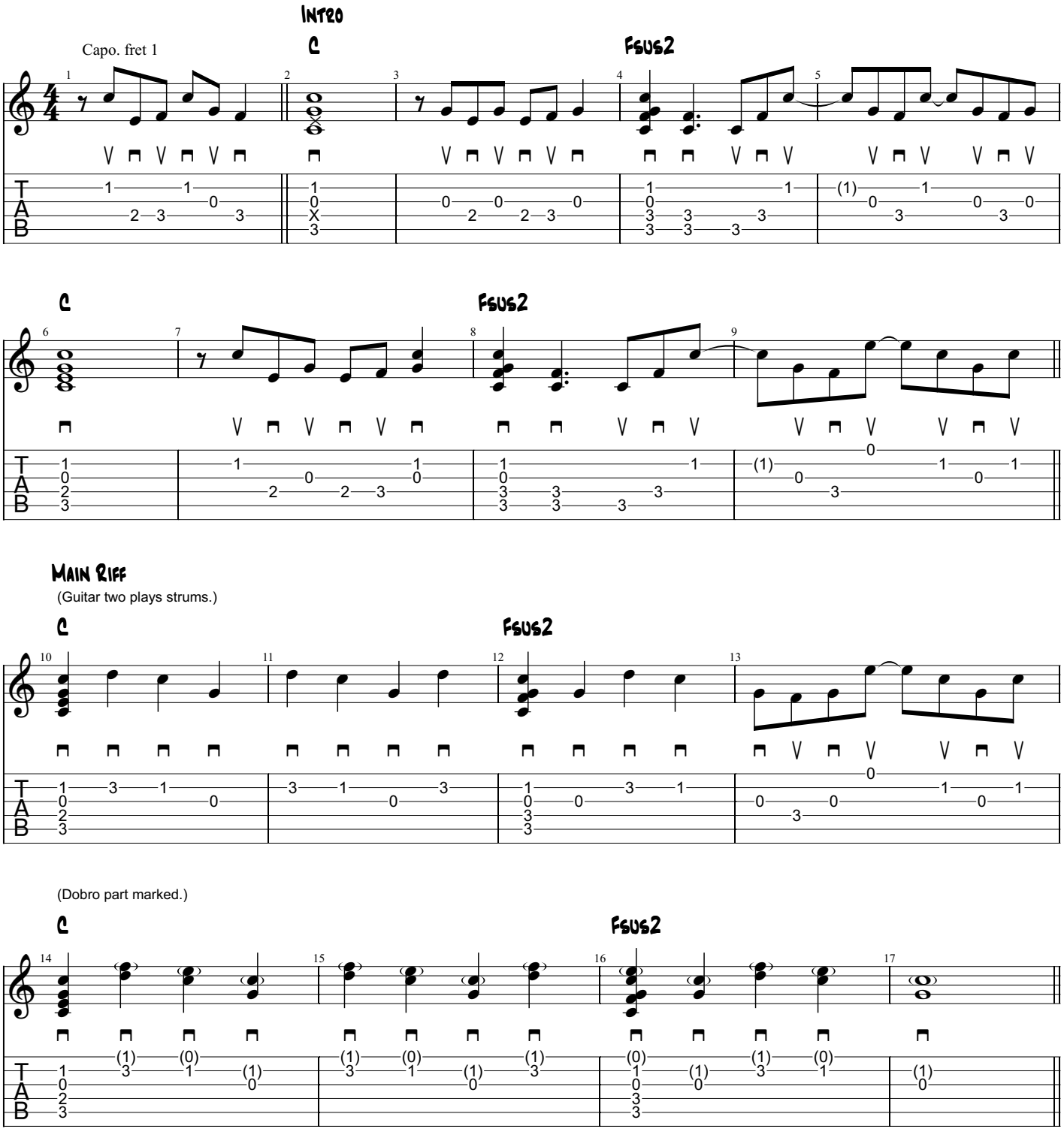
Standard Tuning

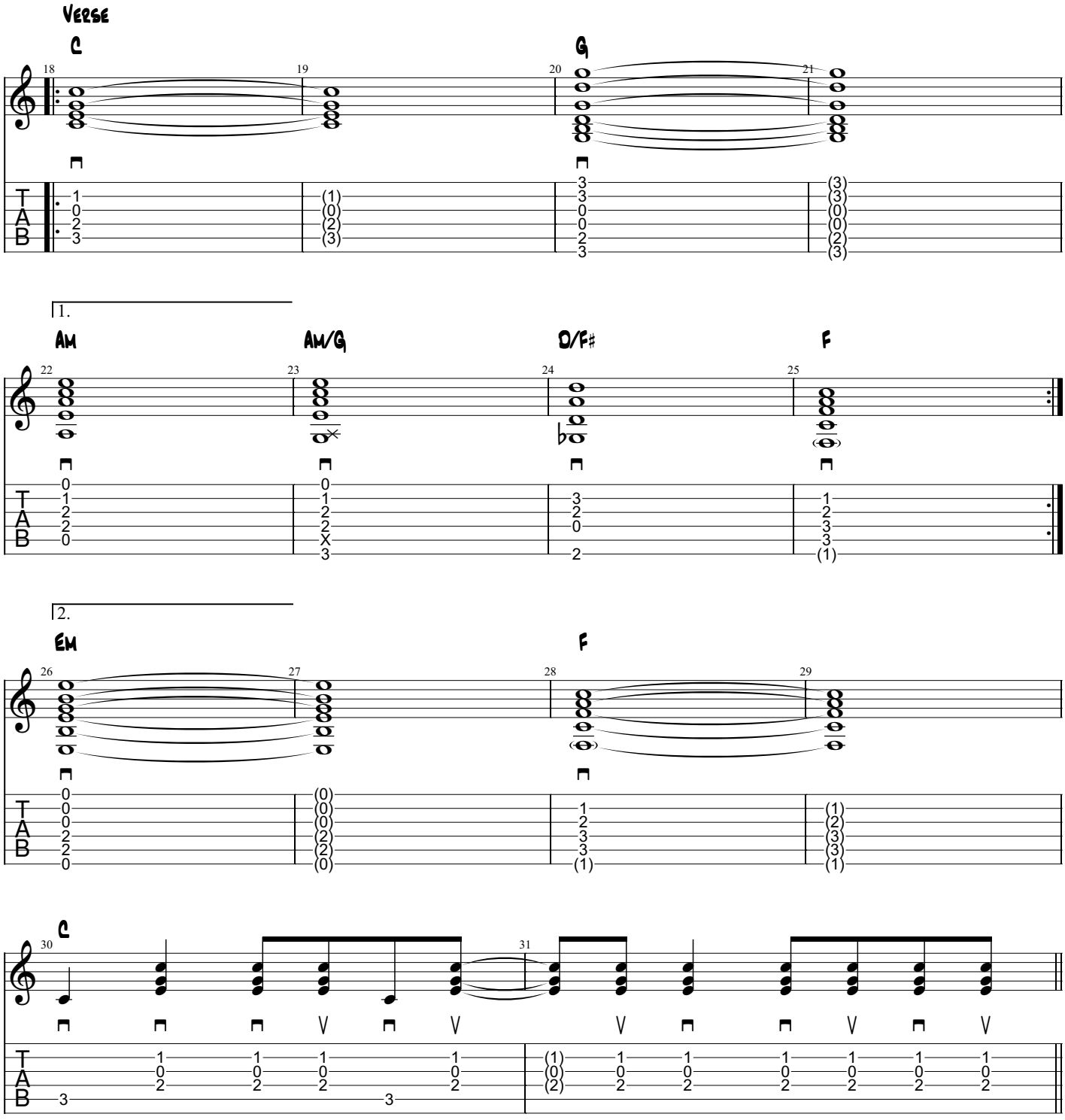



F#M7
EM7
A7
D
C#M7
F#M7
1.
B7
E7
AMAJ7
2.
B7
F7
E7
AM7

SHADOWS (1988)

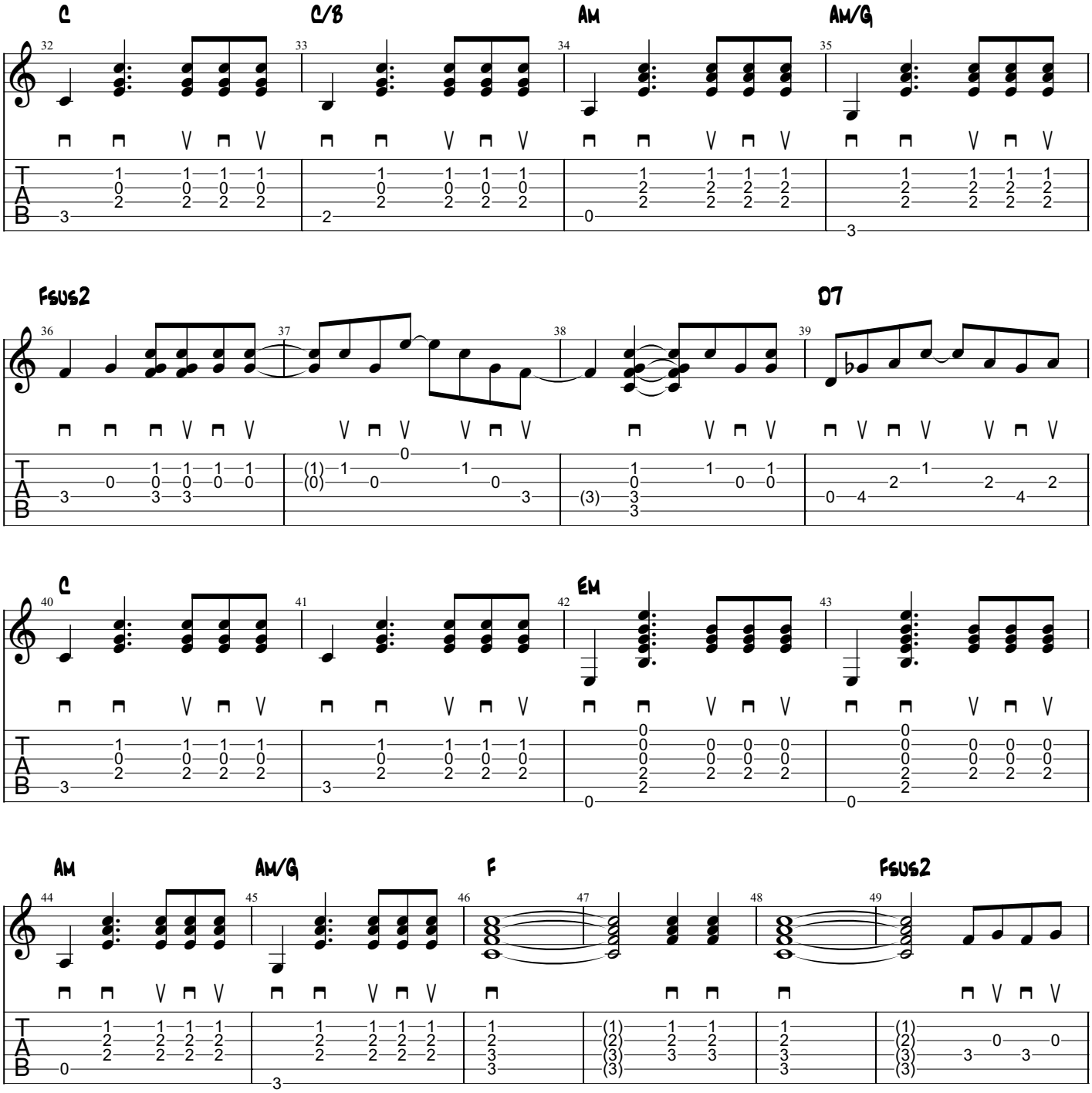
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

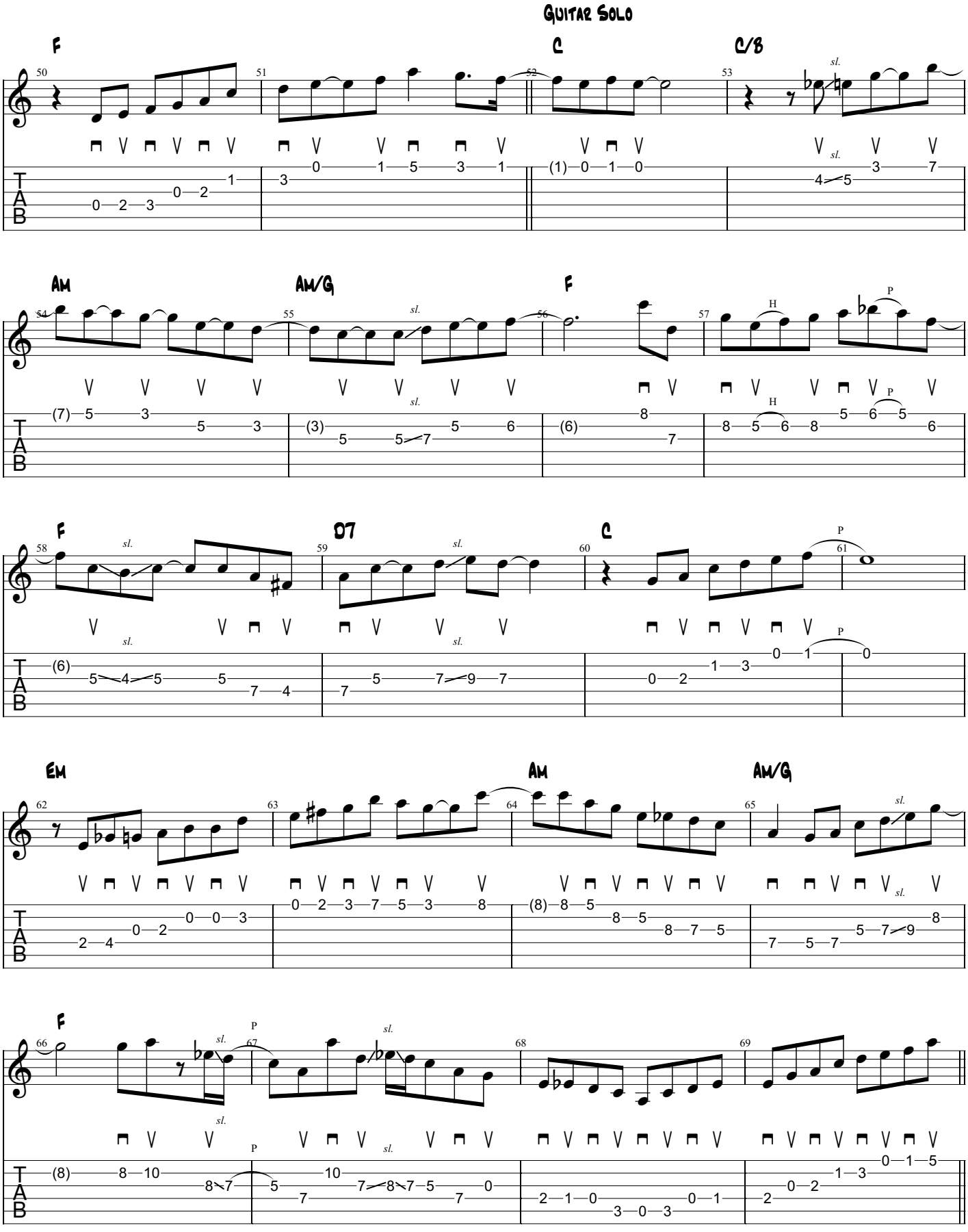



Verse
C
G
1.
Am
Am/G
D/F#
F
2.
Em
F
C

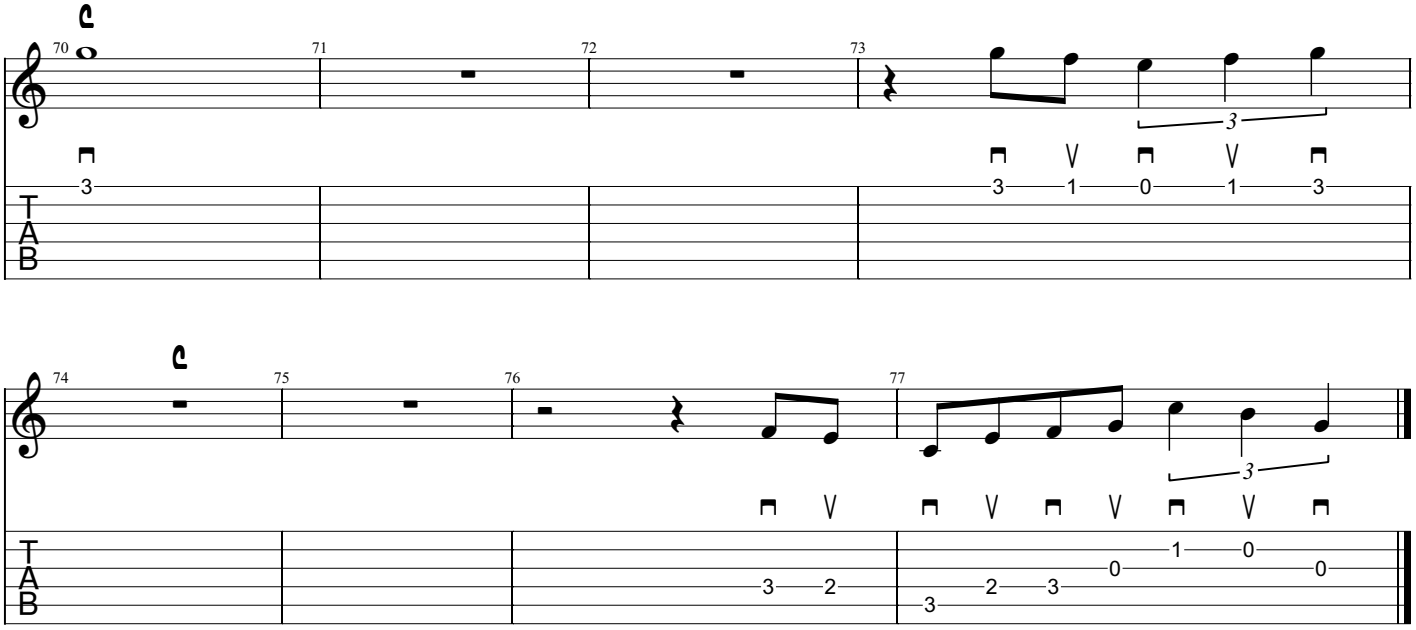
Chorus

(Guitar two plays riff over C and C/B.)



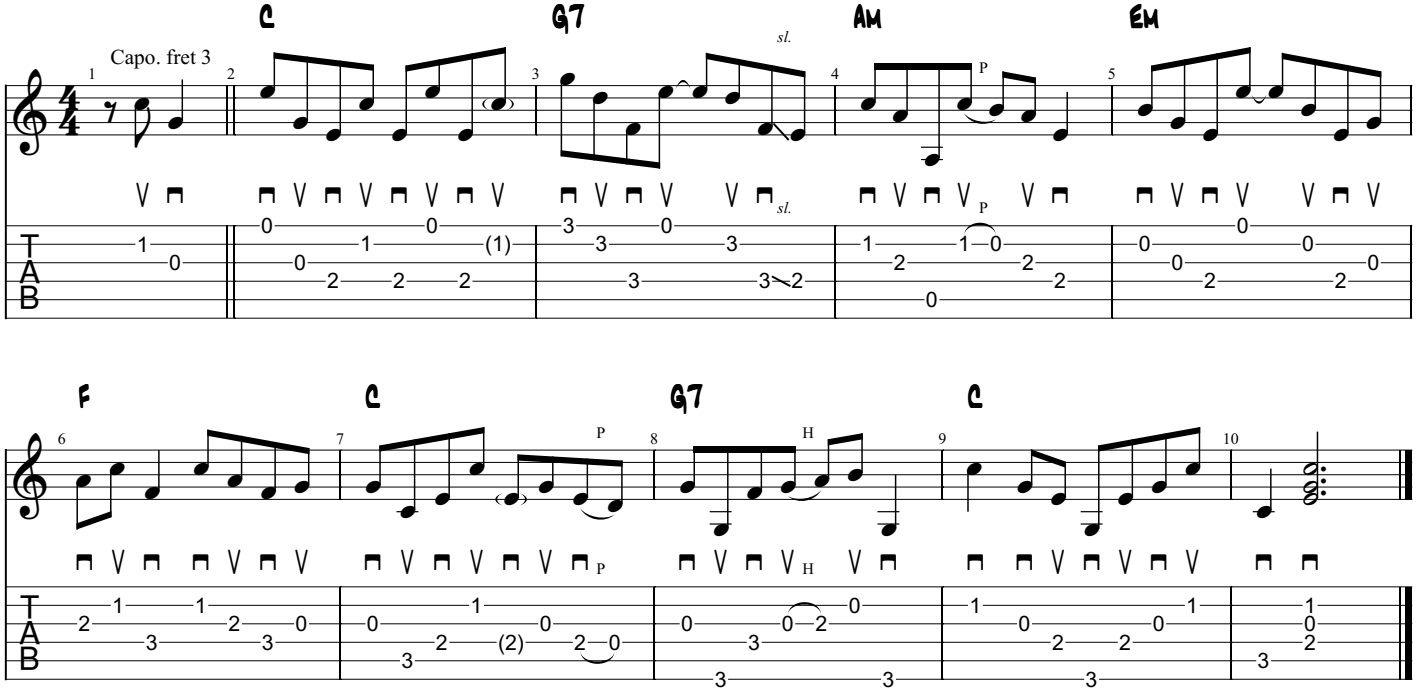

Guitar Solo
F
C
C/B
Am
Am/G
F
F
D7
C
Em
Am
Am/G
F

Tony Plays Over The Riff



STREETS OF LONDON (1983)

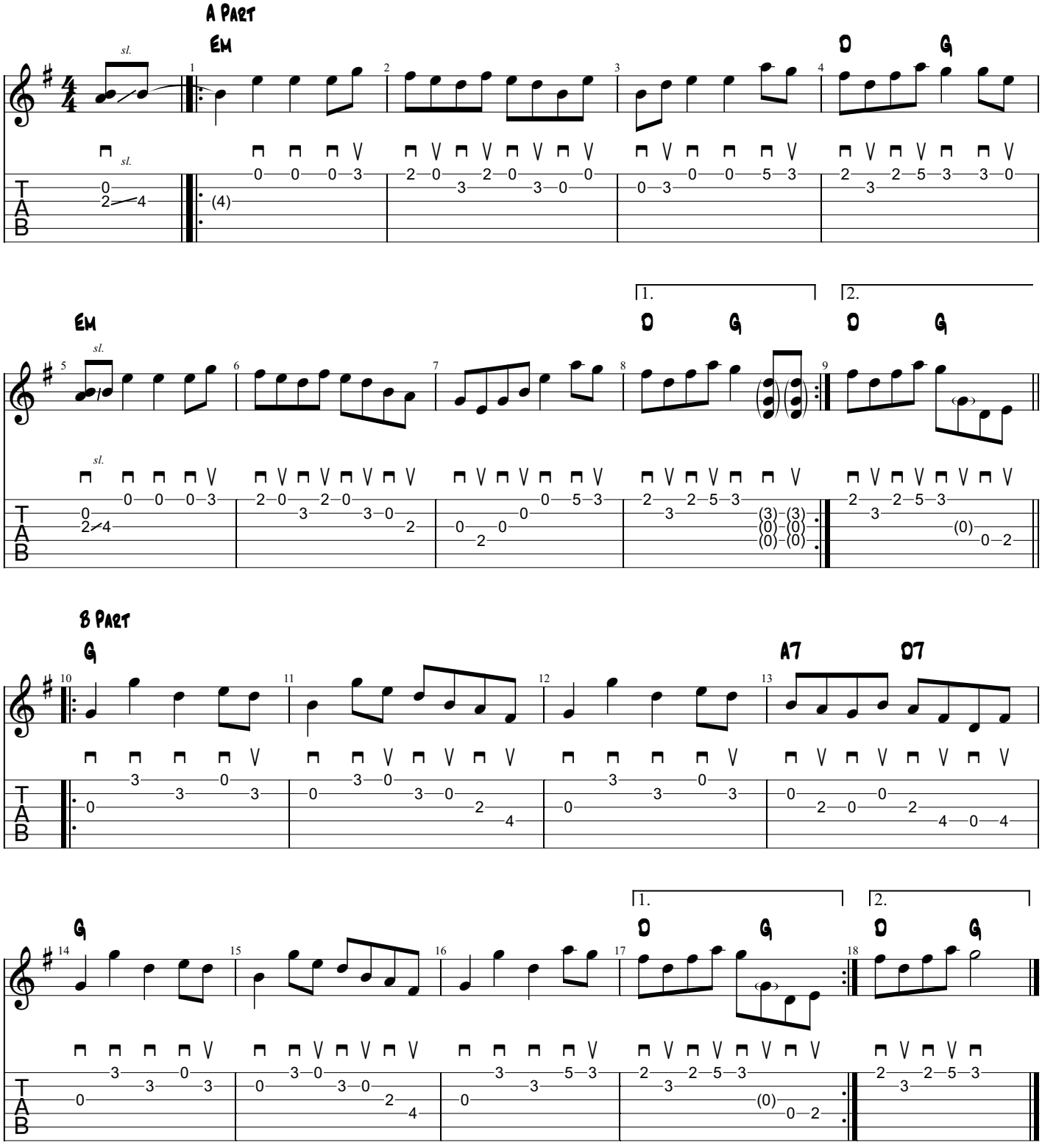
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE



STONEY POINT (1996)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

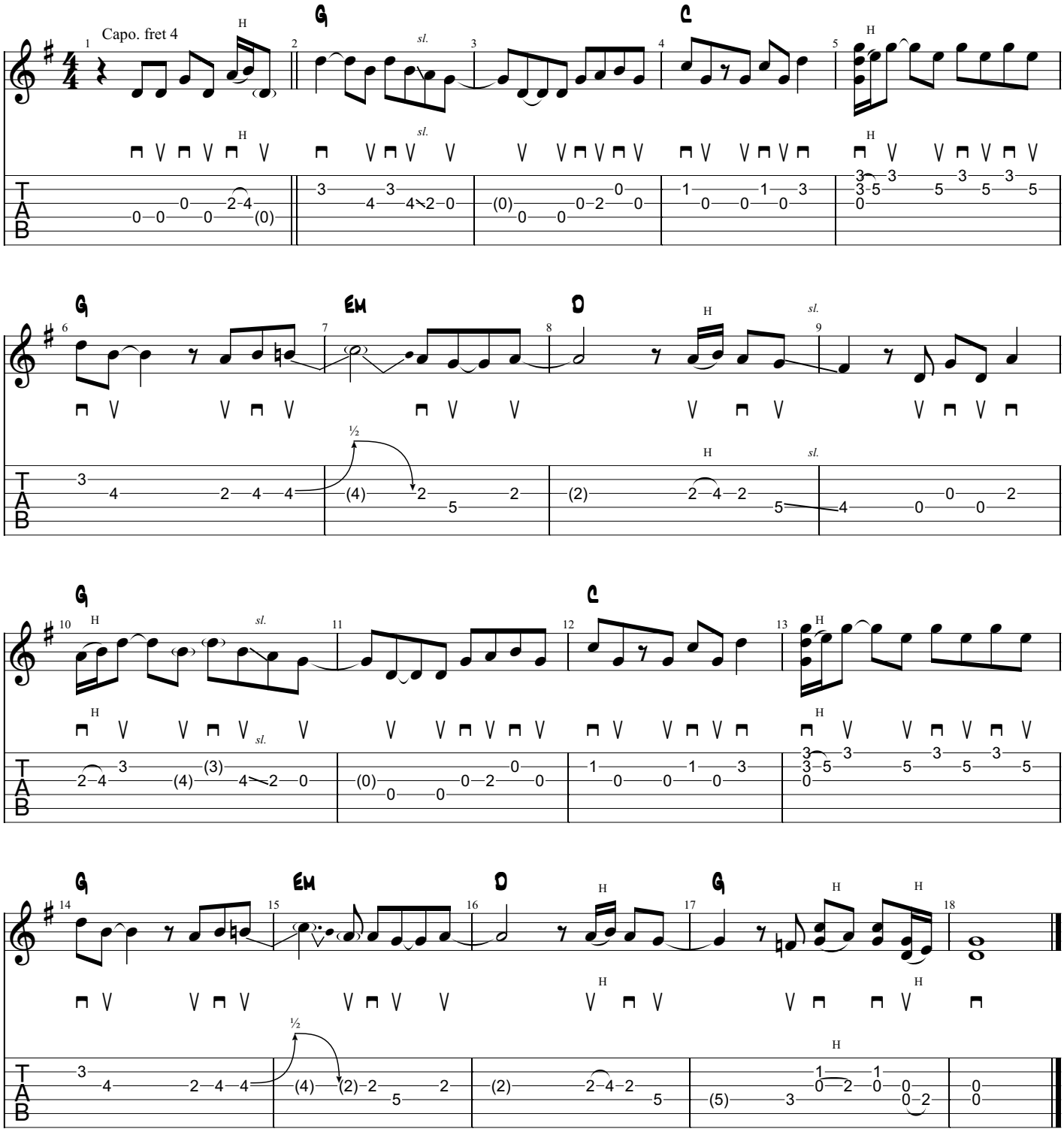
Standard tuning



SUMMER WAGES (1975)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

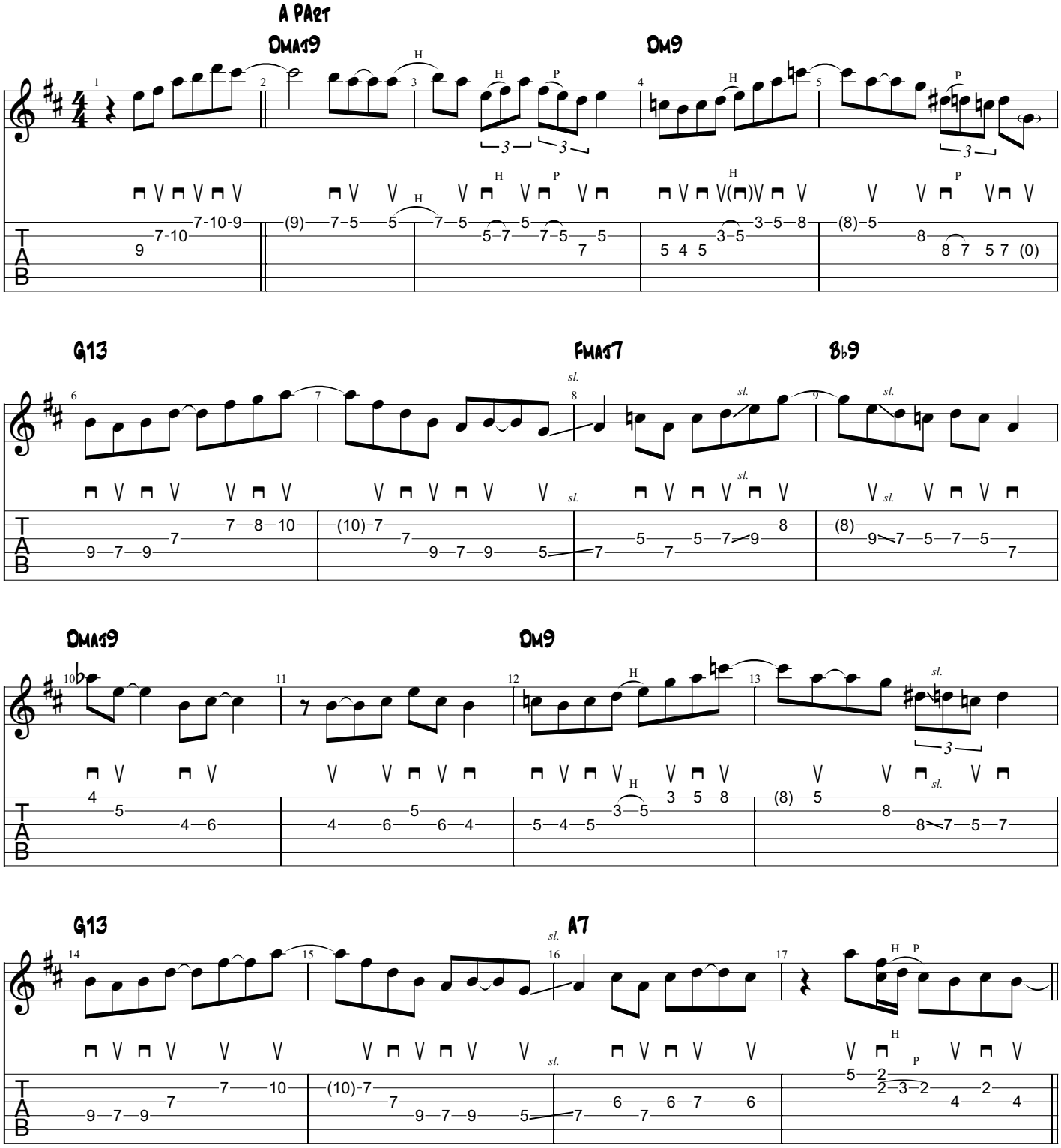
Standard tuning



SWING 51 (1978)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

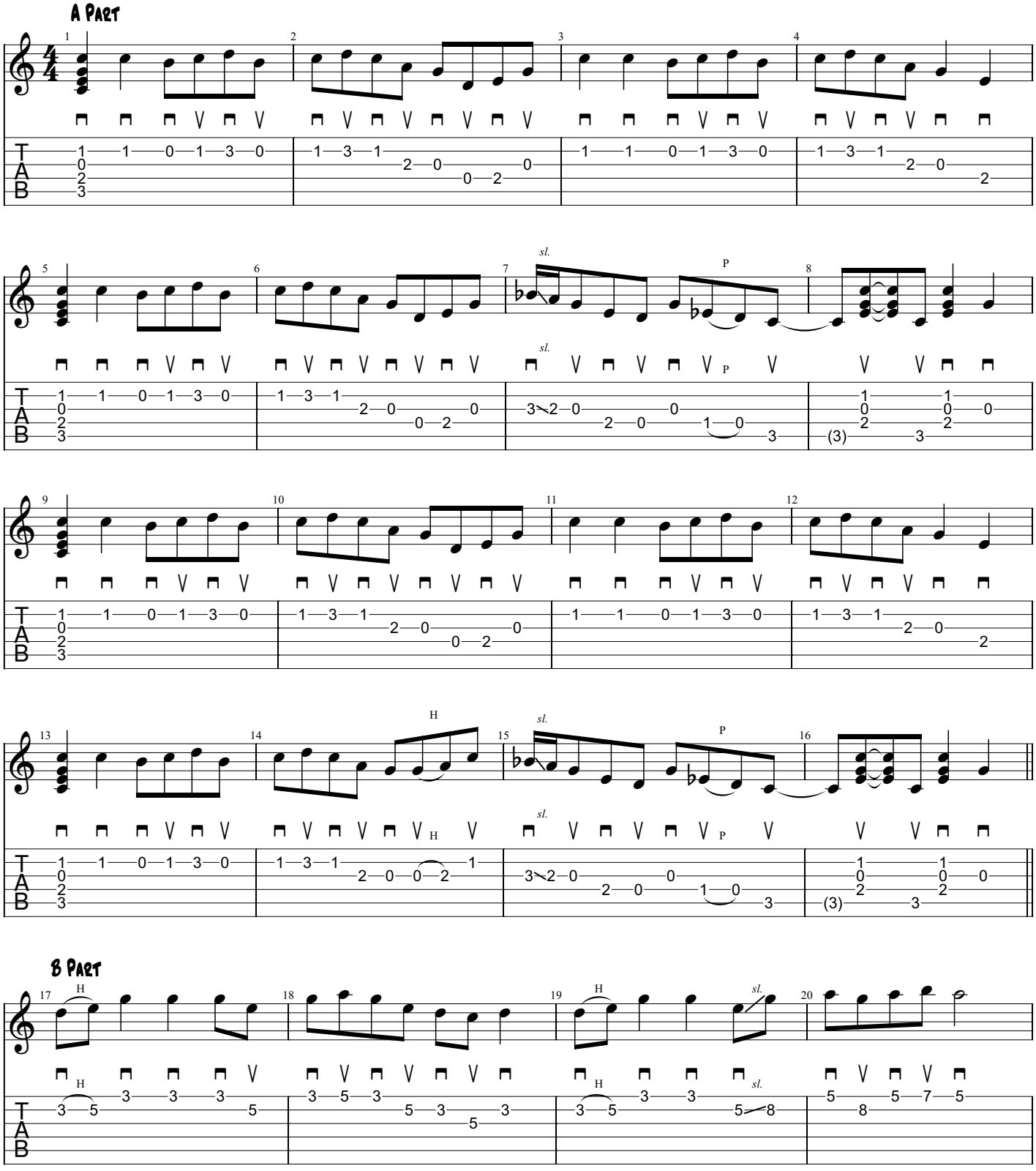
Standard Tuning

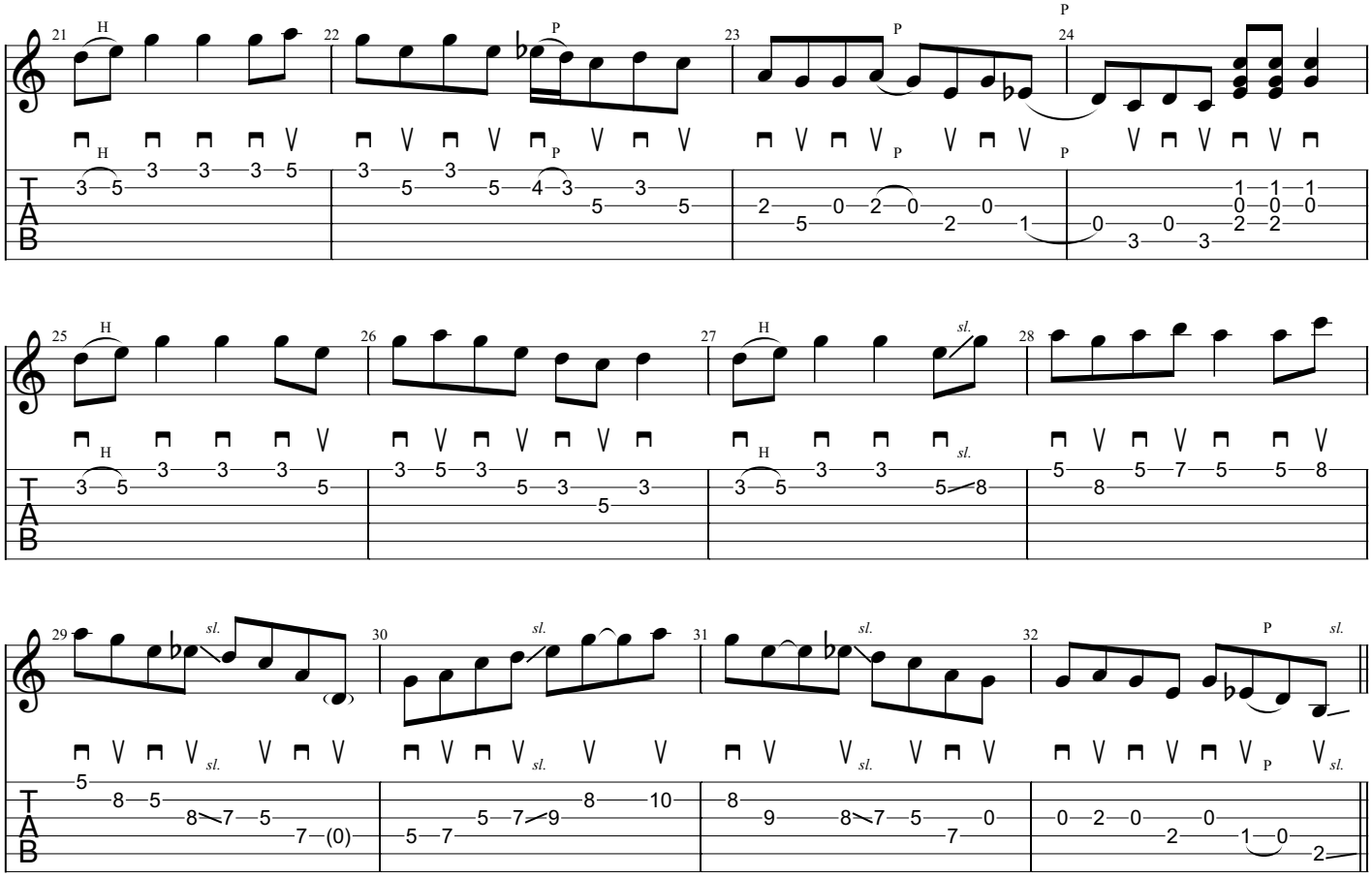


TEXAS GALES (1987)

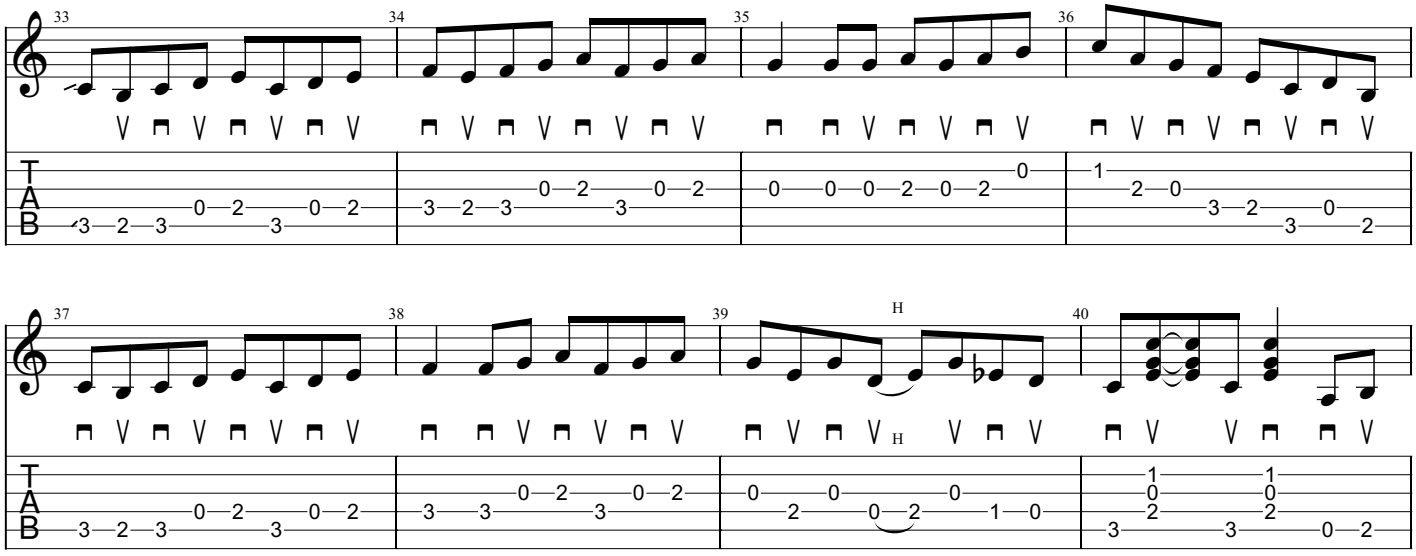
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

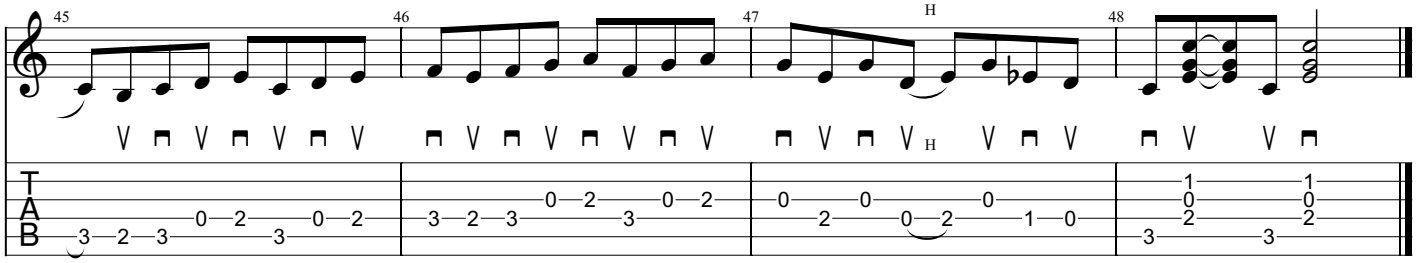
Standard tuning





C Part

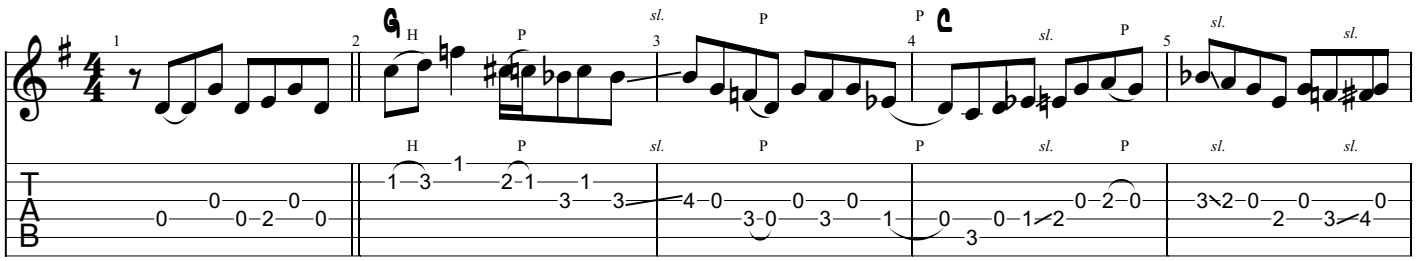


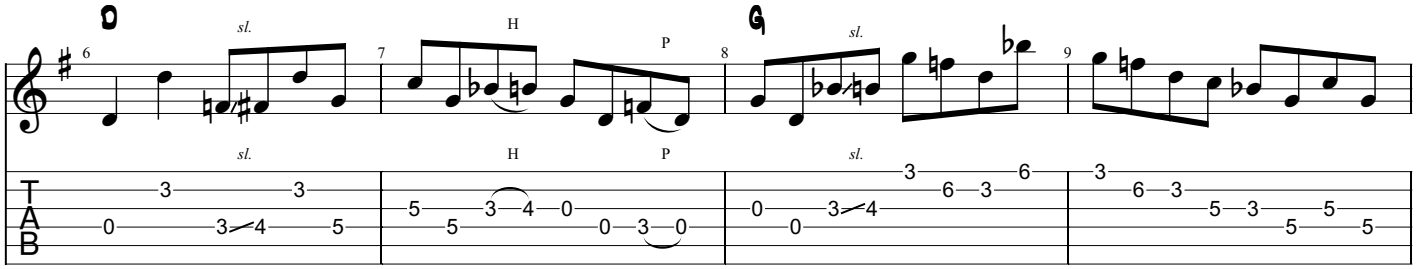


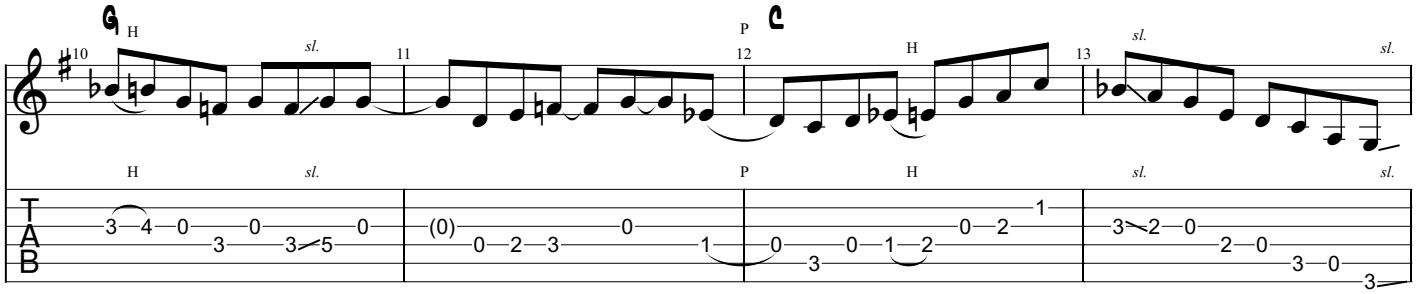
THANK YOU, MR. MARTIN (1990)

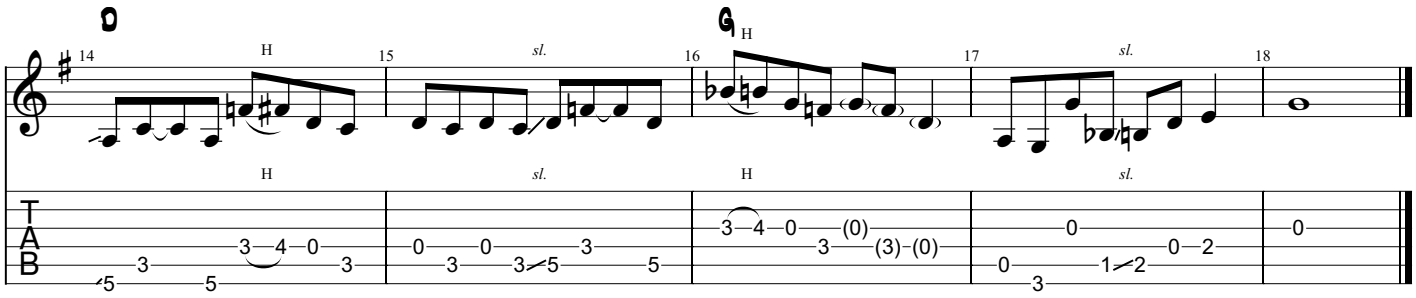
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning





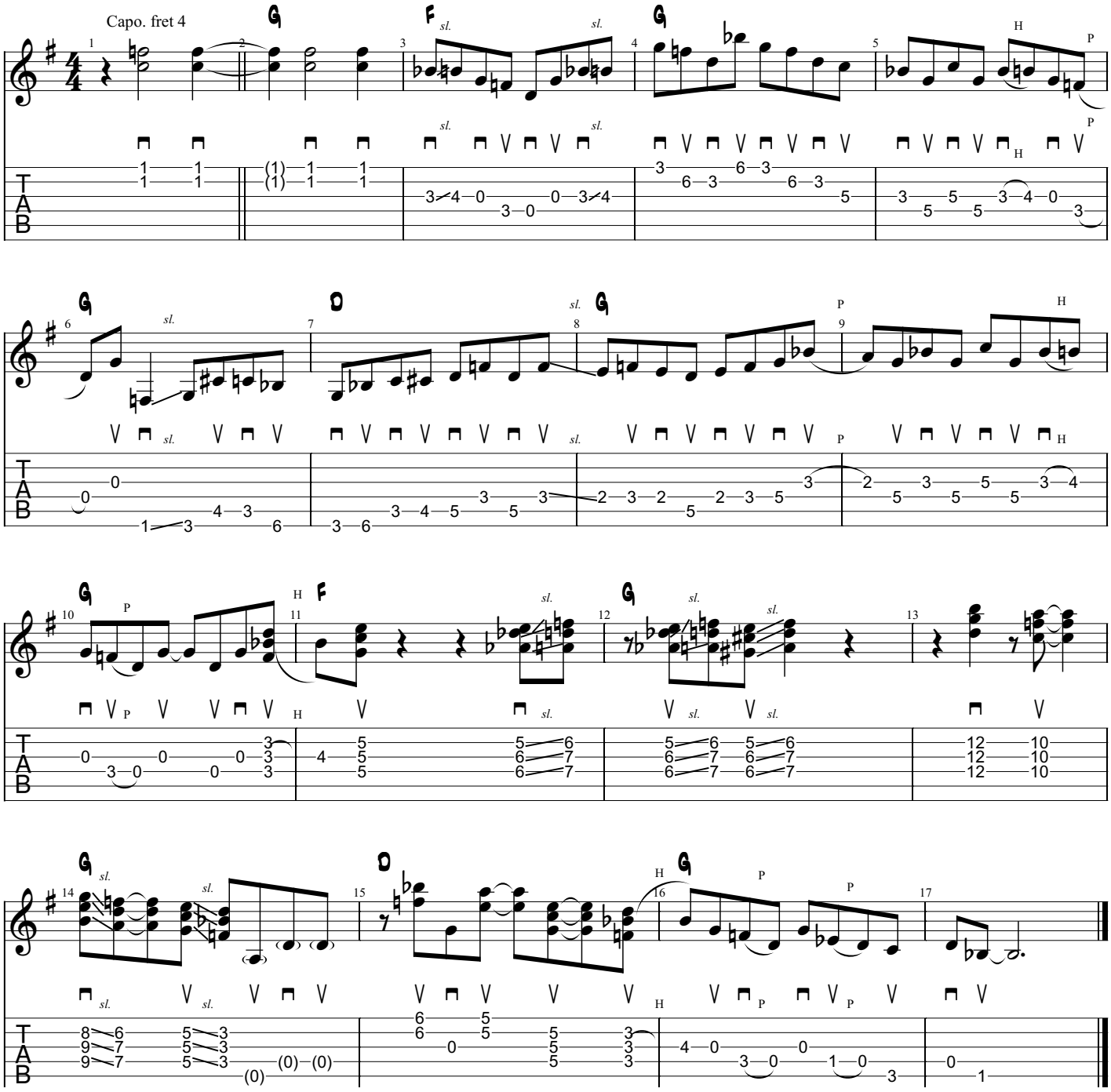




THUNDERCLOUDS OF LOVE (1993)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

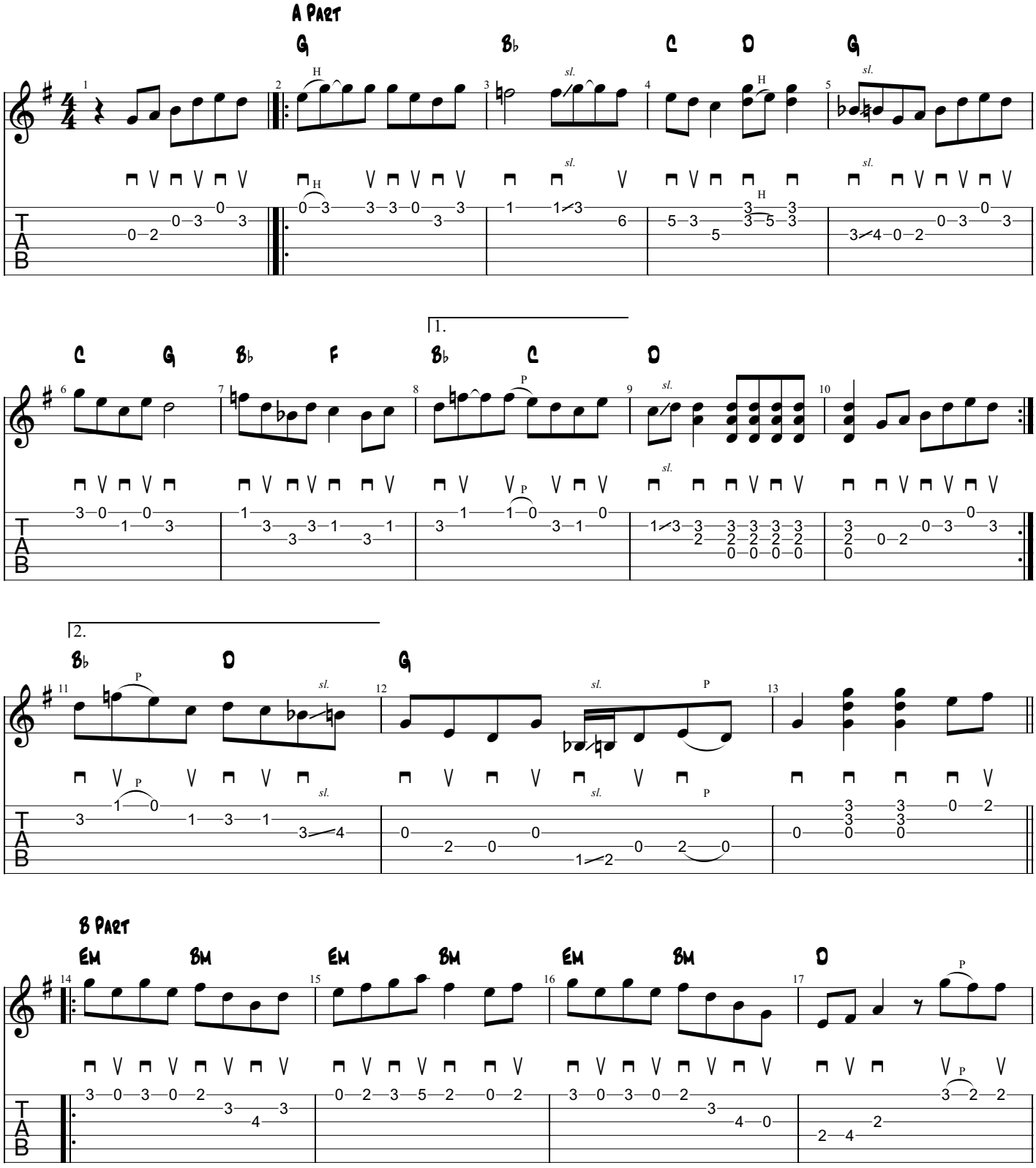
Standard tuning

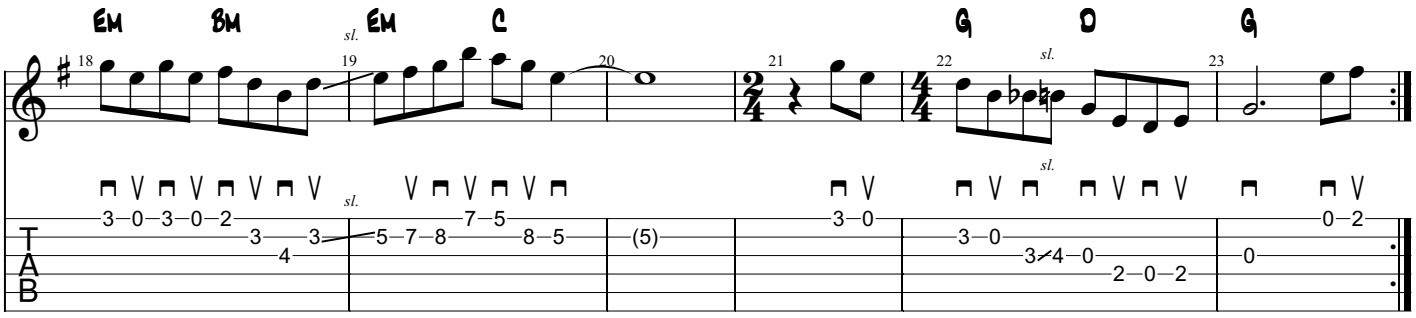


TIPPER (1986)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning

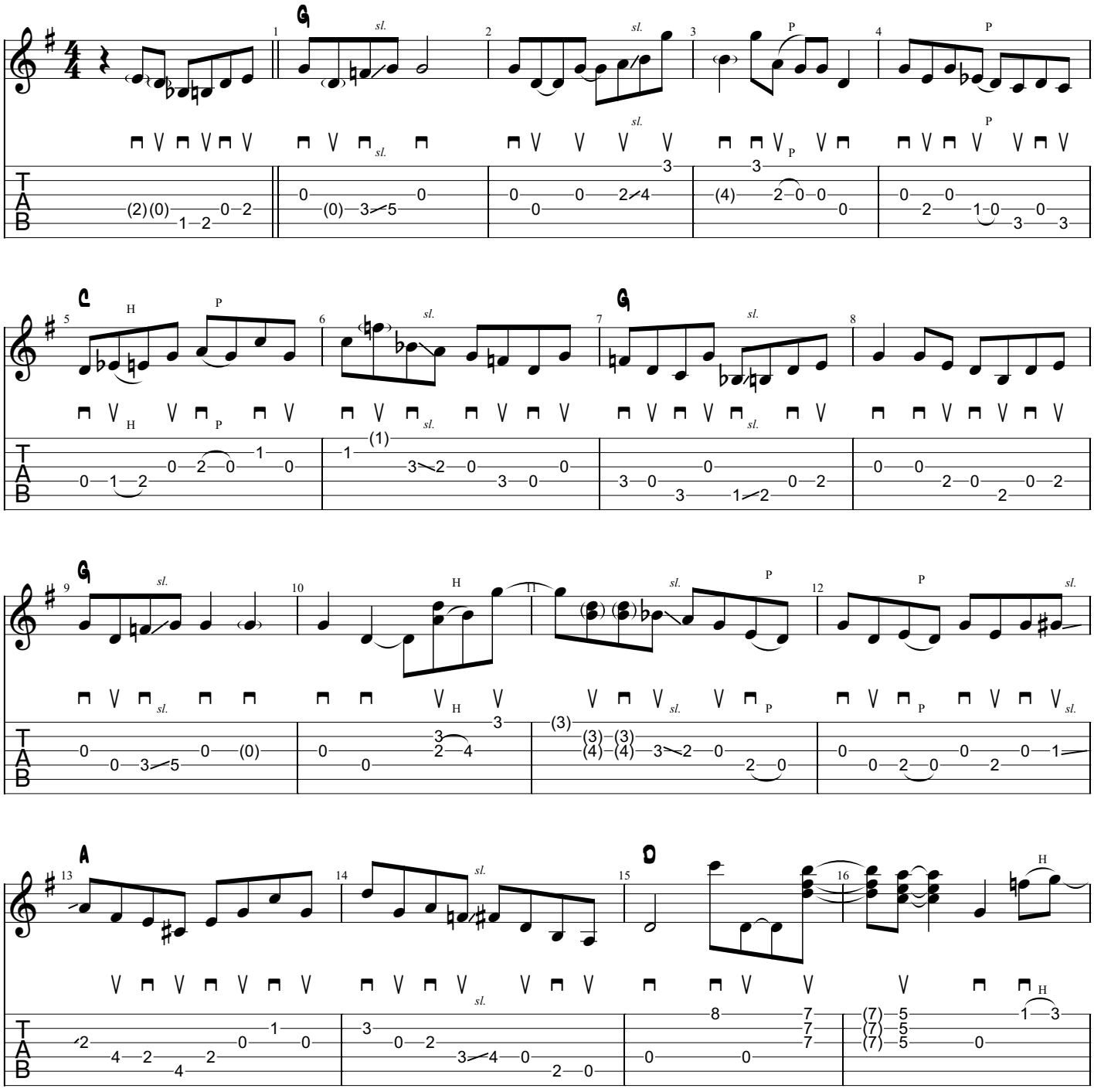


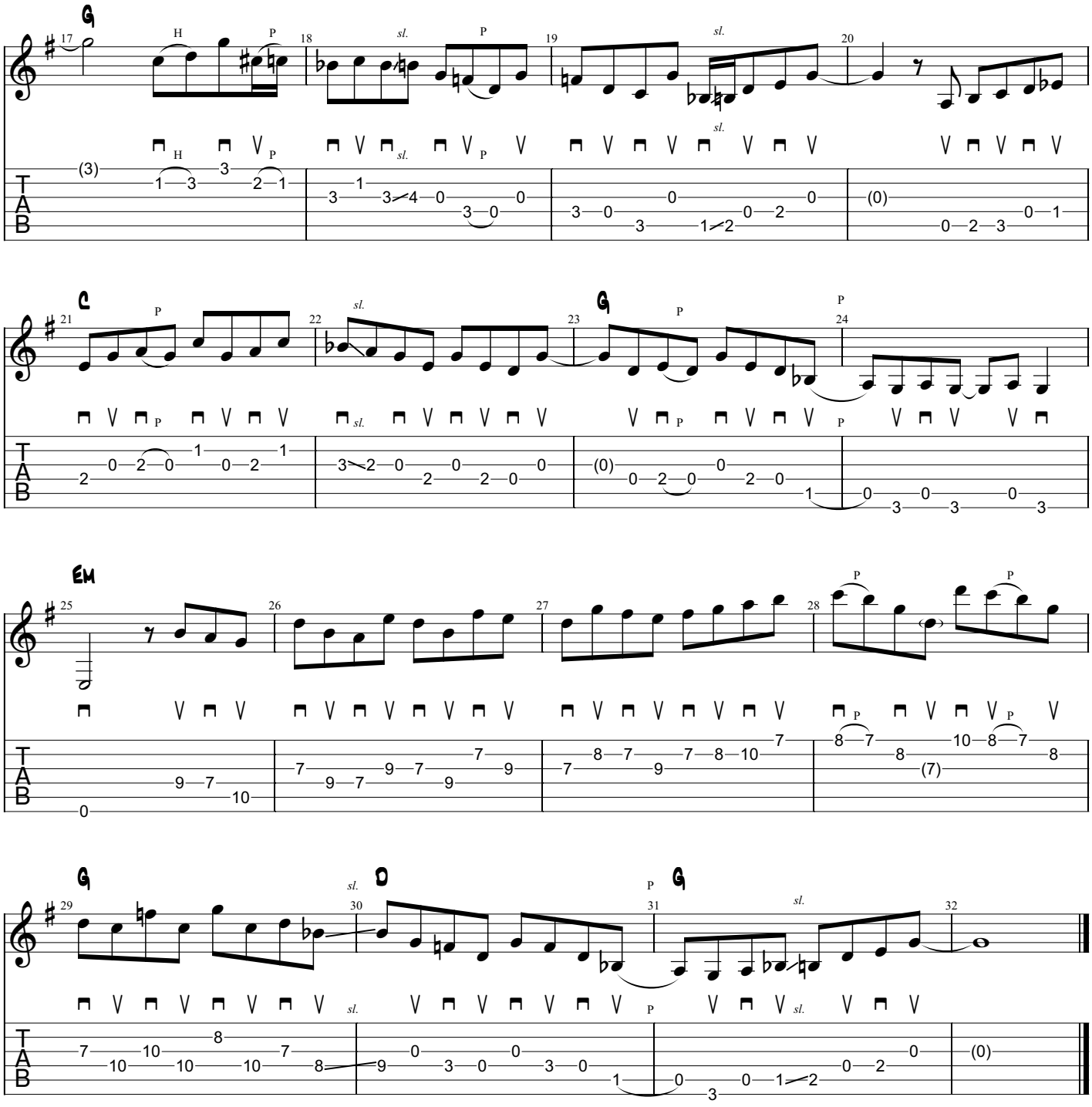

EM
BM
EM
C
G
D
G
sl.
18
19
20
21
22
23
T
A
B

VICTORY IN JESUS (1994)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

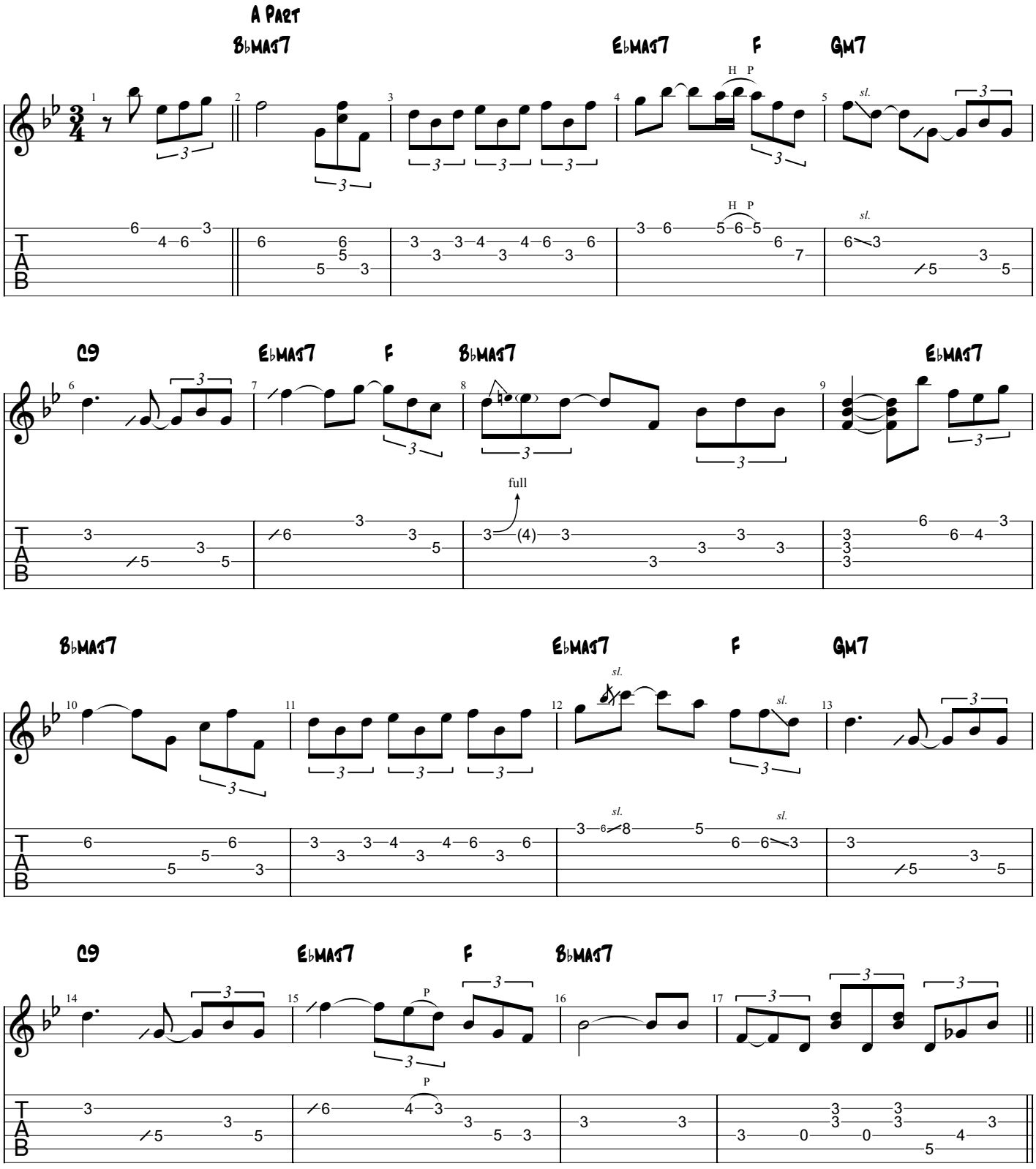
Standard tuning



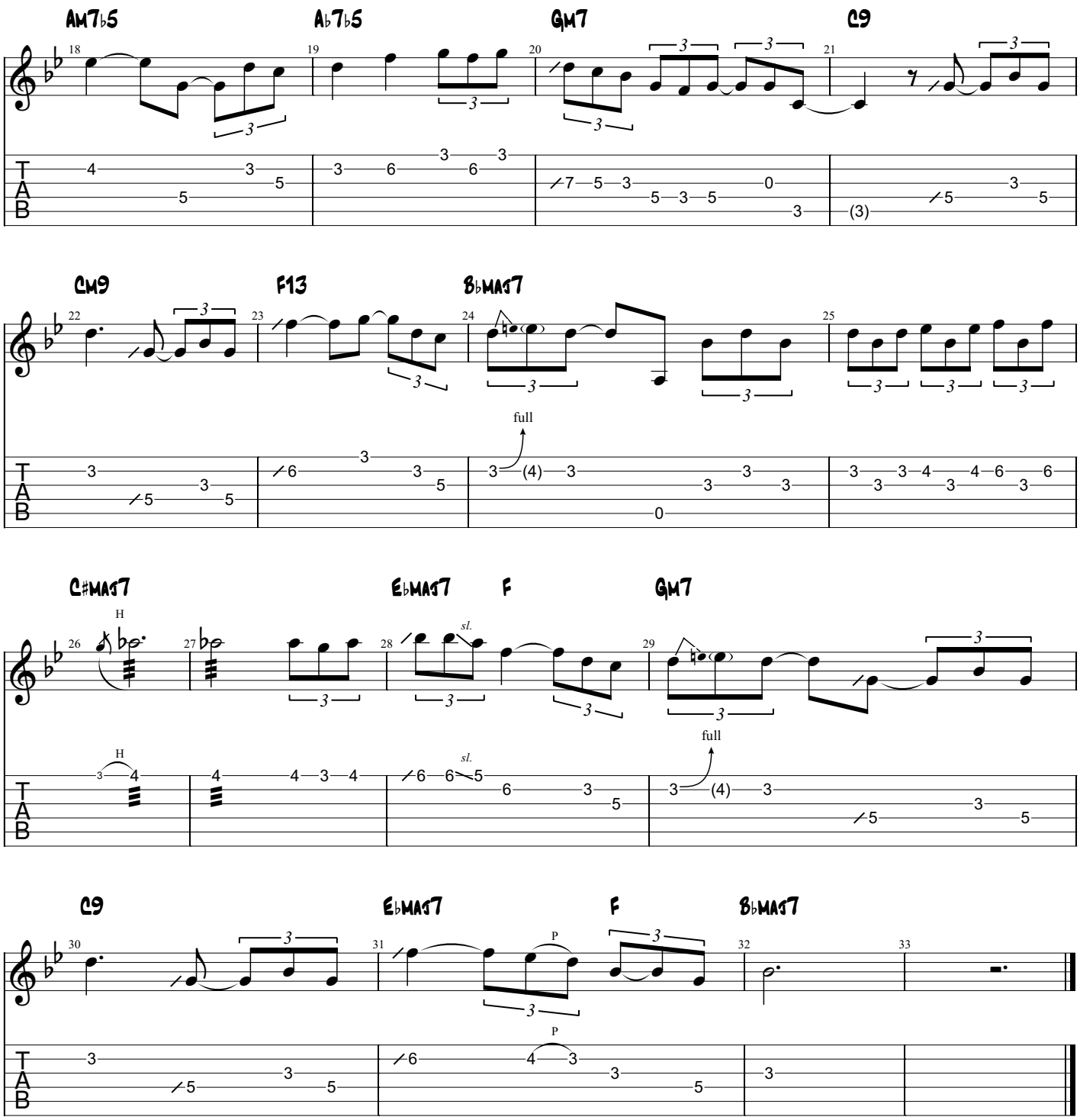

G
C
G
Em
G
D
G

WALTZ FOR INDIRA (1980)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE



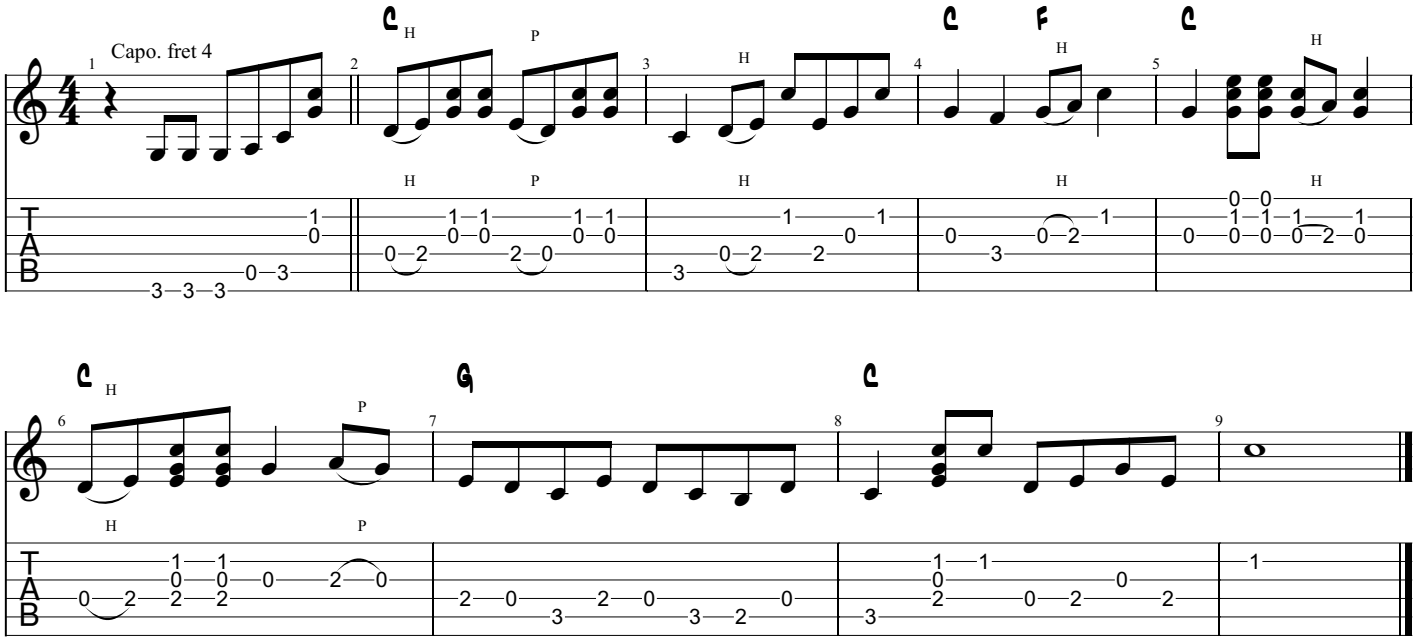
B Part


Am7♭5
A♭7♭5
Gm7
C9
Cm9
F13
B♭maj7
full
C♯maj7
H
E♭maj7
F
Gm7
sl.
full
C9
E♭maj7
F
B♭maj7
P

WHERE THE SOUL OF MAN NEVER DIES (1980)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

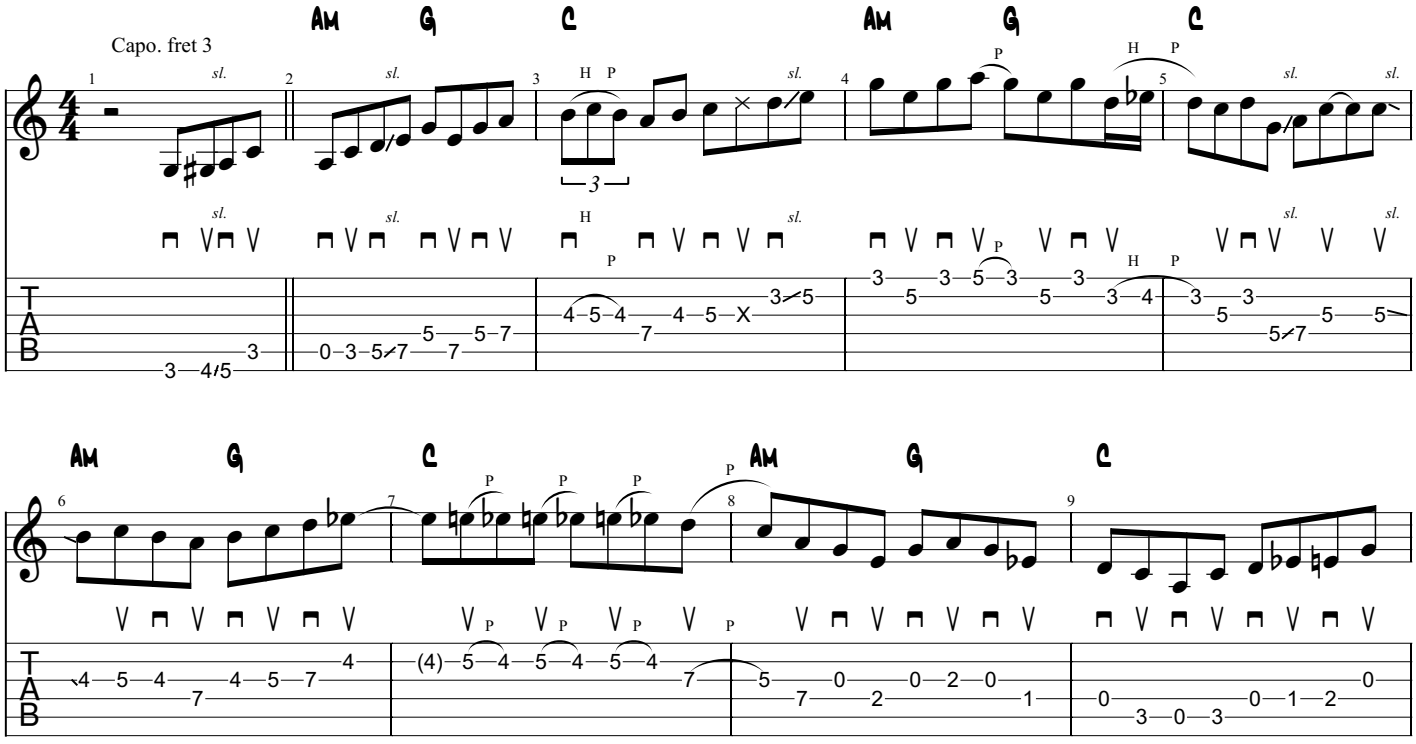
Standard tuning

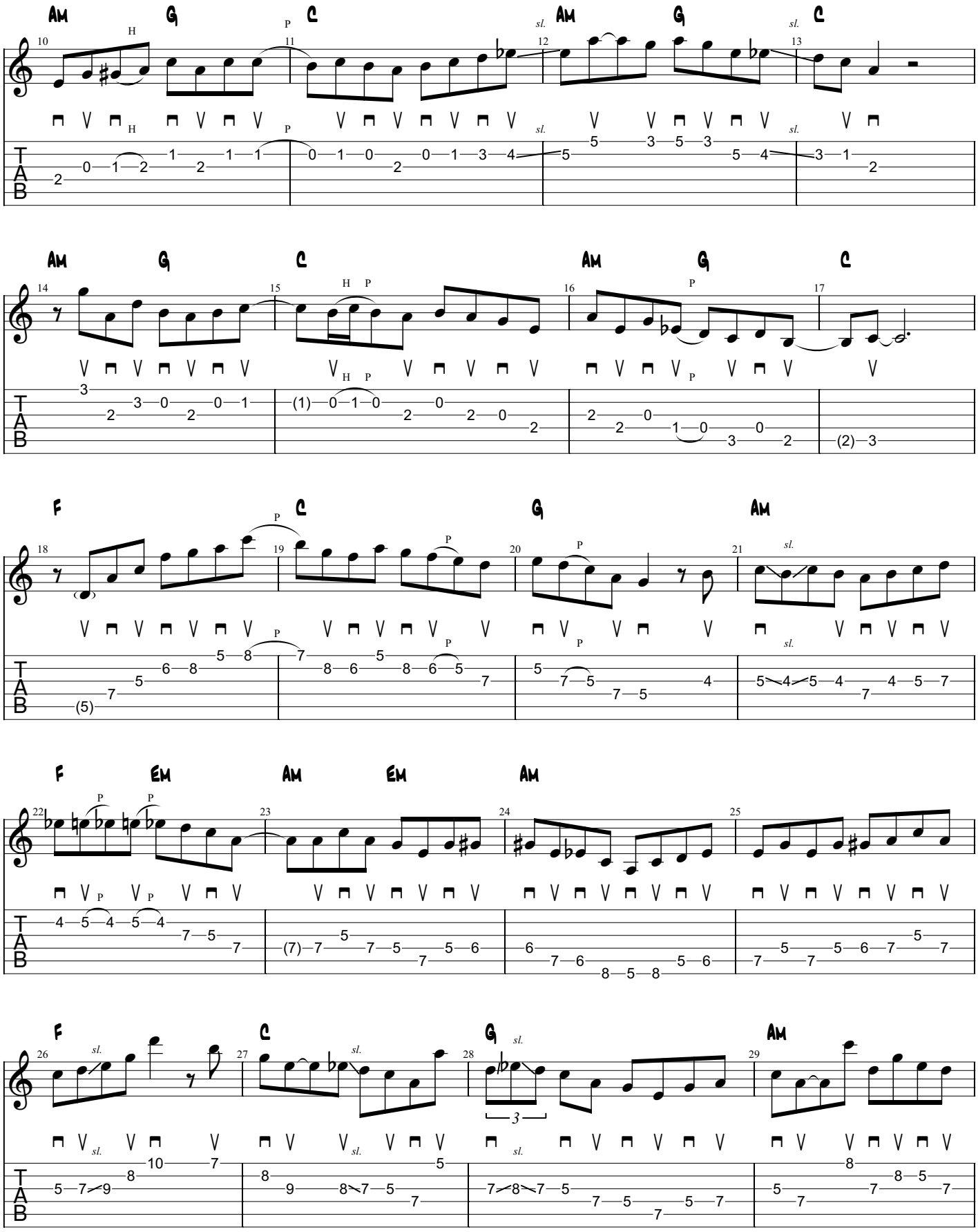


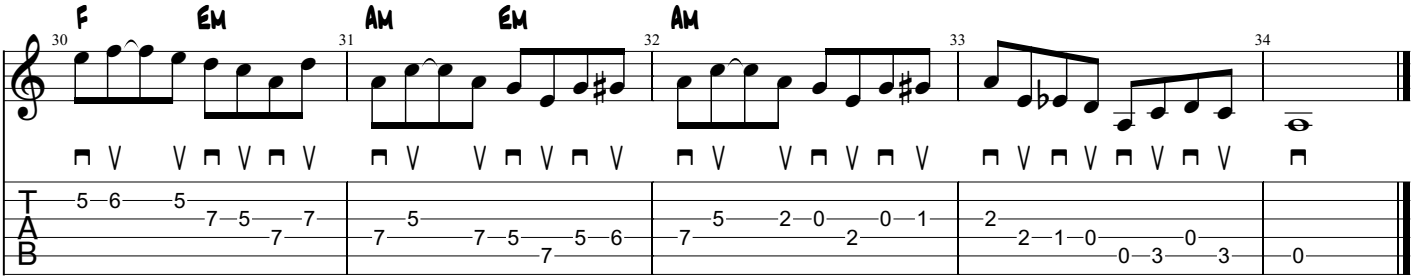
WHISPERS OF THE NORTH (1996)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning



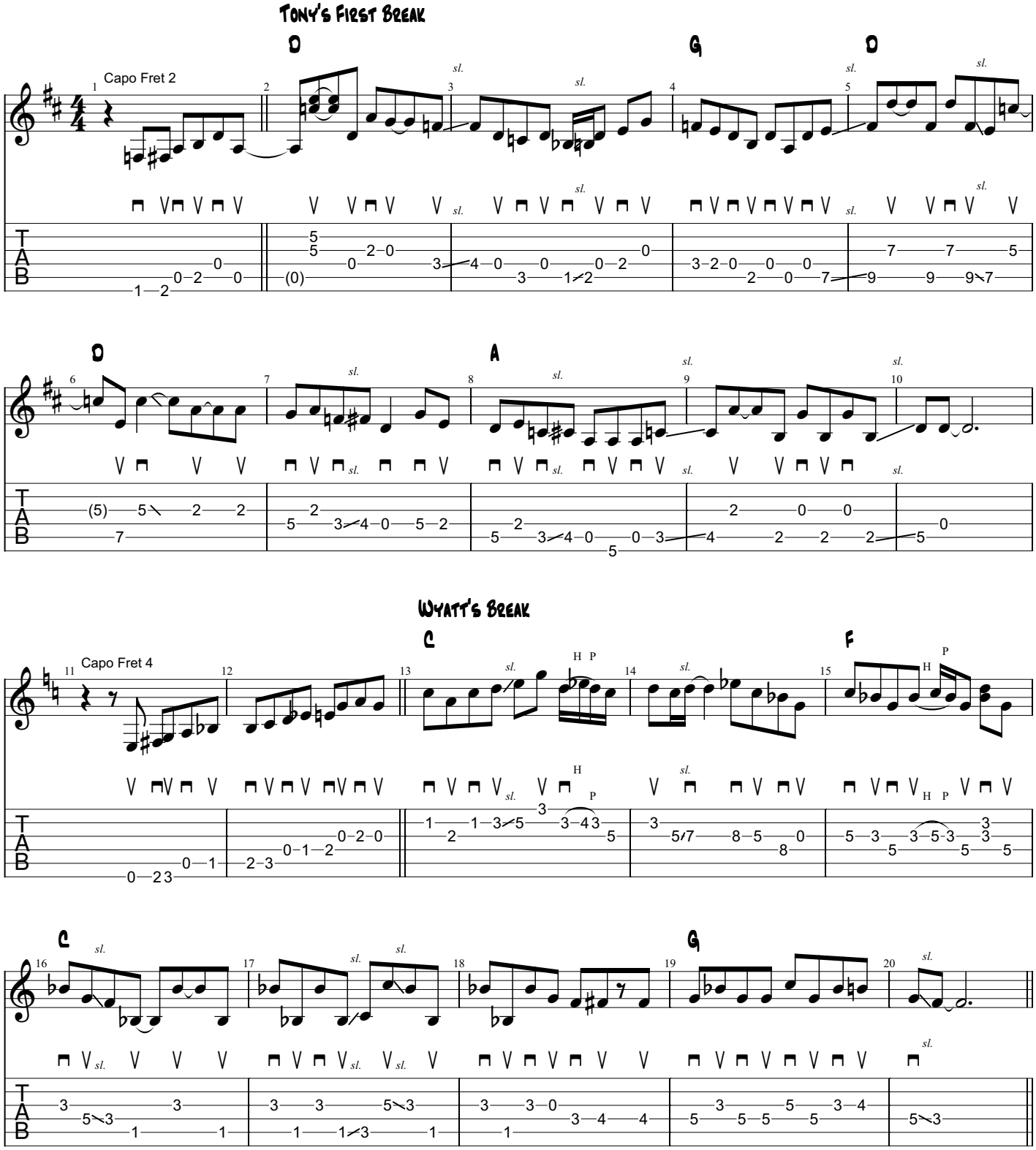

Am G C Am G C
Am G C Am G C
F C G Am
F Em Am Em Am
F C G Am


F
Em
Am
Em
Am
30
31
32
33
34
T
A
B

WHY YOU BEEN GONE SO LONG (1988)

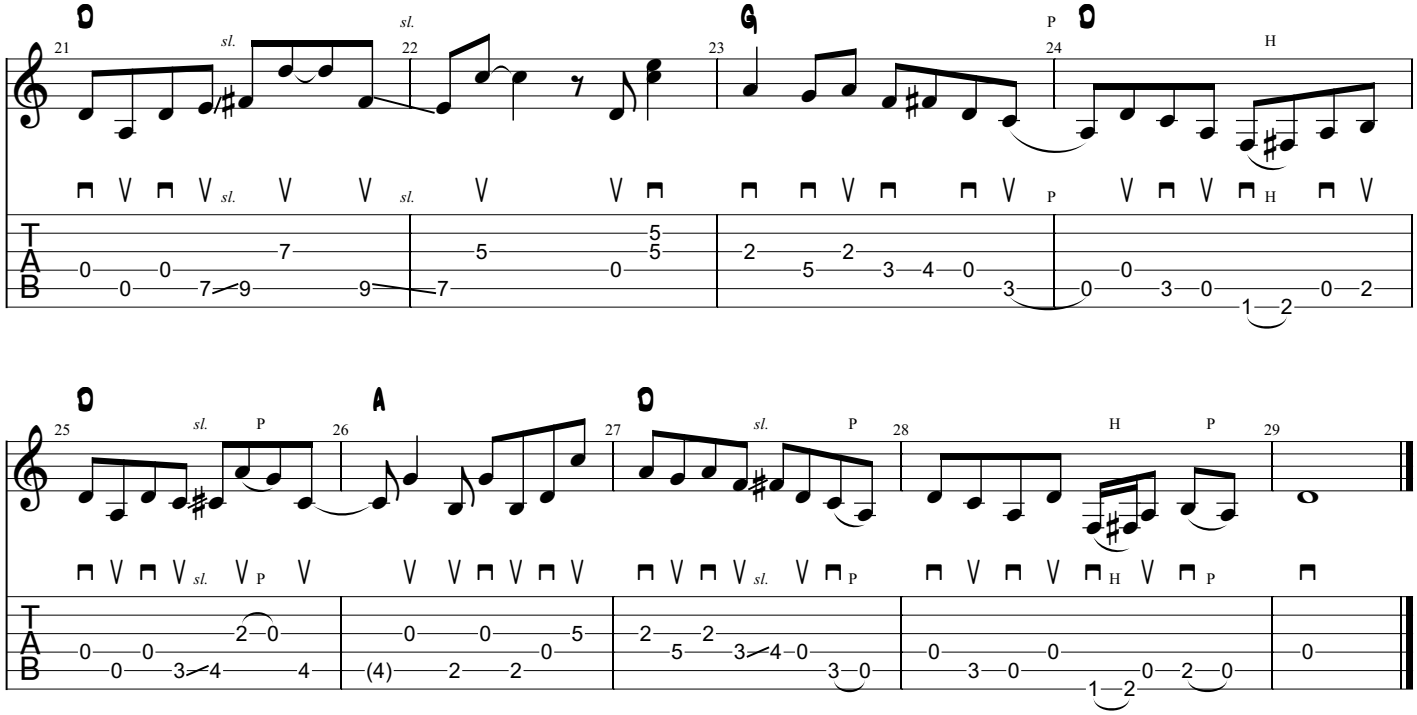
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE AND WYATT RICE

Standard tuning



Tony's Second Break

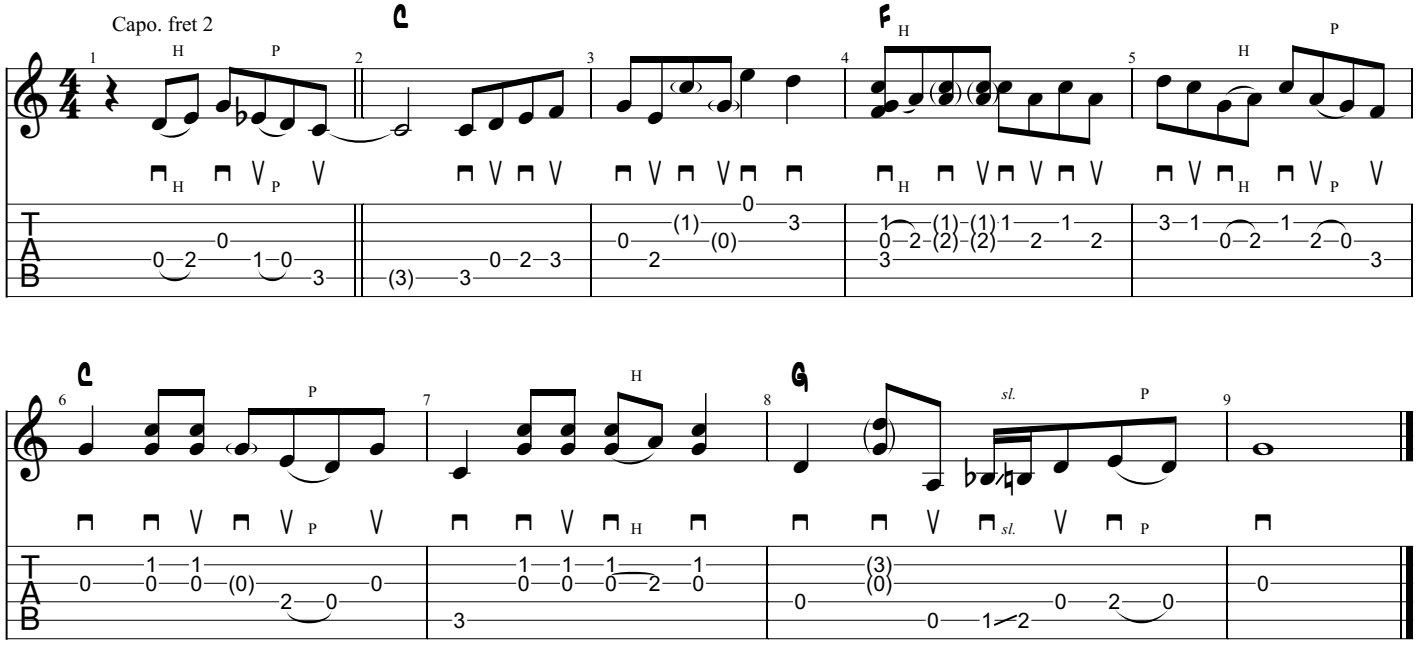
Capo Fret 2



WILL THE ROSES BLOOM (1980)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

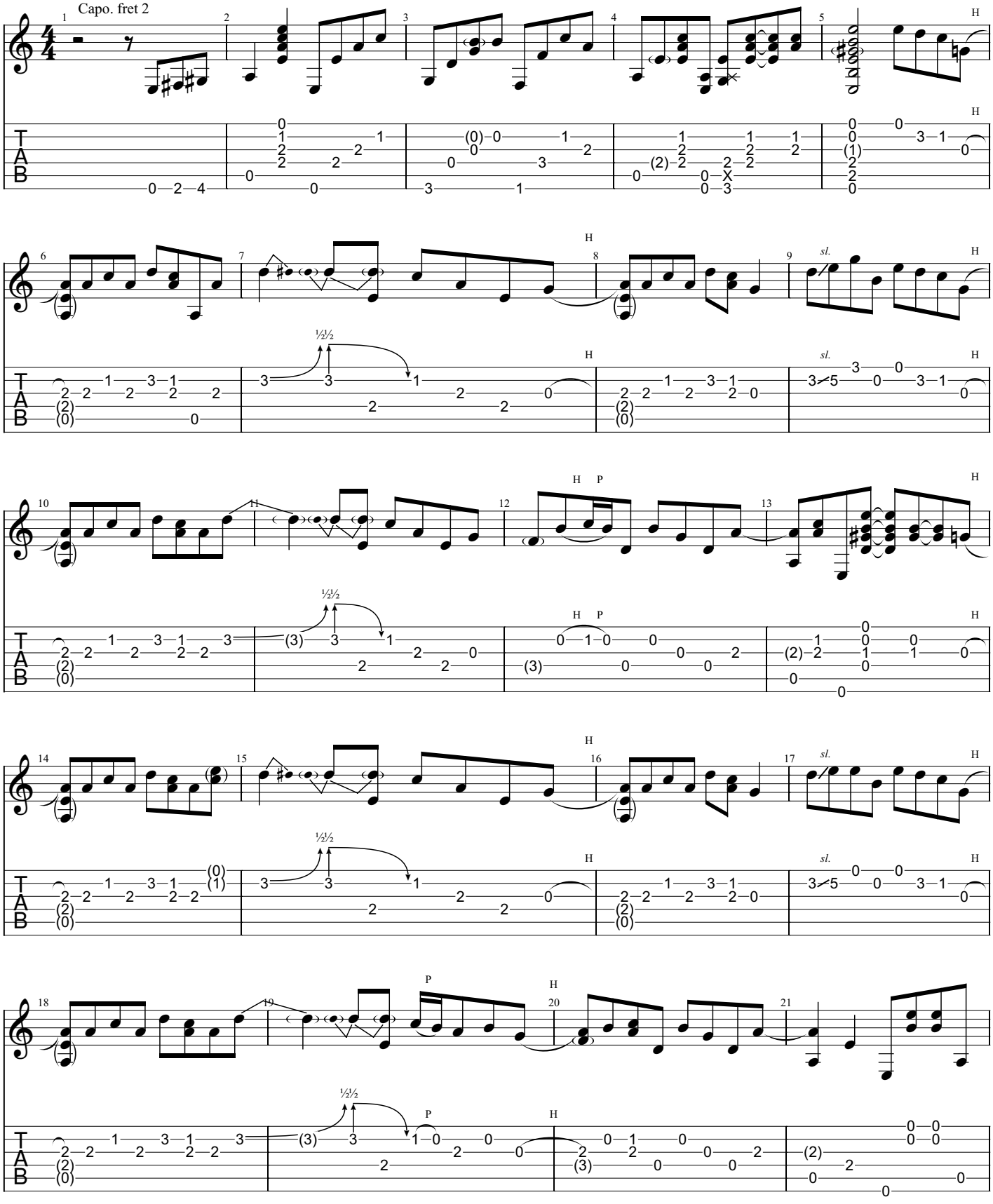
Standard tuning

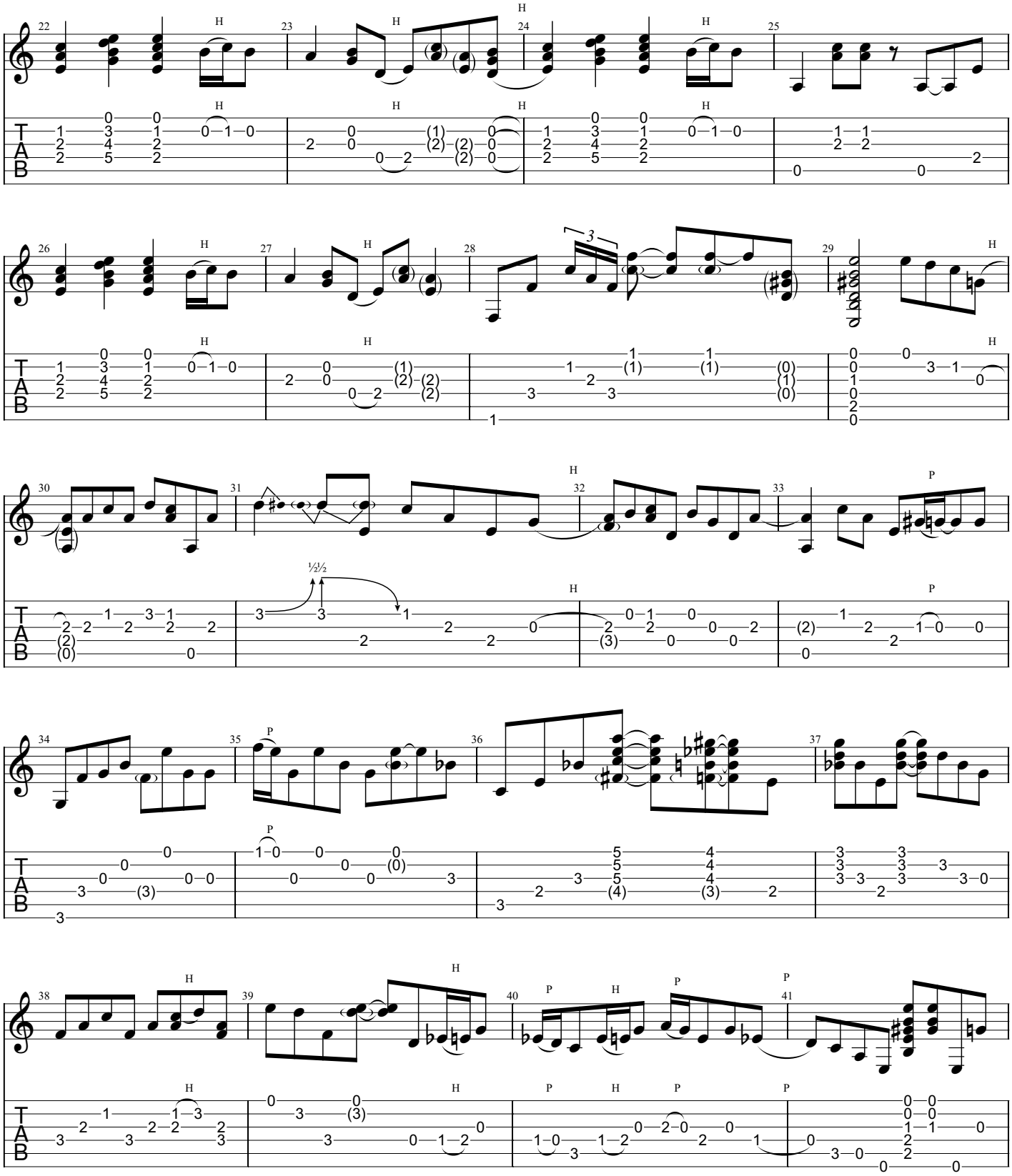


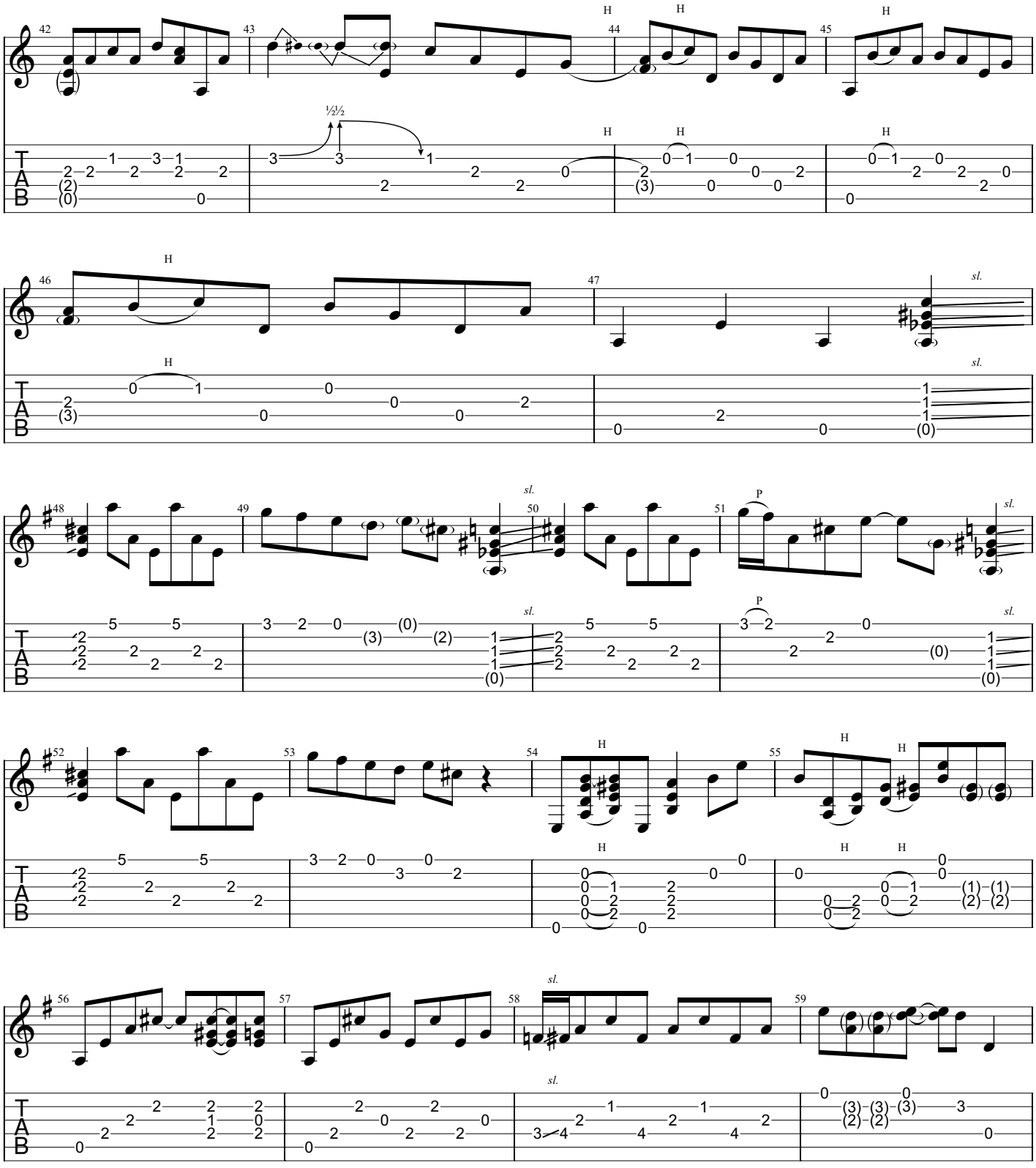
WINDY AND WARM (1973)

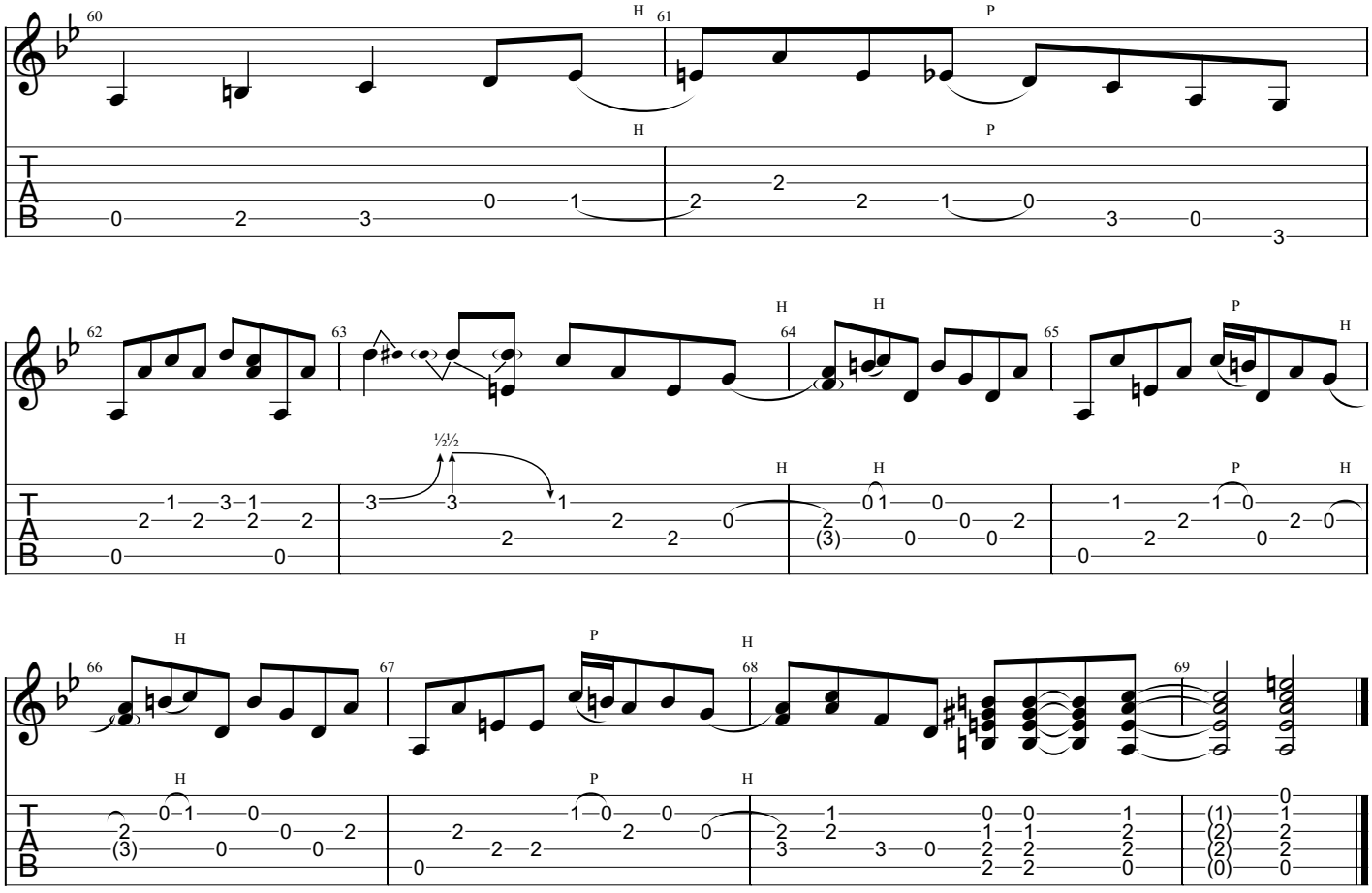
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning





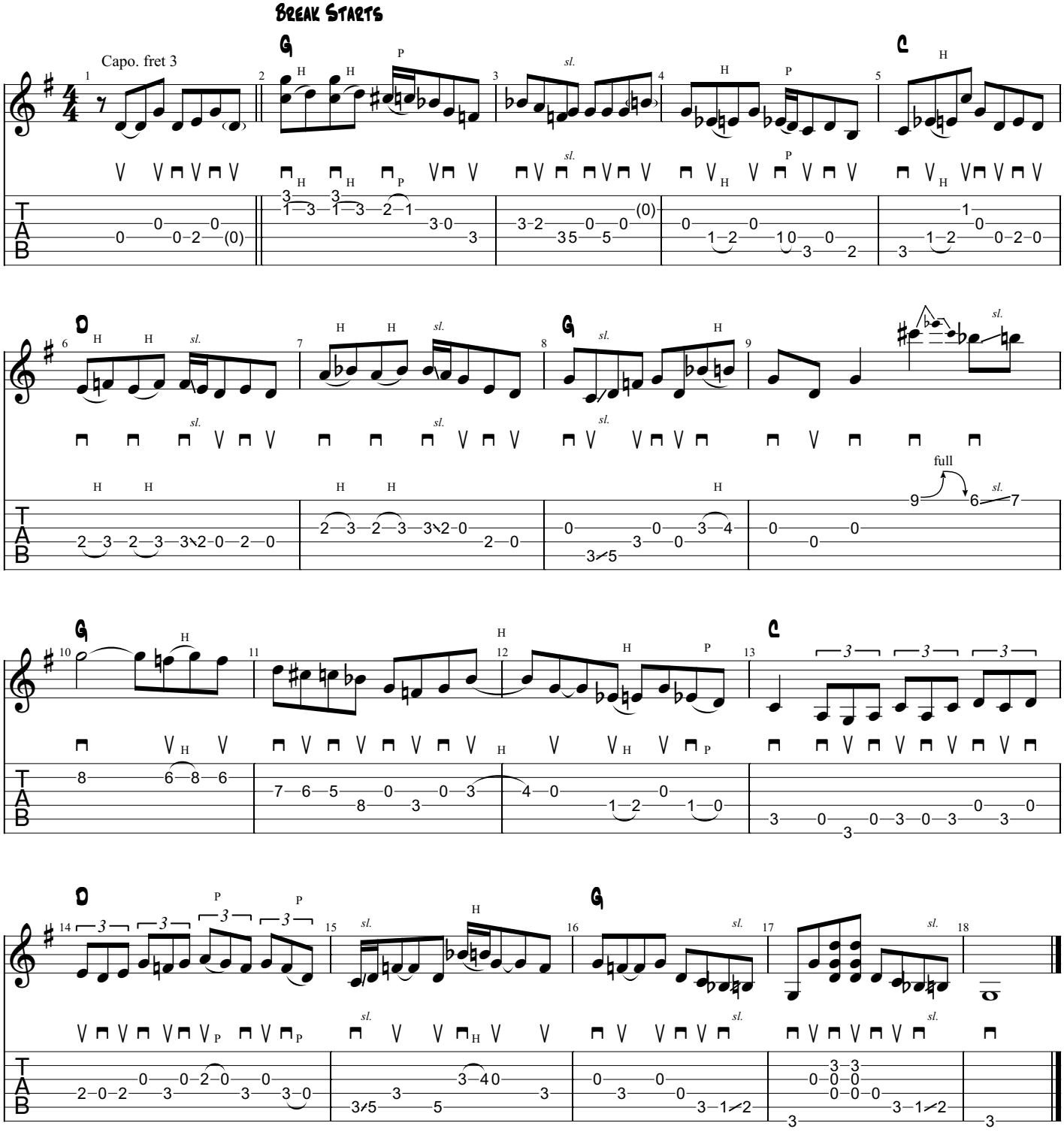

42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
H
P
sl.
½½
T
A
B


60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
H
P
½½

YOU DON'T KNOW MY MIND (1975)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

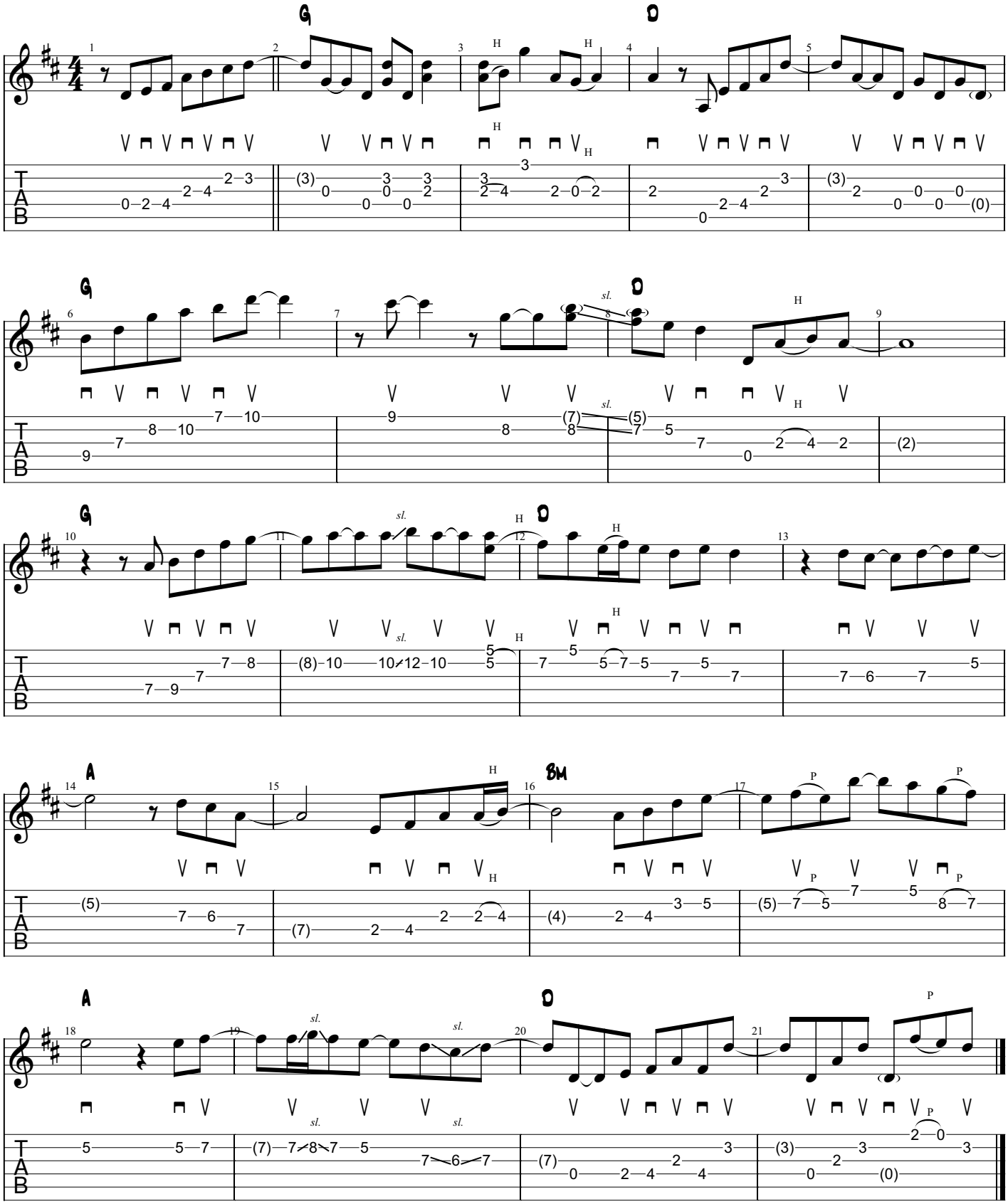
Standard tuning



YOU WERE THERE FOR ME (2004)

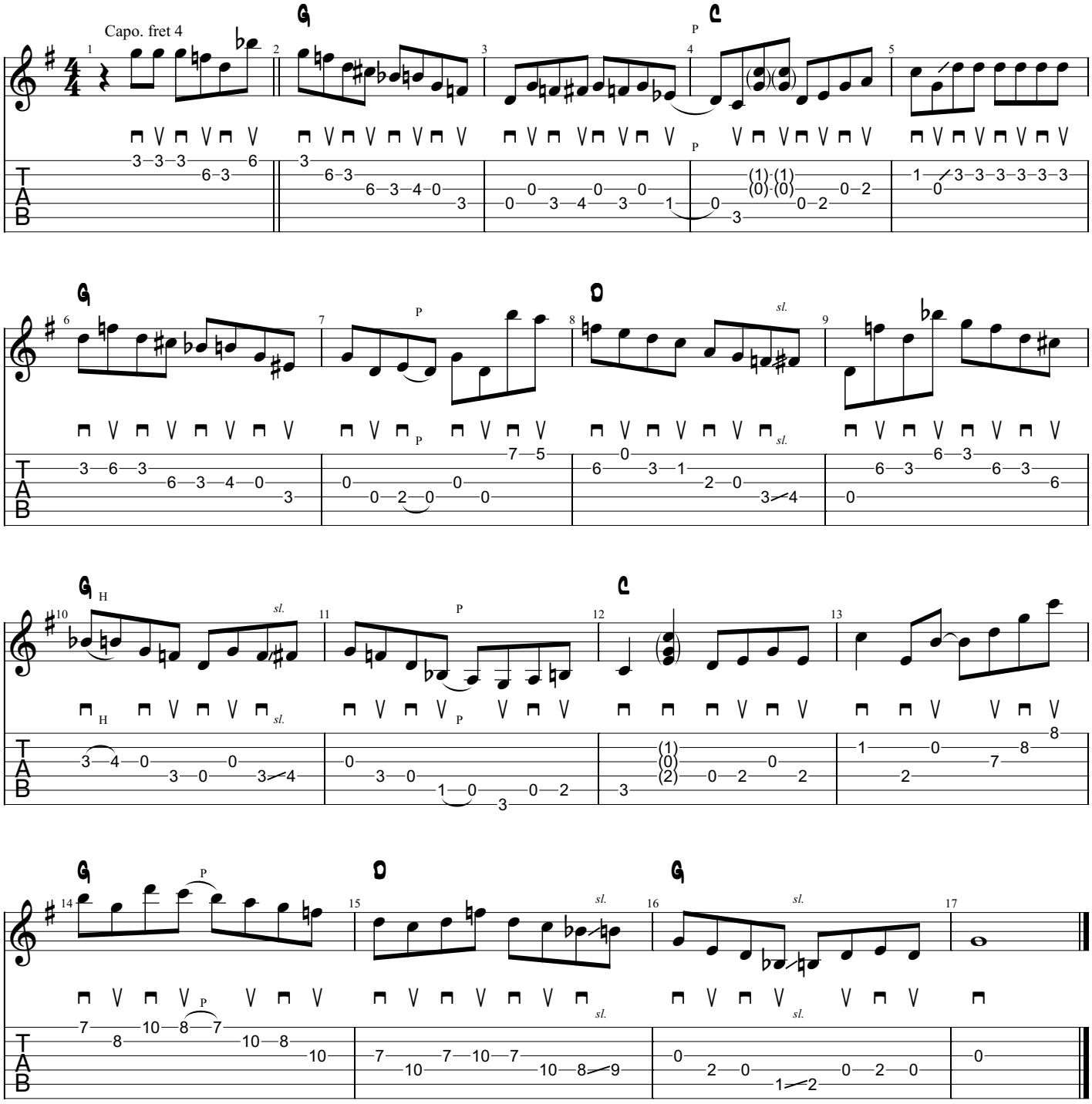
AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE

Standard tuning



YOUR LOVE IS LIKE A FLOWER (1982)

AS PERFORMED BY TONY RICE



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