Pilbara Strike 1946

by Florence Lingayne

for Guitar Ensemble

~6:30

Movement I

Great Desert Council

Movement II

26 Languages - 16 Interpreters

Movement III

3 Years Long

The Pilbara strike of 1946-49 is one of the most dramatic moments in Australia's indigenous history. Aboriginal people not only defied the owners of pastoral stations in North-West Western Australia by demanding better wages and conditions, but also sought to win independence from their colonial masters. In its aftermath, they acquired considerable freedom and autonomy through co-operative mining and other ventures. The story of this struggle inspired the campaign for Aboriginal rights throughout Australia.

- *Monash University. (2018). Pilbara Strike. https://pilbarastrike.org/index.html*

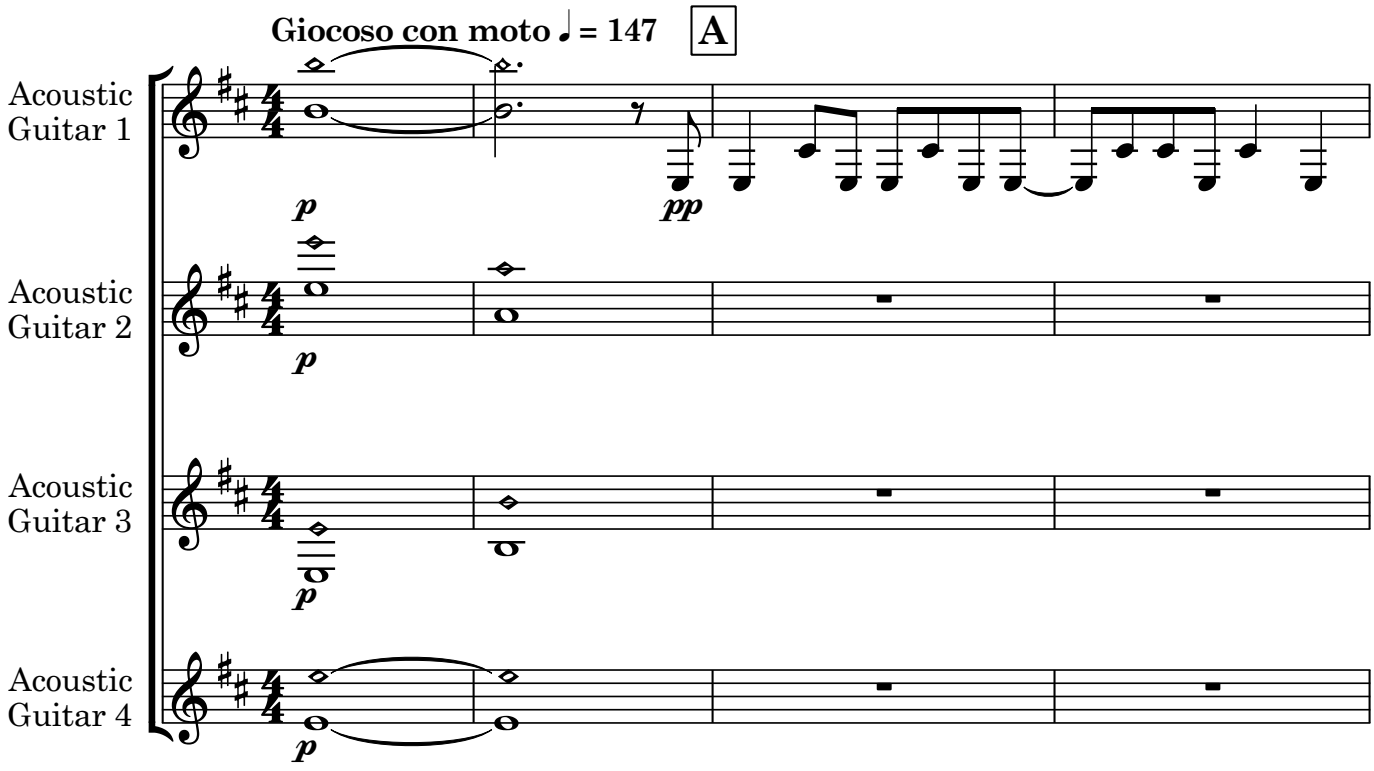
The Pilbara is known for its iron mines, red dirt, rich Indigenous history, and some of the Earth's oldest rocks. Within three movements, I've weaved cross-cultural communication, expansive landscapes, and high-energy dances to show the vastness of both the history and the horizons. But it isn't all just red dirt and iron.

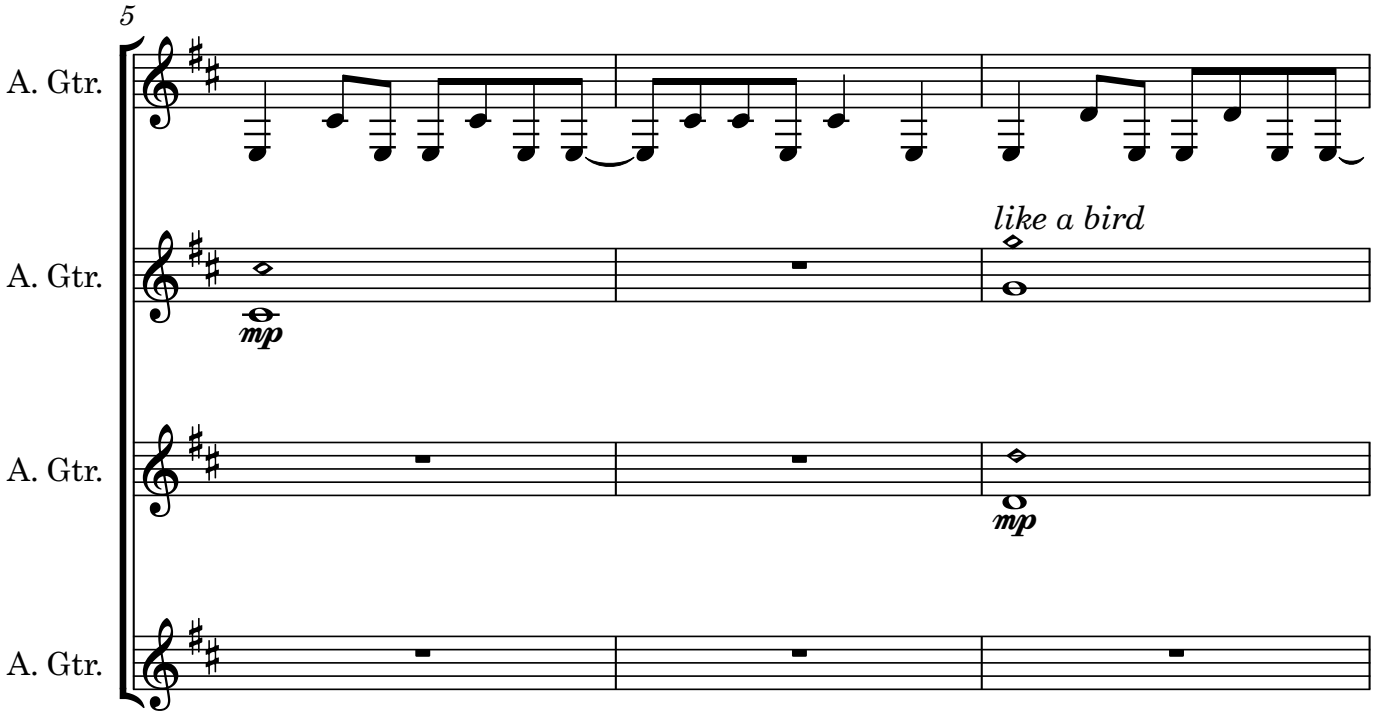
With the recent 2023 Voice to Parliament vote having an overwhelming 'No' result, I thought it was crucial to understand the history of Aboriginal rights in Australia. This piece coincides with the May Day sit-down strike 78 years ago in 1946 when Aboriginal people throughout the region refused to work until they got better wages. Following this first strike, the climactic walkout happened in June of 1946 and continued for three long years, during which the police threatened and then arrested 43 men. It wasn't until multiple Unions teamed up to aid the strikers that the Department of Native Affairs granted concessions in 1949. Let this recent history guide us to create a fairer country for everyone.

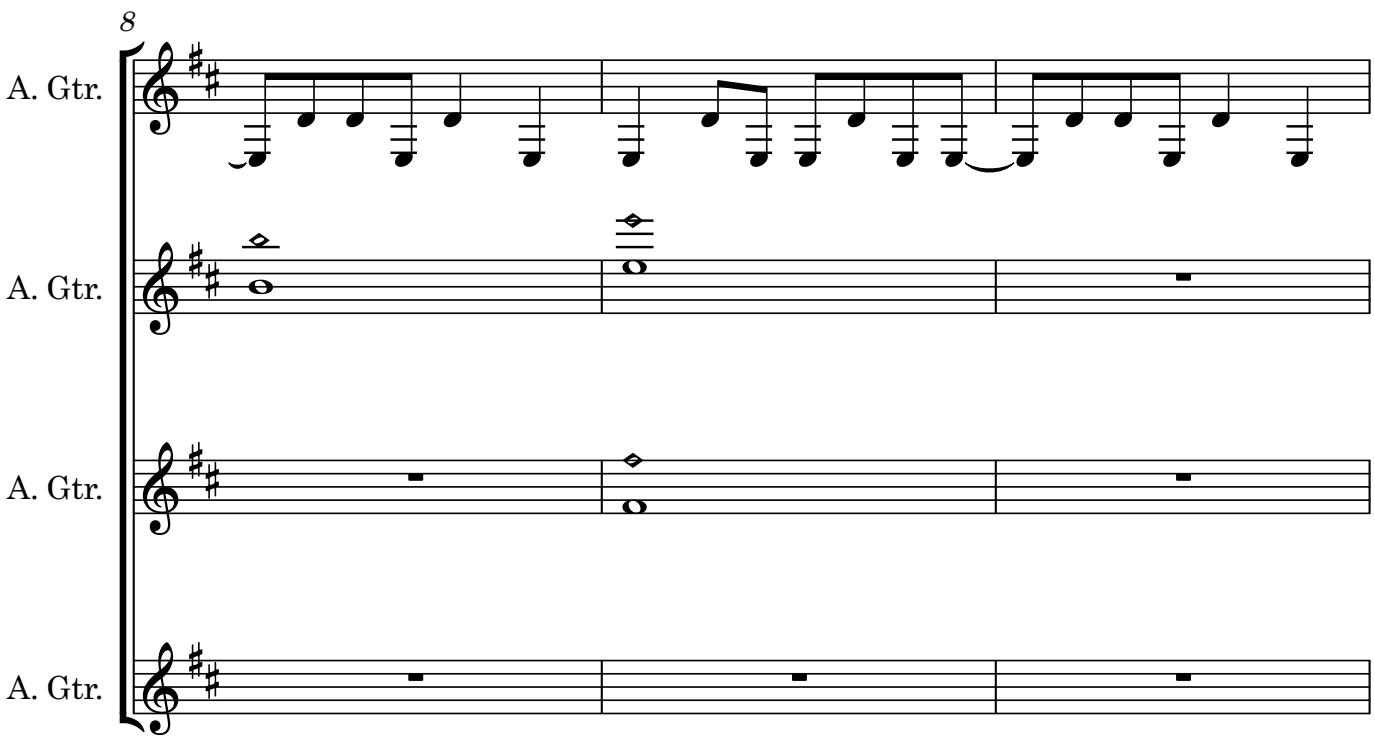
Pilbara Strike, 1946

I - Great Desert Council

Florence Lingayne



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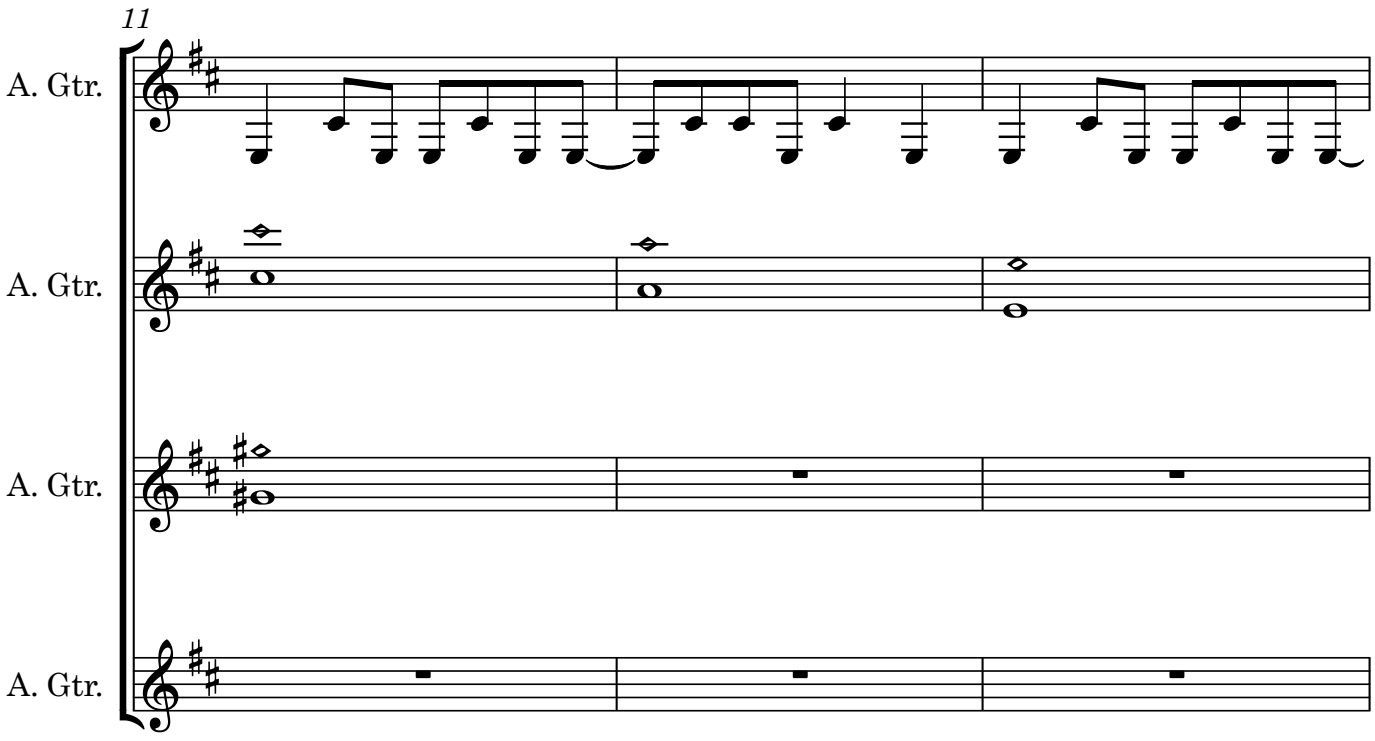
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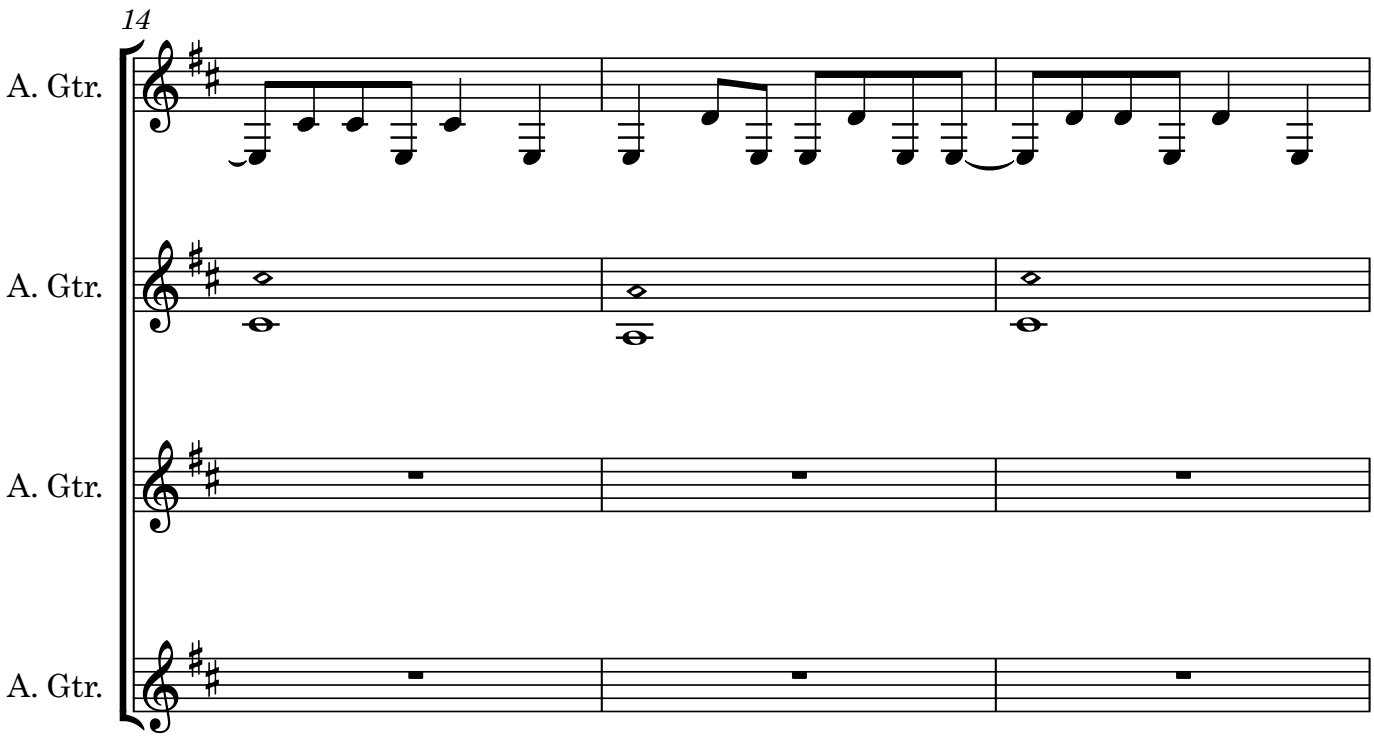
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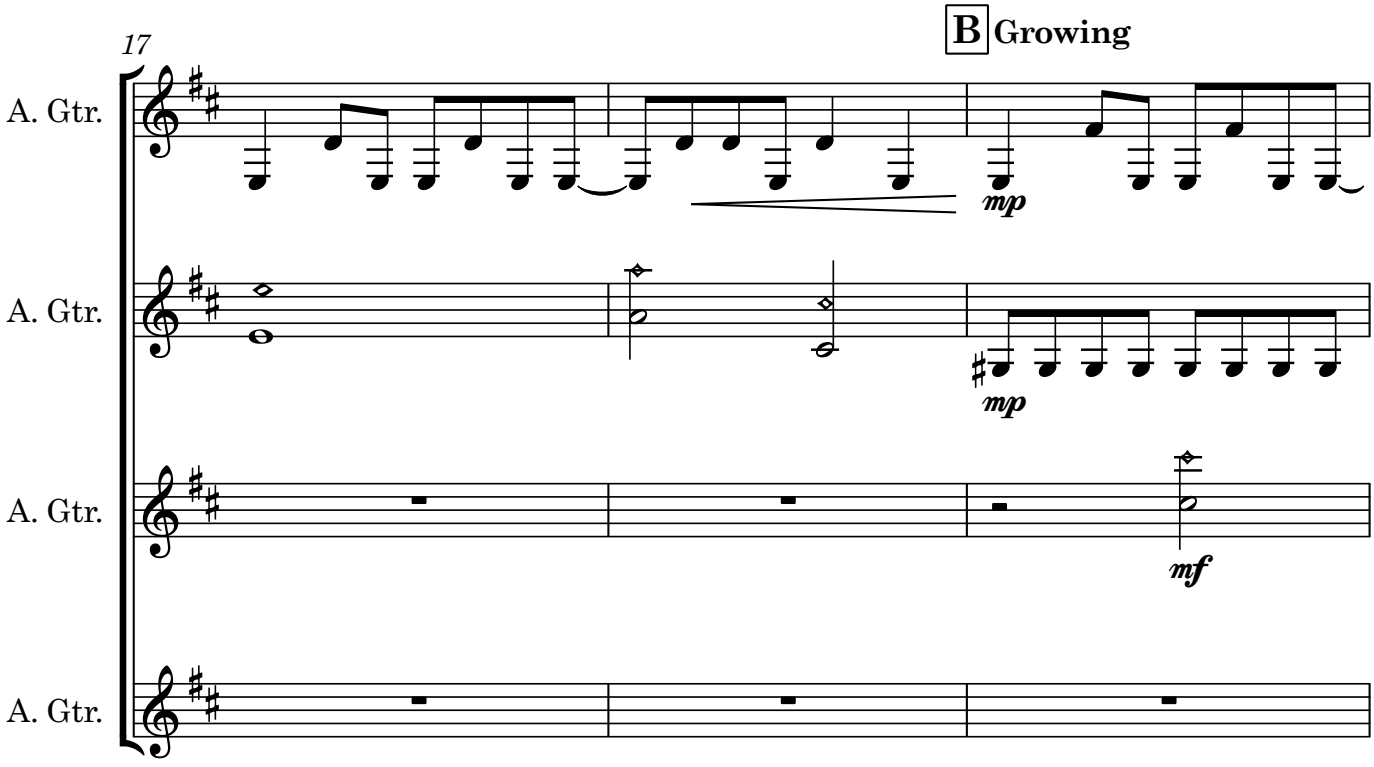
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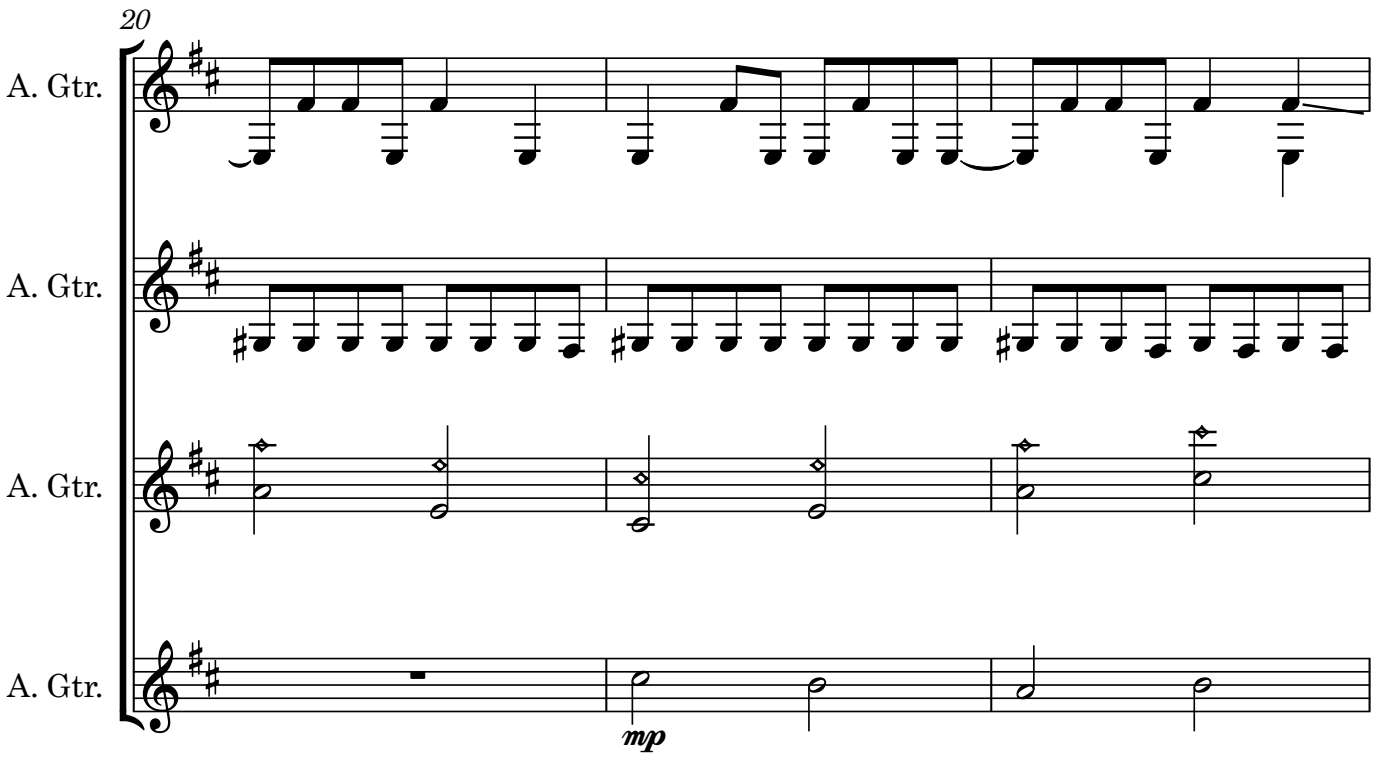
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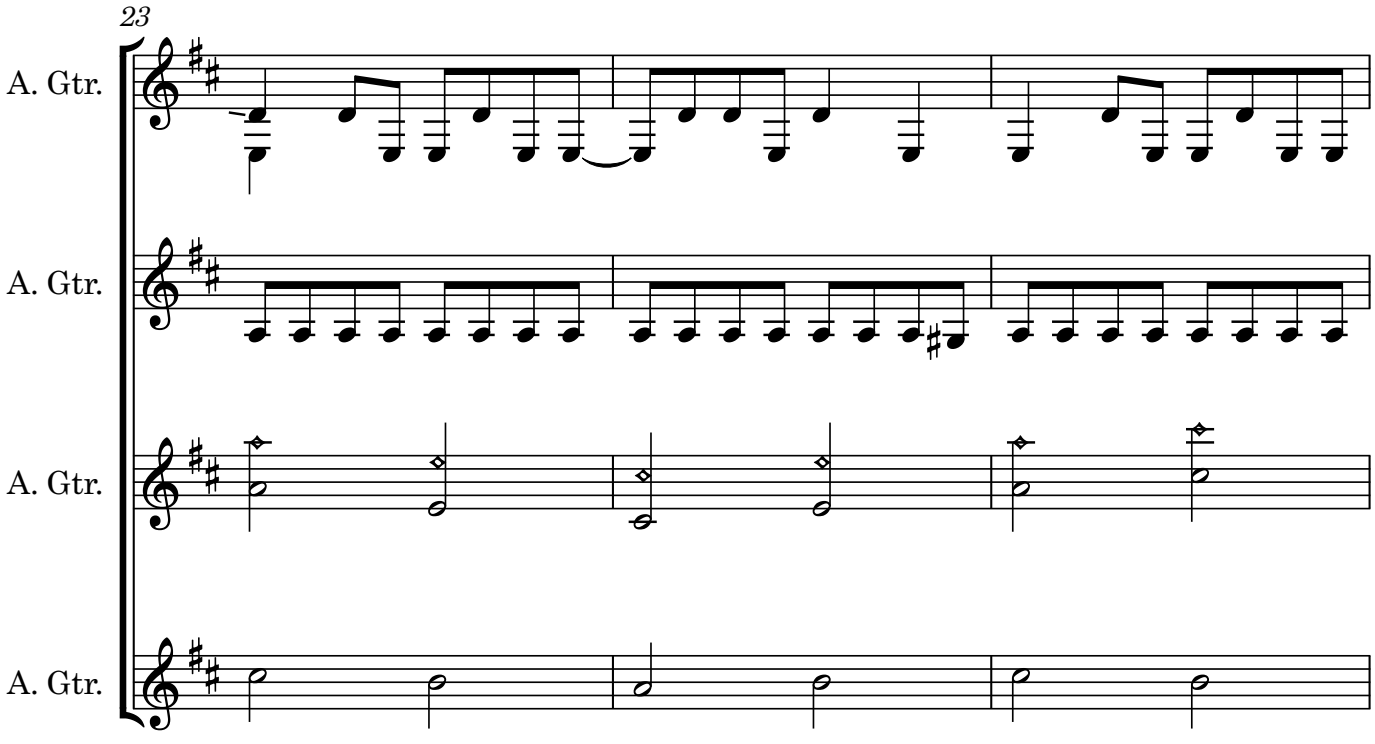
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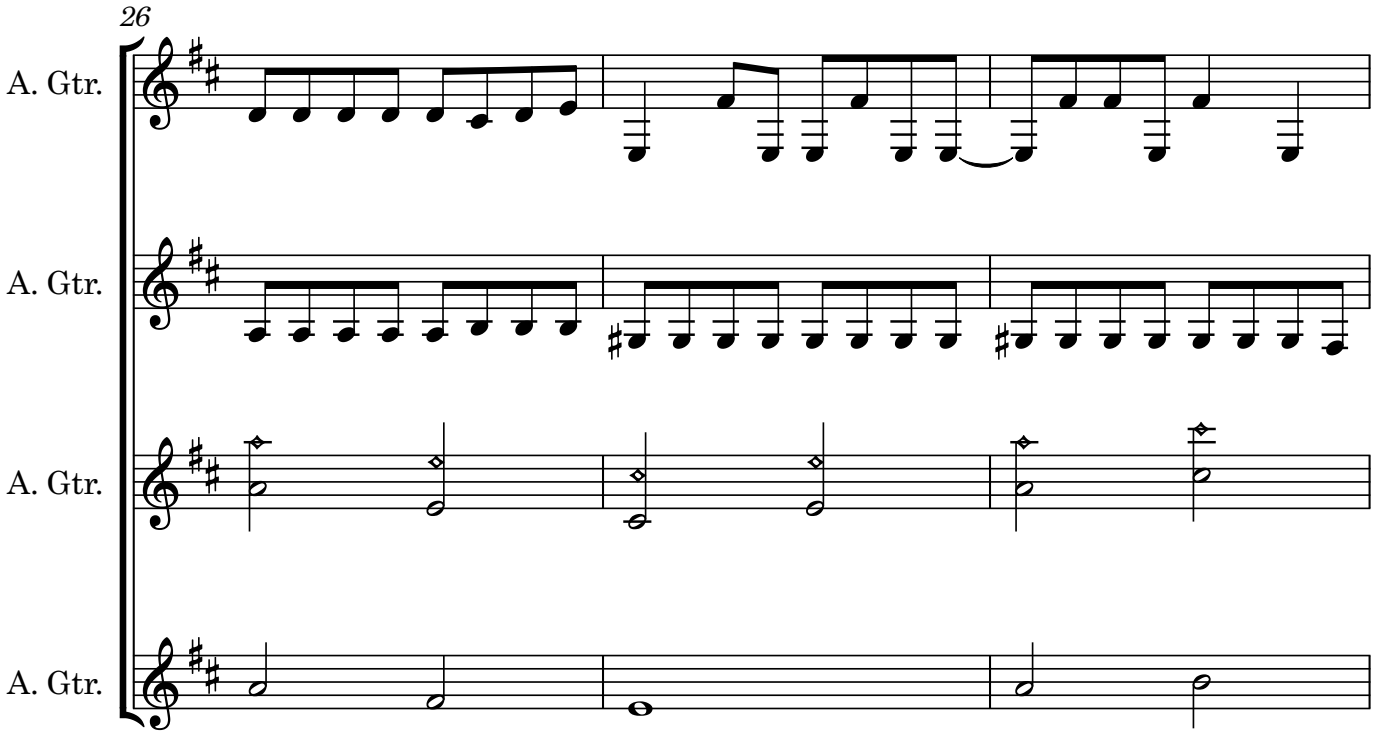
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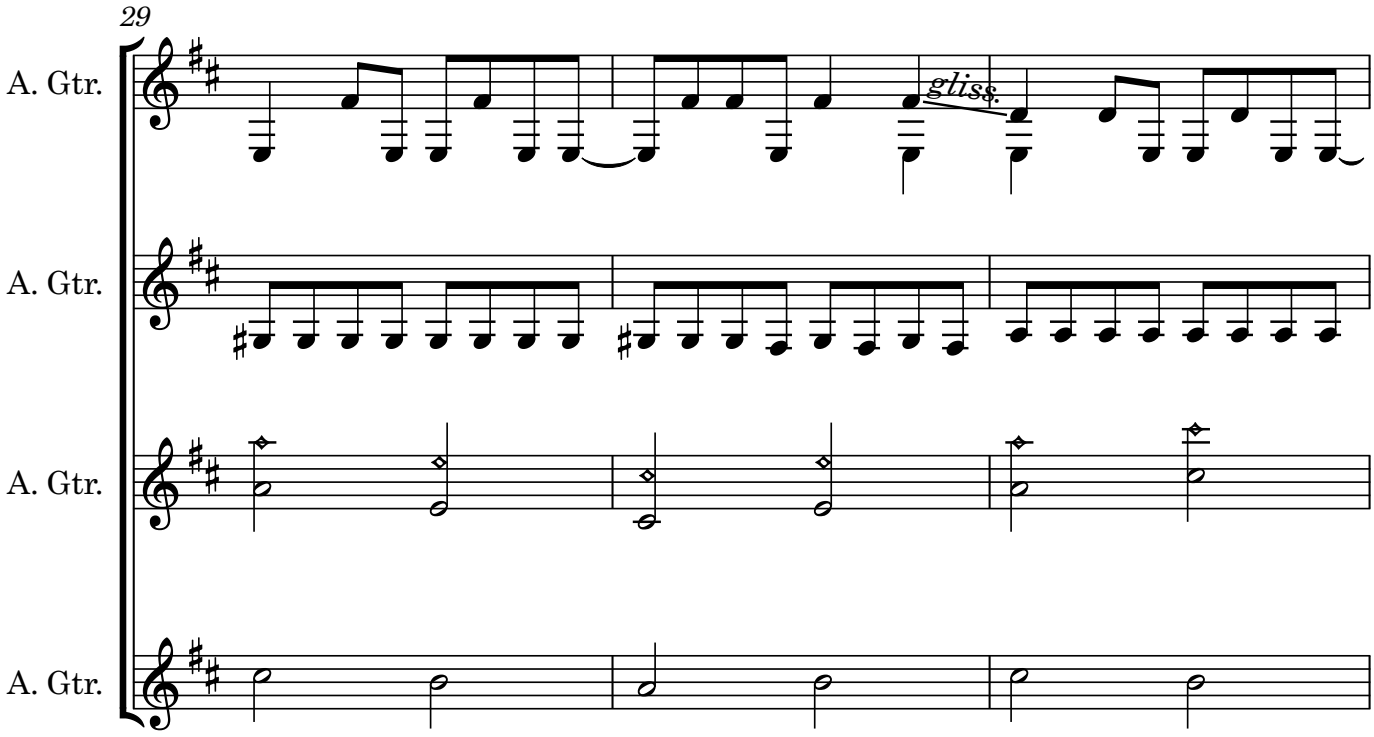
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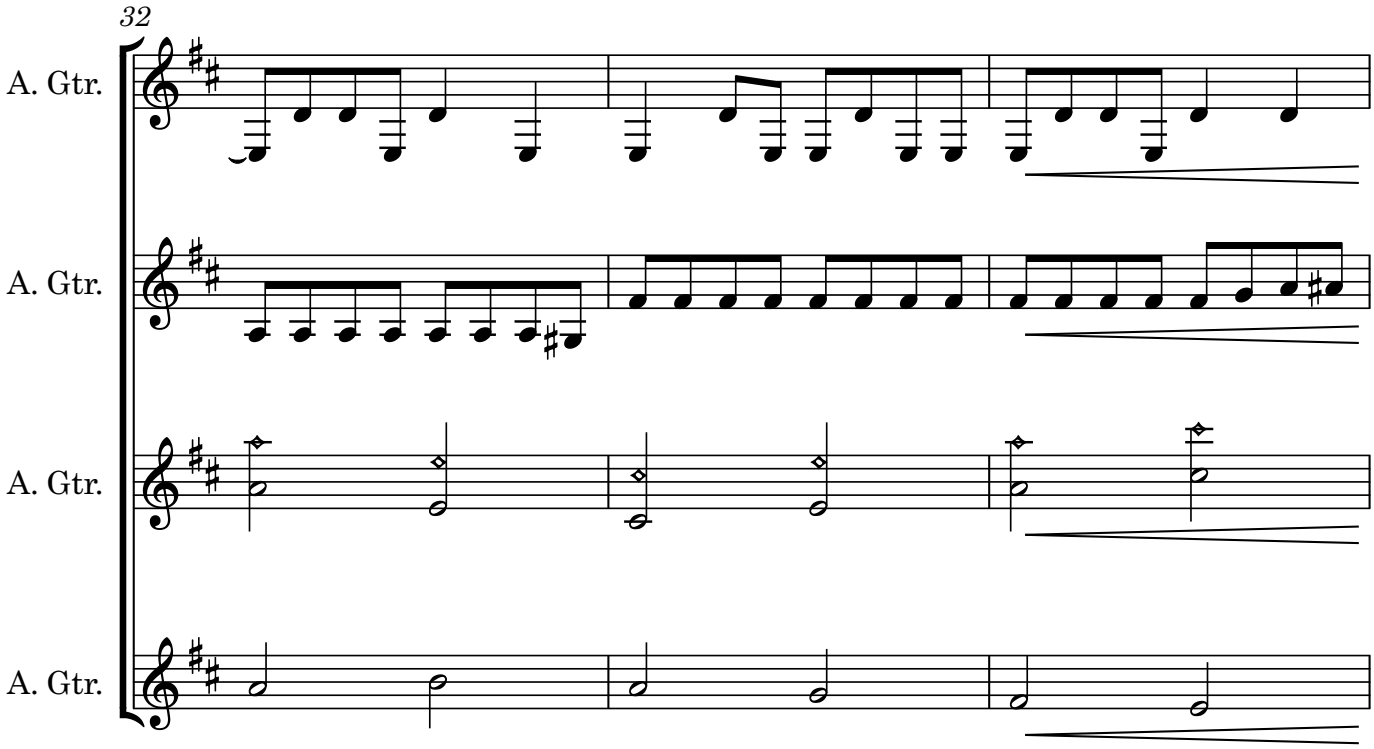
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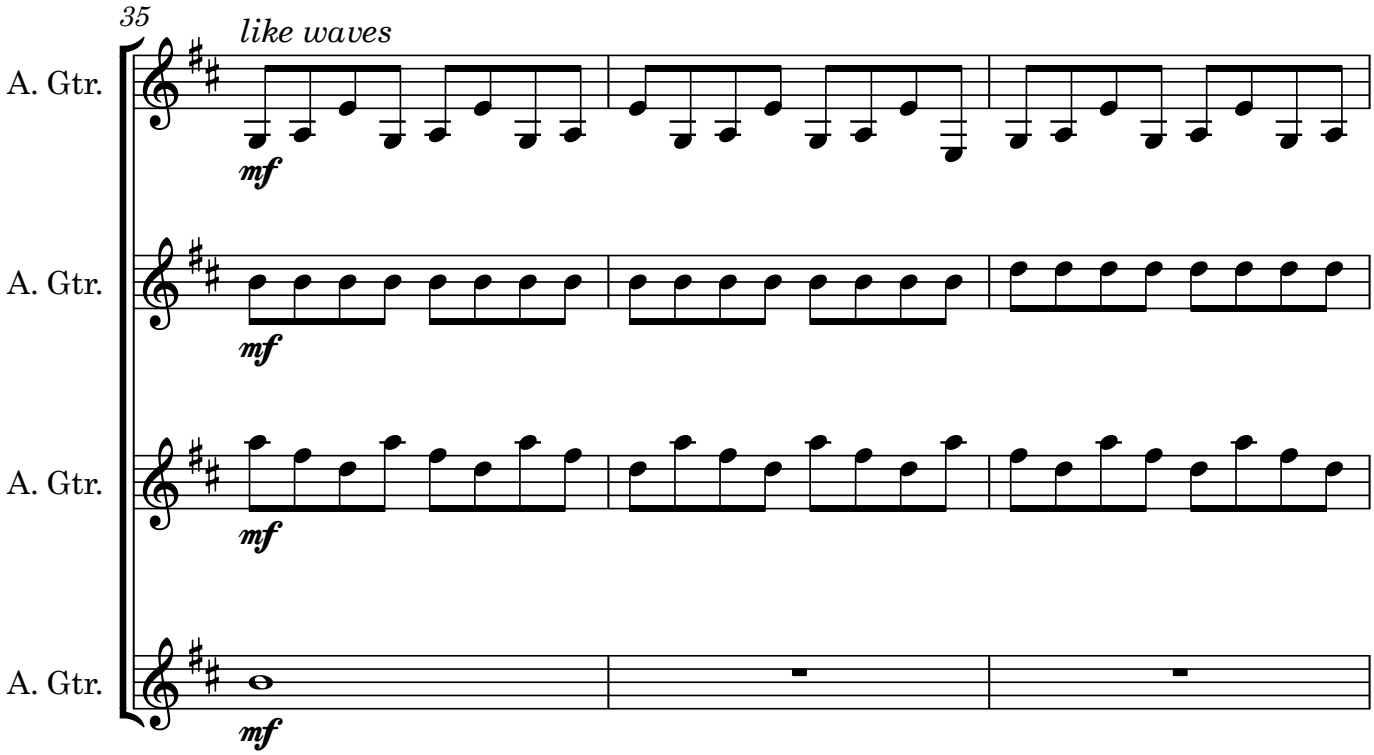
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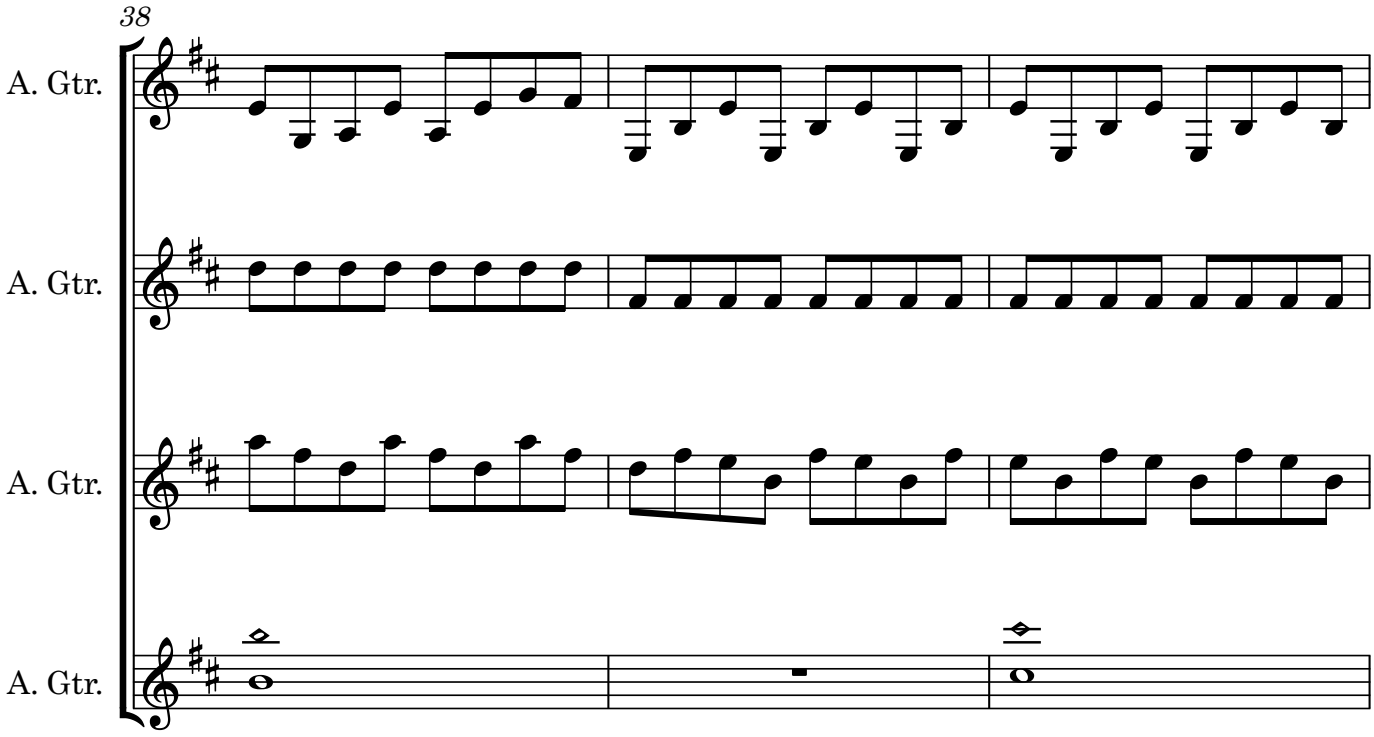
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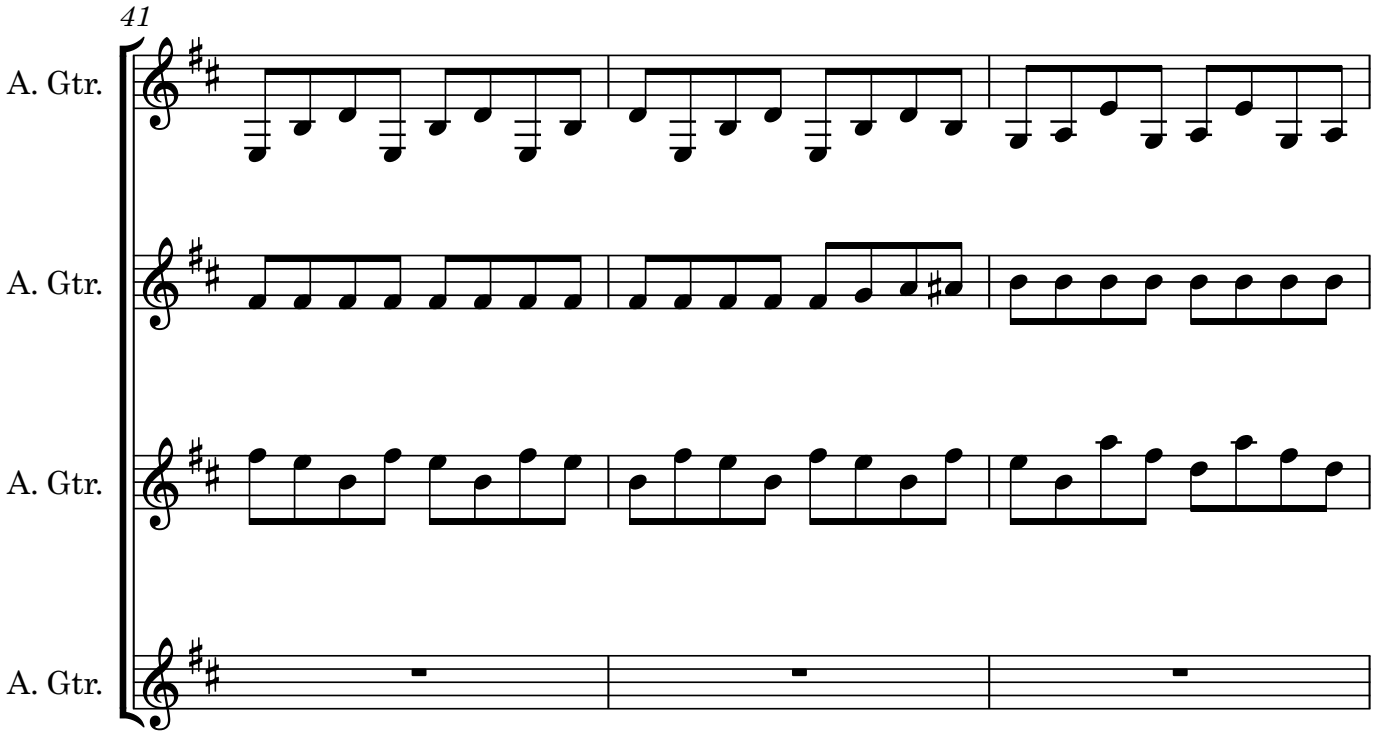
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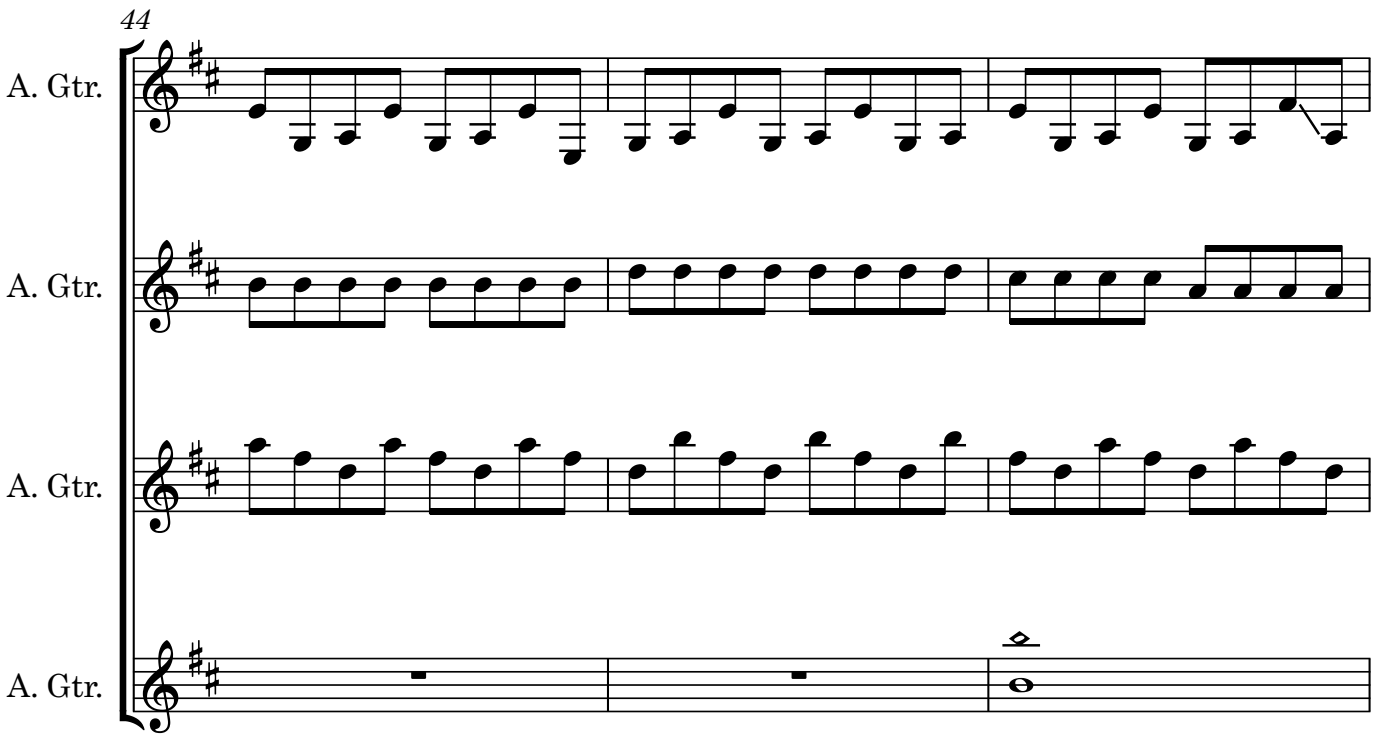
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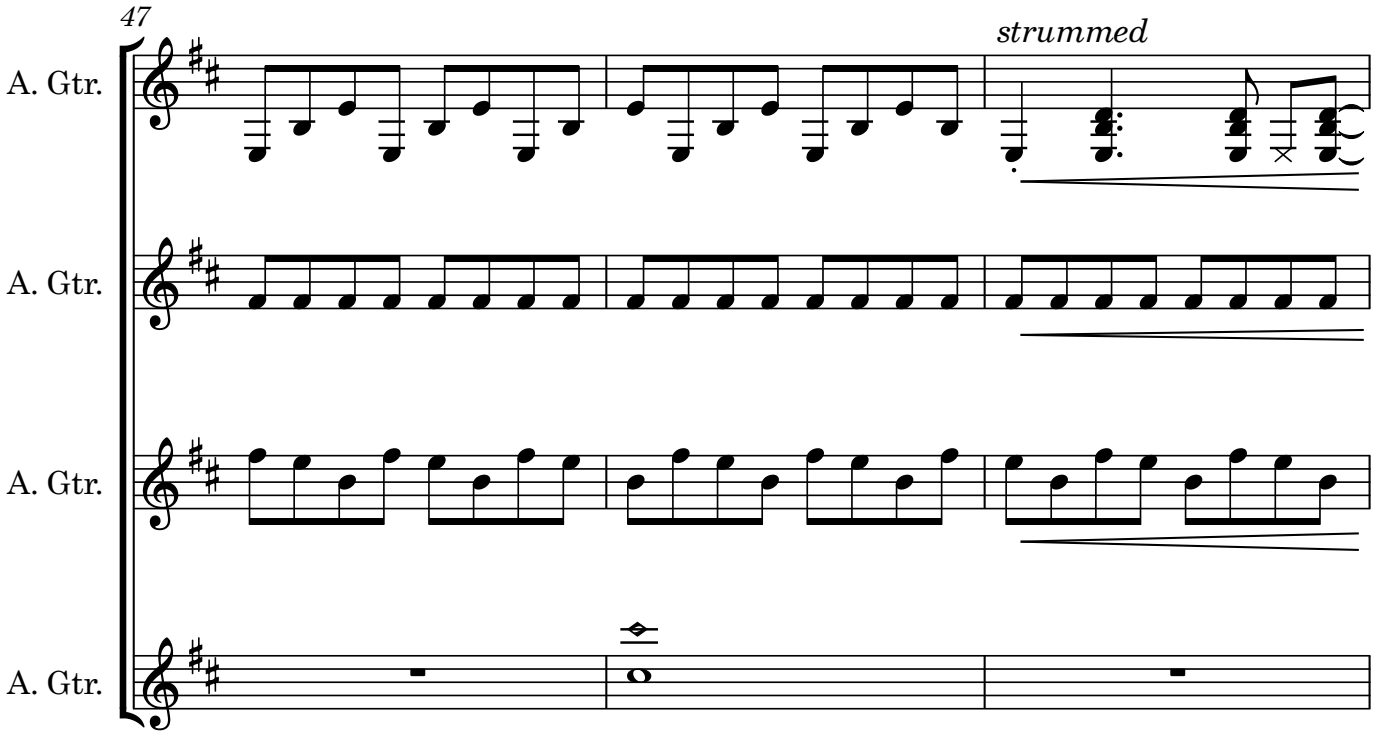
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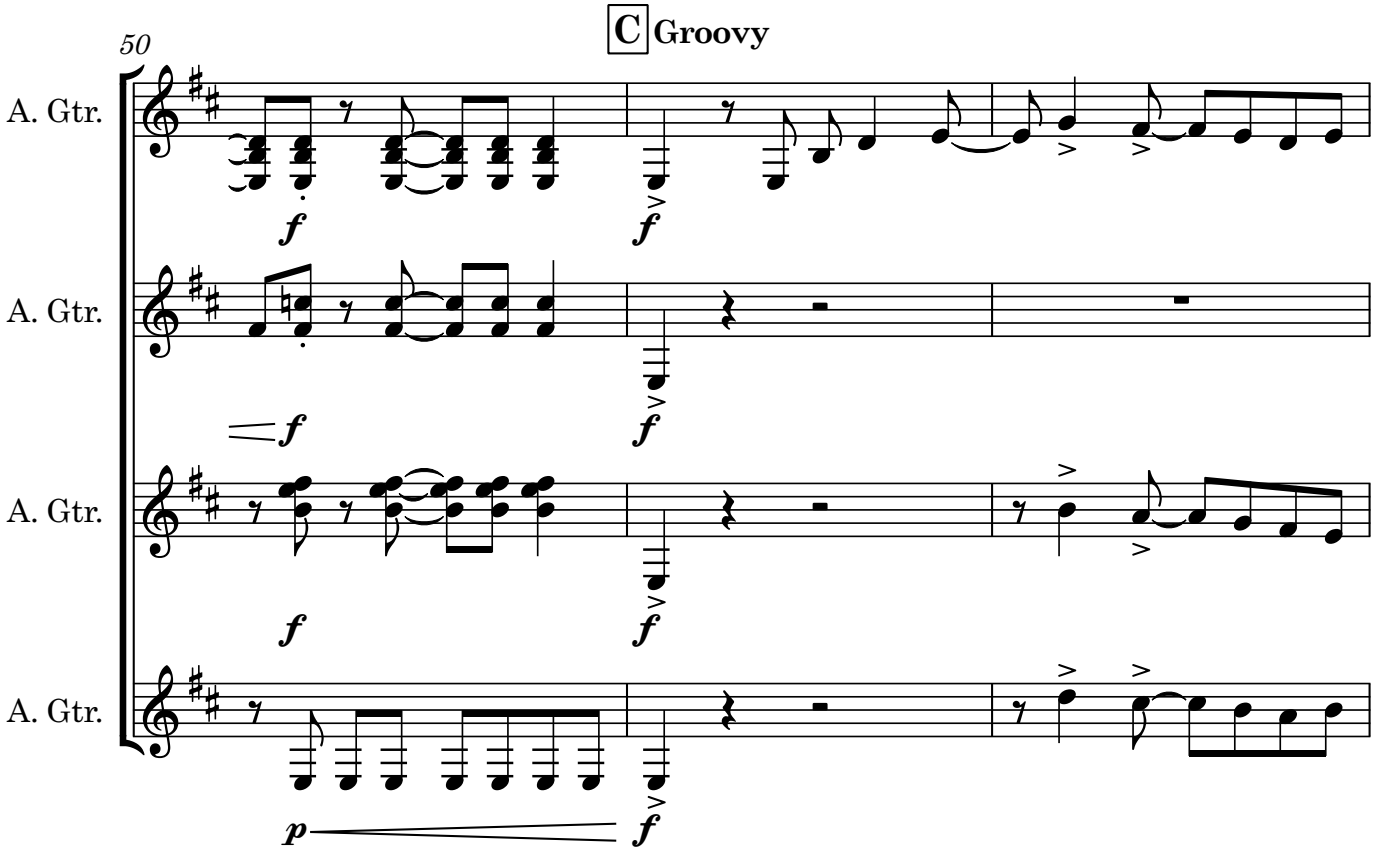
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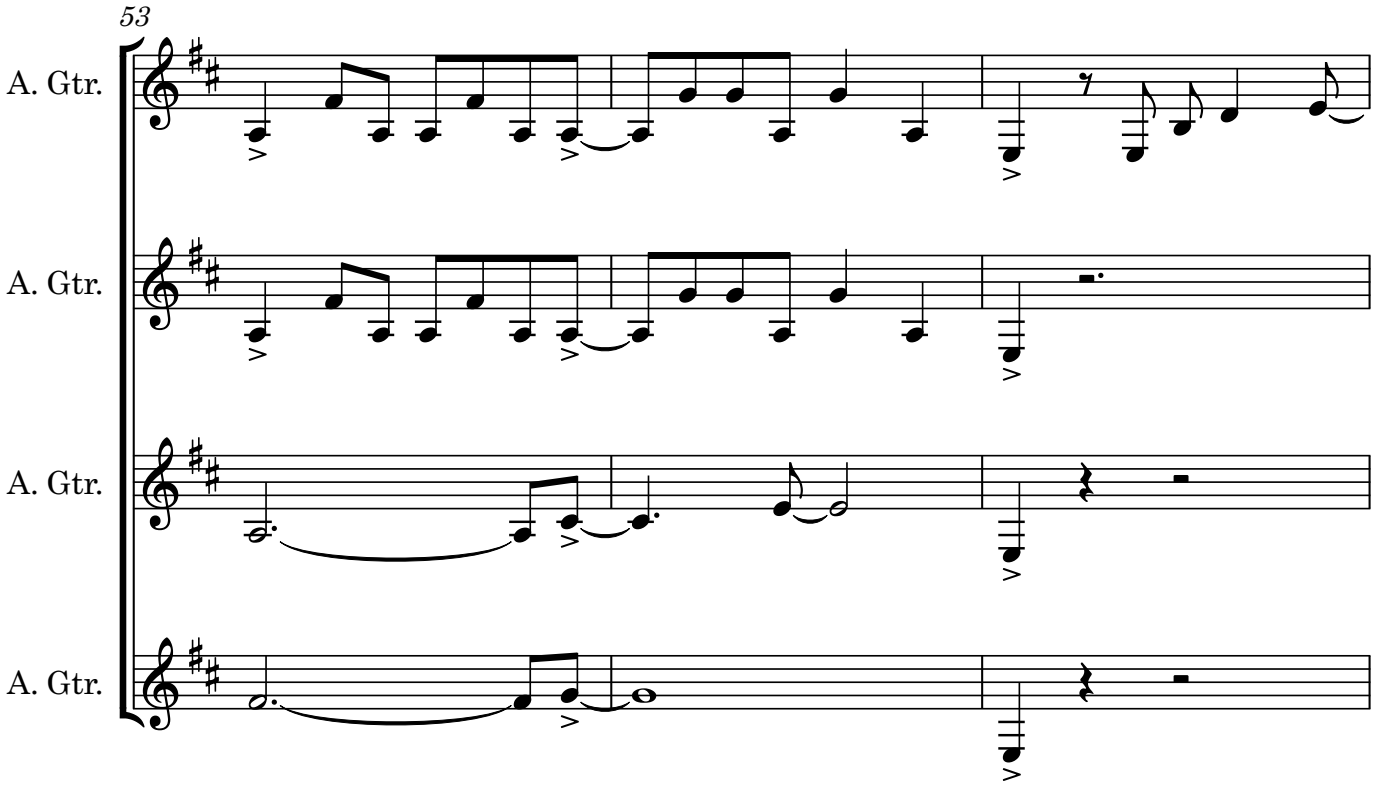
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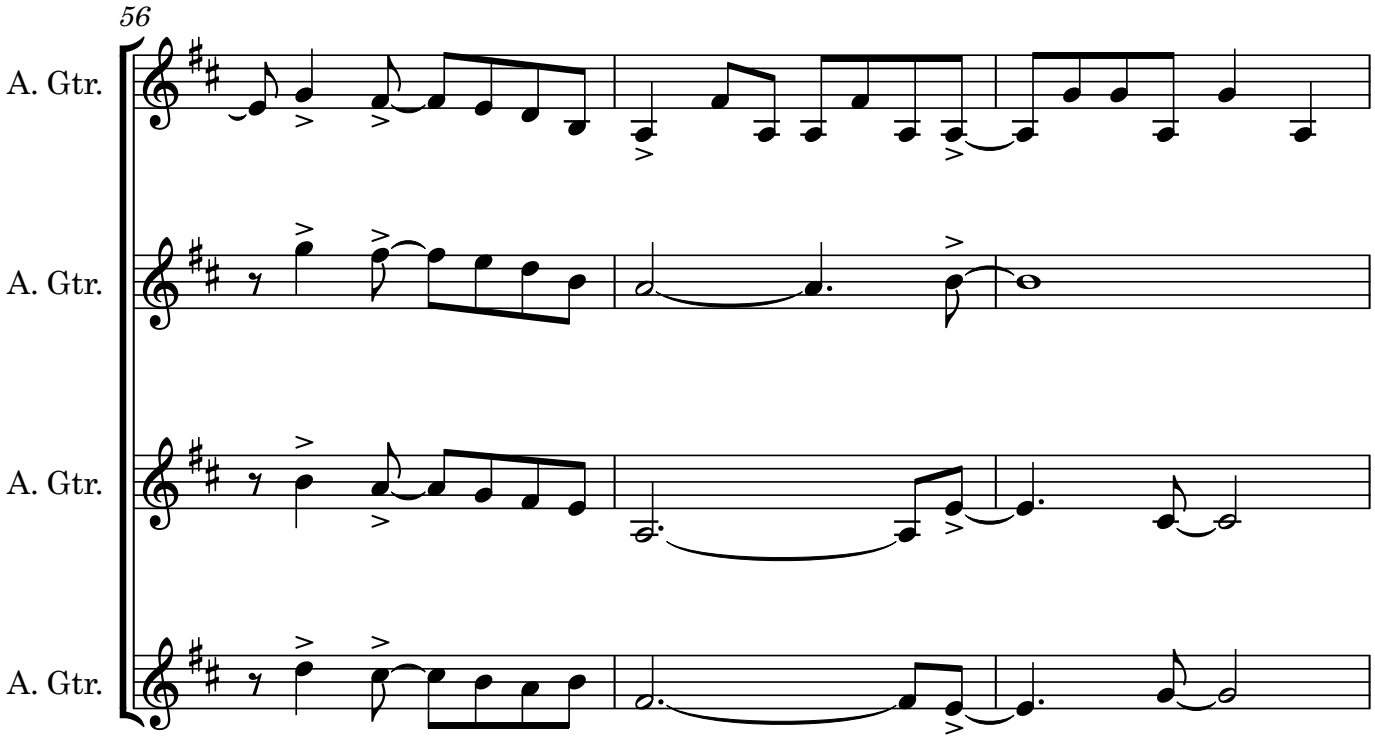
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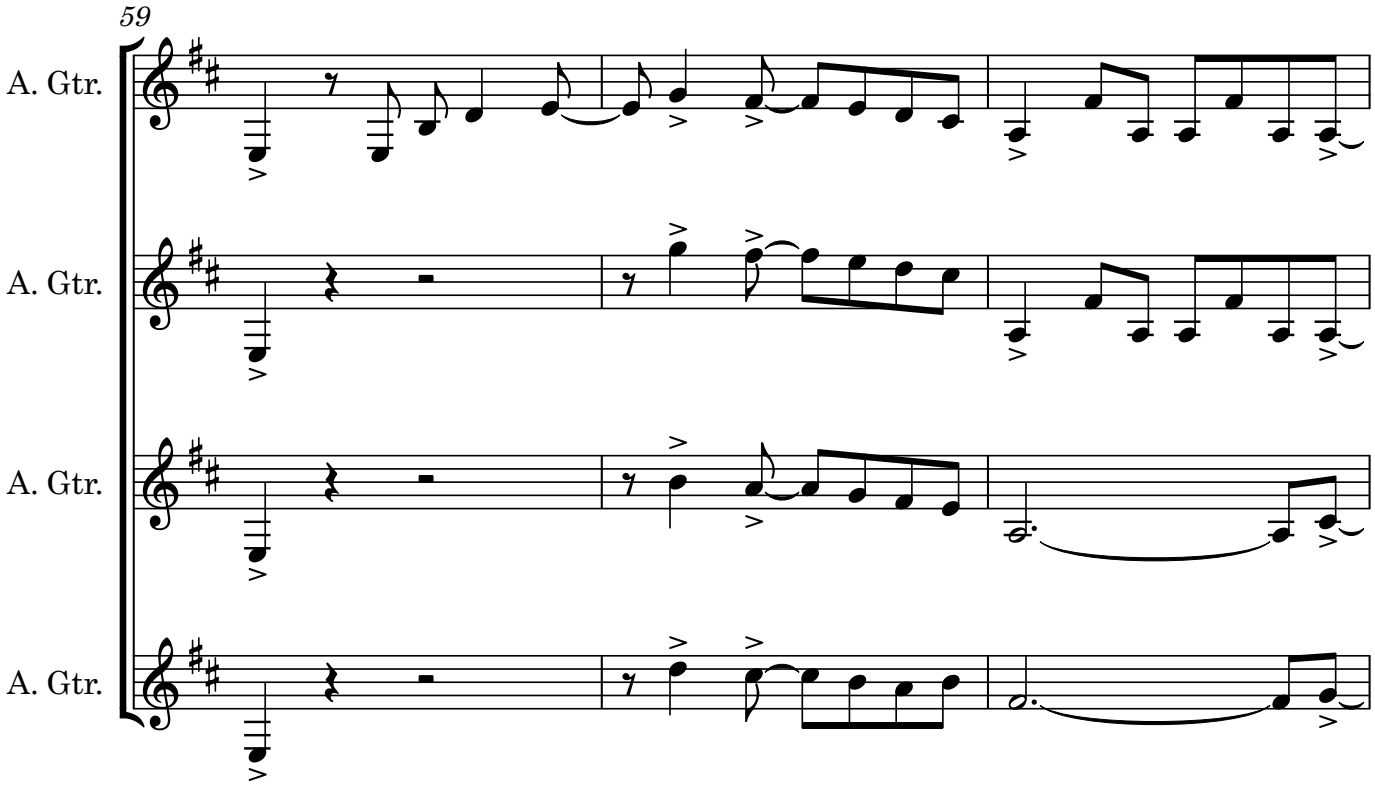
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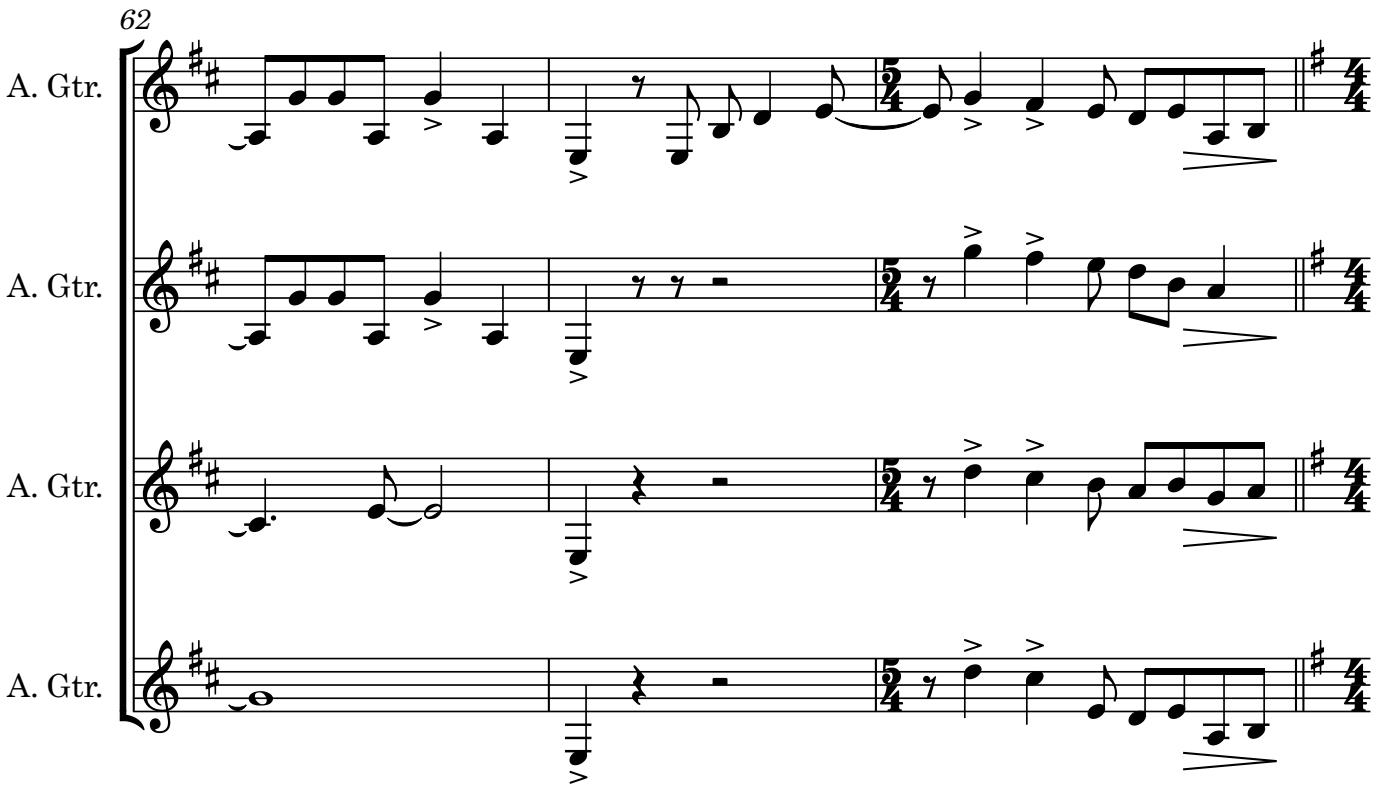
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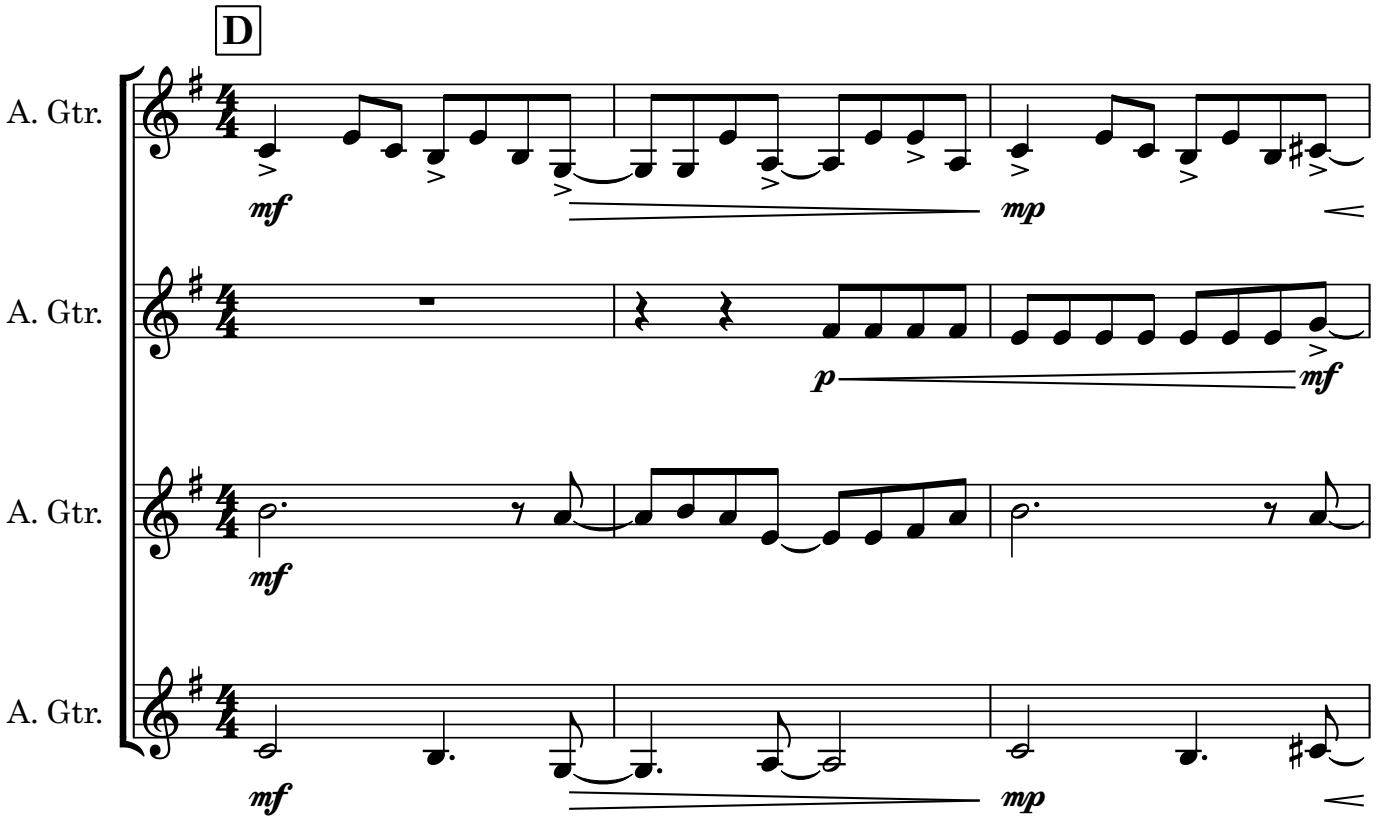
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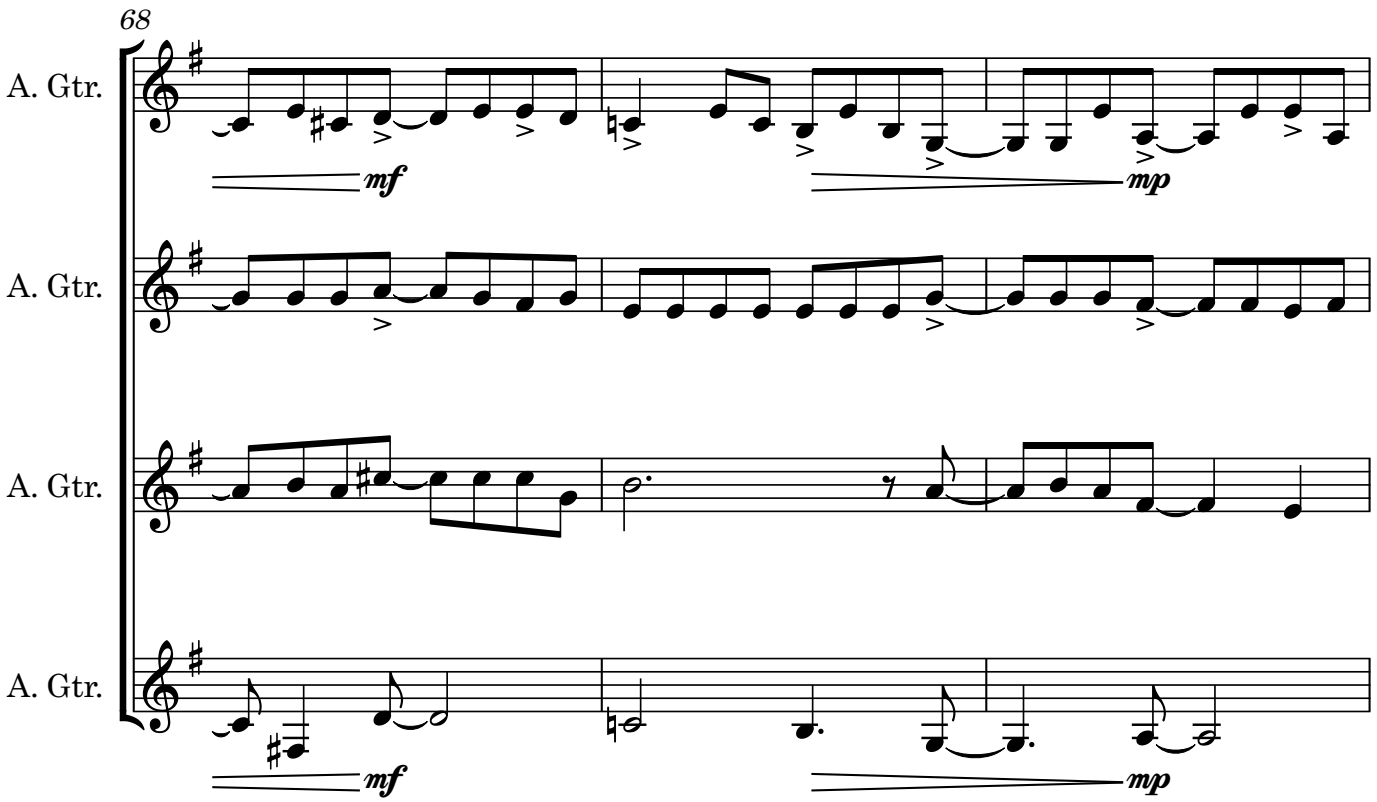
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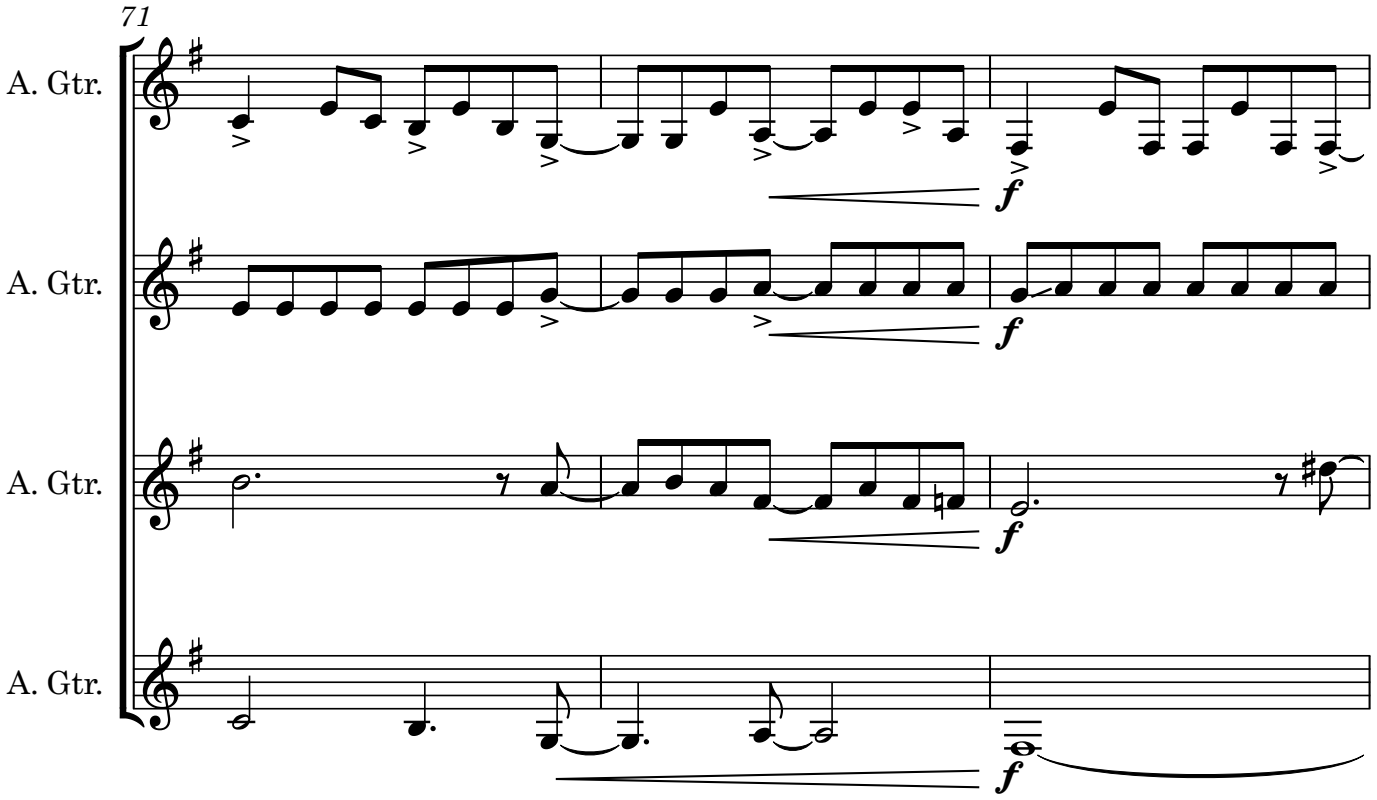
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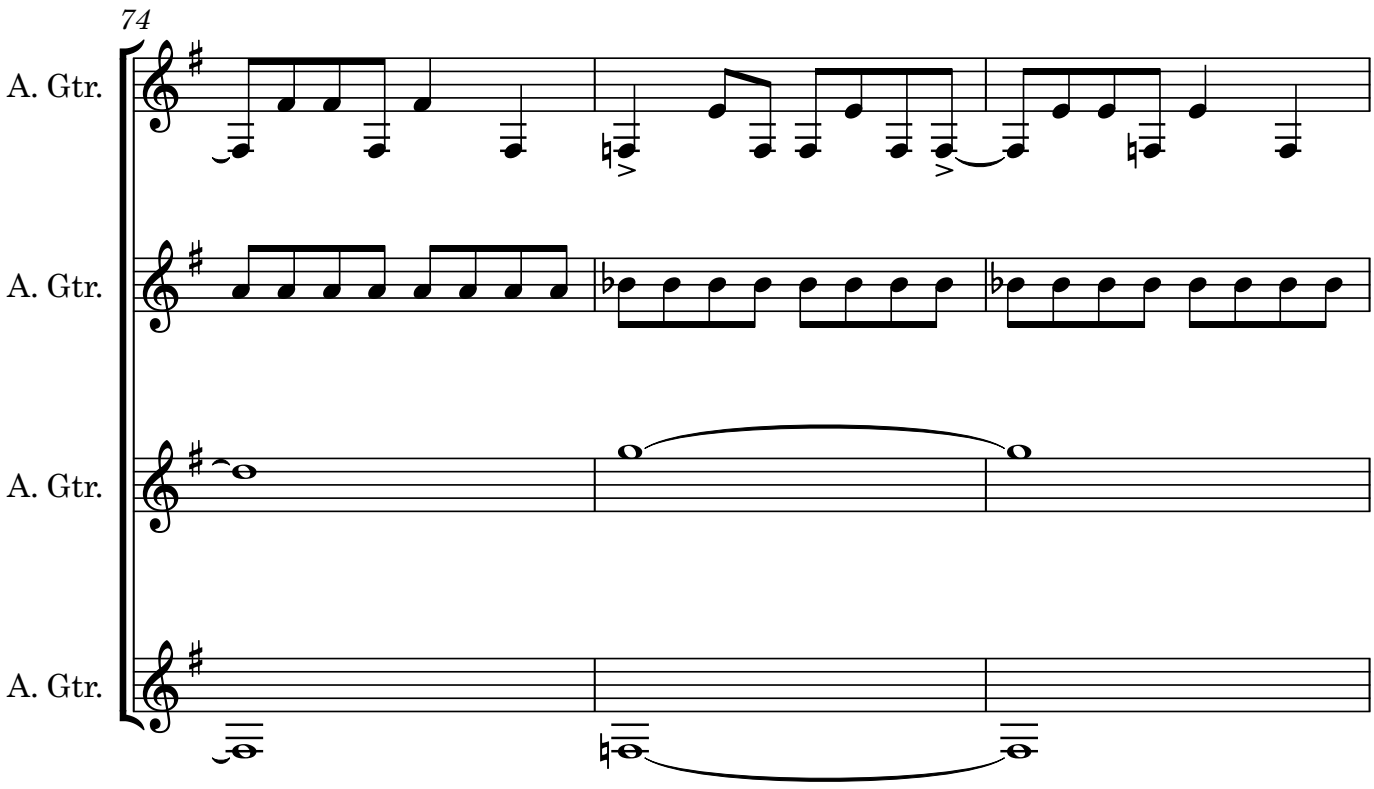
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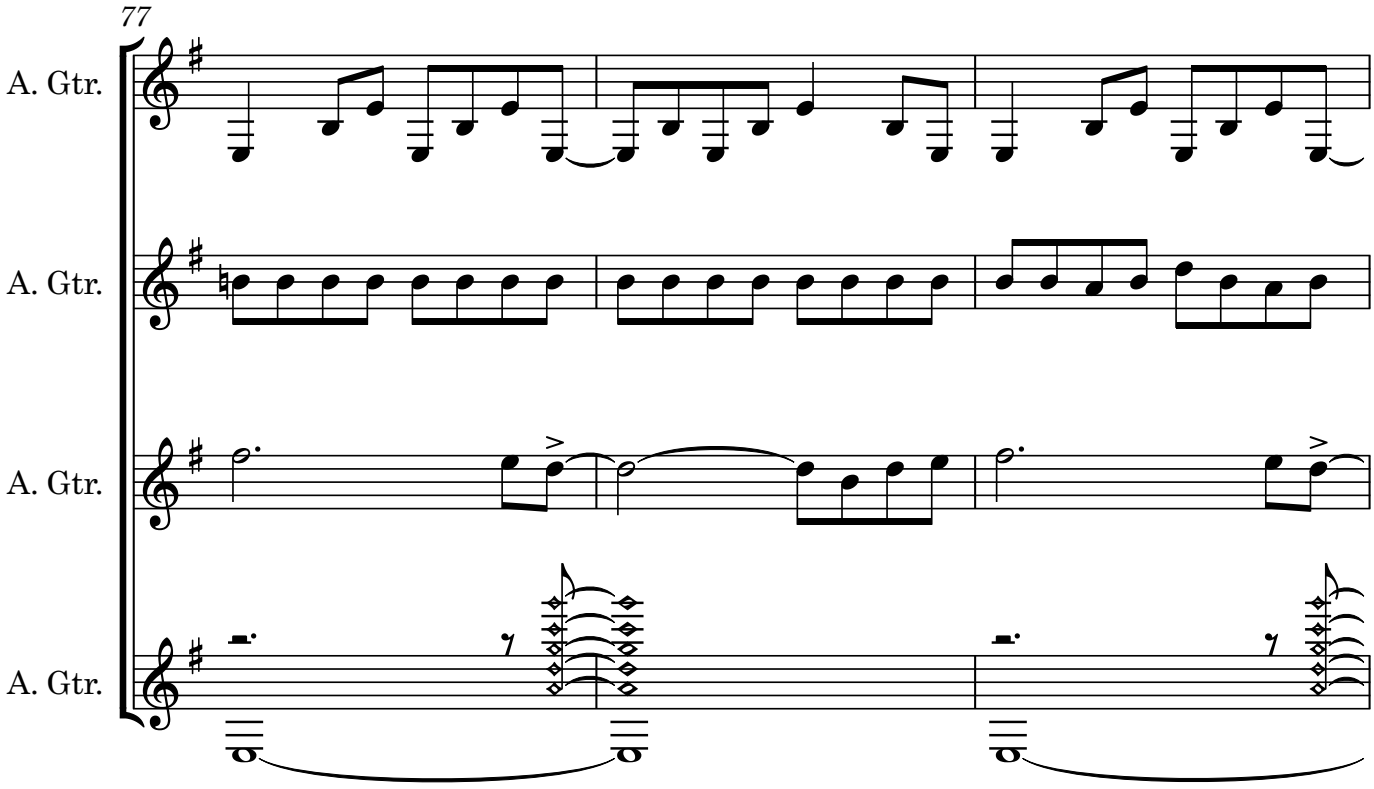
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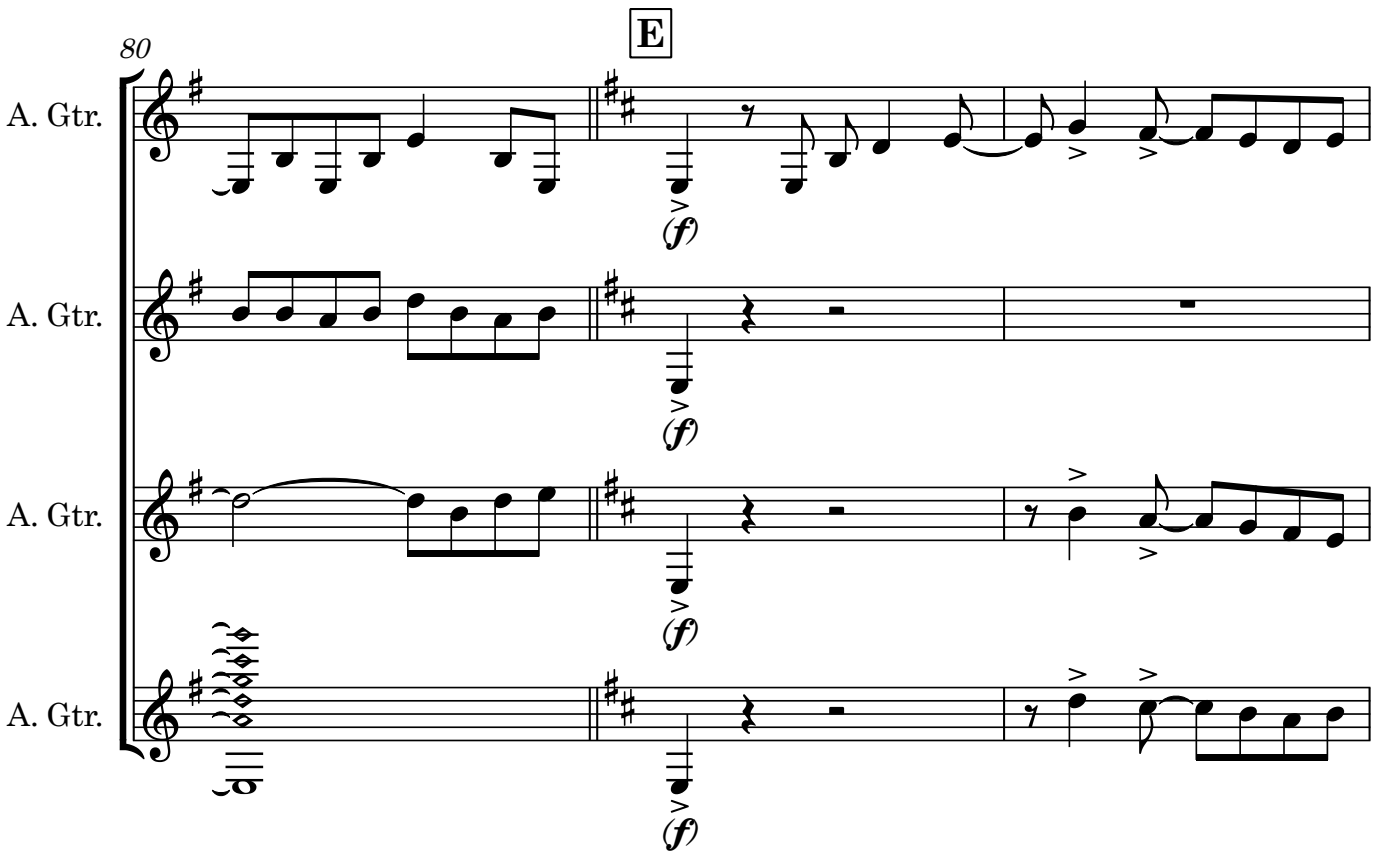
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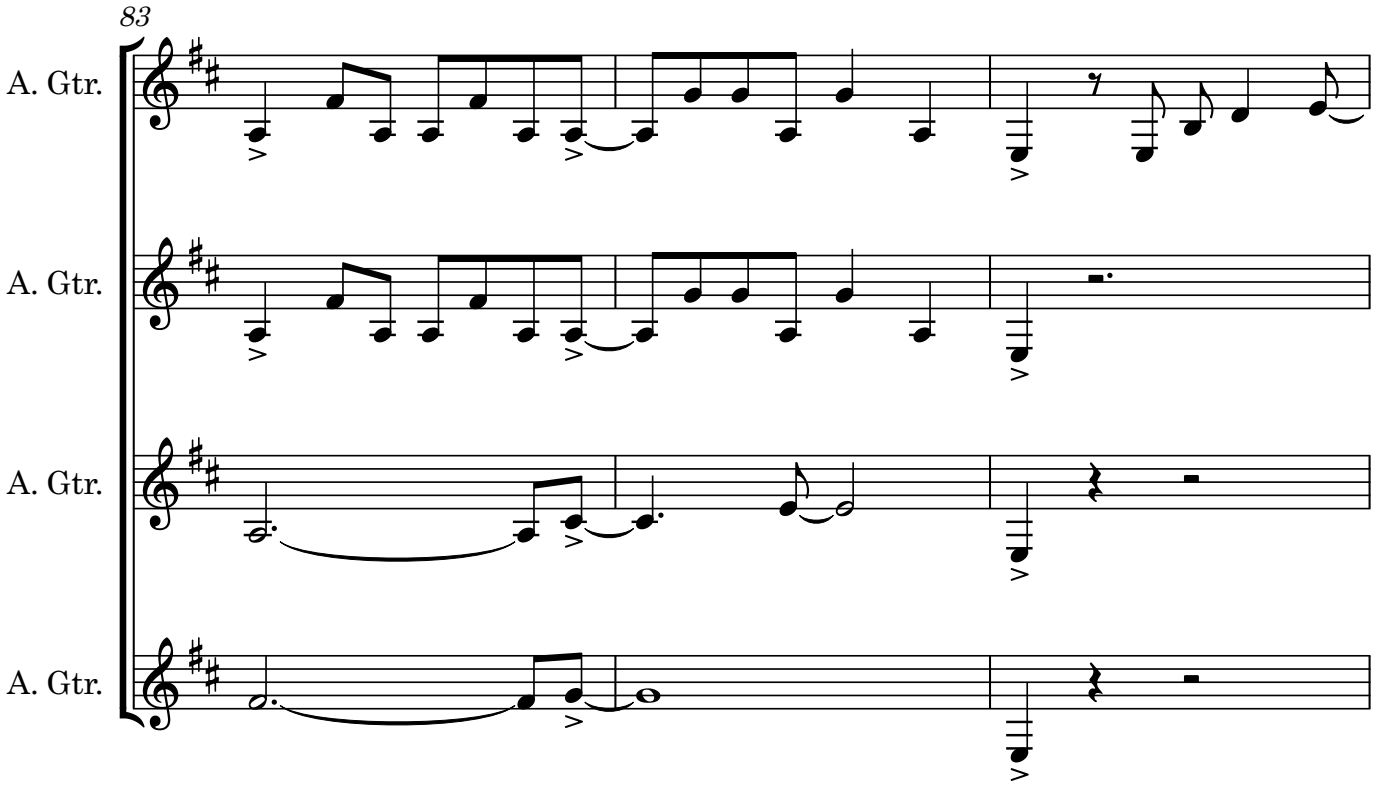
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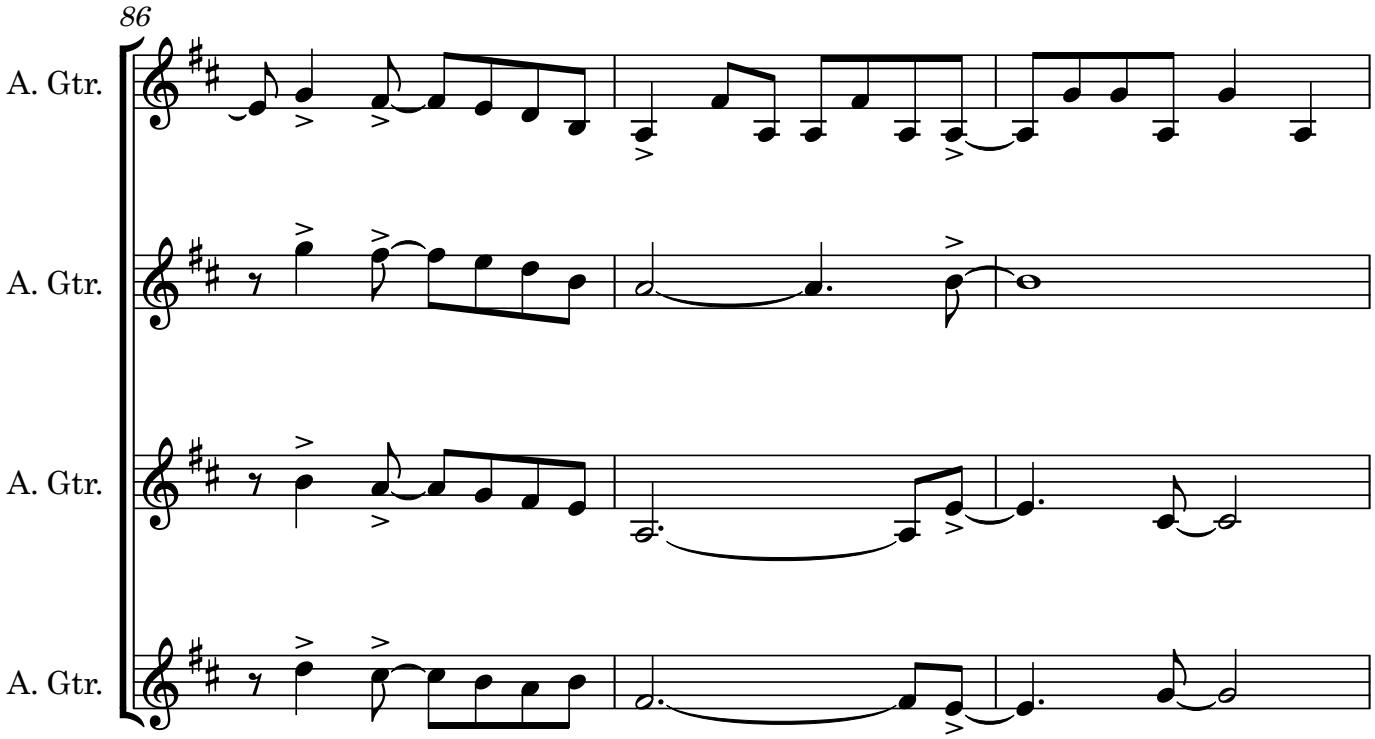
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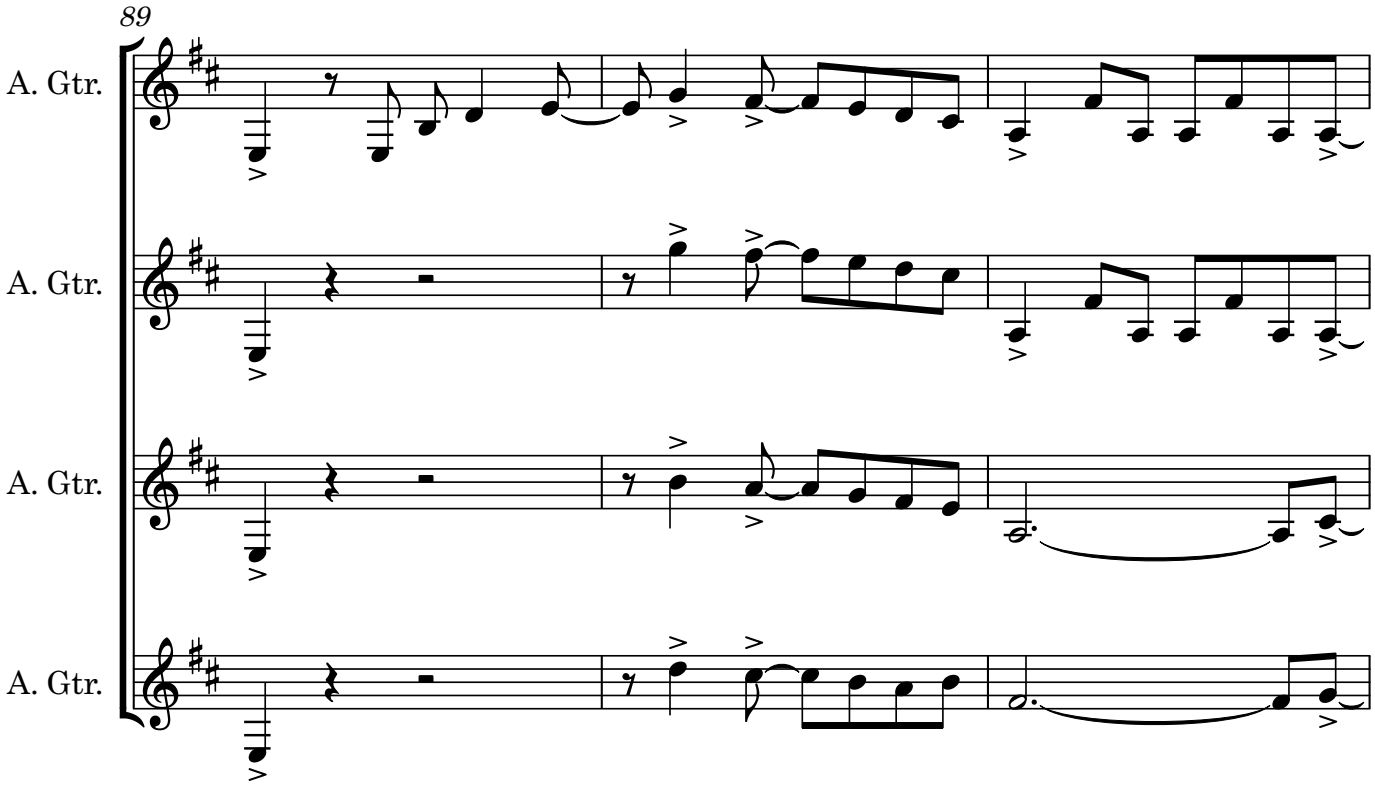
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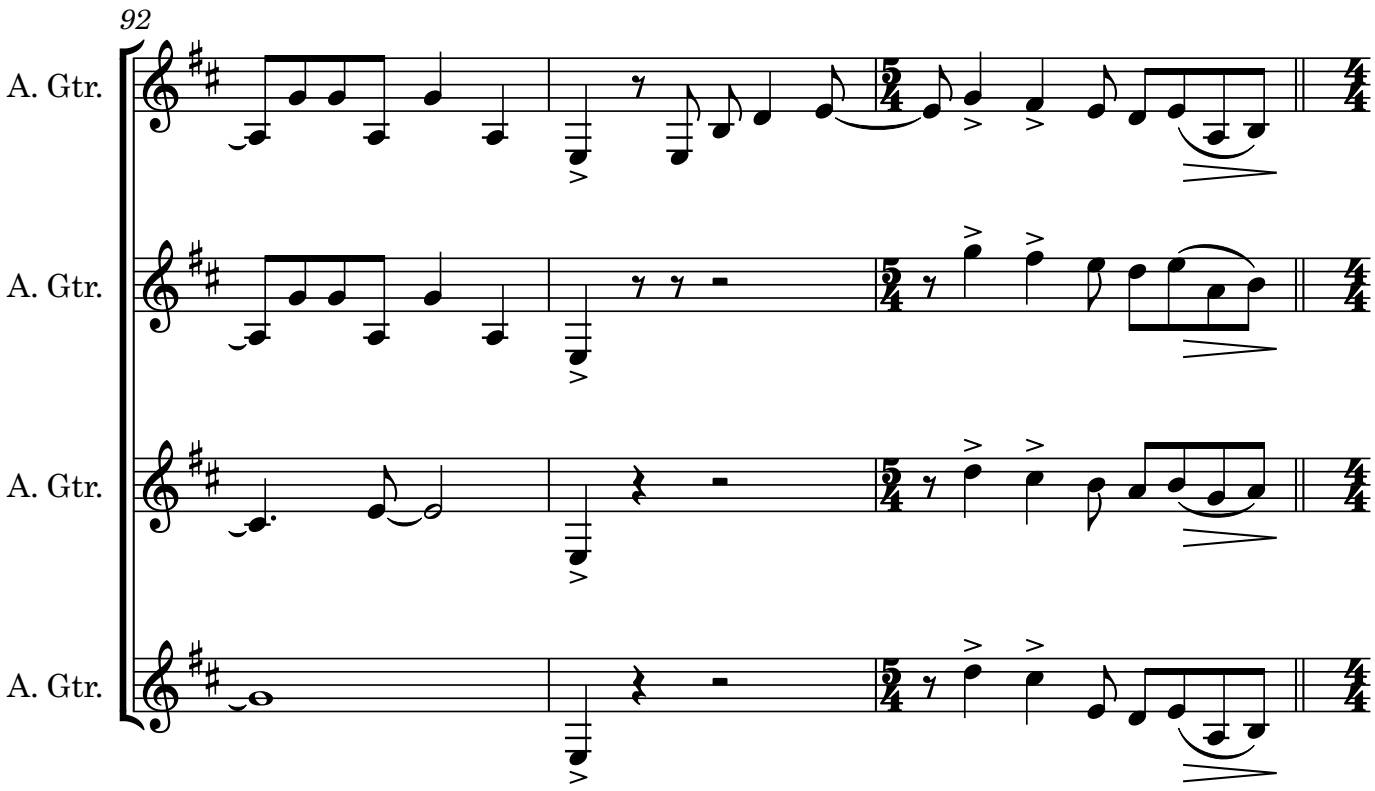
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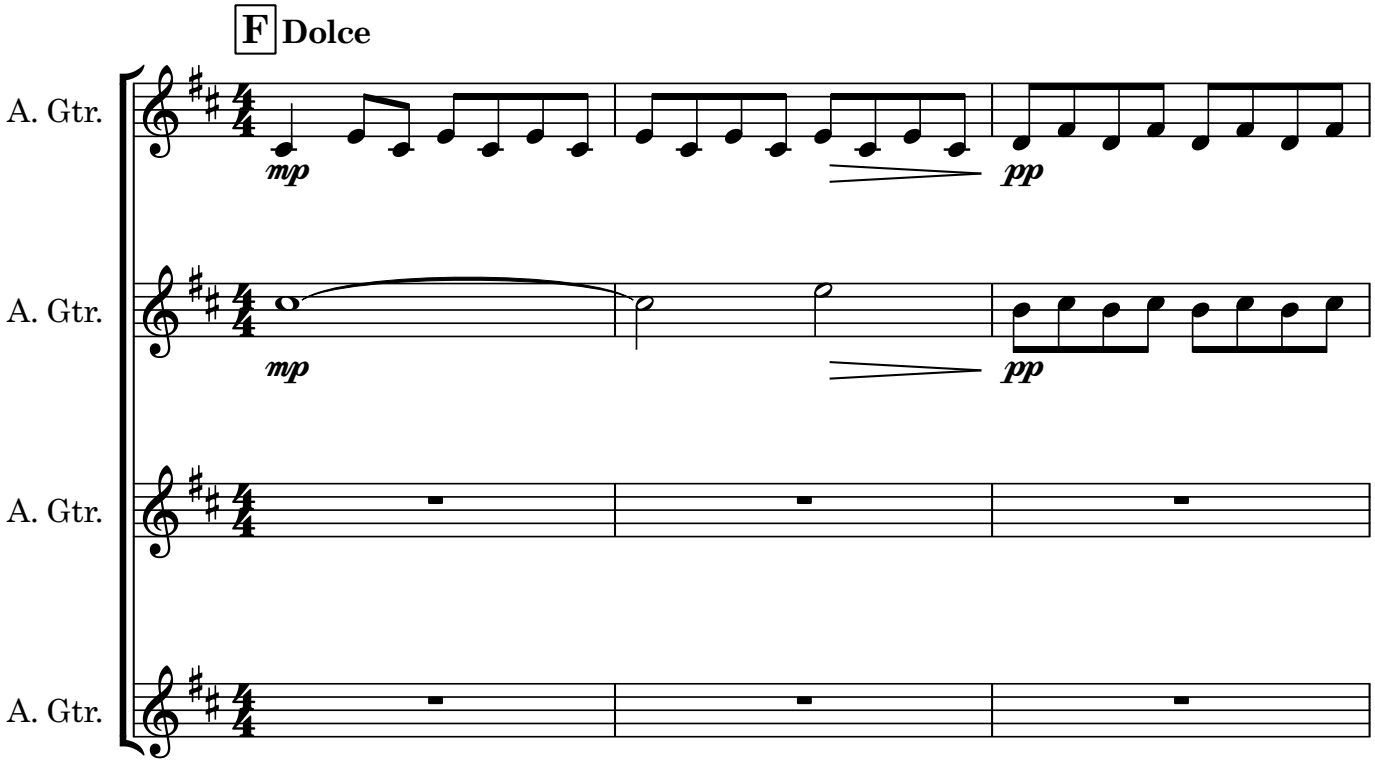
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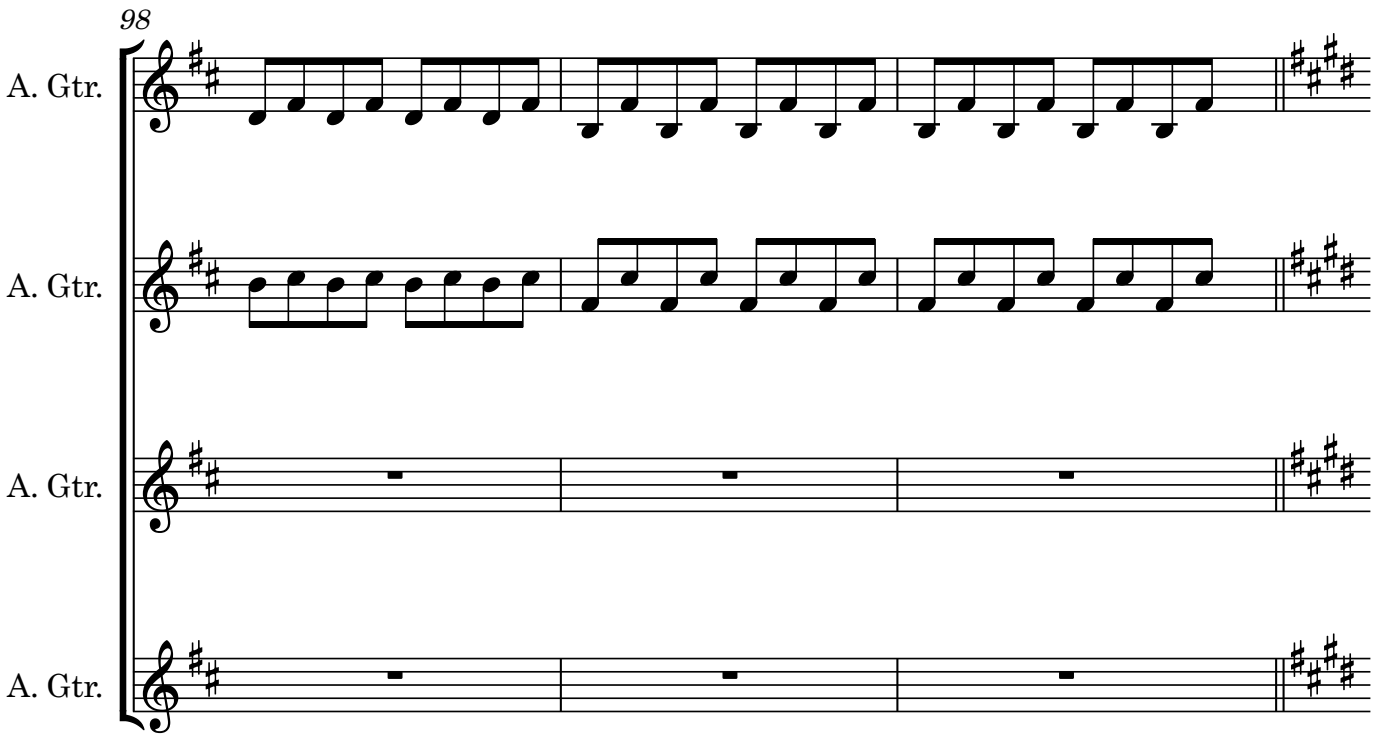
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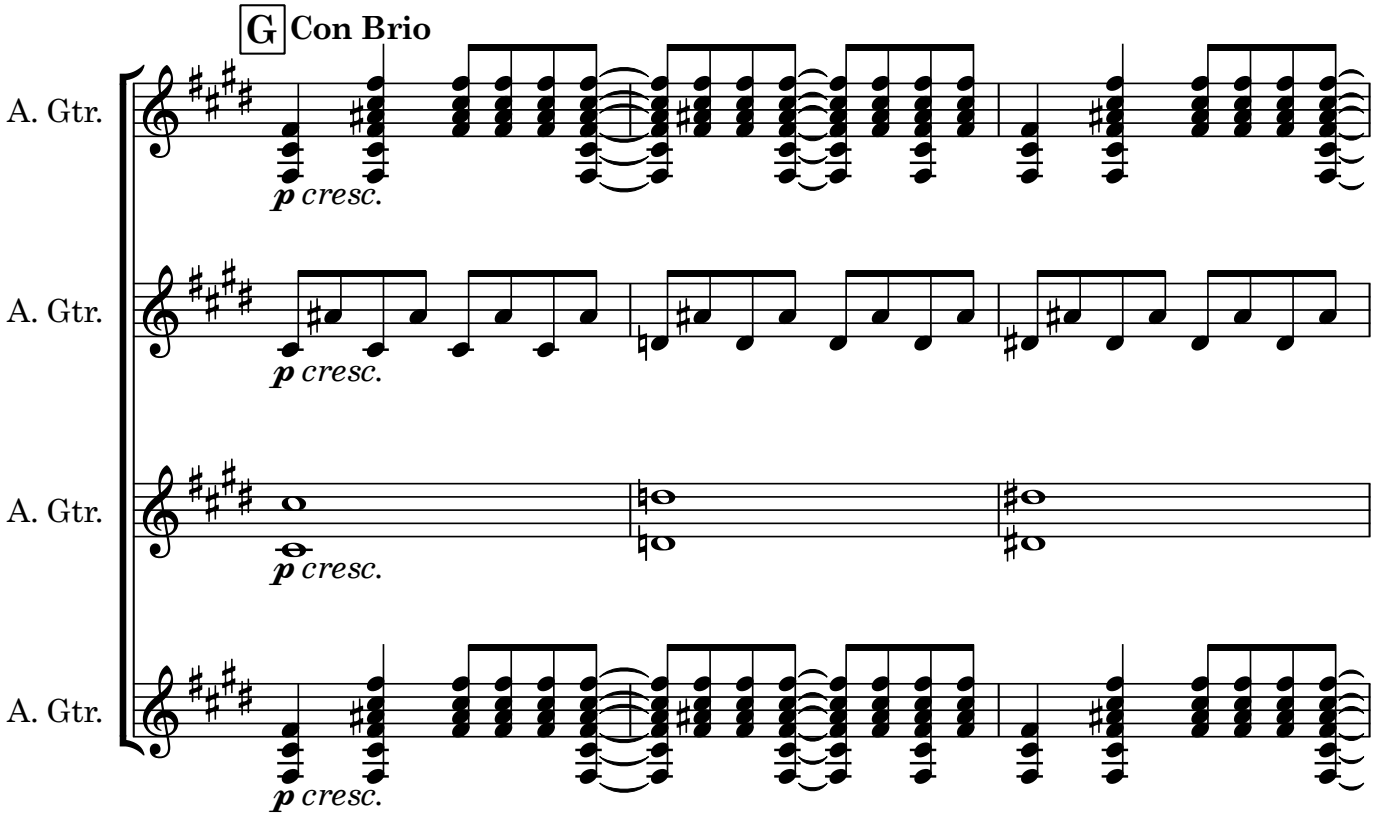
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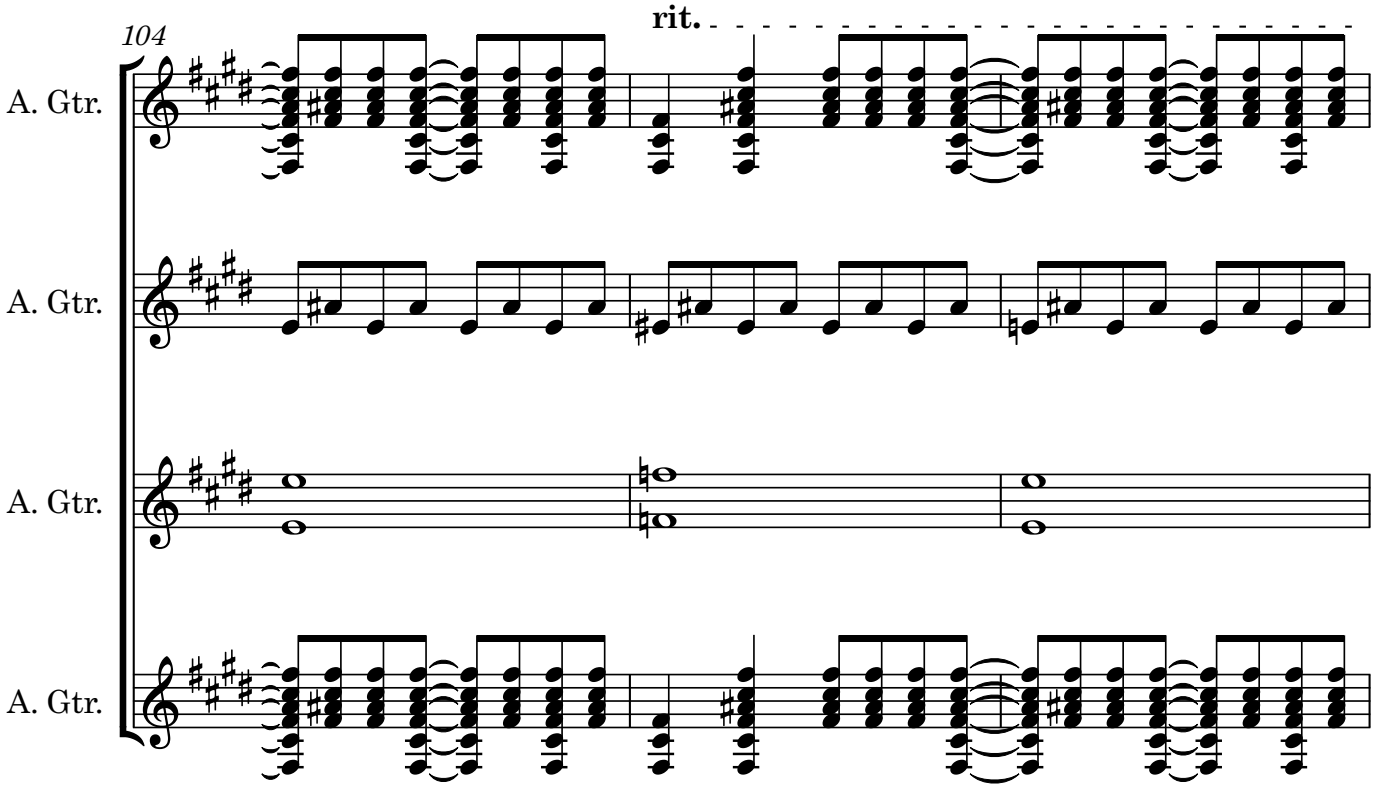
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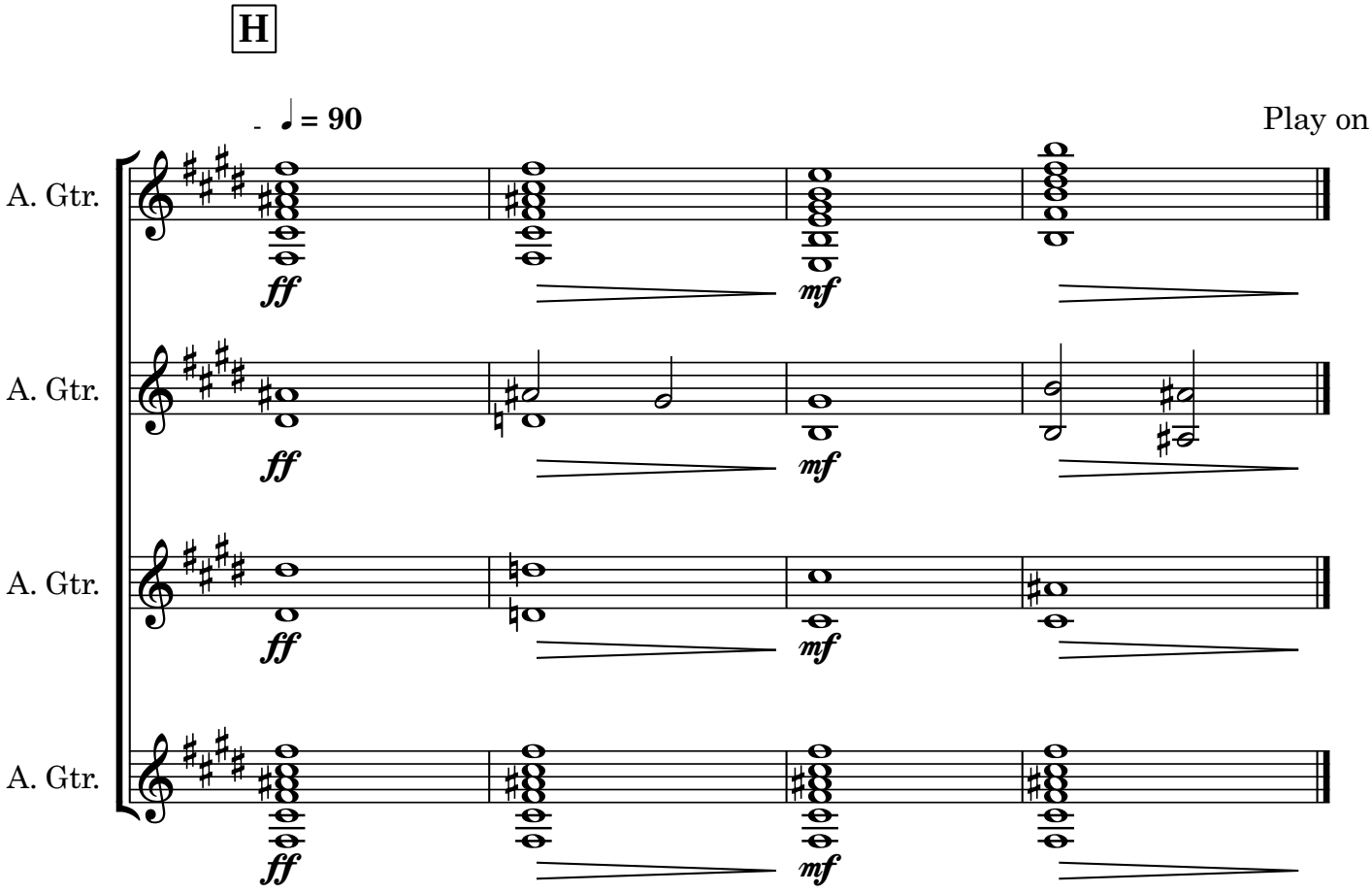
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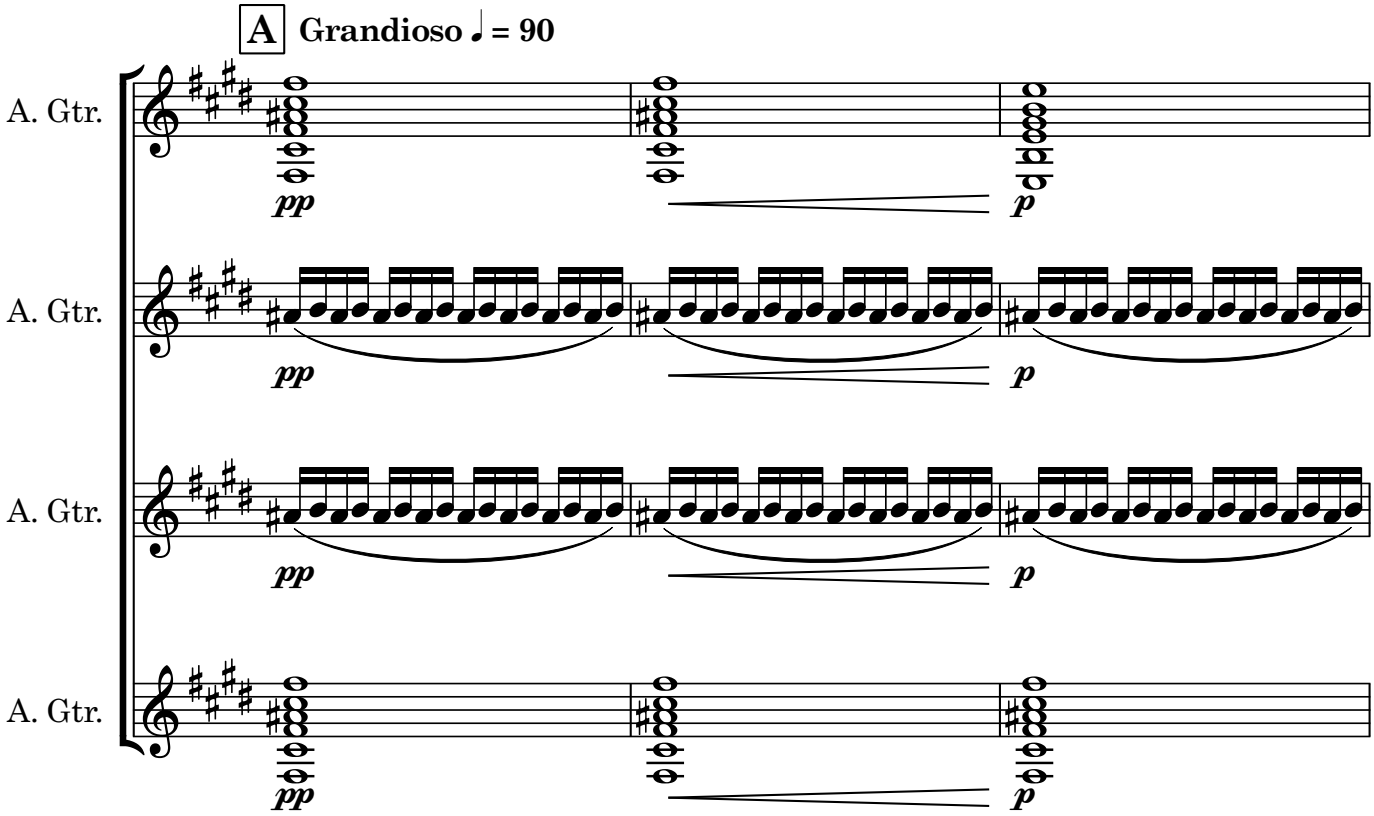
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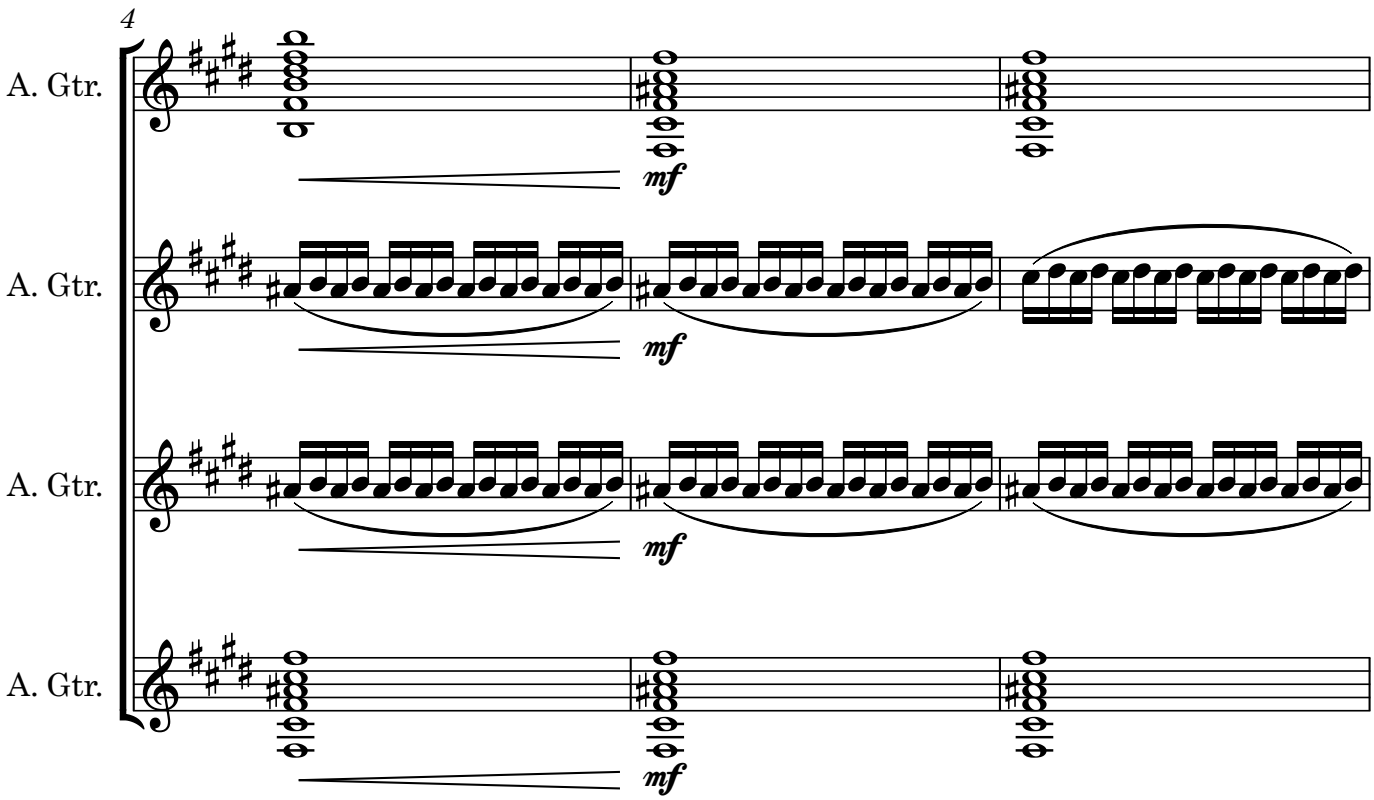
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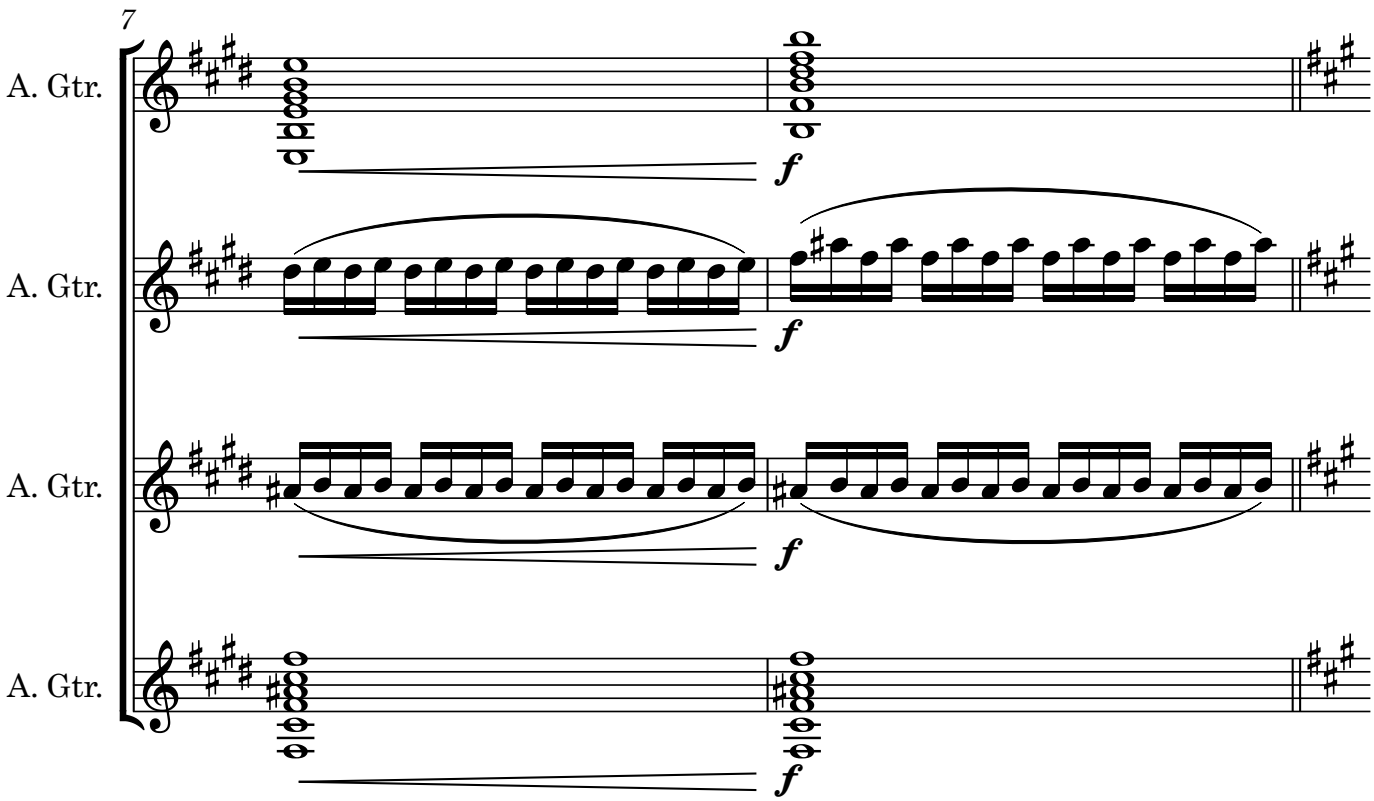
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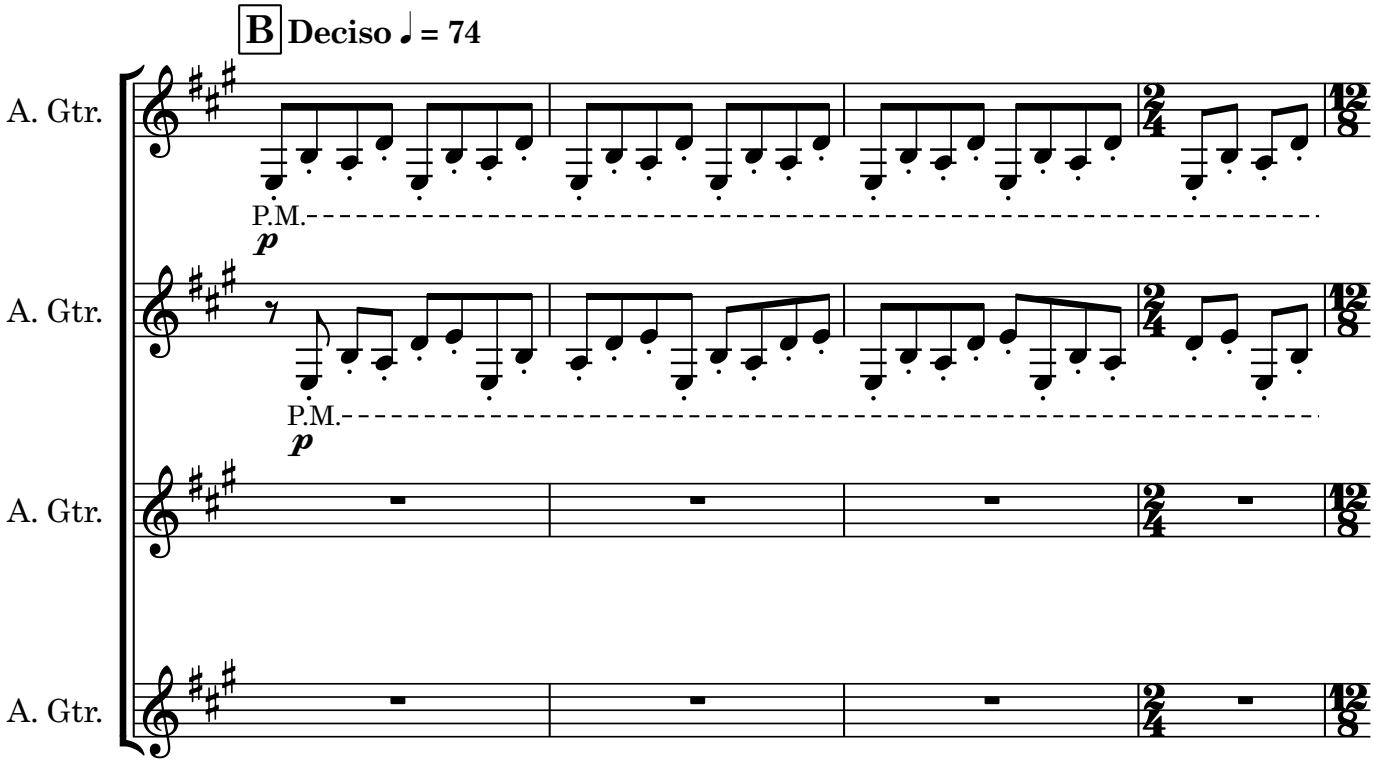
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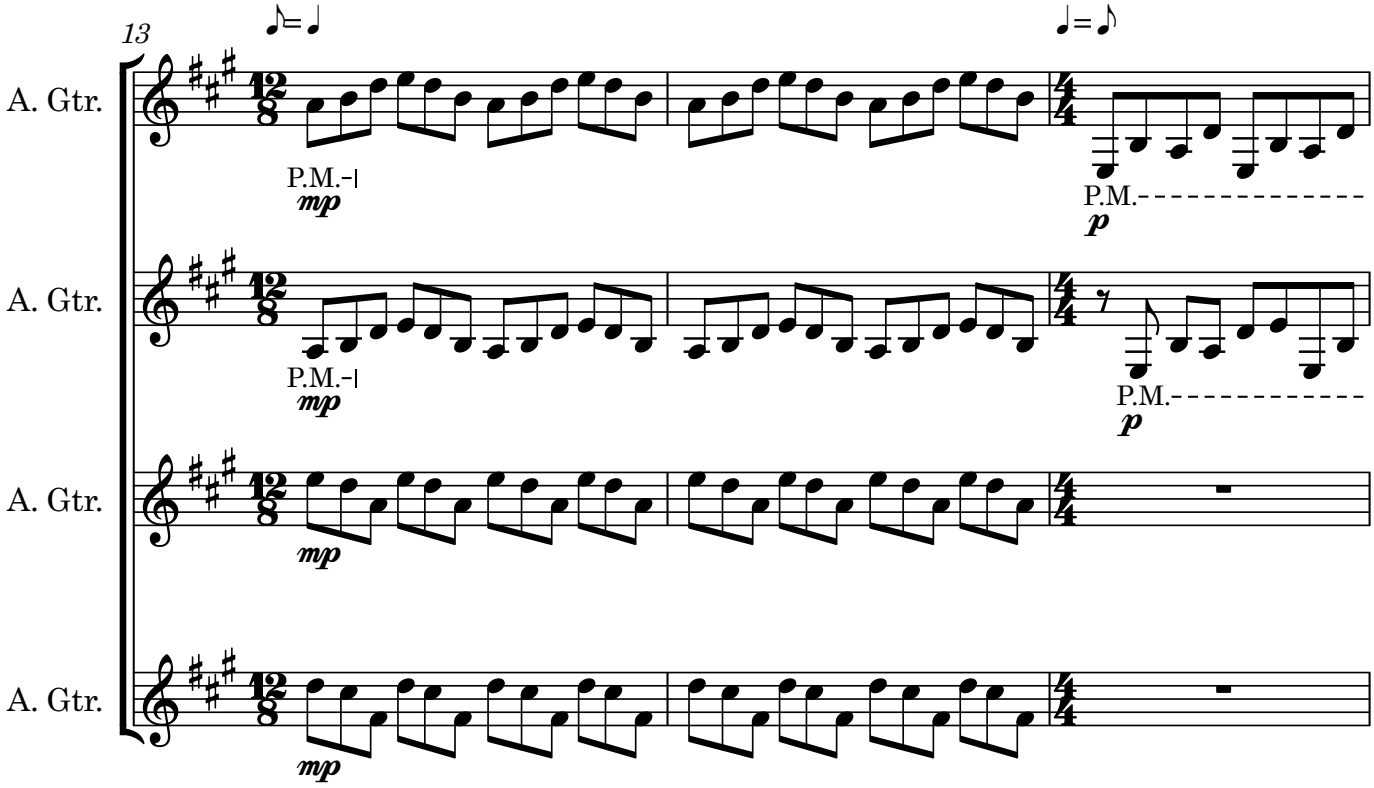
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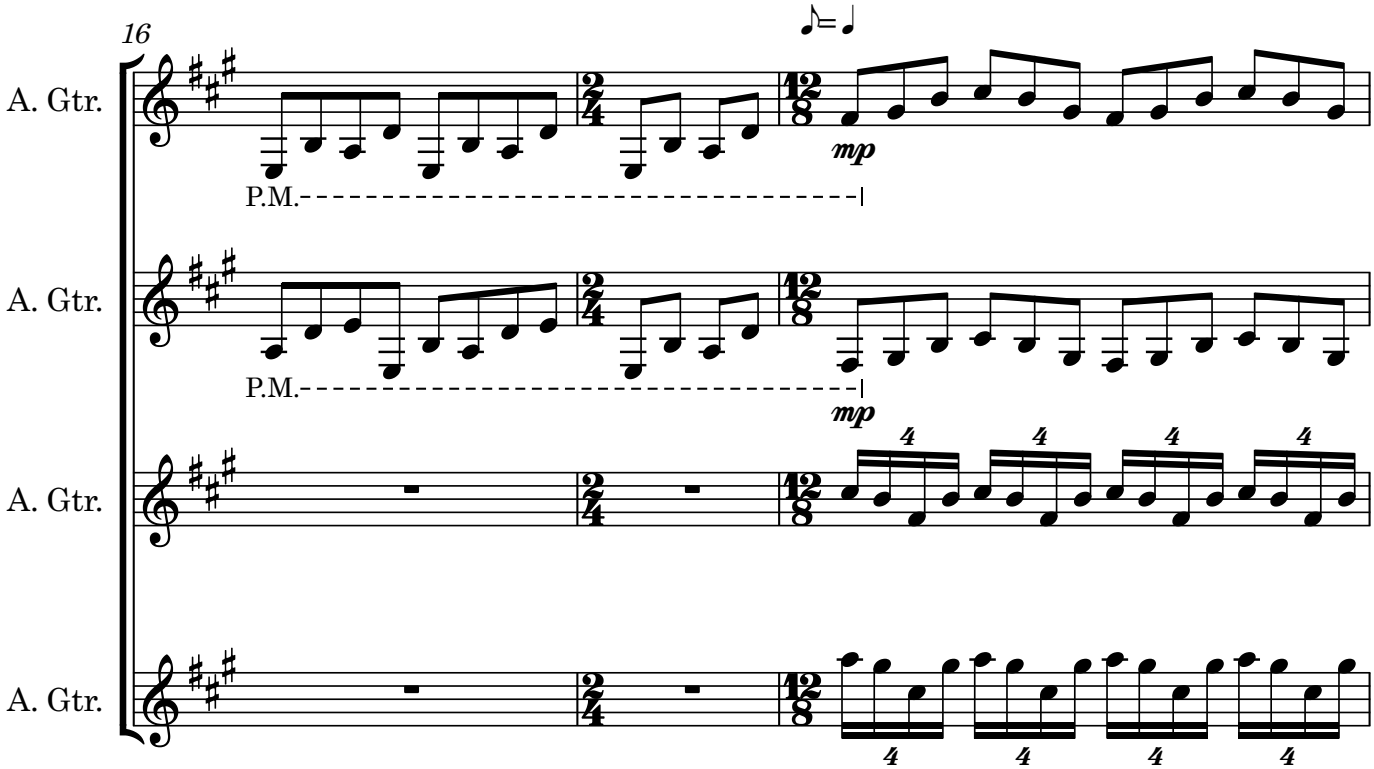
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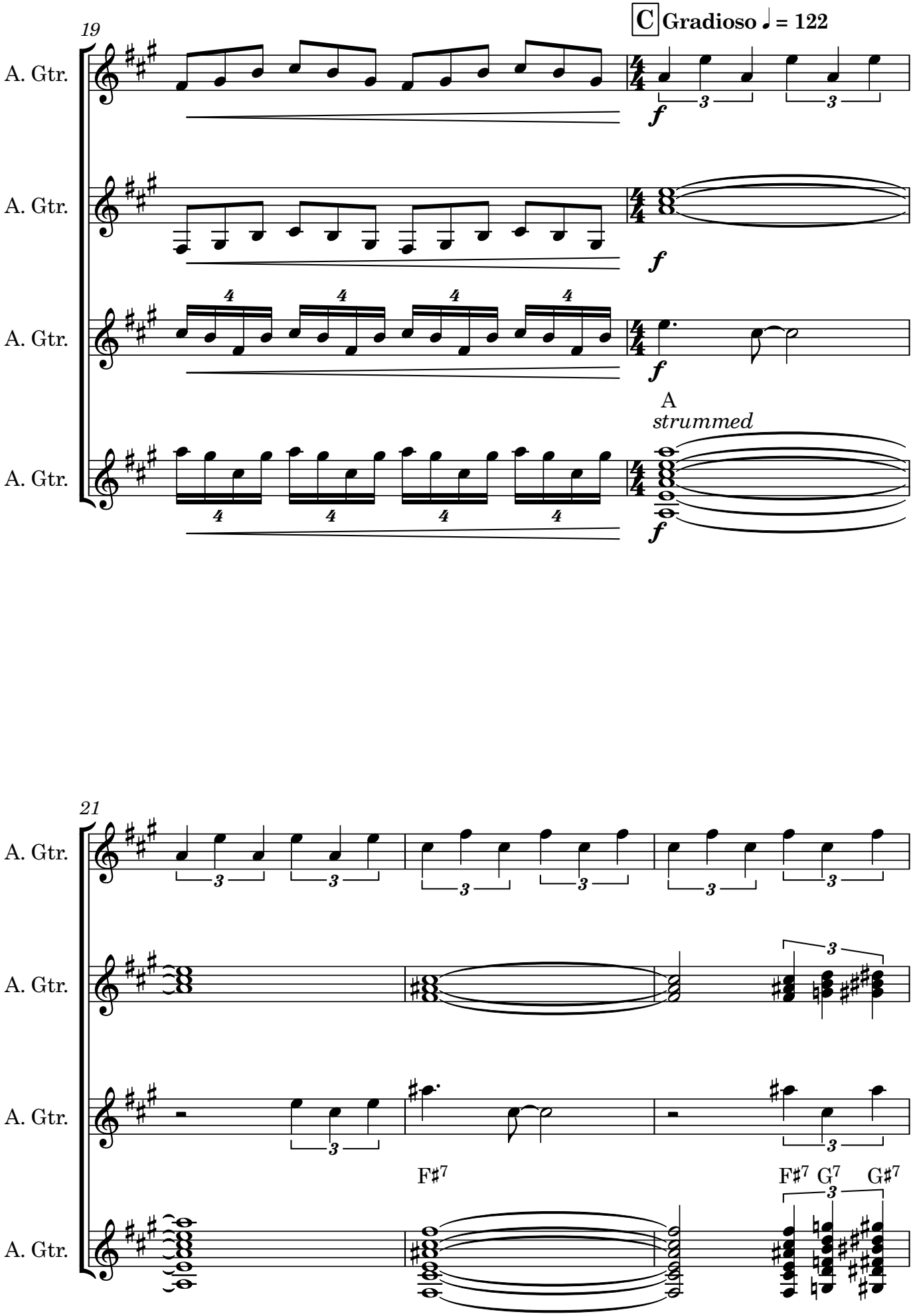
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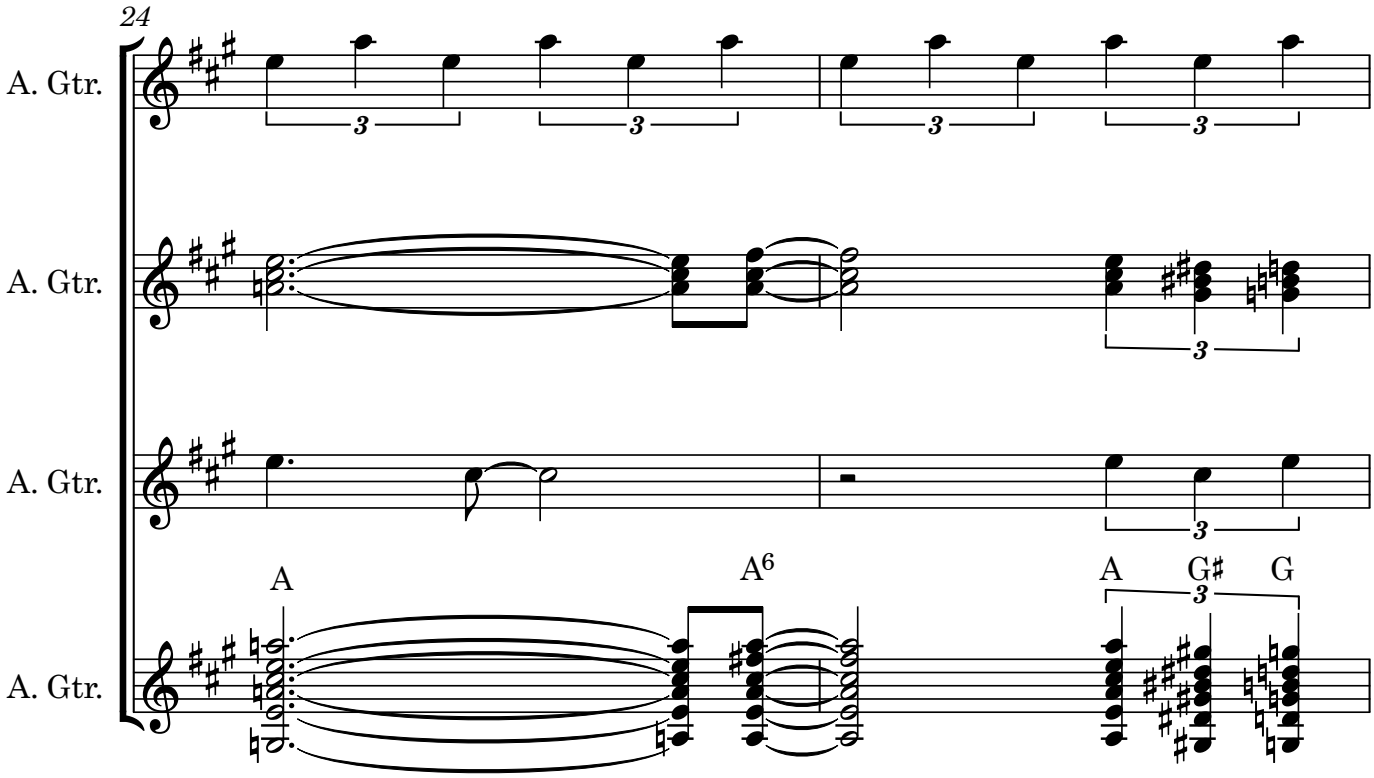
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A. Gtr.
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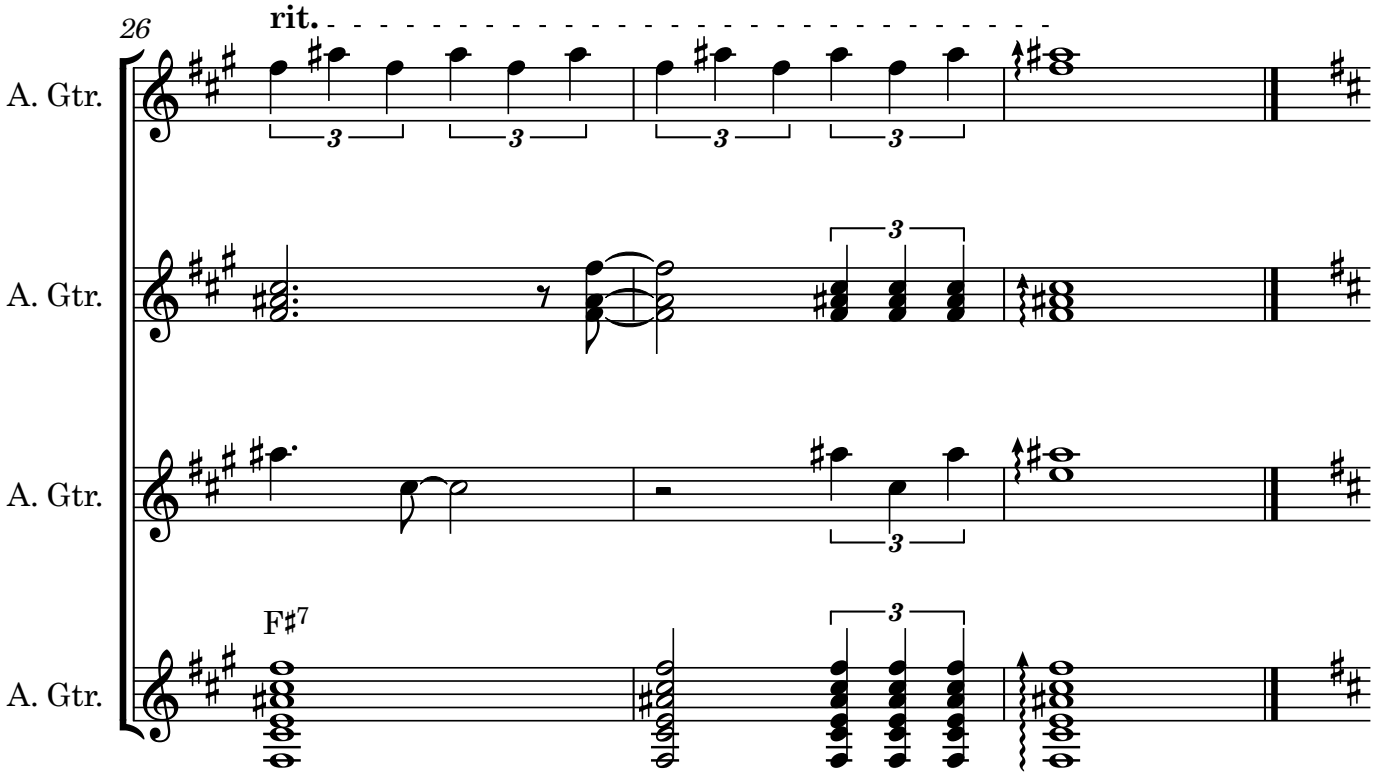
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
A
A6
A
G♯
G


26
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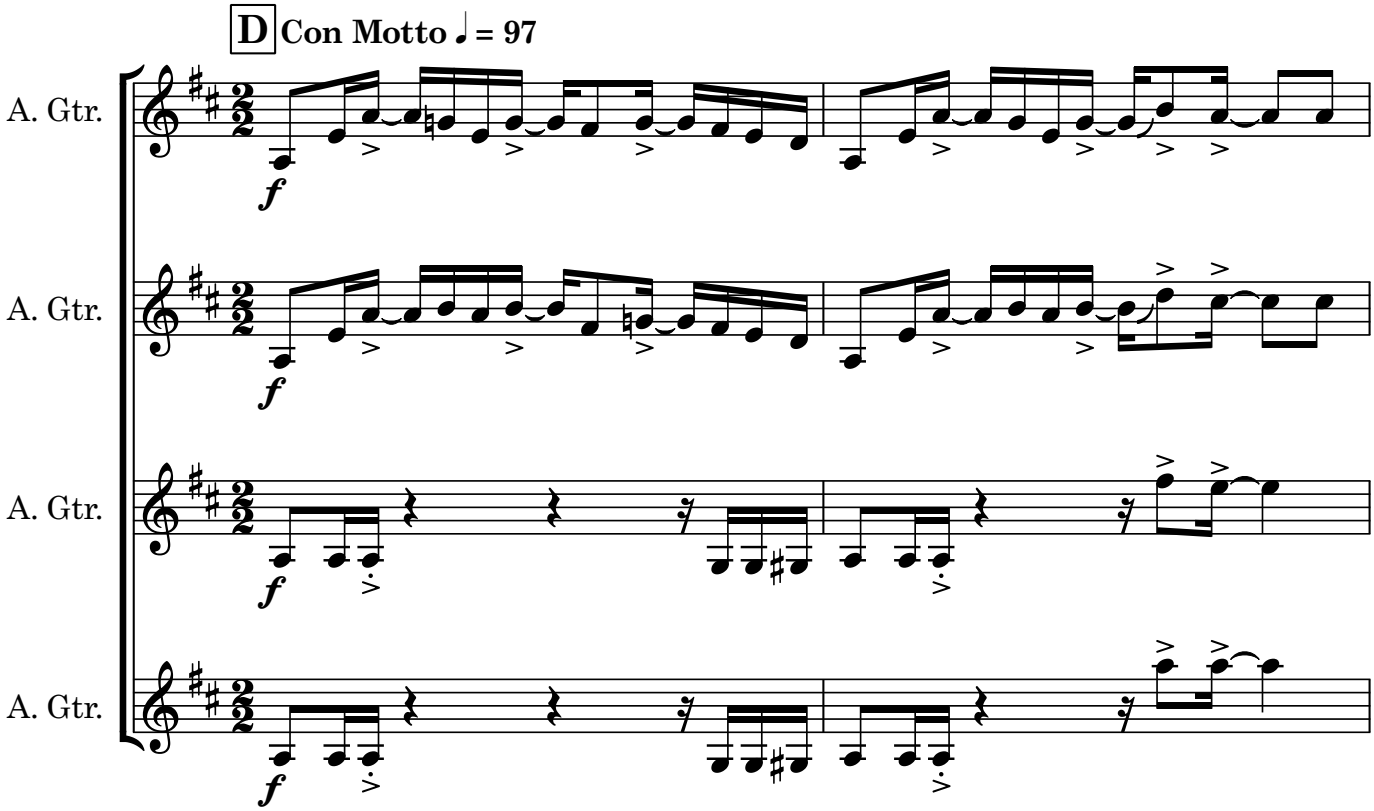
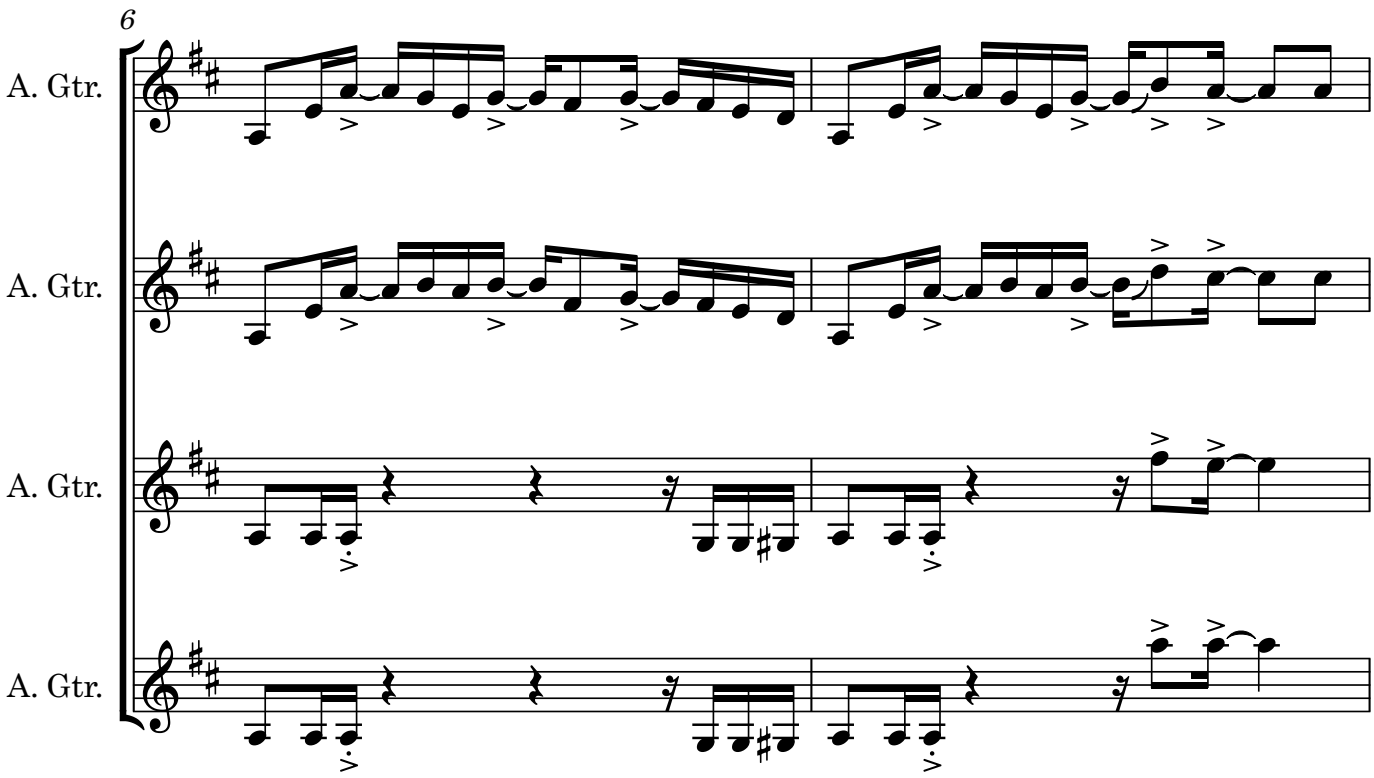
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
F♯7

III - 3 Years Long

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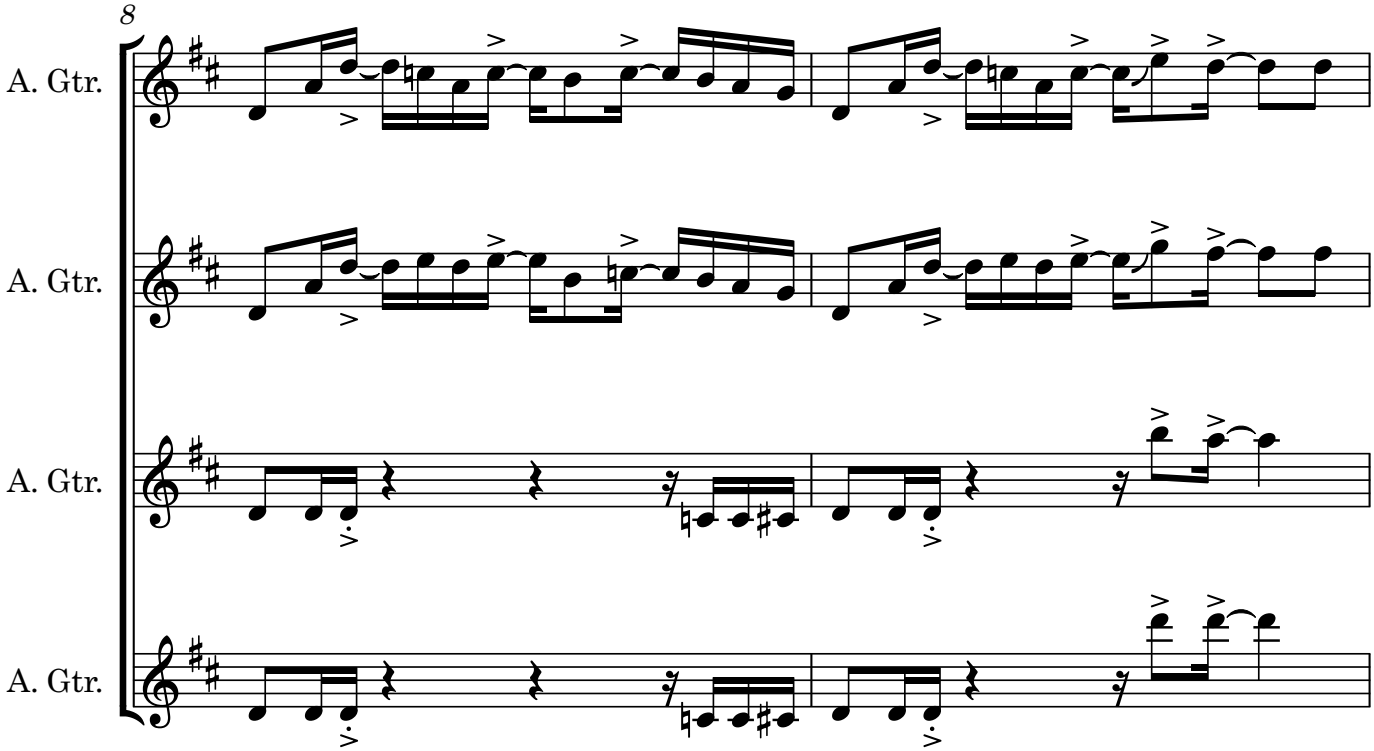
A. Gtr.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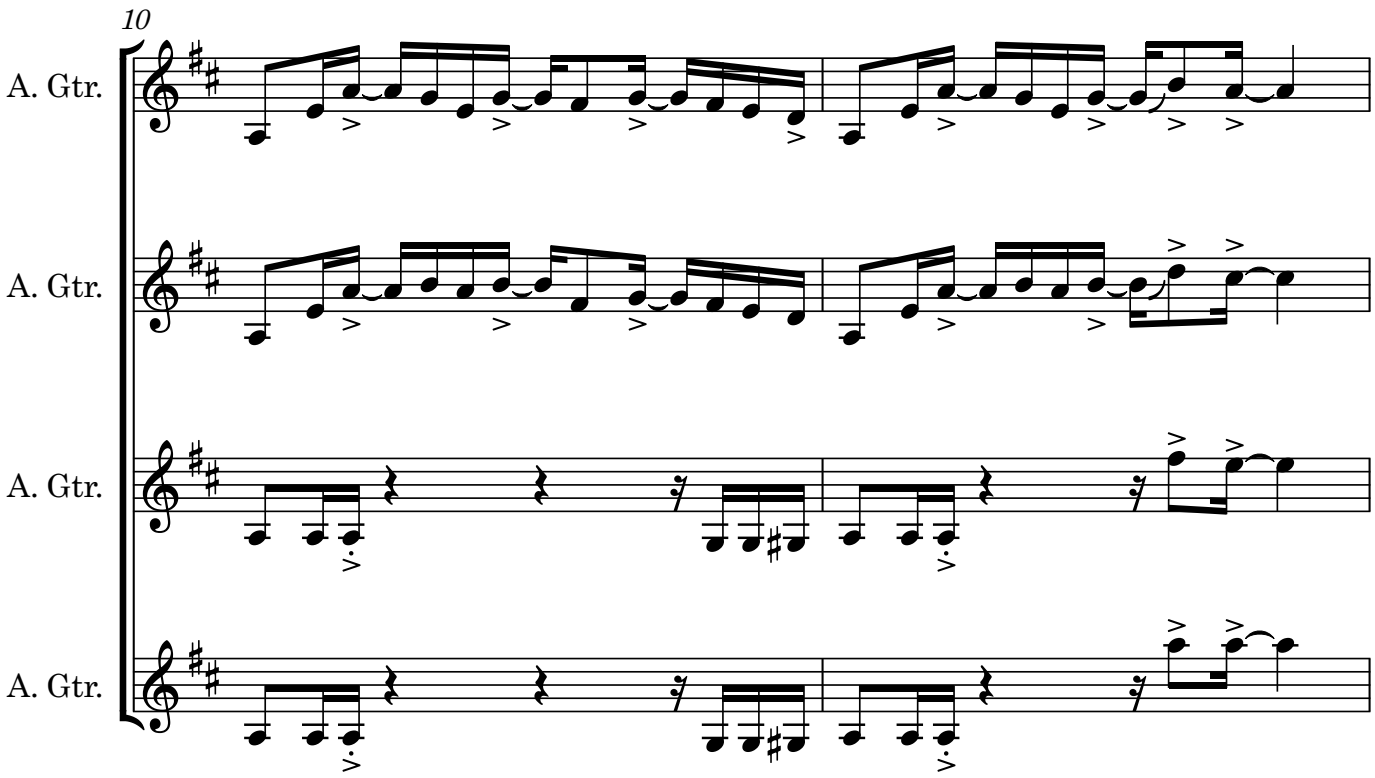
A. Gtr.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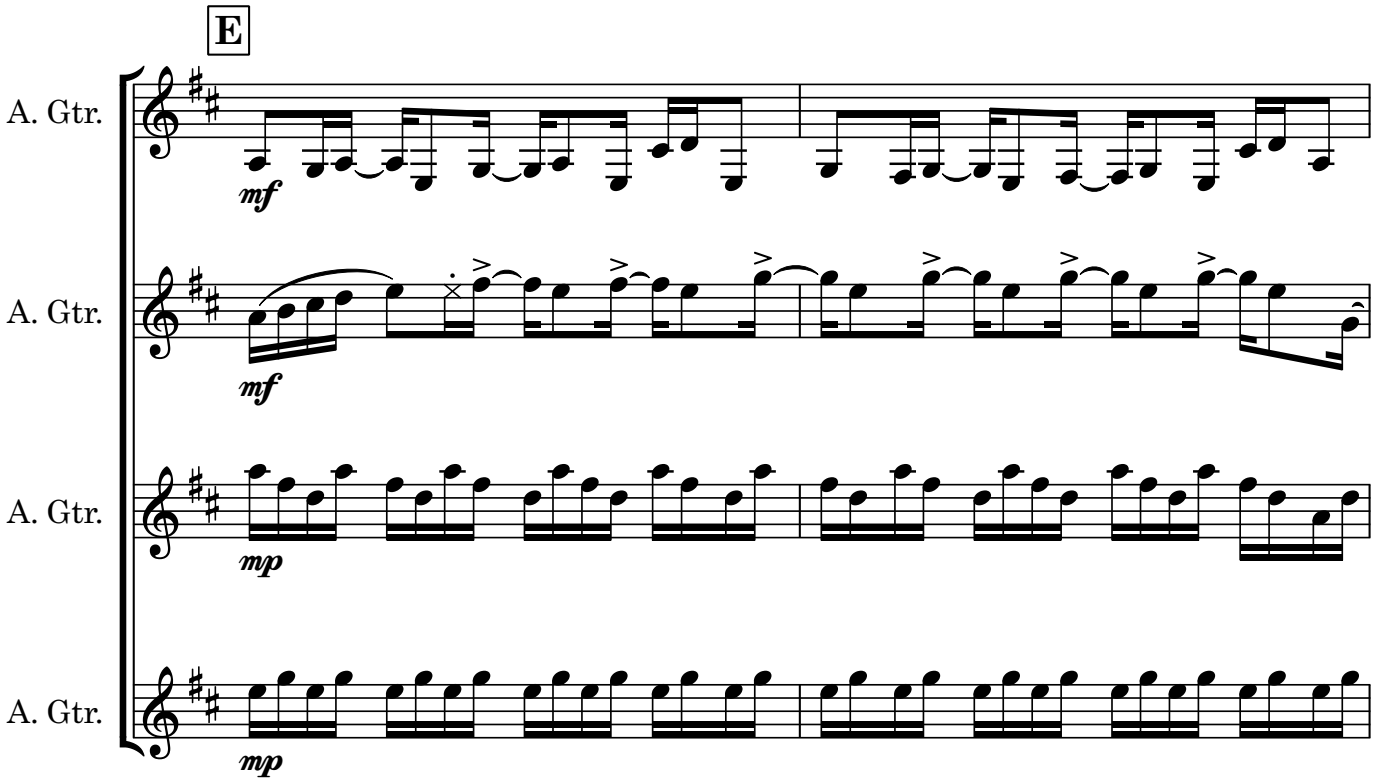
A. Gtr.


E
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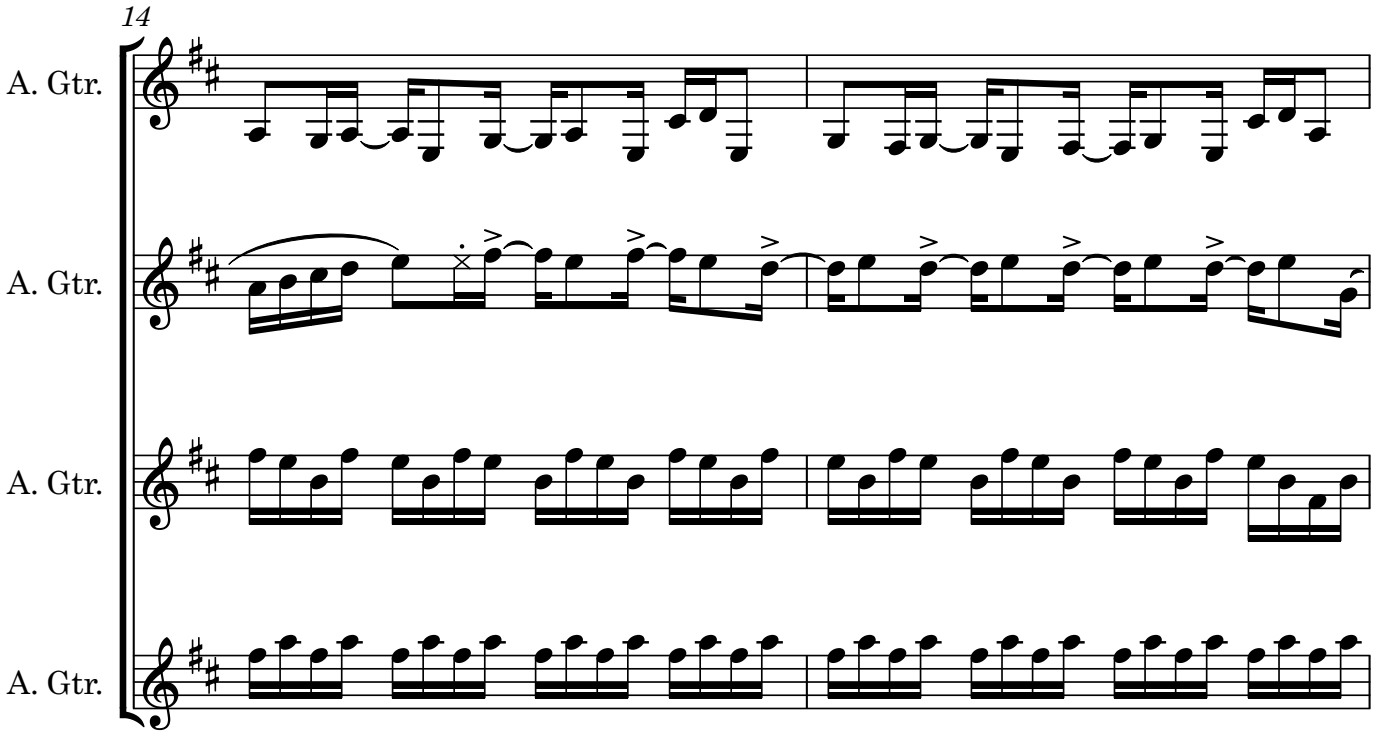
mf
A. Gtr.
mf
A. Gtr.
mp
A. Gtr.
mp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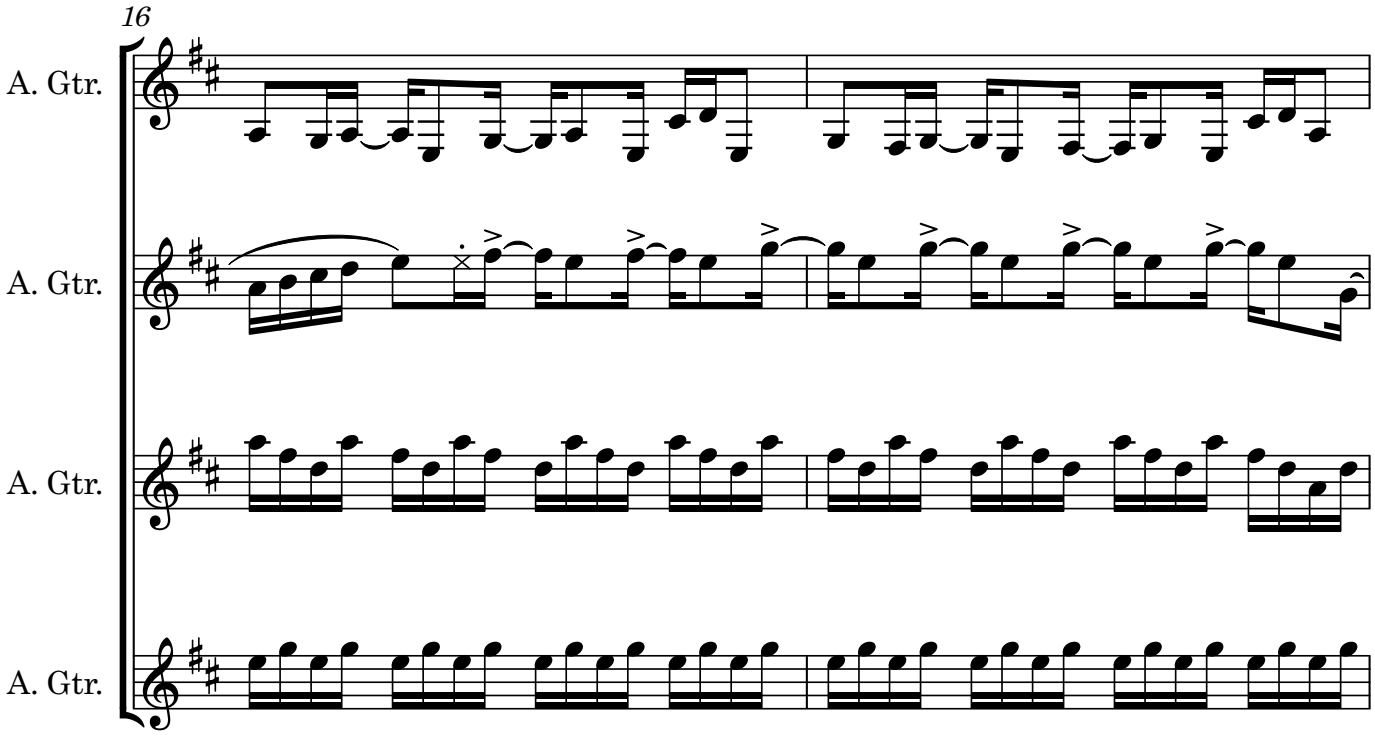
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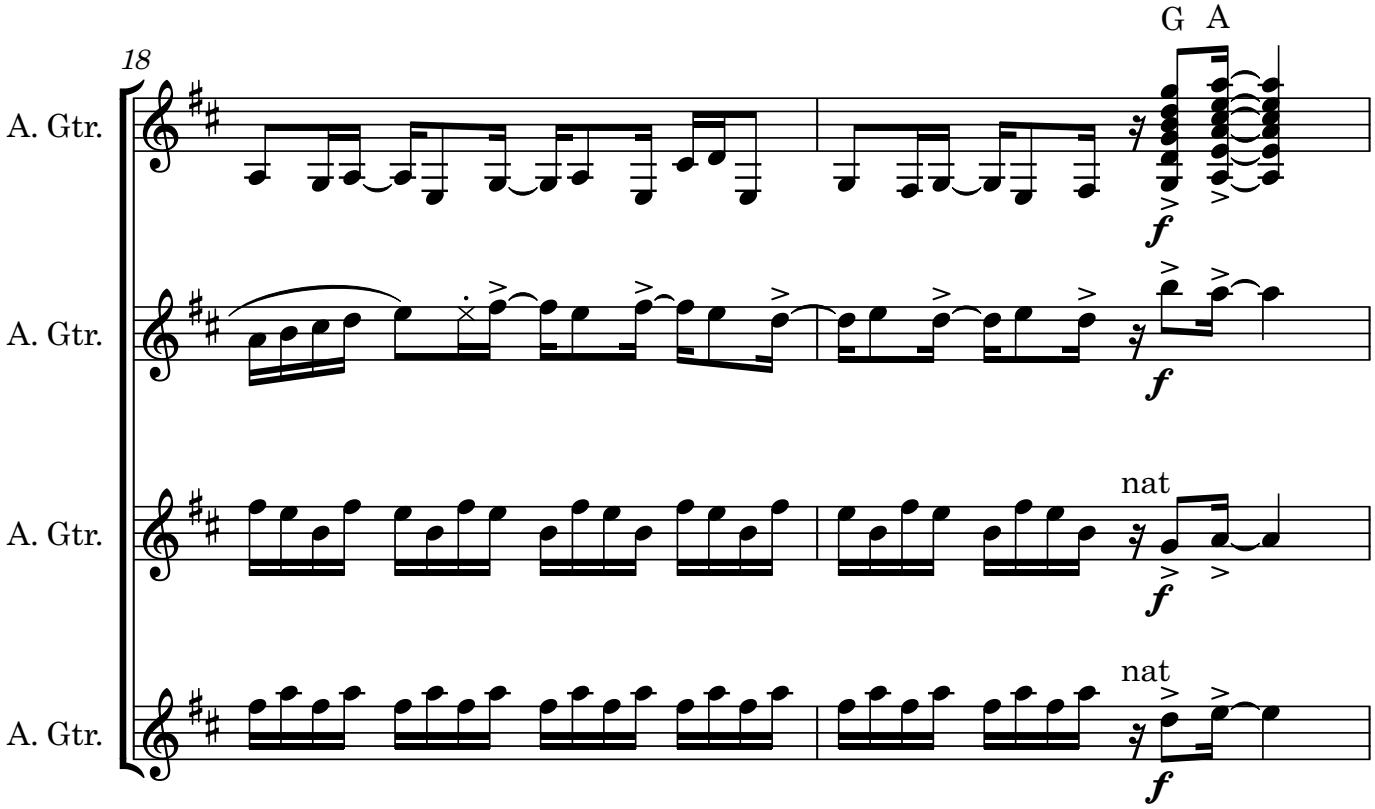
A. Gtr.


18
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
G A
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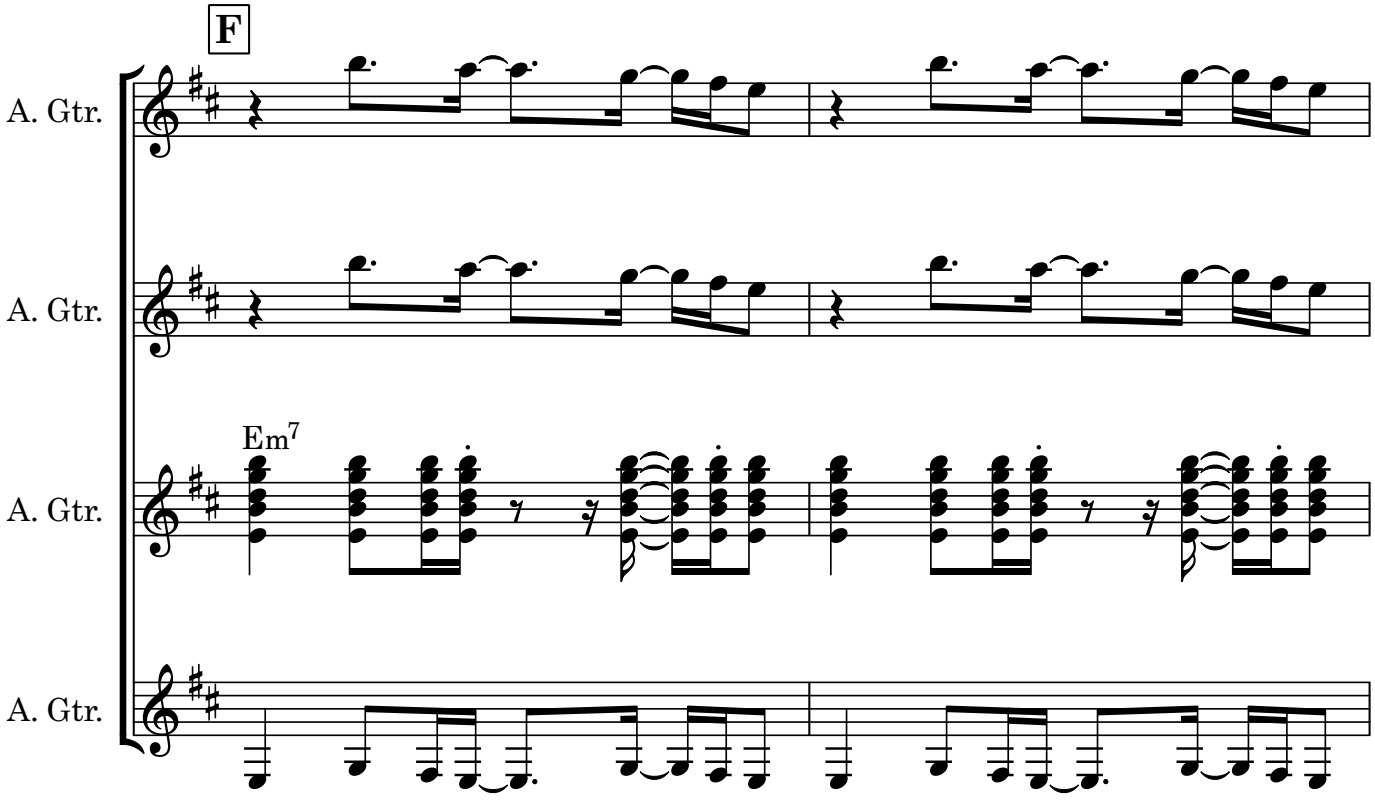
nat
f


F
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A. Gtr.
Em7
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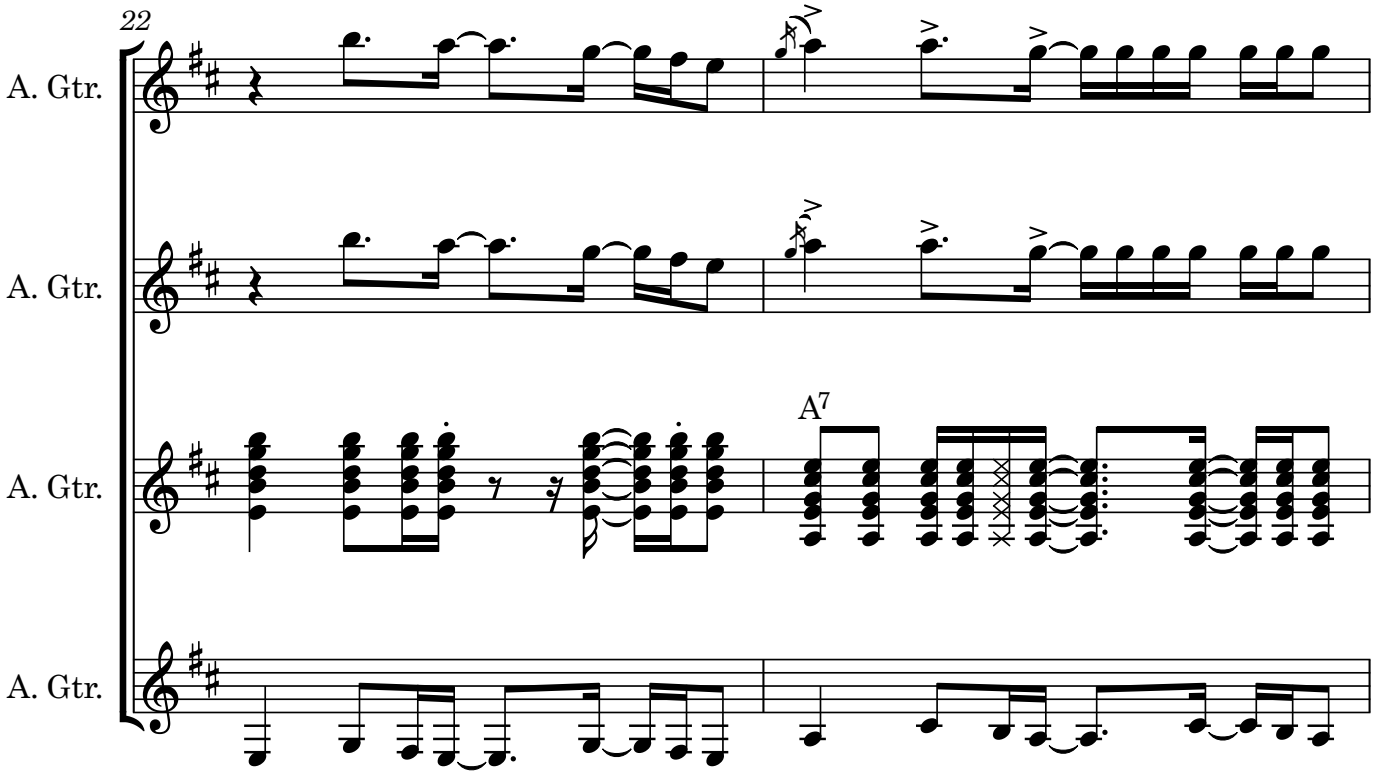
A. Gtr.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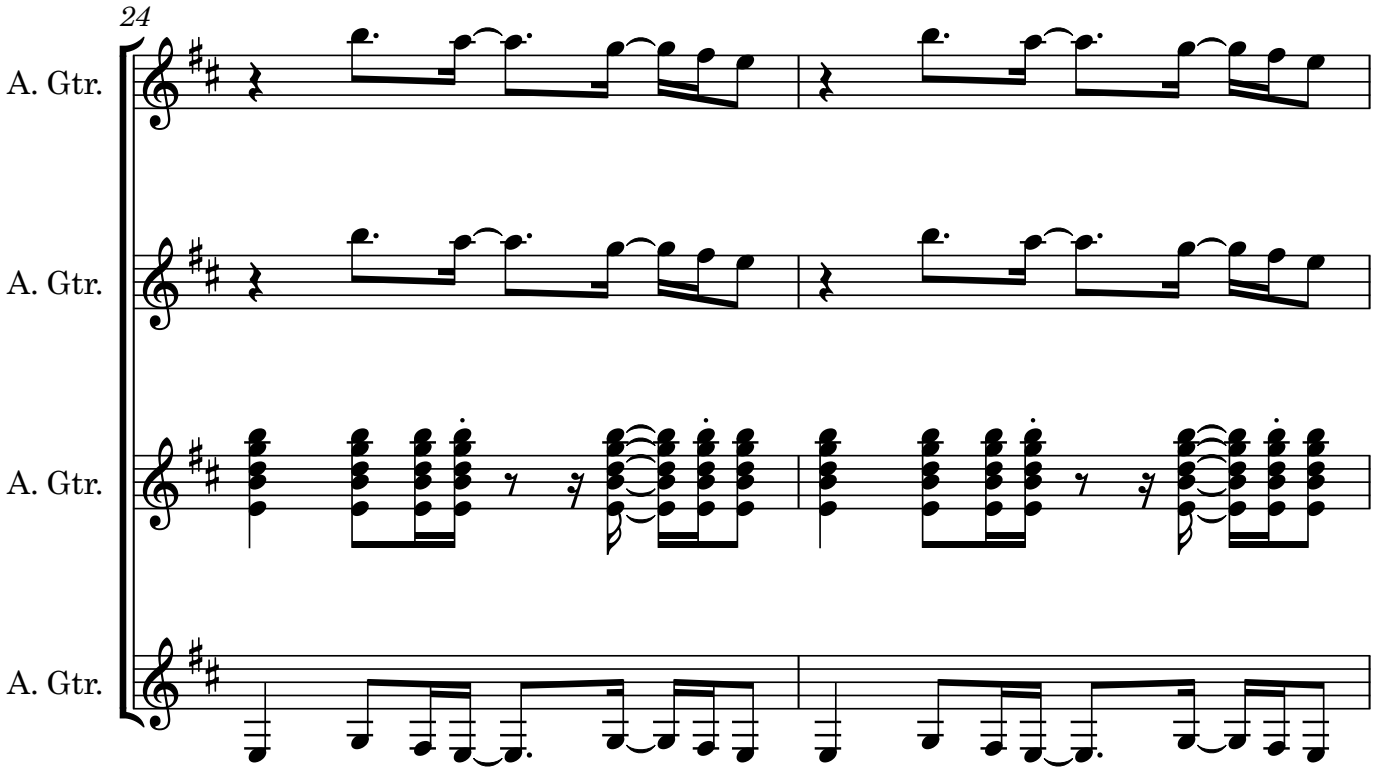
A. Gtr.
A7
A. Gtr.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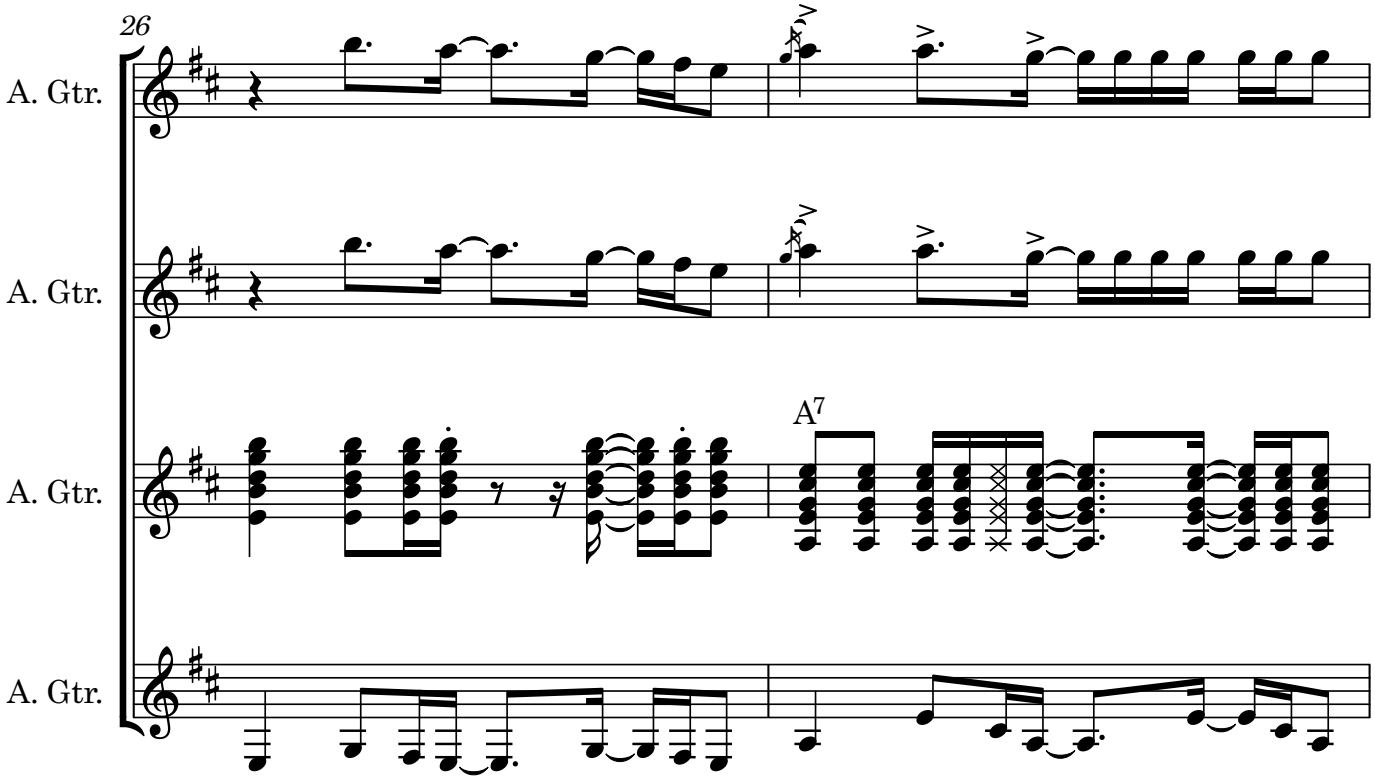
A. Gtr.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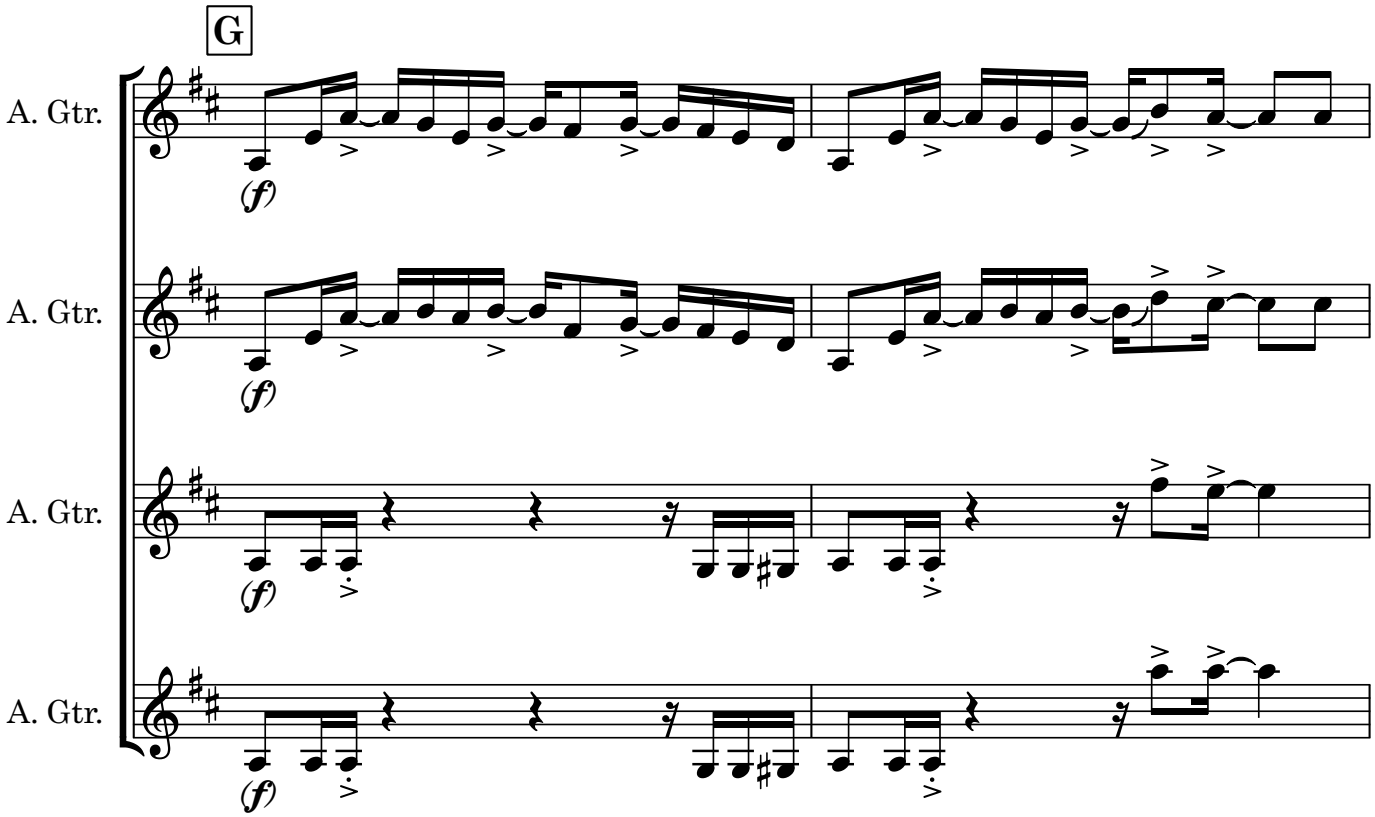
A. Gtr.
A7
A. Gtr.


G
A. Gtr.
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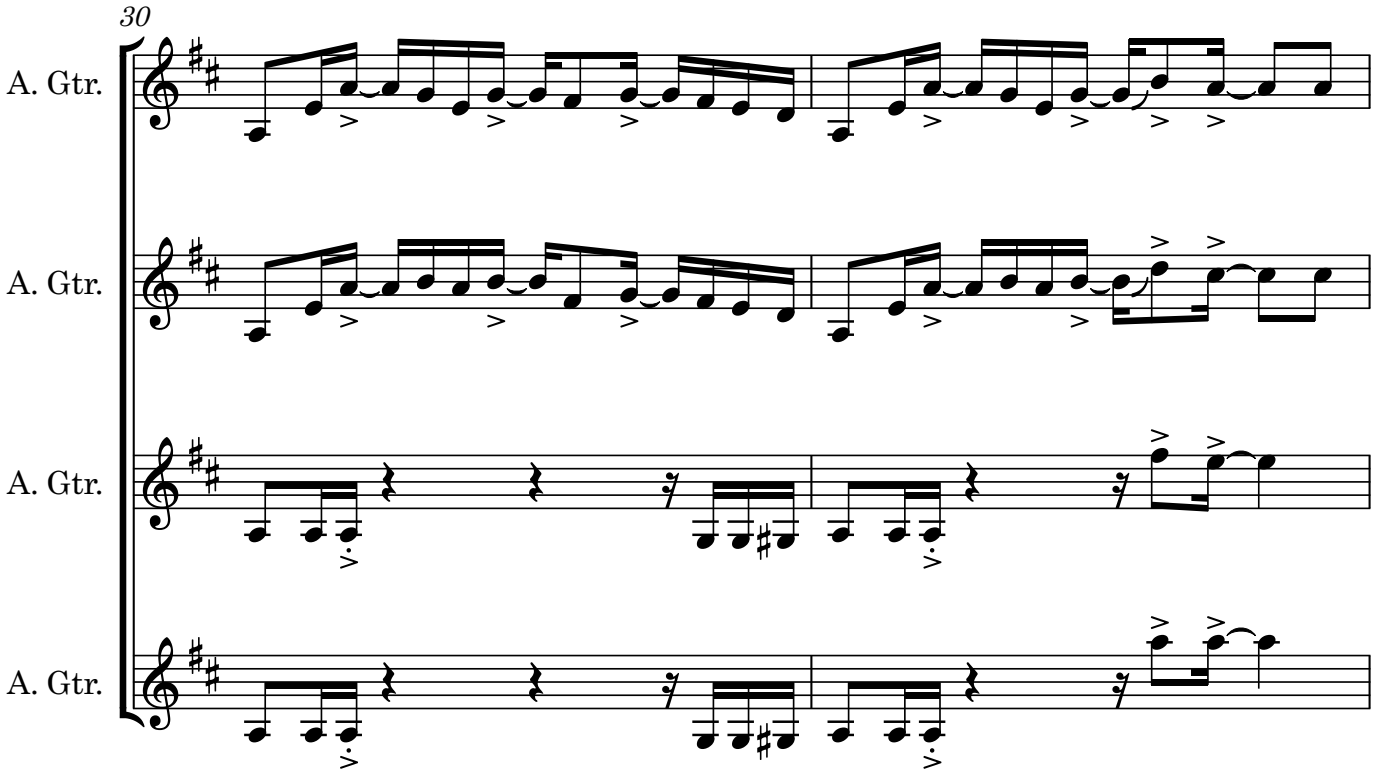
A. Gtr.
(f)
A. Gtr.
(f)
A. Gtr.
(f)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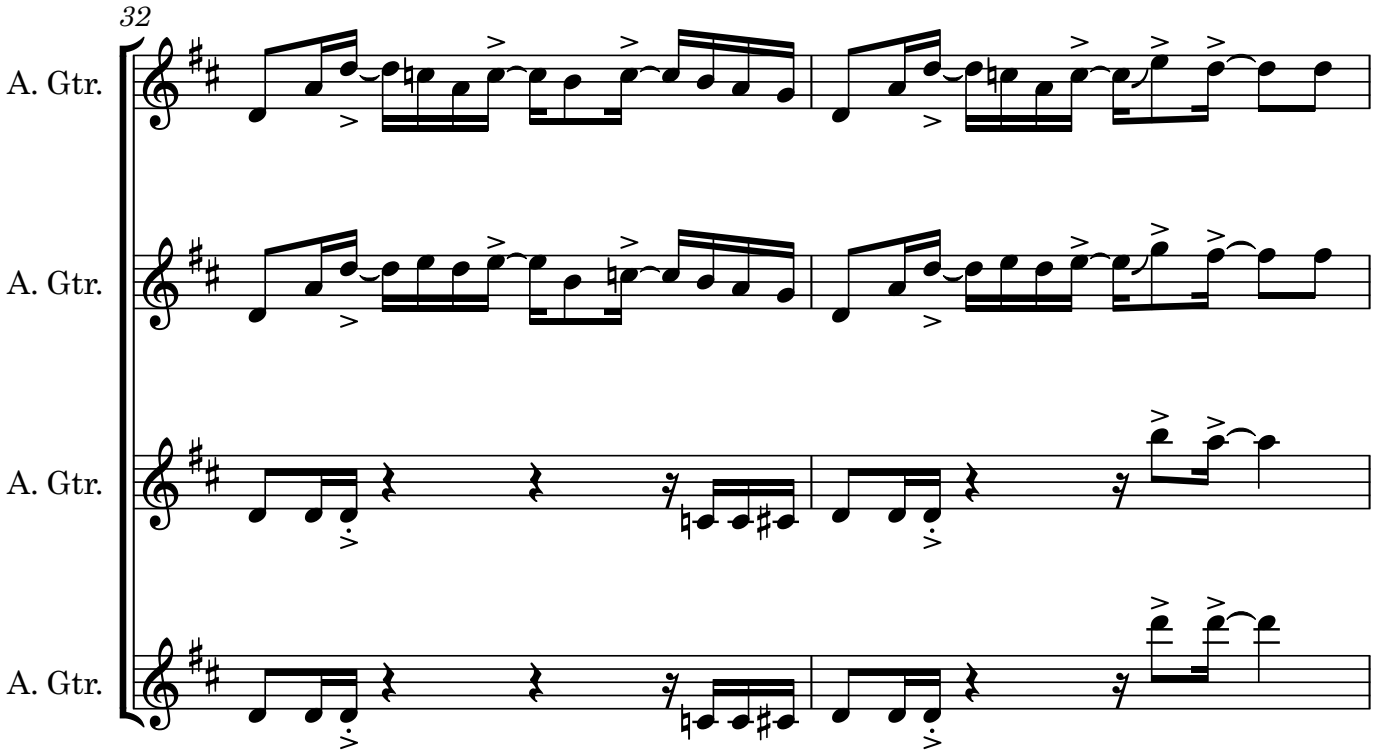
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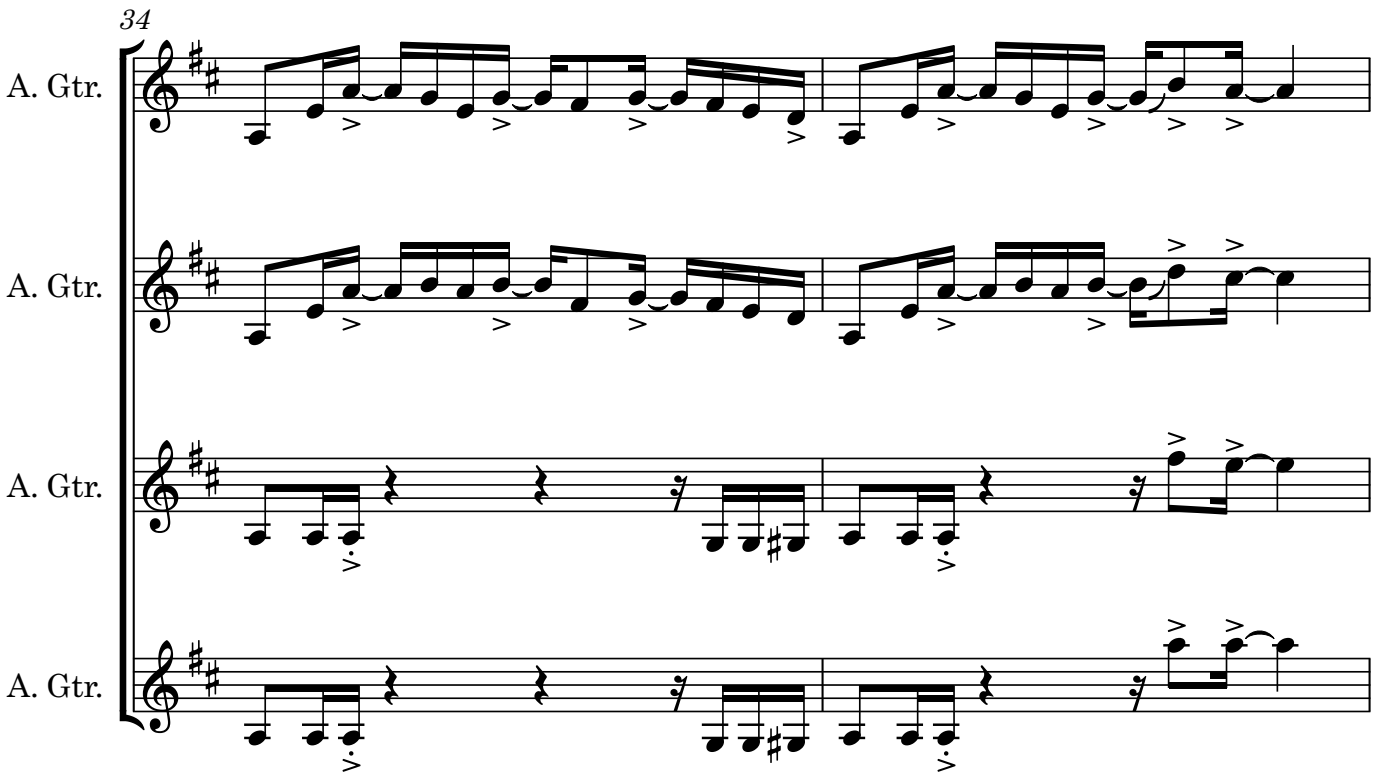
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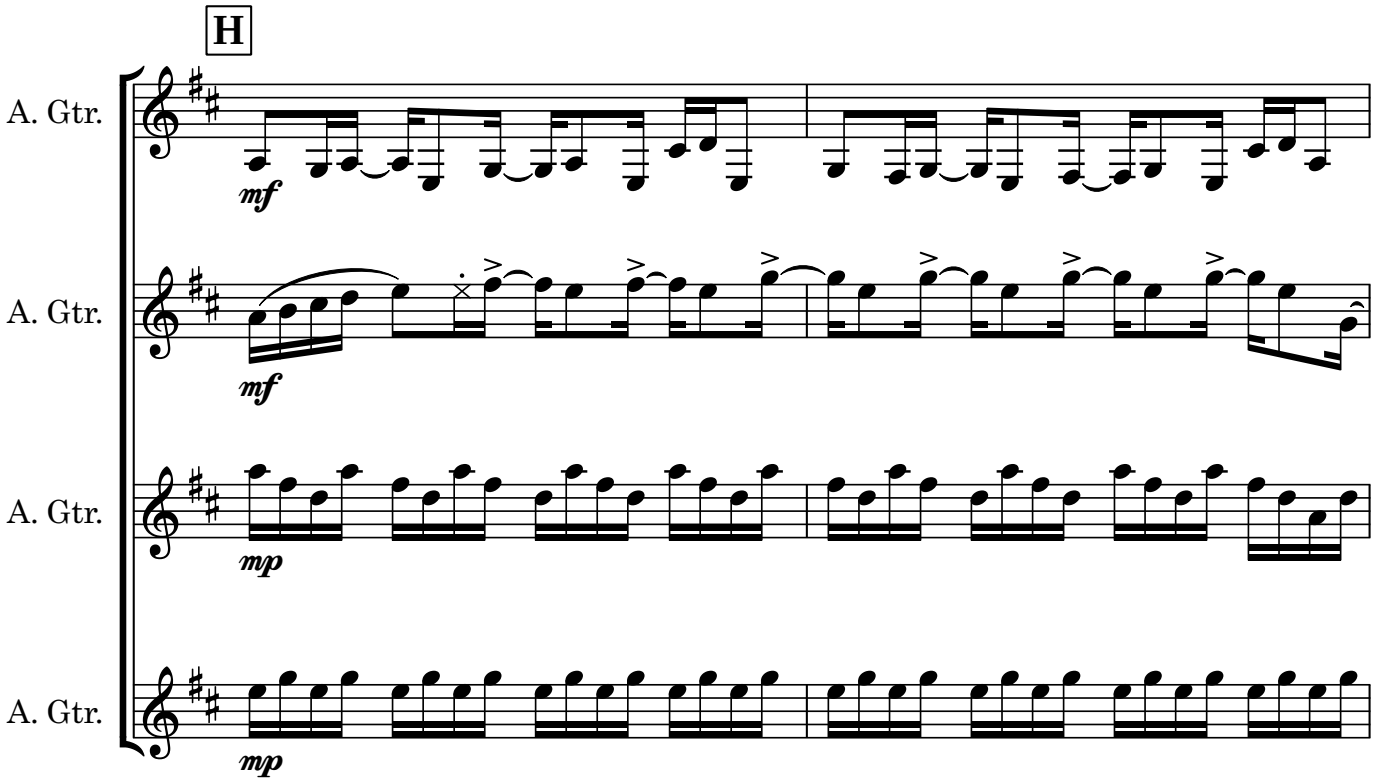
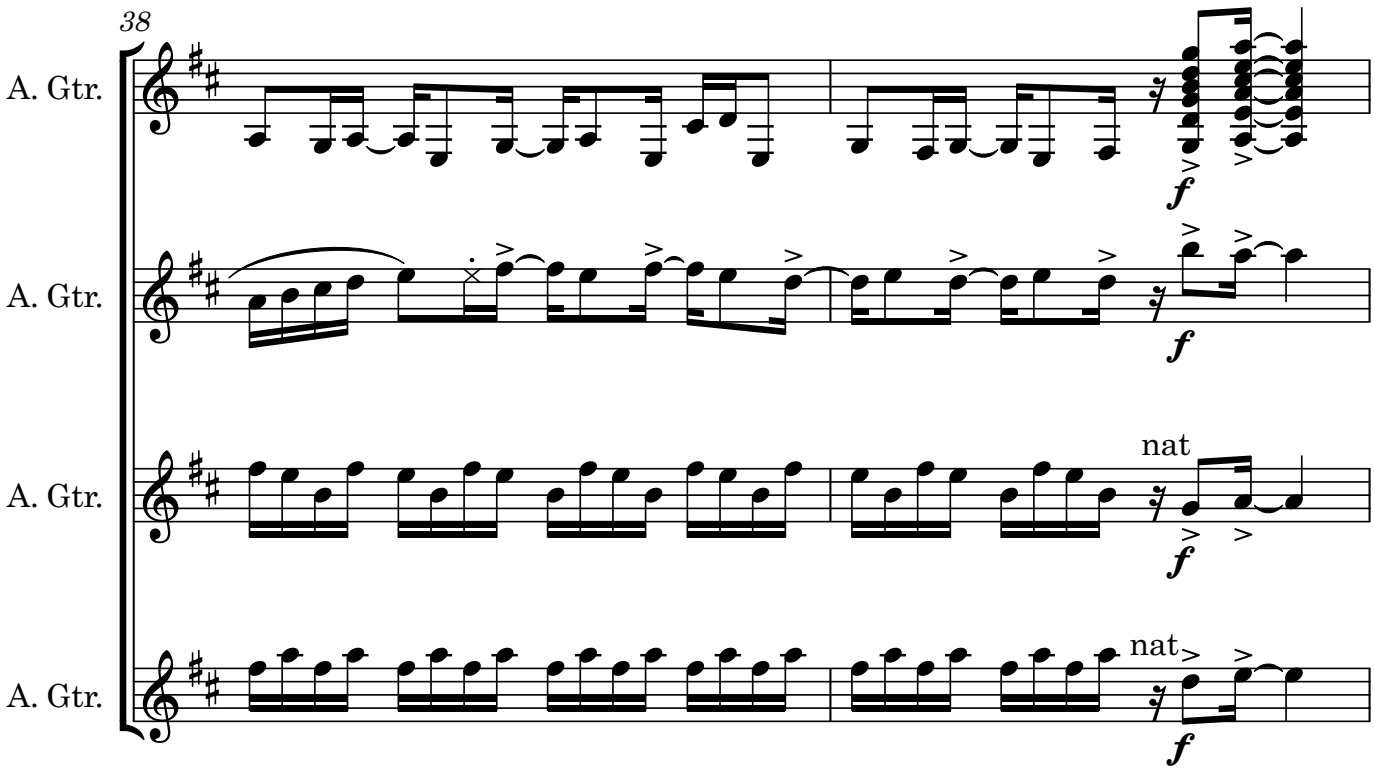

H
A. Gtr.
mf
A. Gtr.
mf
A. Gtr.
mp
A. Gtr.
mp


38
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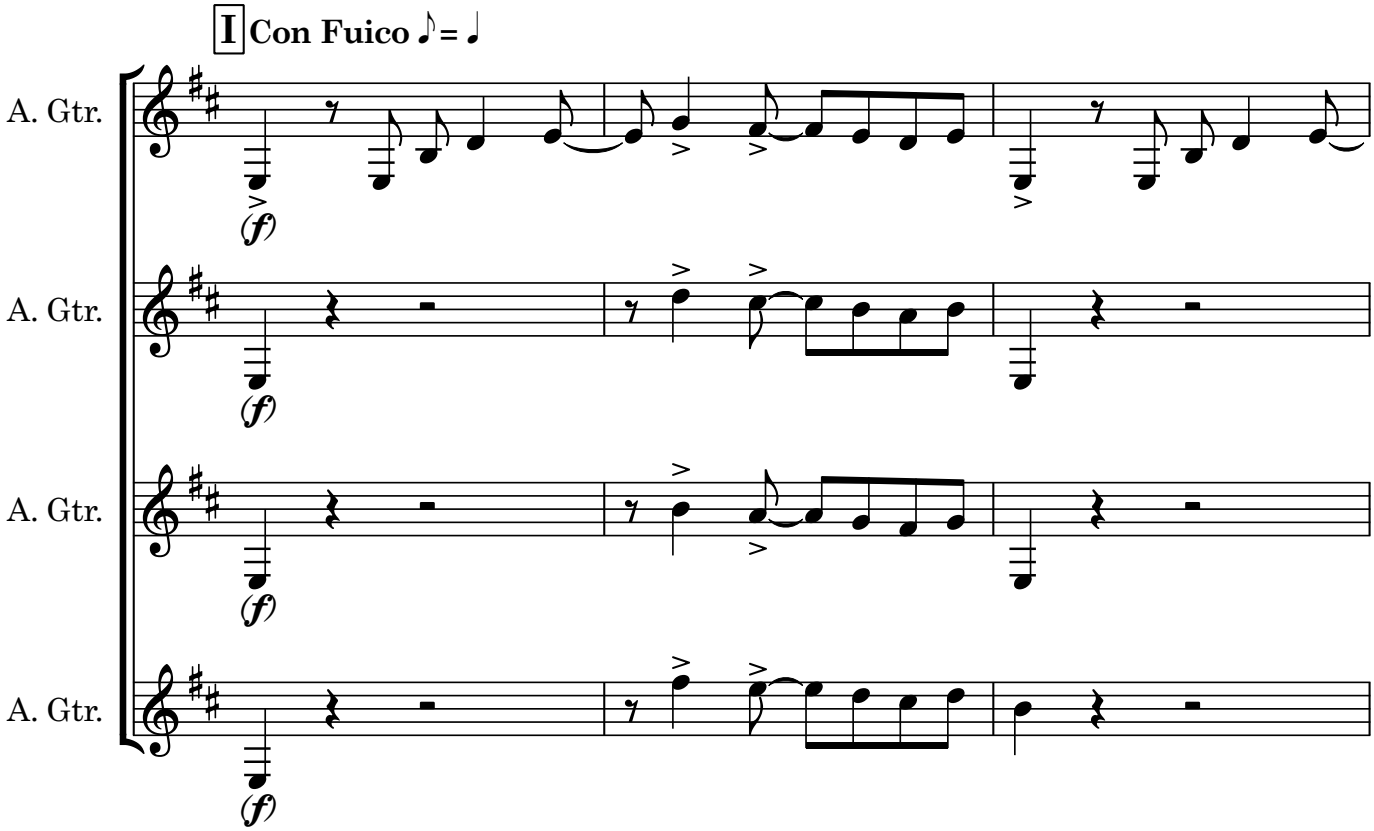
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
nat
nat
f


I Con Fuico ♪ = ♩
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
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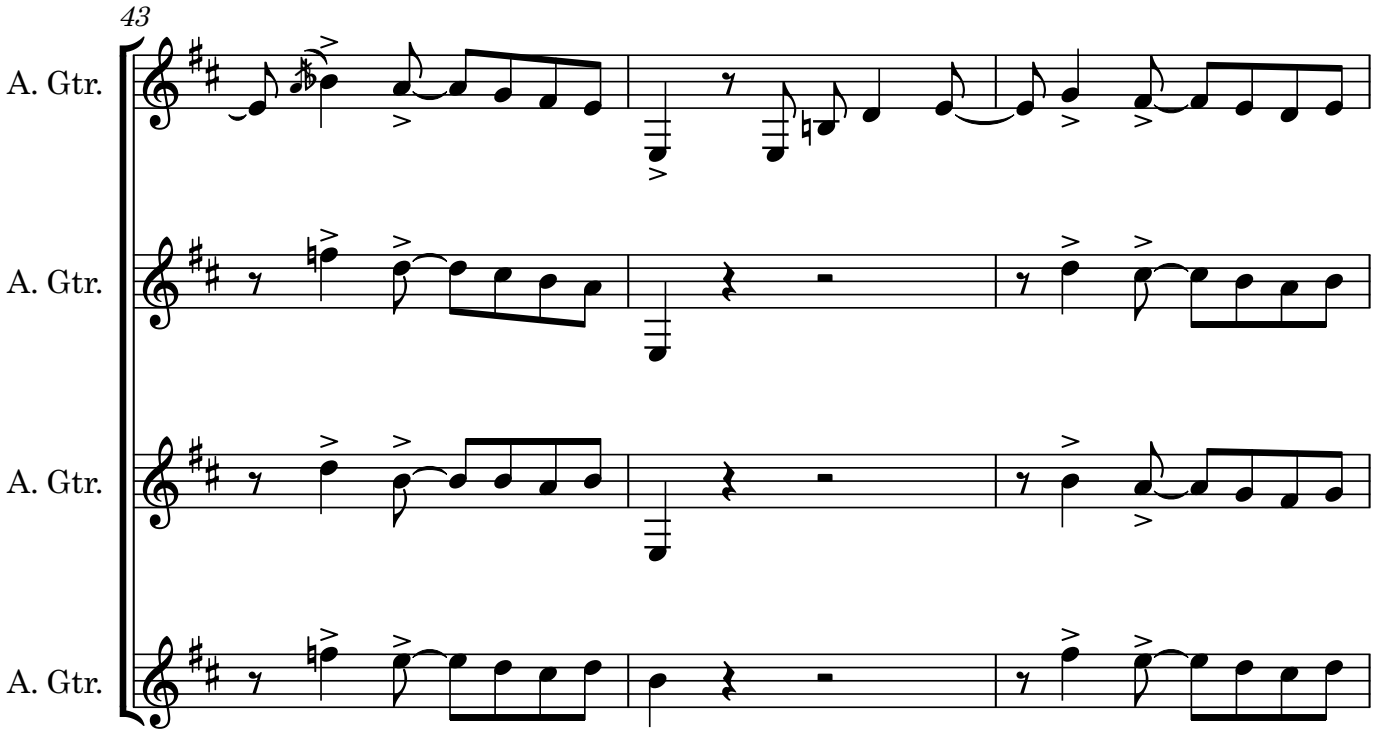
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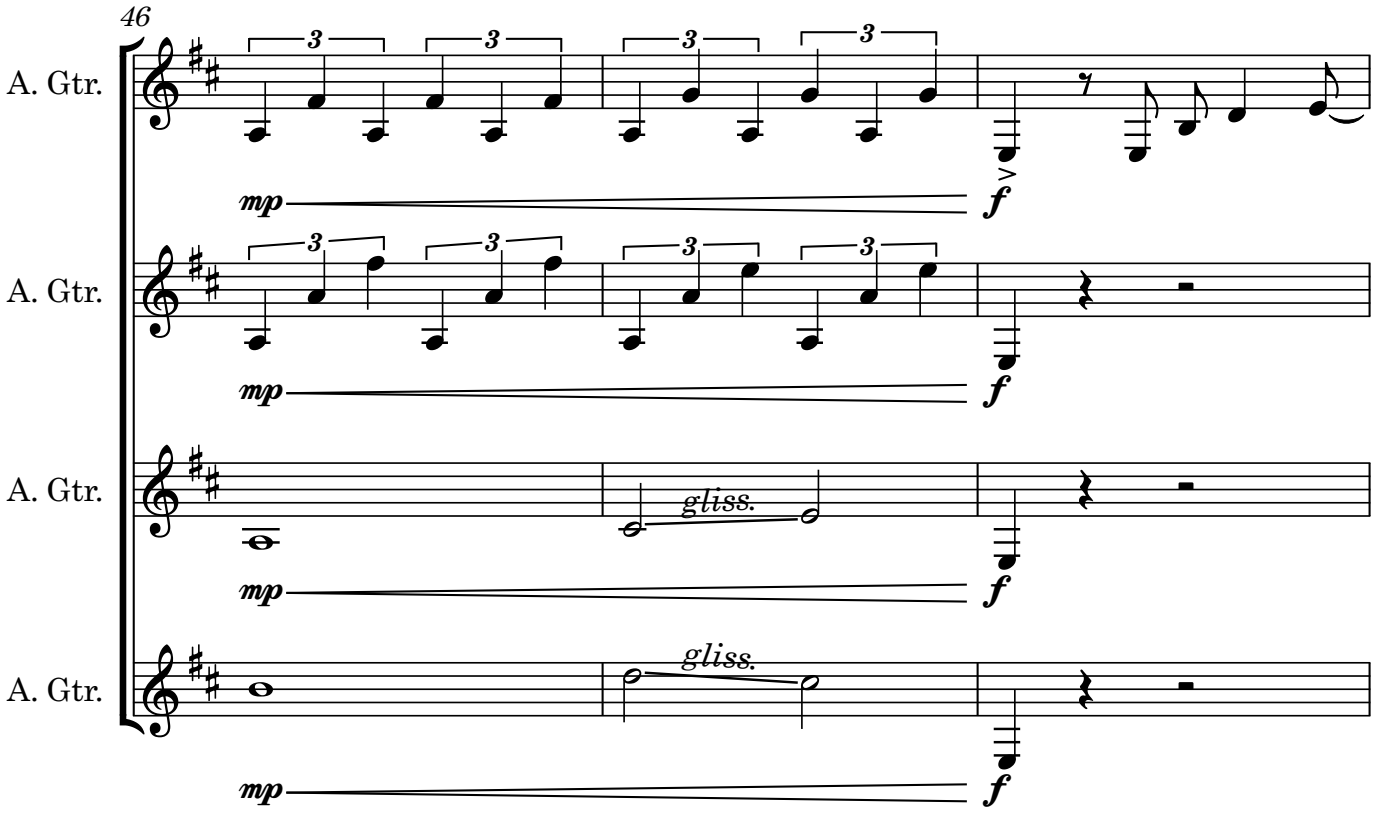
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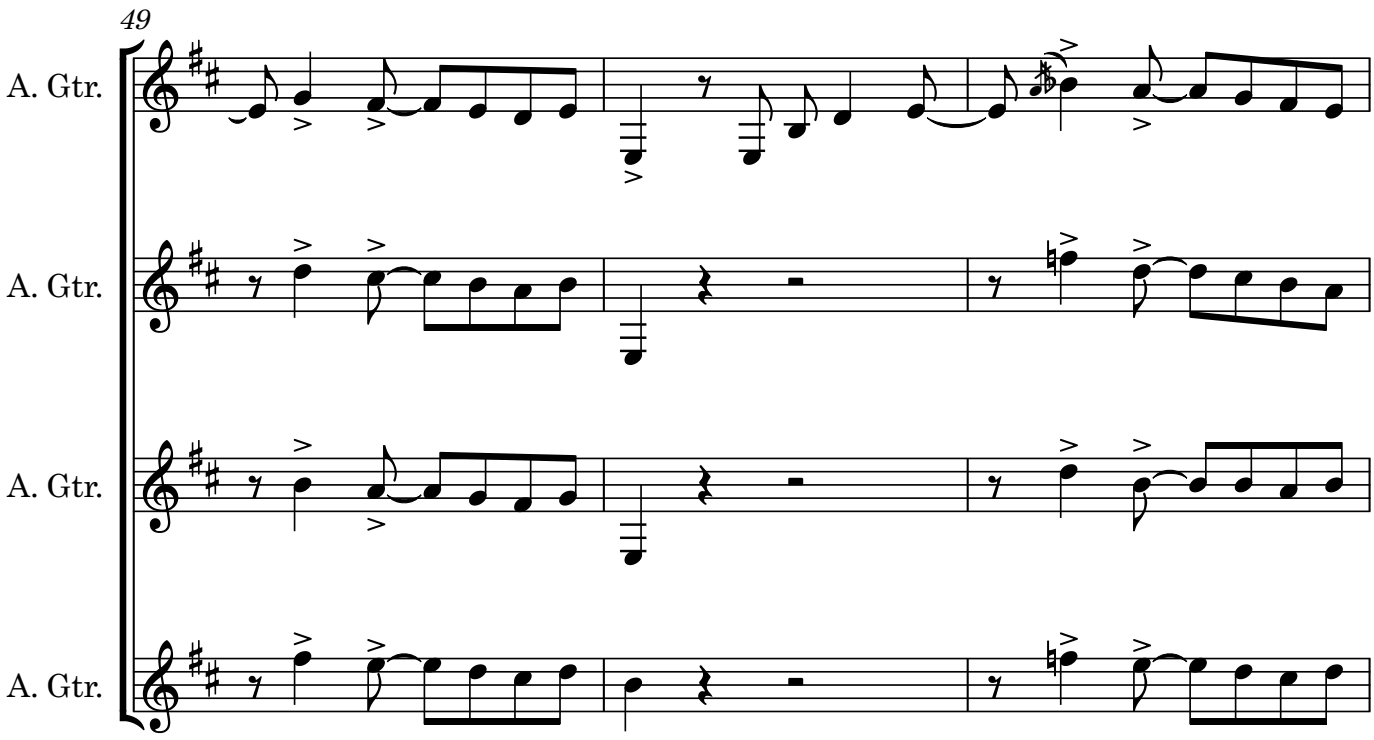
A. Gtr.
mp
f
gliss.
gliss.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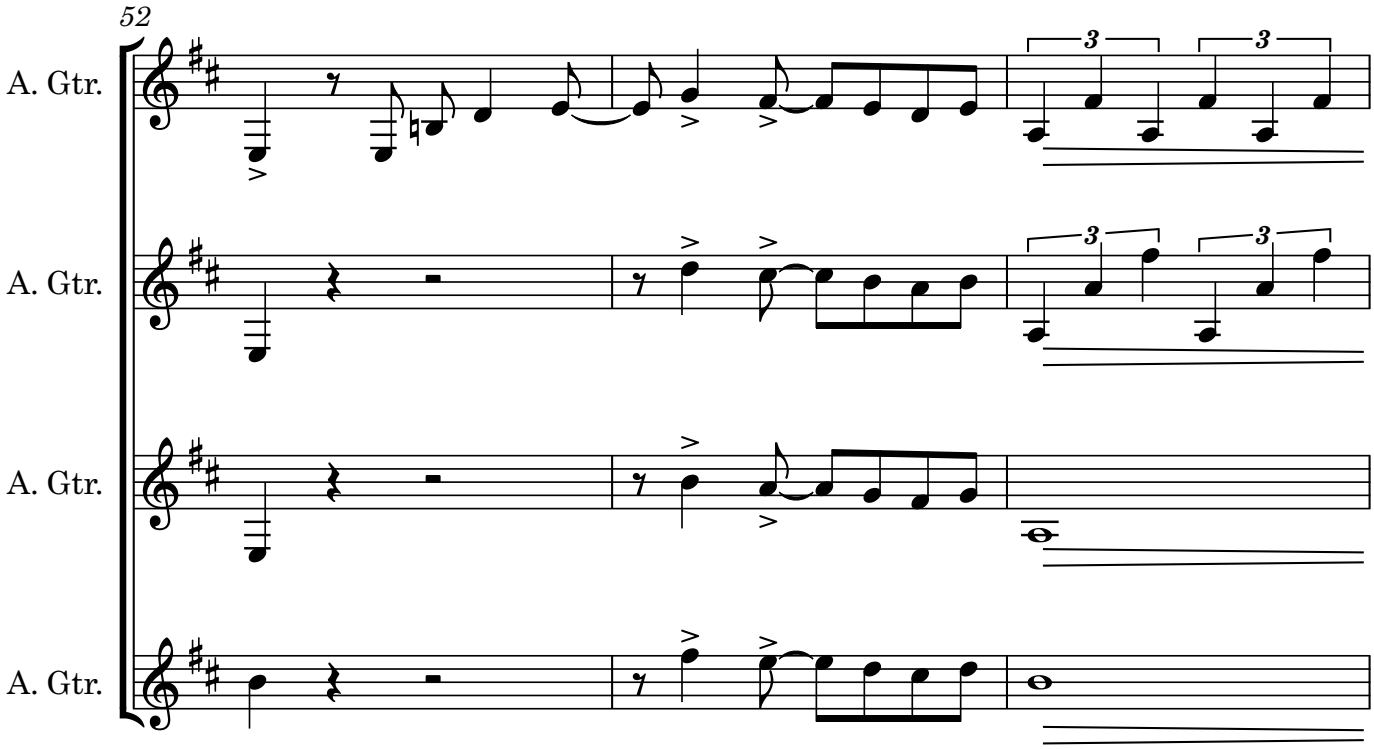
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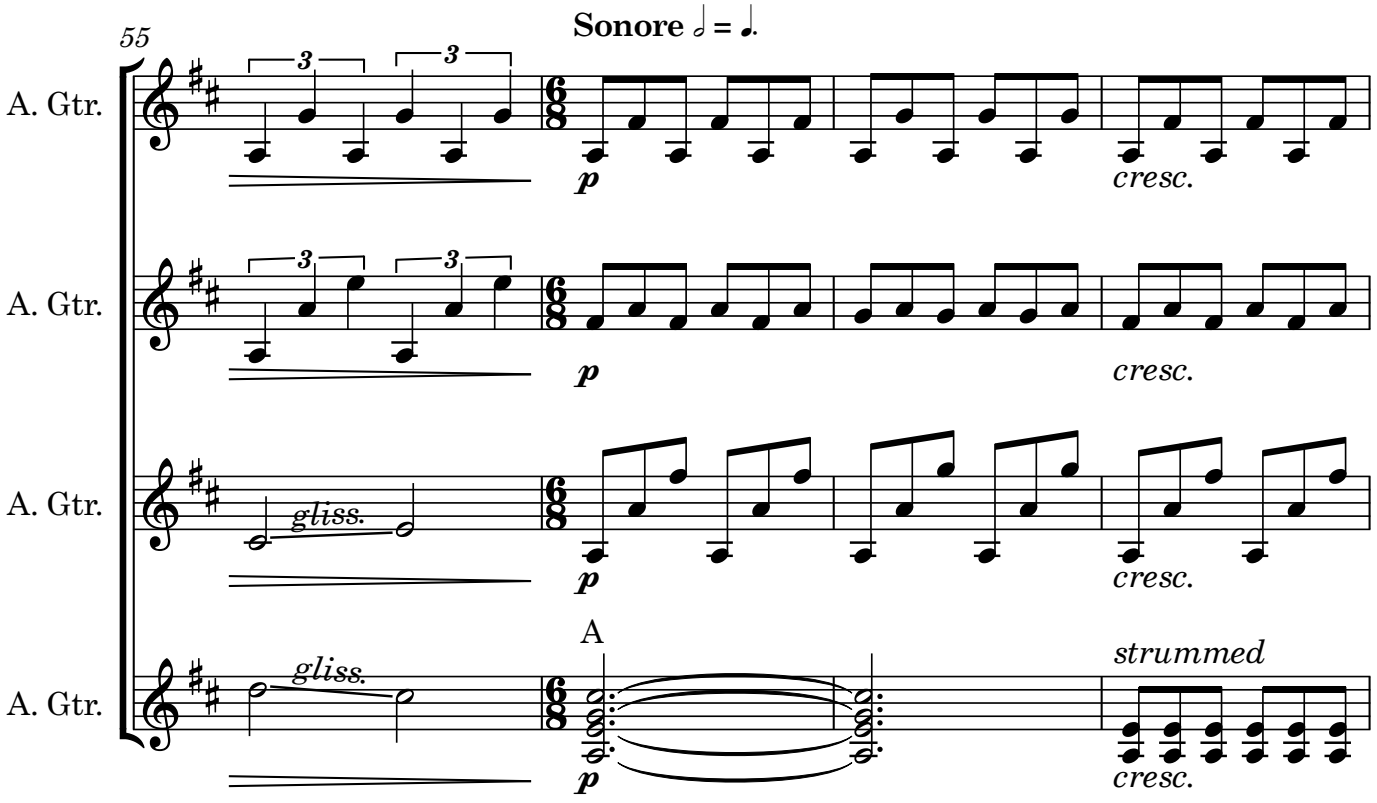
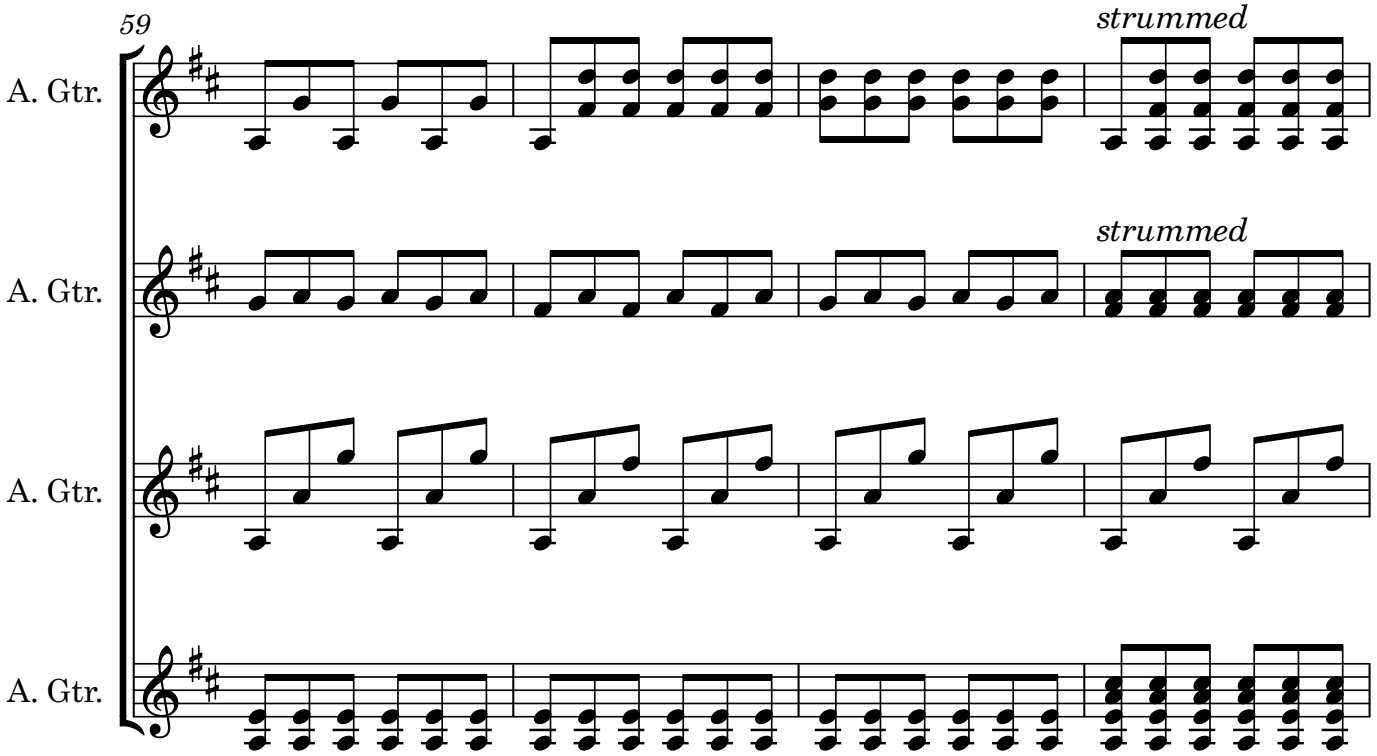

Sonore 𝅗𝅥 = 𝅗𝅥.
55
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
3
3
gliss.
gliss.
p
cresc.
A
strummed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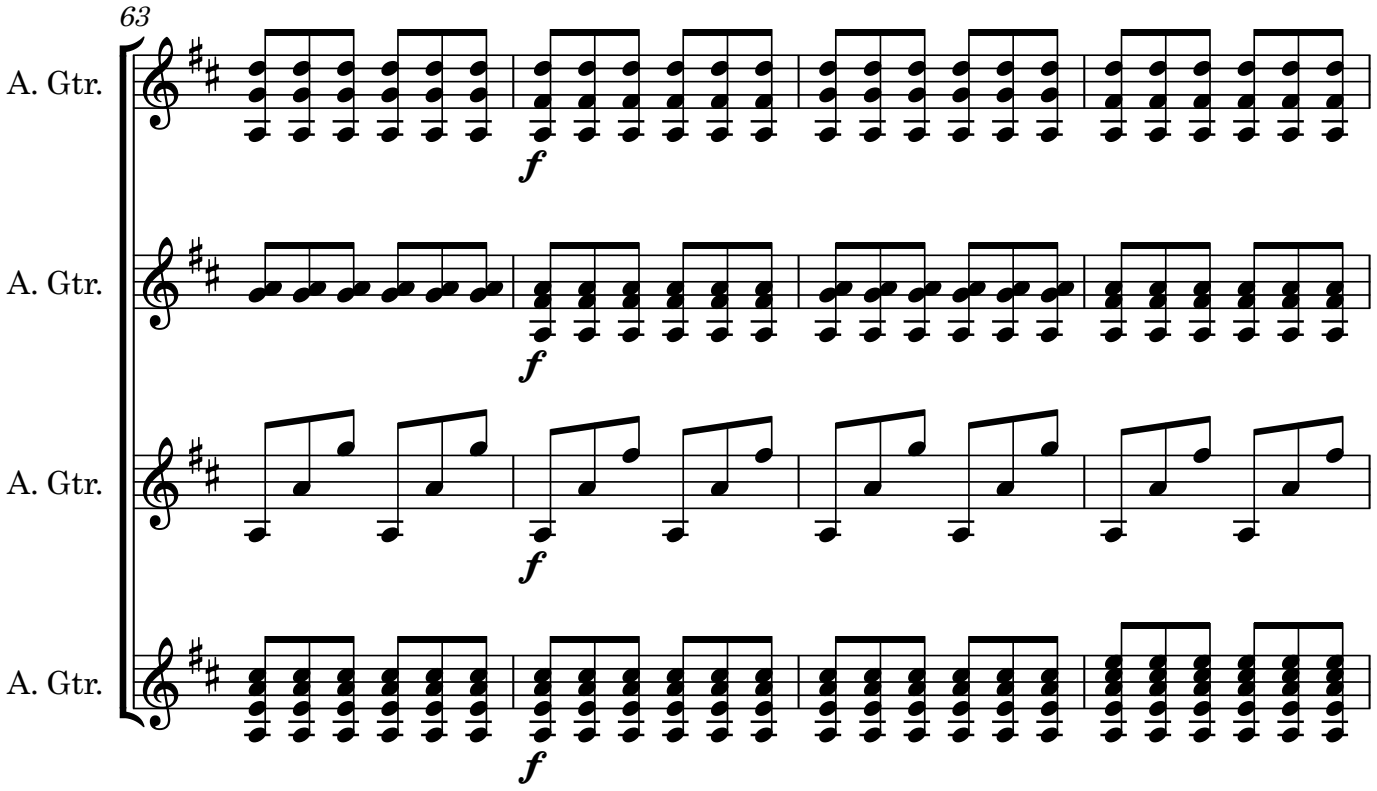
strummed
strummed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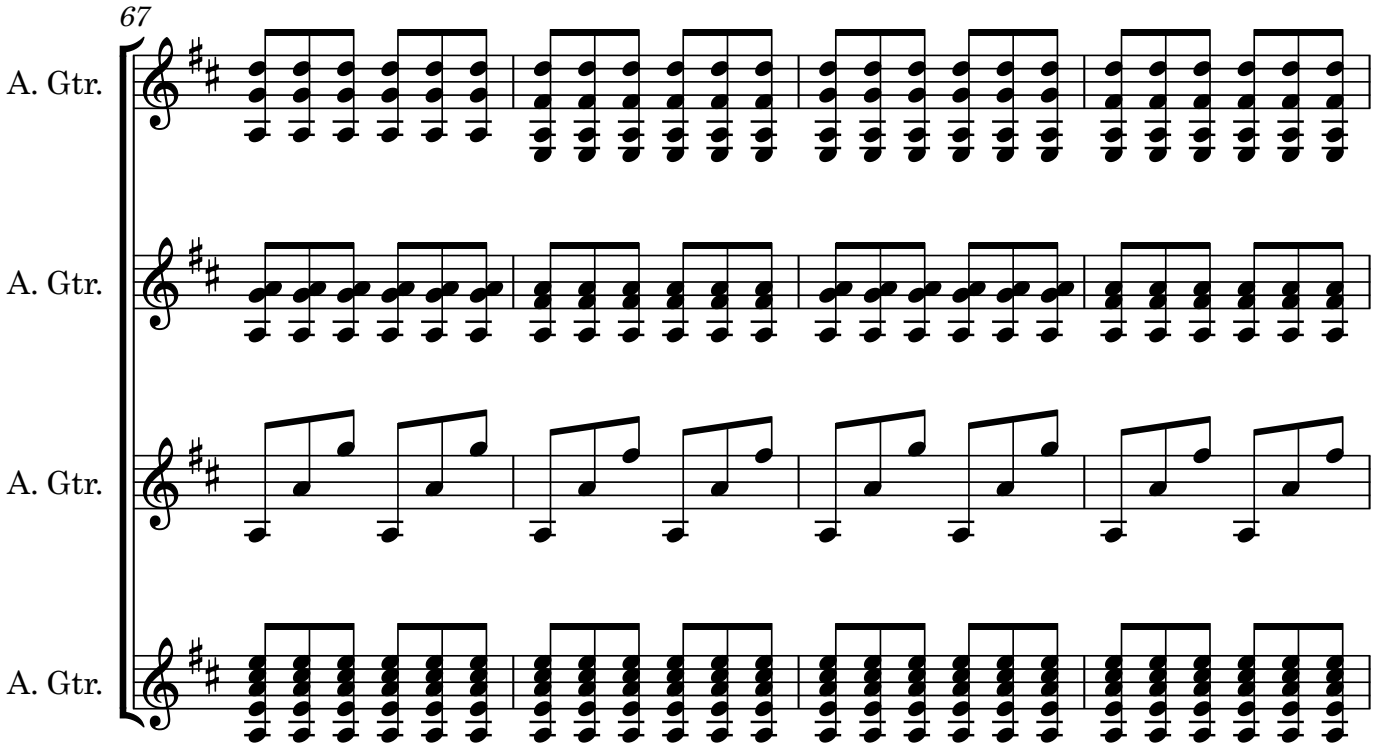
f
f
f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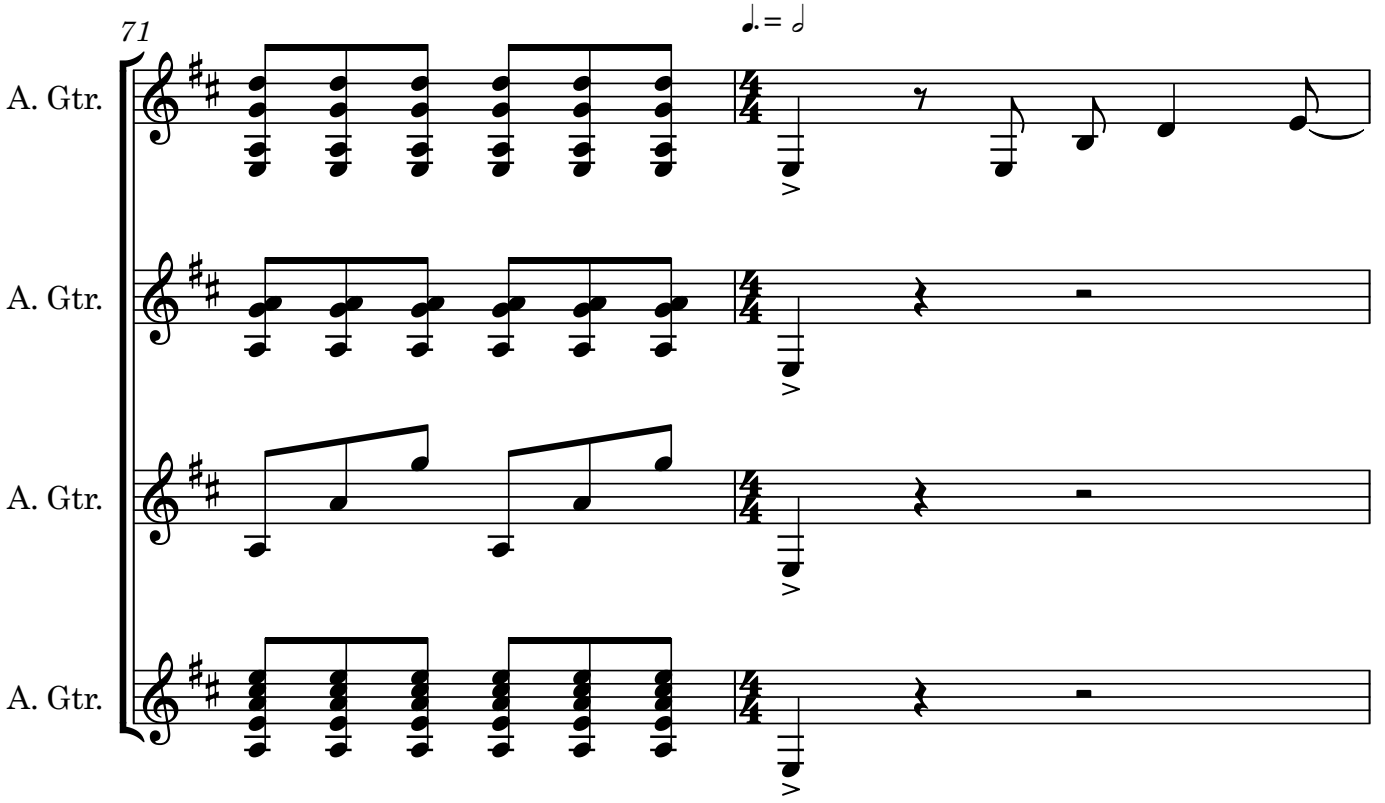
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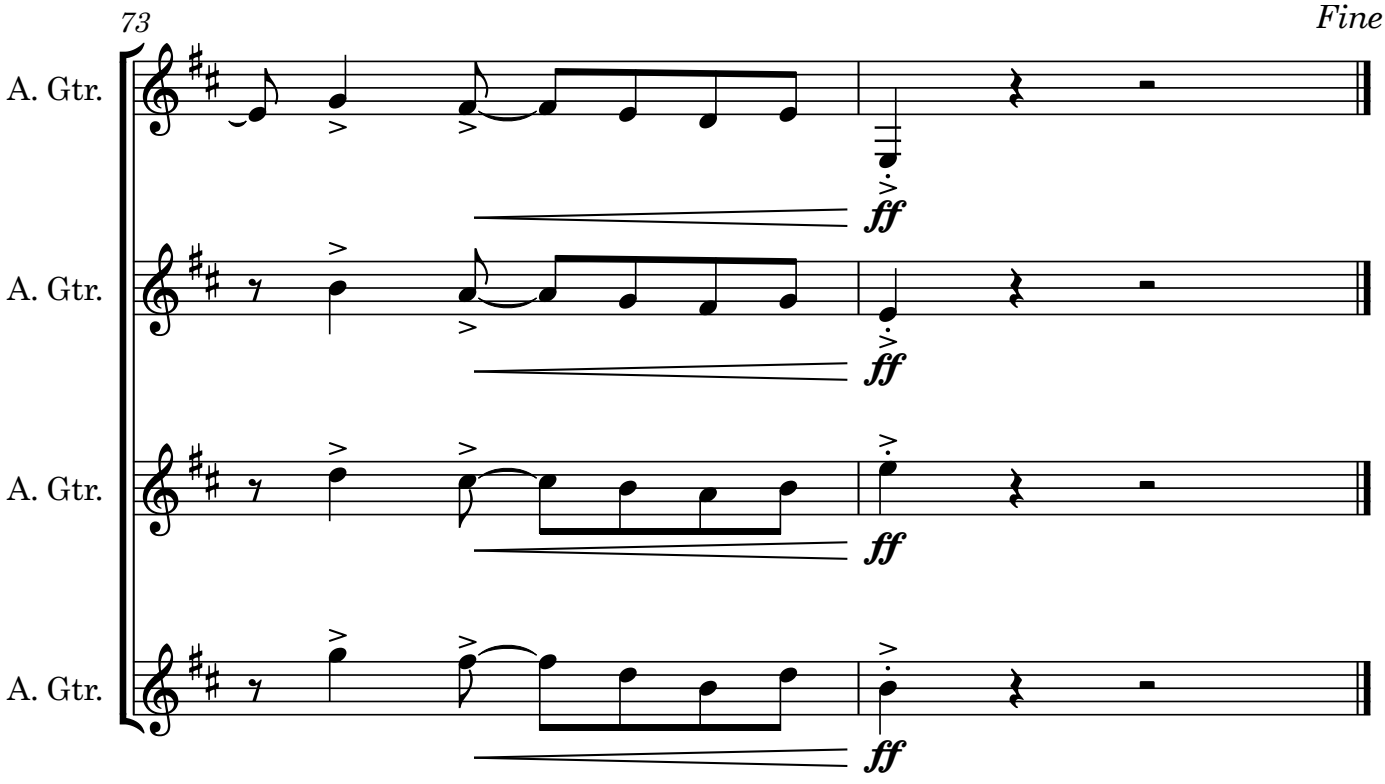
73
Fine
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
A. Gtr.
ff
ff
ff
ff