Ten Music Notation Programs

Second Edition

Engraving in Dorico, Encore, Finale, LilyPond, MuseScore, Music Press, Notion, Overture, Score and Sibelius, of Vyssotsky's *Elegy* arranged for classical guitar

Introduction

Since the advent of the personal computer and music notation programs for it, part of the criteria for program choice has been the engraving quality each application offers: design of music symbols and allotment of spacing between them. Symbols and spacing serve, first, in the interest of legibility. Beyond that, notation benefits from good graphic design just as does prose or poetry: the page which is more inviting to read can get a better reading.

Although interface and feature set are of course important in the choice of an engraving program, this comparison is offered for those especially interested in high quality publication, and illustrates what notation from each of several popular applications looks like. Although one program's output can be made to look much like another's, some aspects of that are easier to do, and it's interesting how the personality of the pages varies.

I mentioned this to Abraham Lee, a noted designer of music fonts, who replied:

> I couldn't agree more! It really is amazing to see how each application embeds its own personality into the score's appearance, beyond what is "correct" or not. Truly fascinating, indeed!

Unsolicited comments on earlier editions of this document include:

> Absolutely amazing! . . . Interesting! . . . This is certainly a worth while endeavor . . . a really great idea and I'm glad that someone is taking the time to do it the right way . . . I love seeing how each program handles music . . . I don't think I've ever seen a lineup of professionally engraved scores like this before. It's a great idea. I must say, I find it very encouraging that there is still a large element of personality to be found in every one of the engravings, despite the nature of computers. Long may that continue! . . . Very interesting indeed to see the subtle differences in the notation and how the eye perceives it for clarity . . . Nice work! . . . Thank you so much! . . . This is wonderful!

This iteration of the document that started life as *Six Music Notation Programs*, and later became *Seven,* benefits from inclusion of the highly anticipated Dorico from Steinberg and the former Sibelius development team, and by restoration from *Six* of Encore, which is more widely used in Europe and especially South America, and Music Press, which under new auspices is again available. This second edition of *Ten* includes revisions of Dorico and Notion.

John Rethorst
jrethorst@yahoo.com
July 16, 2017

Acknowledgements

Program	Engraver	Engraver contact info	Program web site
Dorico 1.1	Daniel Spreadbury	steinberg.net	steinberg.net
Encore 5.0	Richard Sayage	savageclassical.com	passportmusic.com
Finale 2014.5	Richard Lee/VSL Music Services	info@vslmusic.com www.vslmusic.com	finalemusic.com
LilyPond 2.19.36	Abraham Lee	musictypefoundry.com	lilypond.org
Music Press 9.1	Richard White	whitcopress.com	mansfieldmusic.com
MuseScore 2.0.2	Nicolas Froment	musescore.com/user/5	musescore.com
Notion 6.2.439	Nikola Viel	nikola.viel@gmail.com	presonus.com
Overture 5.0	John Rethorst	jrethorst@yahoo.com	sonicscores.com
Score 4.0	Matanya Ophee	editionsorphee.com	scoremus.com
Sibelius 8.2	William Holab	billholabmusic.com	avid.com/sibelius

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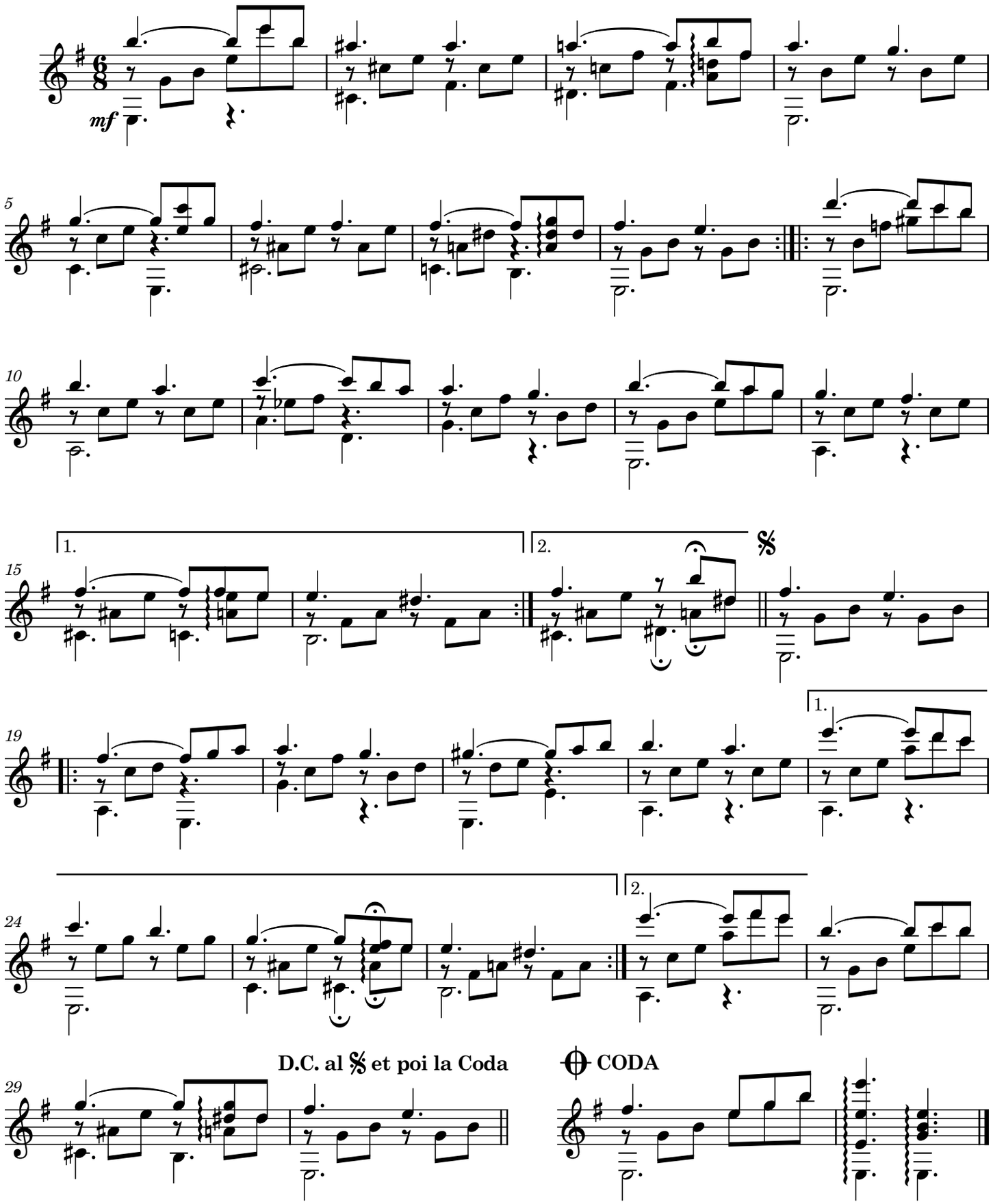
Elegy

Arranged for 6-string guitar by Matanya Ophee

Dorico

Attributed to Mikhail Vyssotsky



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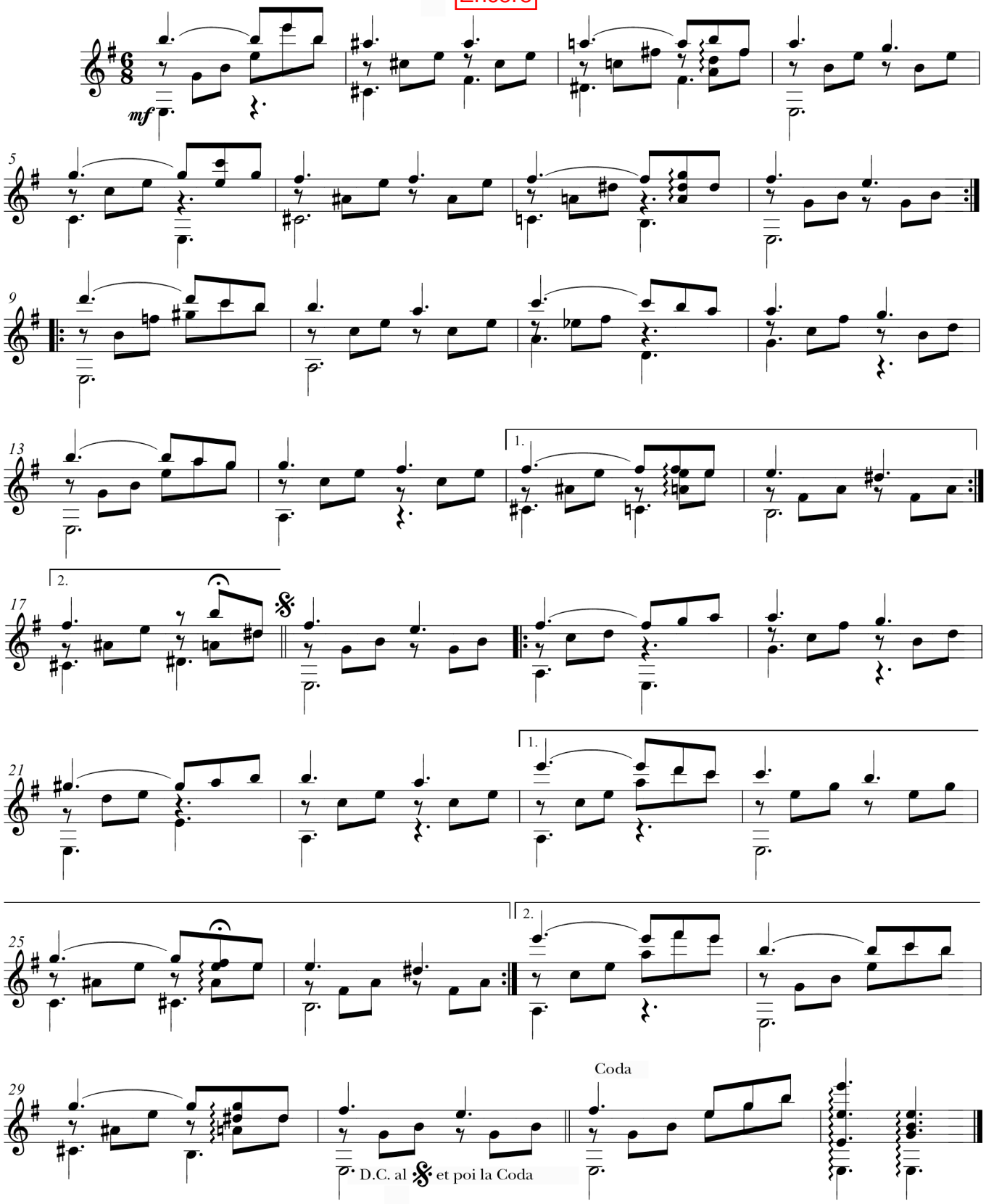
Elegy

Arranged for 6-string guitar by Matanya Ophee

Encore

Attributed to Mikhail Vyssotsky



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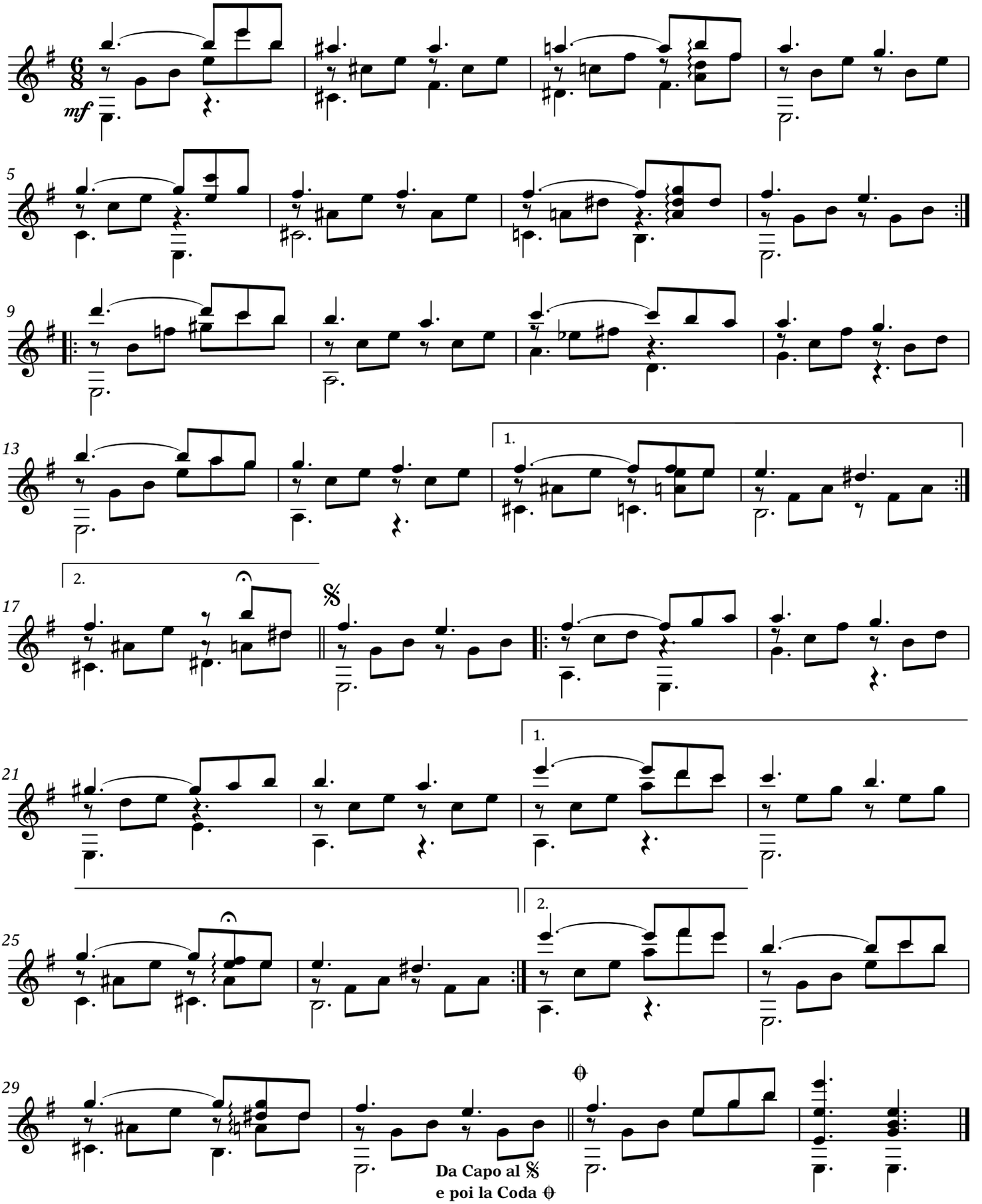
6 String Guitar

Elegy

Finale

attr. Mikhail Vyssostsky
arr. Matanya Ophee



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Elegy

Arranged for 6-string guitar by Matanya Ophee

LilyPond

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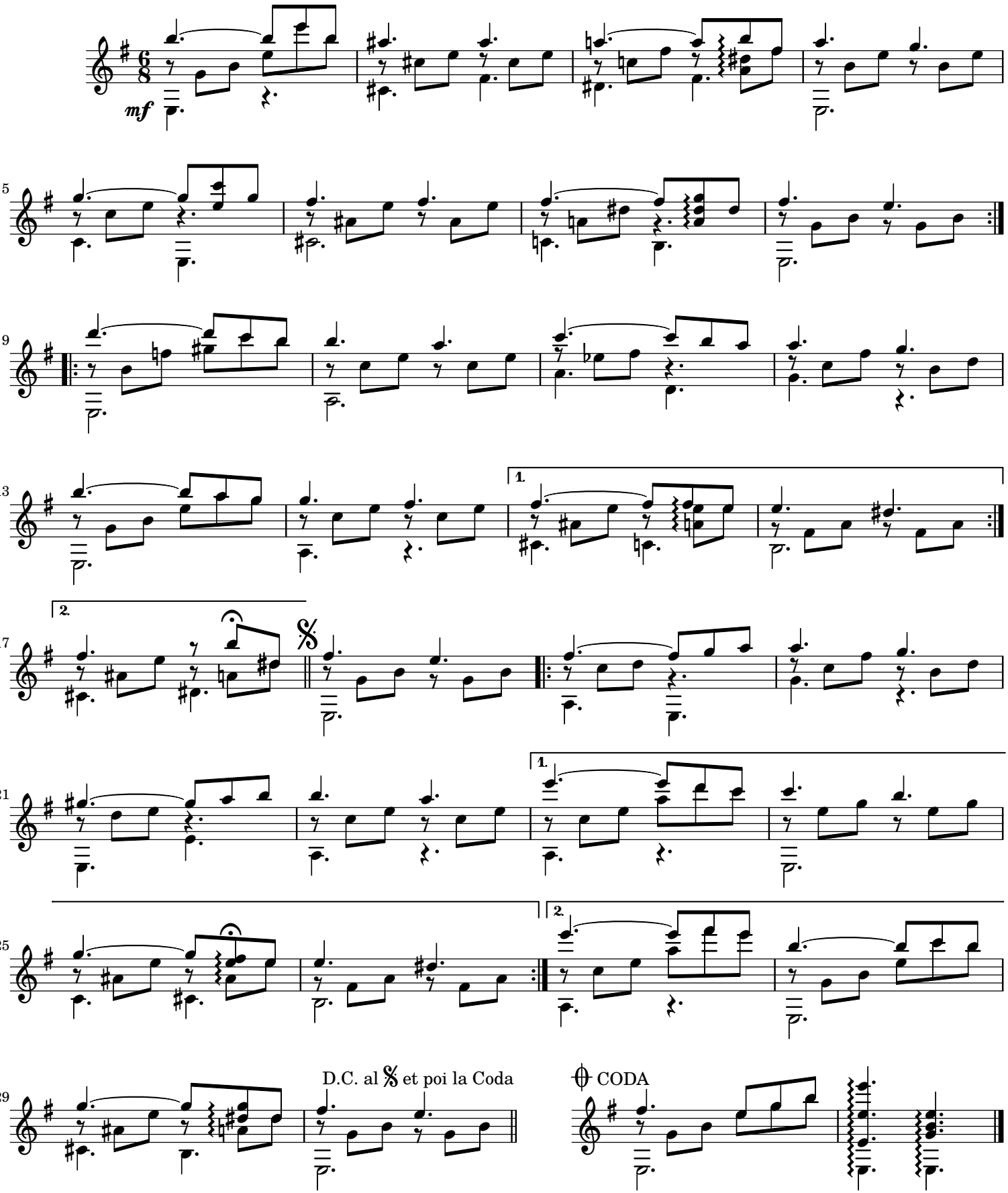

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Transcribed by Abraham Lee using LilyPond 2.19.36

Elegy

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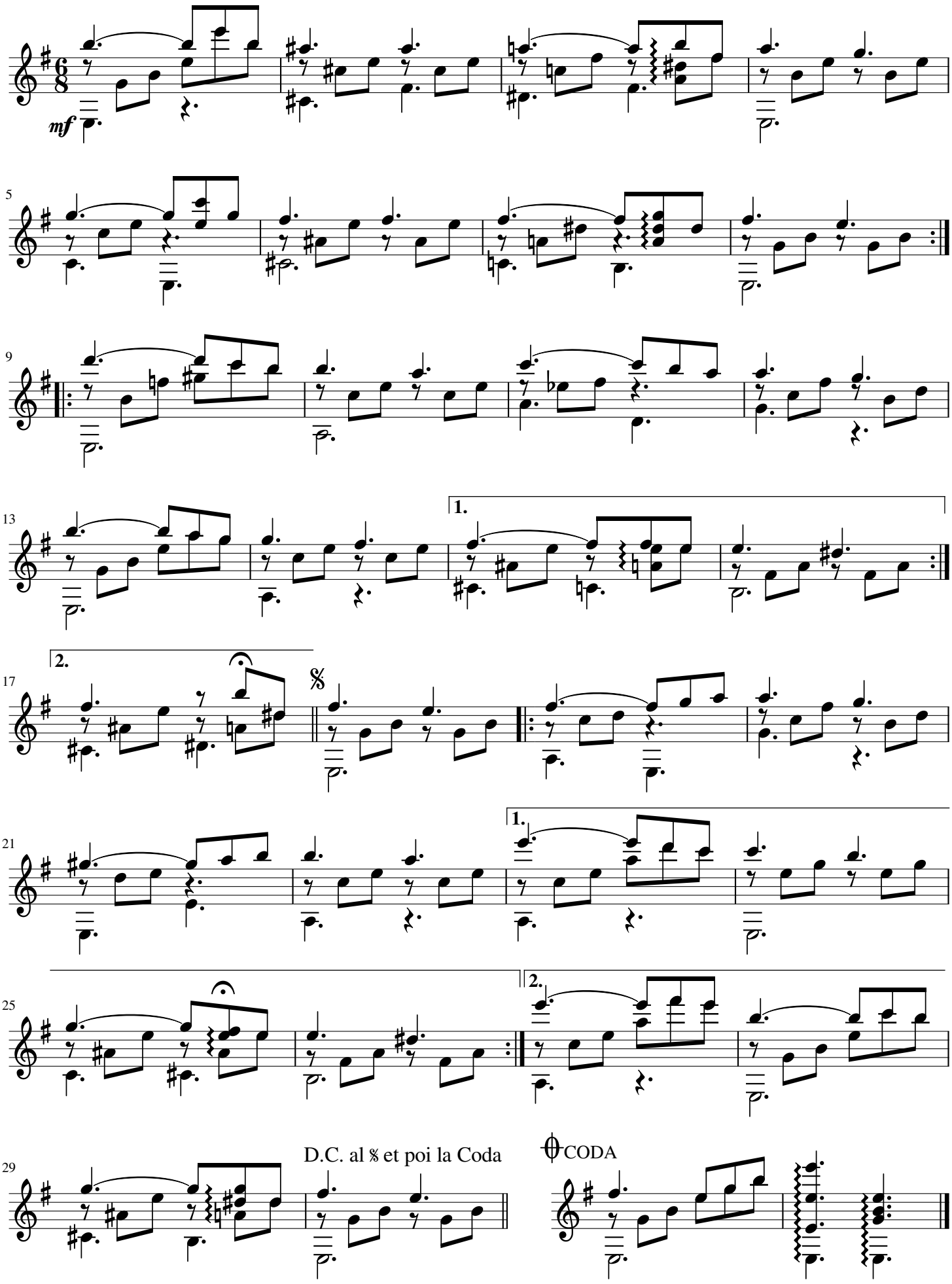
MuseScore

Attributed to Mikhail Vyssotsky



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Elegy

Music Press

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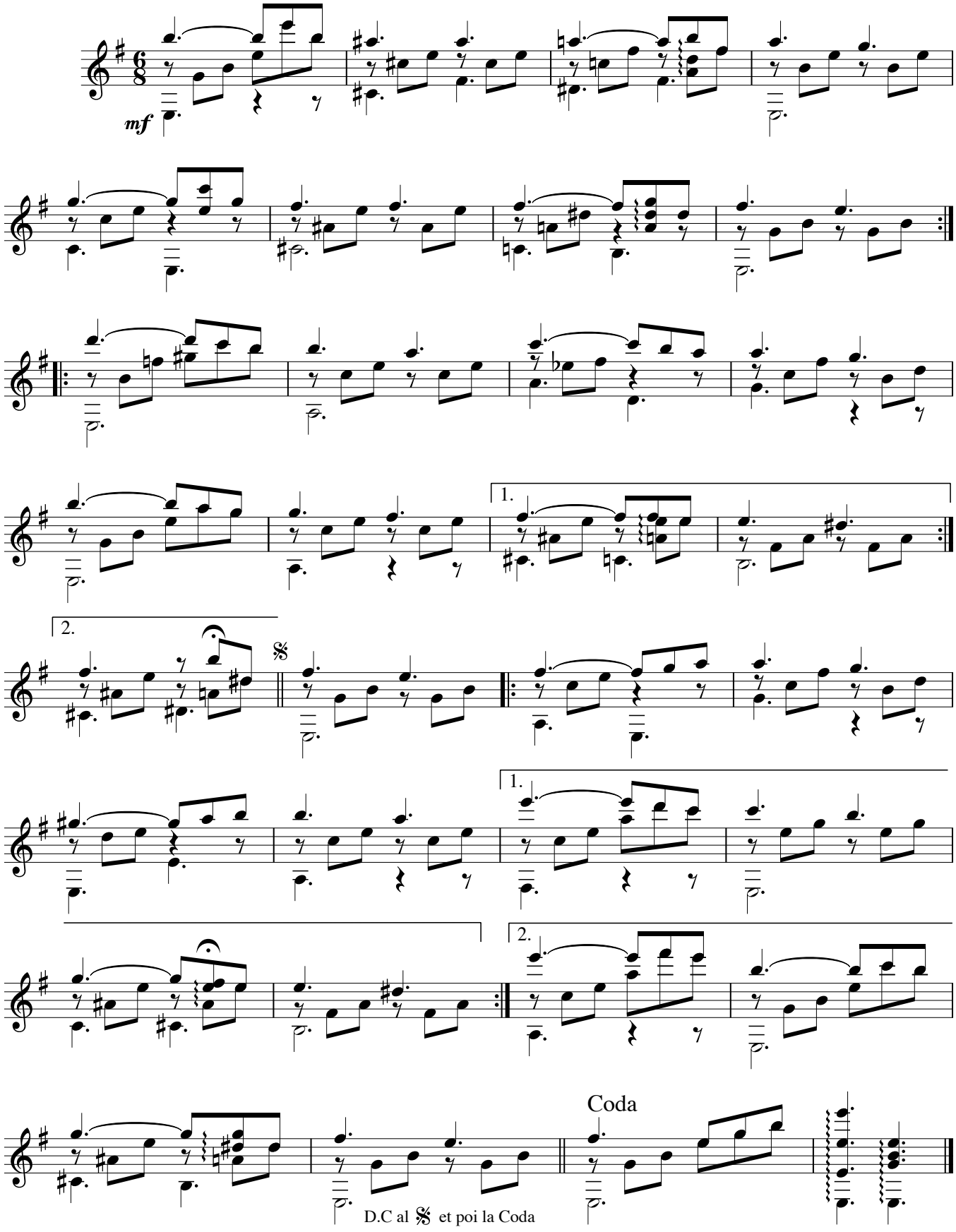

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Elegy

Arranged for 6-string guitar by Matanya Ophee

Notion

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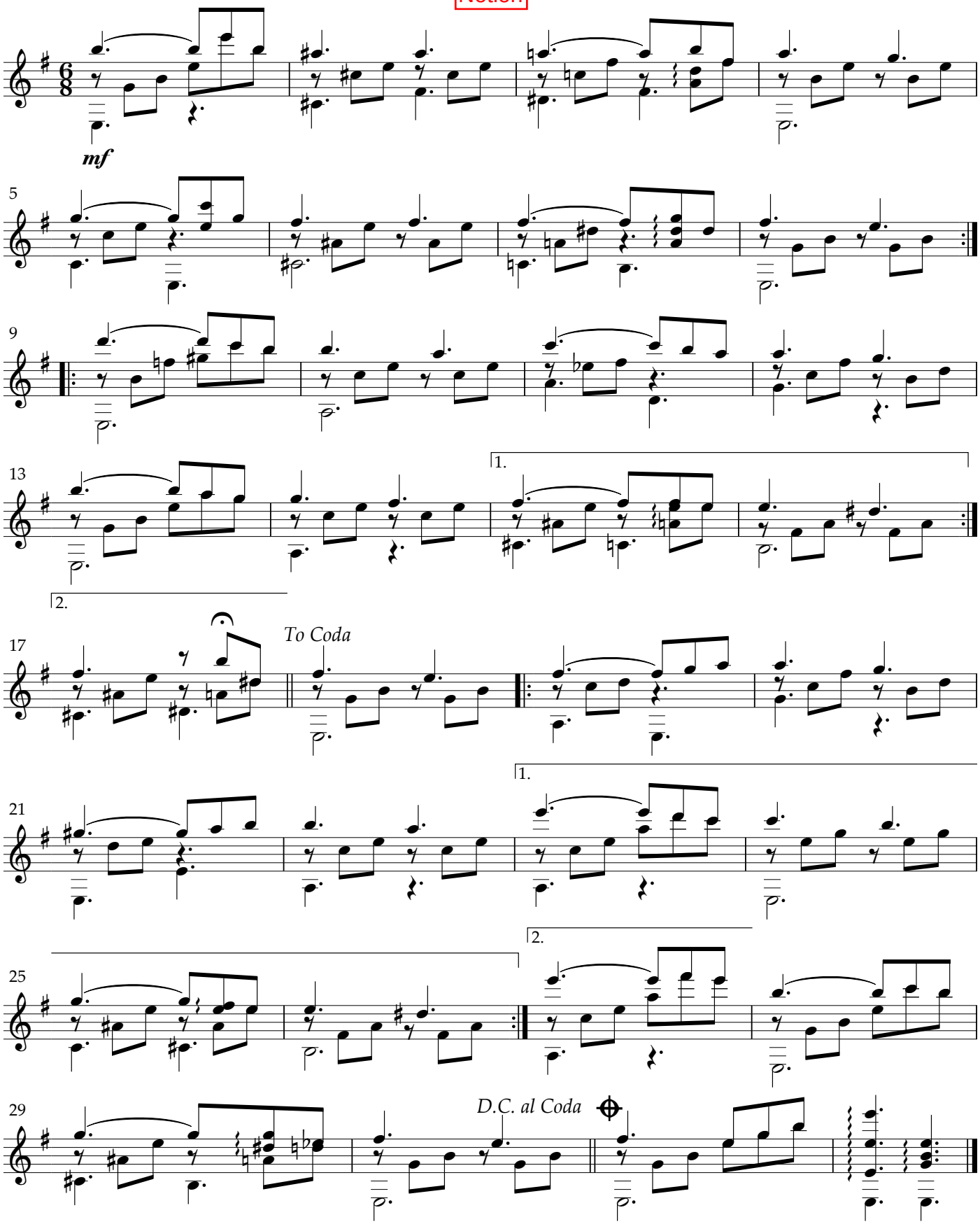

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Elegy

Overture

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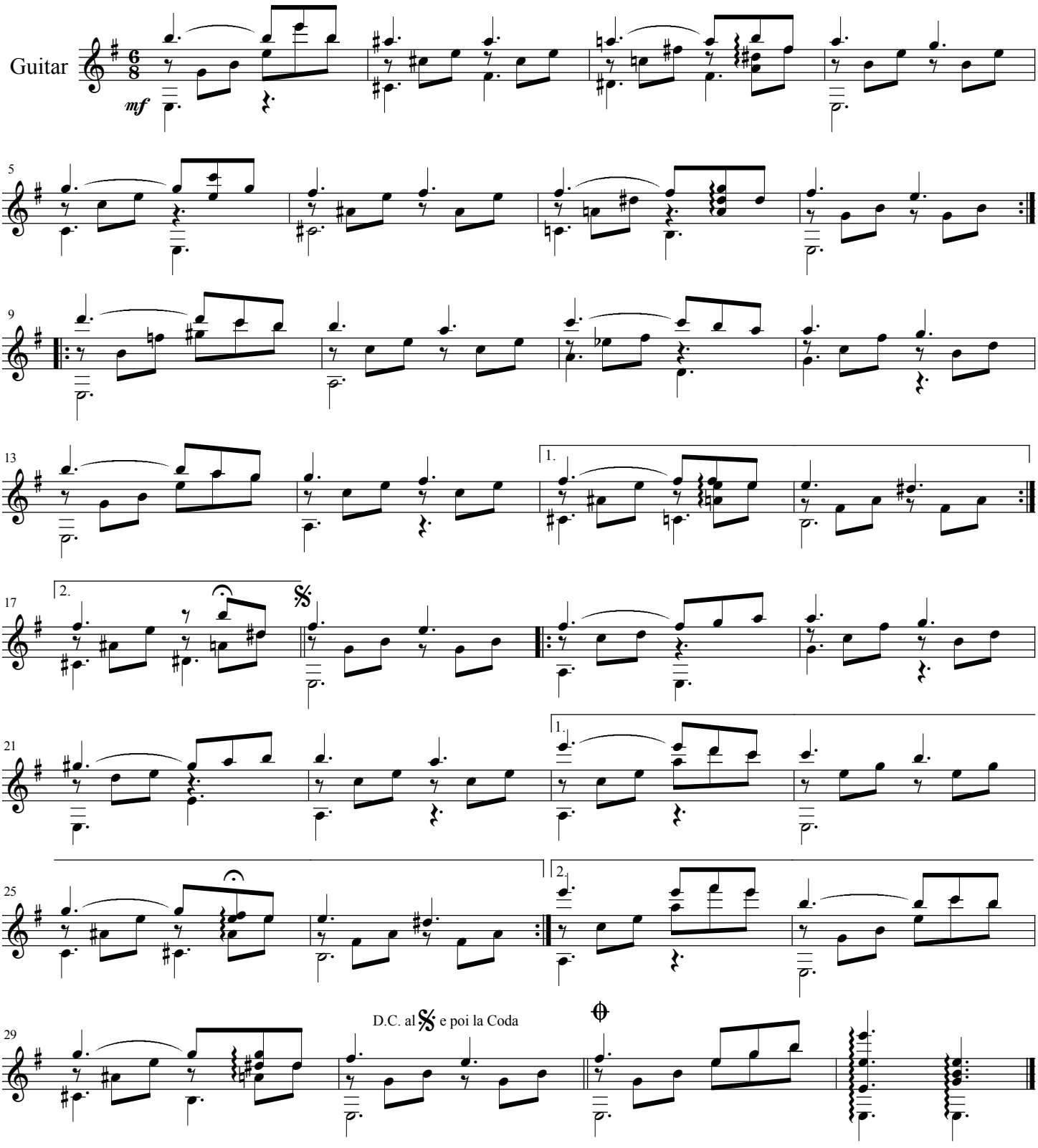
Attributed to
Michael Vyssotsky



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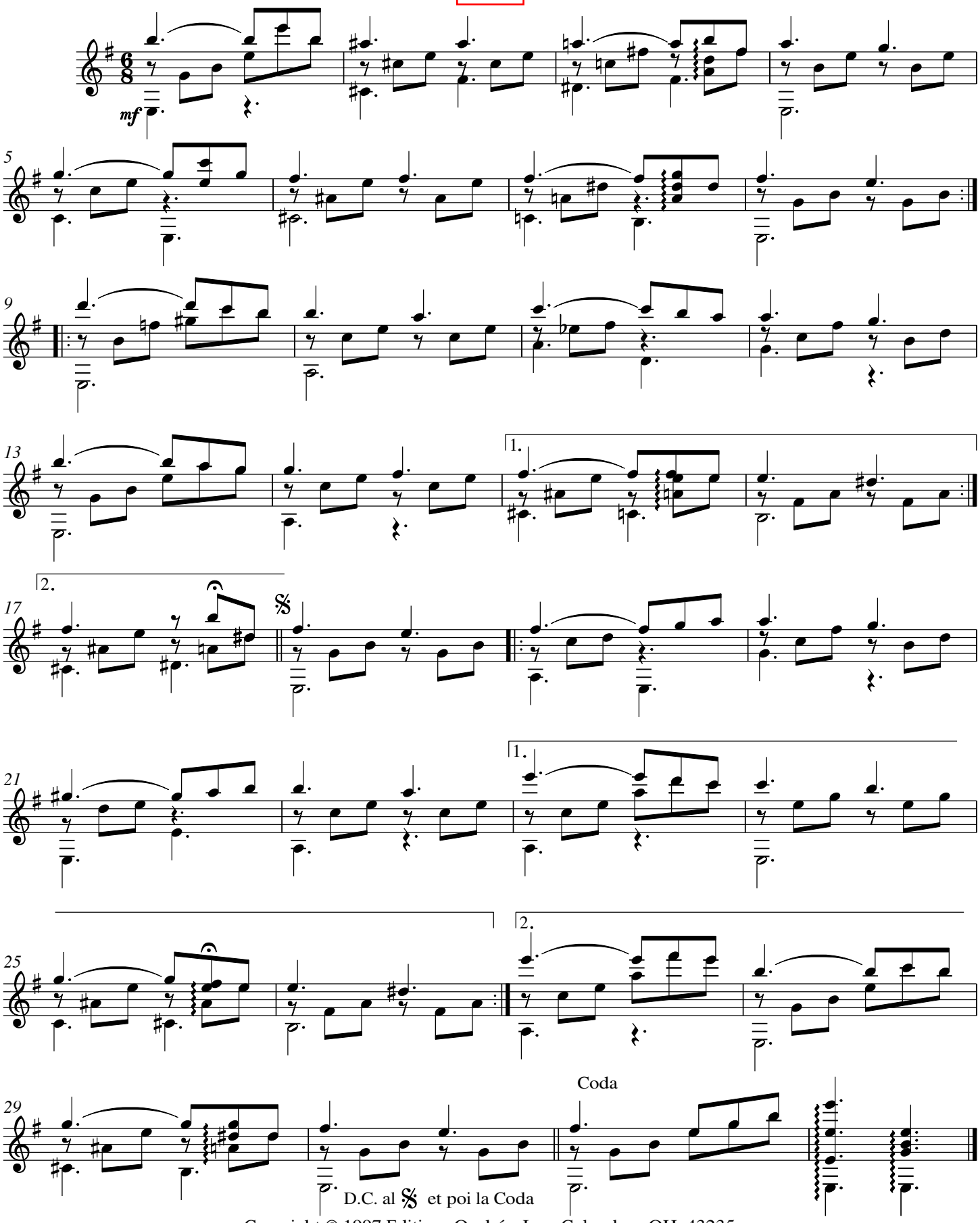
Elegy

Arranged for 6-string guitar by Matanya Ophee

Score

Attributed to Mikhail Vyssotsky



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Elegy

Sibelius

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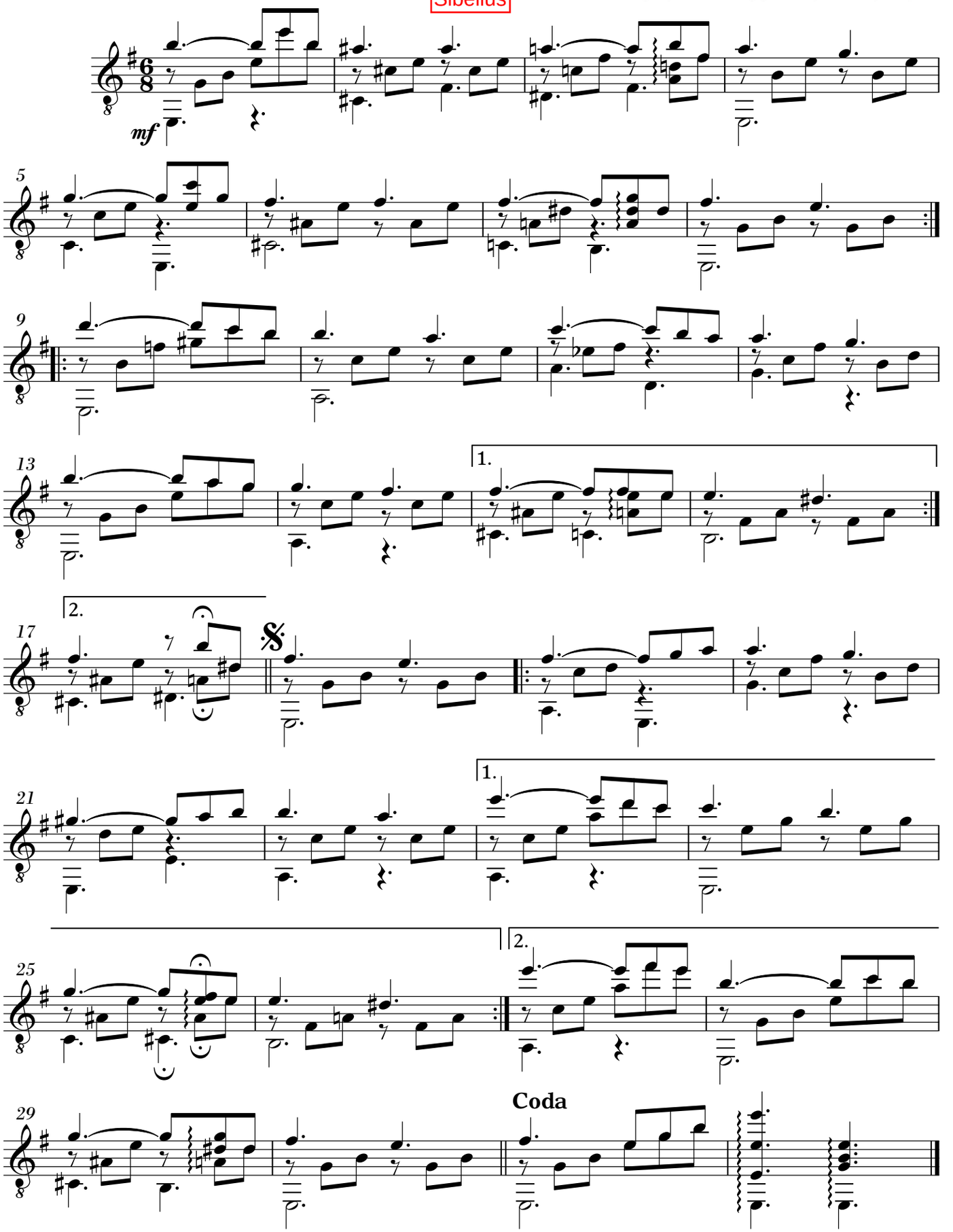

D.C. al 𝄋 et poi la Coda

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