

# CHET ATKINS almost alone C. G. P.







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Music transcriptions by John Knowles, with Christian Denoyelle, Byron Fogo, and Bill Piburn.

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### a note from Chet Atkins

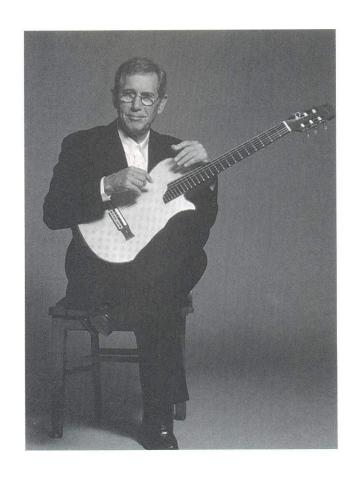
I was almost alone when I recorded the tunes on this album. I say "almost" because I invited several musicians I admire to join me on individual cuts. Randy Goodrum played keyboards on "I Still Write Your Name in the Snow," Randy Howard played fiddle on "Sweet Alla Lee," and Paul Yandell played acoustic guitar on "Maybelle." Bergen White did the string arrangements and the Nashville String Machine performed them.

When I recorded "I Still Write Your Name in the Snow," I replaced the fifth and sixth strings on a Country Gentleman guitar with electric bass strings to get that full sound. With the exception of "You Do Something to Me" and "Jam Man," there are no guitar overdubs. It is just me and my big foot. On "You Do Something to Me," I overdubbed a resonator guitar about midway through the tune. "Jam Man" utilizes a musical tool by that name which makes it possible to lay down a rhythm track and then layer other parts. I sometimes feature it in my shows, with the guitar doing all the music parts and my right hand overdubbing percussion sounds. A Les Paul I'm not! But it's fun to try.

I know that John Knowles, Christian Denoyelle, Byron Fogo, and Bill Piburn spent a lot of time alone with the album, transcribing the tunes. Now it's your turn to spend a lot of time alone with the book, the album, and your guitar.

Have fun!

Chet Atkins, C. G. P.



## tips on playing Chet's music

by John Knowles

Chet plays with a thumbpick and three fingers. You can play most of these tunes without a thumbpick and still get a good result, but you won't get Chet's tone and rhythmic drive. Some of Chet's moves can be adapted to a "flat-pick-and-two-fingers" technique, but overall, you'll get the best results playing fingerstyle all the way.

The right-hand fingering is shown by the letters p, i, m, and a, where p stands for thumb, i for index, m for middle, and a for ring.

In "Jam Man" (page 19, section B), Chet's thumb plays the stem-down notes to produce an alternating-bass accompaniment. The stem-up melody-notes are played with *i*, *m*, and an occasional *a*. Because these 16 bars recur throughout the tune, you can play along with Chet's recording to perfect your timing and feel.

Chet uses a similar alternating-bass pattern in "Big Foot," "Happy Again," "Sweet Alla Lee," "Maybelle," "Cheek to Cheek," and "I Still Write Your Name in the Snow" (page 31, Guitar Solo). He varies the alternating-bass pattern in "You Do Something to Me" and "Mr. Bojangles."

In "A Little Mark Music" (page 11, section A), Chet begins with a right-hand pattern where thumb and index sound notes on the same string. Then he uses a variation on the alternating-bass pattern for two bars (page 11, section B). These two patterns recur throughout the tune.

Chet uses several right-hand patterns to create turnarounds, embellish melodies, and play scales. In "A Little Mark Music" (page 15, section E, measure 15), he plays a turnaround based on an *m-i-p* pattern. He uses a similar pattern, *p-m-i*, to embellish the melody to "Mr. Bojangles" (page 63, section J). That three-finger roll makes 3/4 time sound like 6/8 time.

Chet uses an unusual *i-p-i-m* roll to embellish the melody in "Cheek to Cheek" (page 70, section I). The first sixteenth note of each group of four is played on the first string to bring out the melody.

He gets a different effect with the *i-p-i-m* pattern in "Jam Man" (page 26, section I). This time, the first eighth note of each group of four is played on the second string. He uses the same right-hand pattern in the harmony part.

In "Big Foot" (page 6, section H), Chet plays a two-octave scale using a p-m-i pattern. He begins the scale with his i finger so he is always crossing to the next higher string with m. There is a similar scale at the beginning of "You Do Something to Me" (page 71, section A).

When Chet plays a descending scale, as in "Jam Man" (page 25, section H, measure 13), he uses the same p-m-i pattern, but he crosses to the next lower string with p.

Chet has some unusual techniques for incorporating harmonics into his playing. Both natural and artificial harmonics are notated at actual pitch by a diamond-shaped note-head on the staff. Natural harmonics are labeled "Harm" while artificial harmonics are labeled "A. H."

The natural harmonics are notated by TAB numbers in brackets <> for the fret at which Chet touches the string with a left-hand finger to produce the harmonic. For example, see "Ave Maria" (page 79. section F, measure 6).

Artificial harmonics are notated by TAB numbers in brackets <> that show the fret at which Chet presses the string. He touches the string twelve frets above the TAB number with the tip of his right index-finger and sounds the harmonic with his thumbpick. For example, see "Jam Man" (page 20, section D).

Chet also plays a lick that combines artificial harmonics with regular notes and pull-offs to produce a scale effect. It almost sounds like all of the notes are harmonics. He uses this lick in "Jam Man" (page 21, measure 1).

As much as we have tried to convey how to play these tunes like Chet, you'll get closer by listening to and playing along with Chet's recorded performances. All of the tunes in this book are from Chet's album *Almost Alone* (Columbia CK-67497) which is available on CD or cassette. It's easier to find a particular song or passage on a CD.

If you would like to find out more about Chet's style of playing, write to The Chet Atkins Appreciation Society, c/o Mark Pritcher, 3716 Timberlake Road, Knoxville, TN 37920, or to me, c/o John Knowles' FingerStyle Quarterly, P. O. Box 120355, Nashville, TN 37212.

### **Big Foot**

Written by Chet Atkins







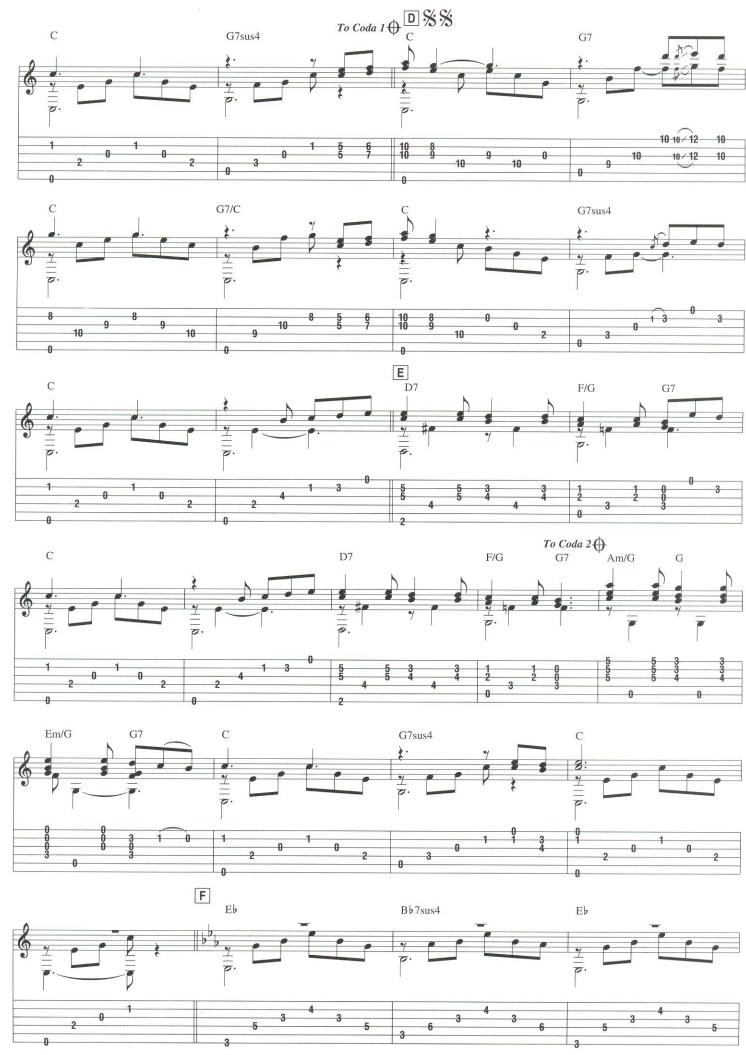


Waiting for Susie B. Written by Chet Atkins Tuning:  $\bigcirc$  = E  $\boxed{4} = D$ 2 = B $\bigcirc$  = G  $\bigcirc$  = G (6) = C Α Freely . = 61C D7 F/G G7 Elec. Nylon Str. Gtr mp let ring throughout В C G7sus4 Csus4 8: 1 3 5 C G7sus4 G7sus4 0 C % c C/G G7sus4 8: 1 3 0 C G7sus4 G7sus4

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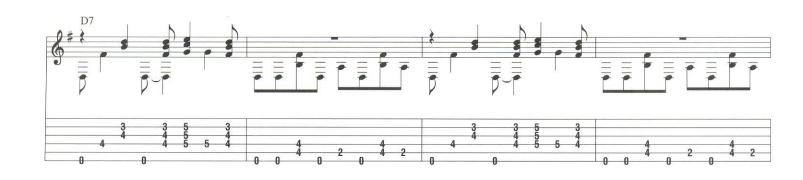


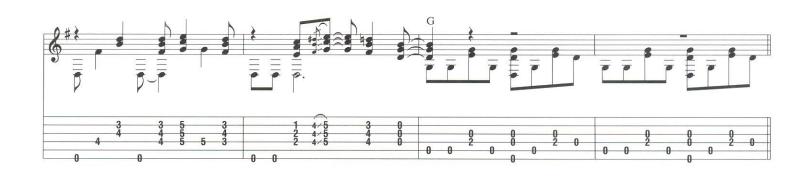


### **A Little Mark Musik**

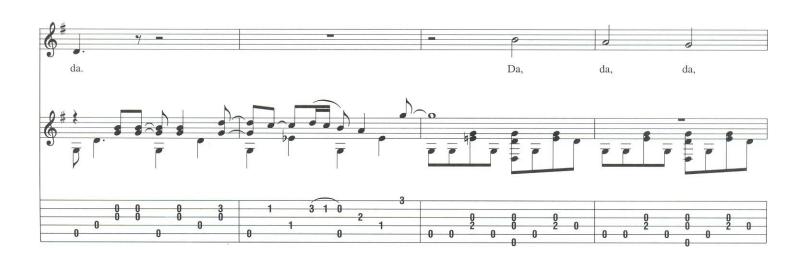
Written by Chet Atkins





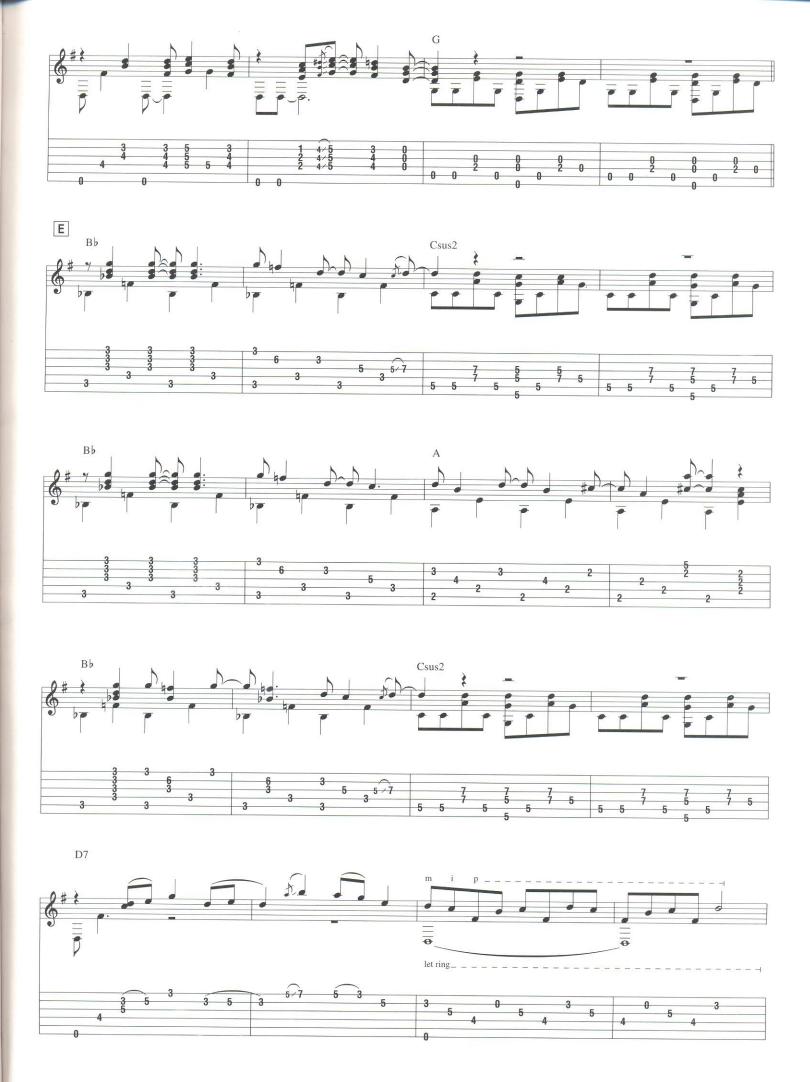




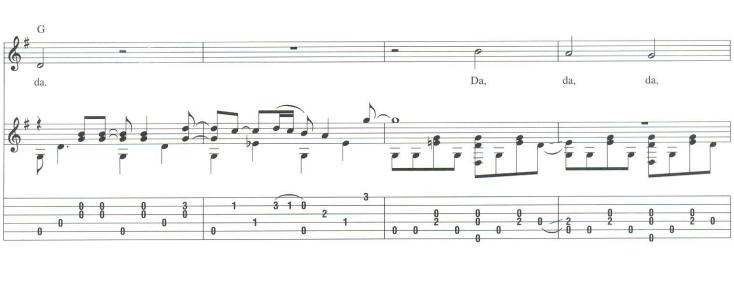


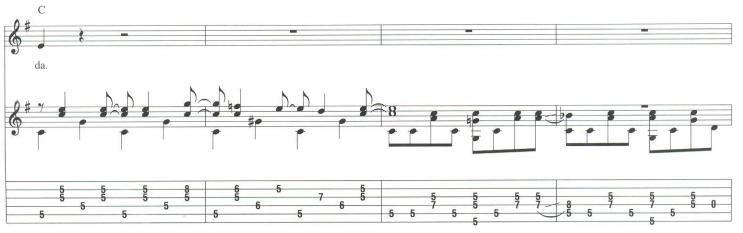


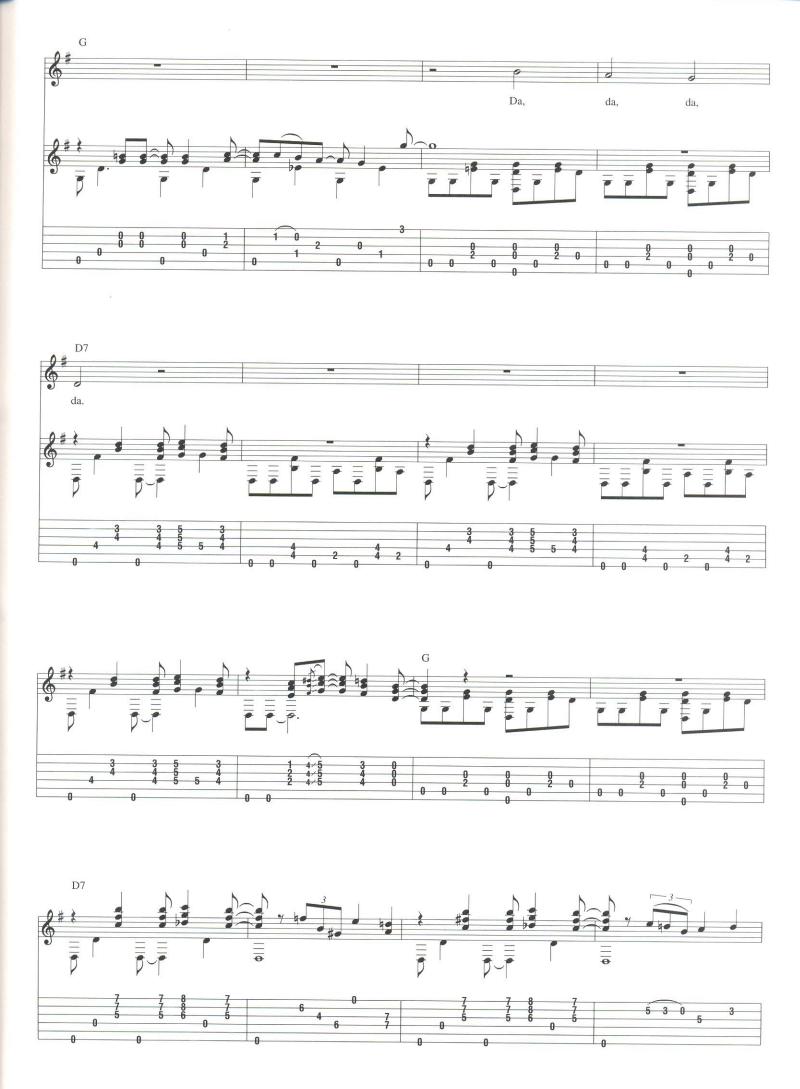














### Jam Man

### Written by Chet Atkins

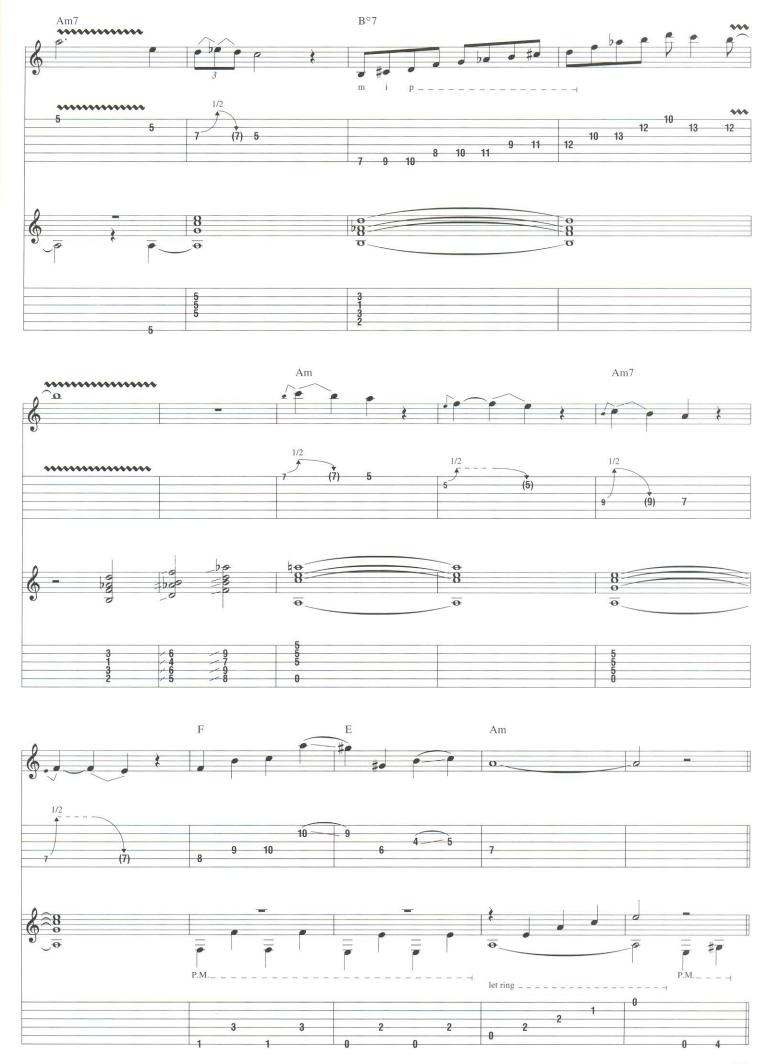
"Jam Man" utilizes a musical tool by that name on which it is possible to lay down a rhythm track and then layer other parts. I sometimes feature it on my shows, with the guitar doing all the music parts and my right hand overdubbing the percussion (kick drum and snare sounds). A Les Paul I'm Not! But it is fun to try.

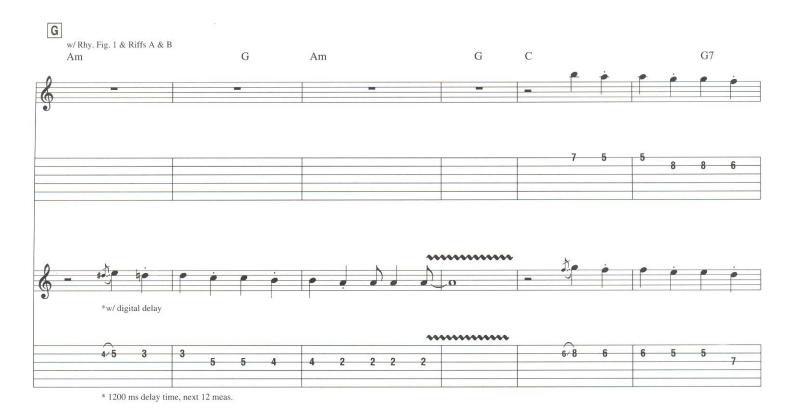


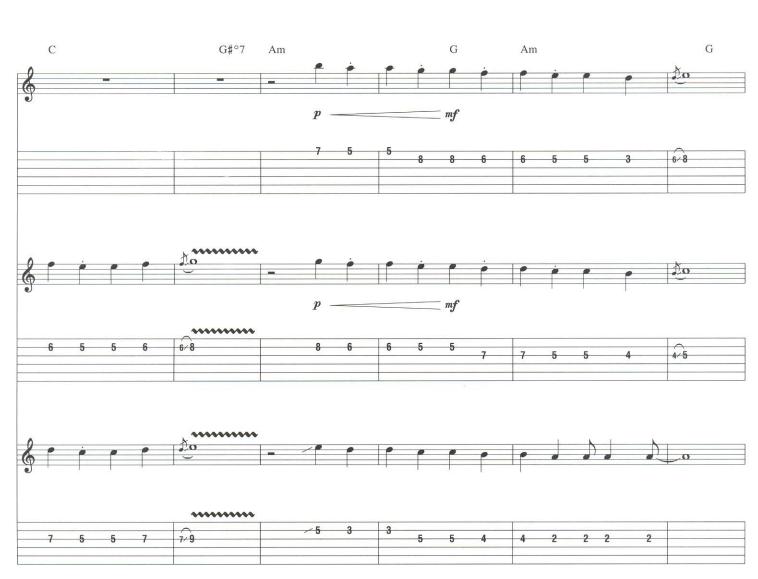


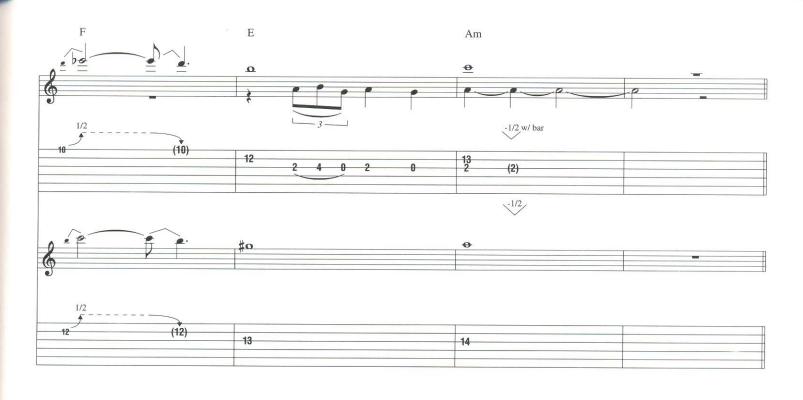


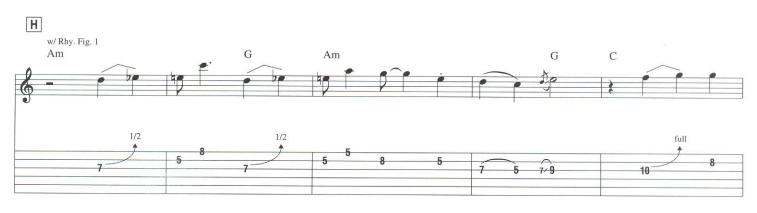


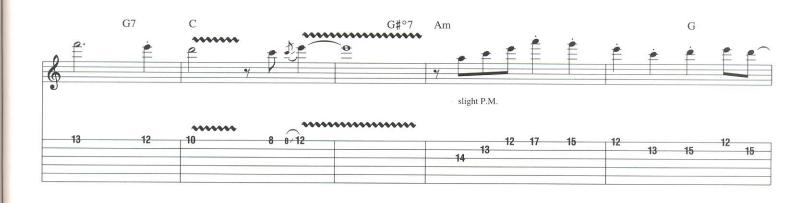


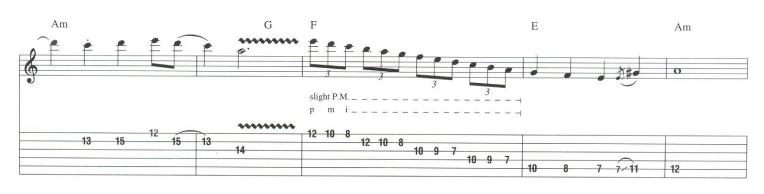


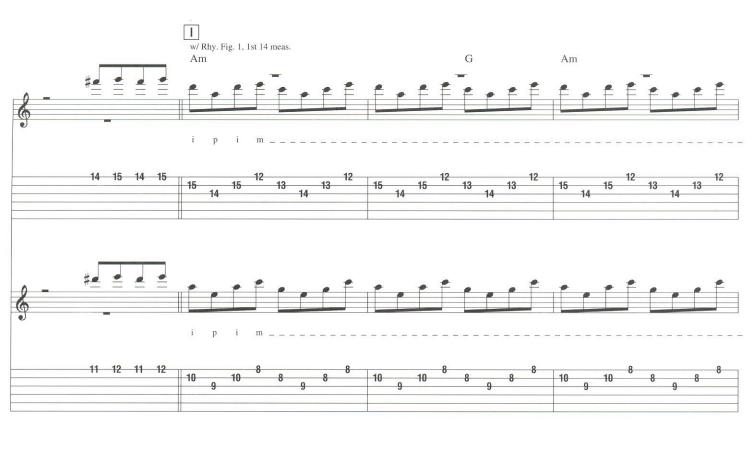


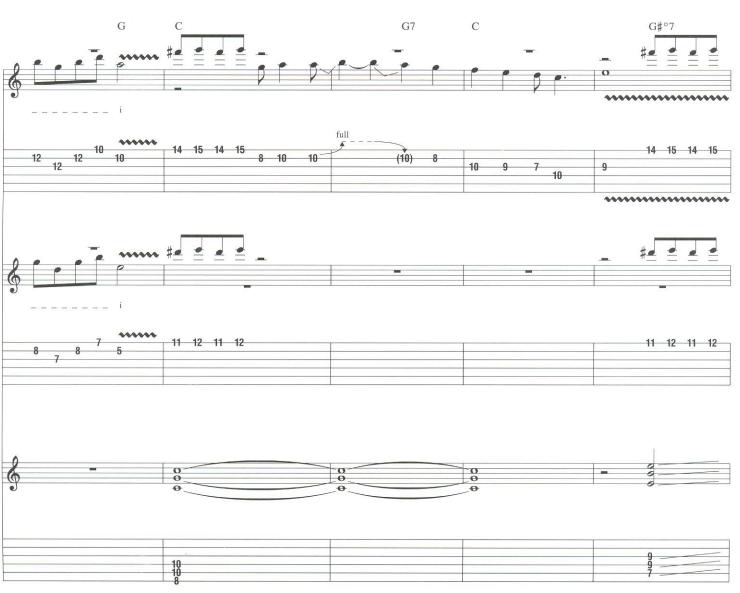


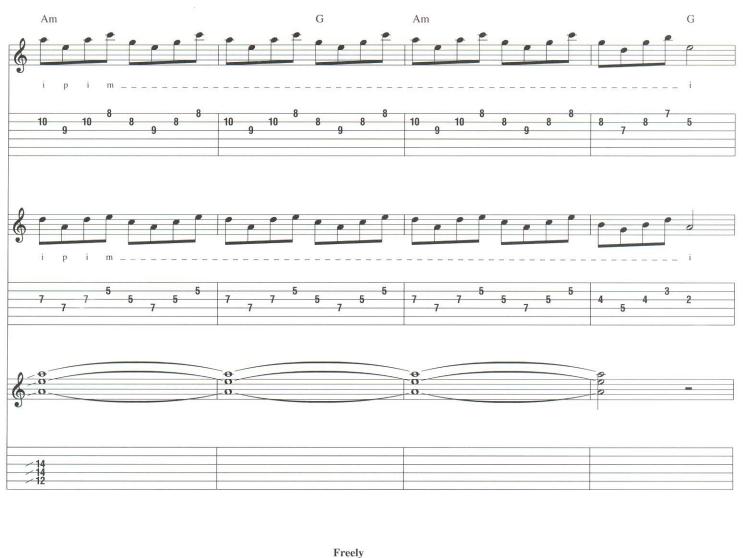


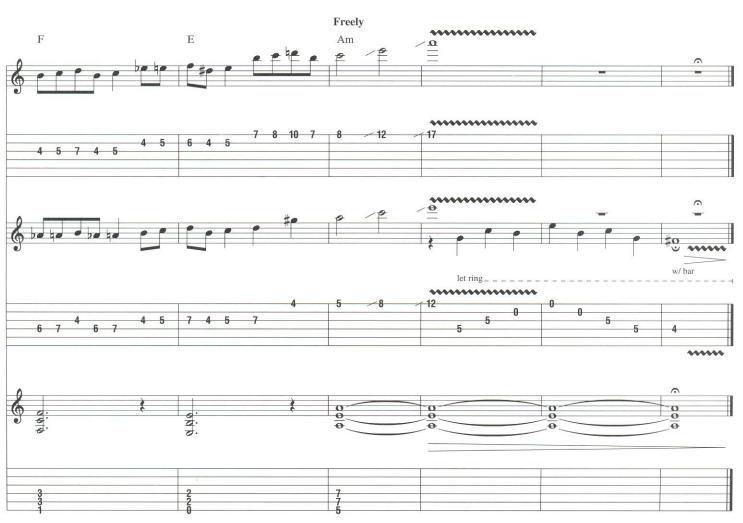












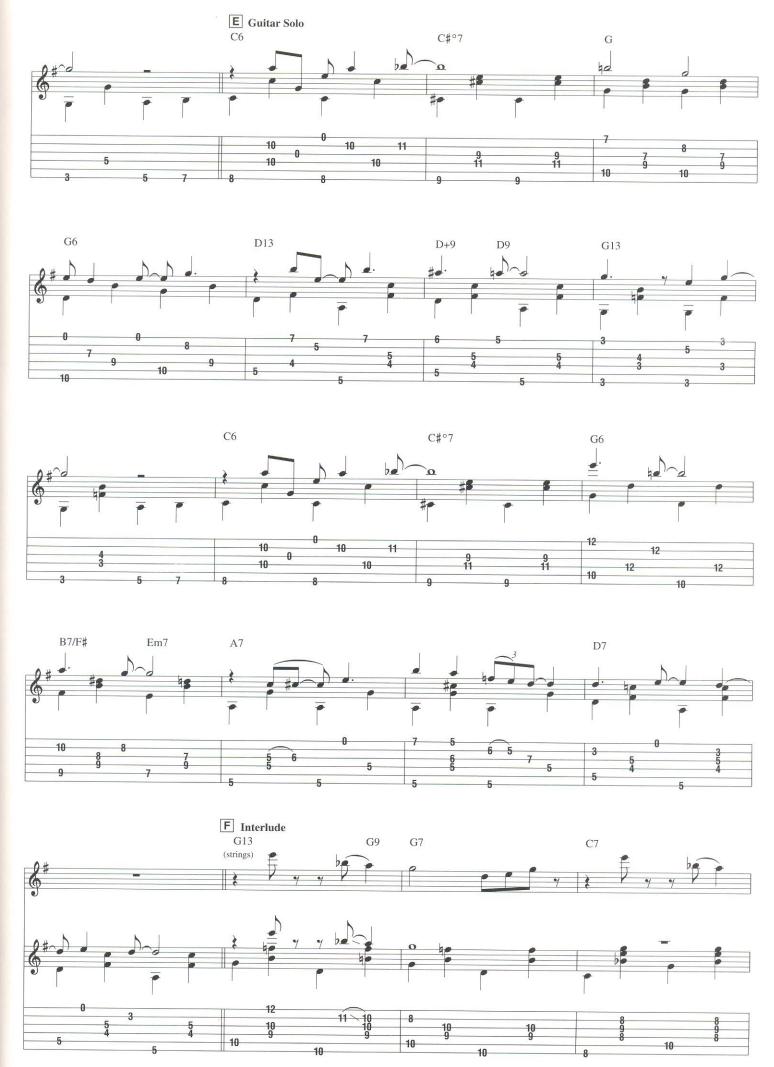
### I Still Write Your Name in the Snow

Written by Chet Atkins and Billy Edd Wheeler

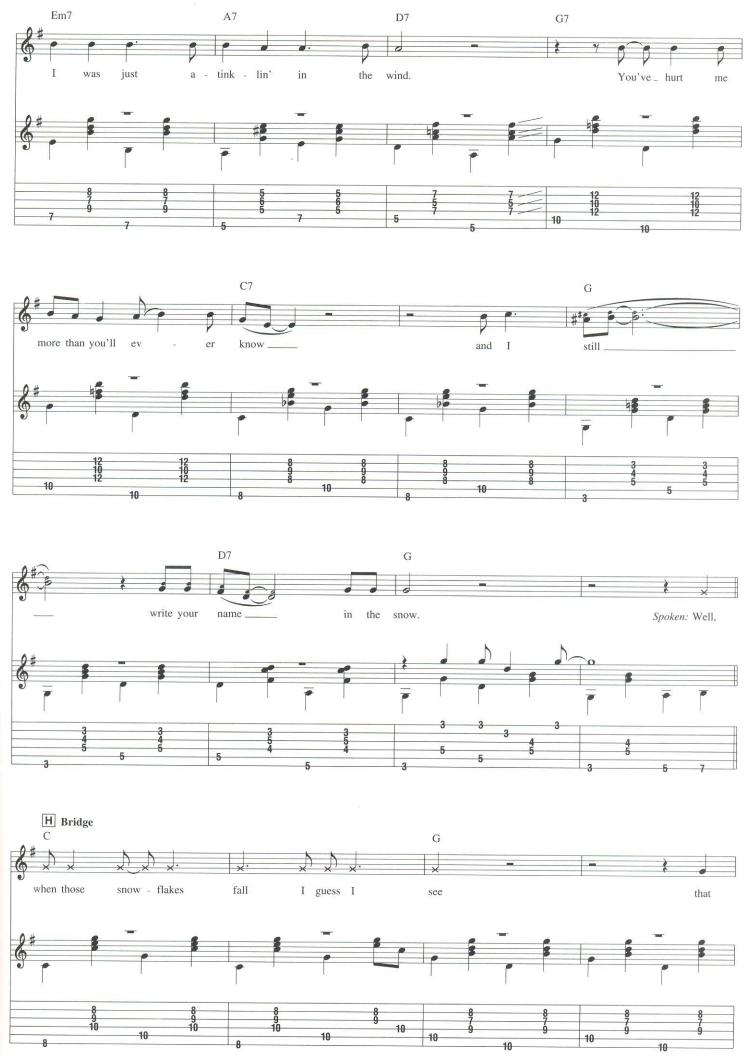




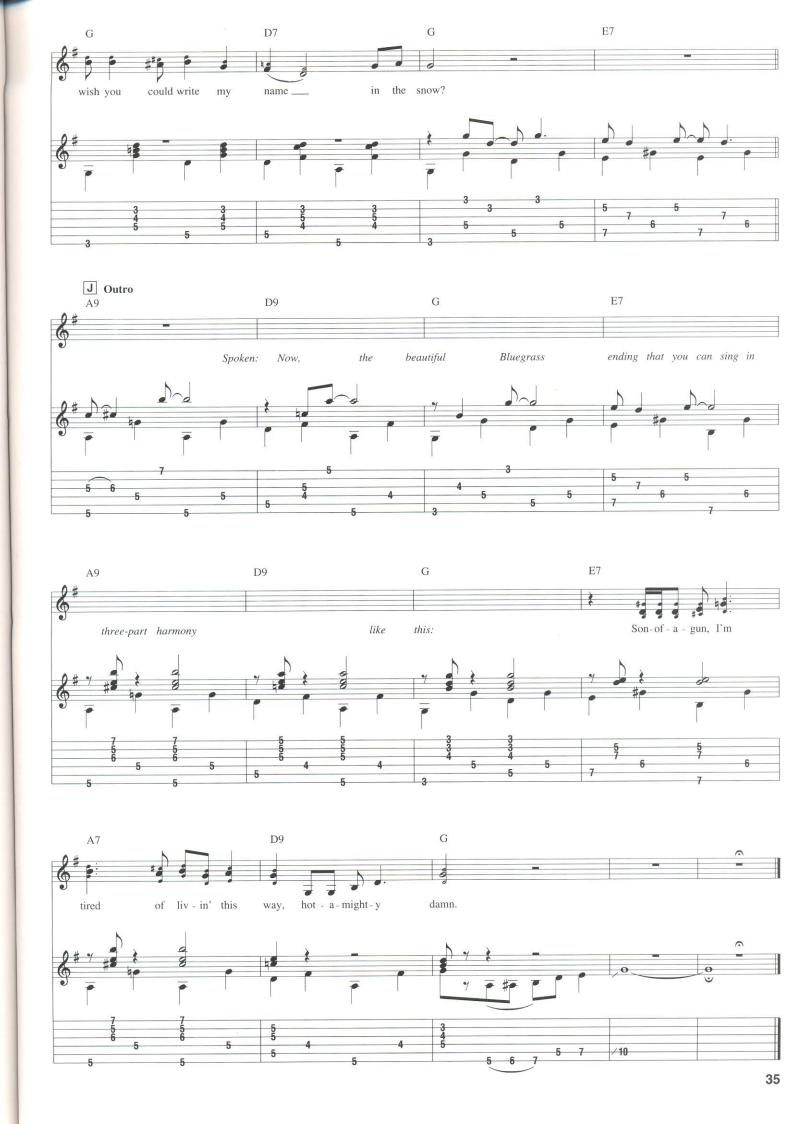




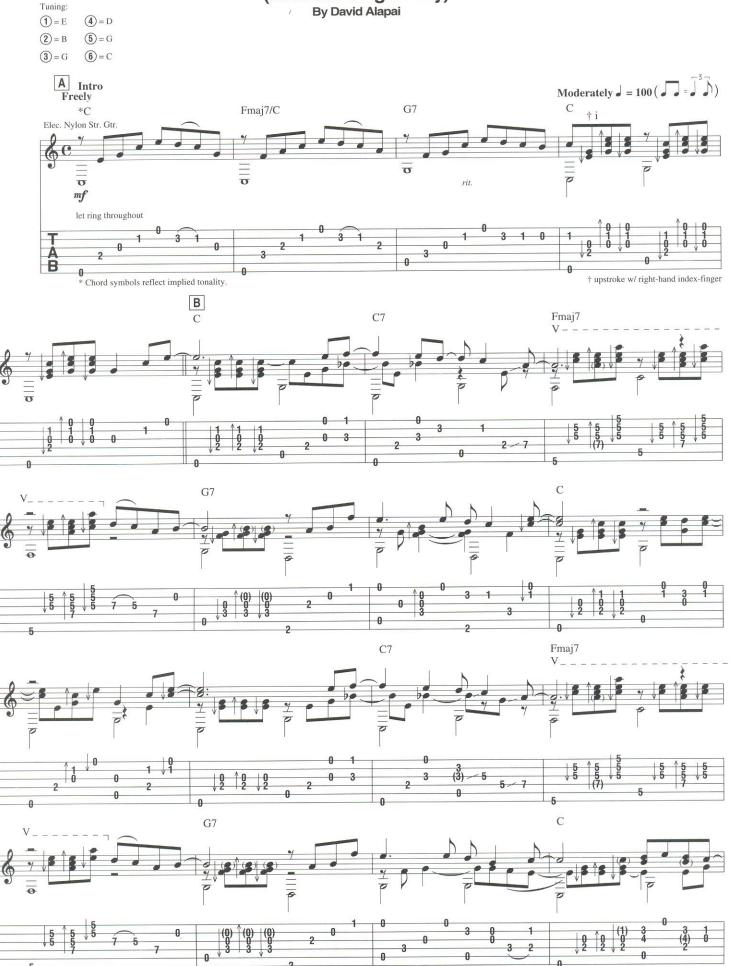








## Pu, Uana Hulu (Remembering Gabby)







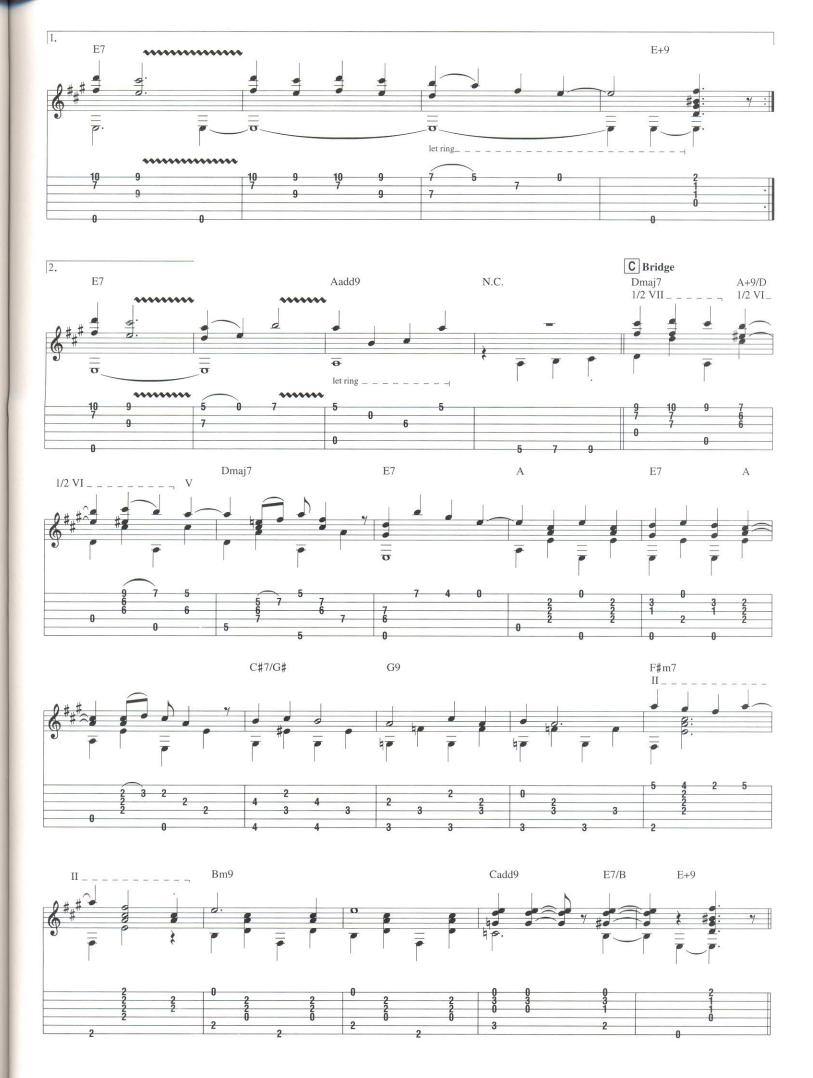


<sup>\*</sup> To play artificial harmonic, fret string as shown in TAB, touch string 12 frets higher with tip of right-hand index-finger, and sound harmonic with thumb pick.

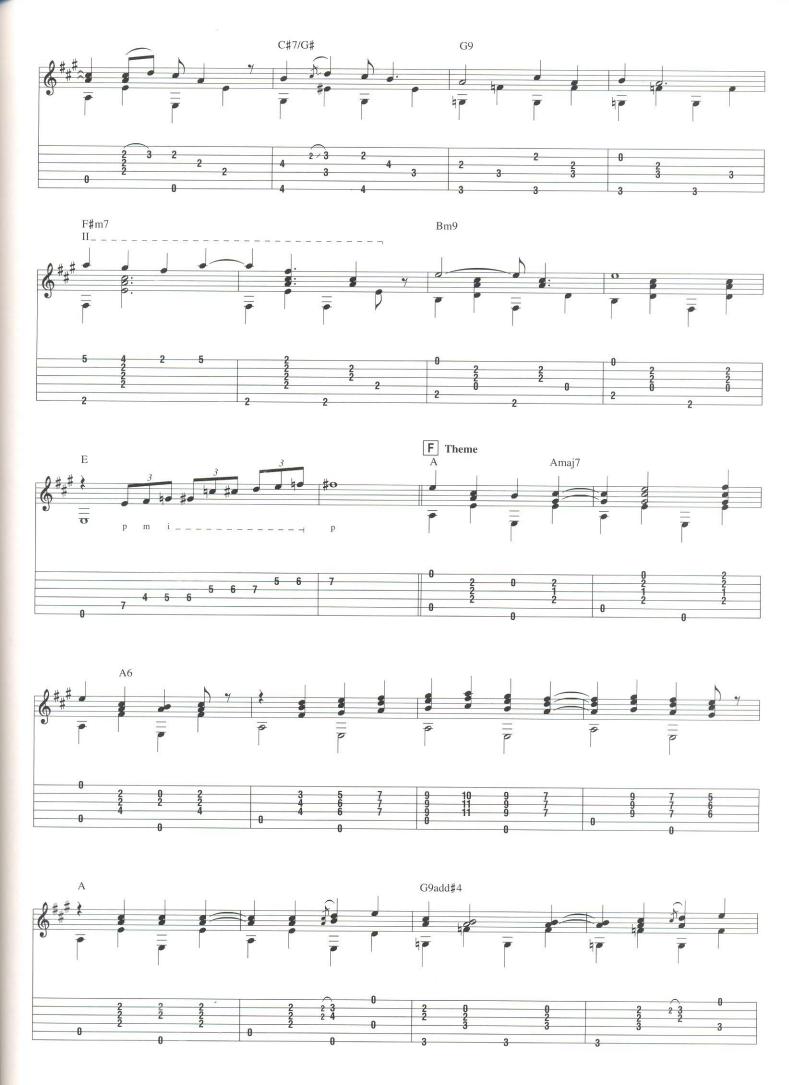
### **Happy Again**

Written by Chet Atkins





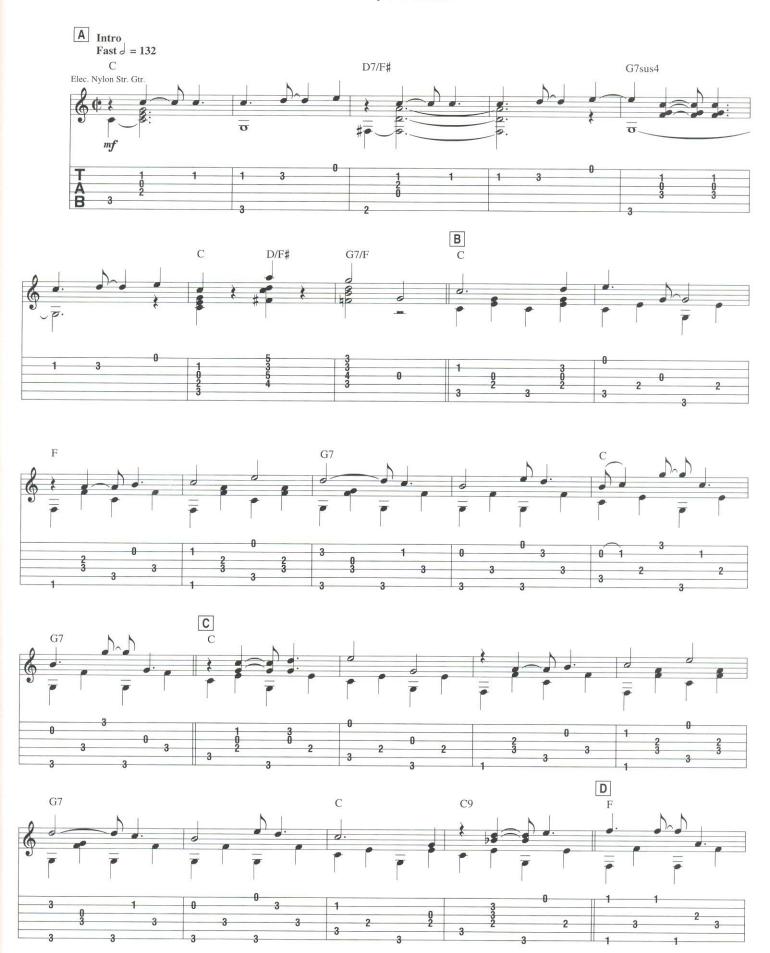




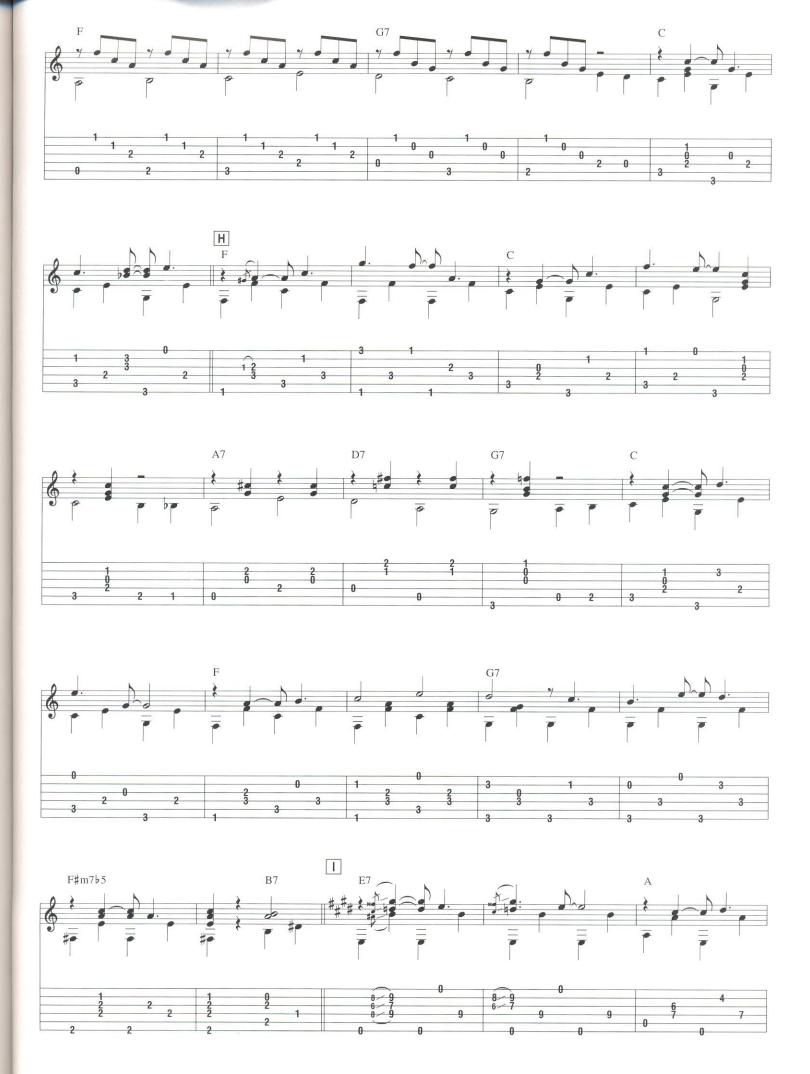


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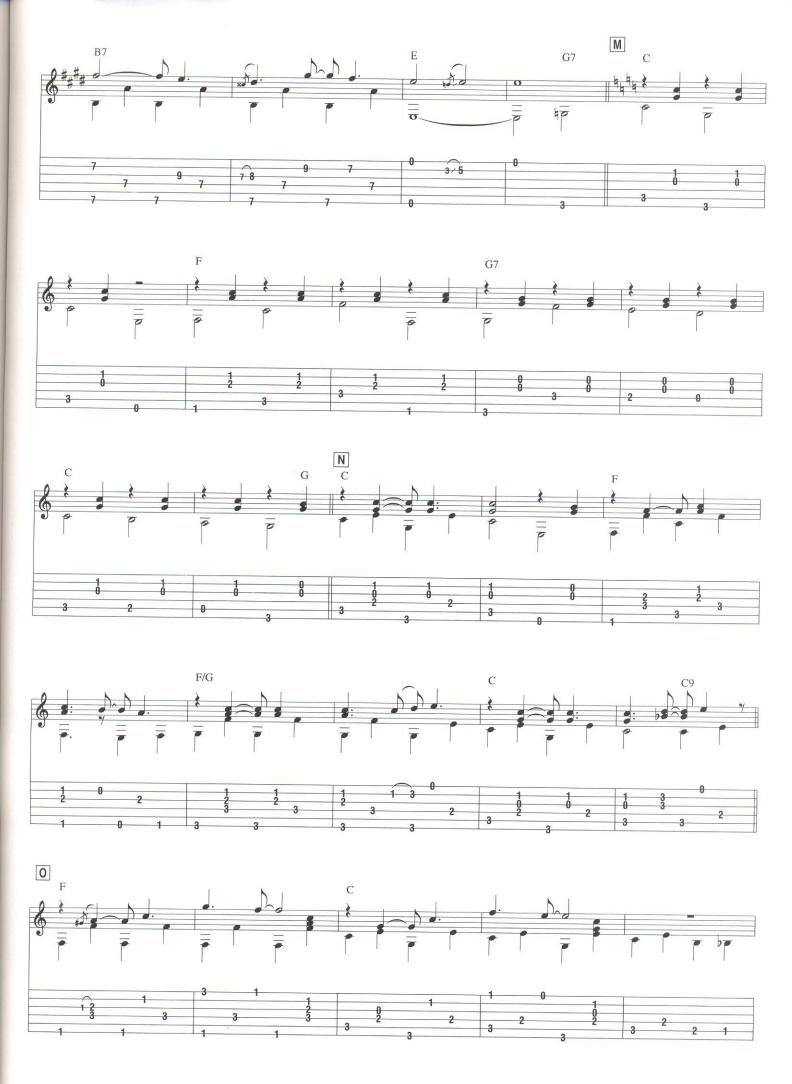
Written by Chet Atkins



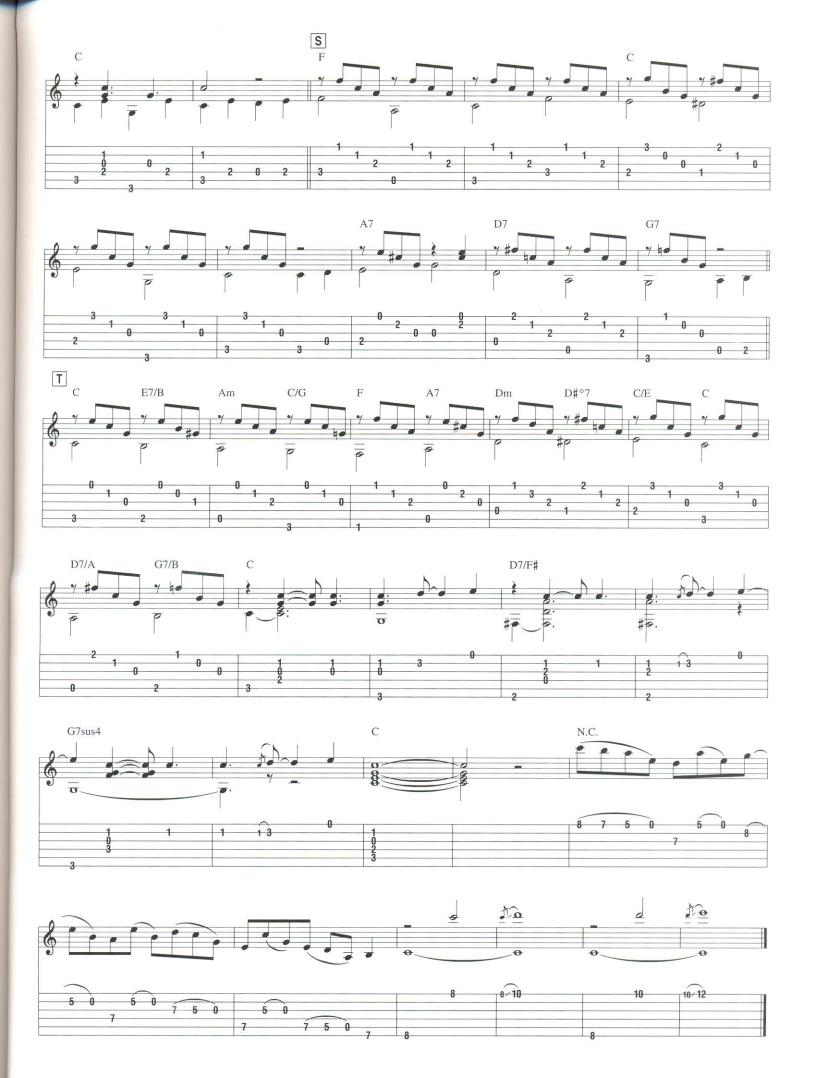






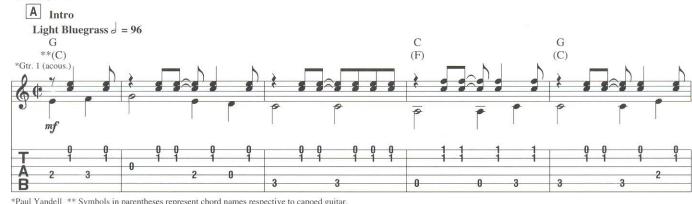






### Maybelle

Written by Chet Atkins



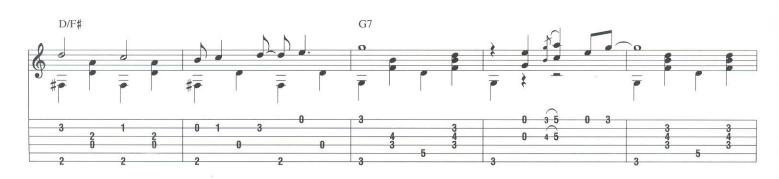
\*Paul Yandell \*\* Symbols in parentheses represent chord names respective to capoed guitar.

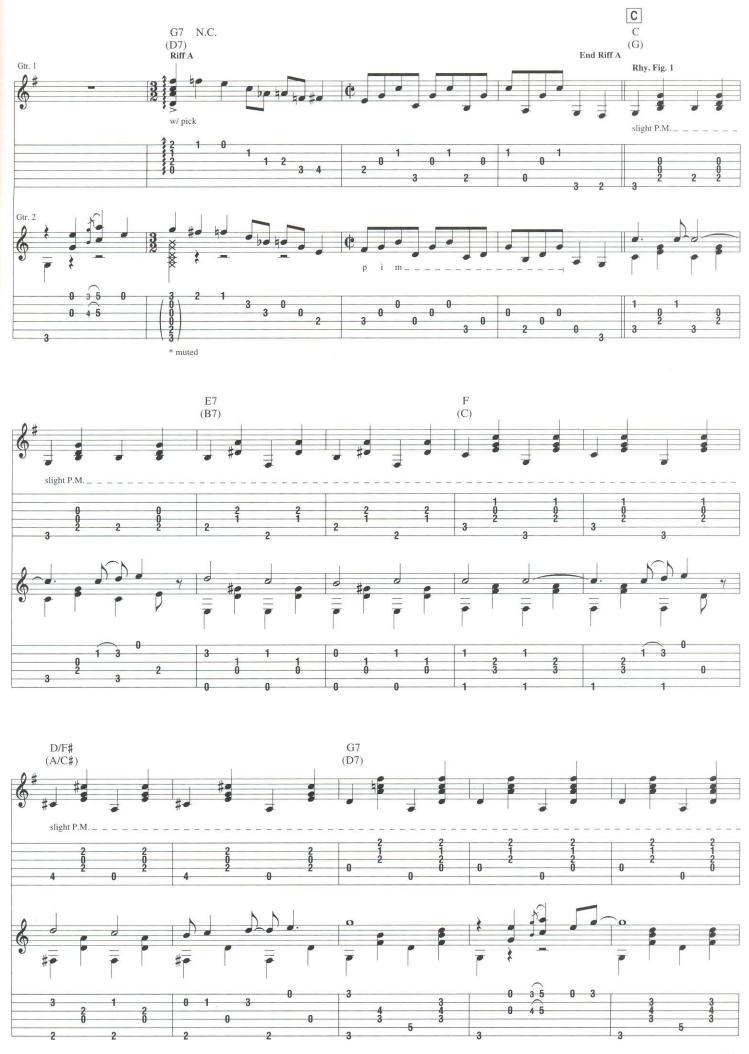
Symbols above reflect actual sounding chord. Capoed fret is "0" in TAB.

Gtr. 1: Capo VII



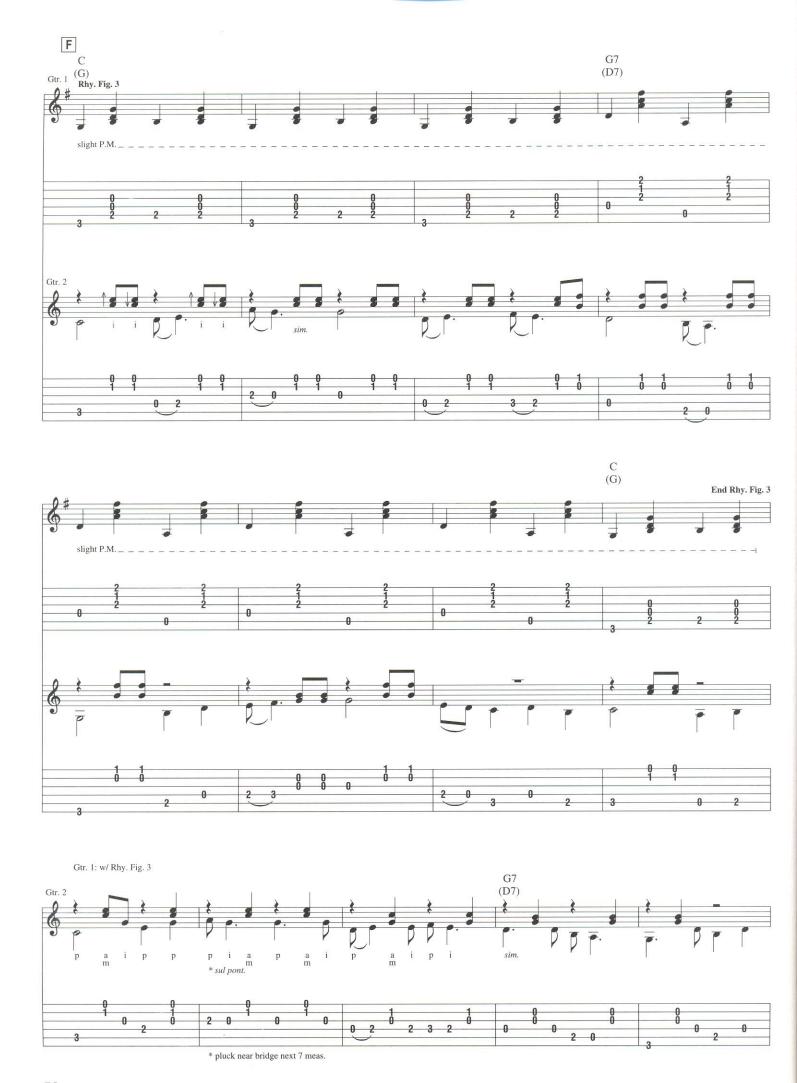




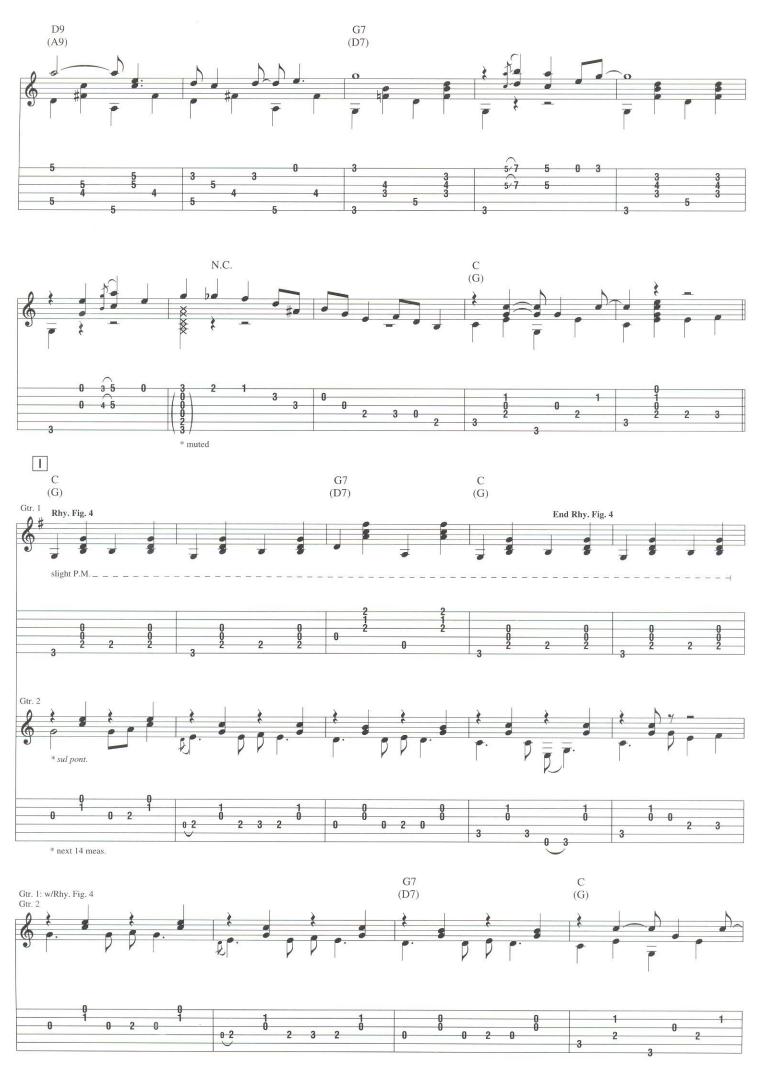


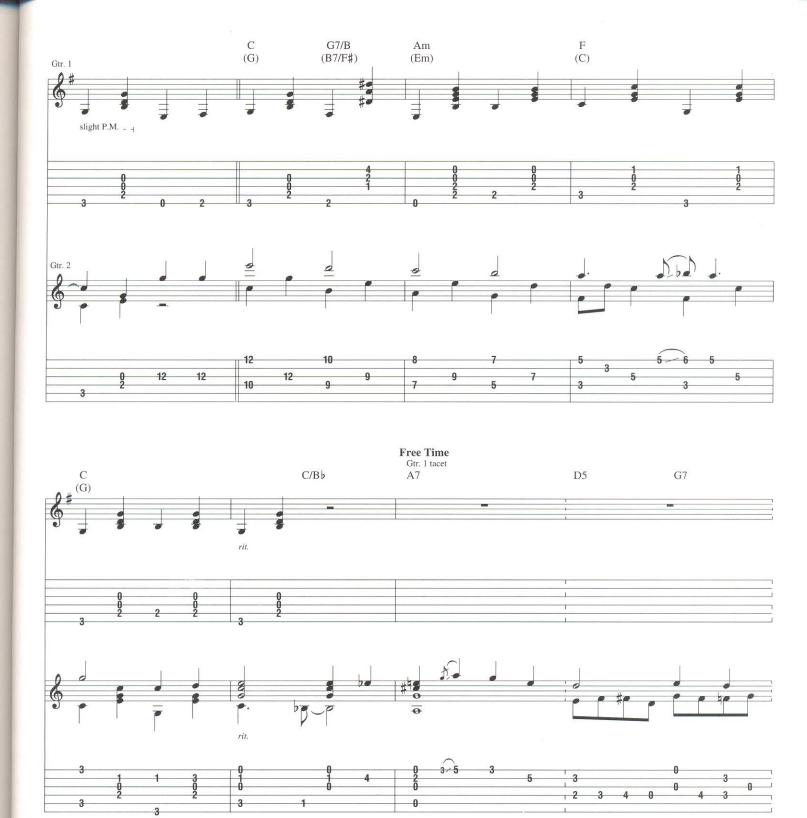


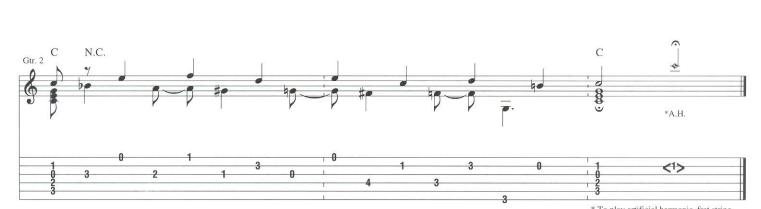










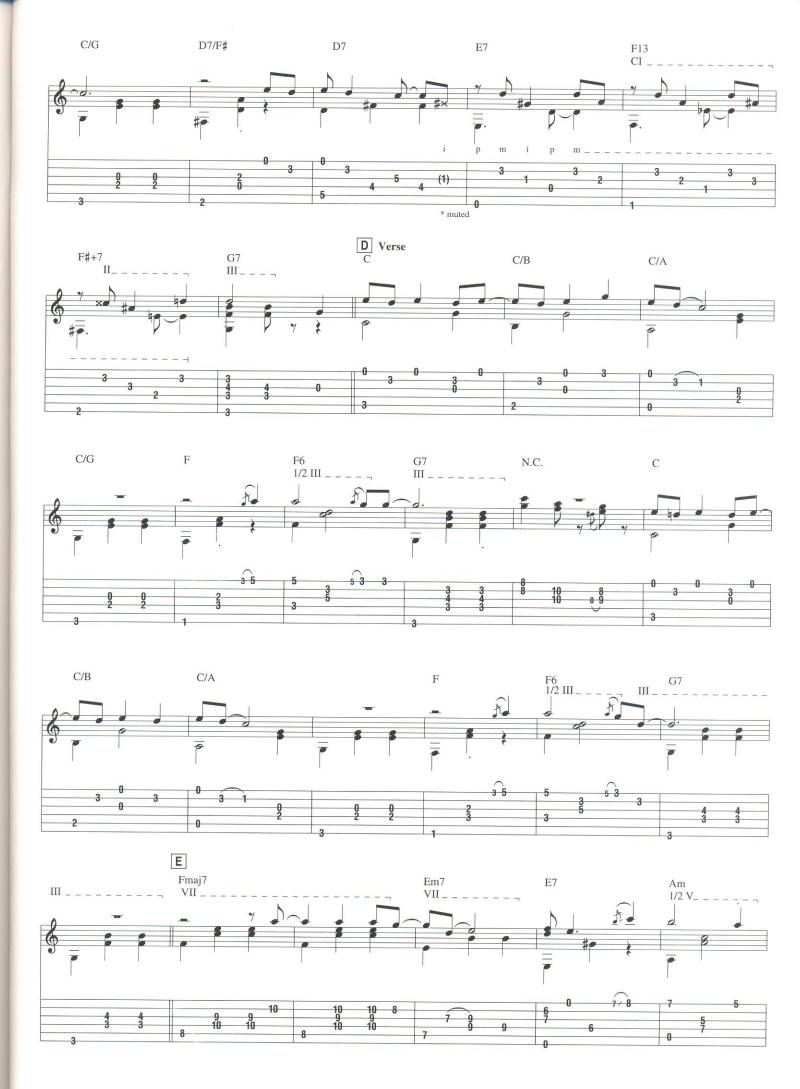


\* To play artificial harmonic, fret string as shown in TAB, touch string 12 frets higher with tip of right-hand index-finger, and sound harmonic with thumb pick.

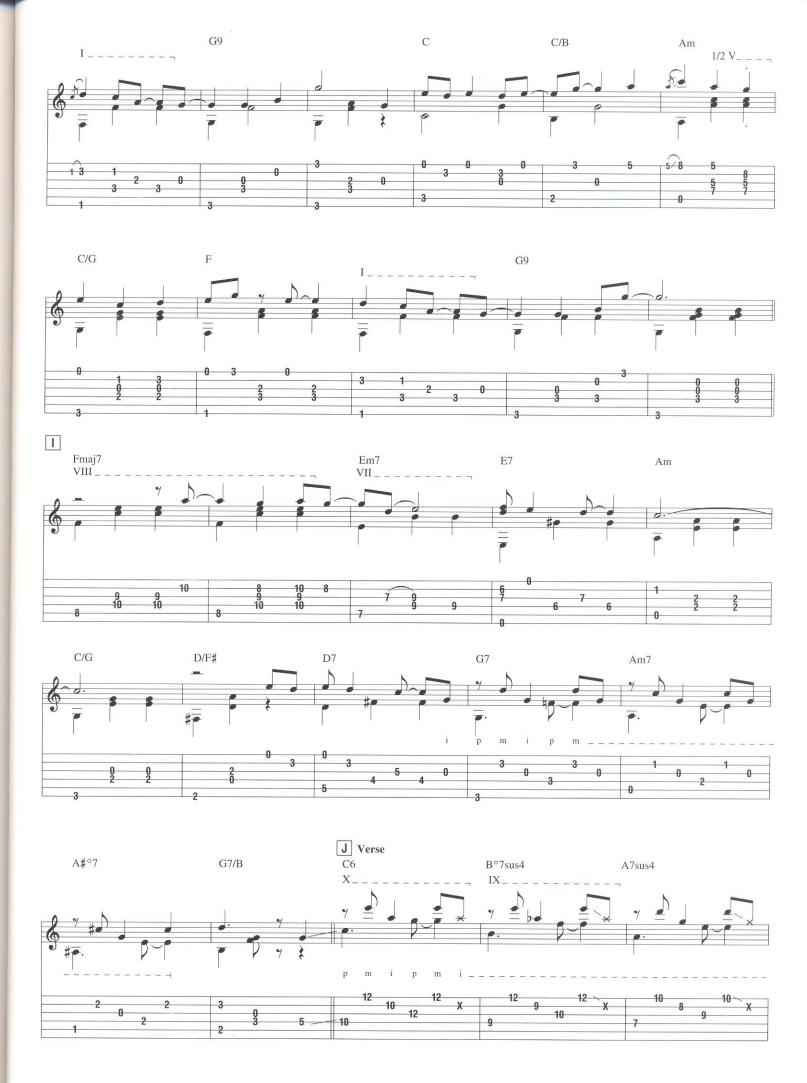
### Mr. Bojangles

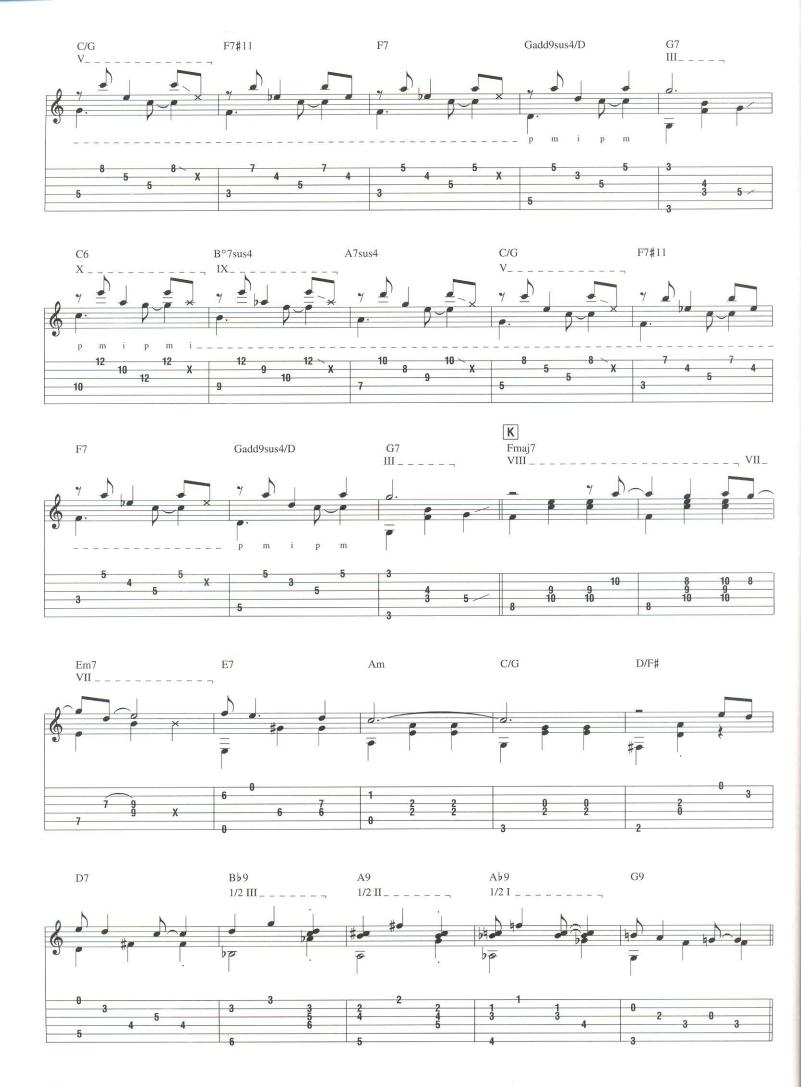
Words and Music by Jerry Jeff Walker

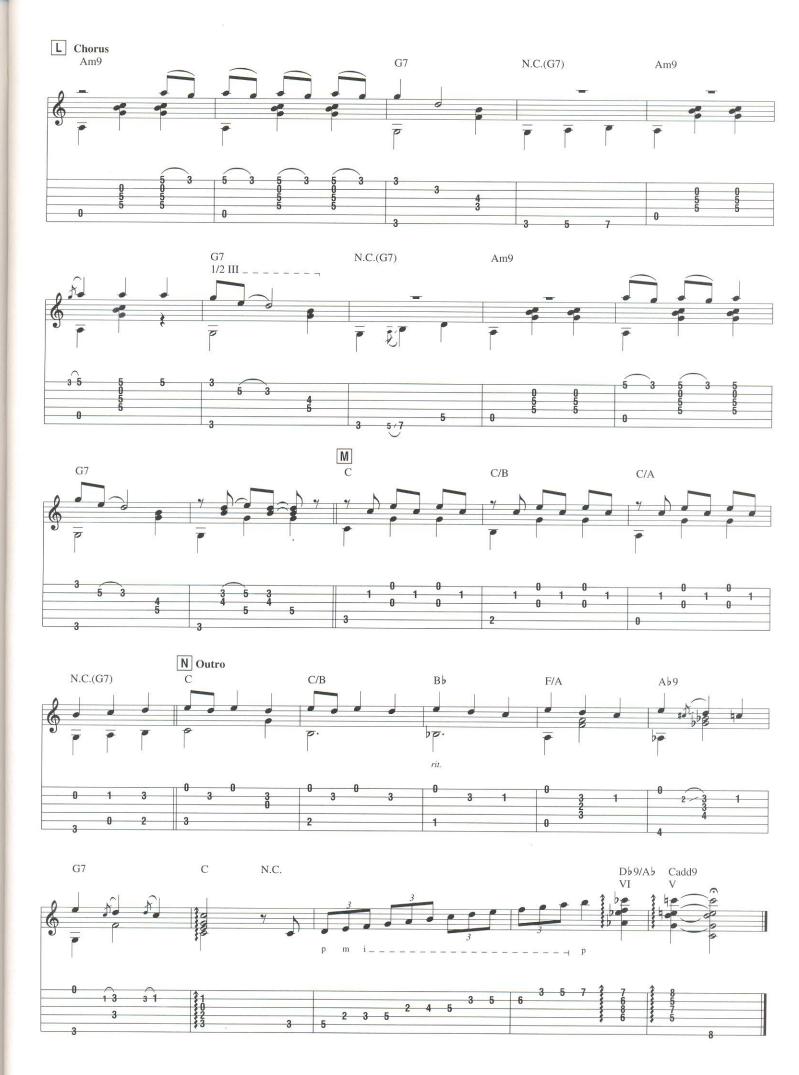








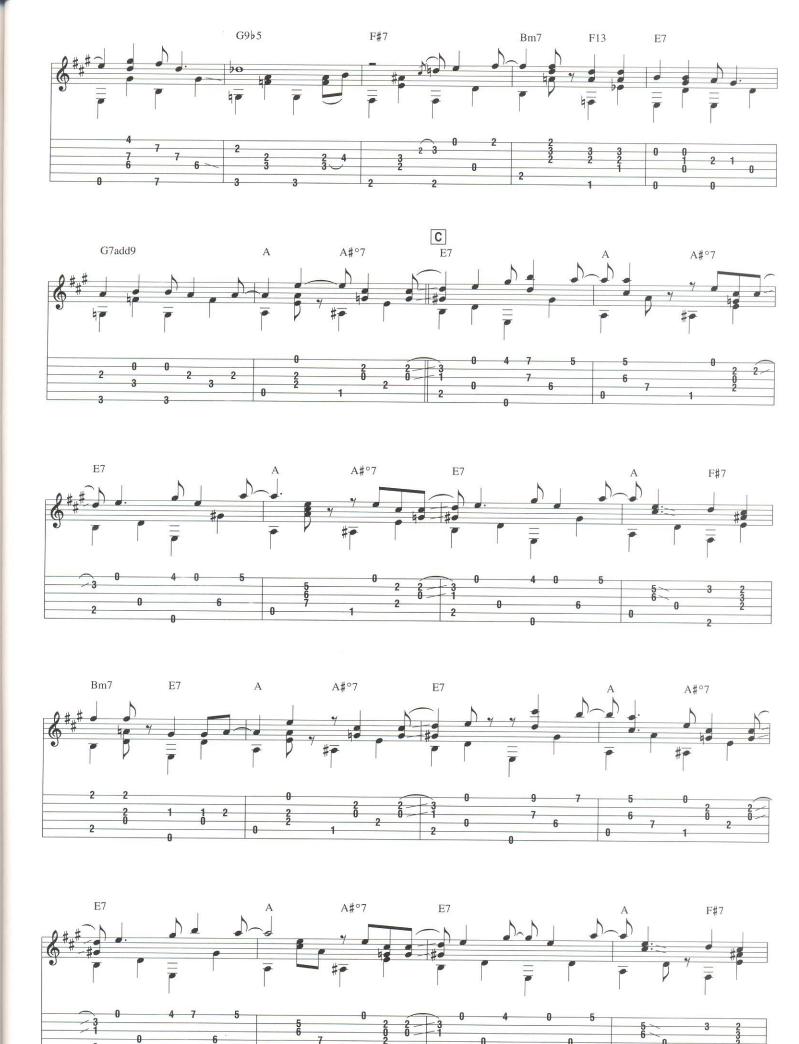




### **Cheek to Cheek**

#### Words and Music by Irving Berlin





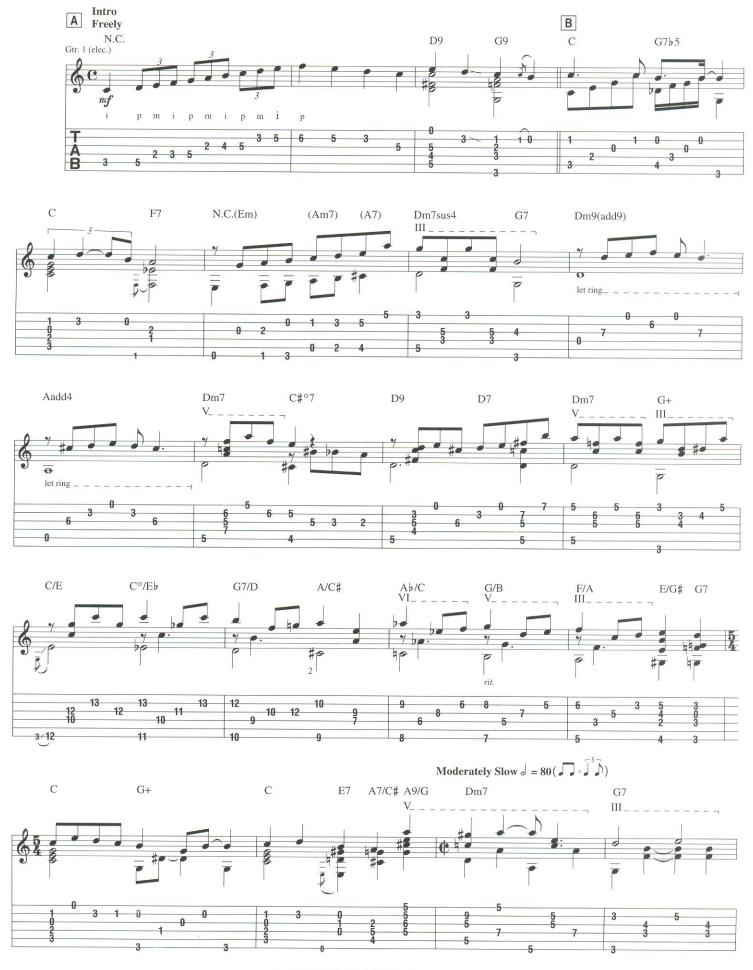


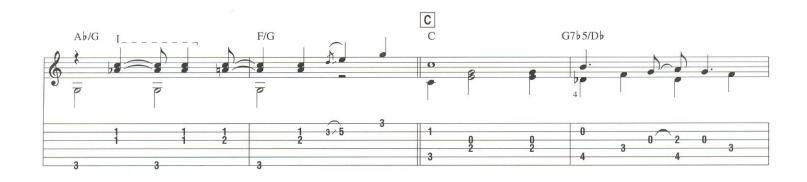


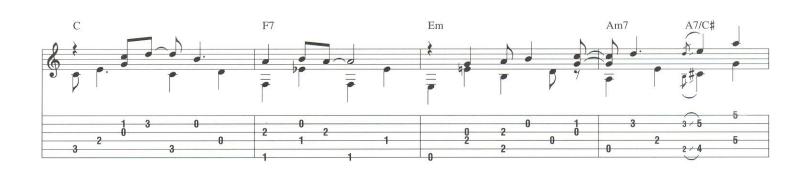


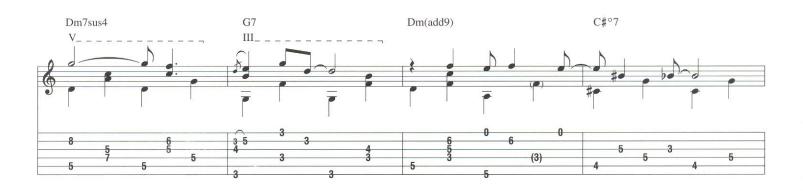
### You Do Something to Me

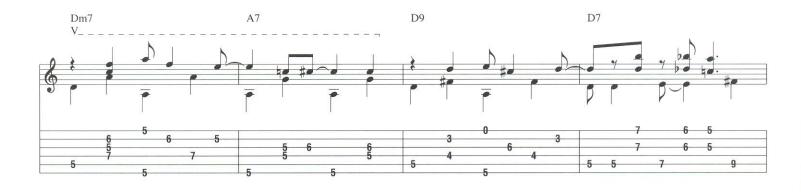
Words and Music by Cole Porter

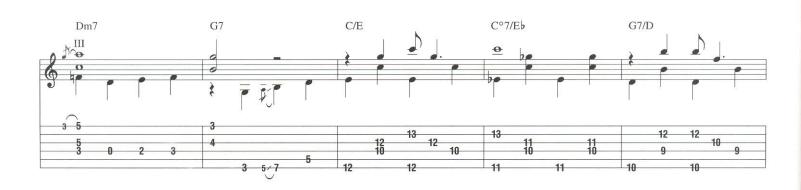


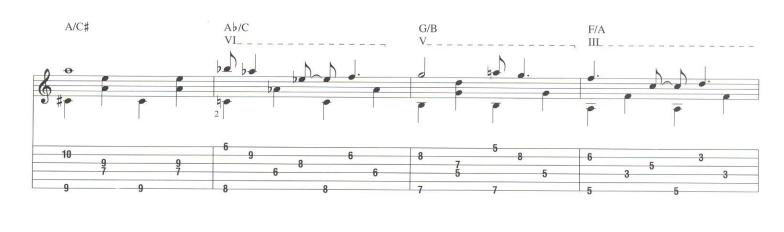


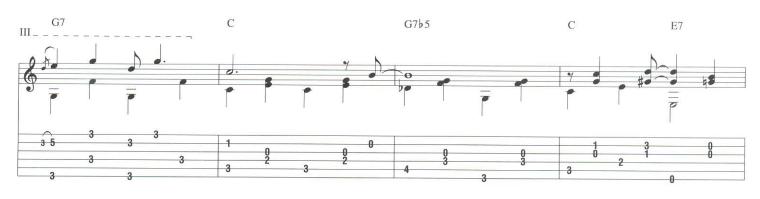




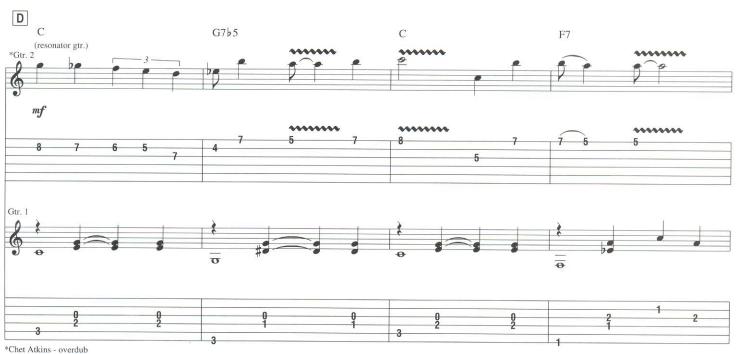












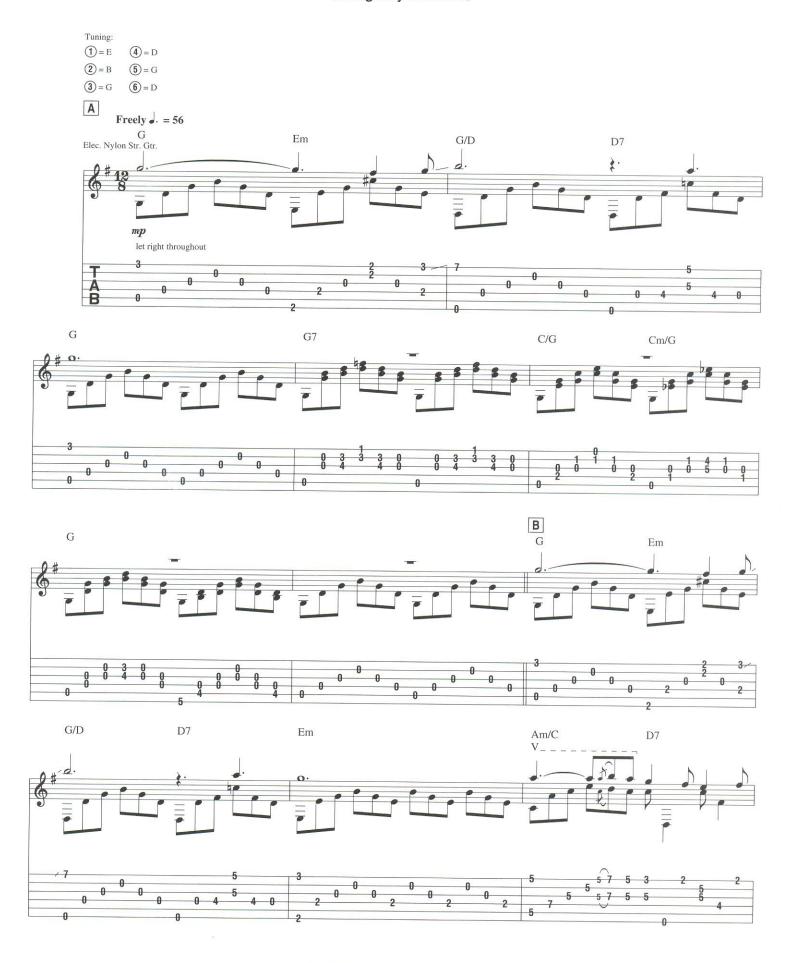


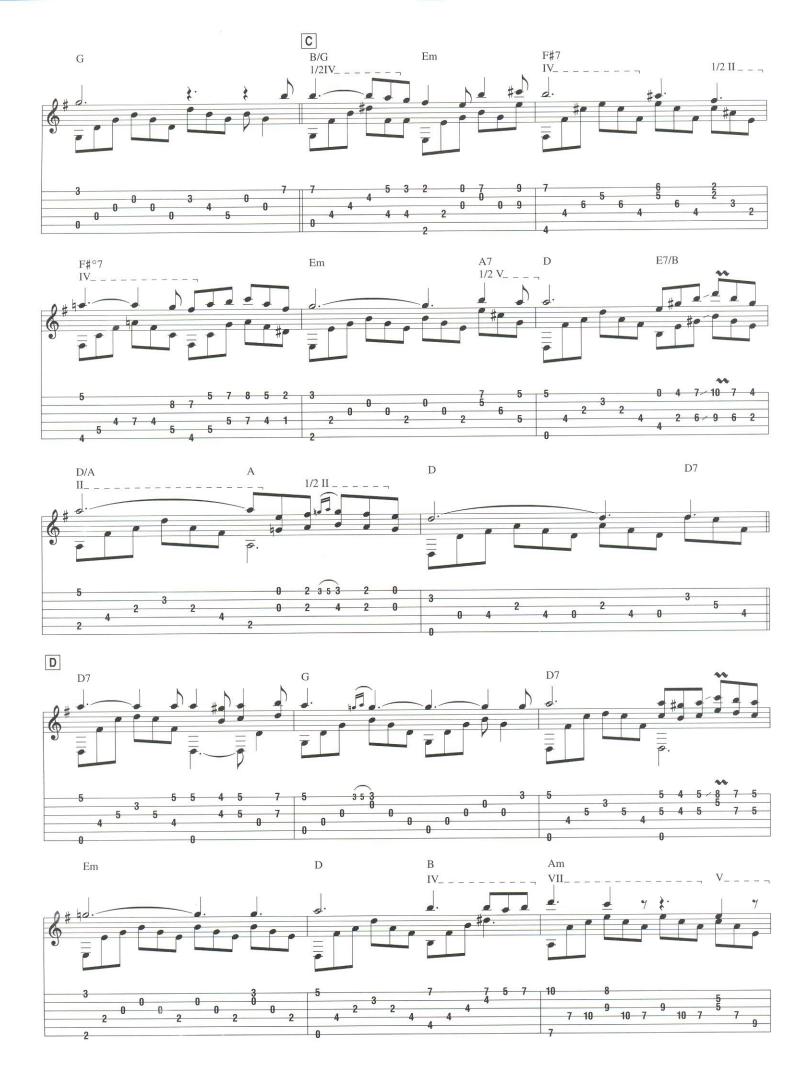




### **Ave Maria**

Arranged by Chet Atkins







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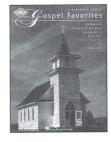
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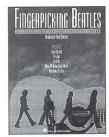


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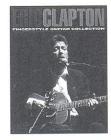
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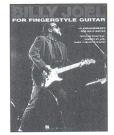
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