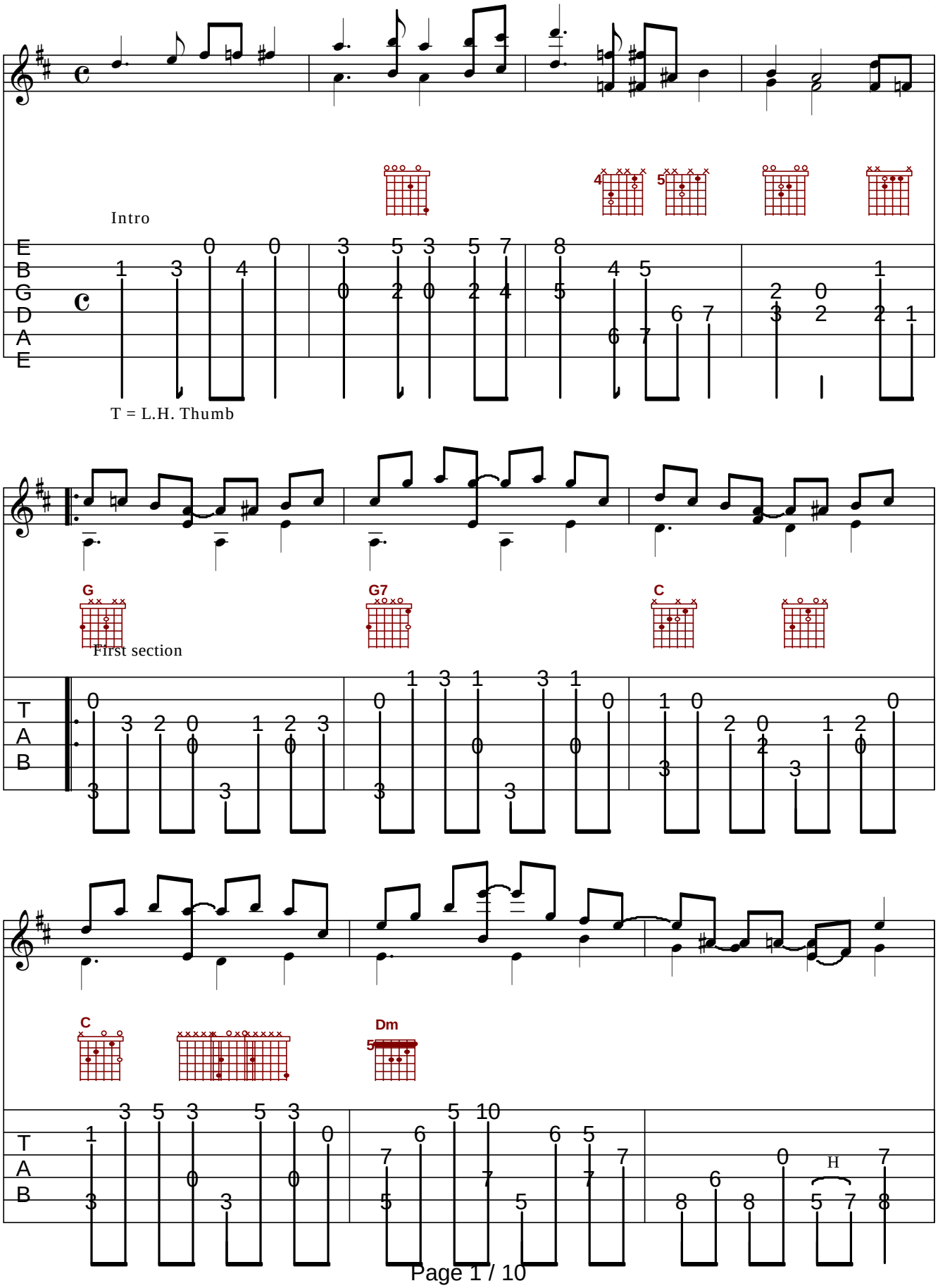
Solace - A Mexican Serenade

Scott Joplin (1909)

Arr: Tom Thomason (1977)
TablEdited: Tom Thomason (1998)



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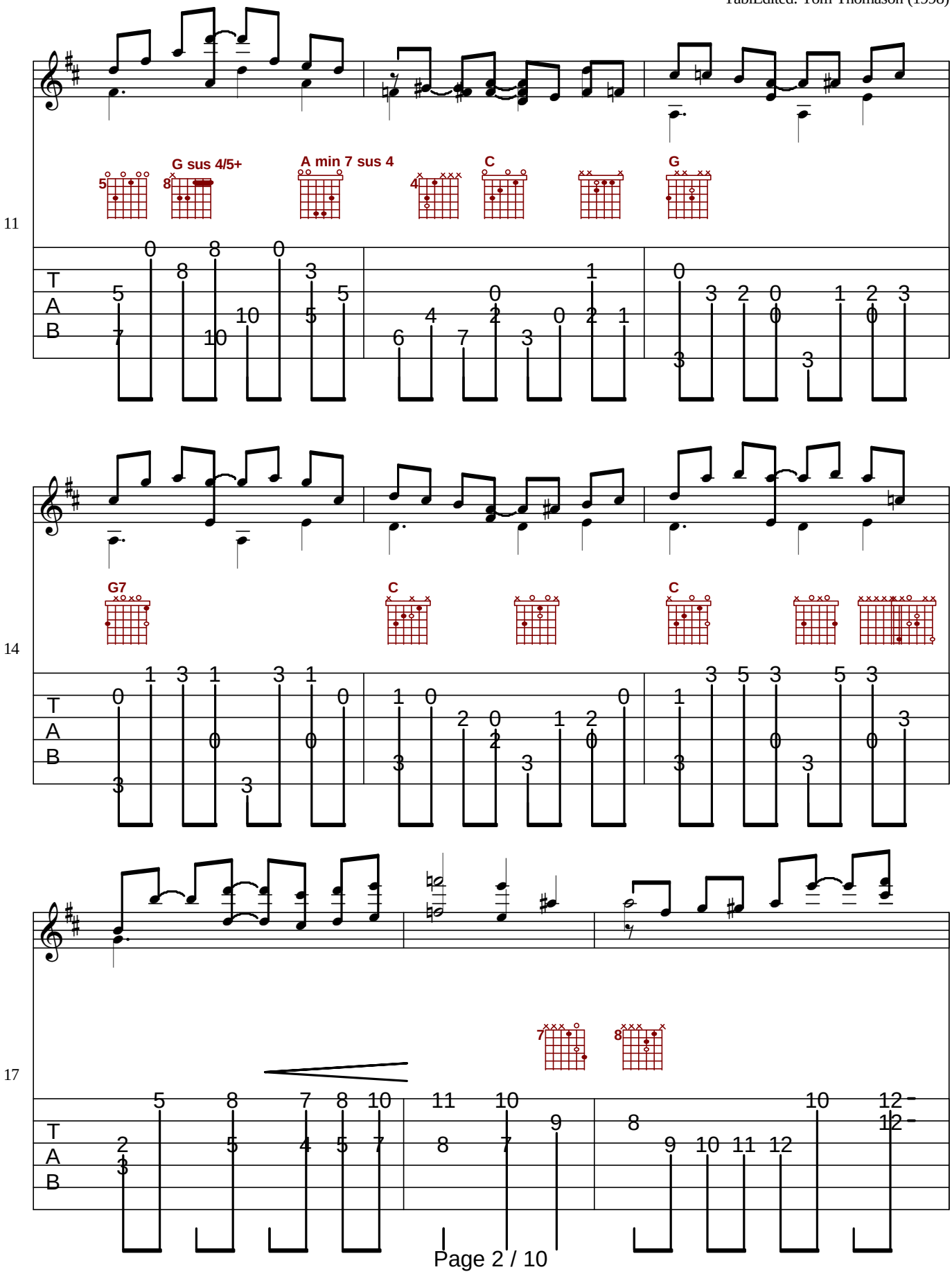

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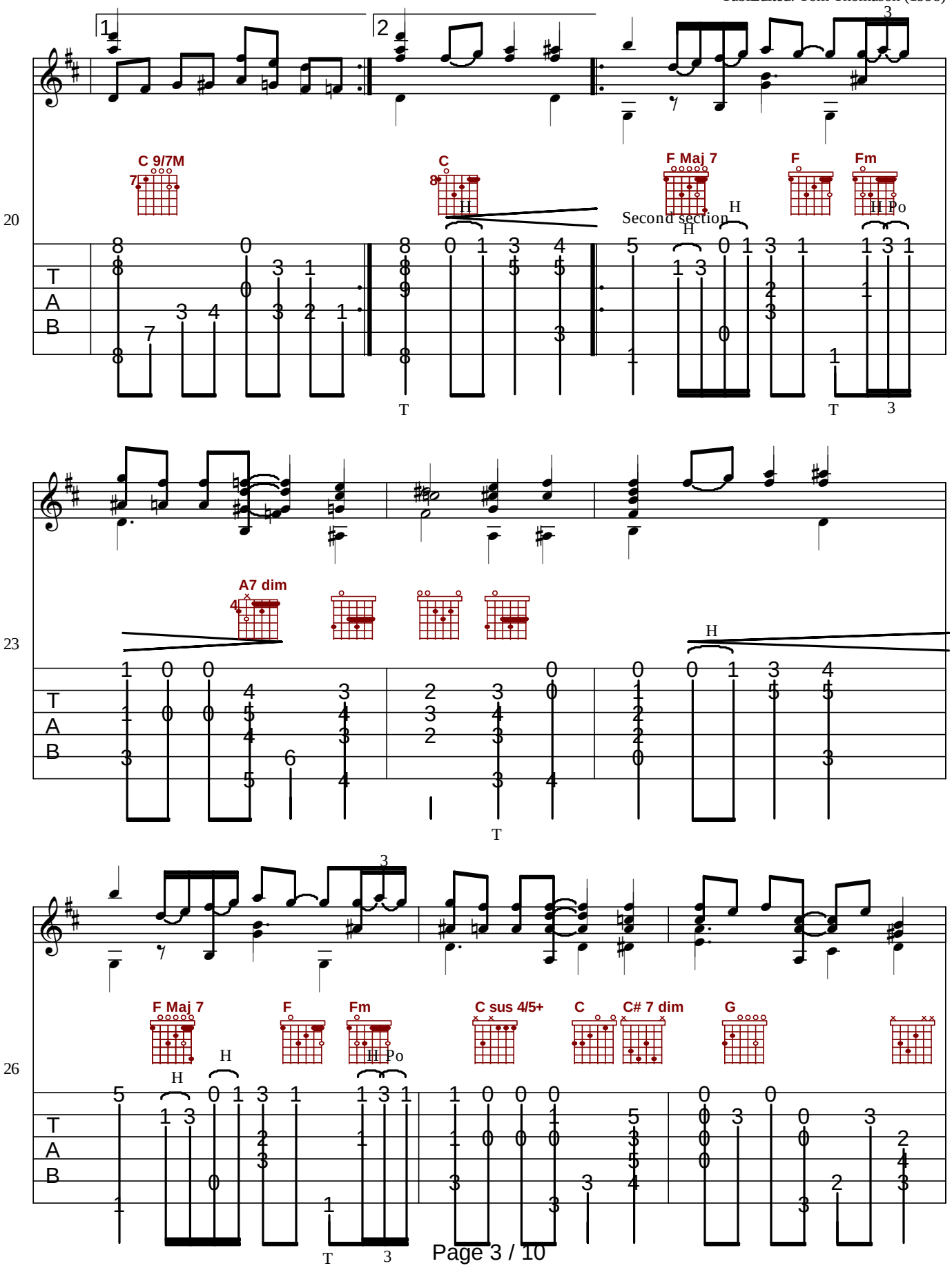

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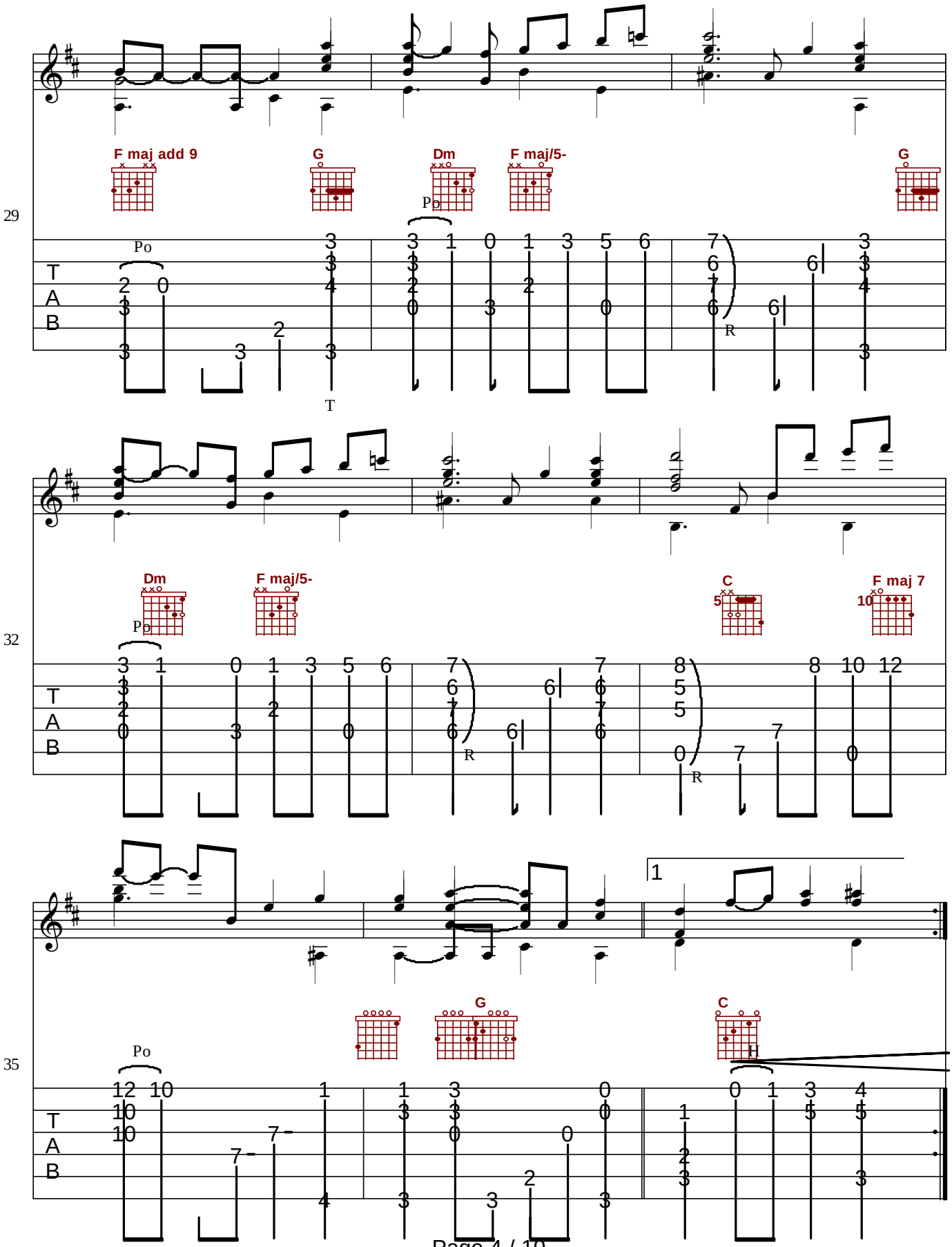

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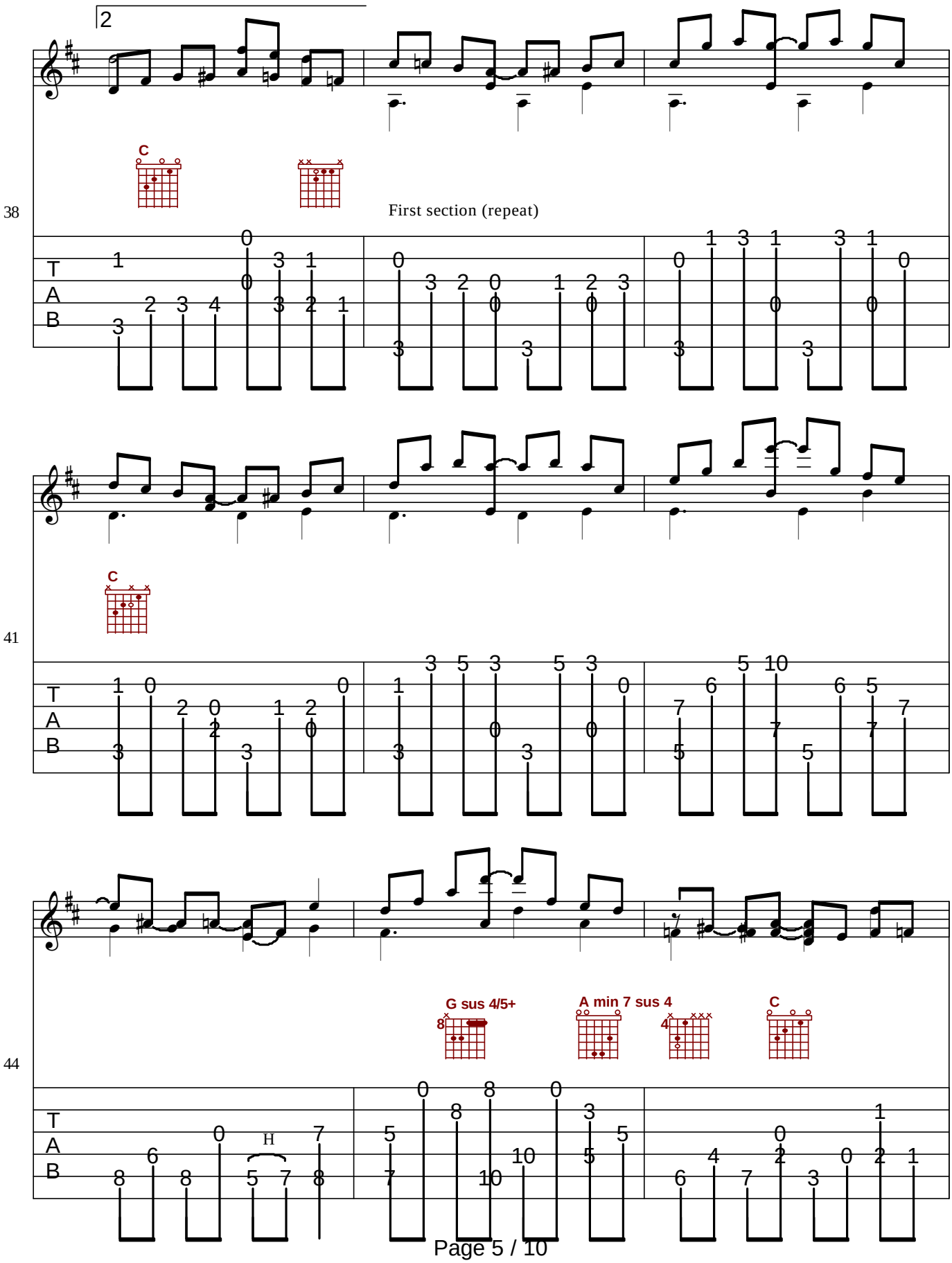

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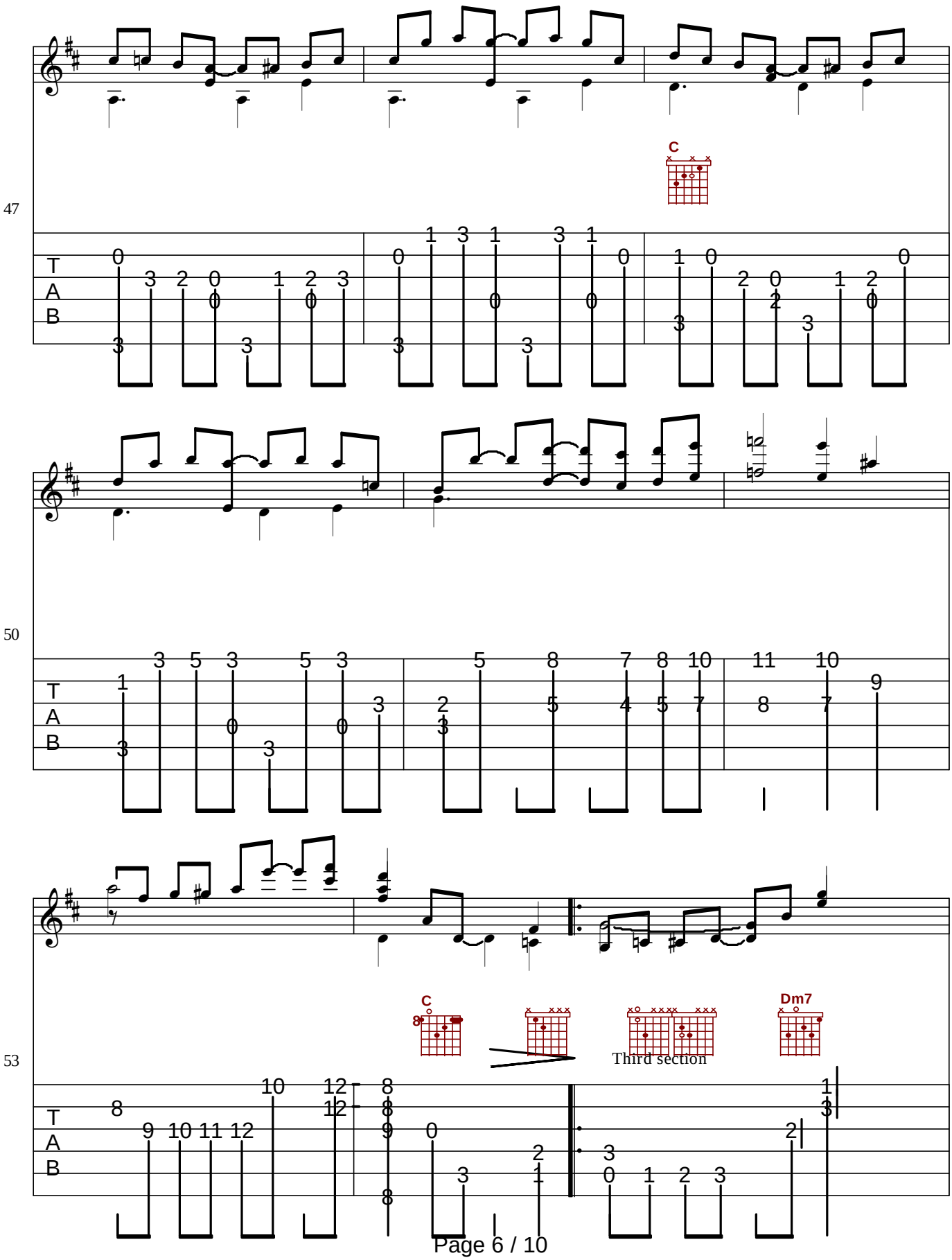

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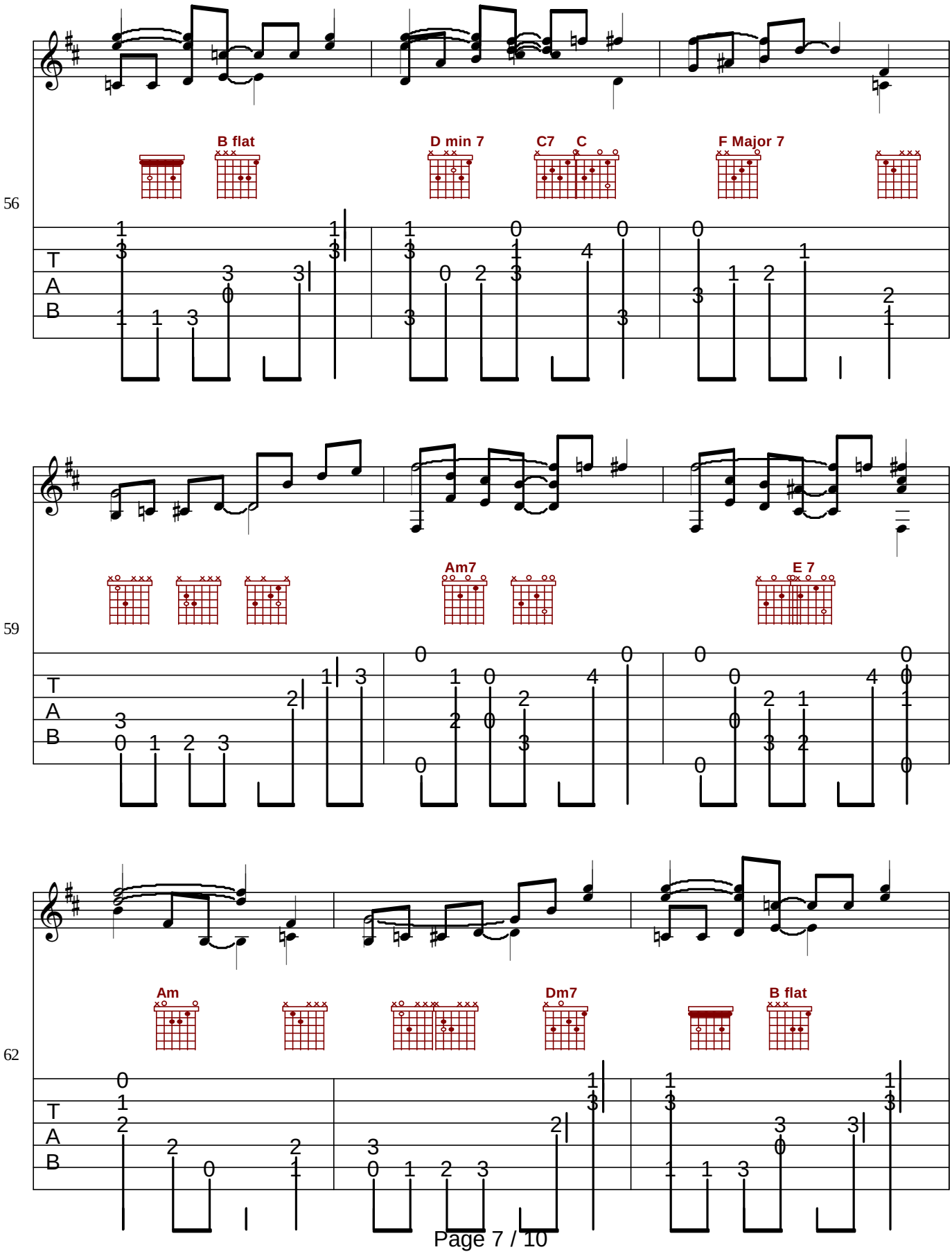

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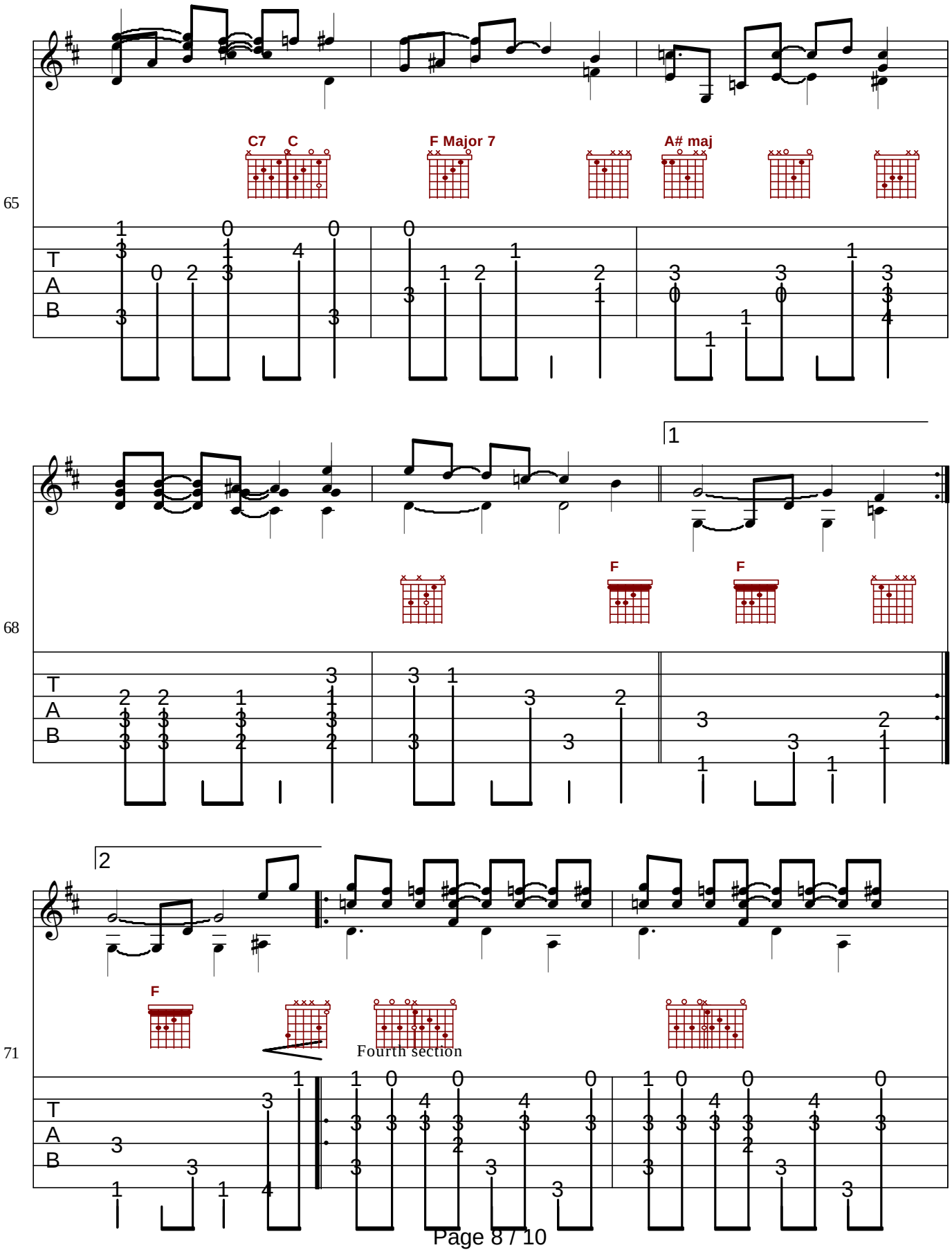

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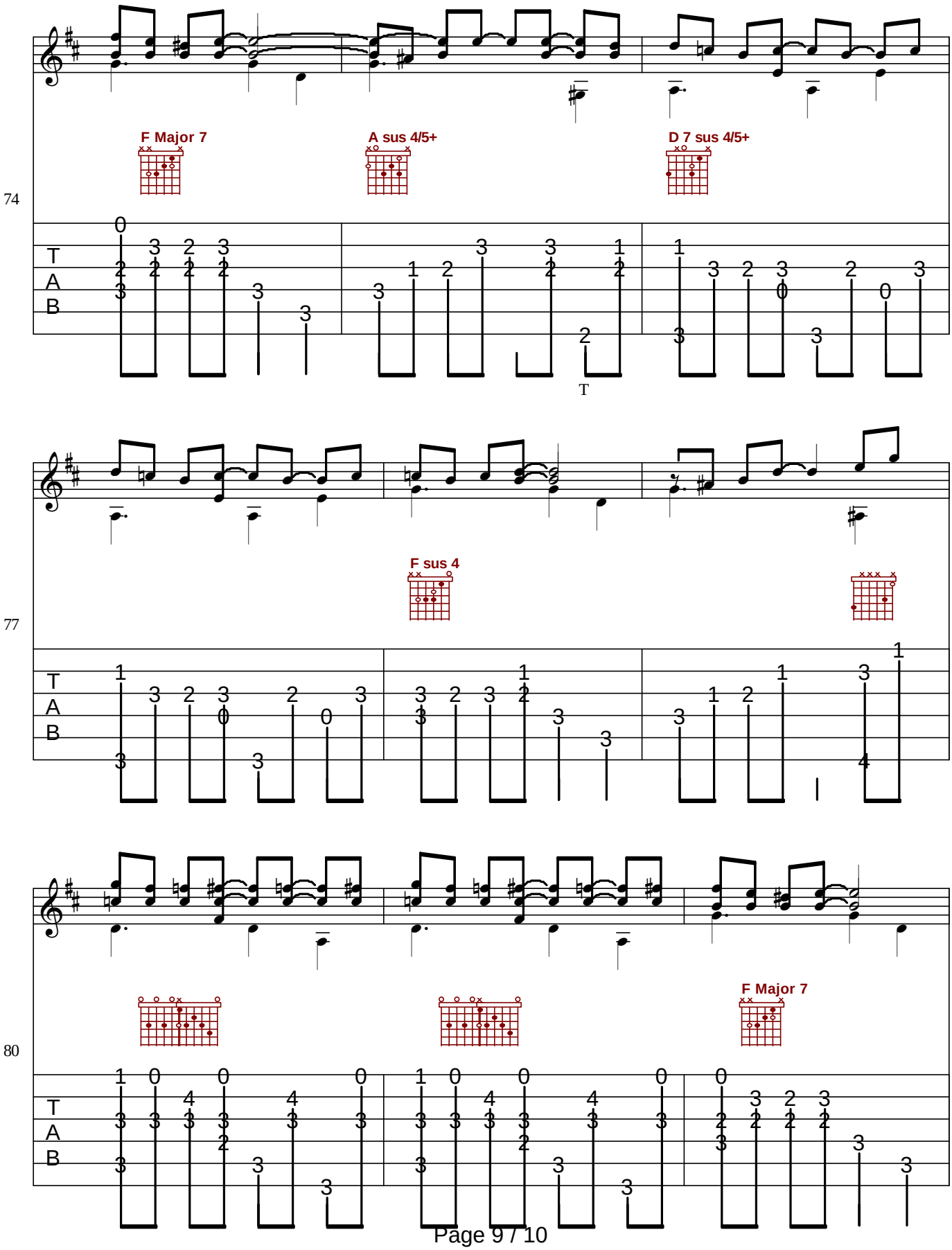

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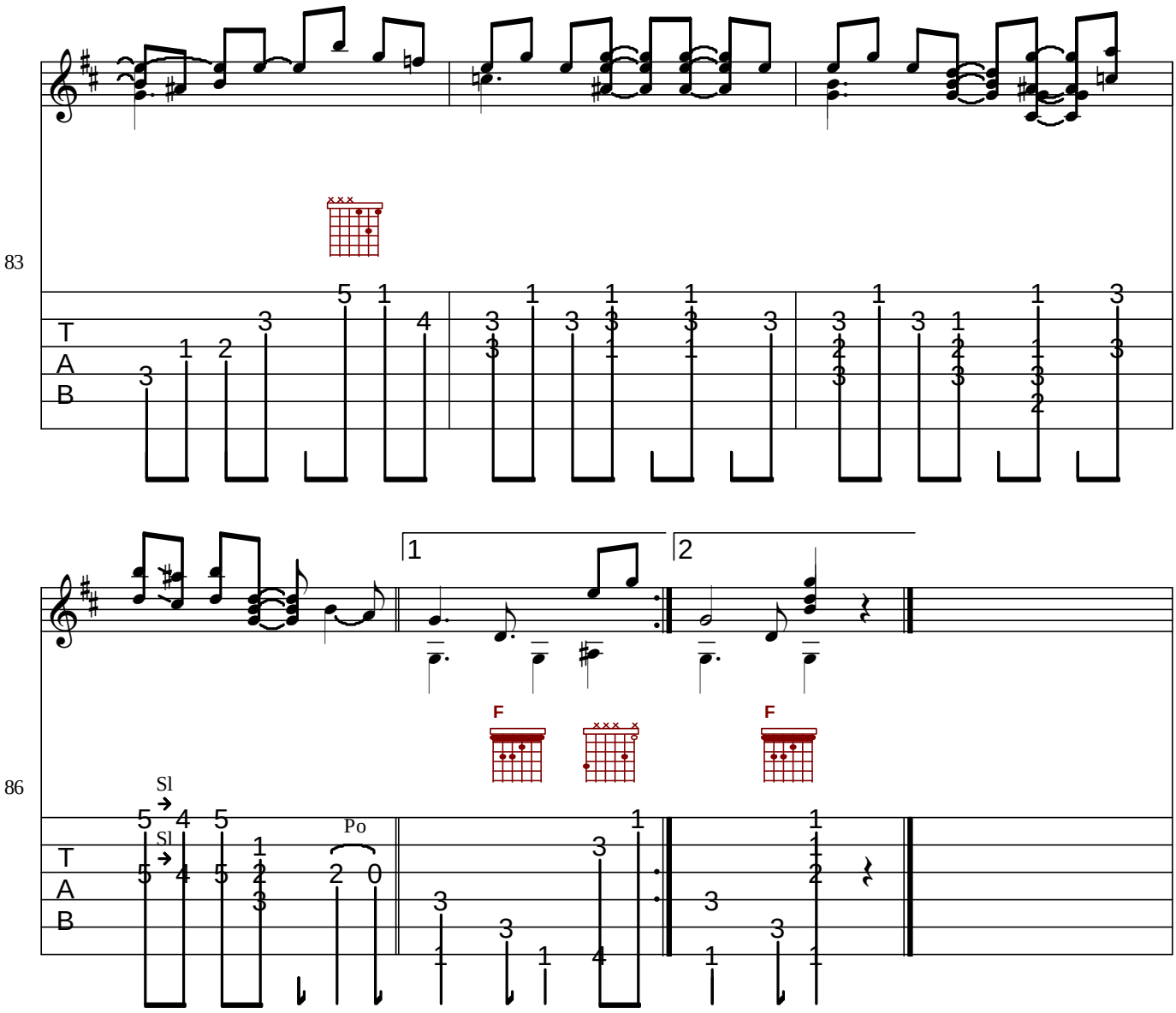

Written by Joplin in 1909, this piece makes lovely use of tango-like Habañera rhythms in the bass.

Set up the Bb note (3rd fret, 3rd string) at the end of measures 16 and 50 by using your middle finger to fret the G (3rd fret, first string). This leaves your index finger free to fret the Bb and then slide down one fret for the A immediately following.

Make sure to hold the treble notes of the opening chord of the 1st ending of the 1st section for their full 1/4 note value. They're actually supposed to be held out for an entire 1/2 note duration but the stretch needed to do so isn't exactly user-friendly.

Try "rolling" the chord melody in measures 23-24 for contrast when you repeat the second section.

Standard notation makes use of signs called "fermata" (represented as the upper half of a circle with a dot in it) to indicate that a note should be sustained beyond it's designated duration. To do this in TablEdit, I've had to make use of tempo changes, assigning an arbitrary figure for the opening change and restoring the original tempo at the end of the phrase. The actual length of time the note should be held for is up to the performer and is more a question of expression than an absolute value.