# Goldberg Variations

## J. S. Bach

BWV 988

For Guitar Ensemble

N. 16.

# Clavier Ubung

bestehend

in einer

# ARIA

mit verschiedenen Veränderungen

vors Clavicimbal

mit 2 Manualen.

Denen Liebhabern zur Gemüths-

Ergetzung verfertiget von


## Johann Sebastian Bach

Königl. Pohl. u. Churfl. Sæchß. Hoff-

Compositeur, Capellmeister, u. Directore

Chori Musici in Leipzig.



Nürnberg in Verlegung

Balthasar Schmids.

For

*Eli Kassner*
*and*
*Glenn Gould*

From

*The Guitar Society of Toronto Orchestra*

# Table of Contents


Introduction . . . . . 5
Aria . . . . . 6
Variation 01 . . . . . 12
Variation 02 . . . . . 14
Variation 03 Canon at the Unison . . . . . 16
Variation 04 . . . . . 18
Variation 05 . . . . . 20
Variation 06 Canon at the Second . . . . . 22
Variation 07 At the tempo of a Giga . . . . . 24
Variation 08 . . . . . 26
Variation 09 Canon at the Third . . . . . 28
Variation 10 Fughetta . . . . . 30
Variation 11 . . . . . 32
Variation 12 Canon at the Fourth . . . . . 34
Variation 13 . . . . . 38
Variation 14 . . . . . 42
Variation 15 Canon at the Fifth . . . . . 46
Variation 16 Overture . . . . . 50
Variation 17 . . . . . 54
Variation 18 Canon at the Sixth . . . . . 56
Variation 19 . . . . . 58
Variation 20 . . . . . 60
Variation 21 Canon at the Seventh . . . . . 64
Variation 22 . . . . . 66
Variation 23 . . . . . 68
Variation 24 Canon at the Octave . . . . . 72
Variation 25 . . . . . 76
Variation 26 . . . . . 80
Variation 27 Canon at the Ninth . . . . . 84
Variation 28 . . . . . 86
Variation 29 . . . . . 90
Variation 30 Quodlibet . . . . . 94
Table of Ornaments . . . . . 96
Acknowledgements . . . . . 97
Copyright . . . . . 98
Errata . . . . . 99

# Introduction

The motivation behind this transcription and re-engraving of these Goldberg Variations is a simple one; to make available to guitarists one of the great treasures of Baroque art. In that quest, a single value has come to dominate this work

1) to preserve and render as accurately as possible the structure(s) of Bach's work in the context of a modern guitar ensemble and a standard instrument.

The "standard" guitar being considered has 19 frets and is in dropped D tuning. ie. strings are tuned DADGBE. The original key is preserved throughout the transcription, as it is best accommodated and serves the original intent most faithfully.

Starting from this foundation, whatever resources were assembled that the structures demanded. In general it could be stated that each voice that is present in the variation has its representative as a single instrument in the ensemble. The resulting work therefore contains 13 variations for 2 guitars, 13 variations for 3 guitars and 4 for 4 guitars.

While the clavier is dissimilar to the the guitar in many ways, the Goldberg Variations are unsurprisingly quite sympathetic to it. Both the clavier and guitar are plucked chordophones that suffer the similar acoustic defects (strengths?) of volume and sustenance.

Most of the original structure(s) can be preserved through octave transposition when carefully considered. In the few instances where this is not possible, alternatives were developed and documented. Bach's instrumental works are of such a quality that they can often be considered as "generic music": they transcribe well for instruments other than the target of its original composition. That is mostly the case with the Goldberg Variations. To the extent that there may be variations that are idiomatic to the keyboard, they have been accommodated as much as possible and are included for completeness.

Guitar fingering is interperative and personal, particularly for music not initially conceived for guitar, so this work is presented with no guitar fingering. All slurs are phrasing slurs and appear as in the original.

The Aria has two versions presented. Version 1.7e is for two guitars in standard tuning, version 1.8 is for three guitars in dropped D tuning.

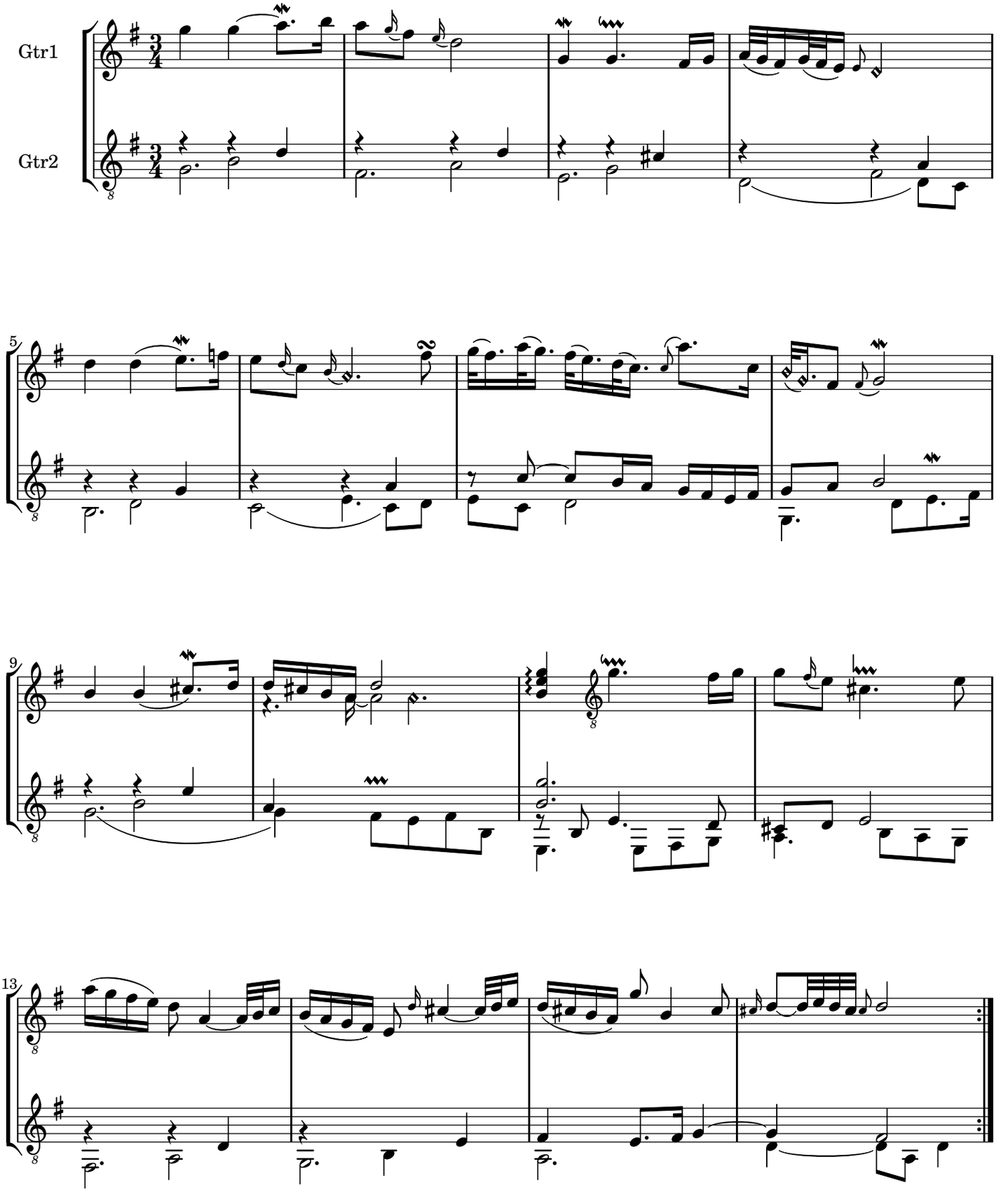
Finding a reliable authority for Goldberg Variations, BWV 988, is problematic as discussed by Erich Schwandt[1]. The source materials from which this transcription is derived are the Bach-Gesellschaft Ausgabe, Band 3, the facsimile of Bach's own copy ('Handexemplar') of the first edition, and the results of the OpenGoldberg project. These documents are in the Public Domain and can be found here

http://imslp.org/wiki/Goldberg-Variationen,_BWV_988_(Bach,_Johann_Sebastian)

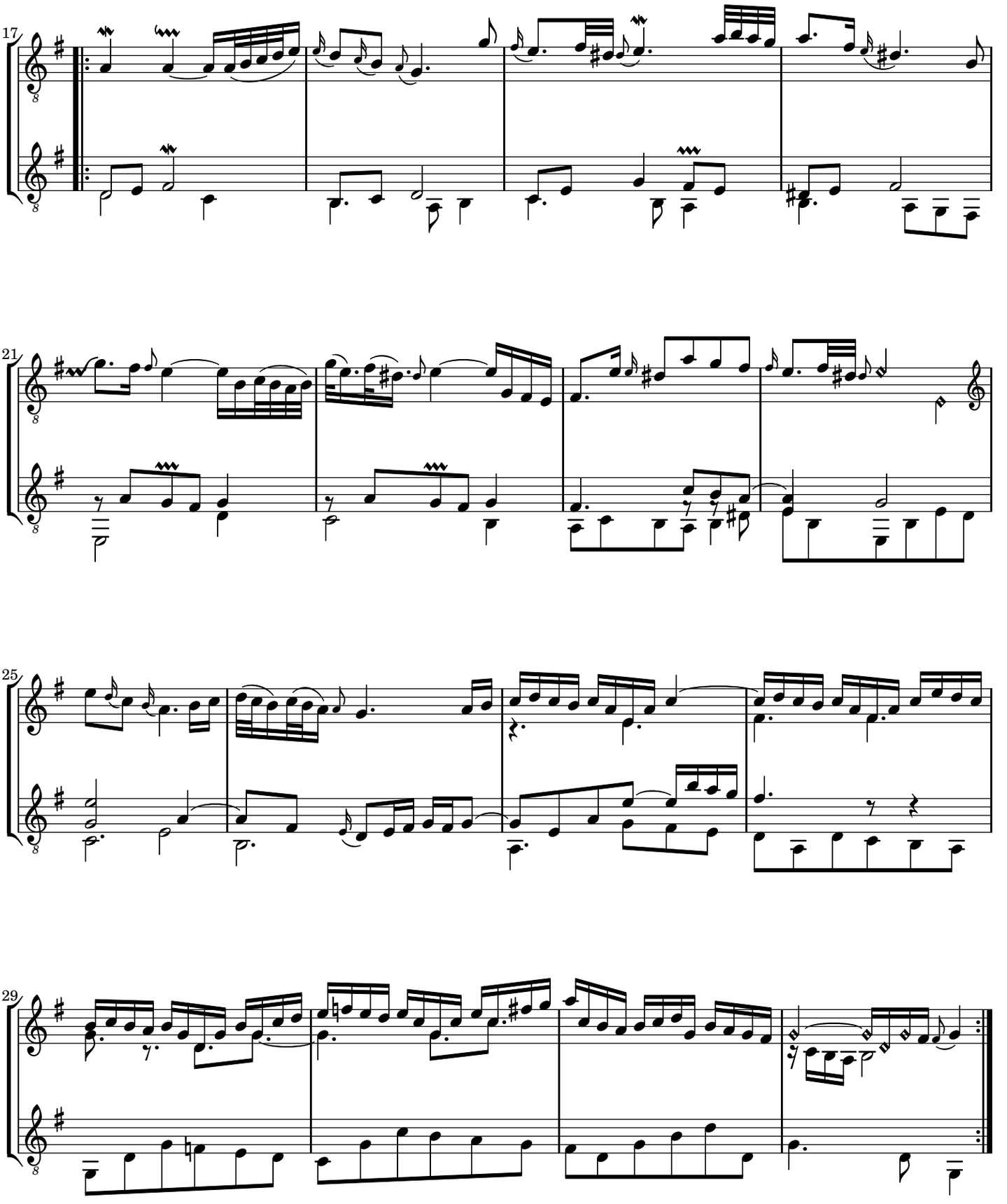
[1] http://scholarship.claremont.edu/ppr/vol3/iss1/2

# Aria

1.7e



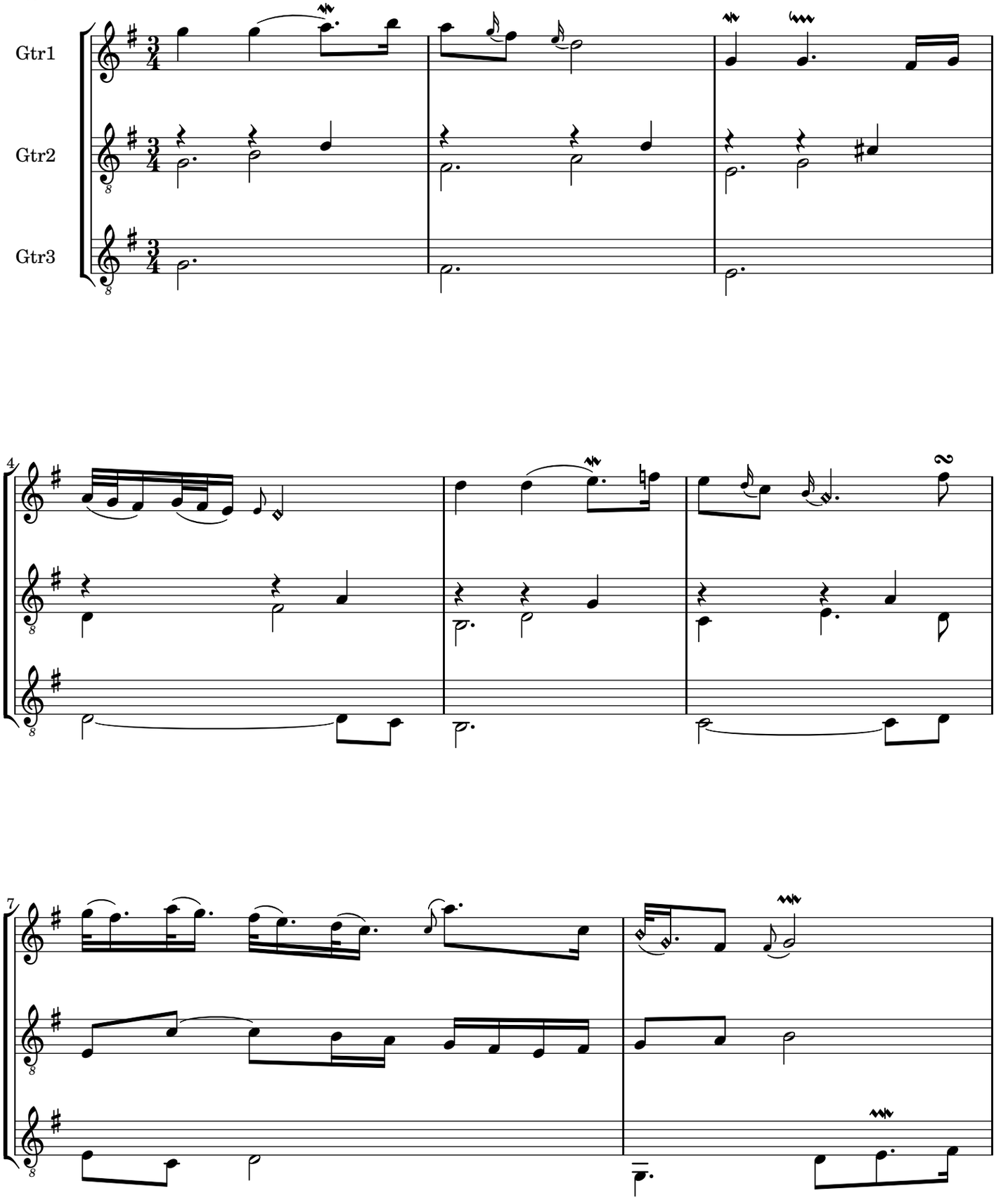

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). JD Erickson (2007). CC BY-SA



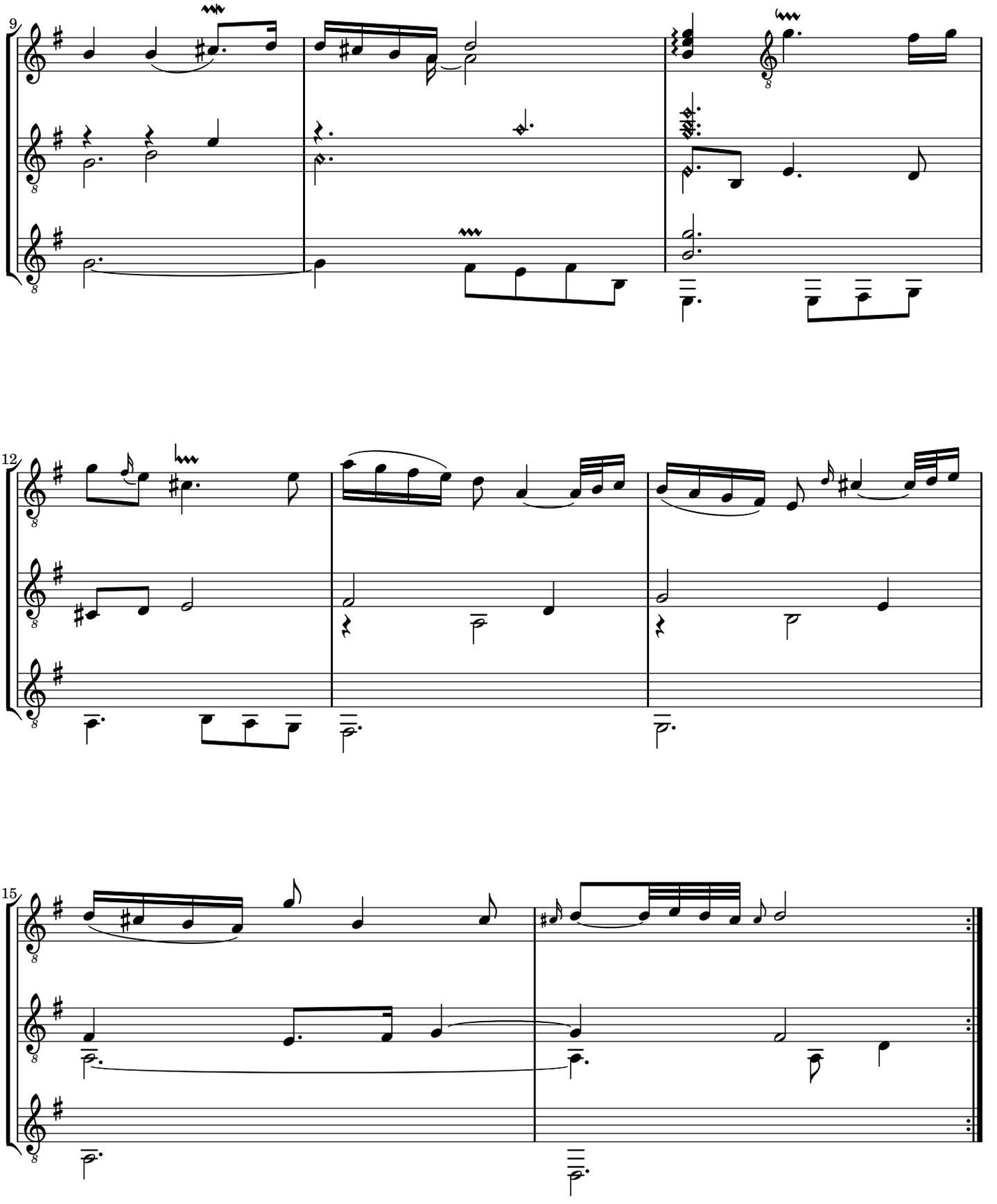

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). JD Erickson (2007). CC BY-SA

# Aria

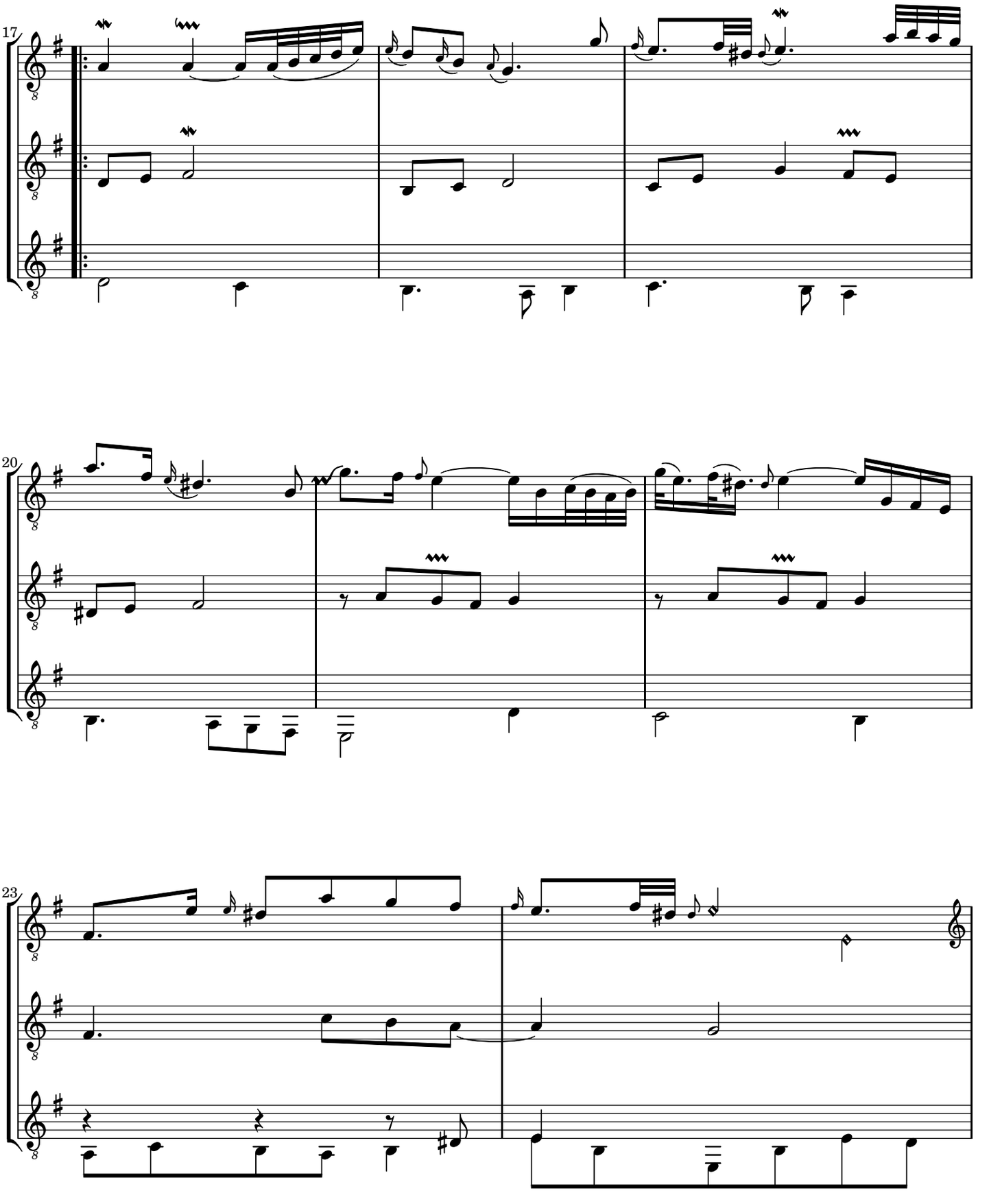
1.8



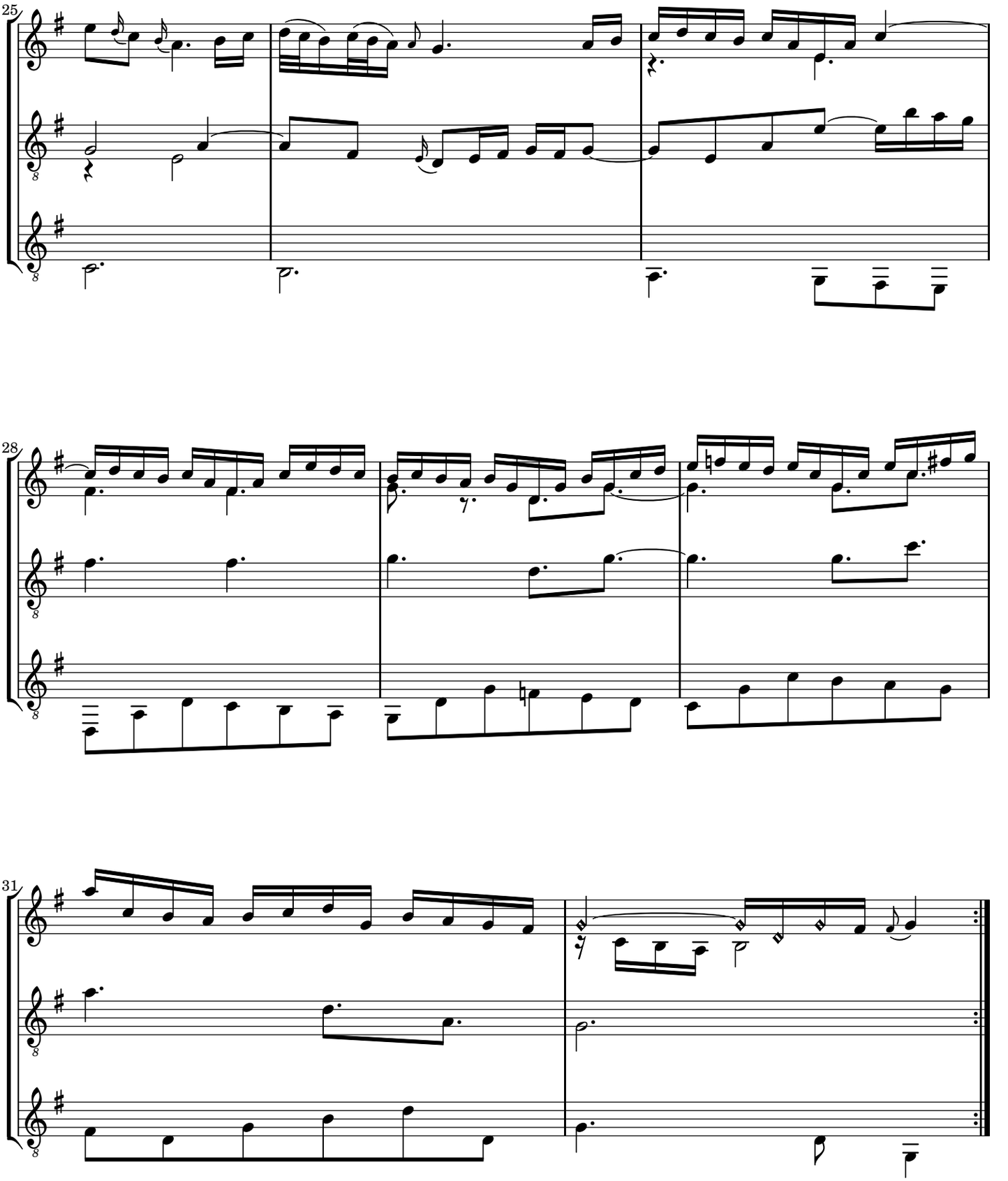

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). JD Erickson (2007). CC BY-SA




Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). JD Erickson (2007). CC BY-SA

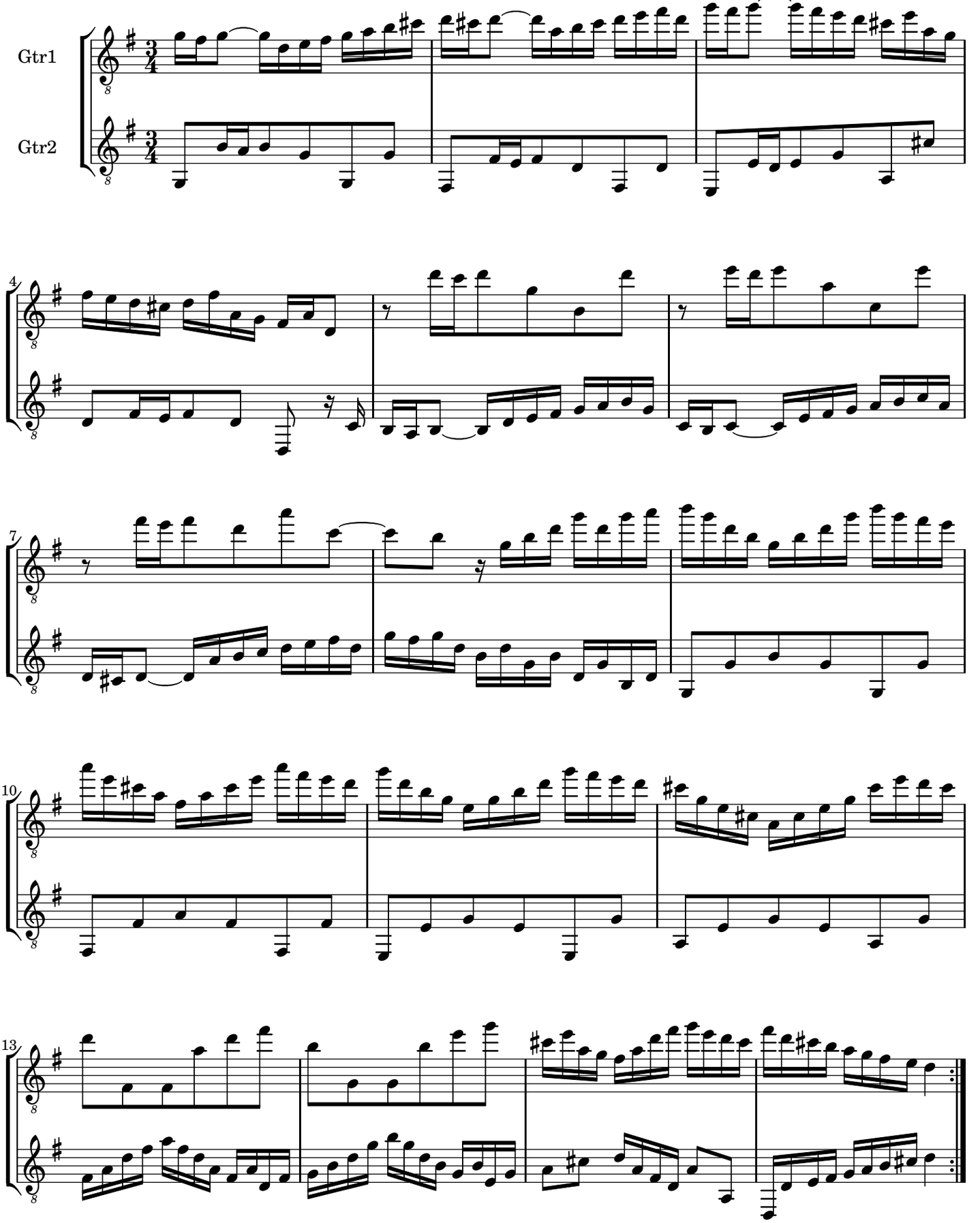



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). JD Erickson (2007). CC BY-SA

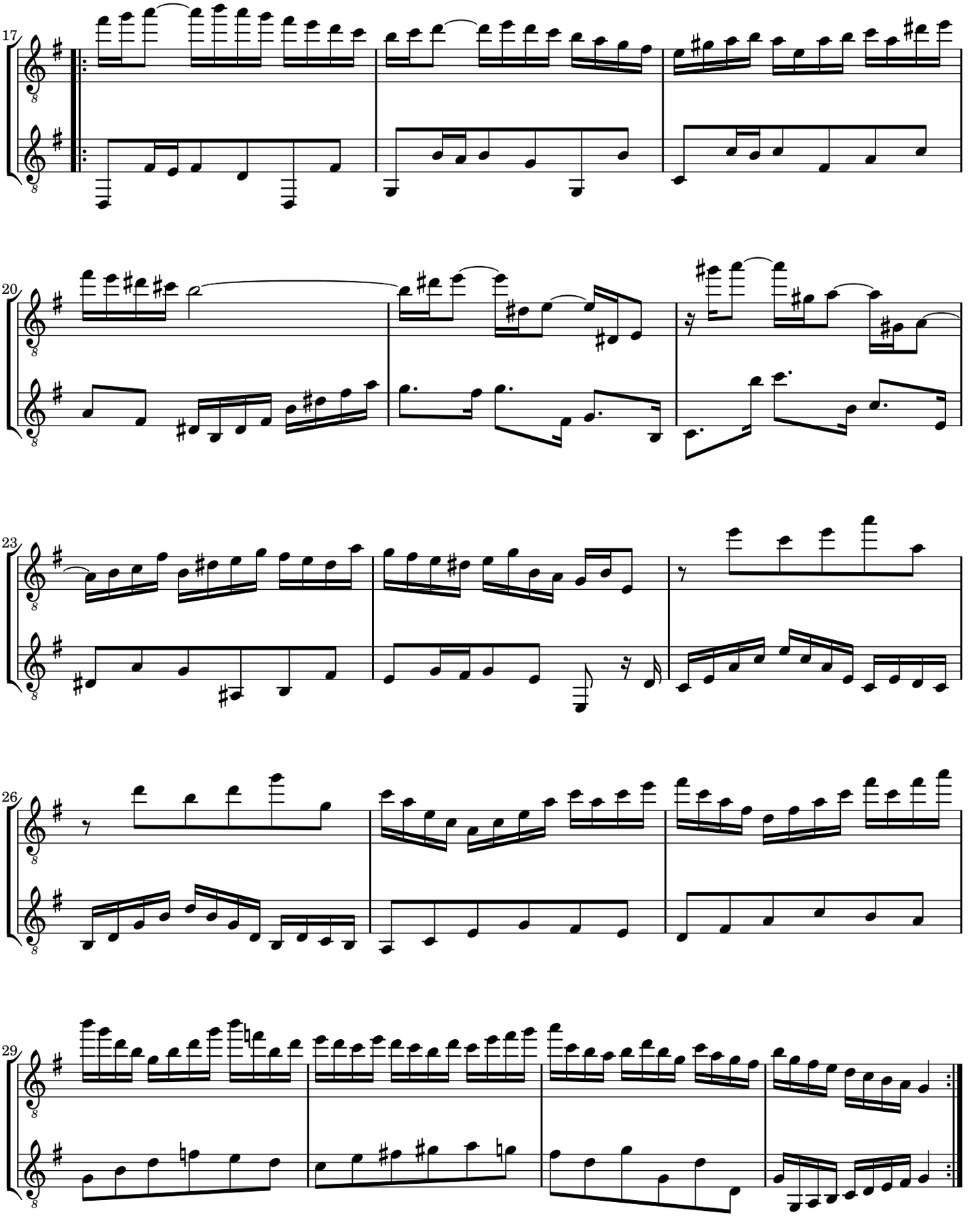



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). JD Erickson (2007). CC BY-SA

# Variation 01

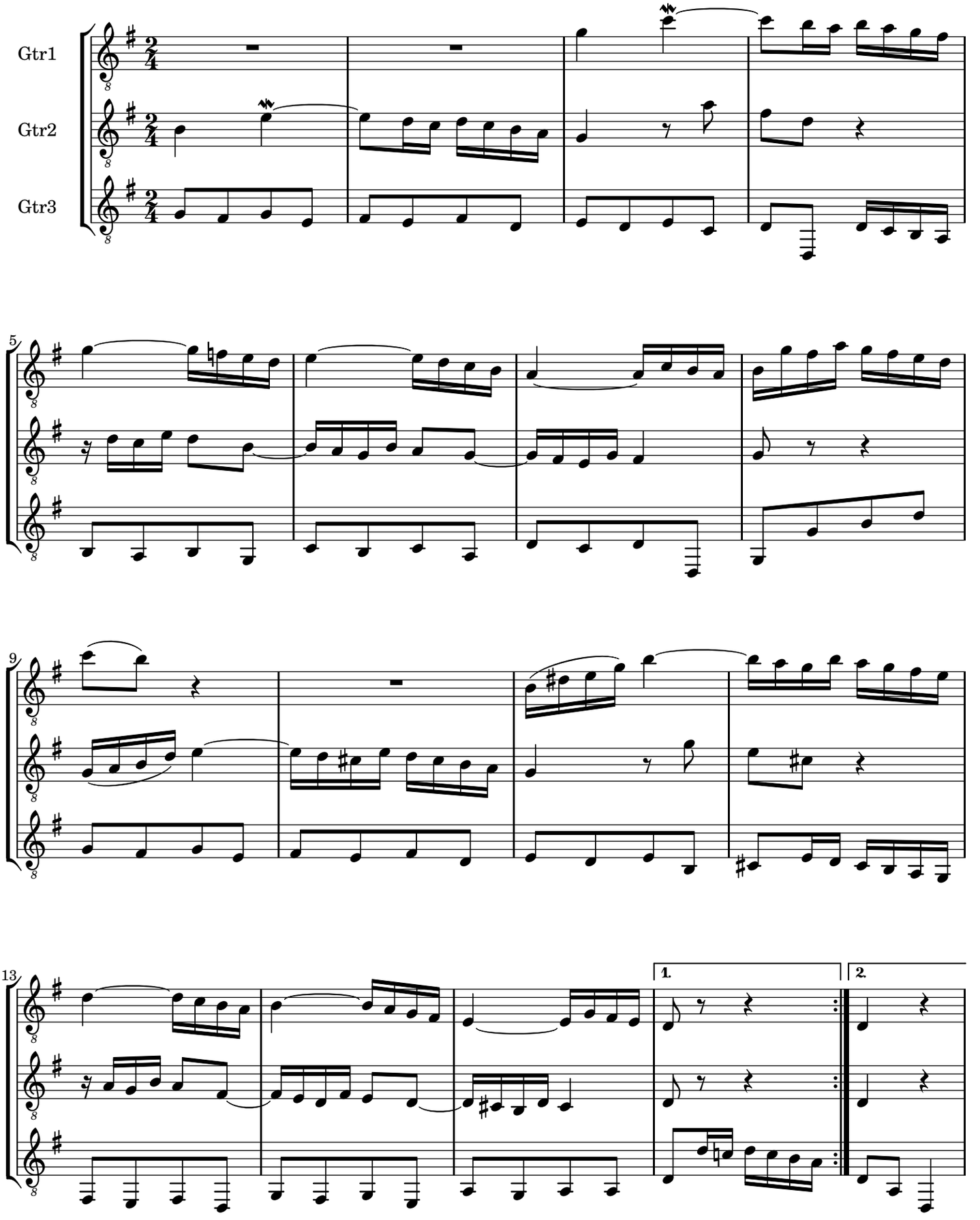



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). JD Erickson (2007). CC BY-SA

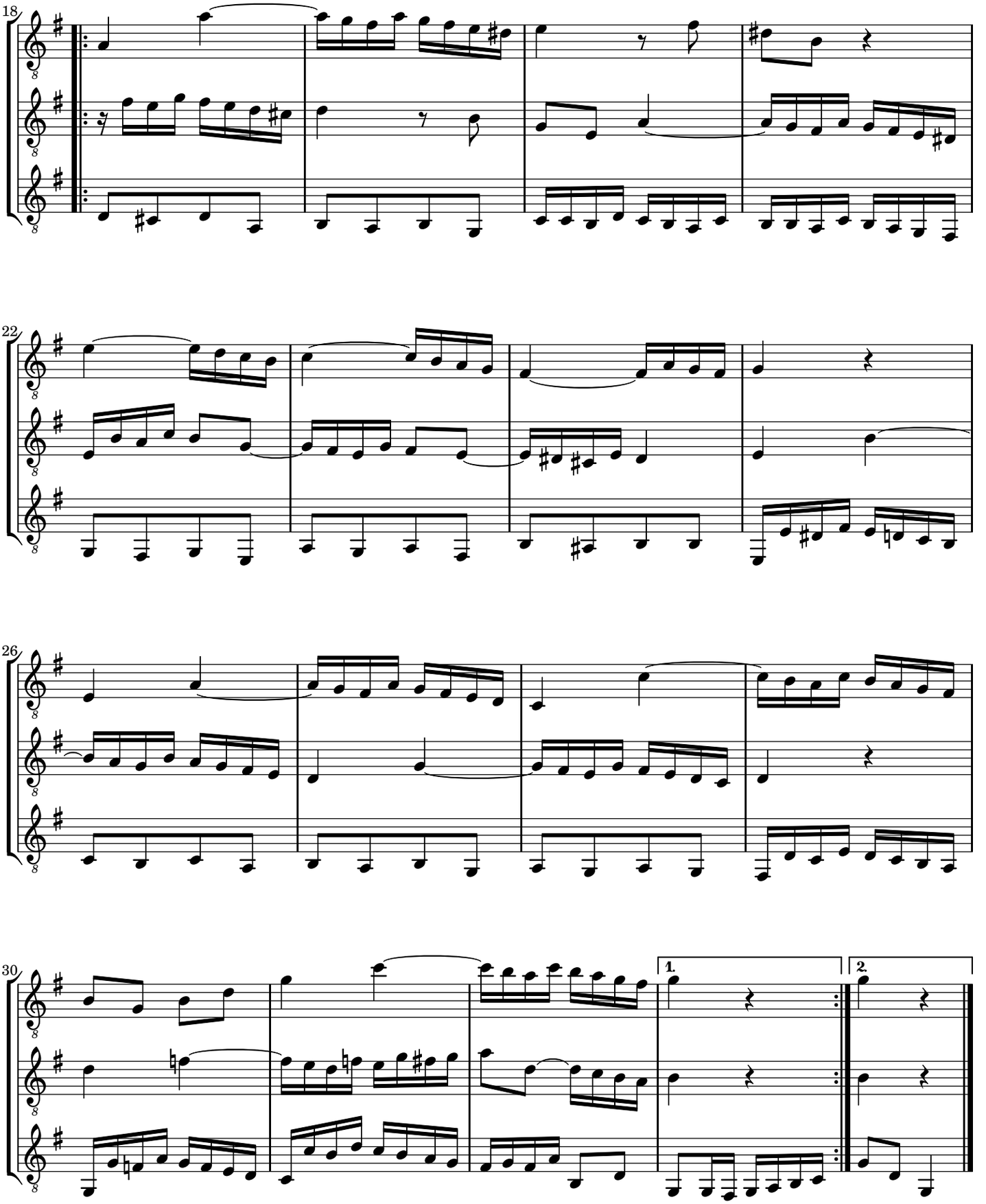


Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). JD Erickson (2007). CC BY-SA

# Variation 02



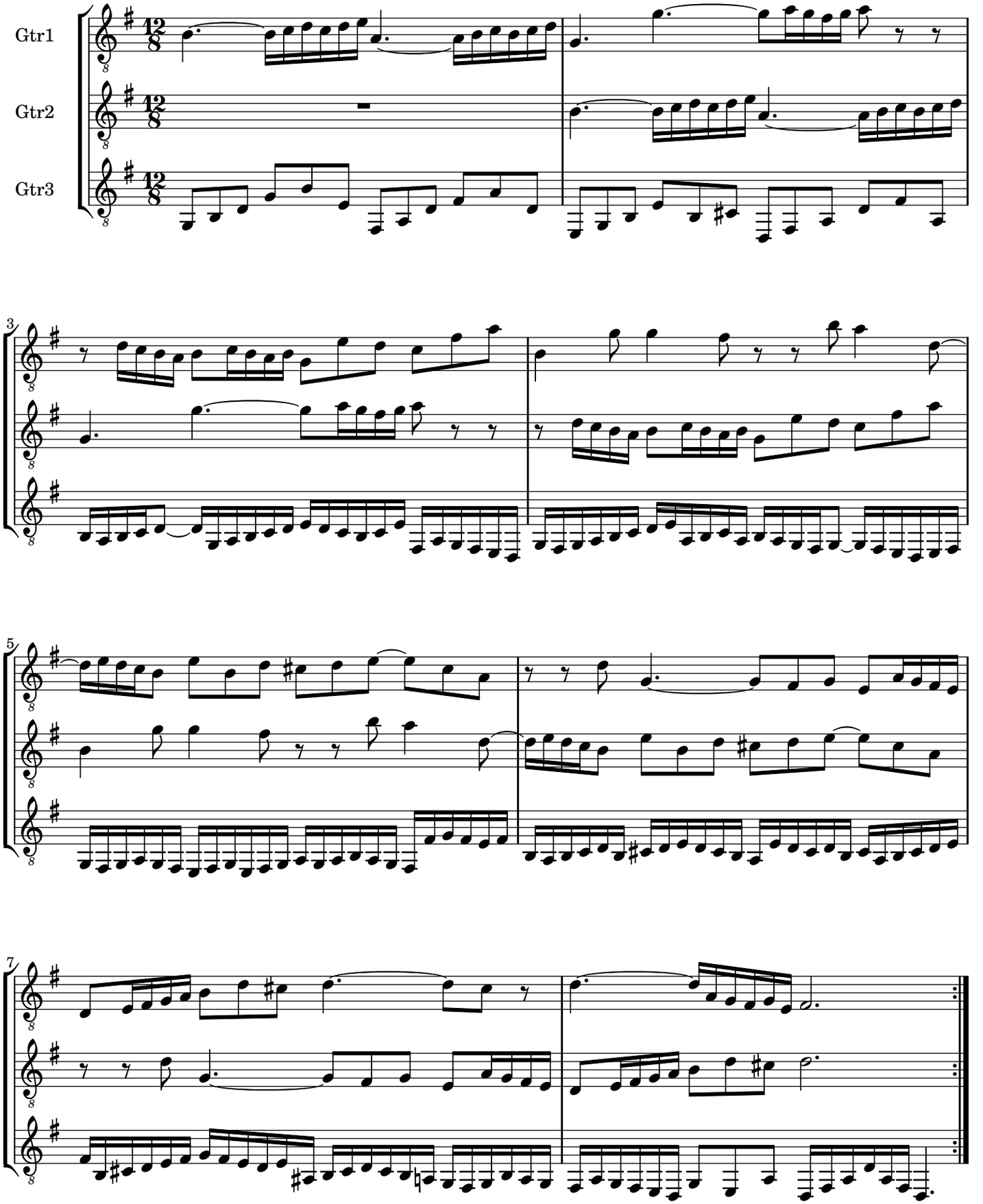

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). JD Erickson (2007). CC BY-SA



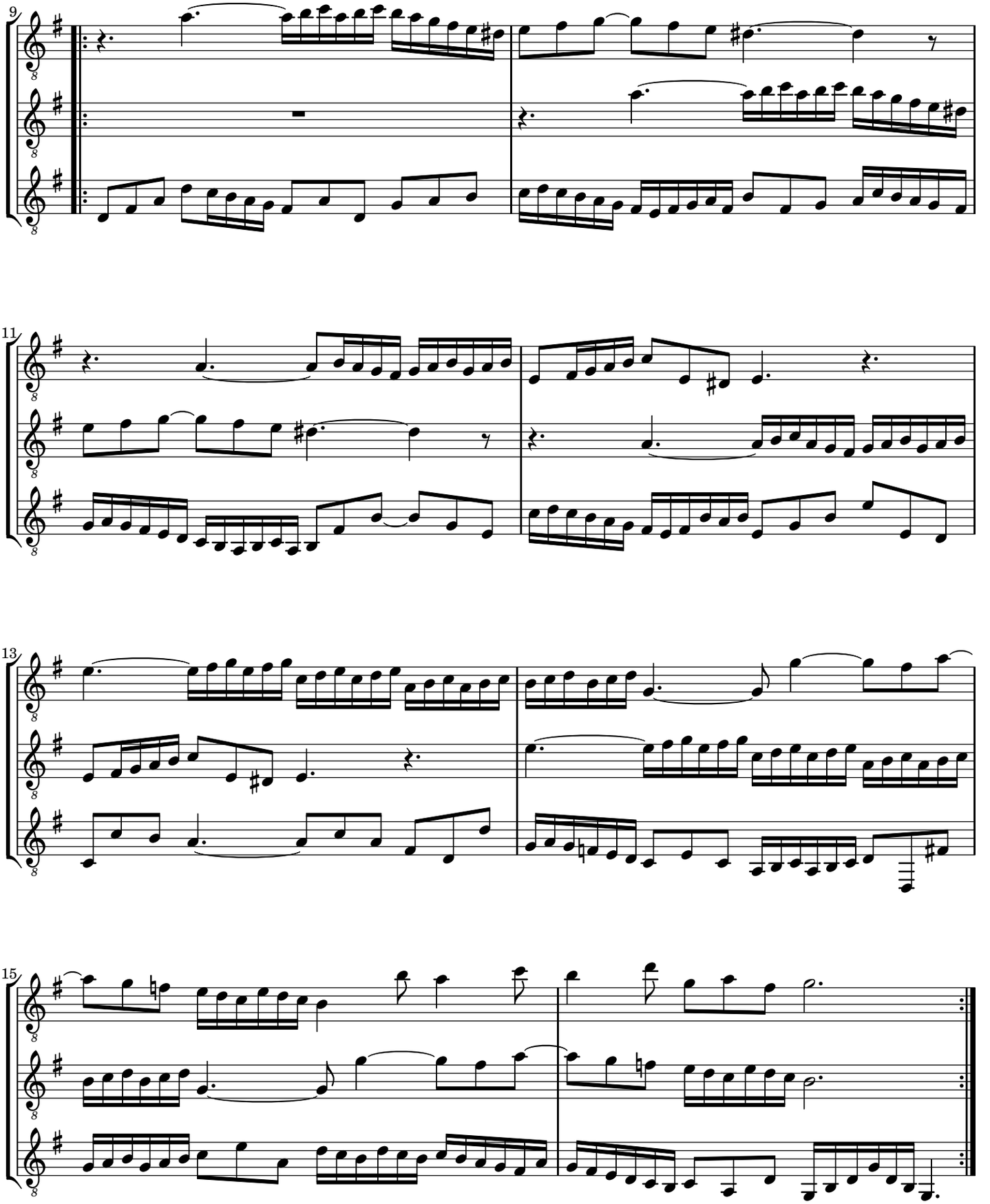

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). JD Erickson (2007). CC BY-SA

# Variation 03

Canon at the Unison

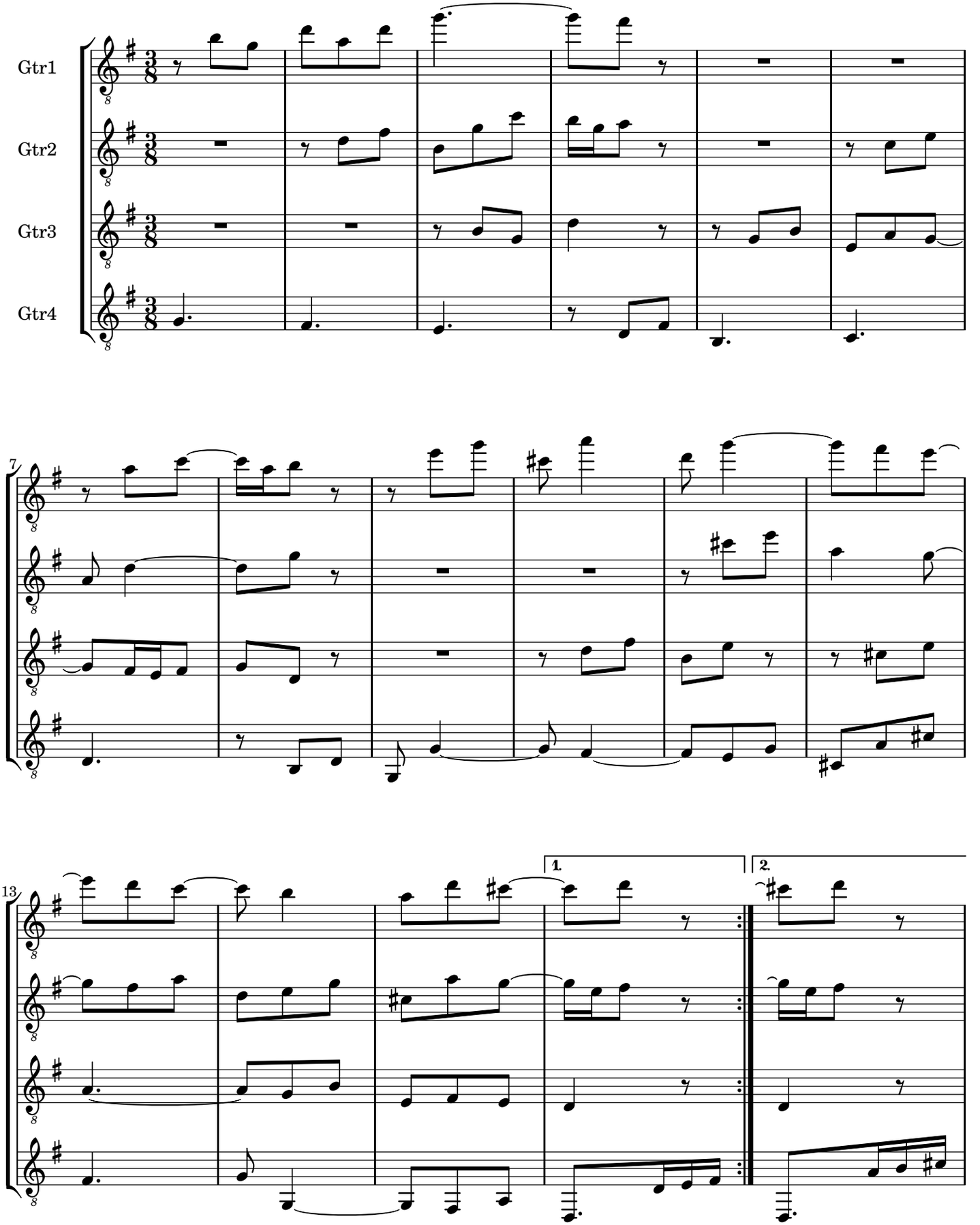



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

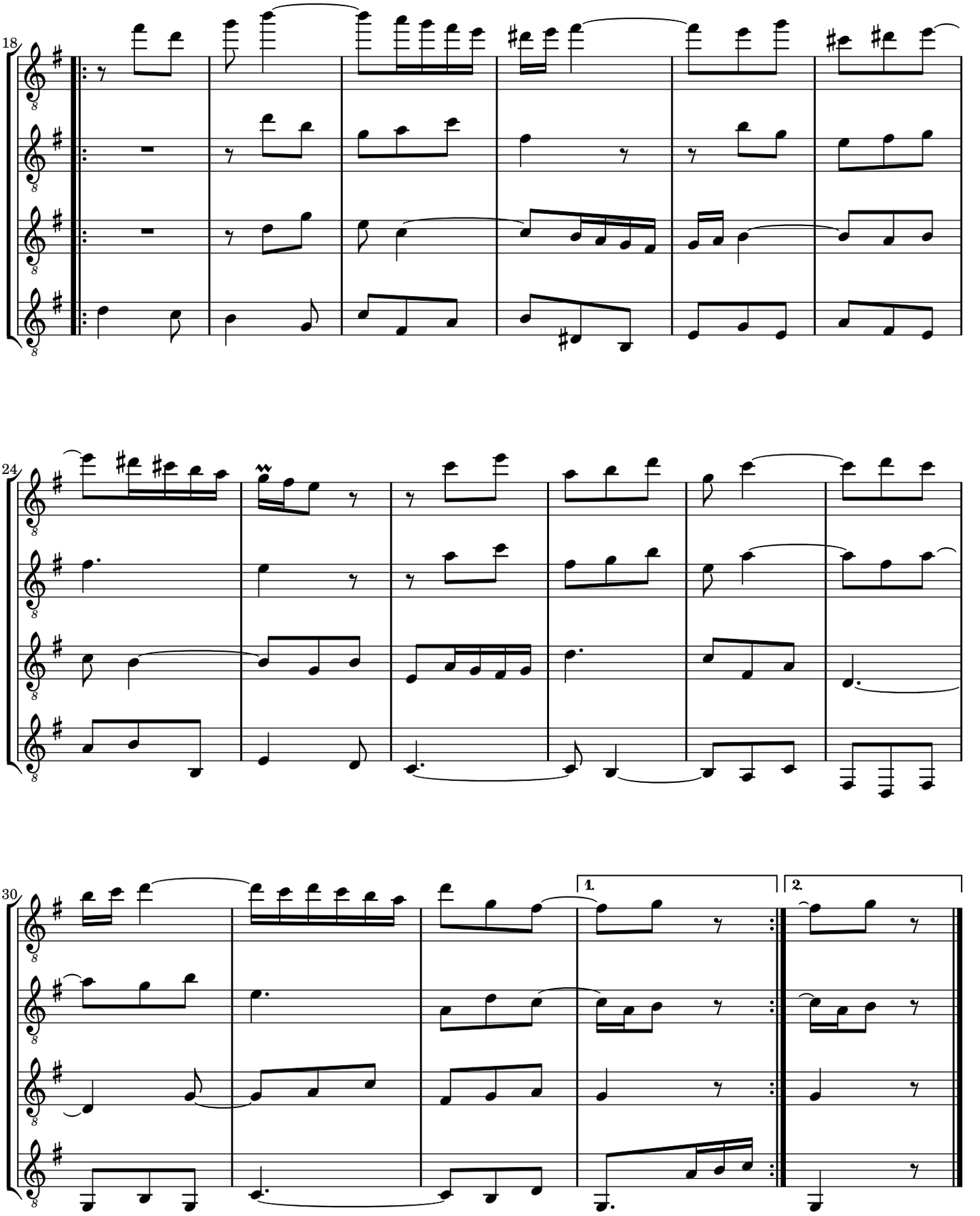



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 04

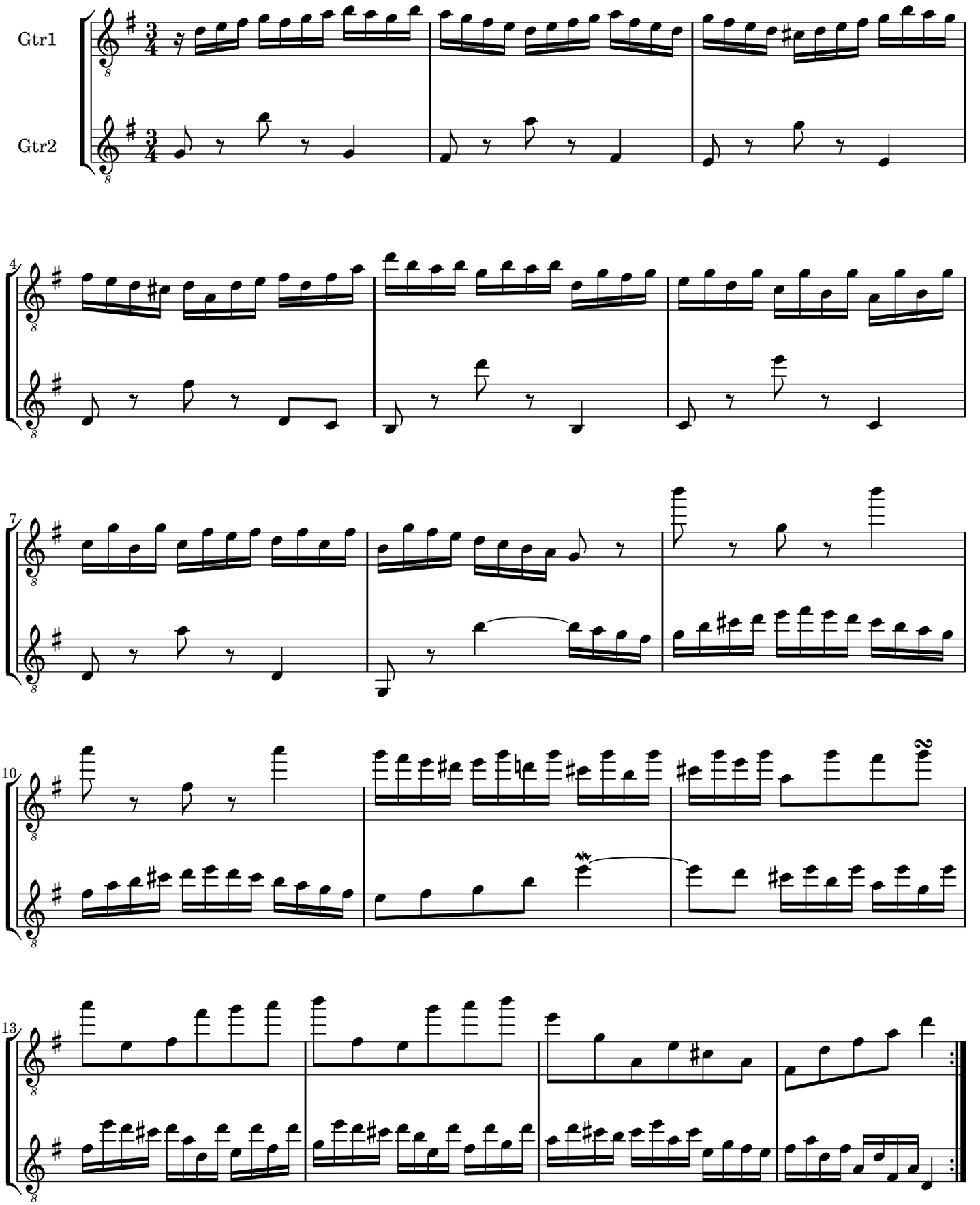



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

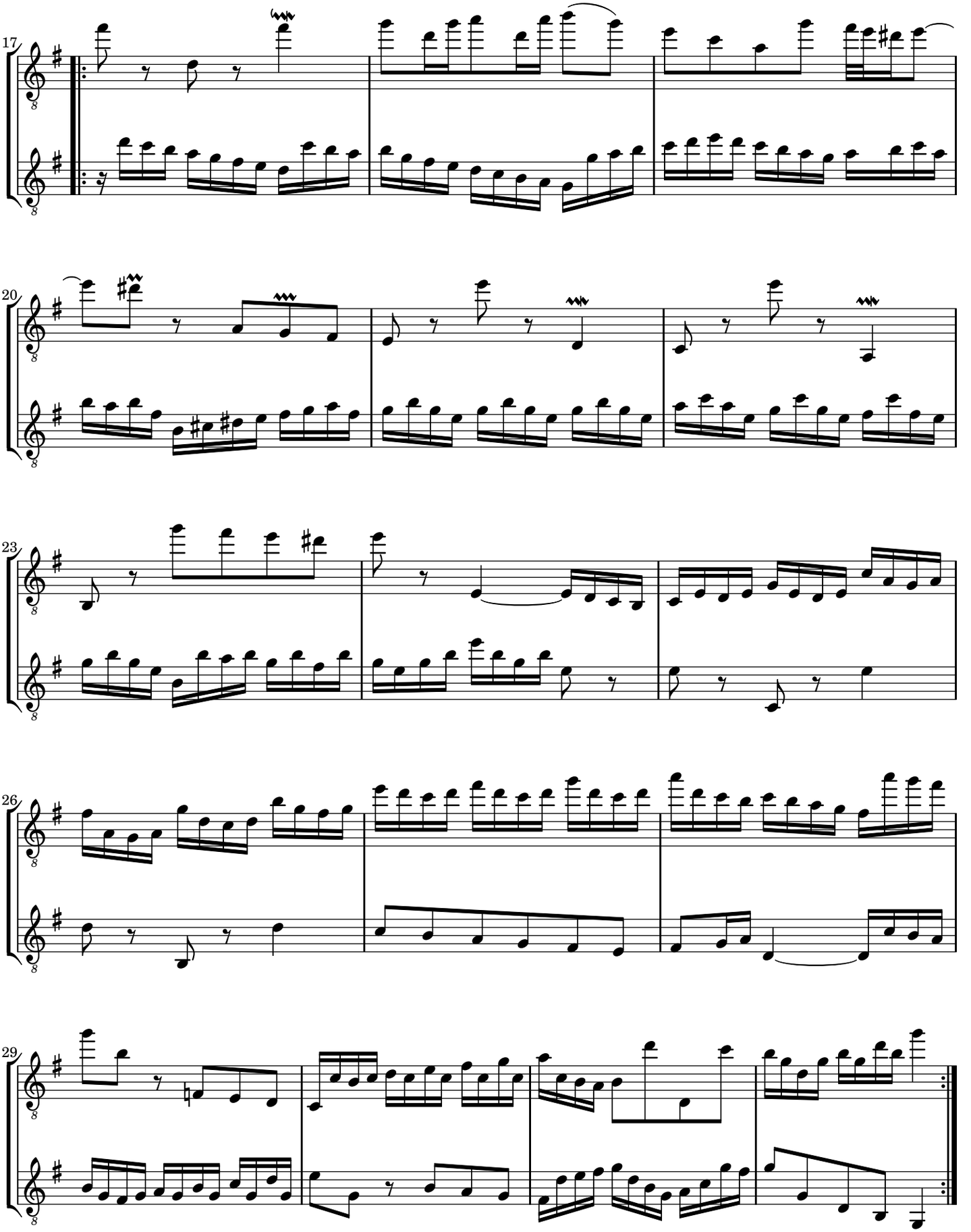



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 05



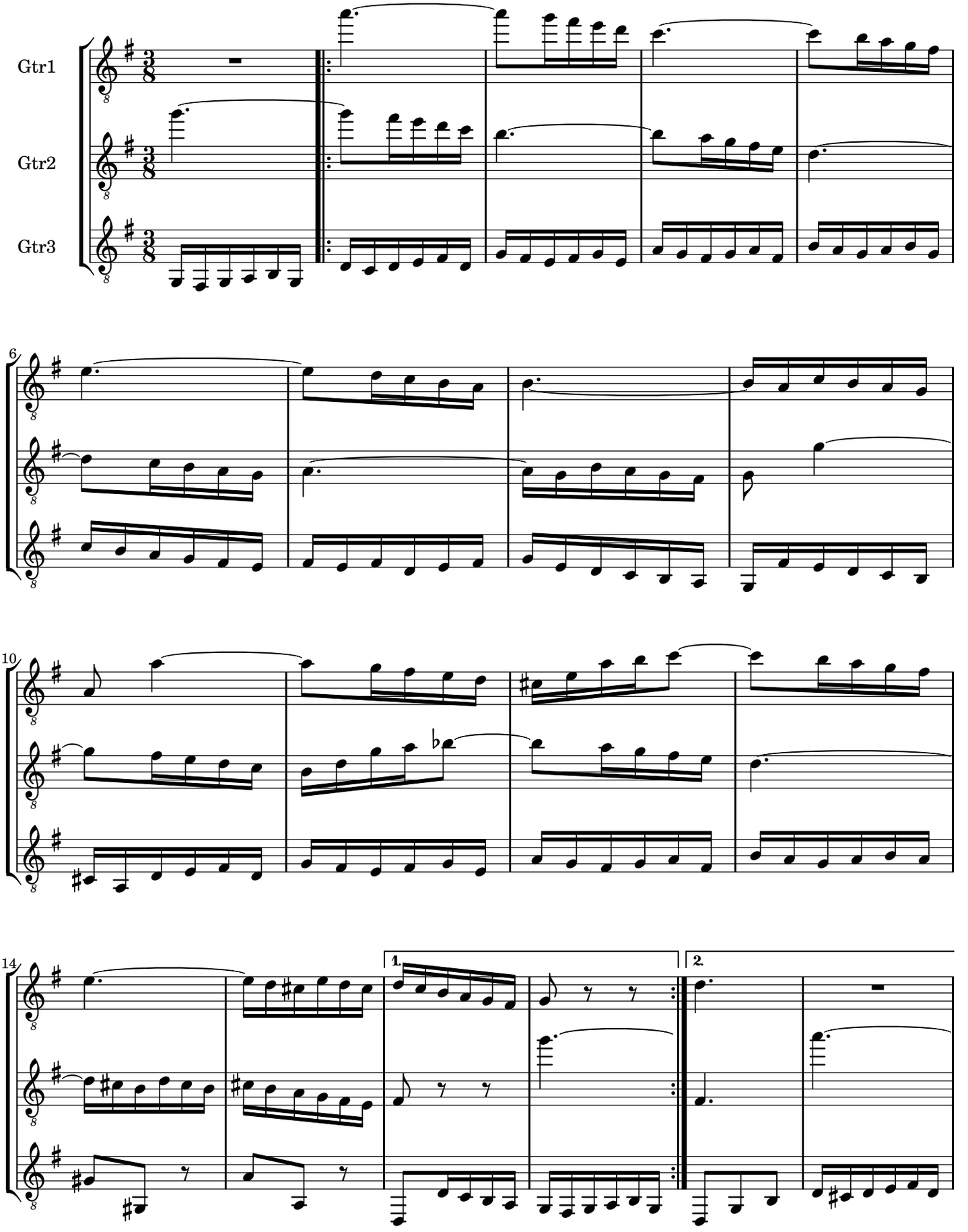

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



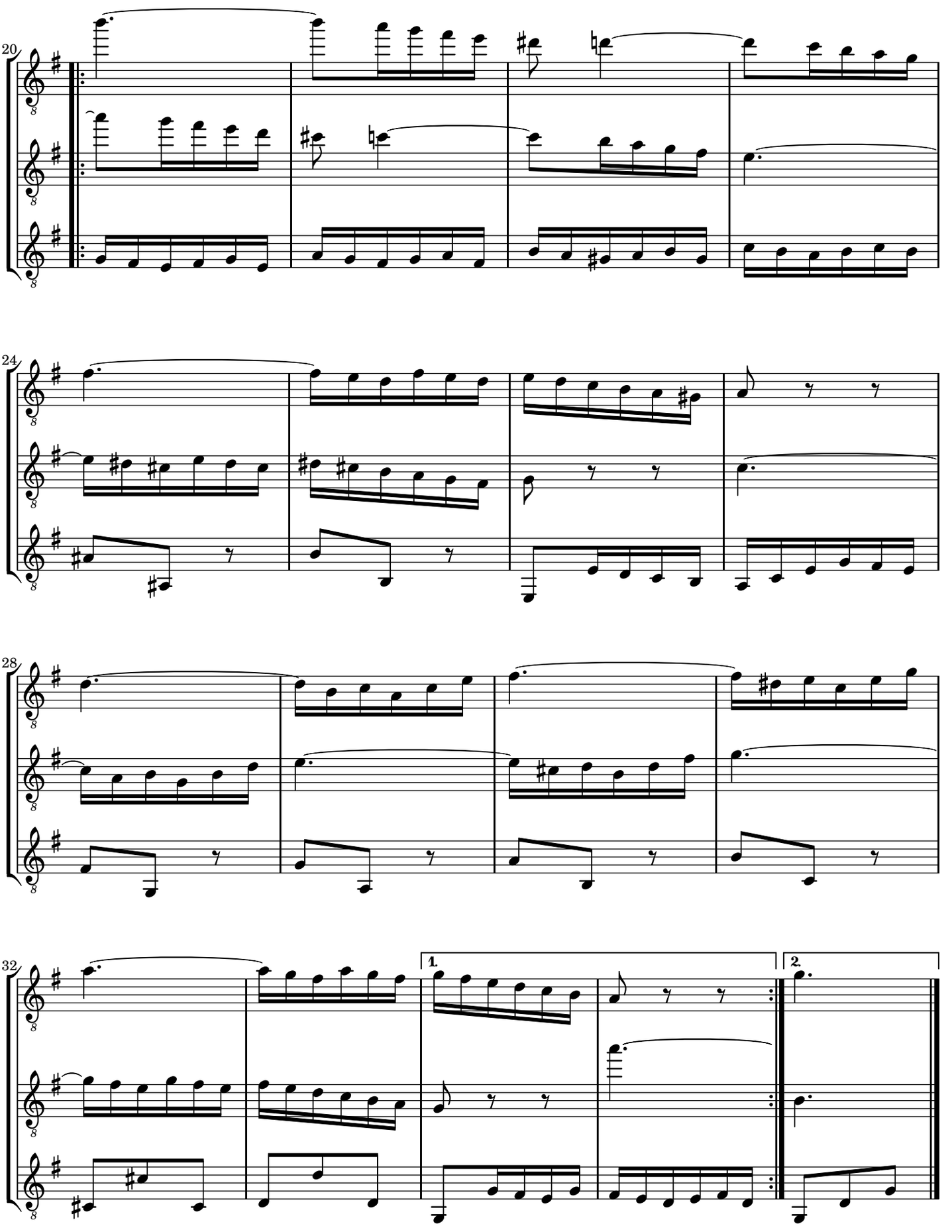

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 06

Canon at the Second



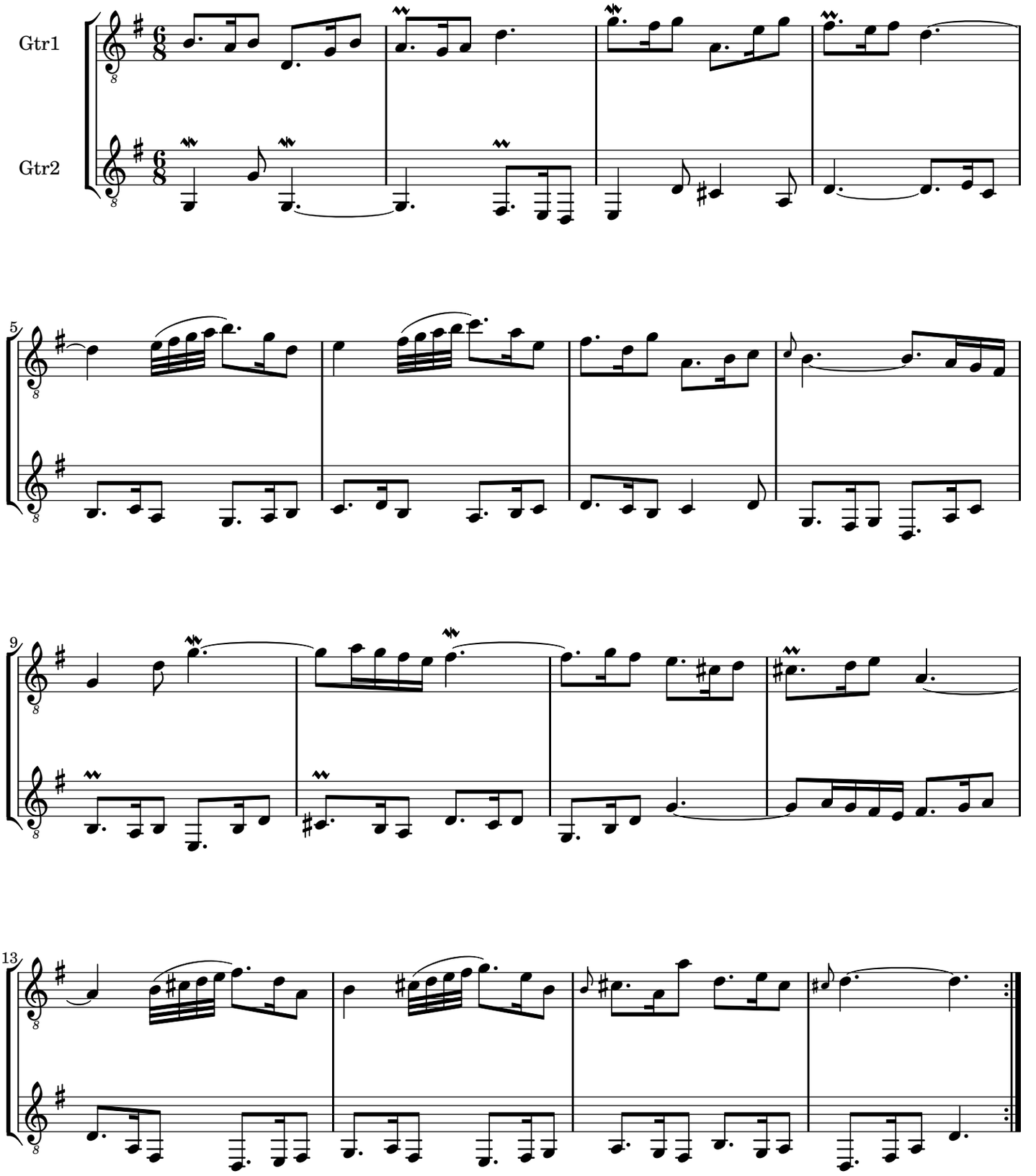

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



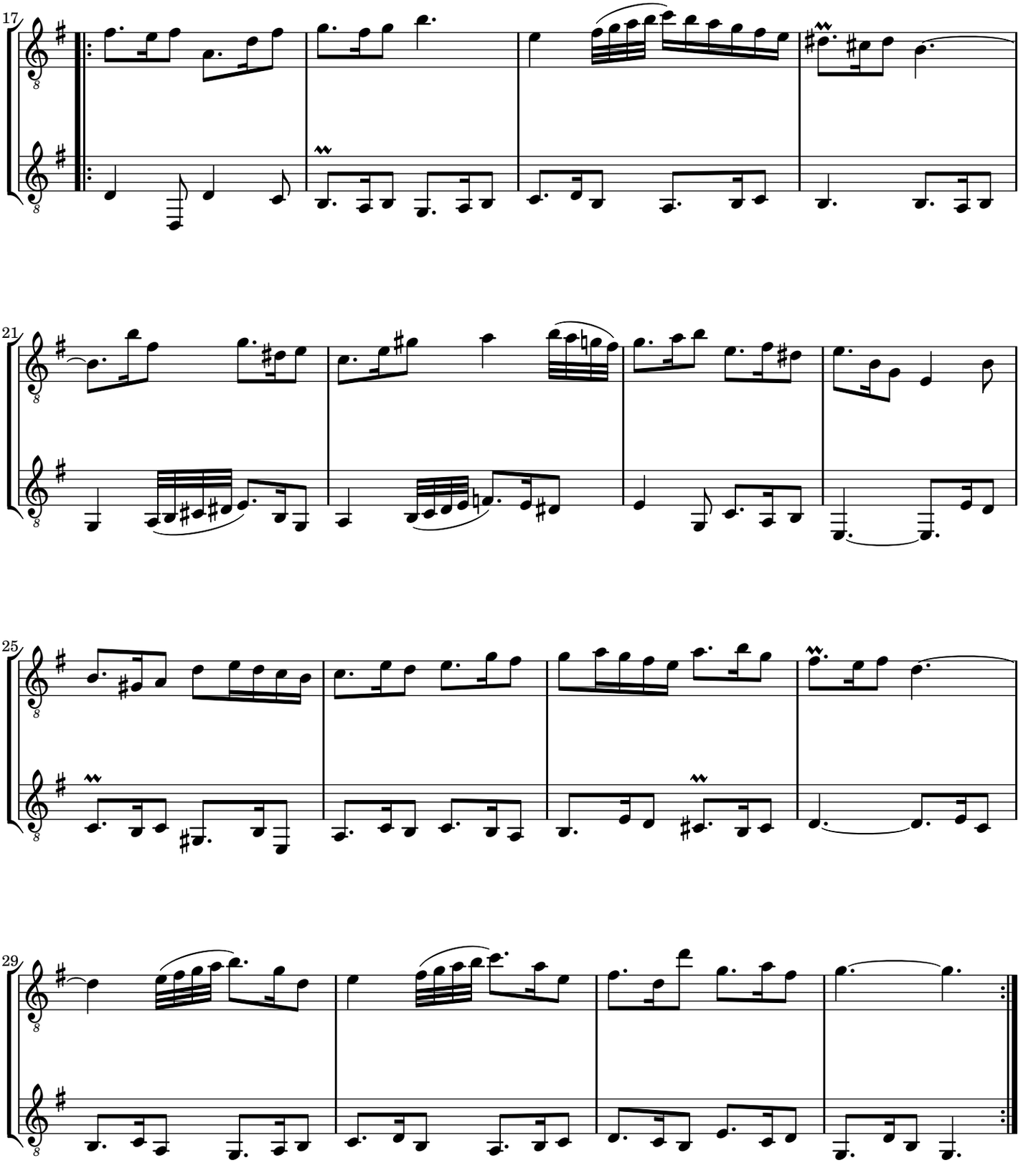

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 07

At the tempo of a Giga

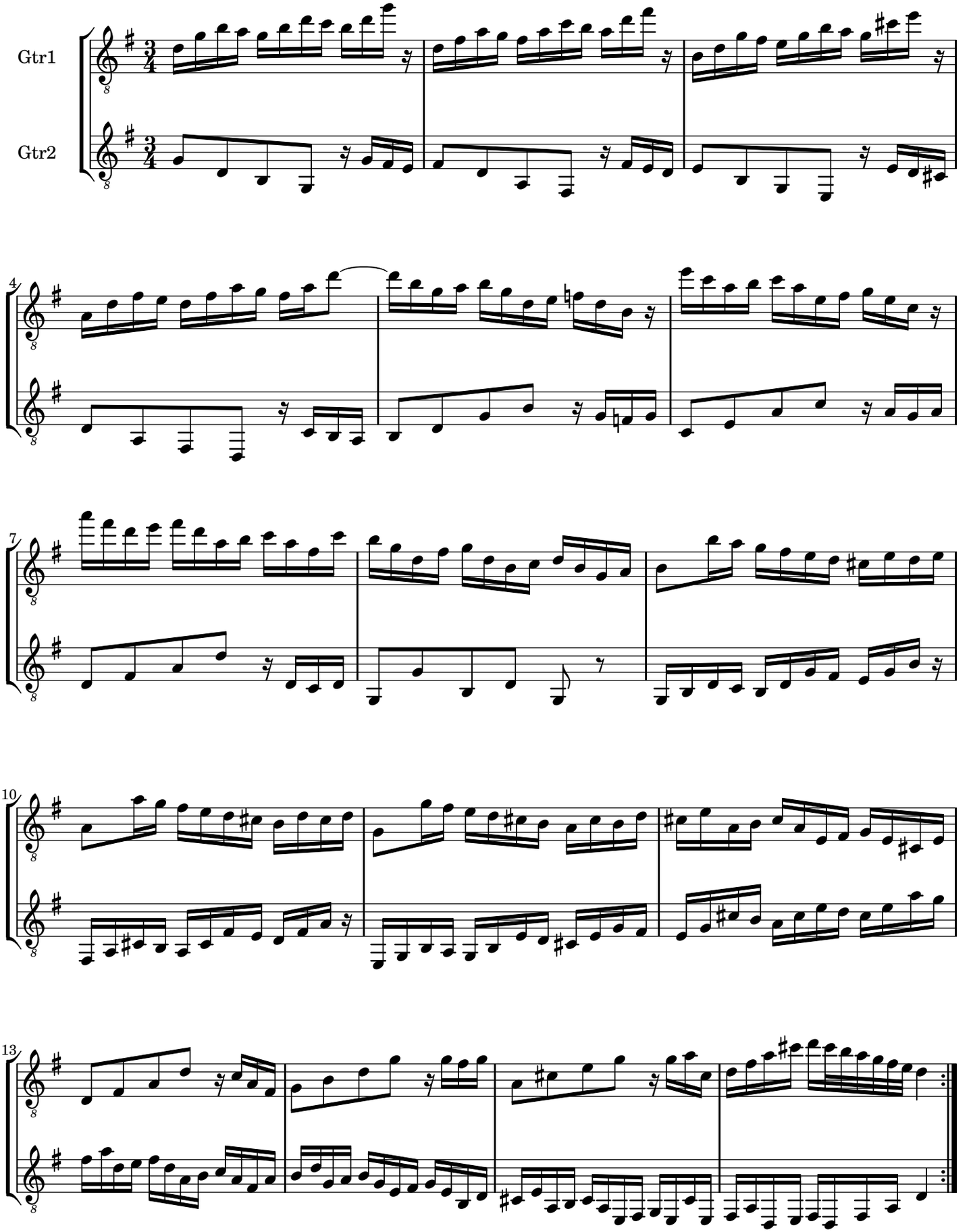



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

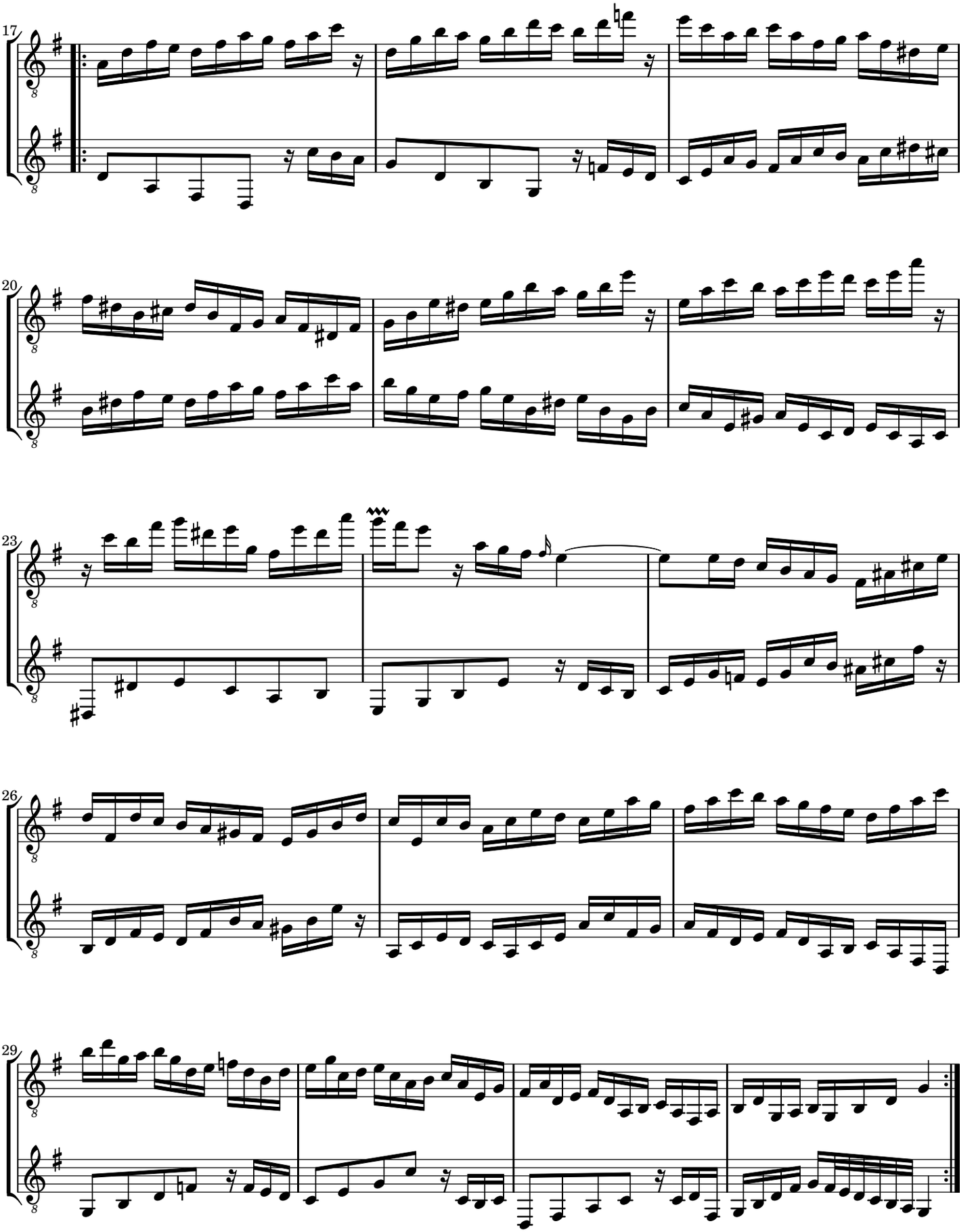



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 08



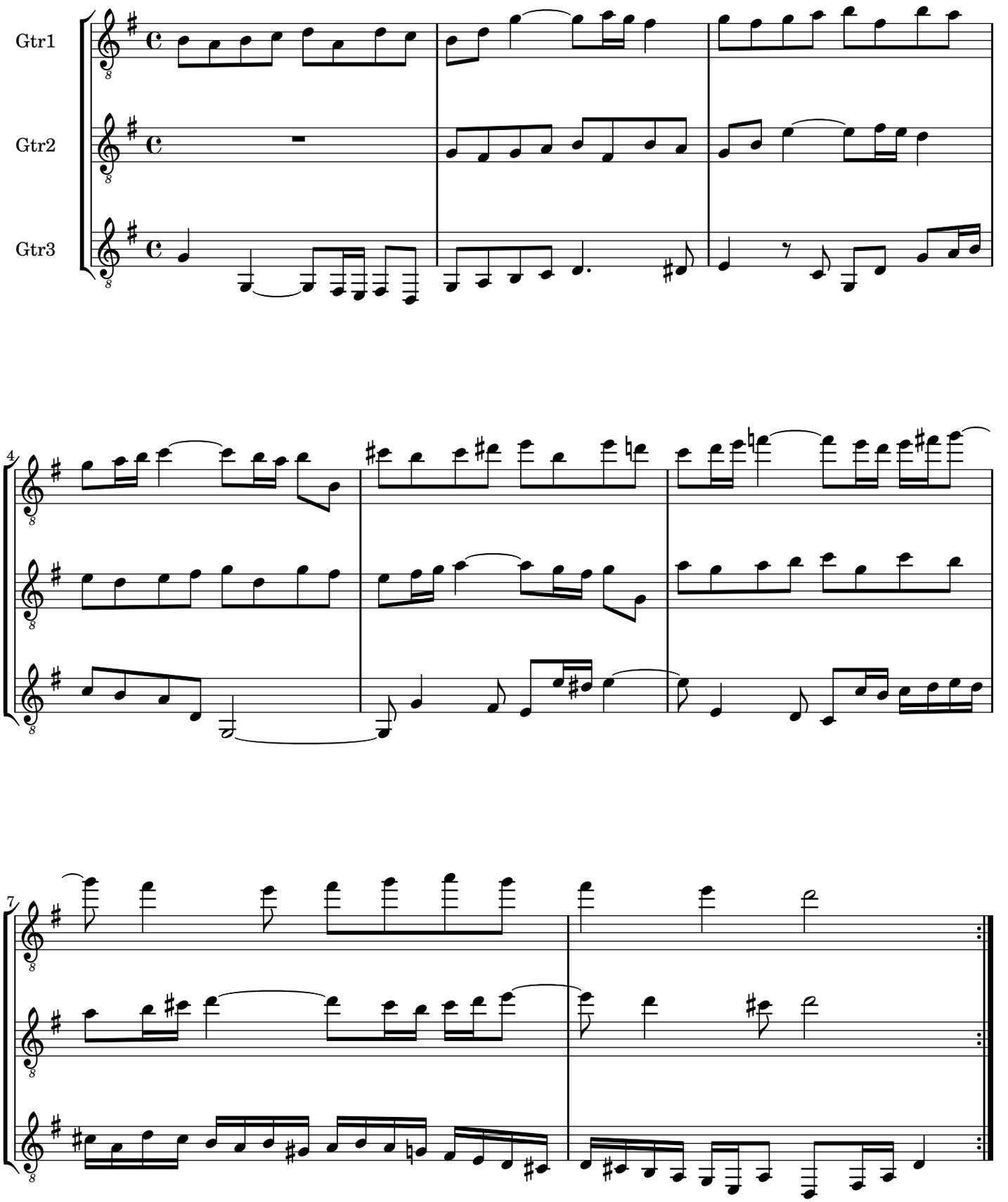

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



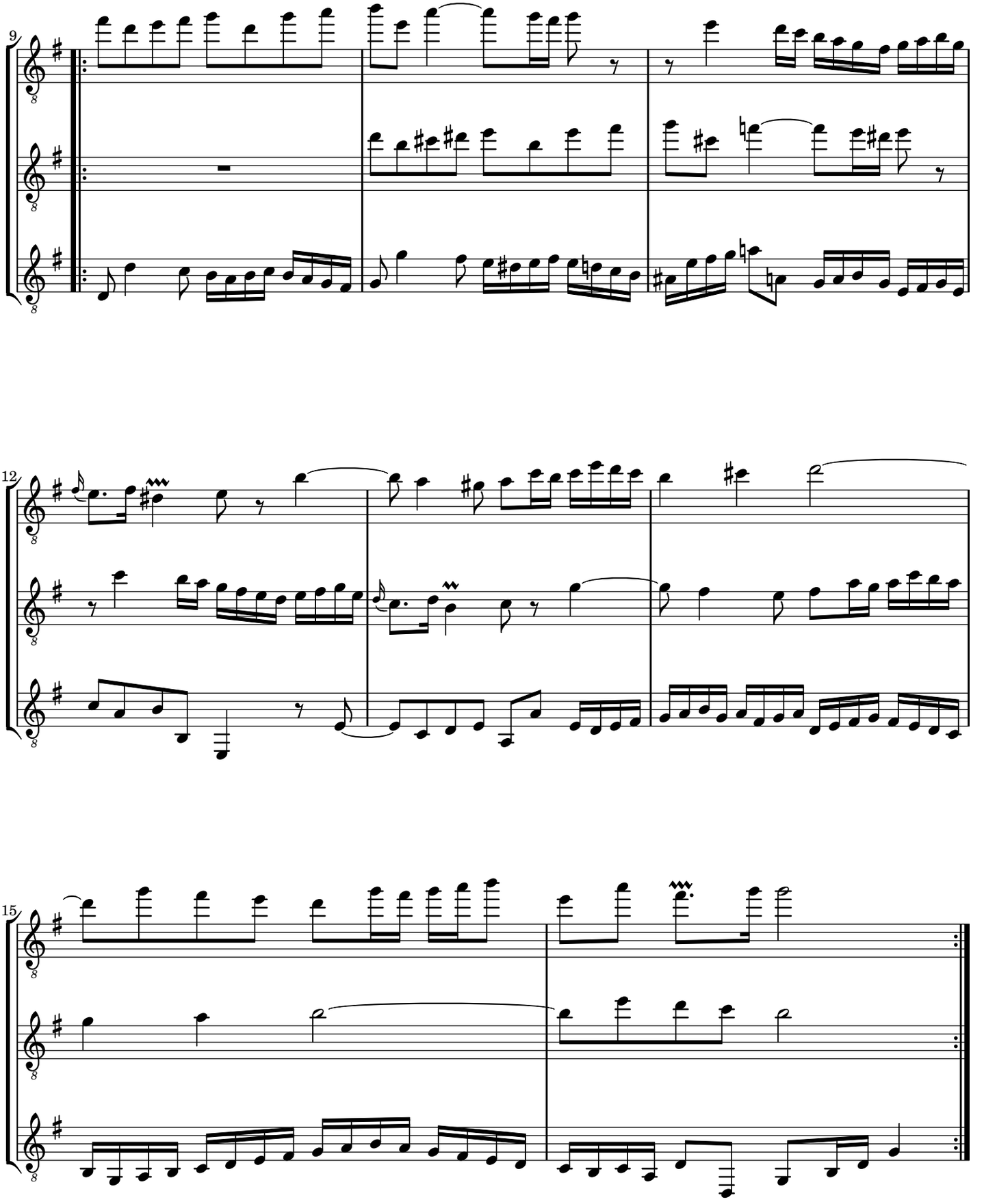

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 09

Canon at the Third



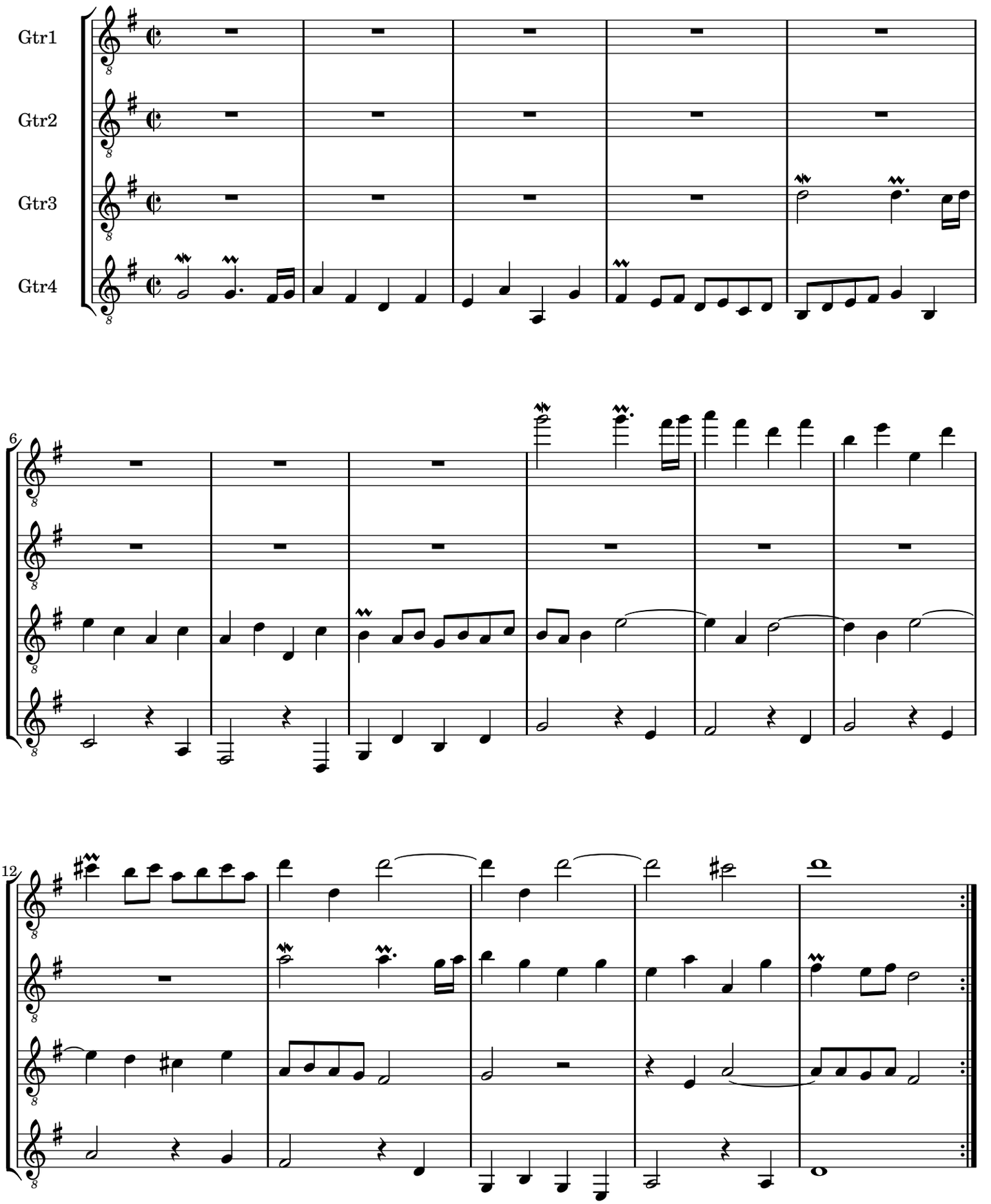

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



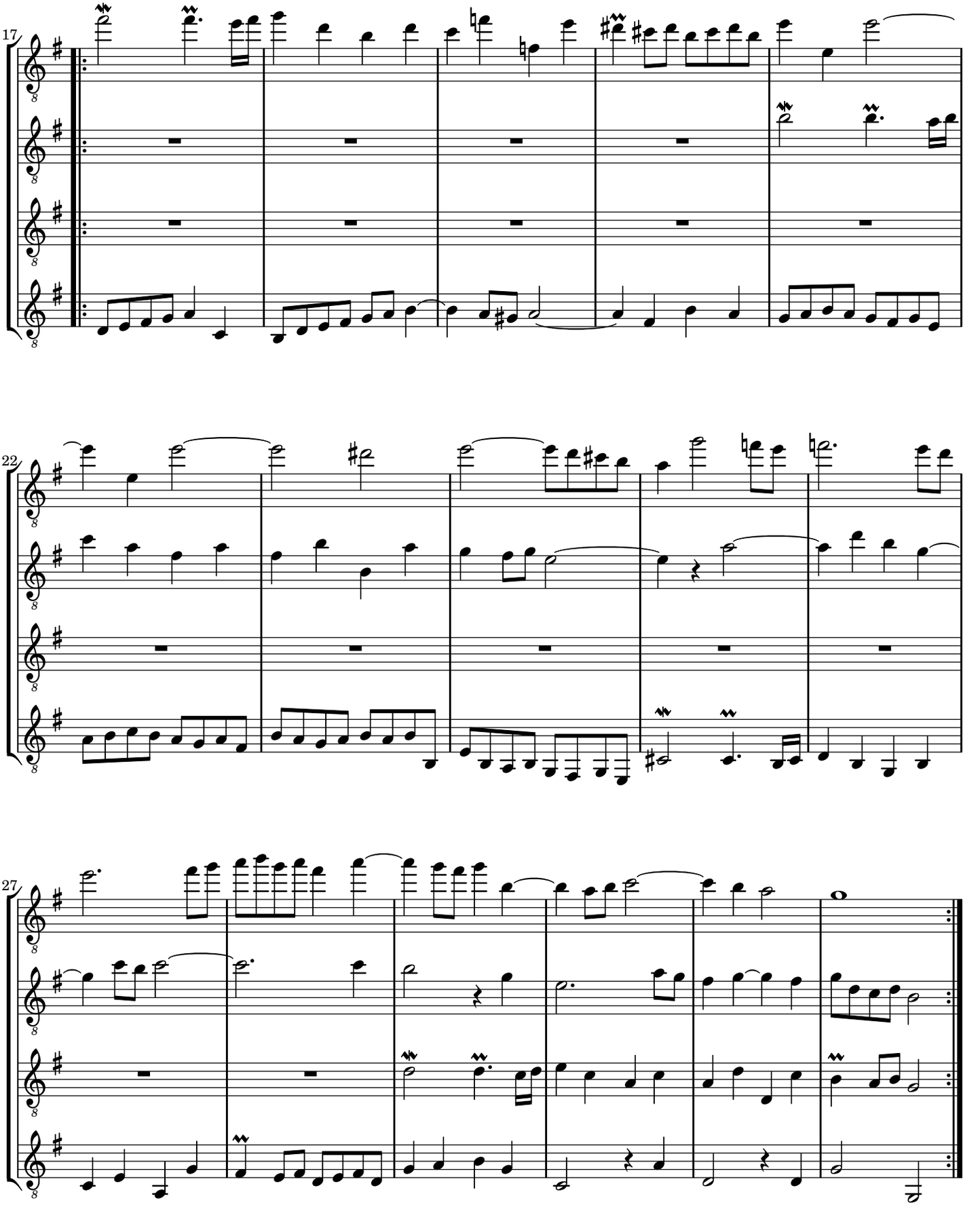

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 10

Fughetta

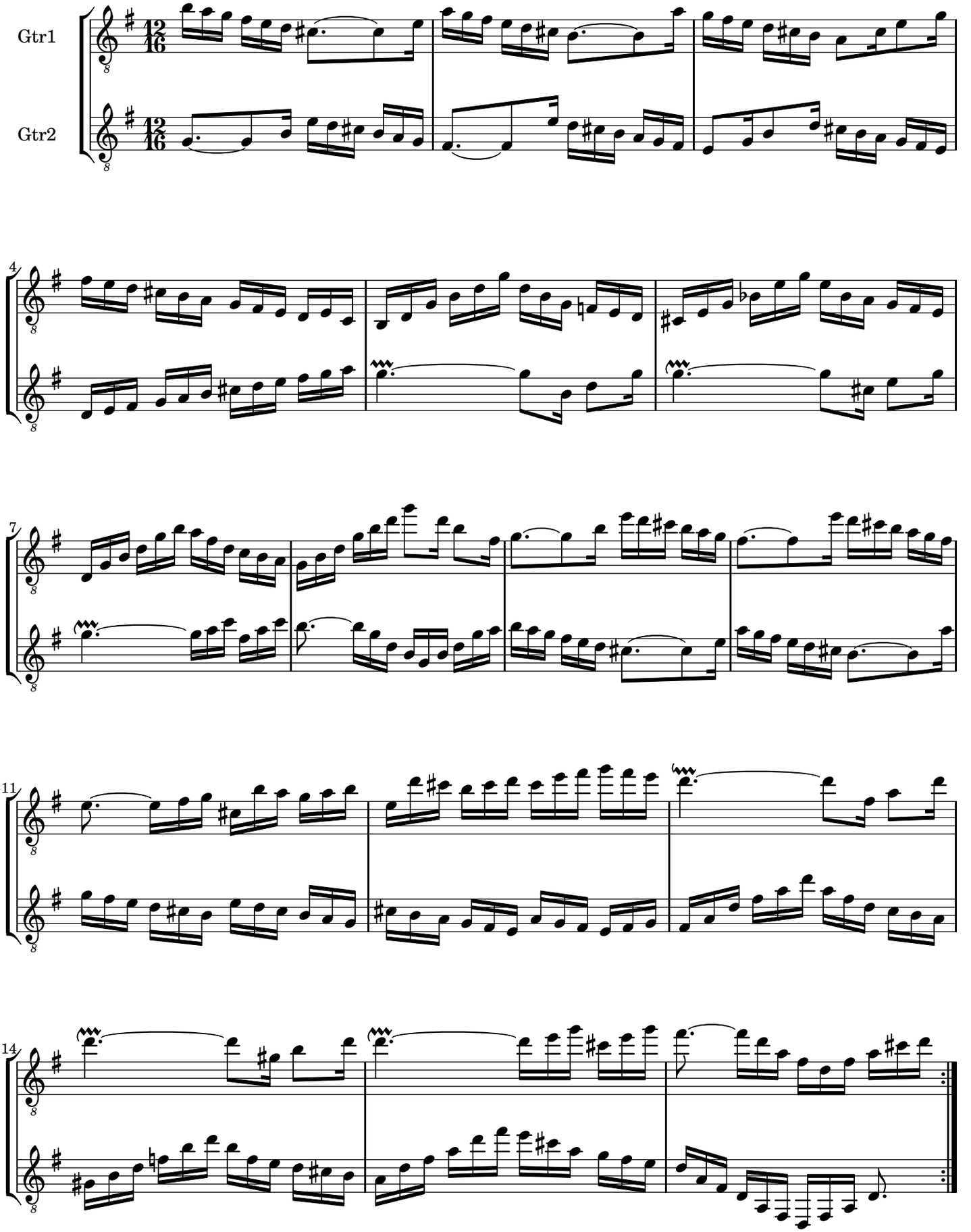



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

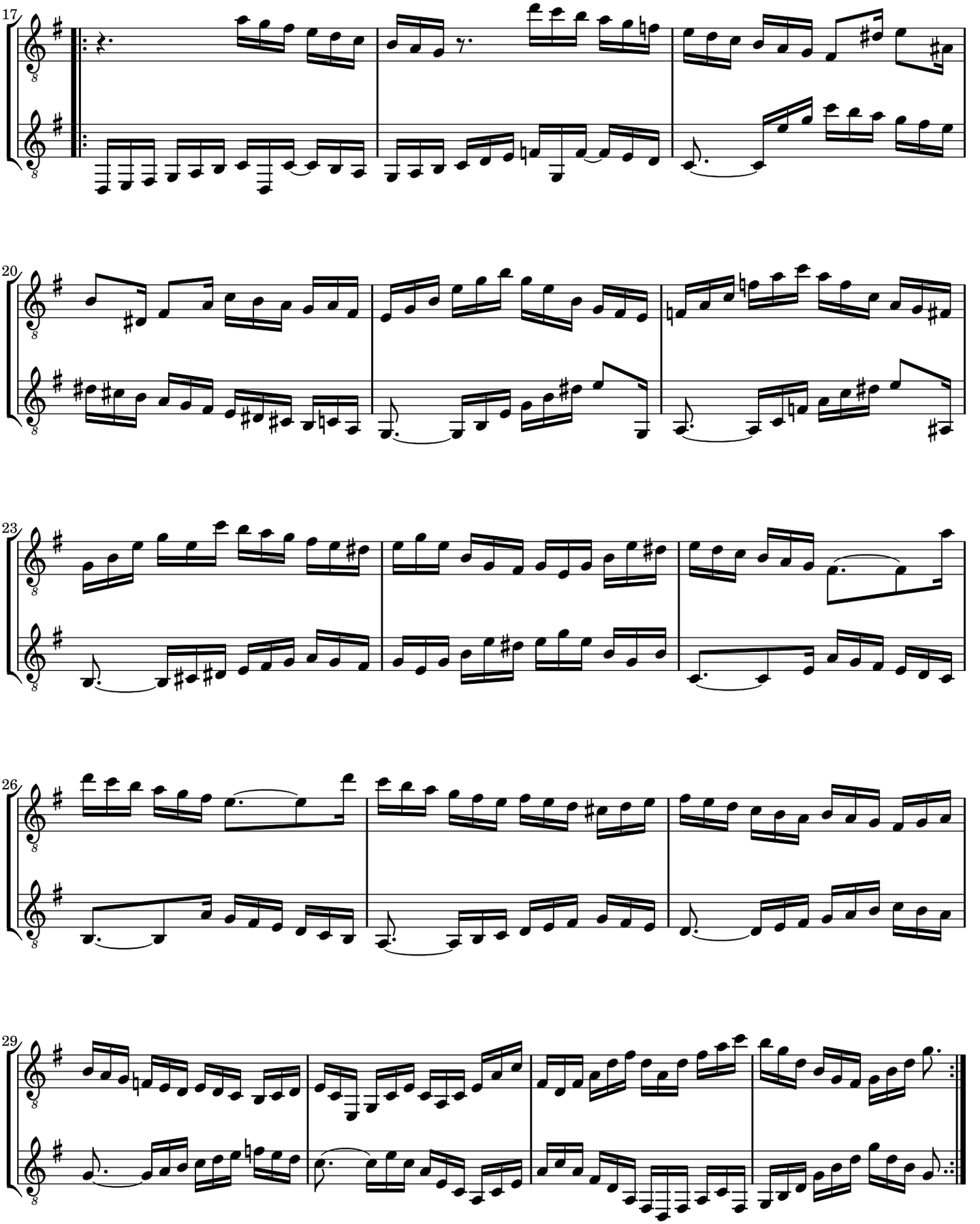



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 11



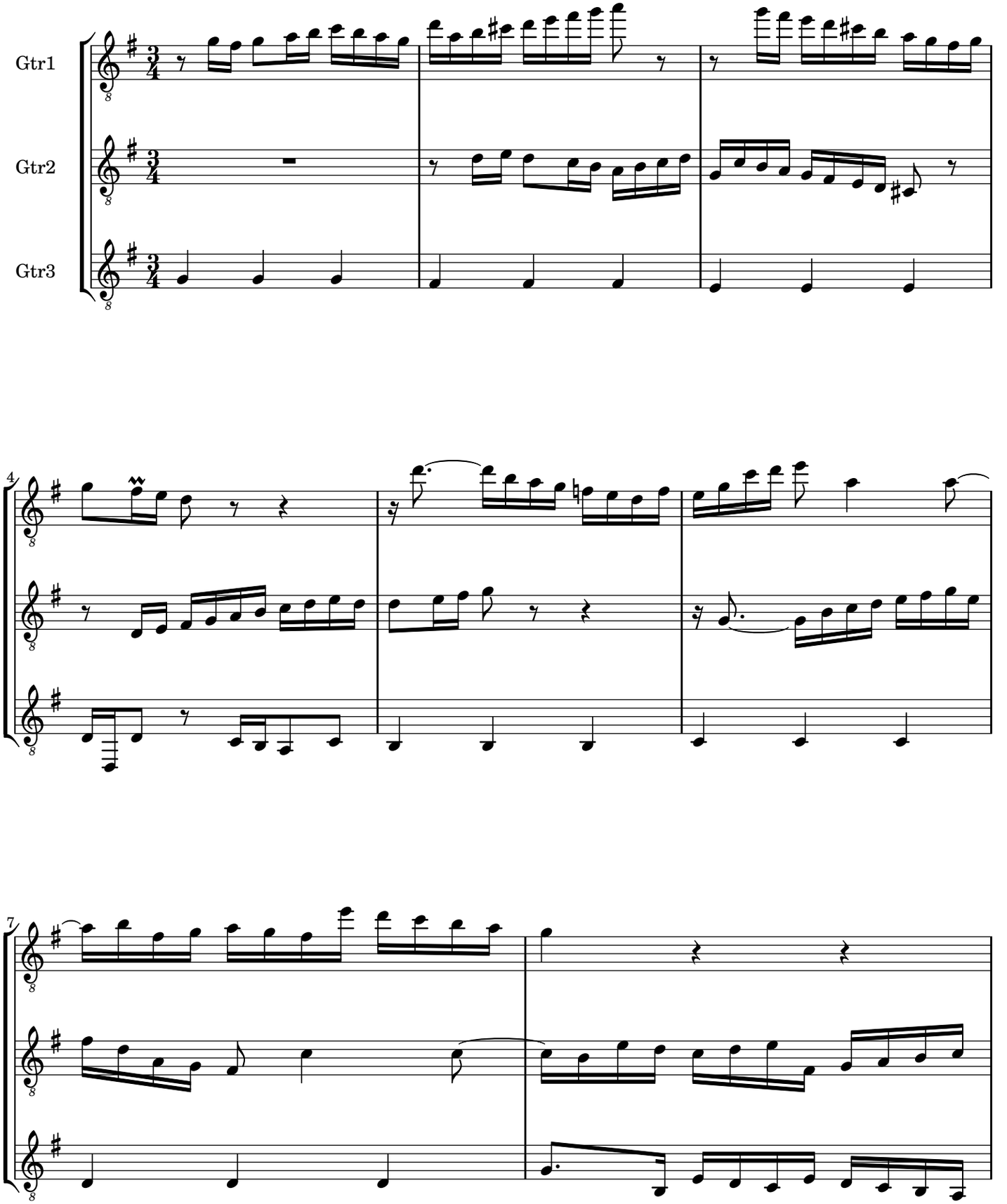

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



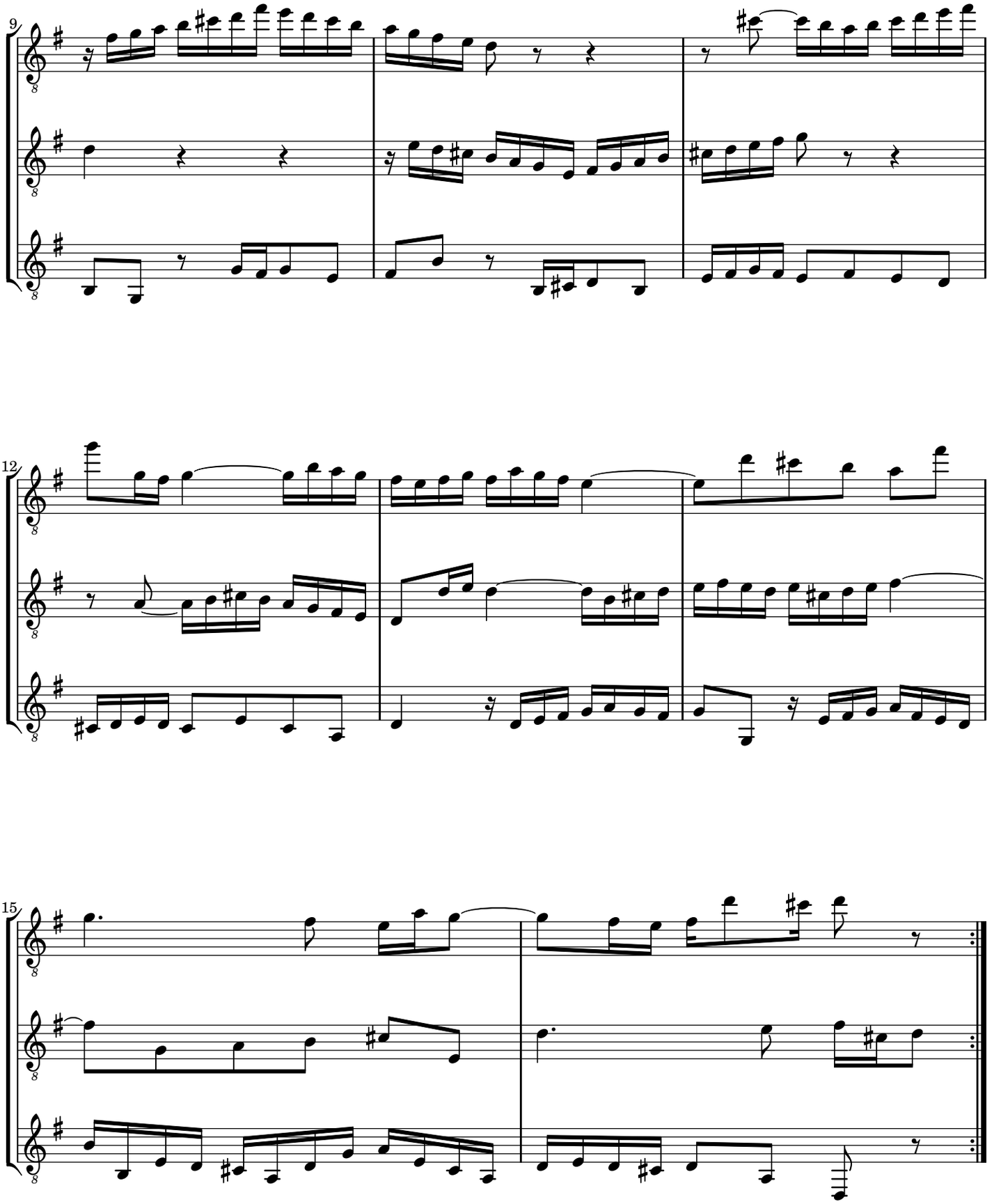
Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 12

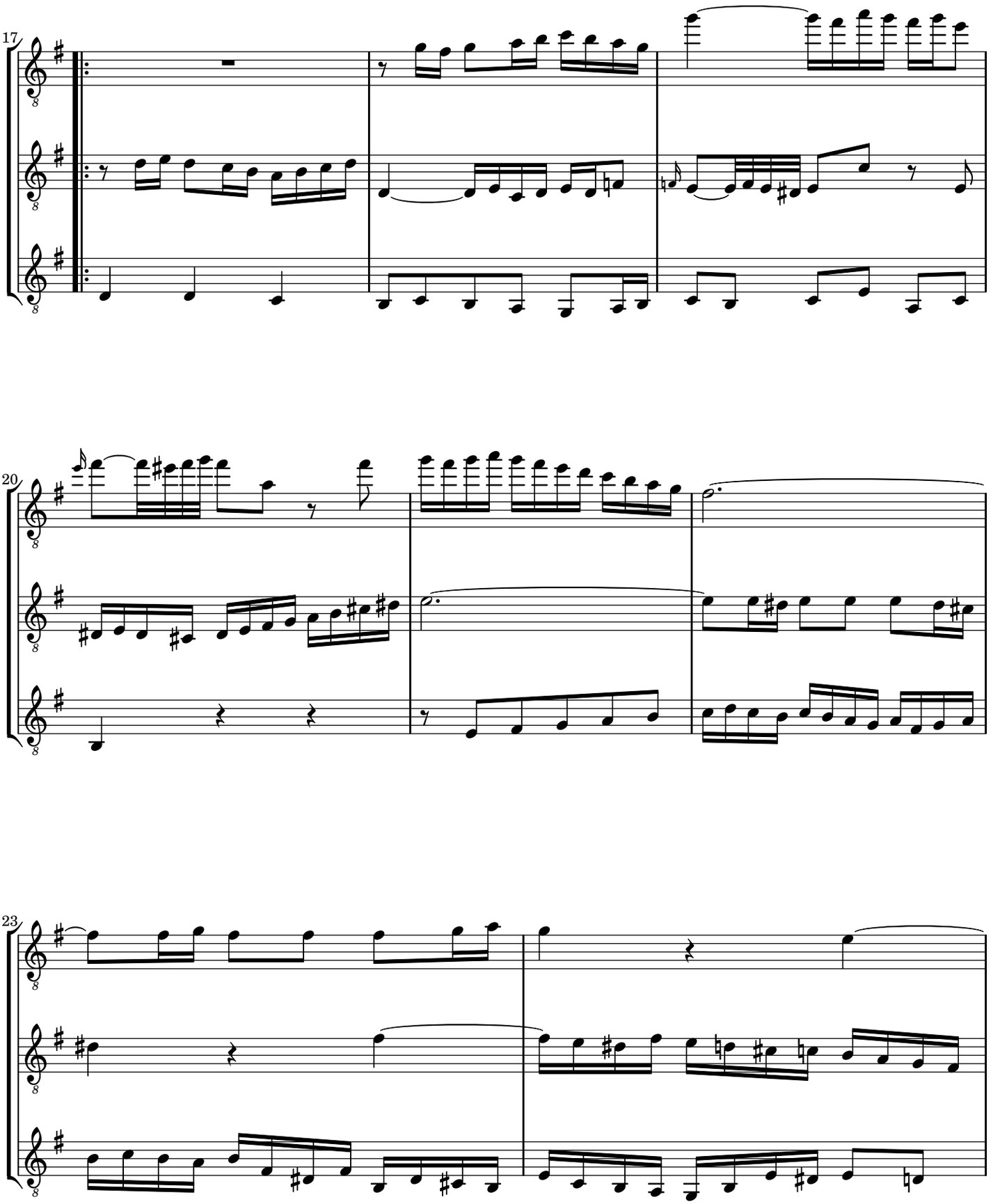
Canon at the Fourth



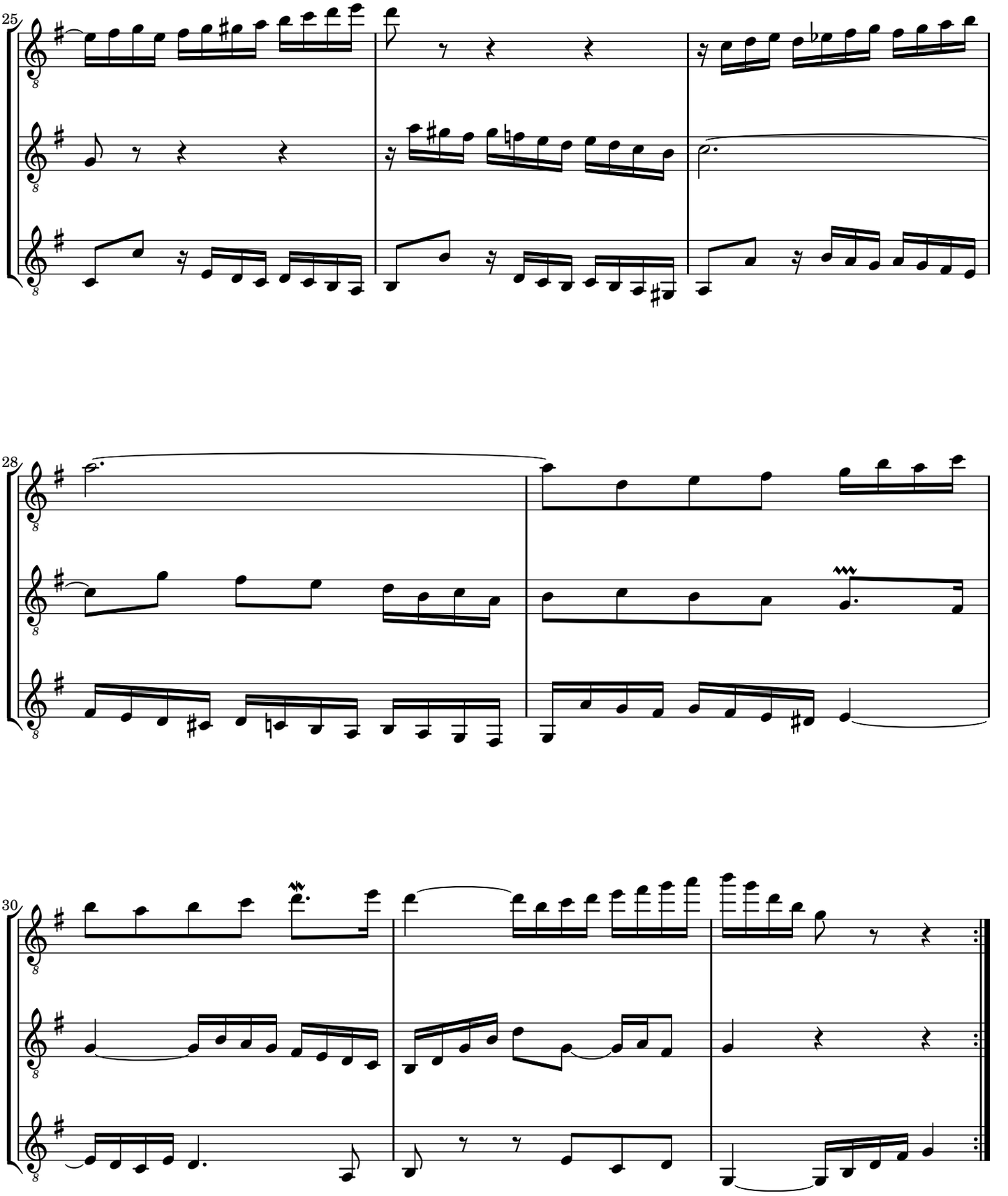

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA




Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

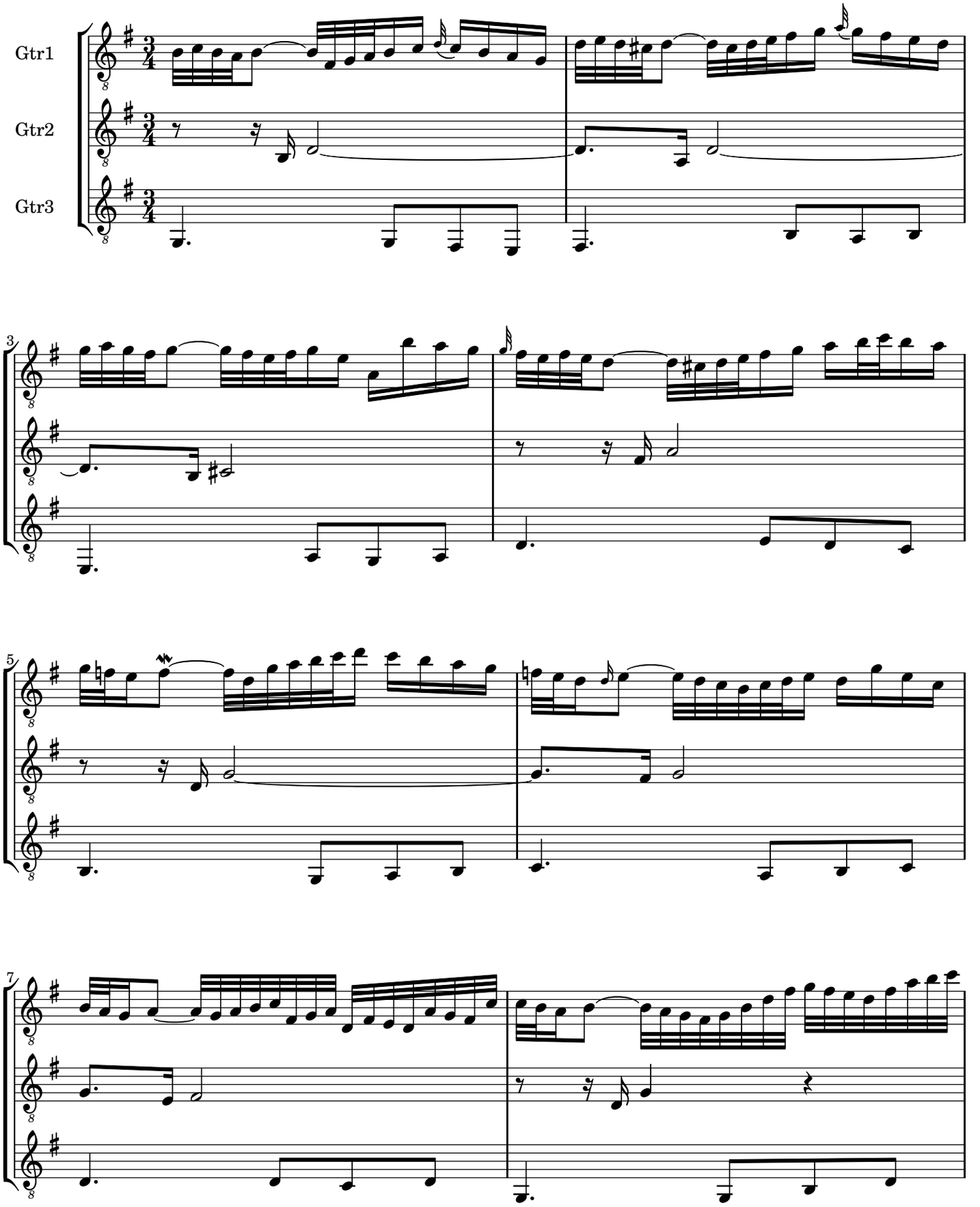



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

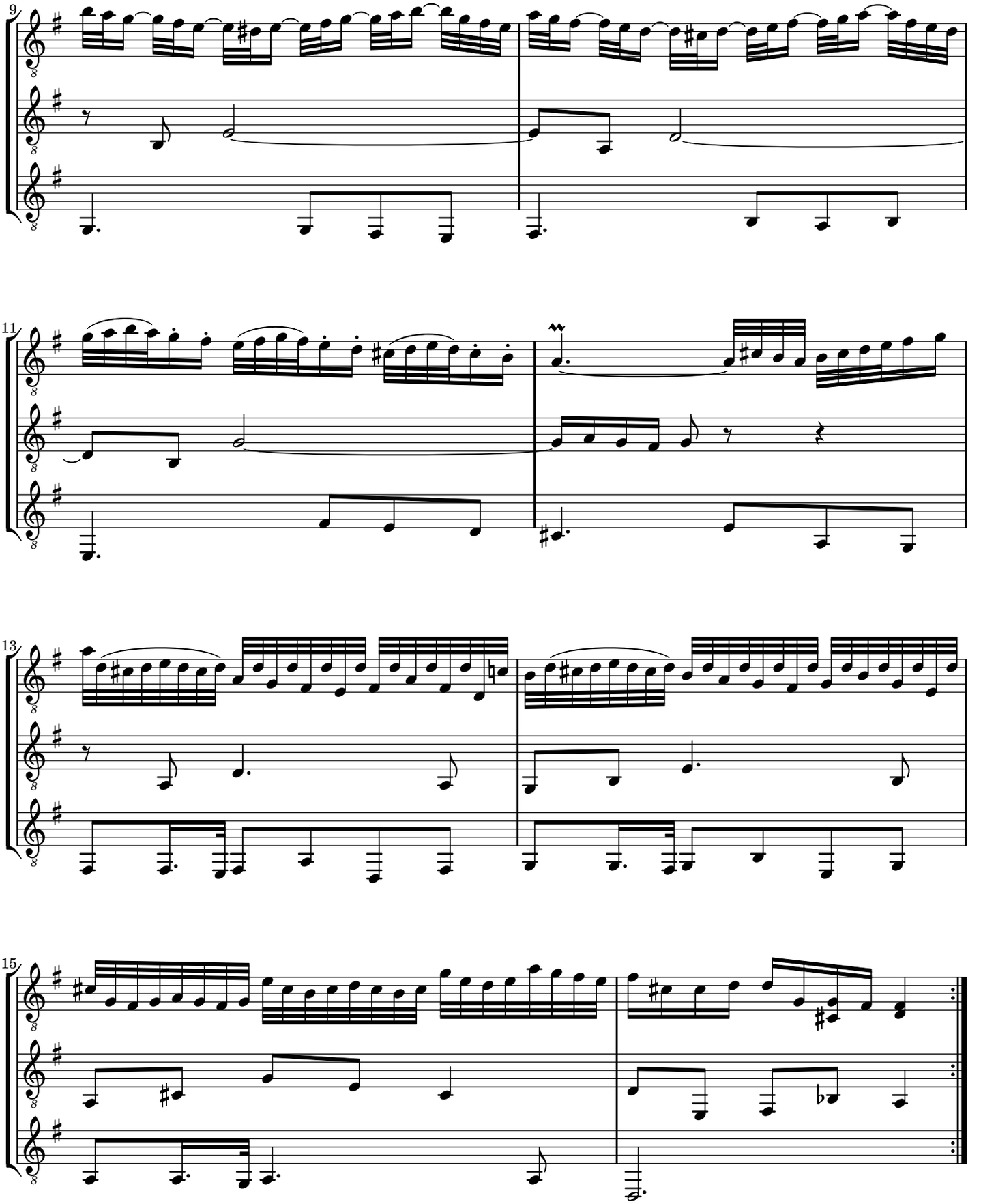



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

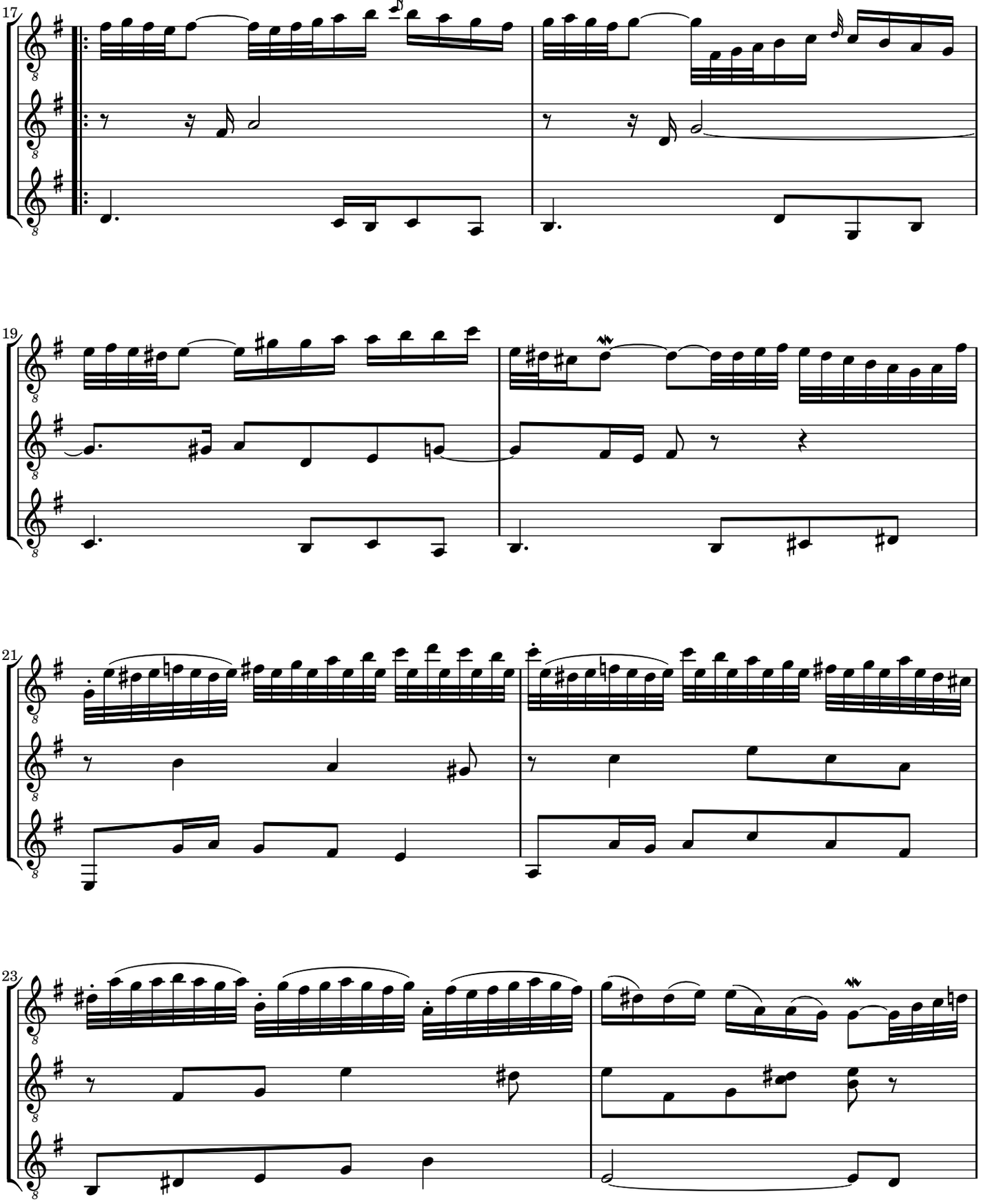
# Variation 13



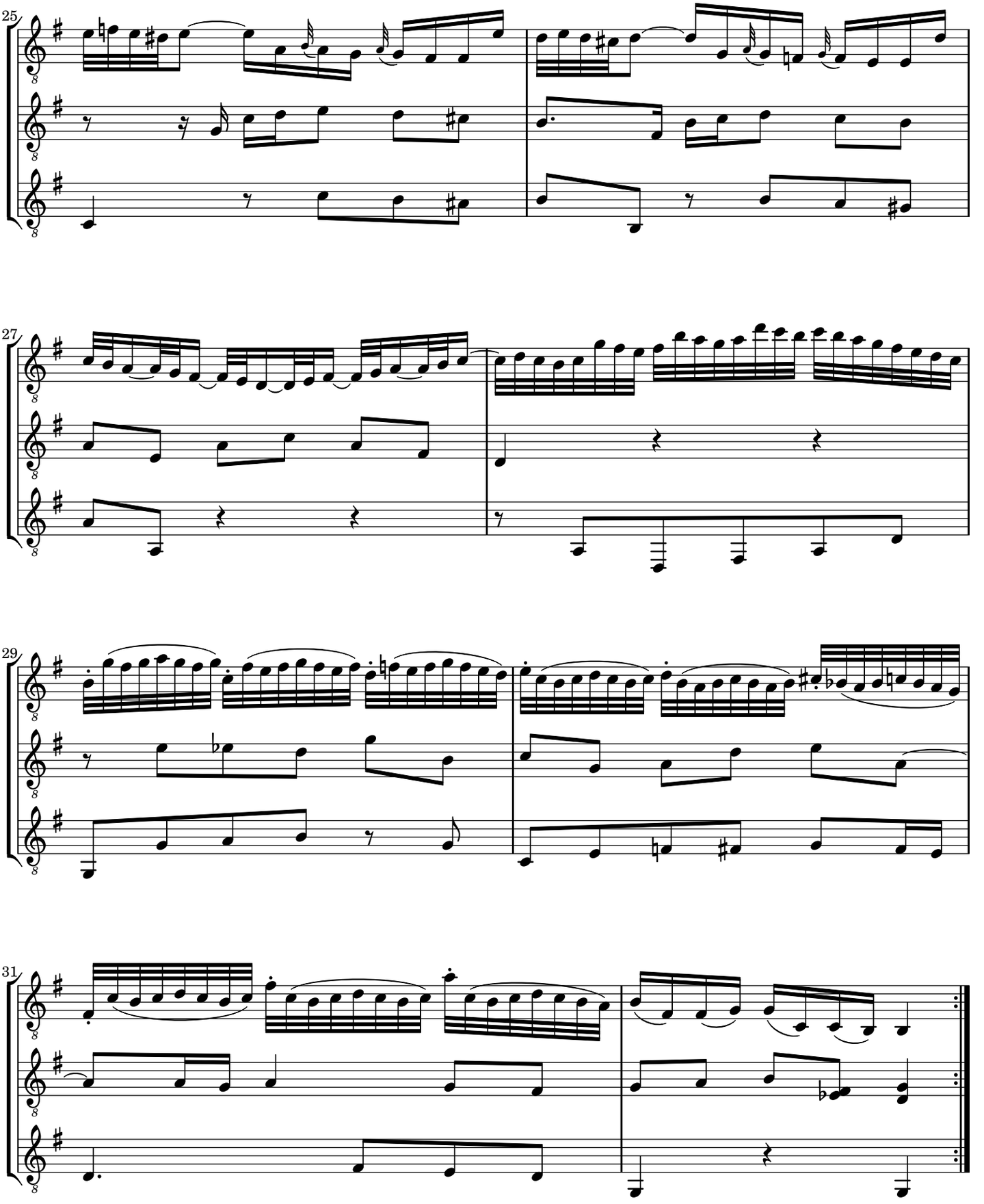

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA




Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

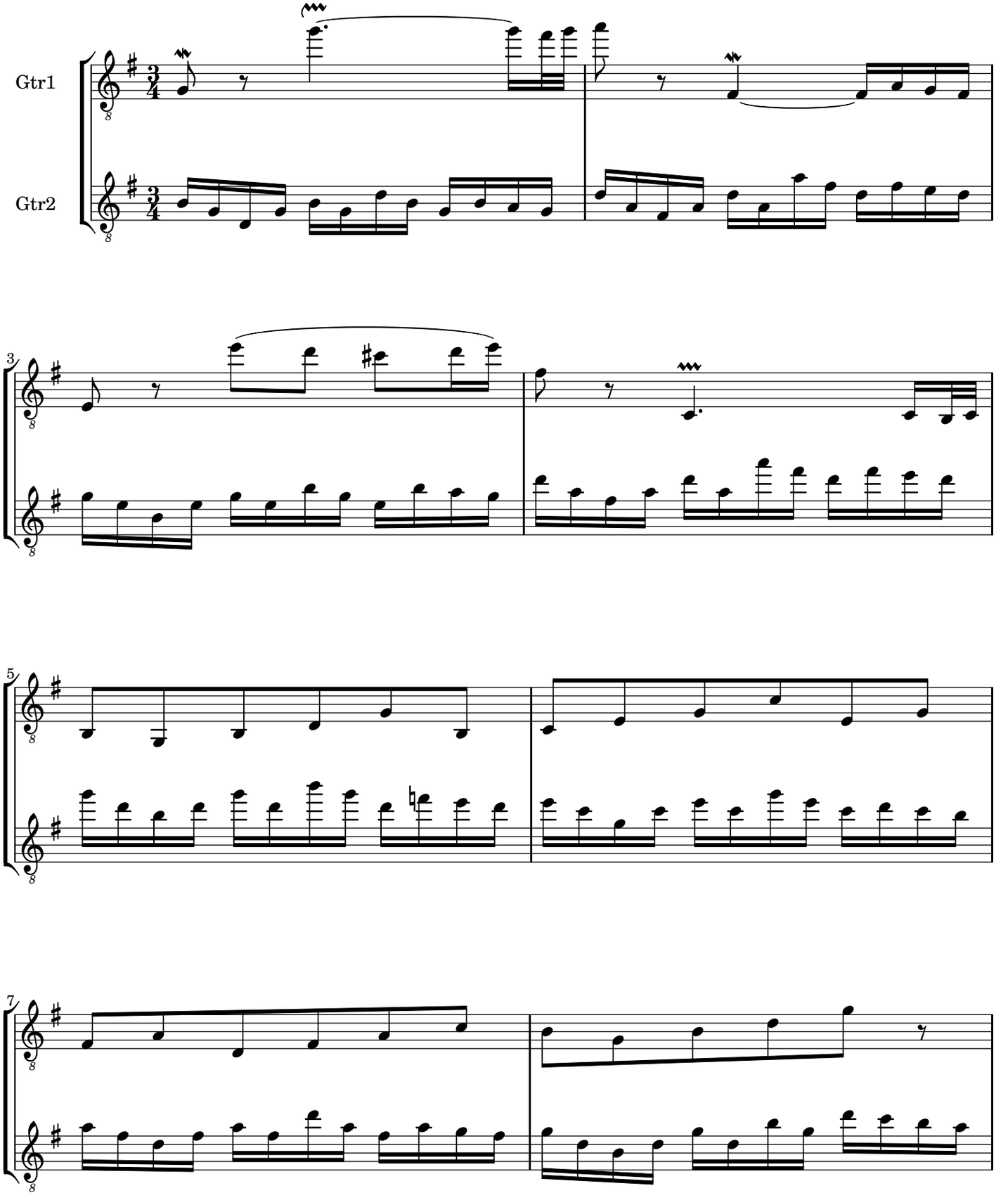



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

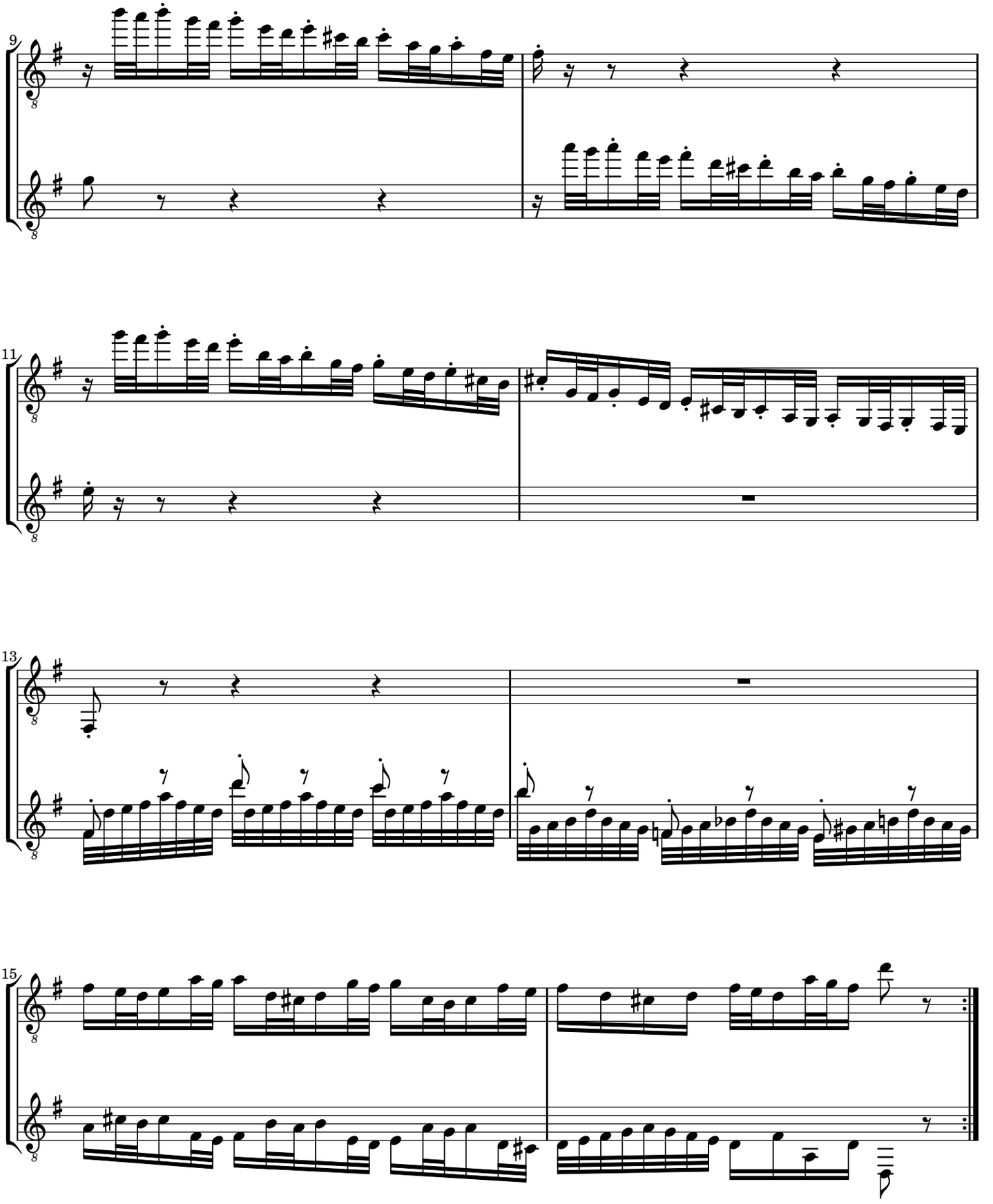



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

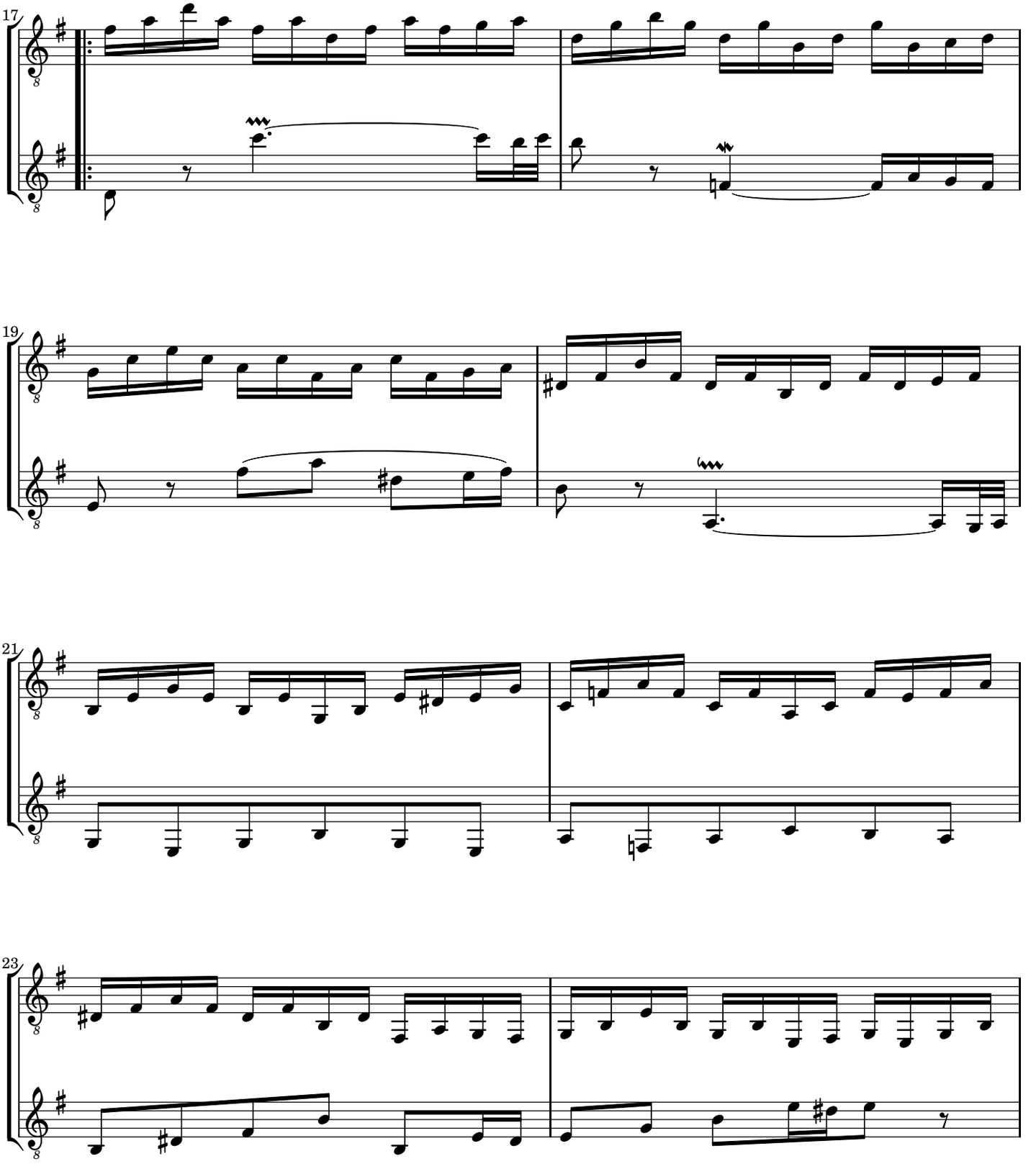
# Variation 14



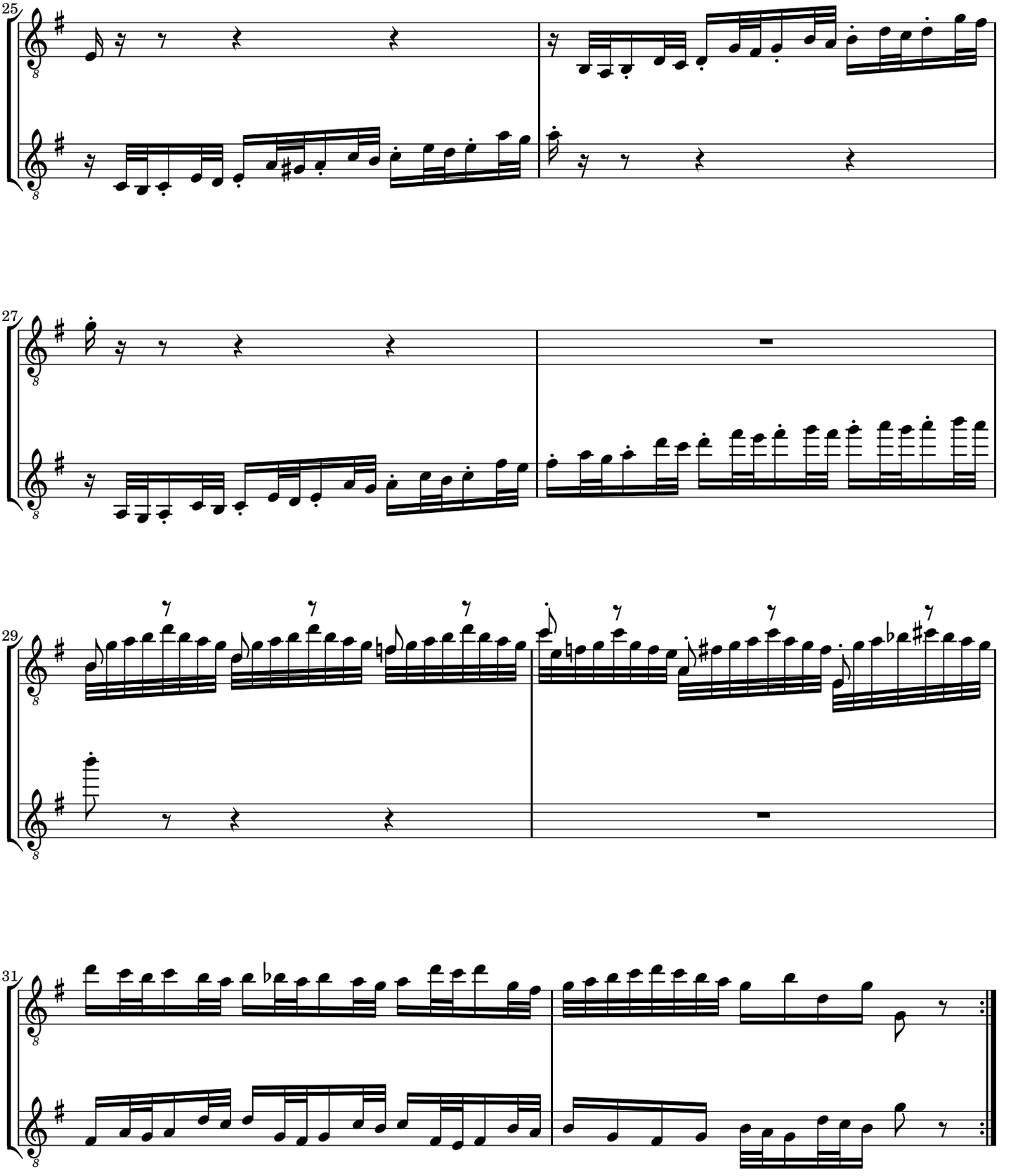

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



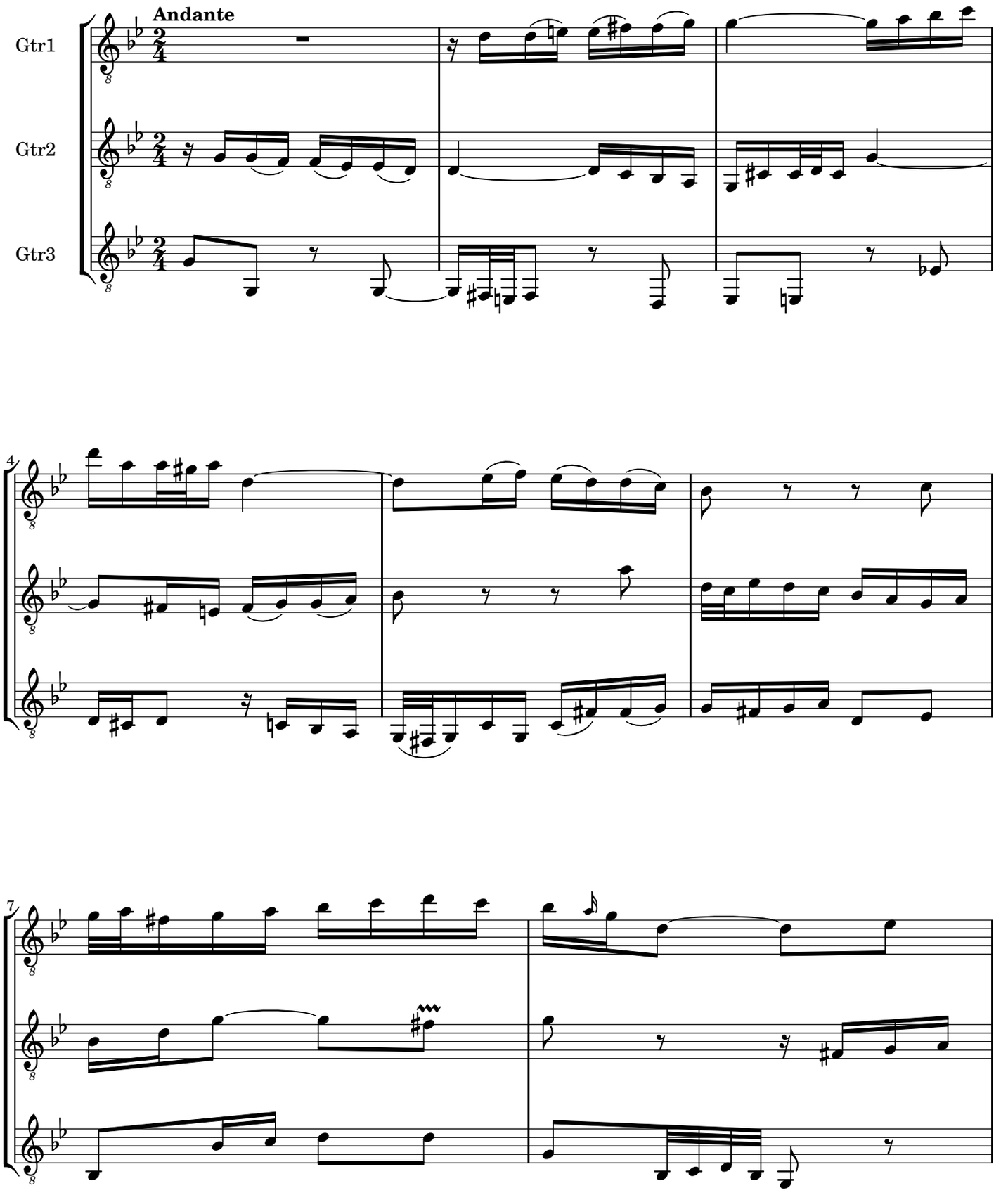

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



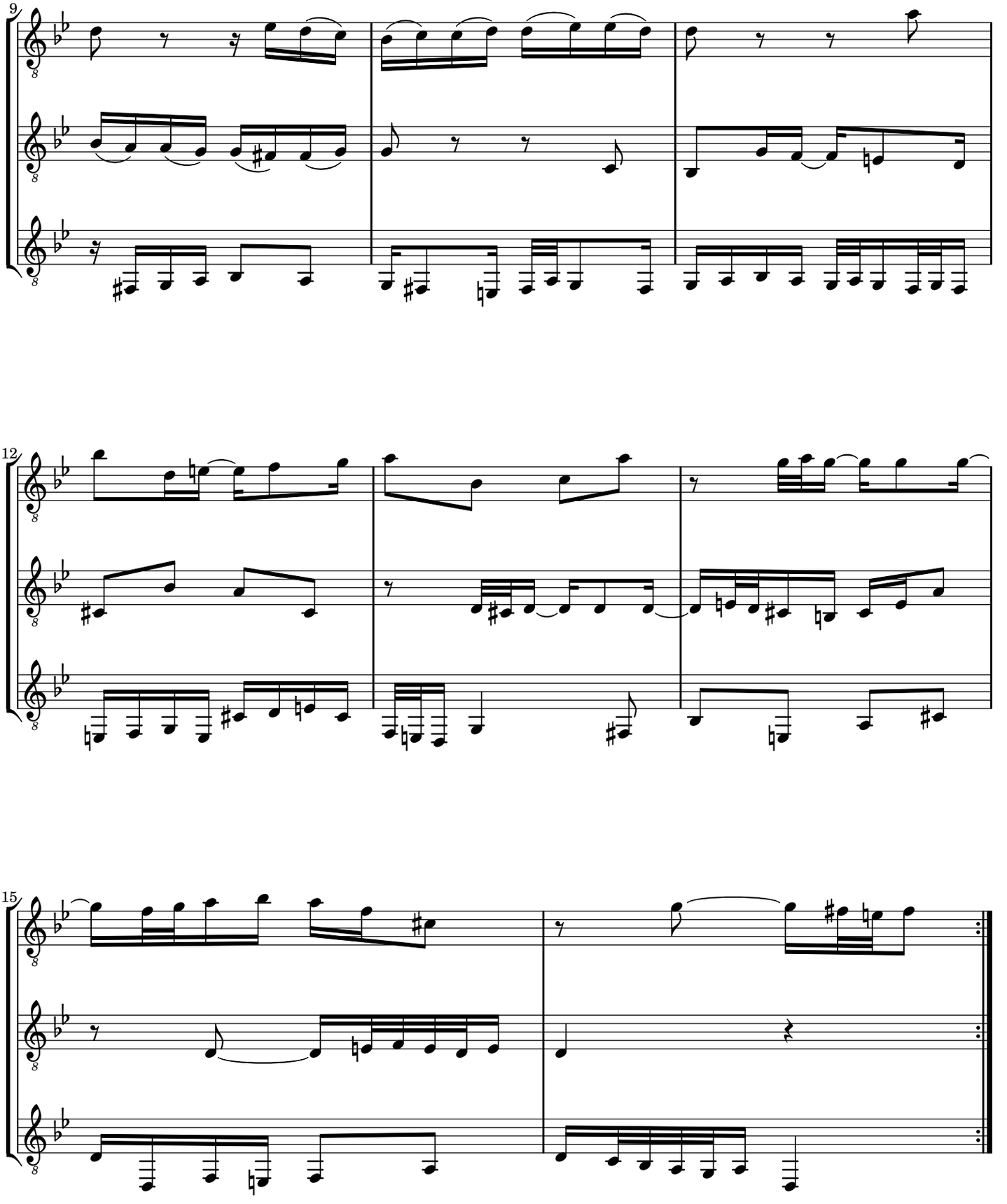

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 15

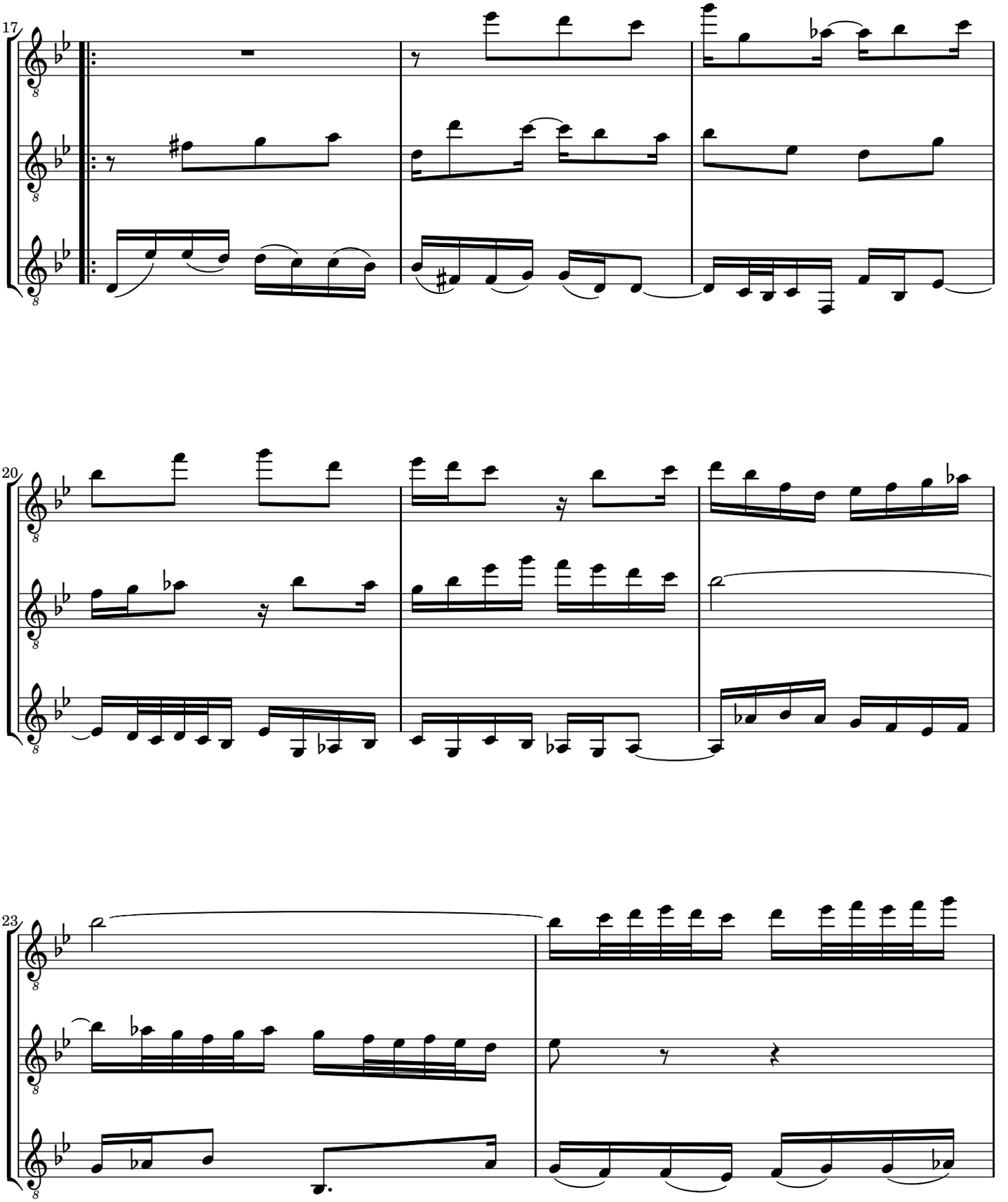
Canon at the Fifth



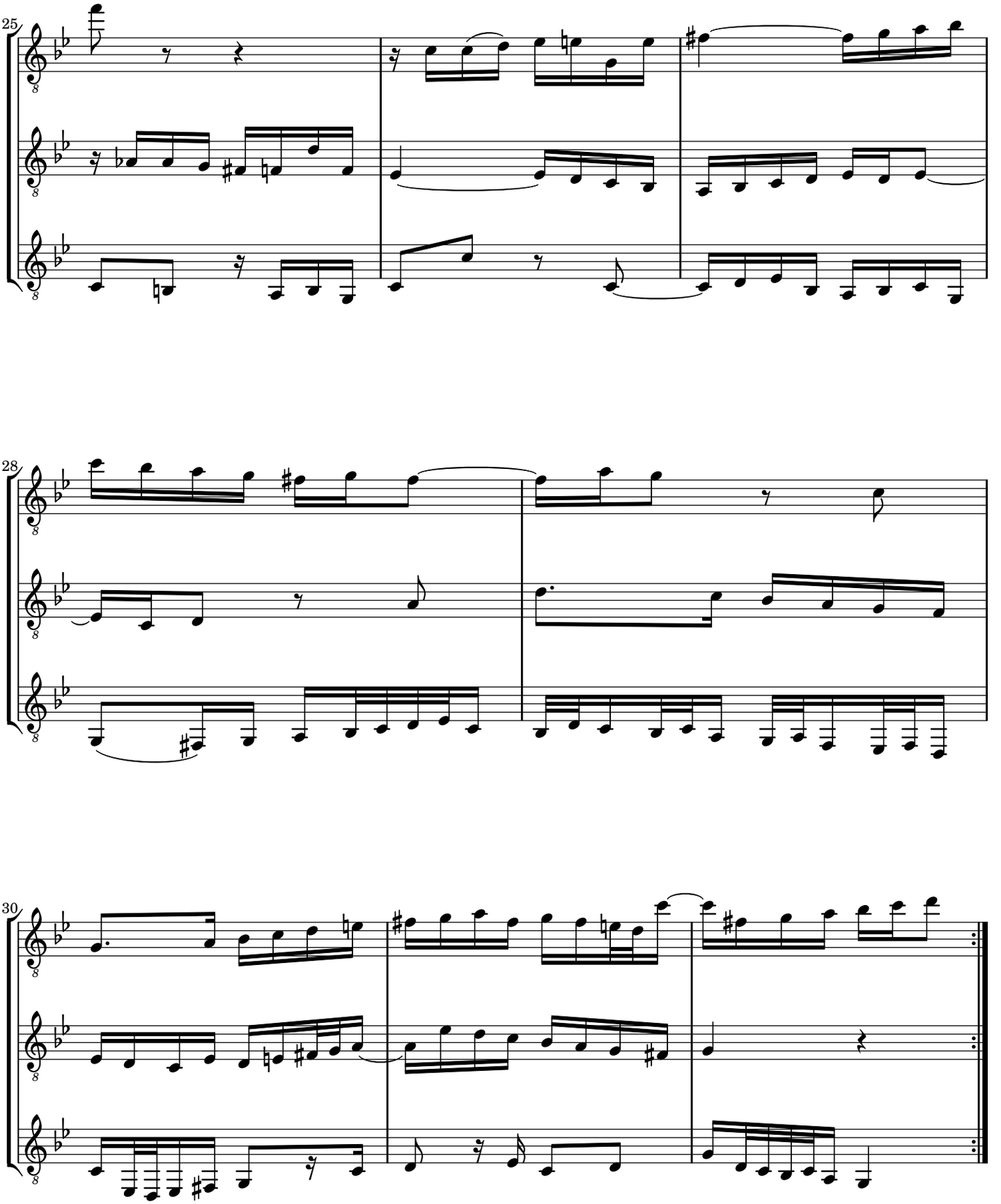

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA




Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



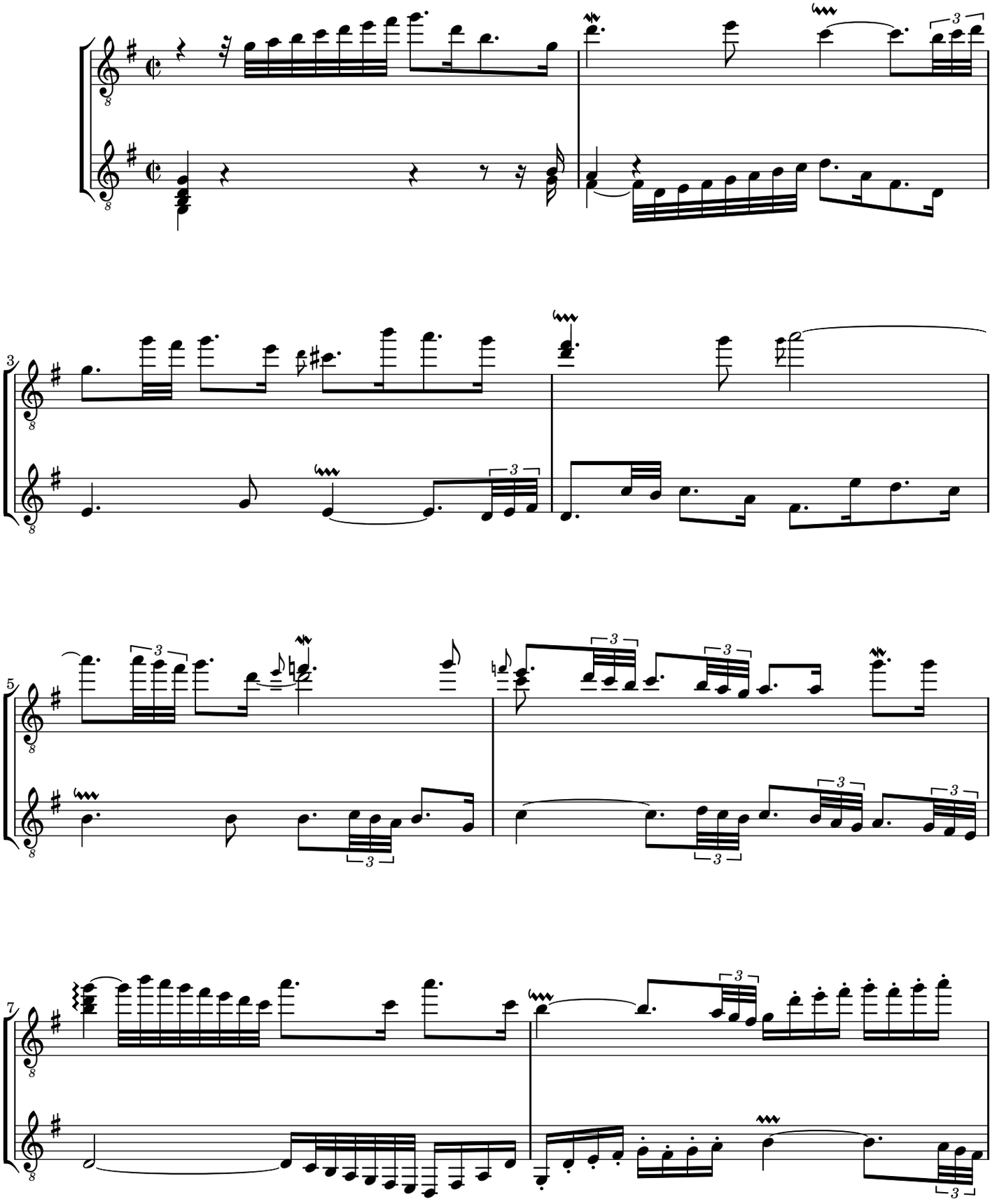

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



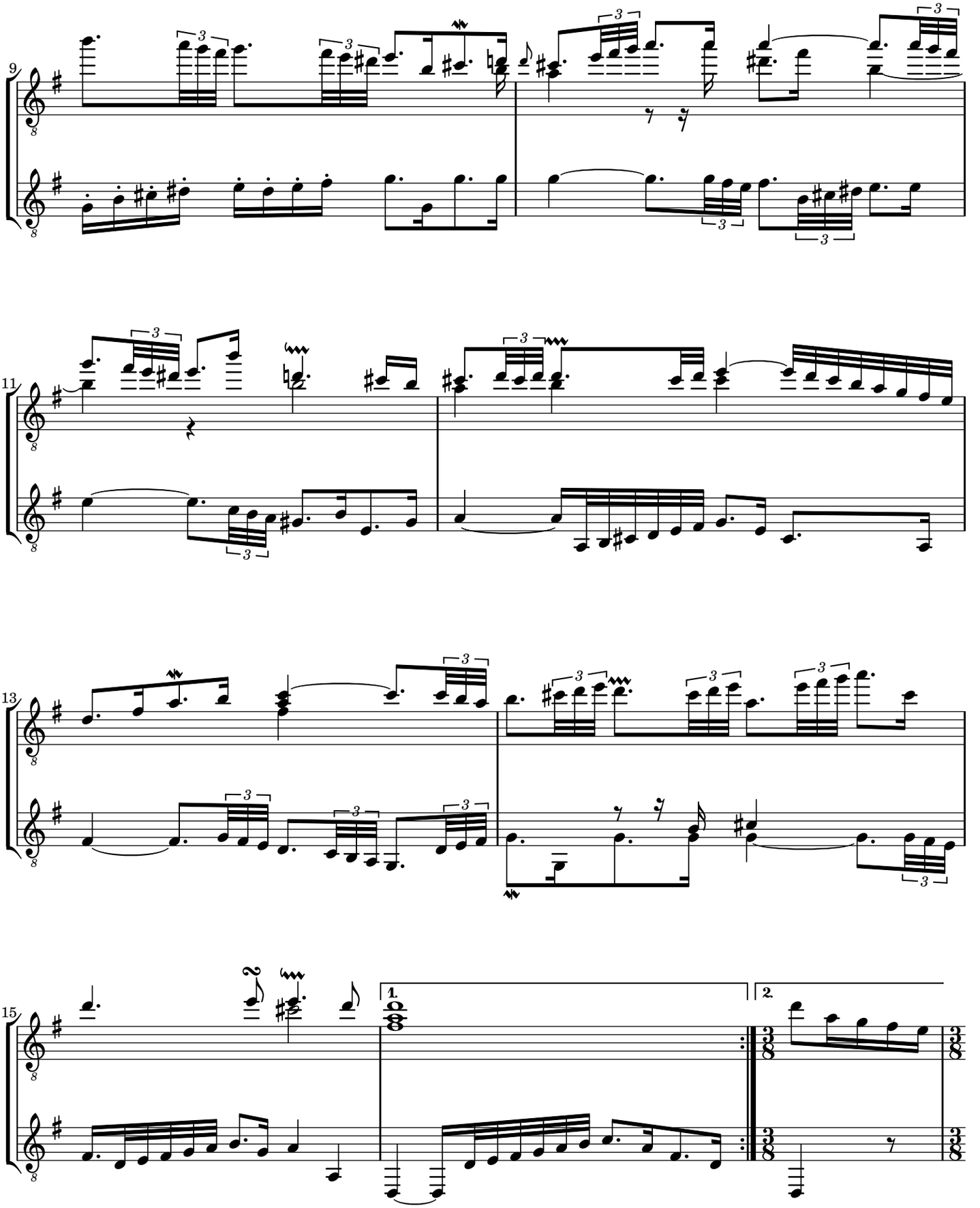

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 16

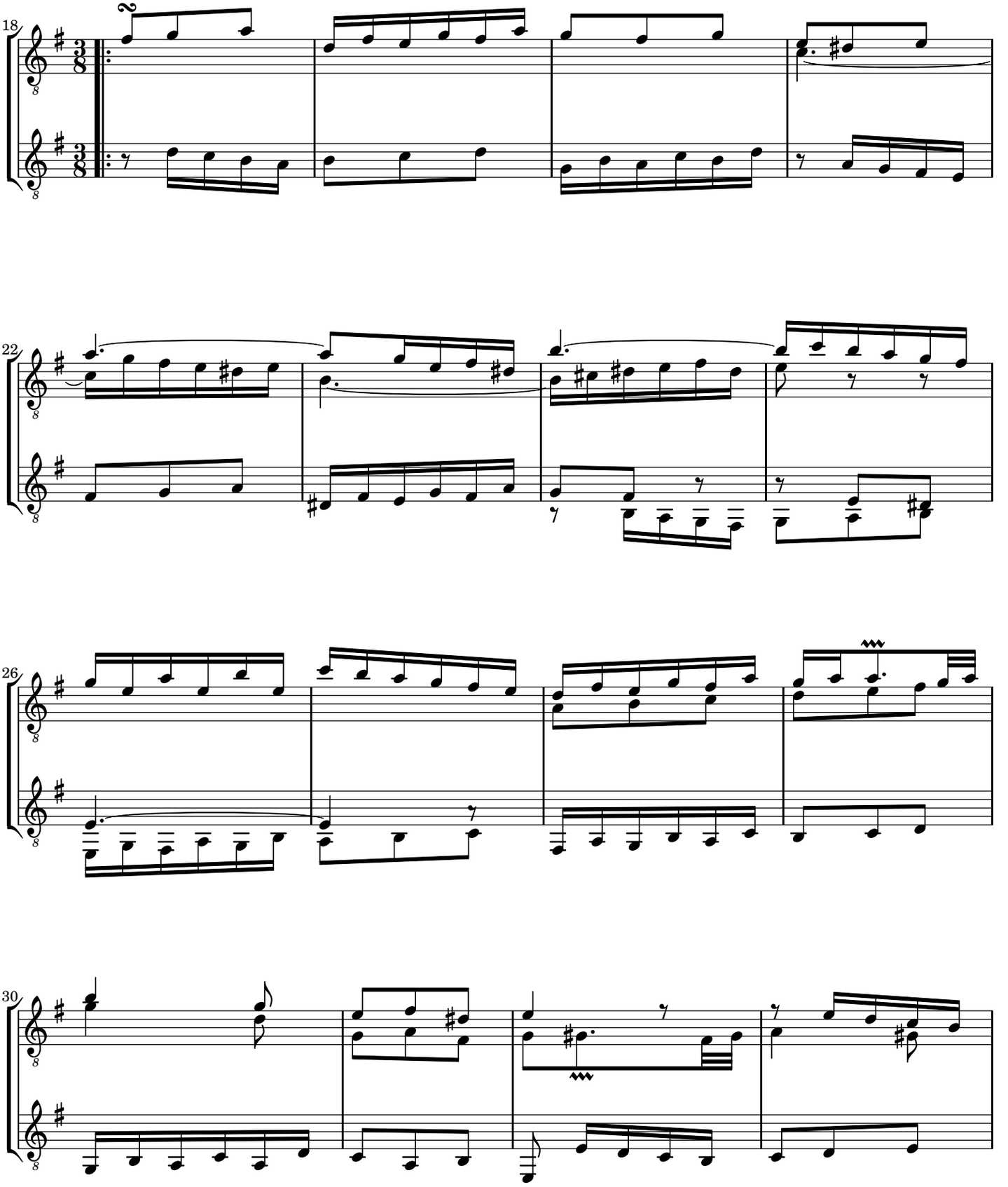
Overture



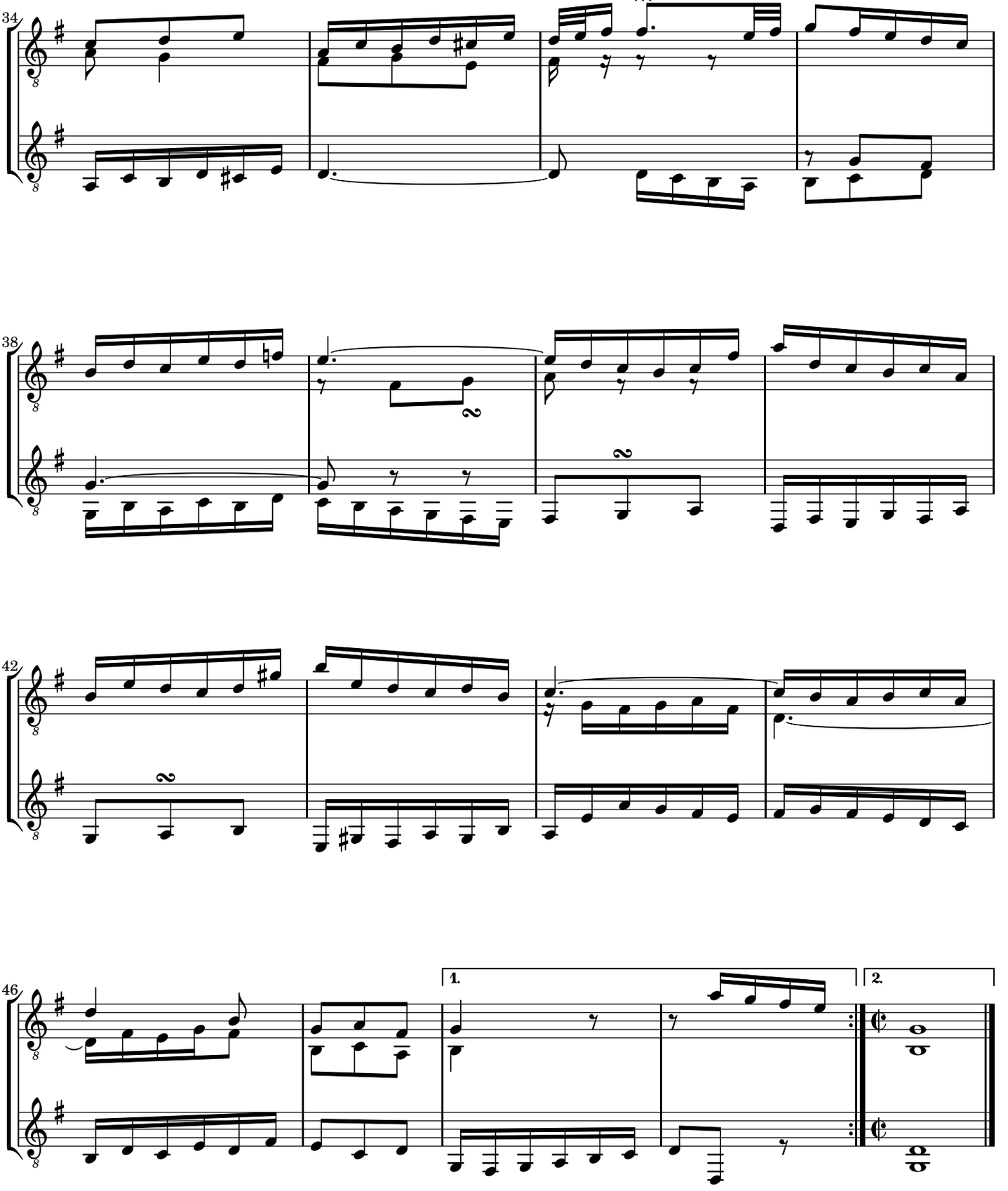
Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA




Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

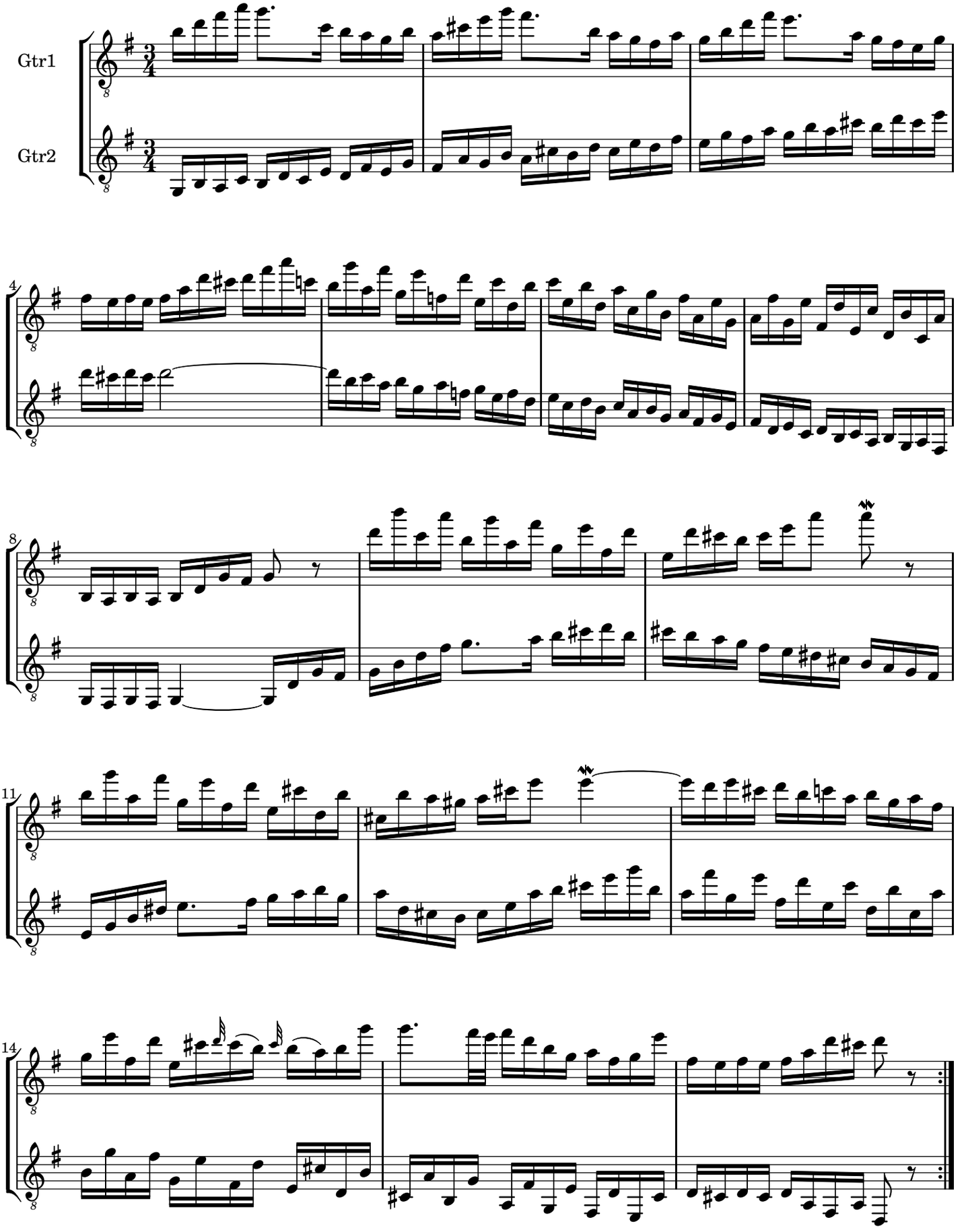



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

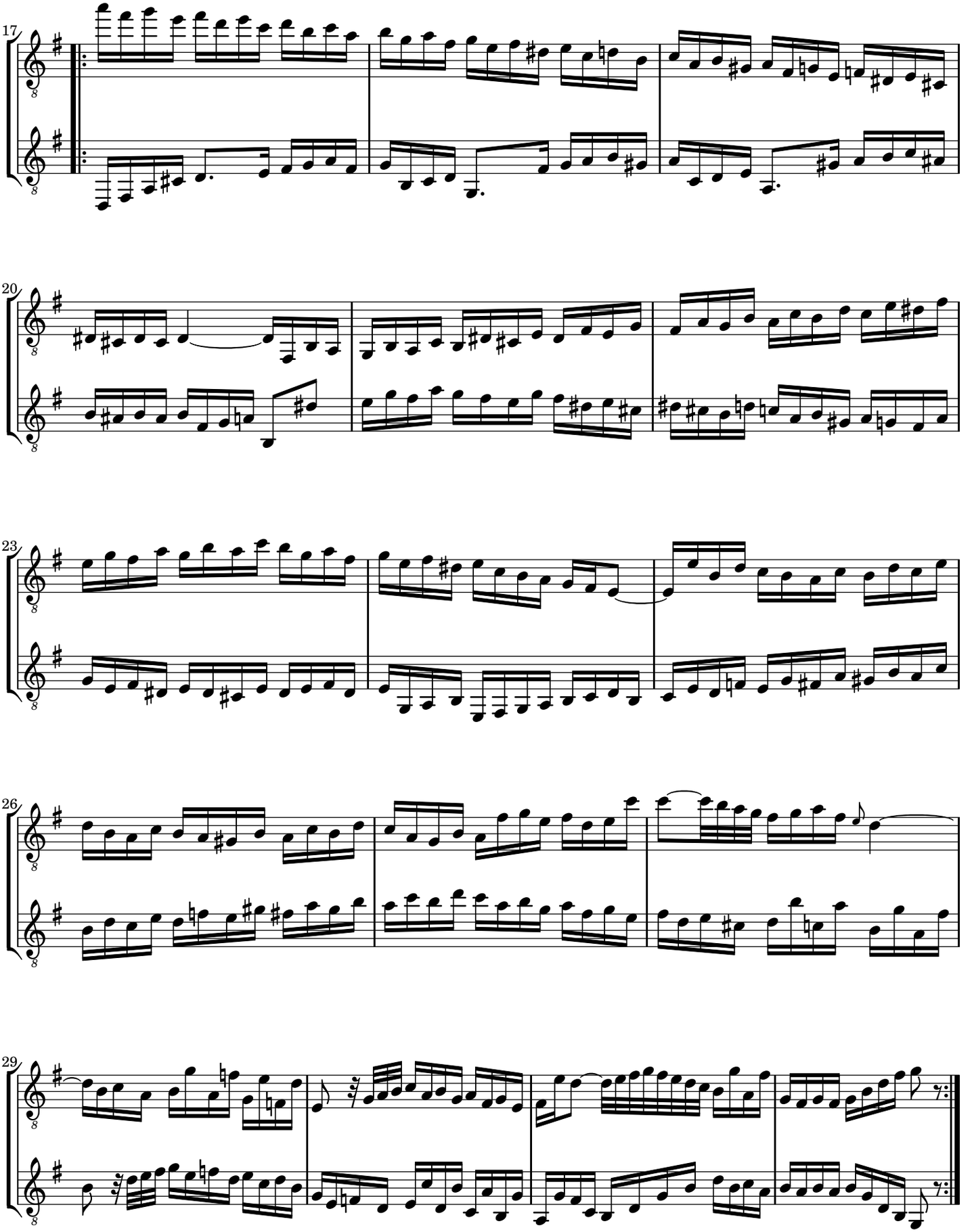



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 17



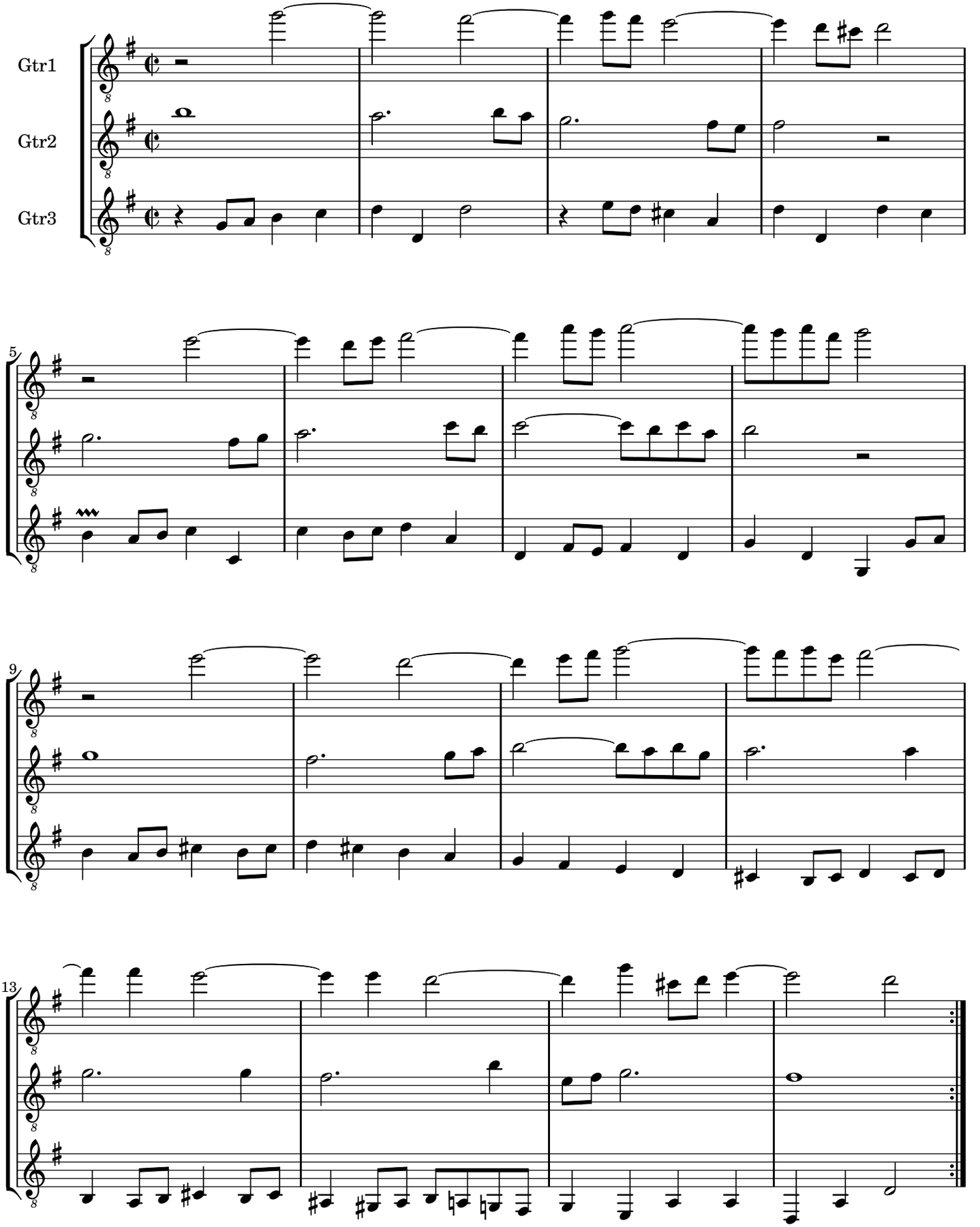

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



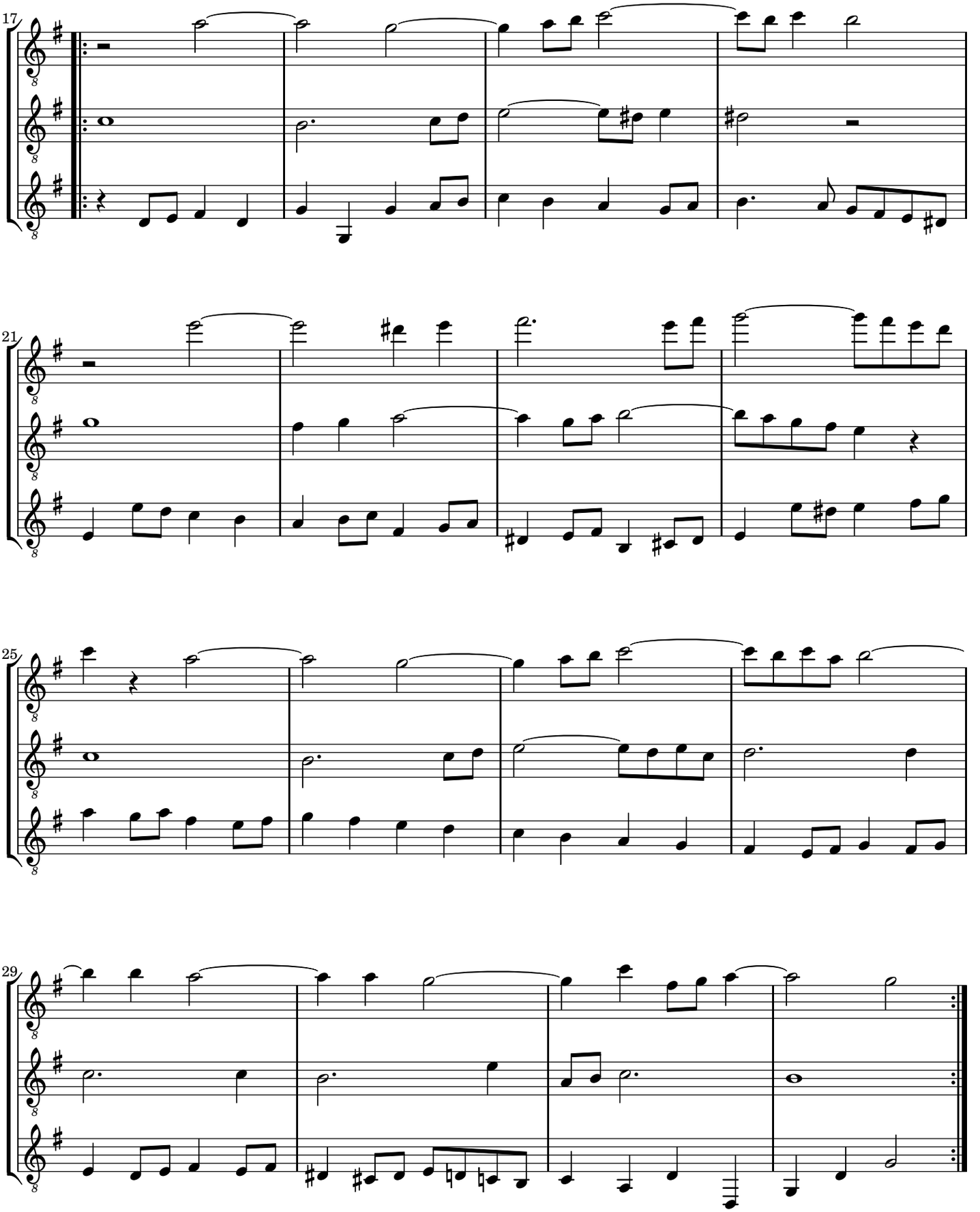

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 18

Canon at the Sixth

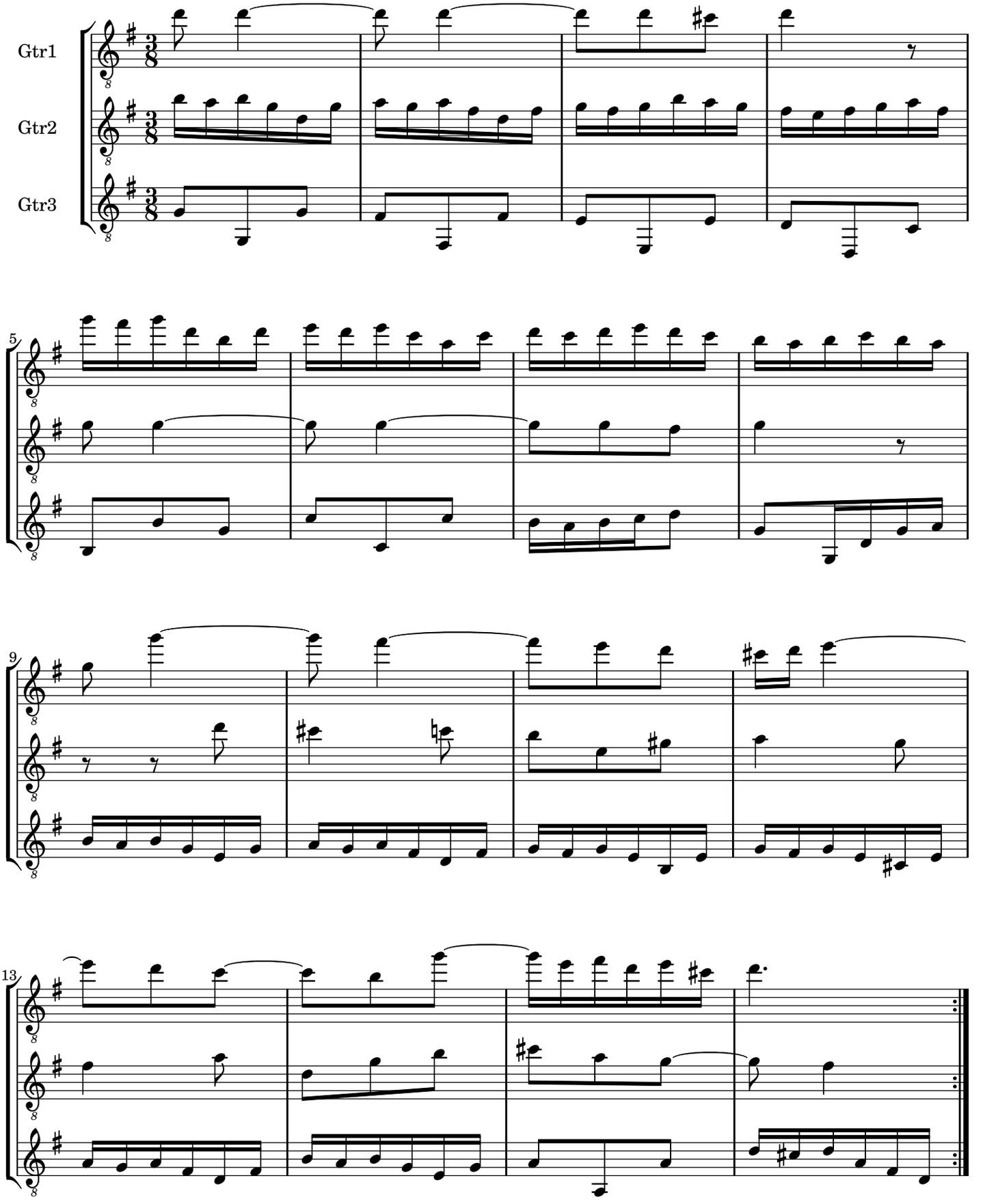



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Benjamin Esham (2007). CC BY-SA

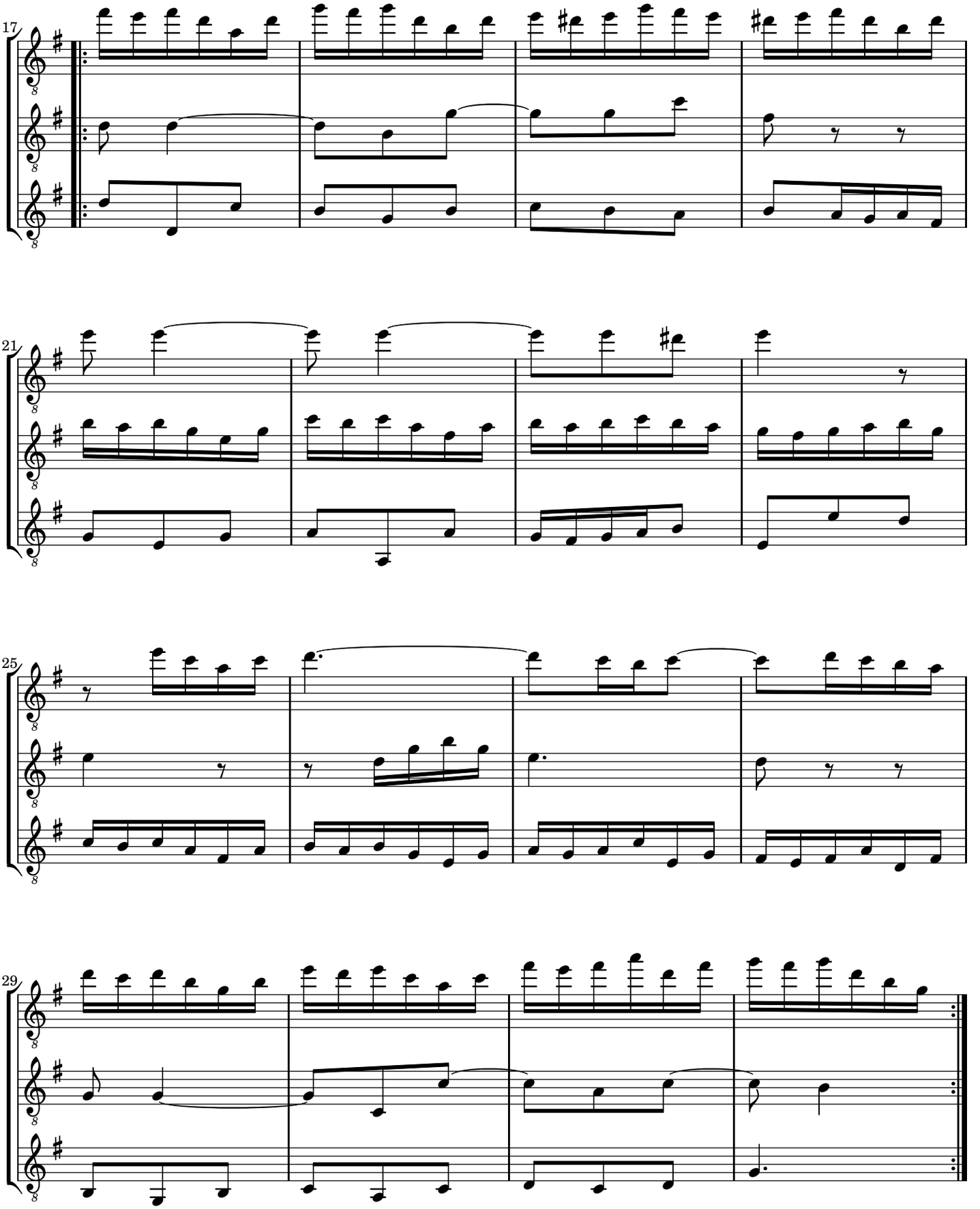



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Benjamin Esham (2007). CC BY-SA

# Variation 19

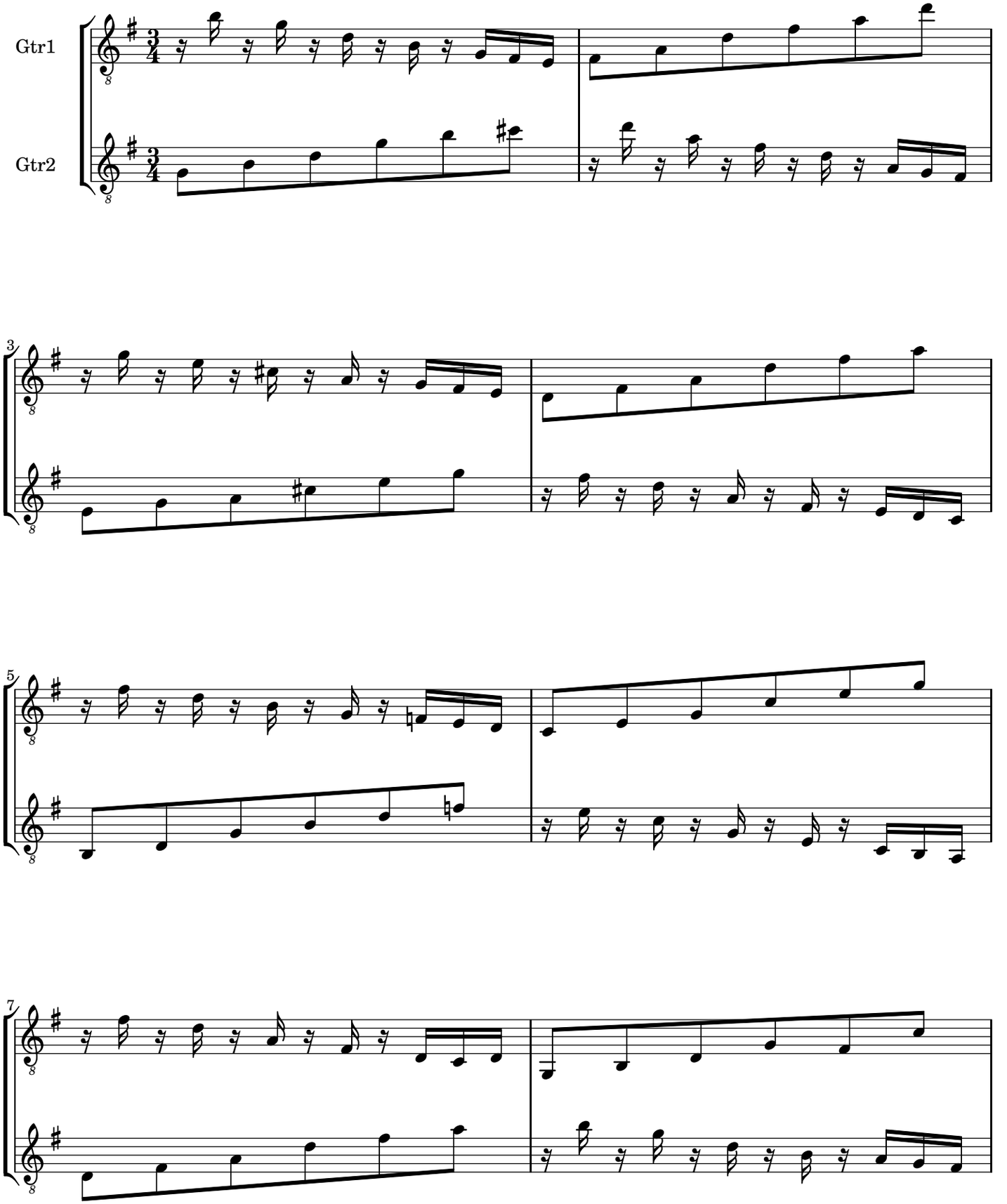



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

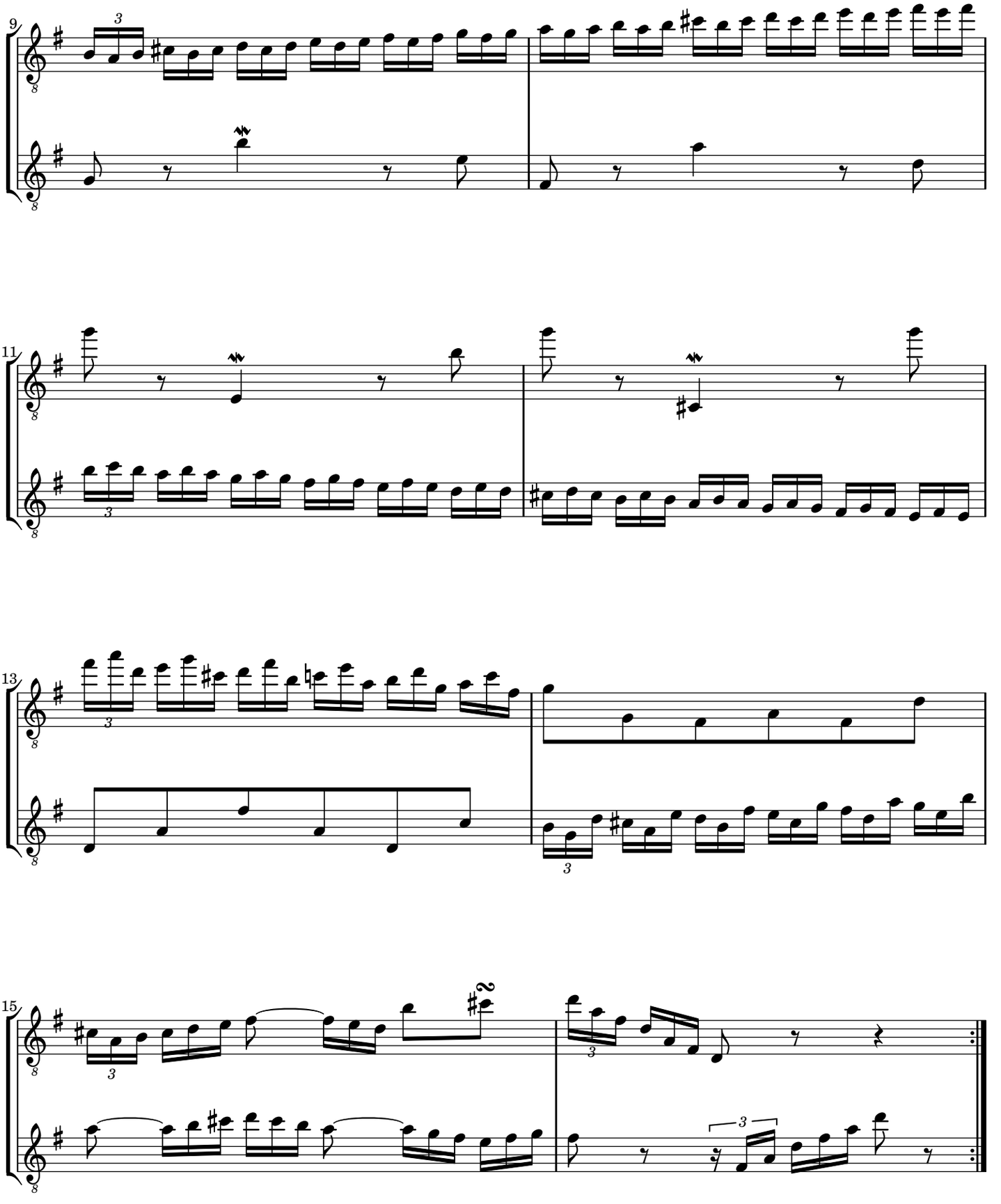



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

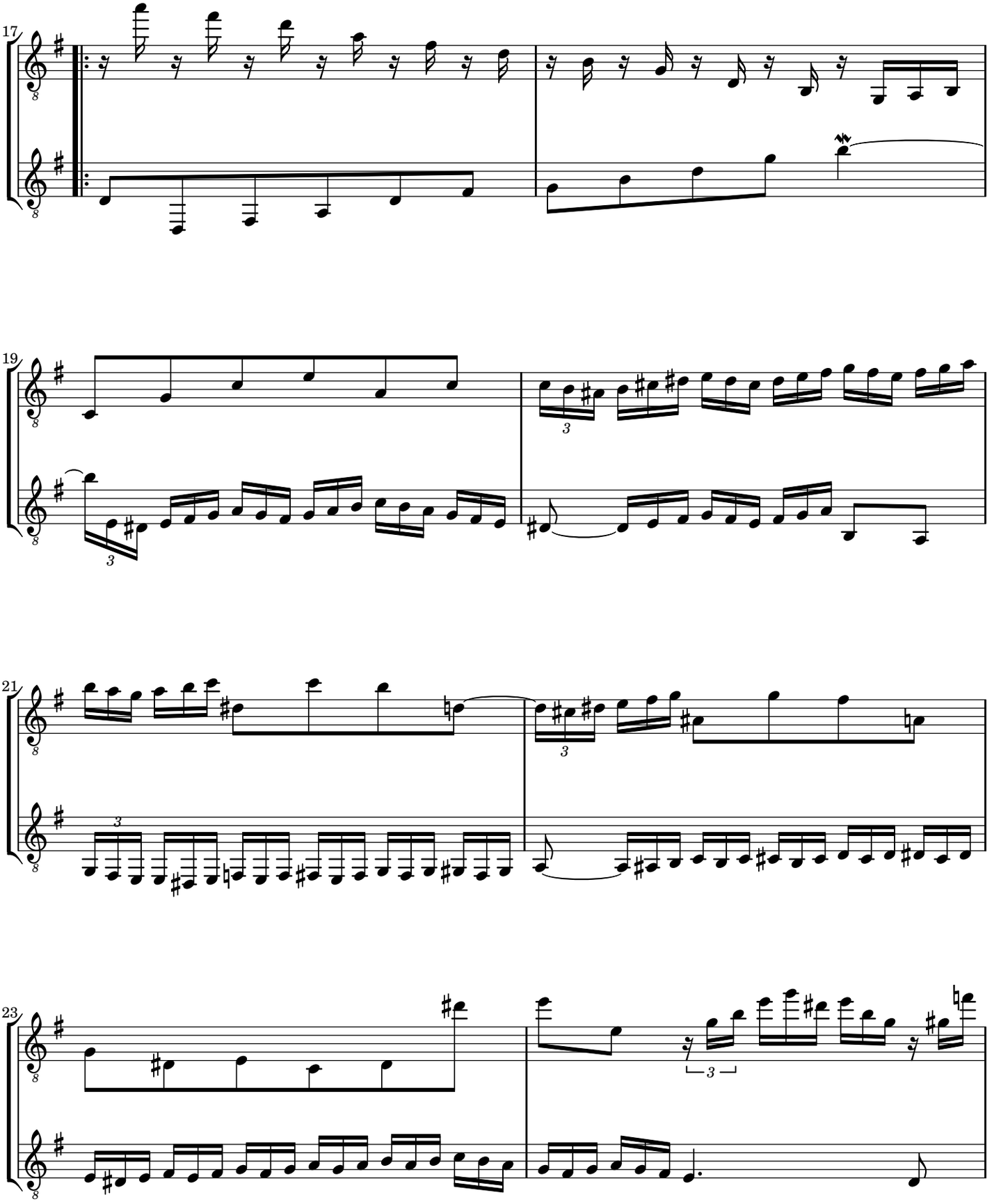
# Variation 20



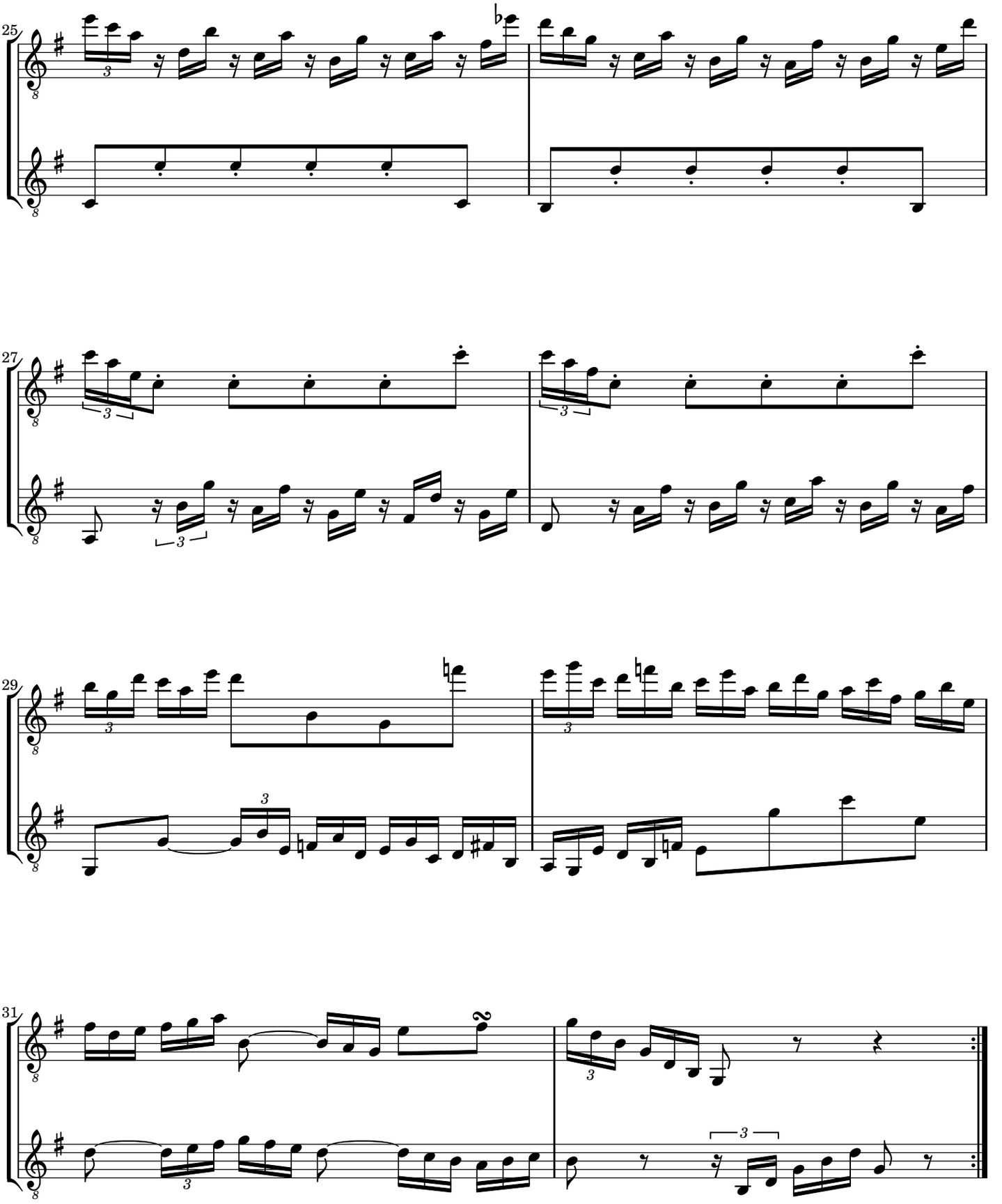

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



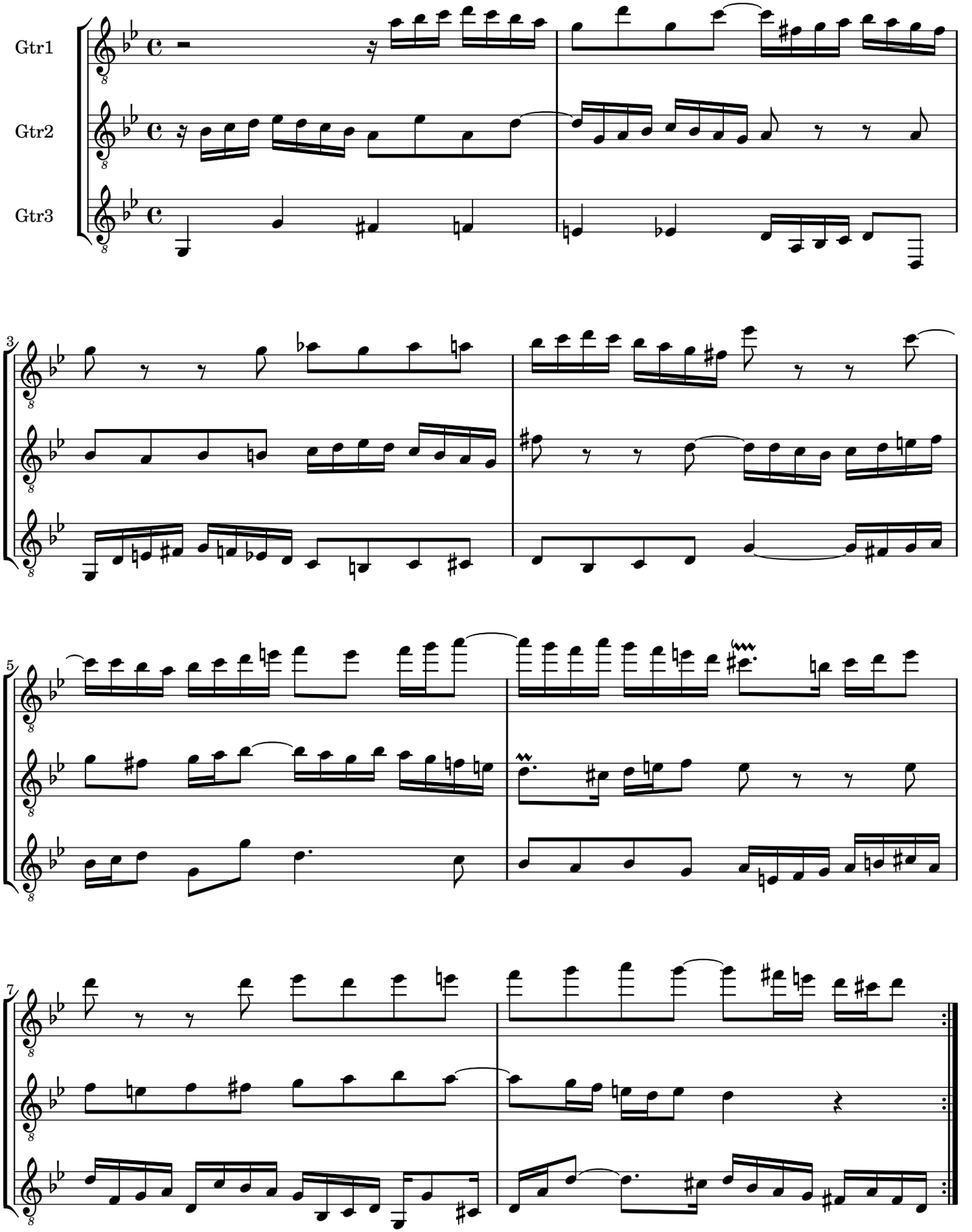

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



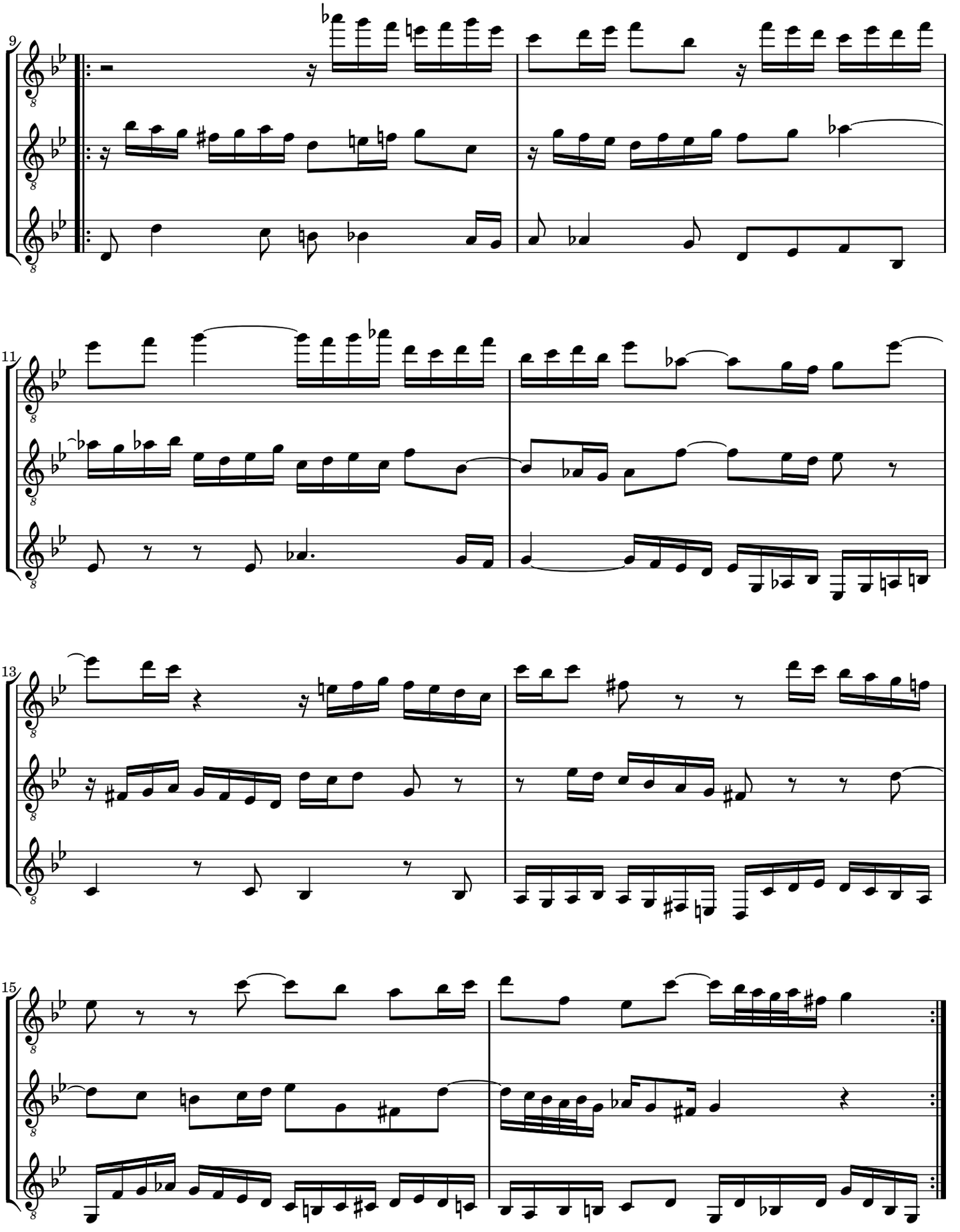

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 21

Canon at the Seventh

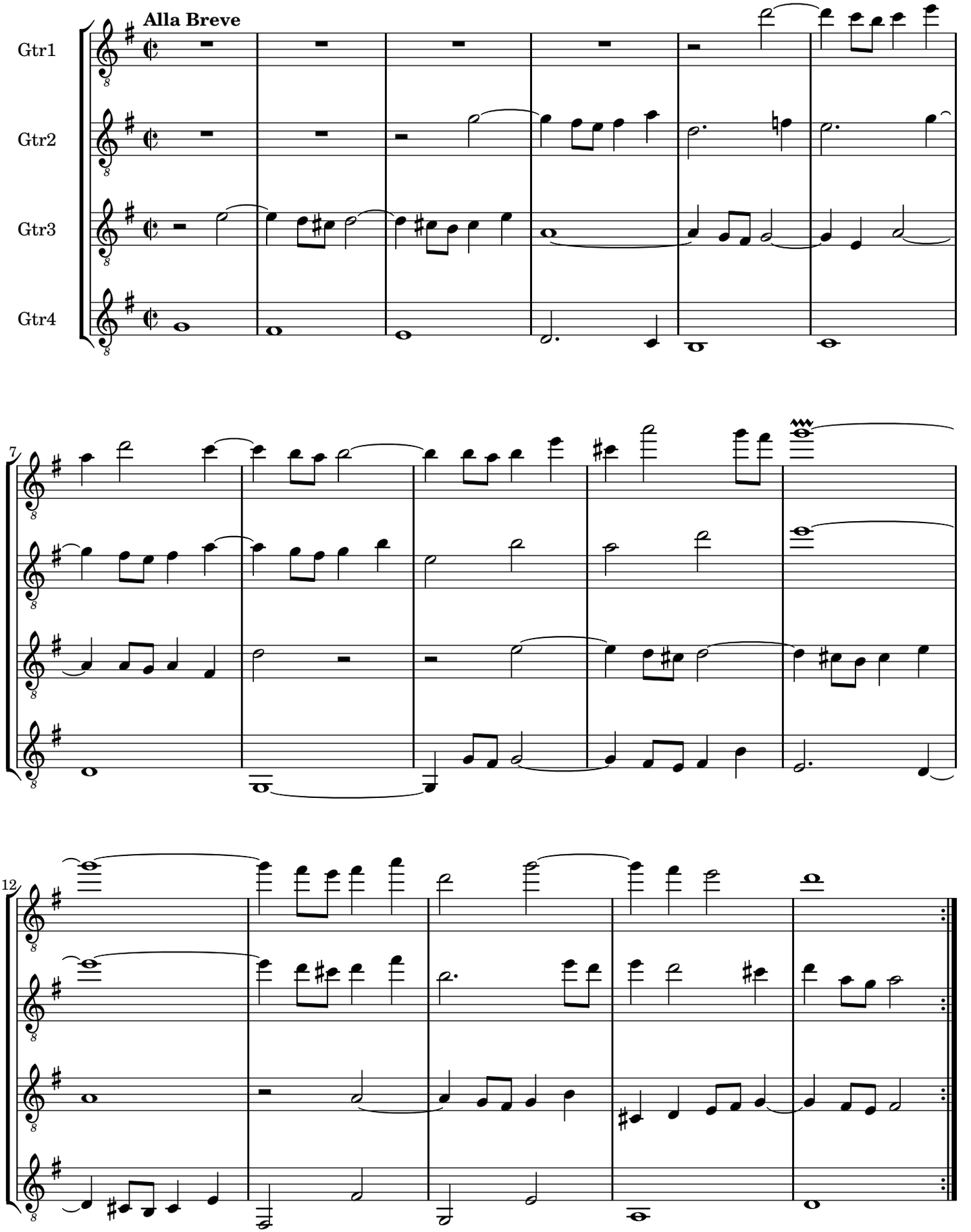



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

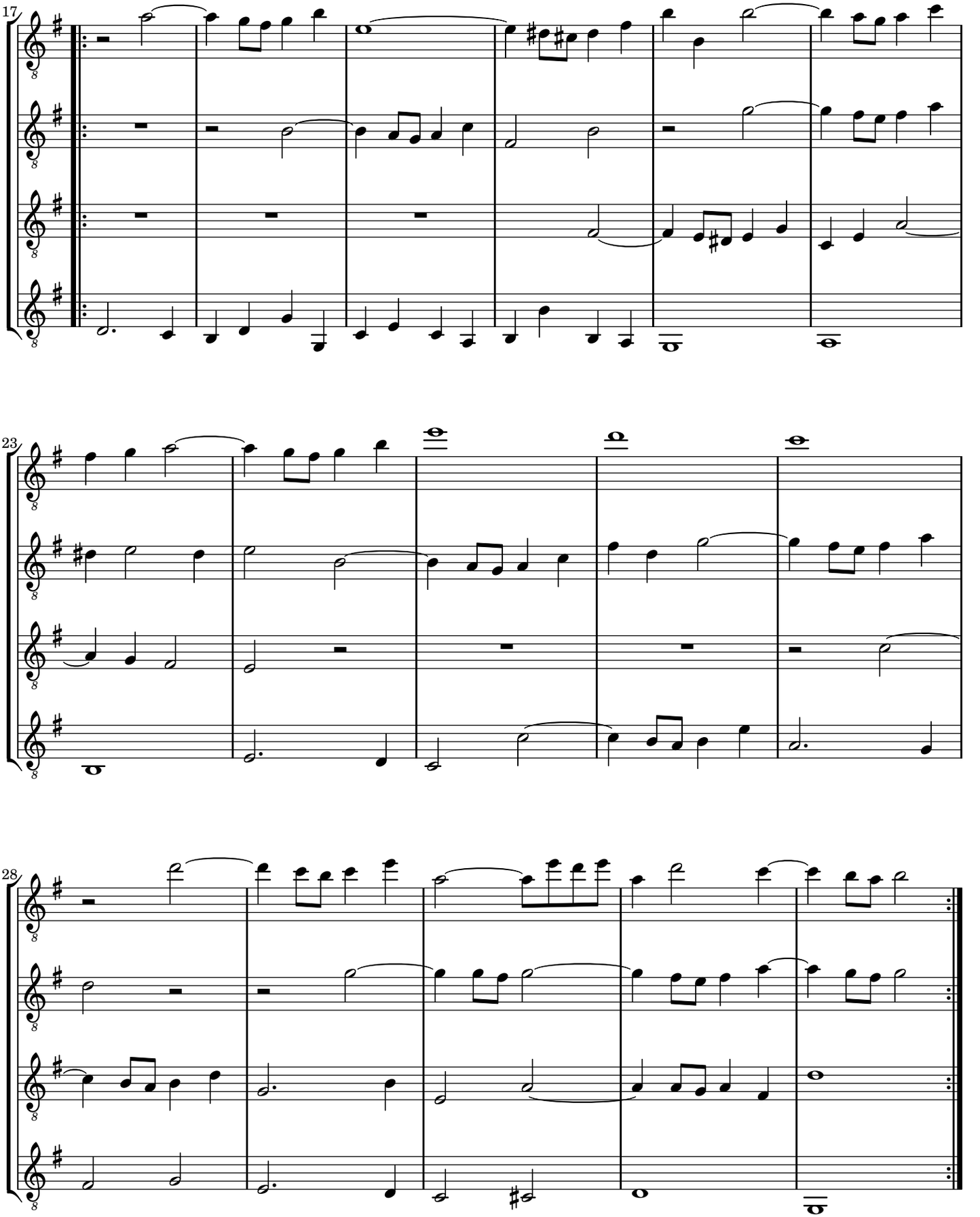


Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 22

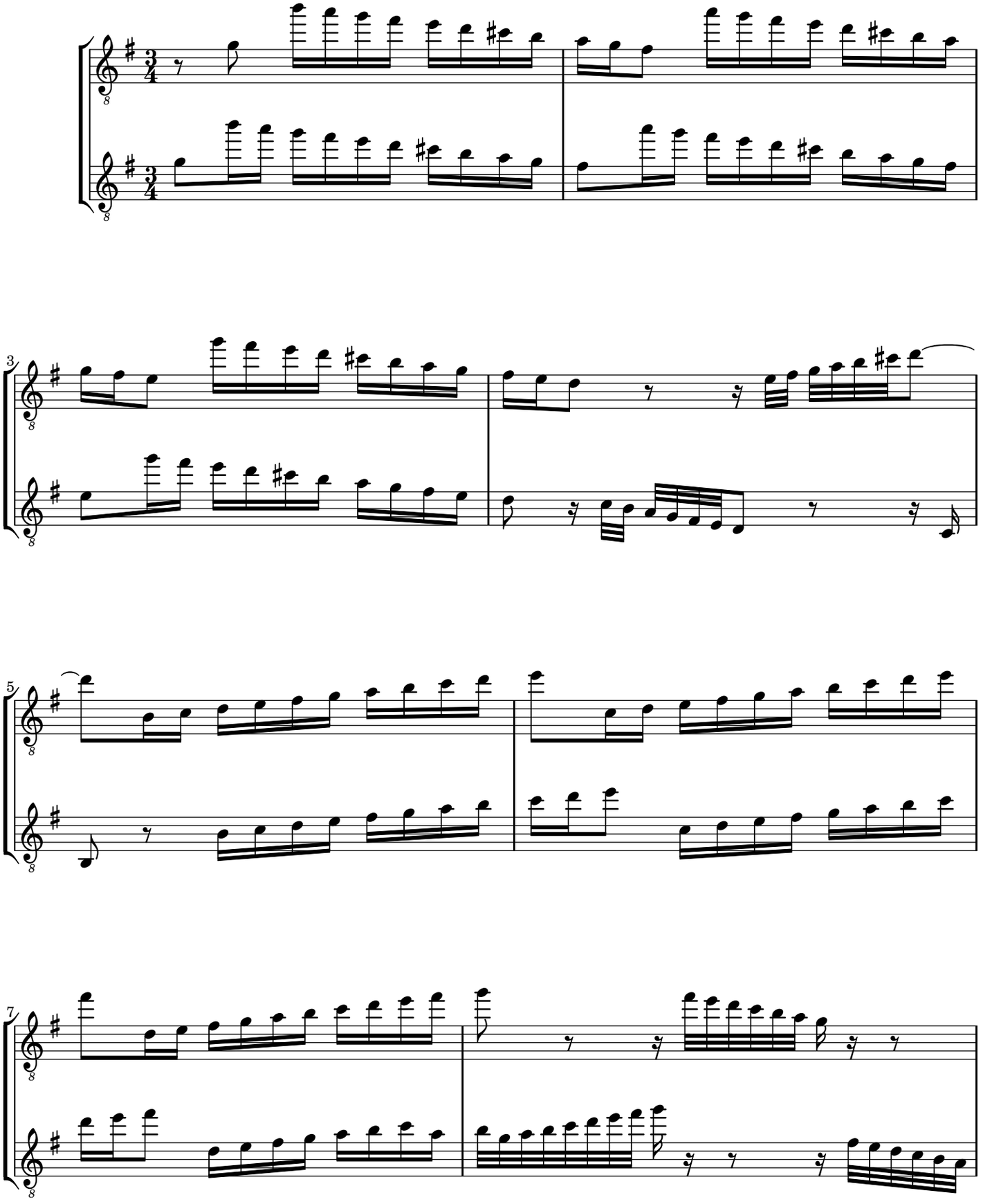



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

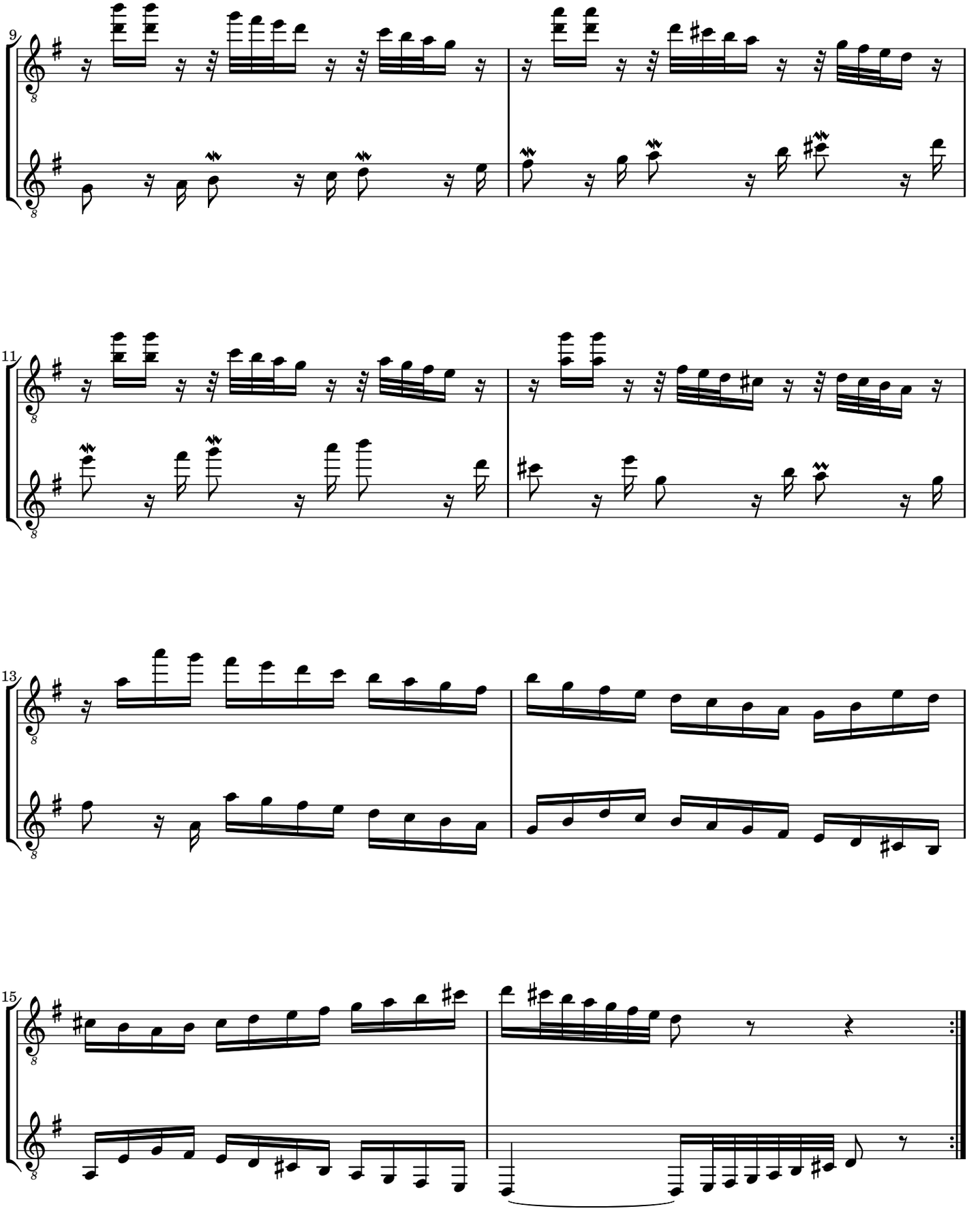



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

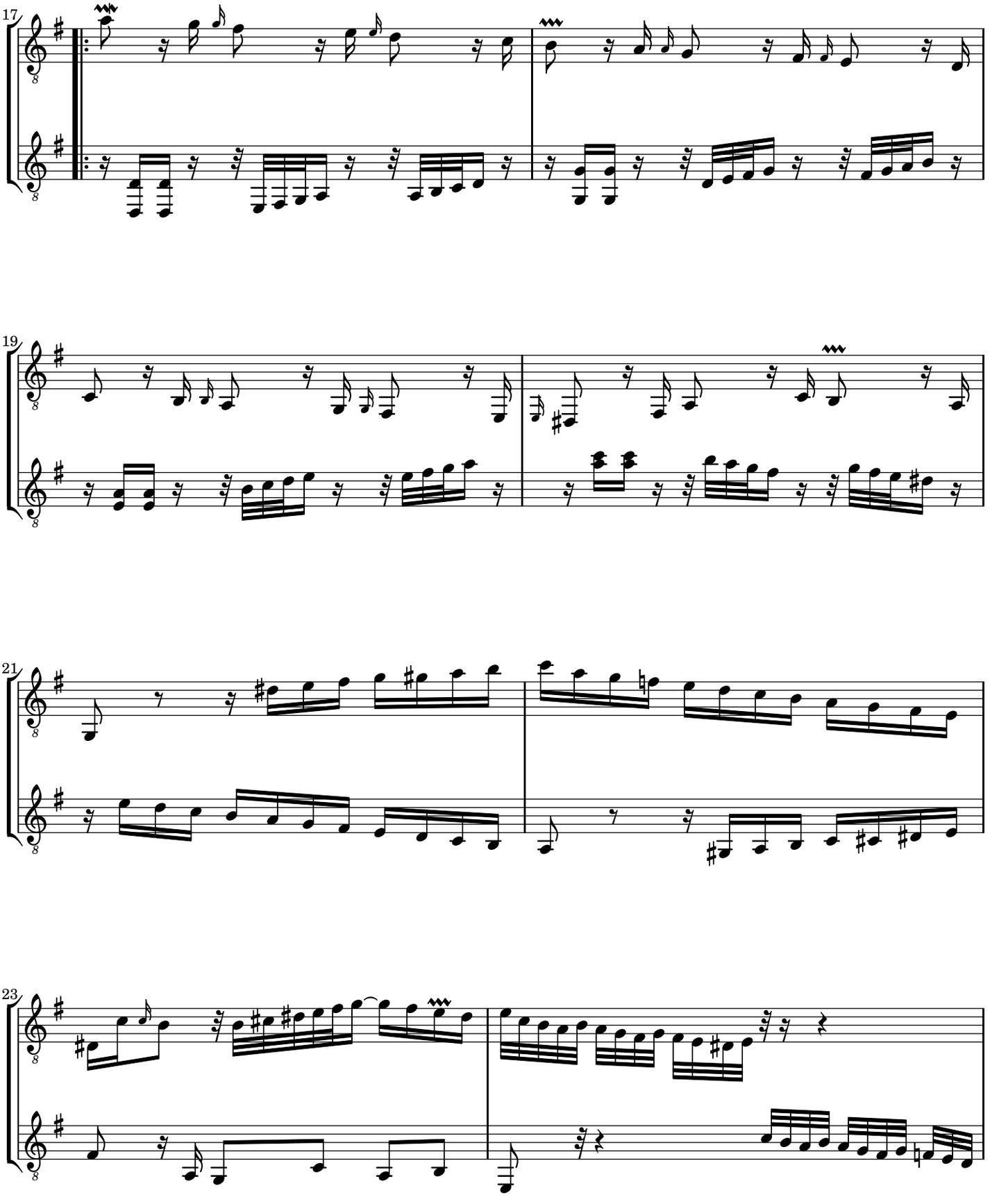
# Variation 23



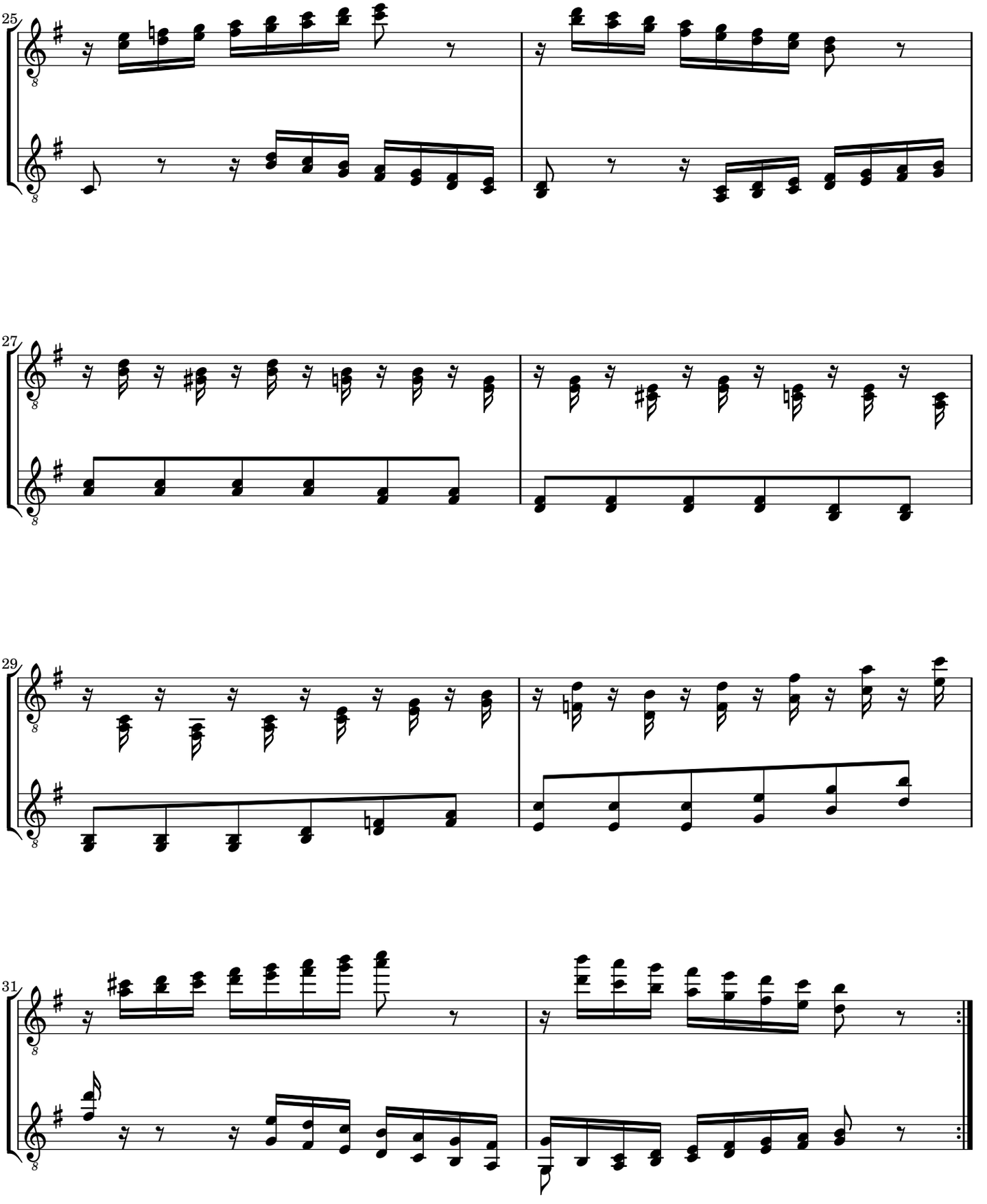
Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA




Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



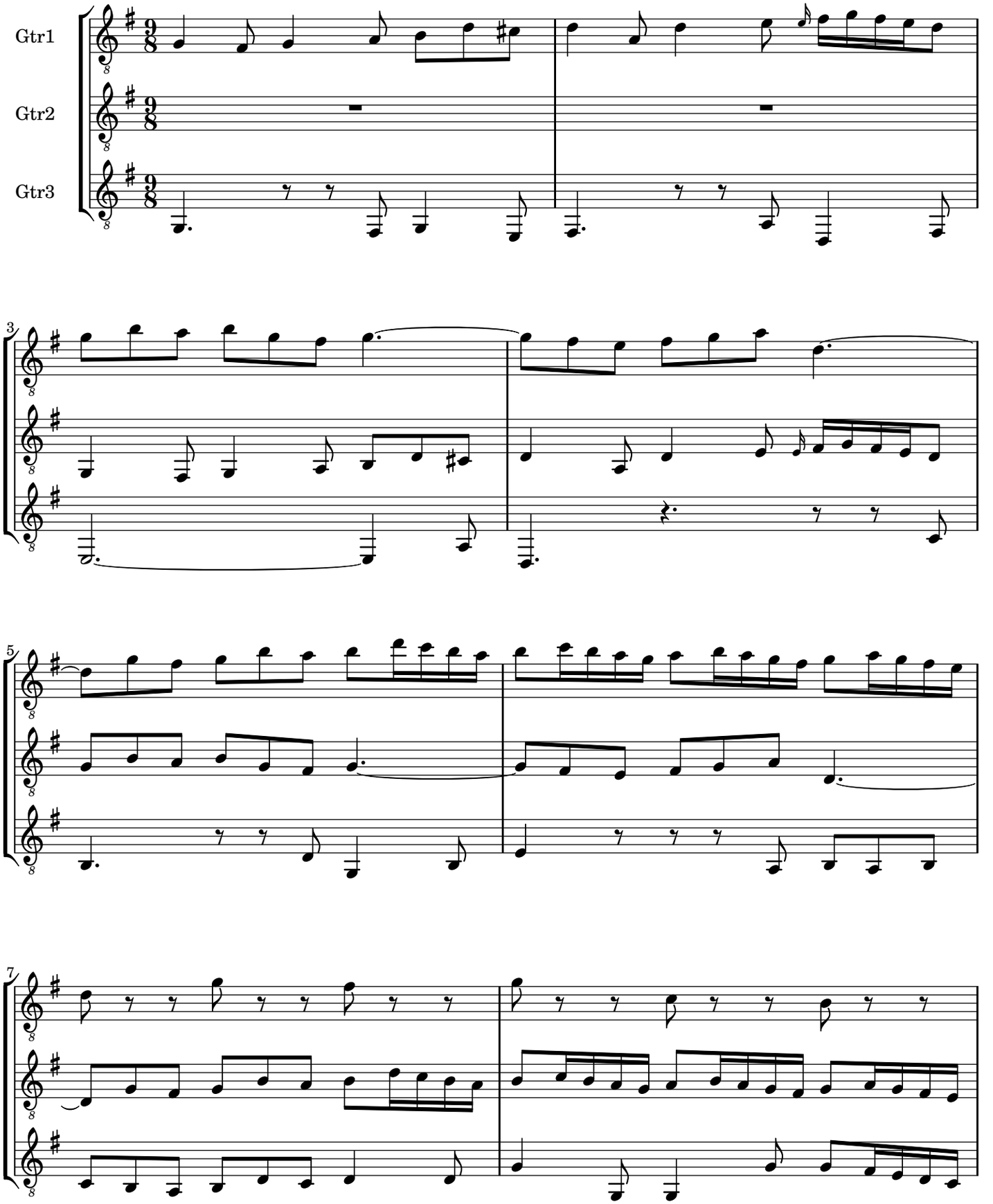

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



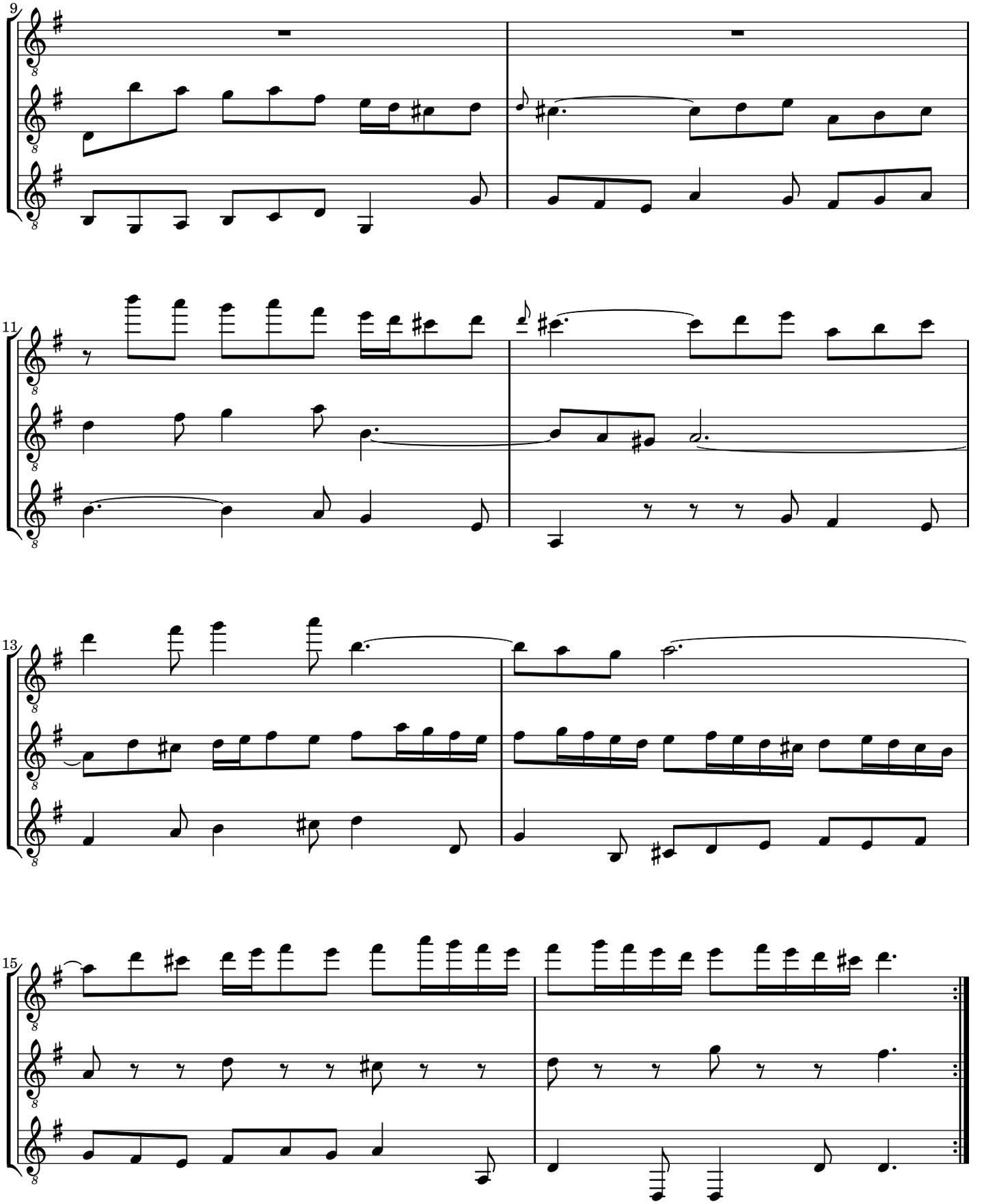

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 24

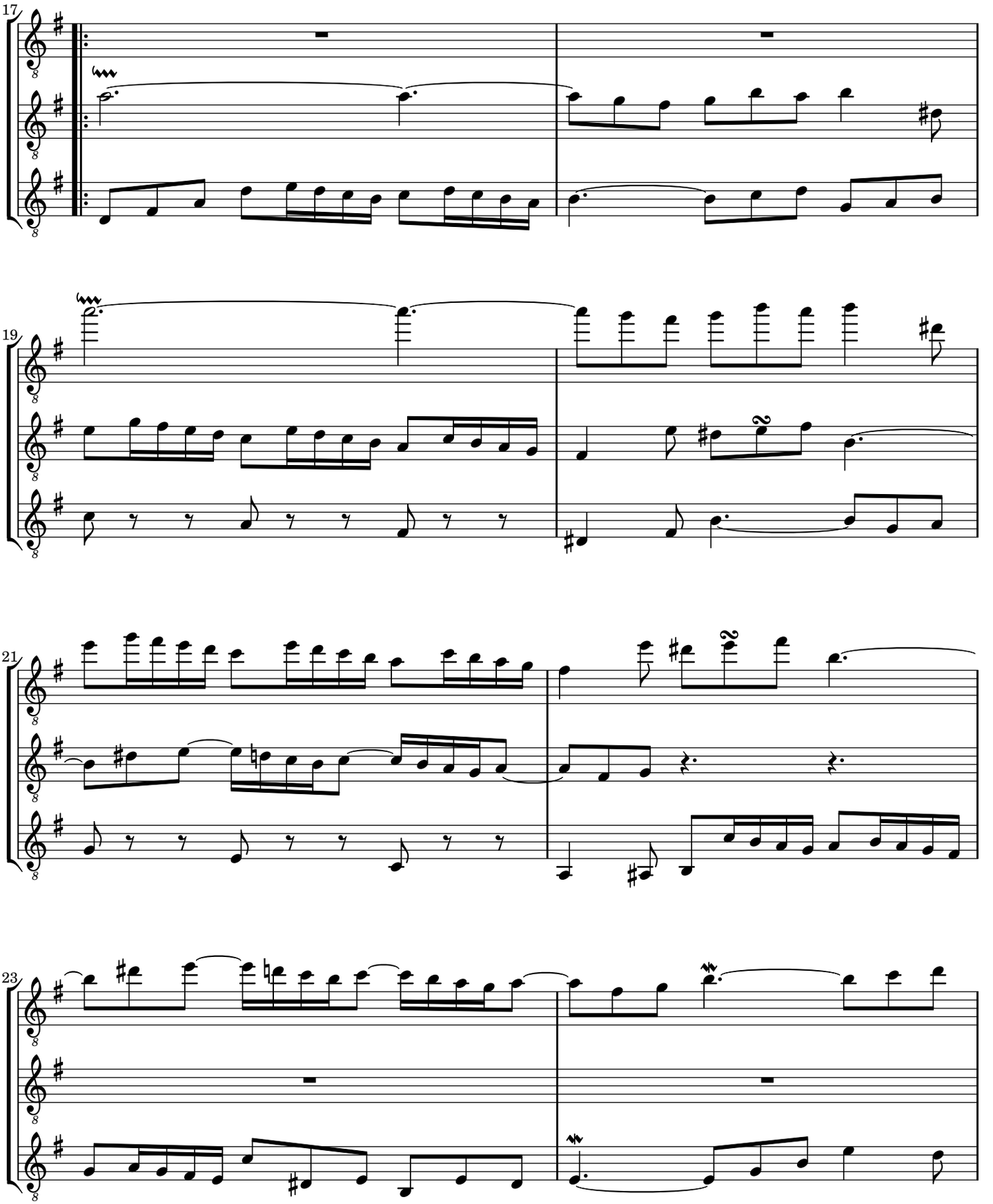
Canon at the Octave



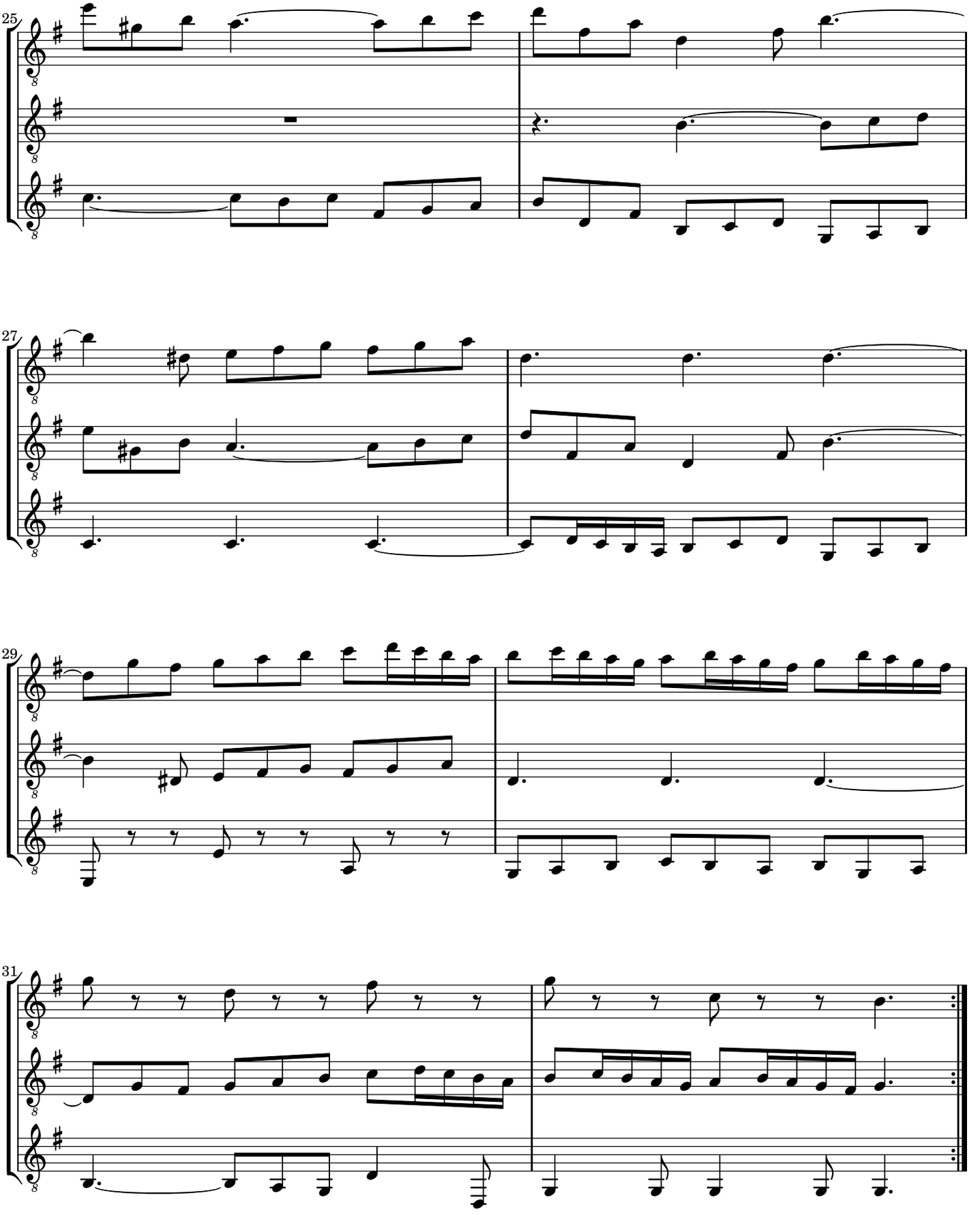

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

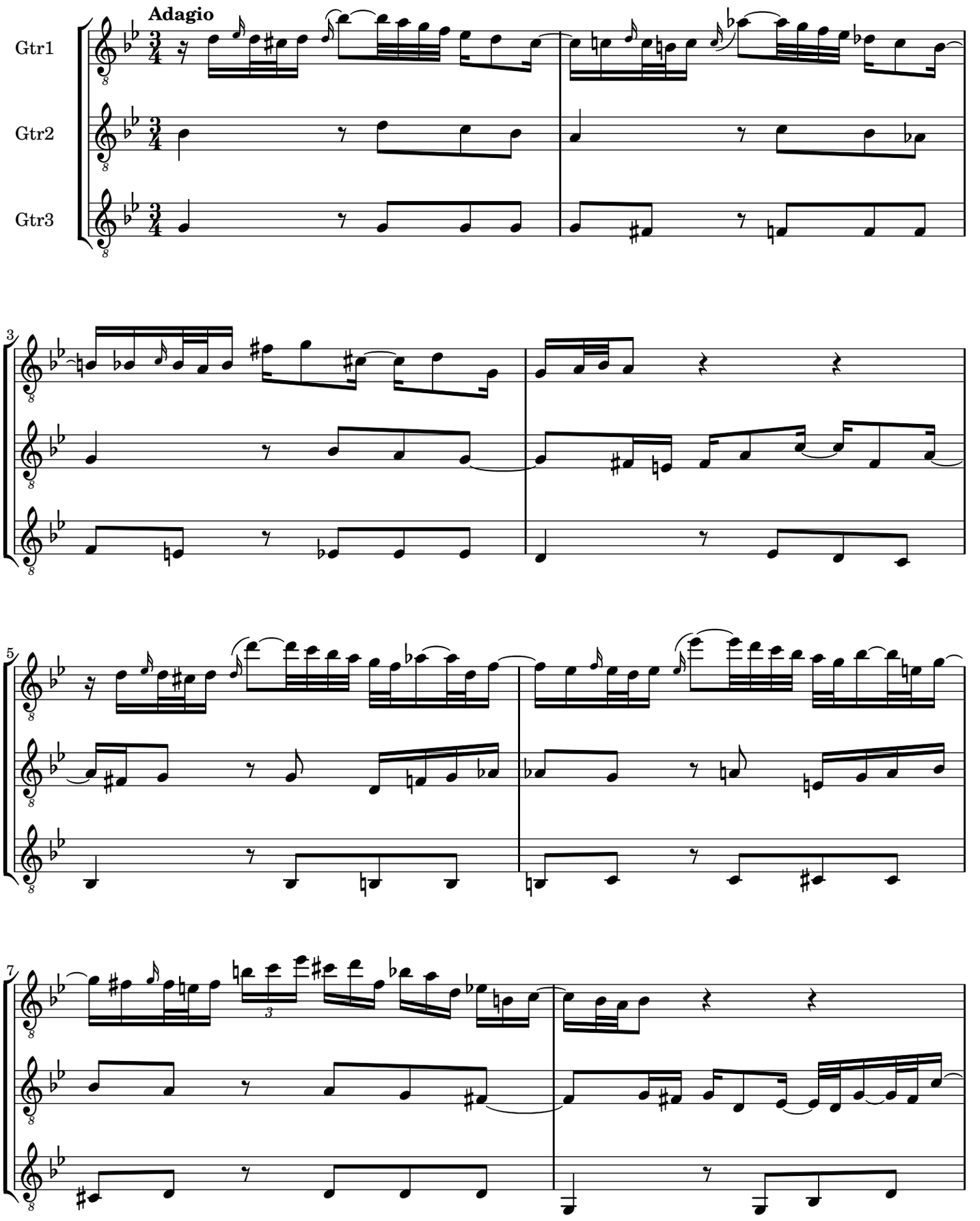



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

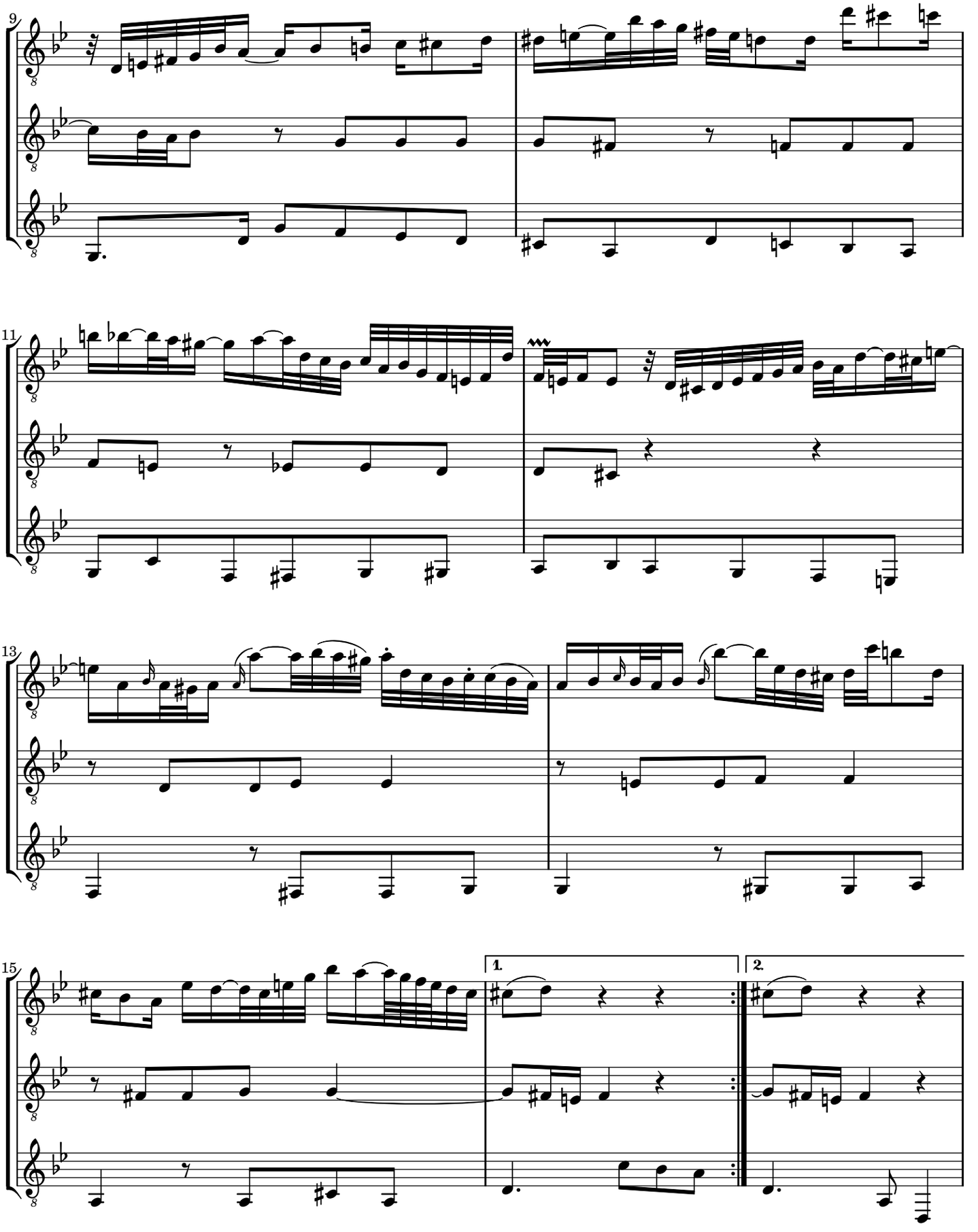



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

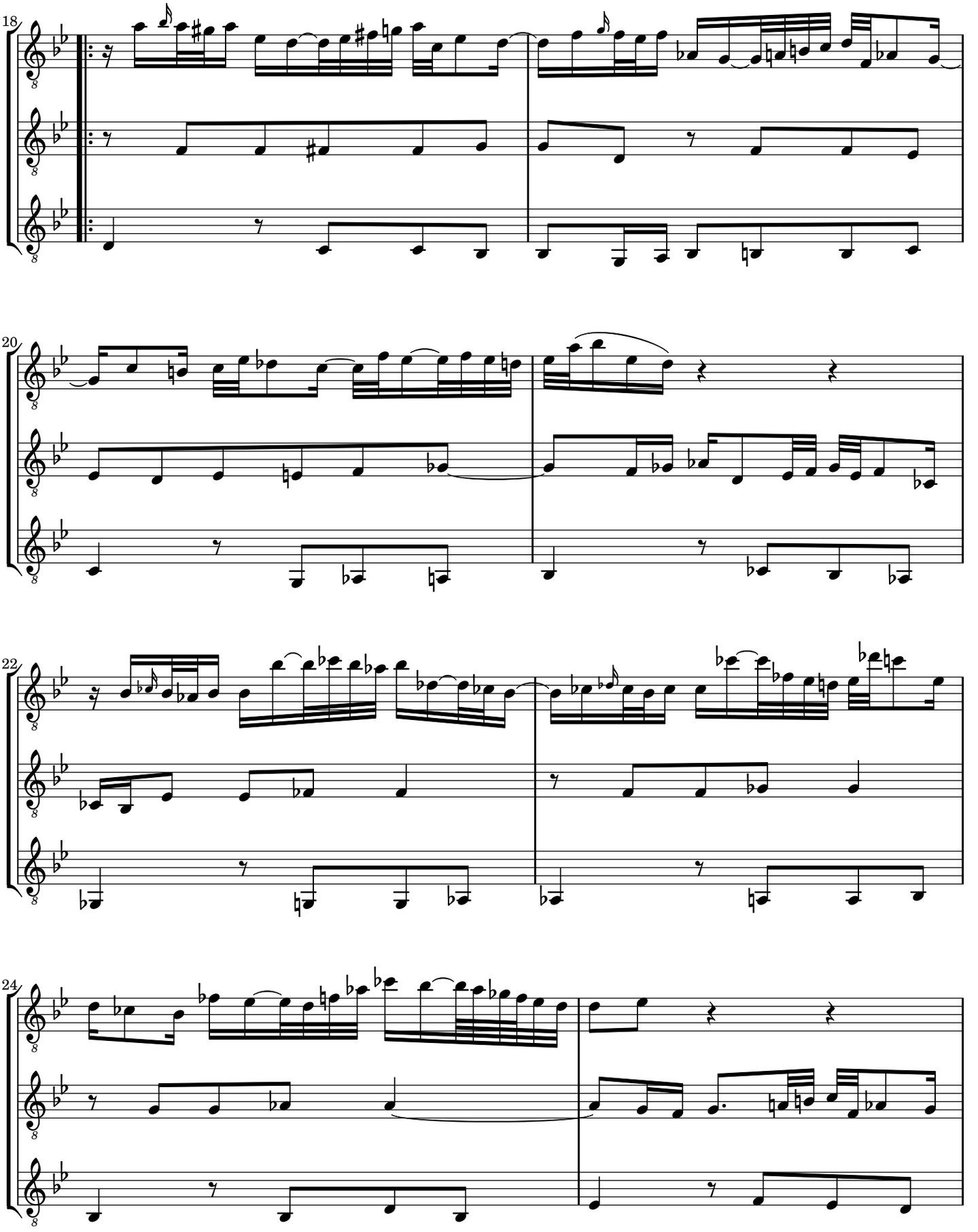
# Variation 25



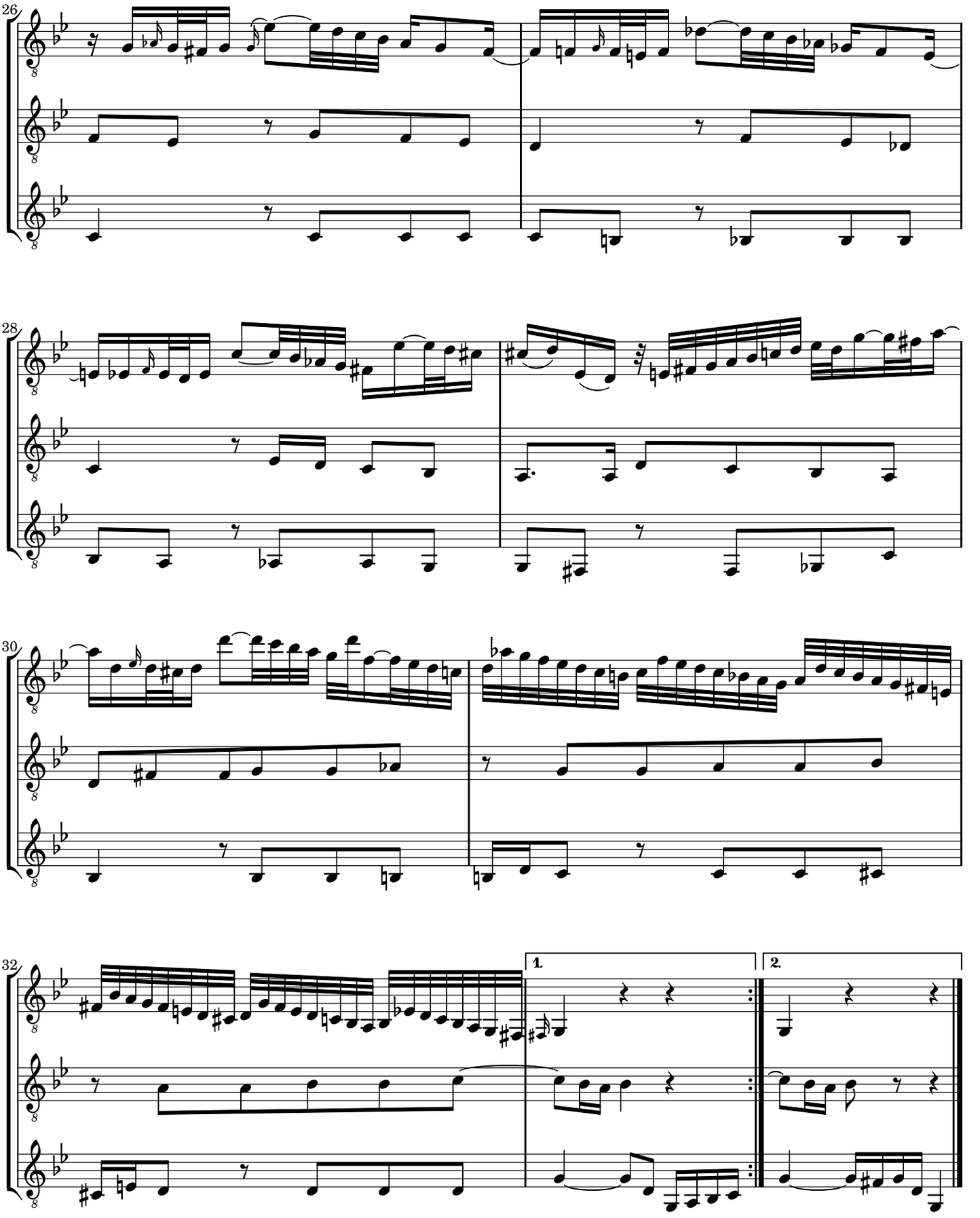

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA




Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

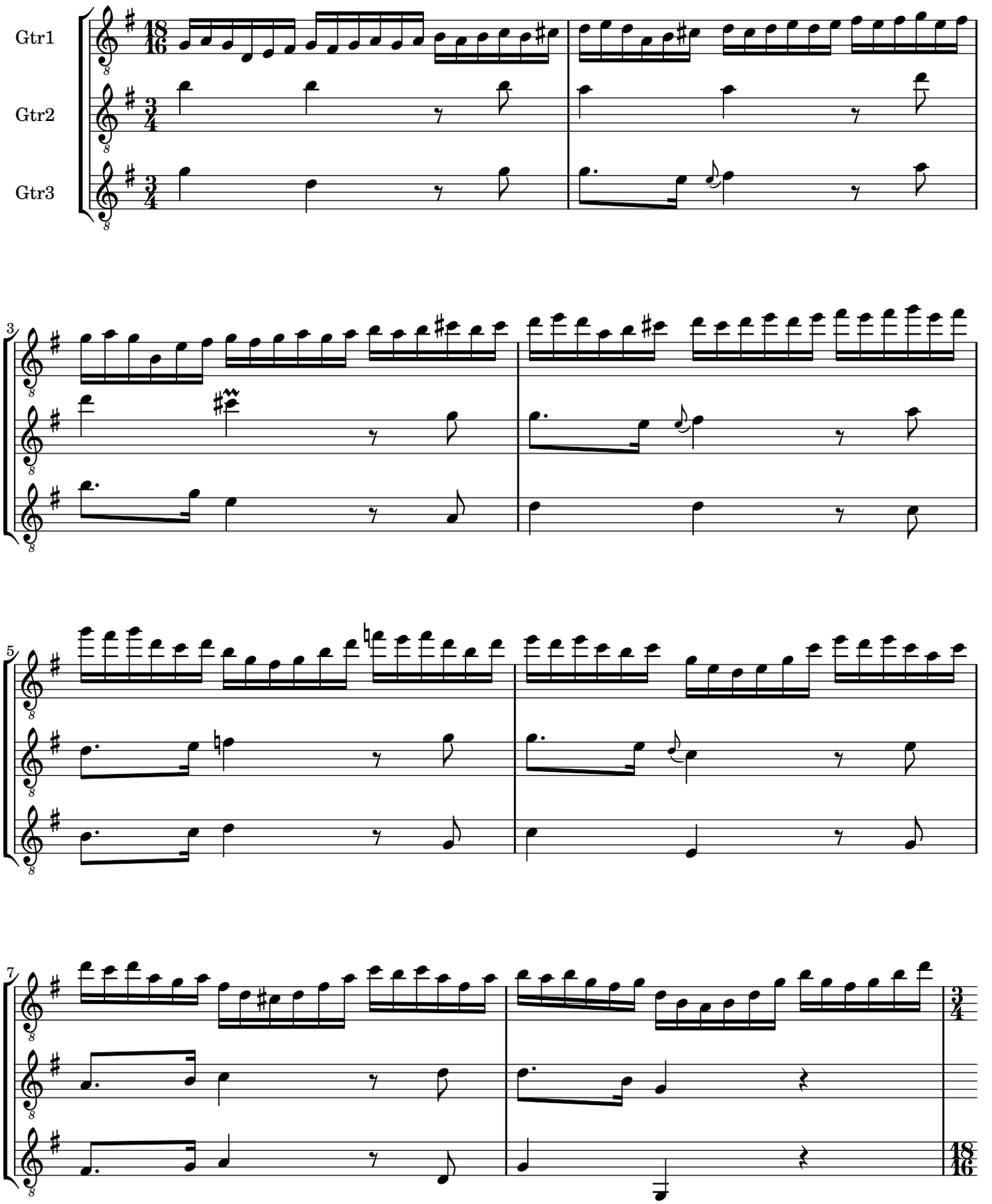



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

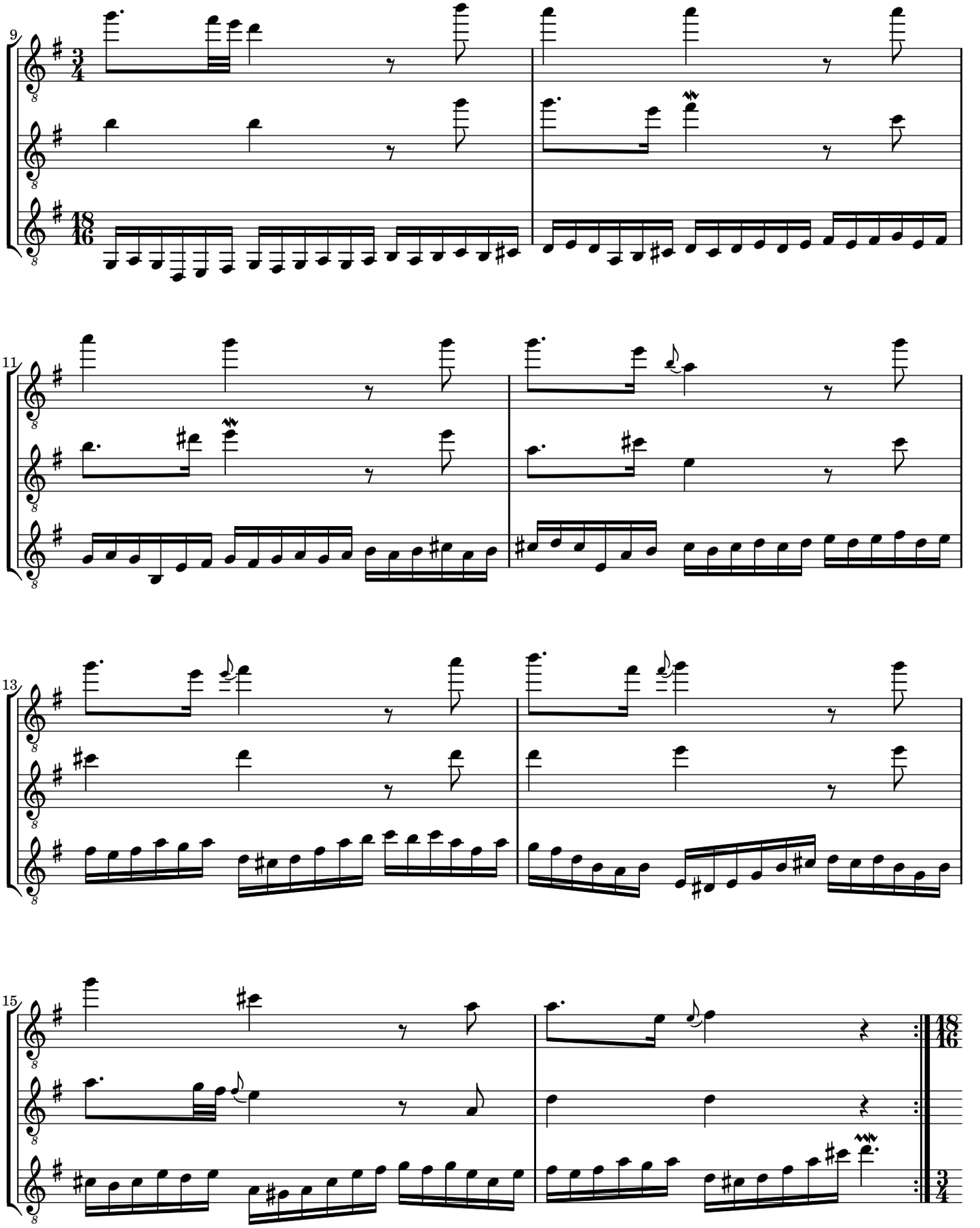



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

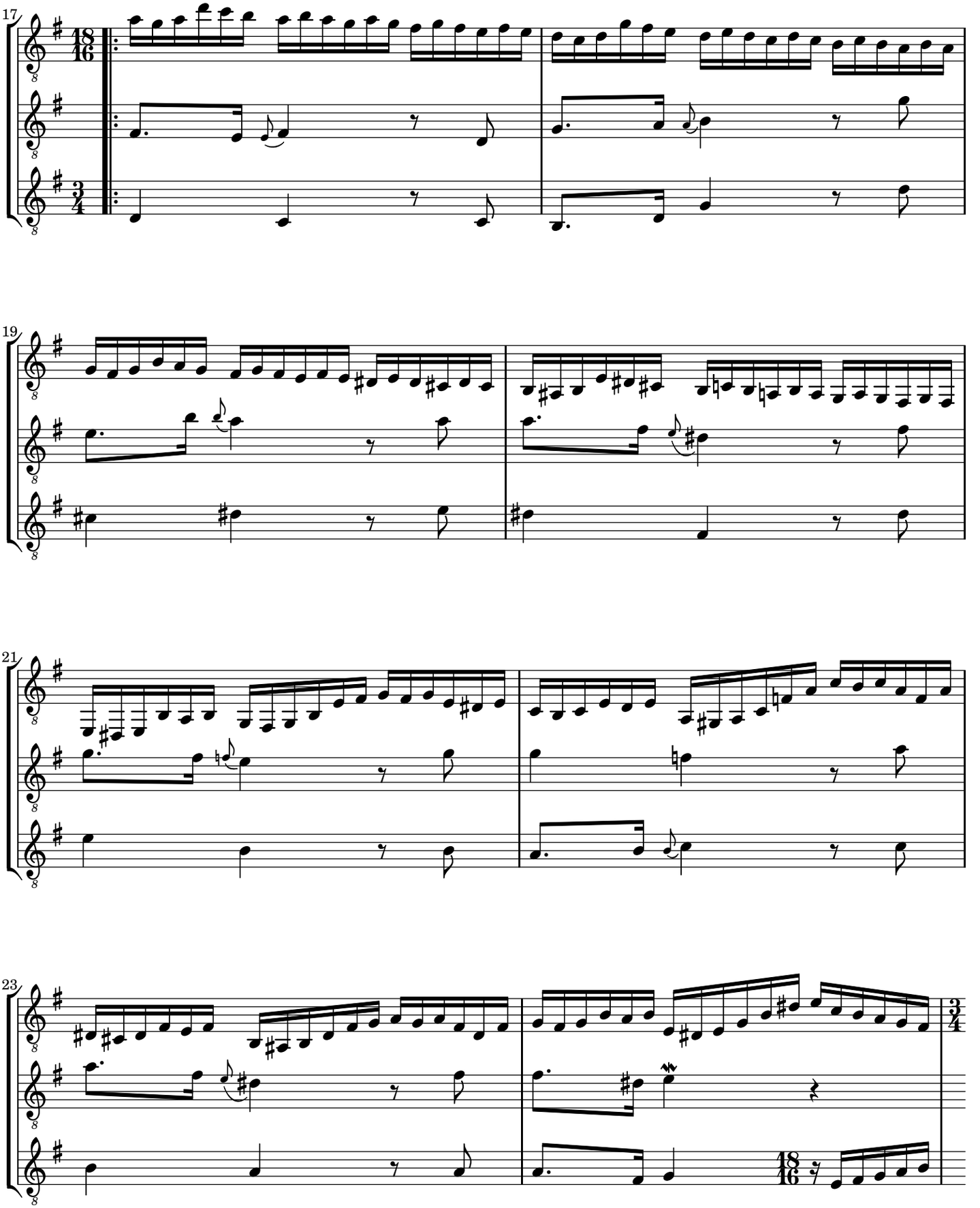
# Variation 26



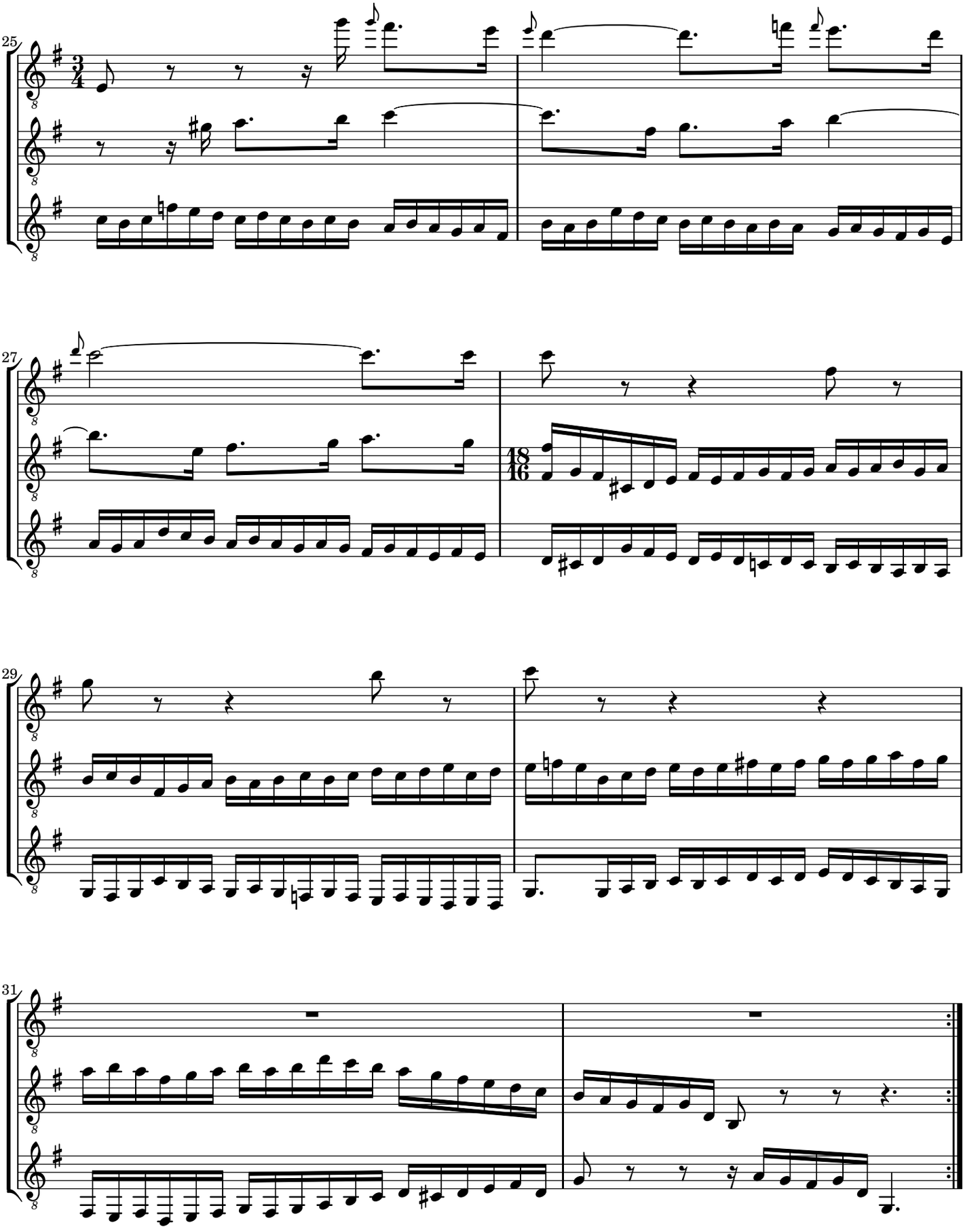

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



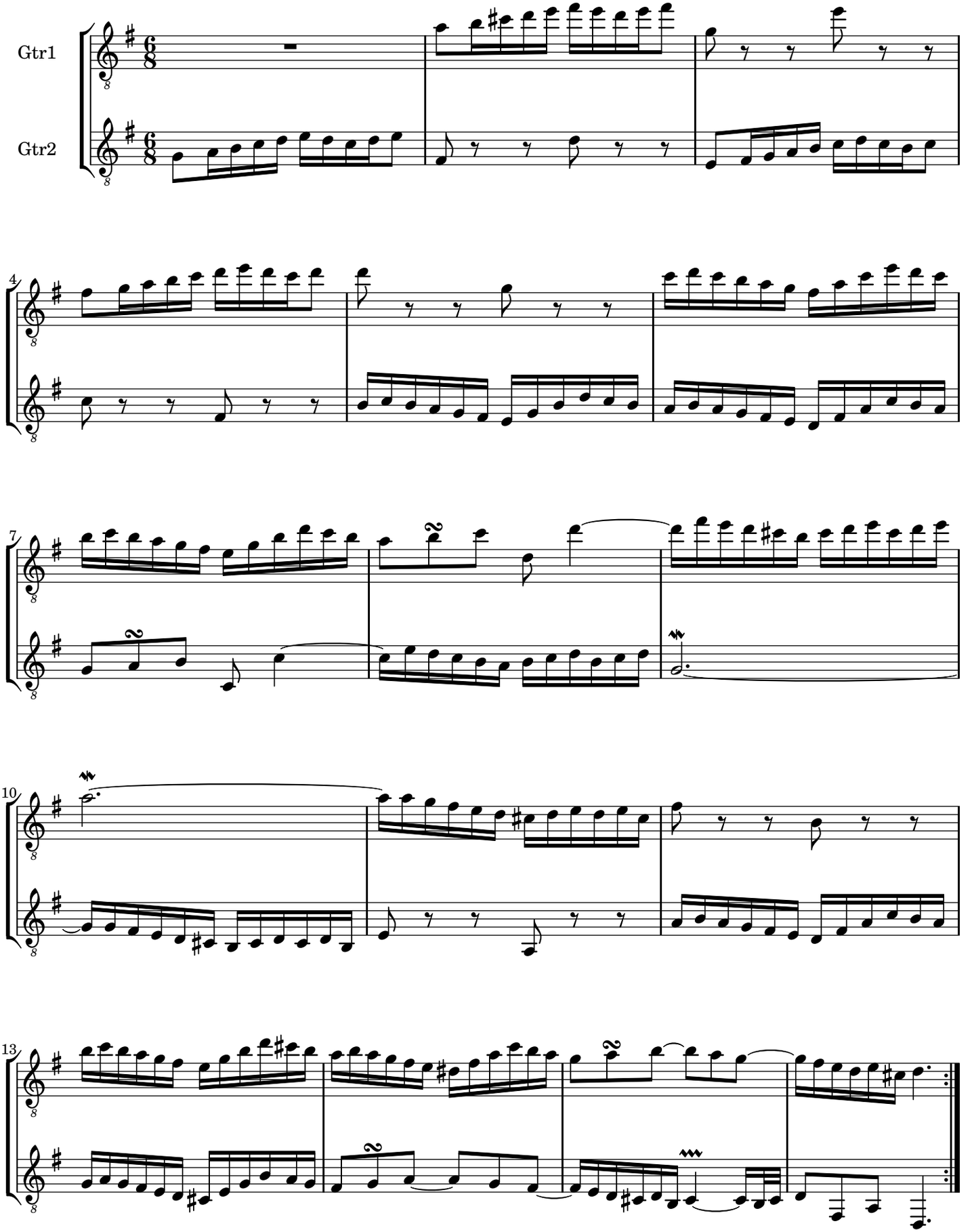
Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



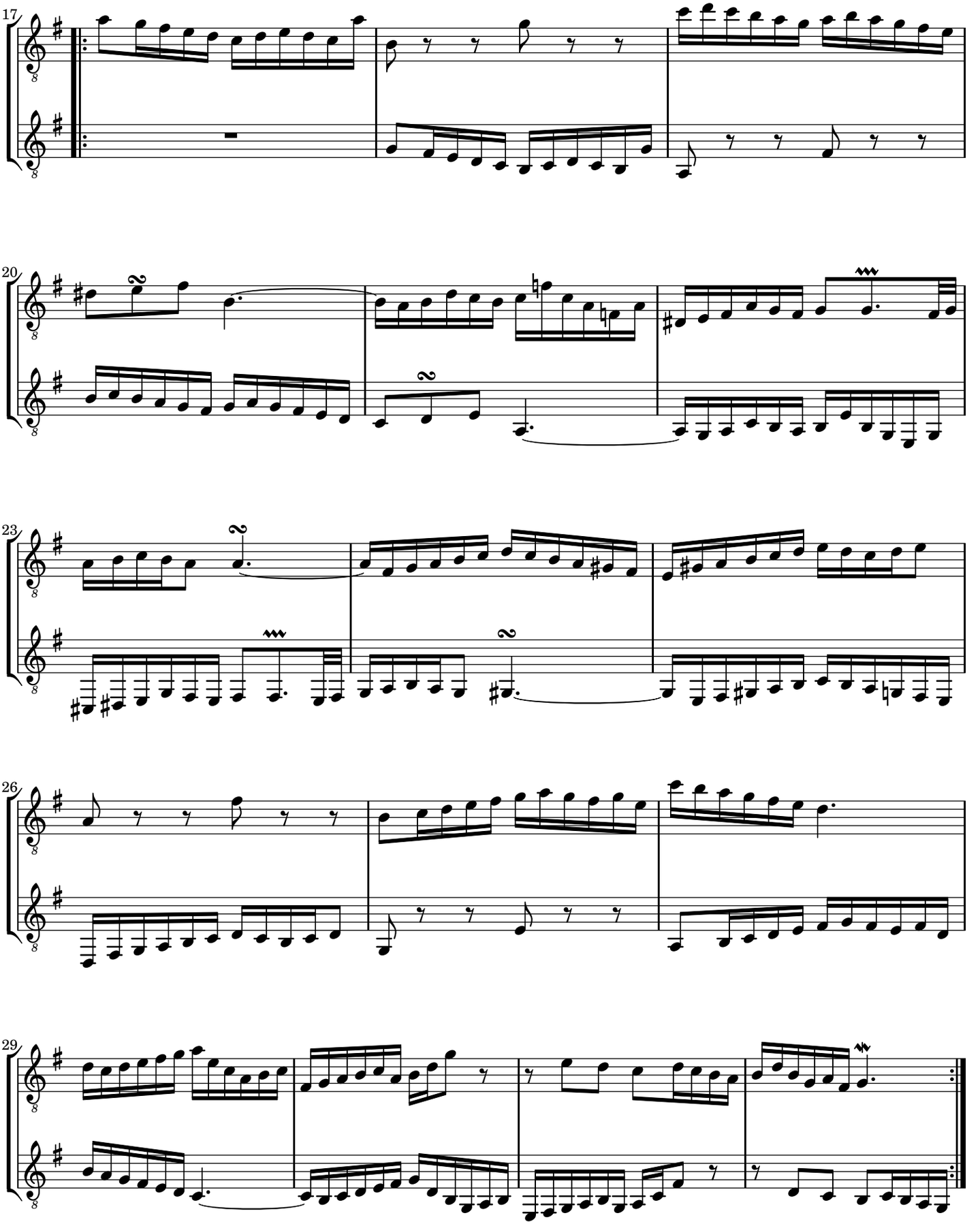

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Variation 27

Canon at the Ninth

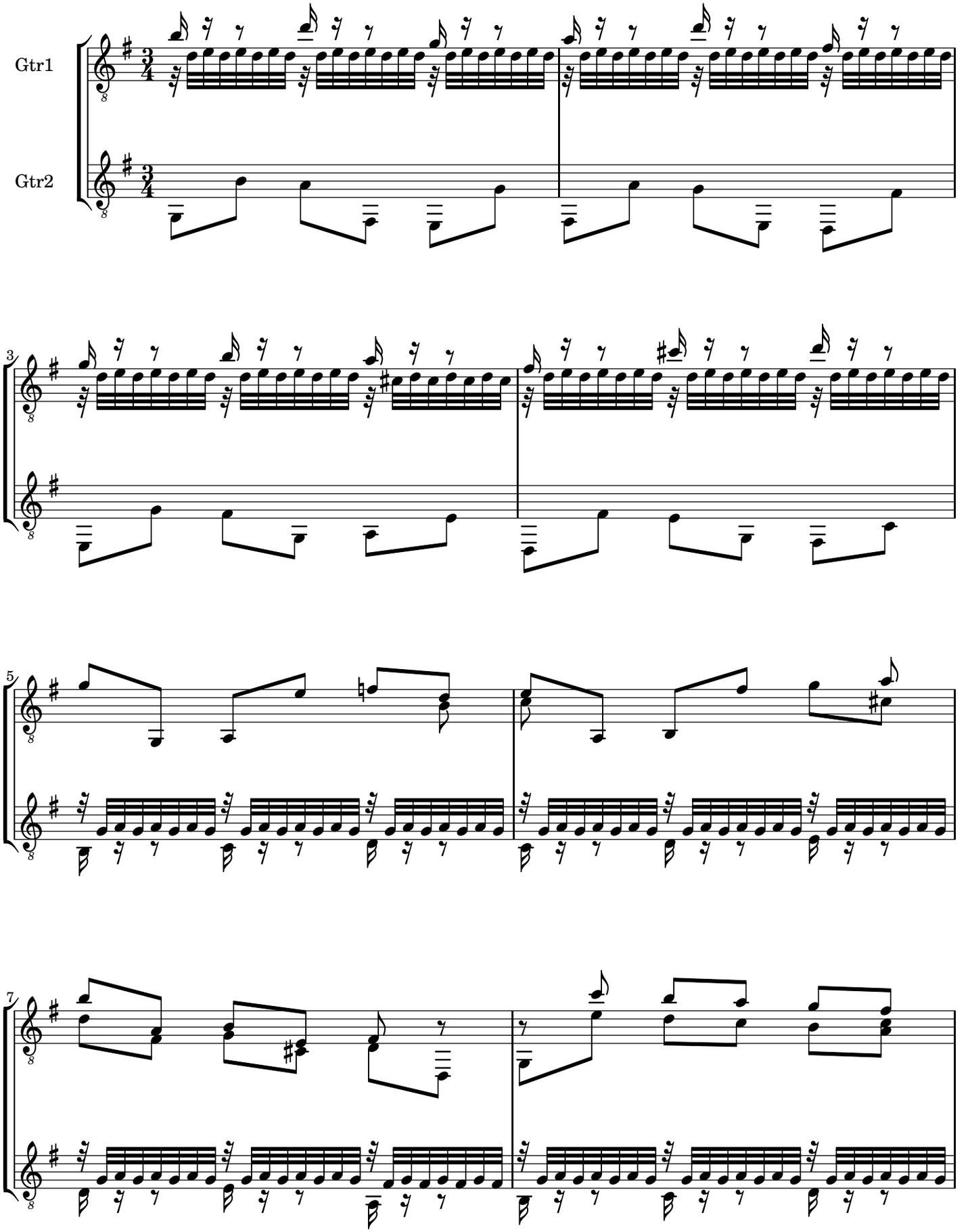



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

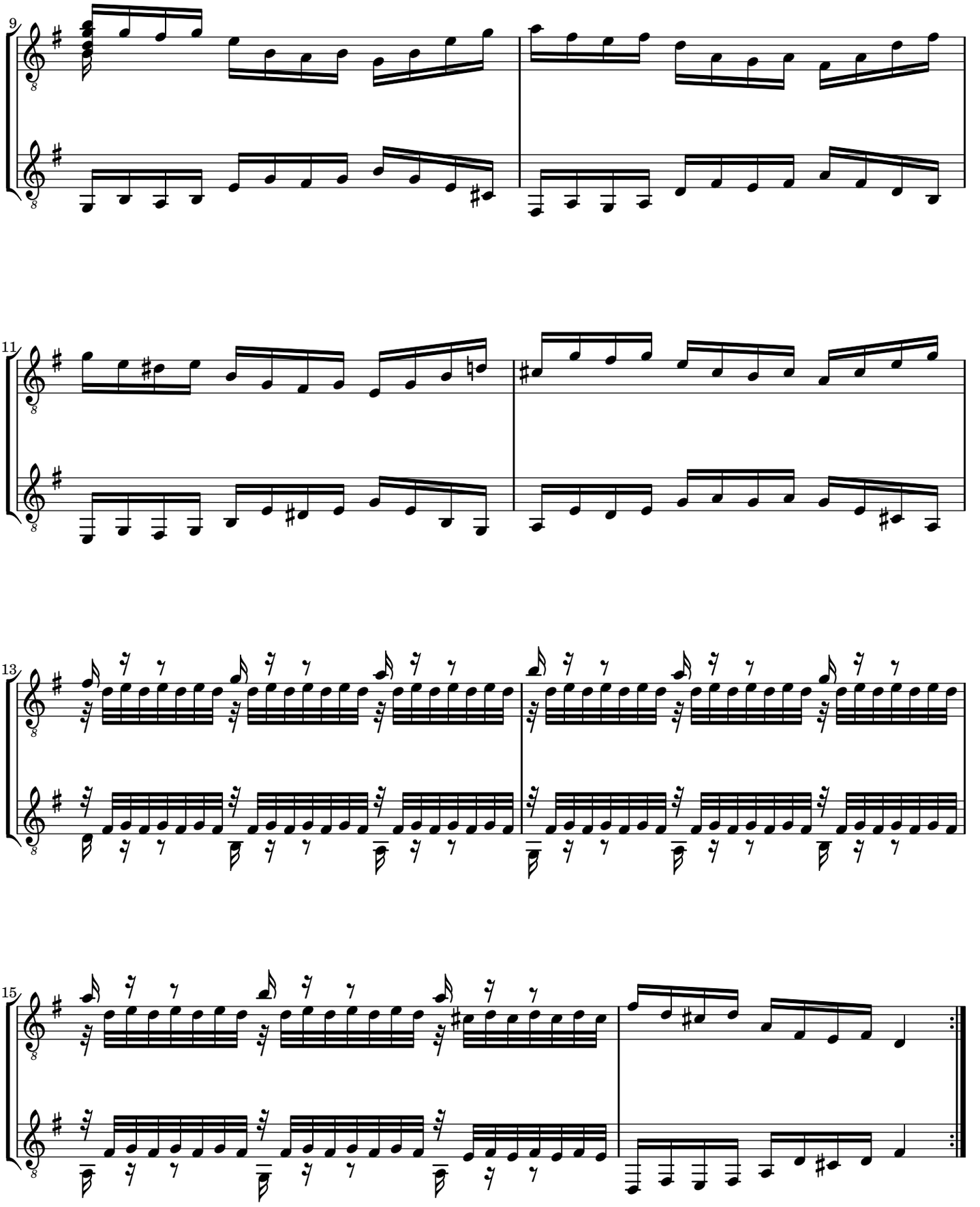



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

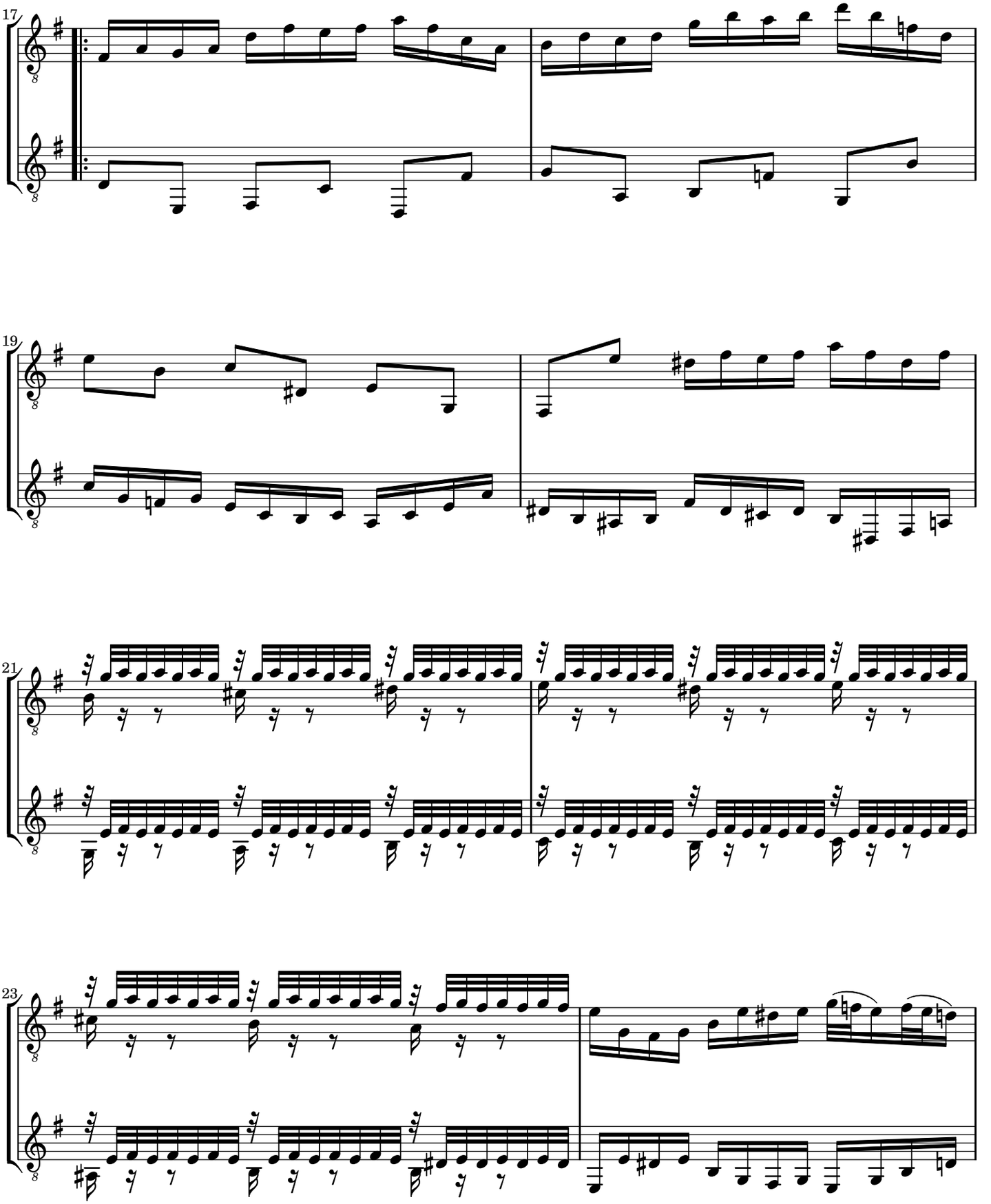
# Variation 28



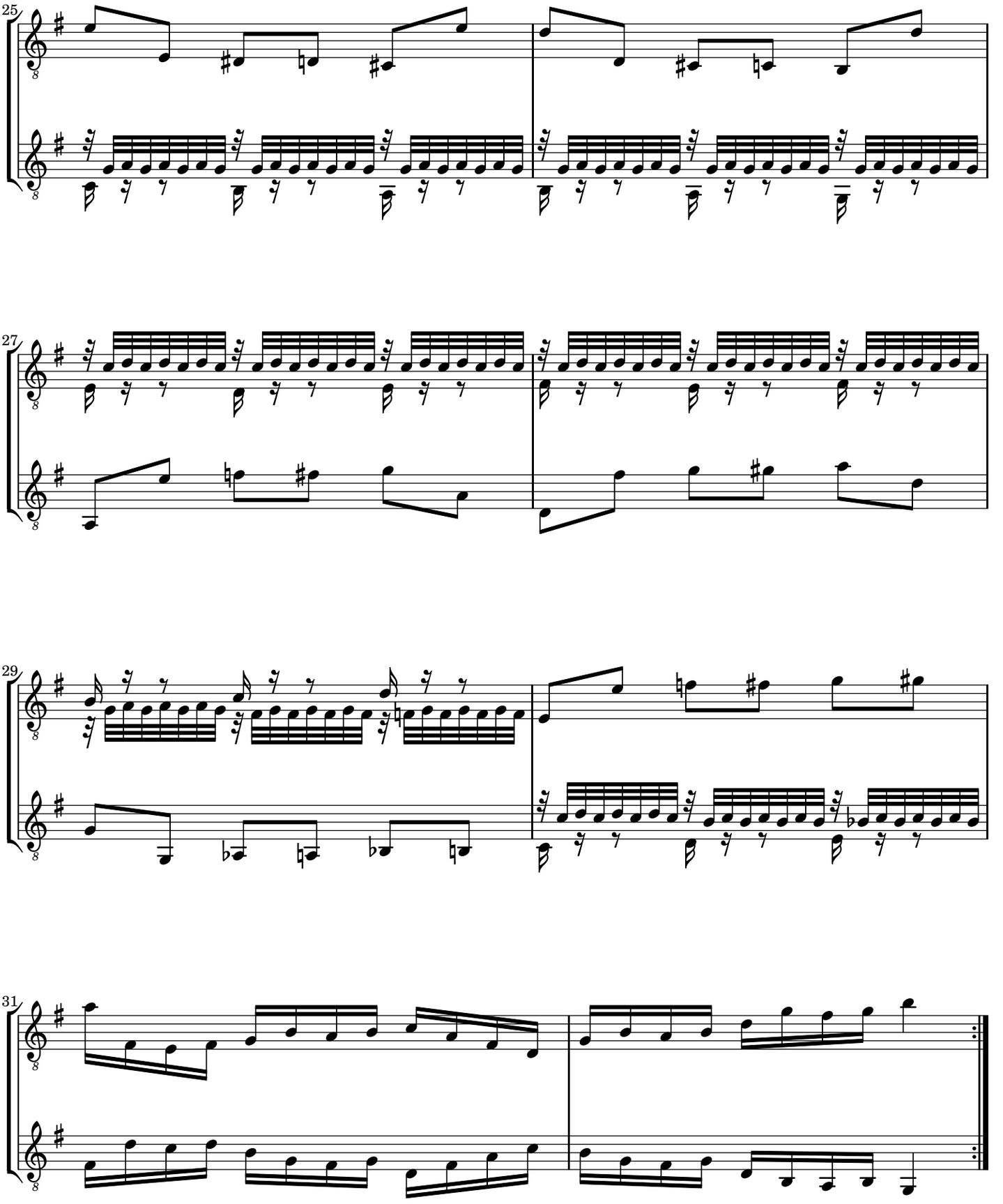

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA




Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

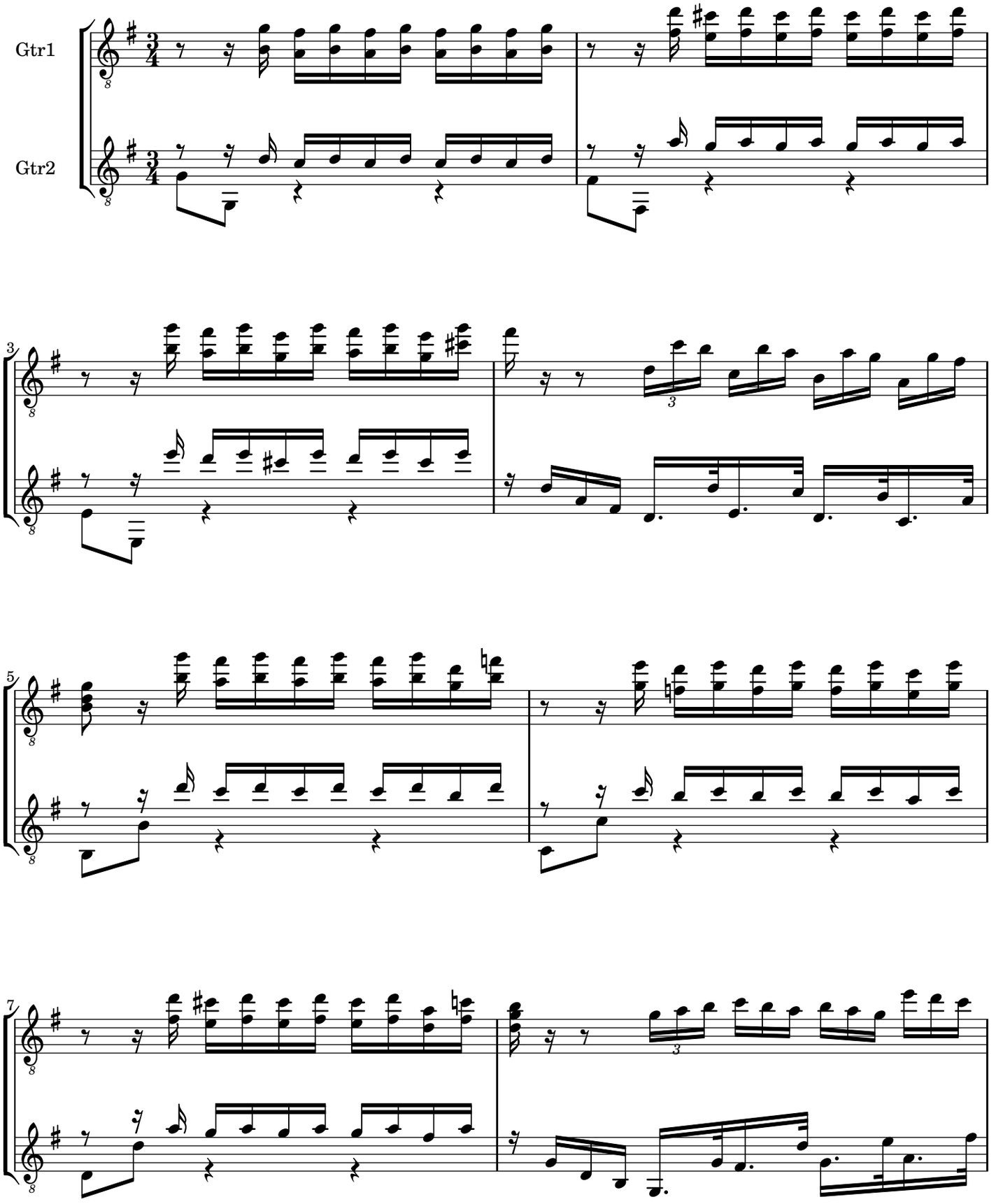



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

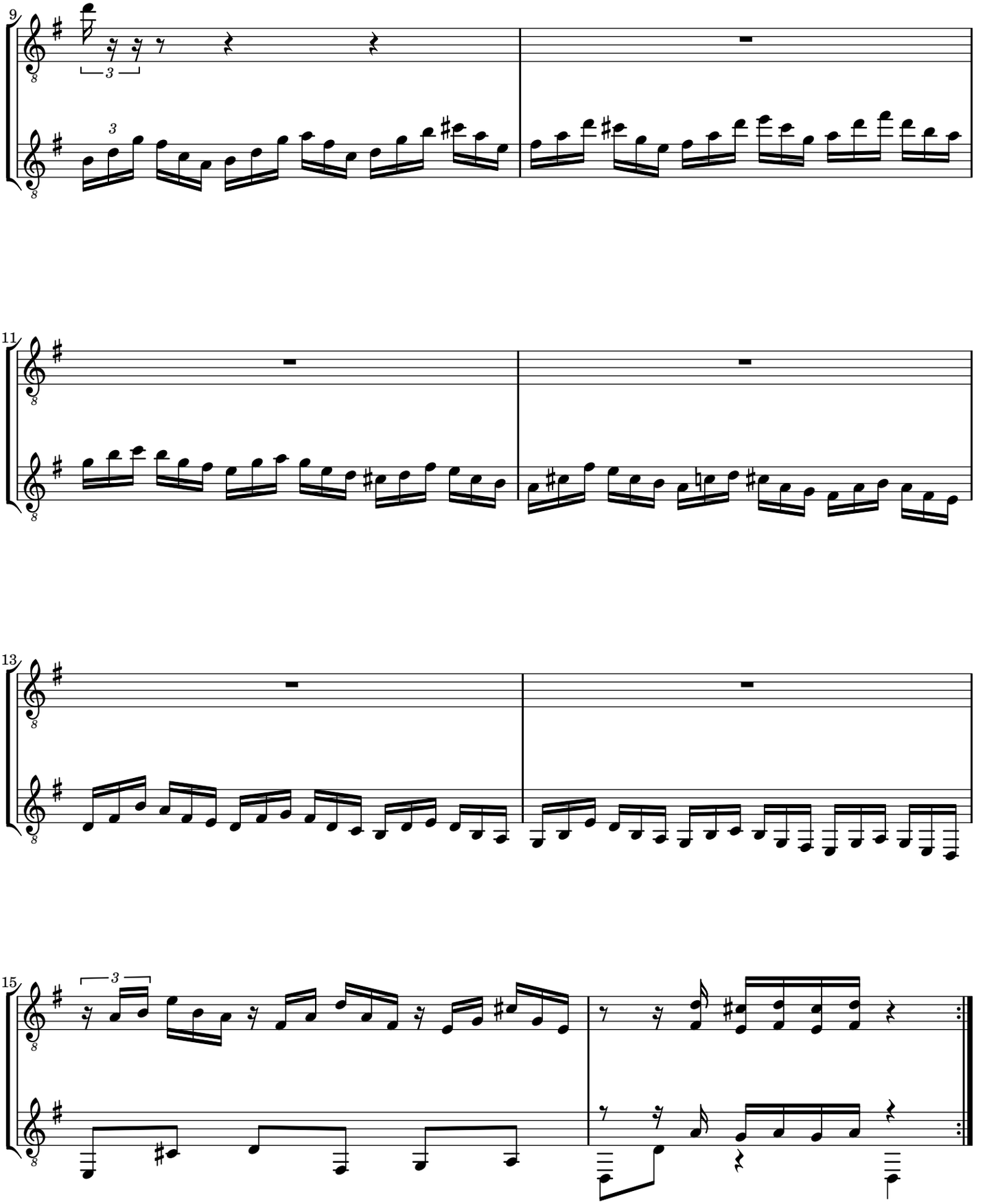



Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

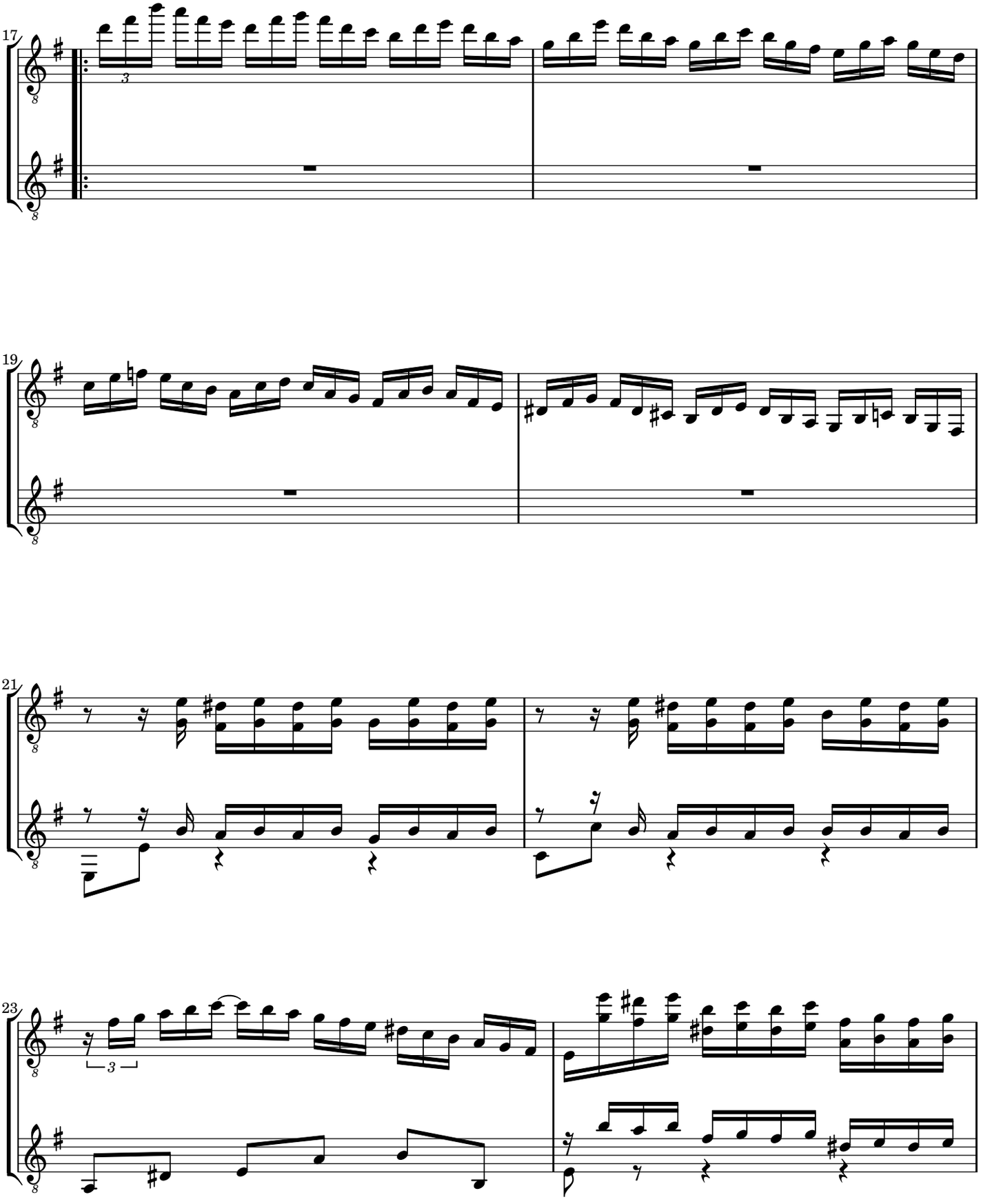
# Variation 29



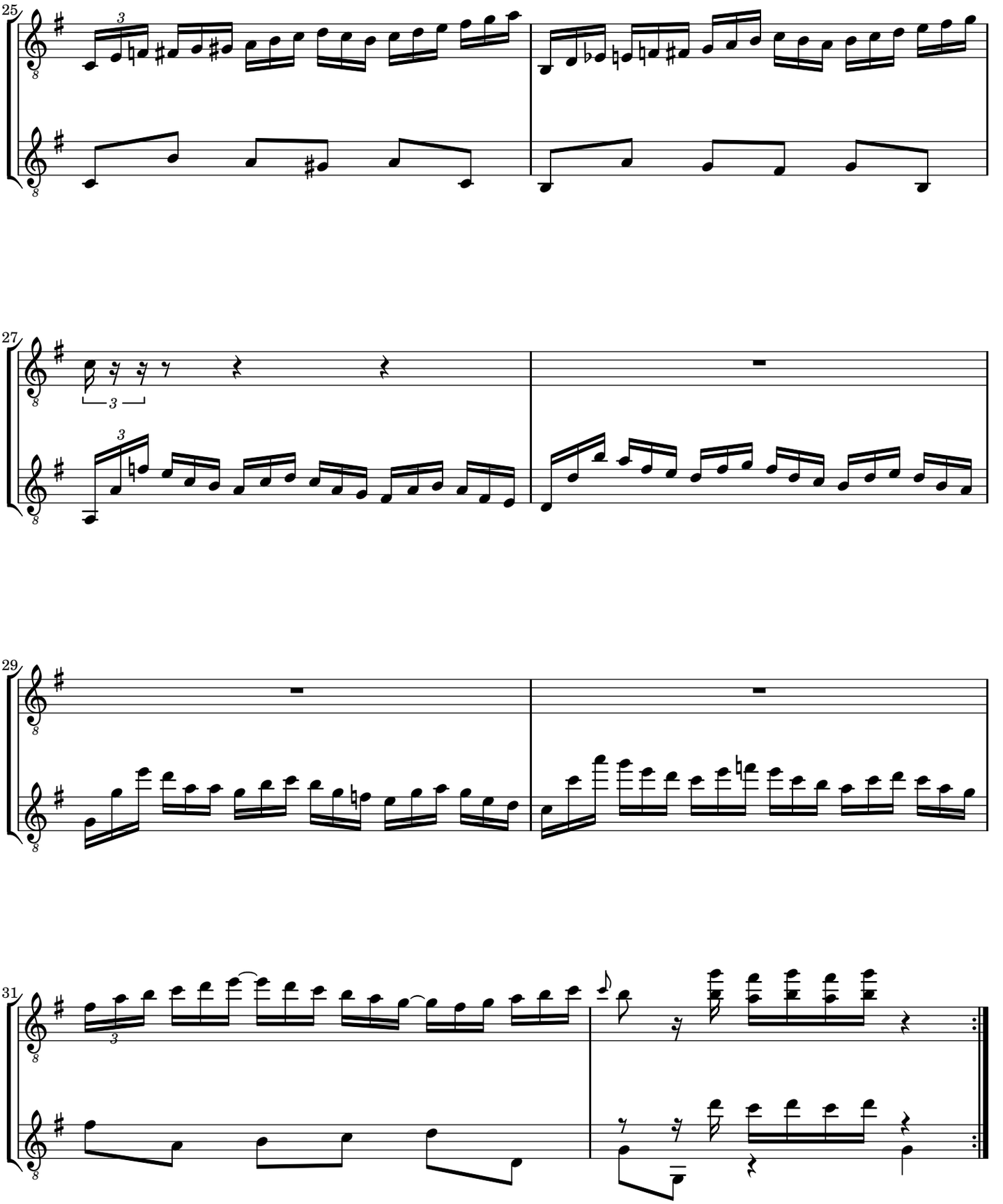

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA




Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



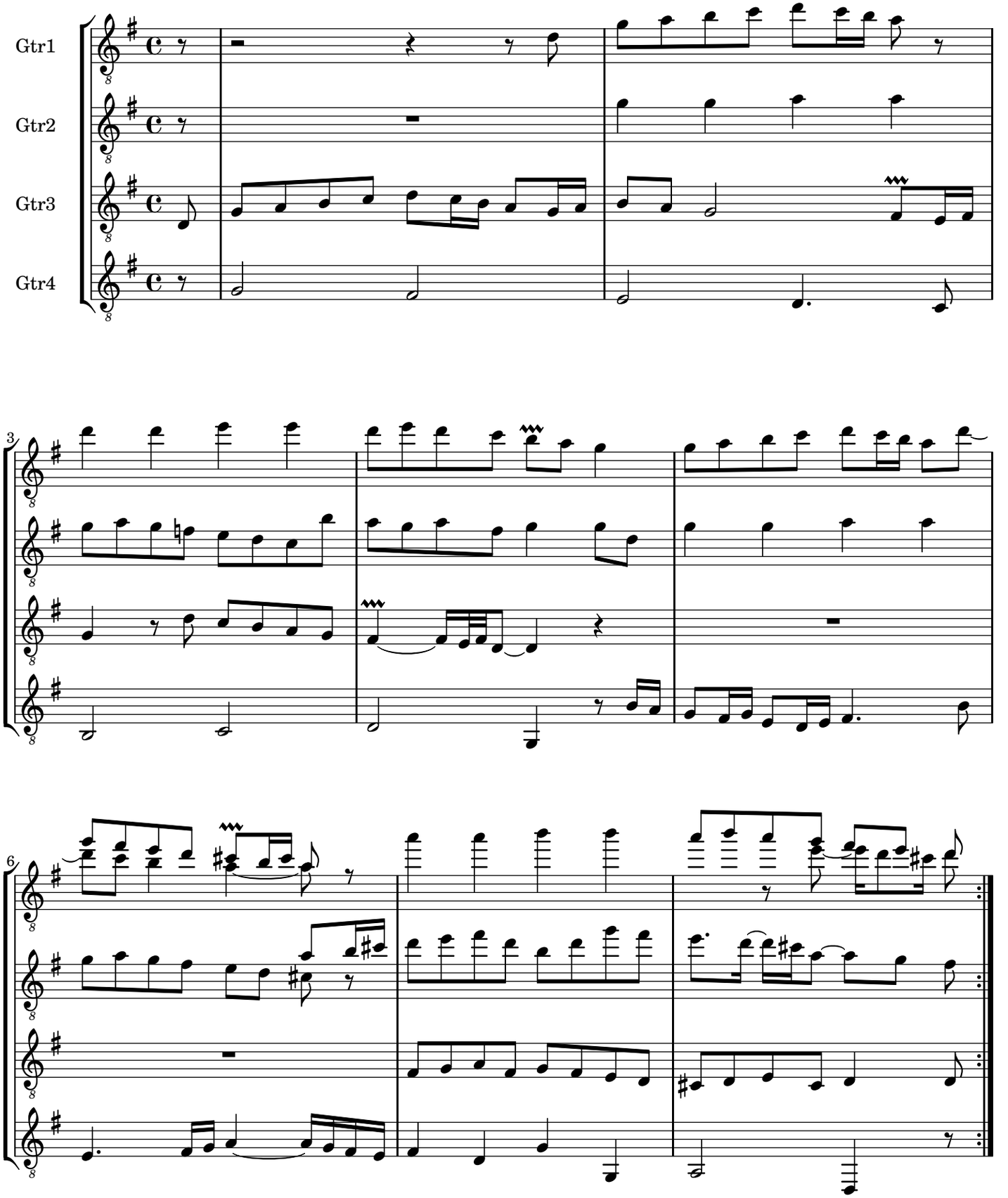

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA



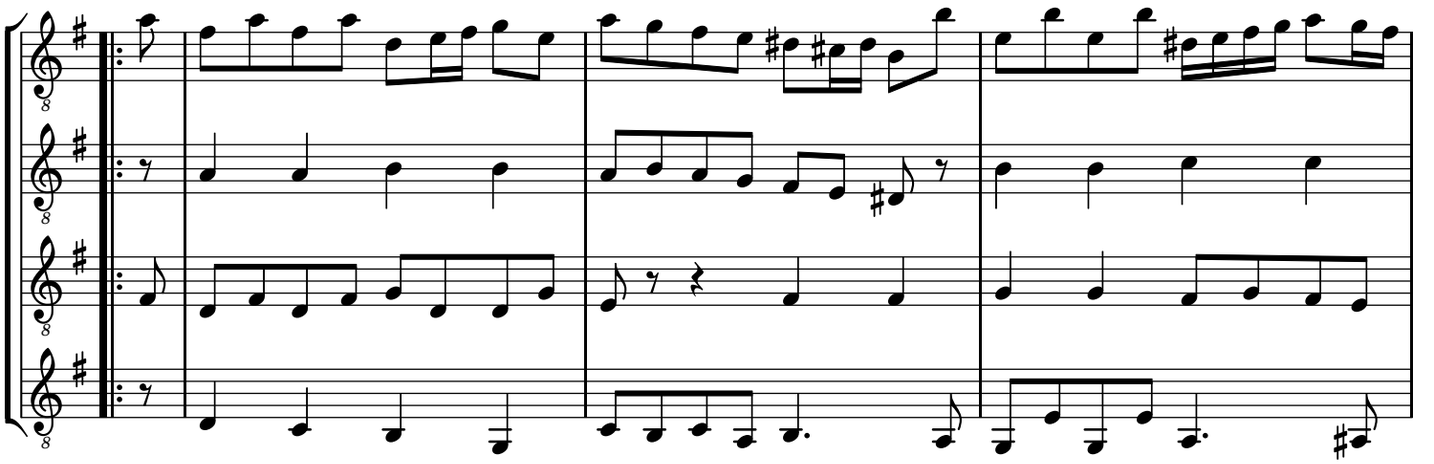

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

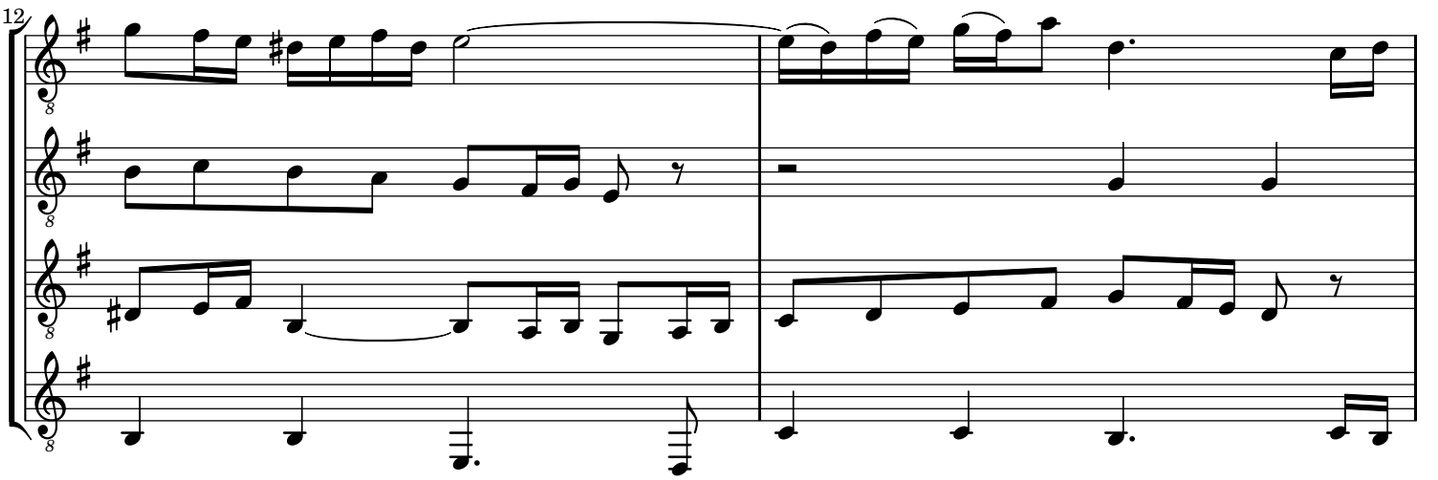
# Variation 30

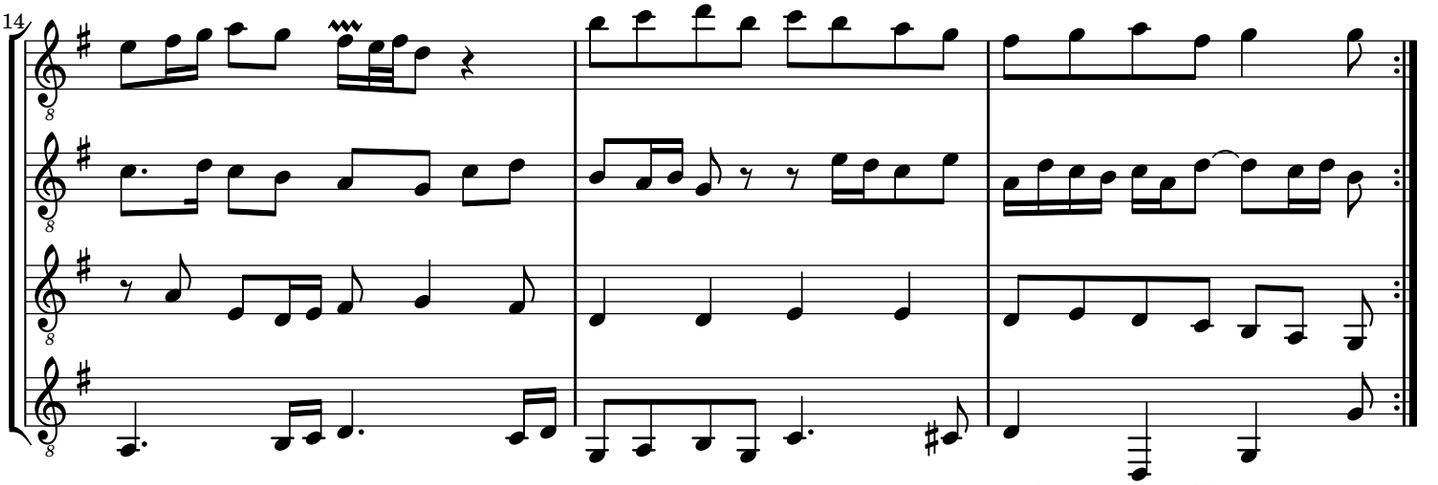
Quodlibet




Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA





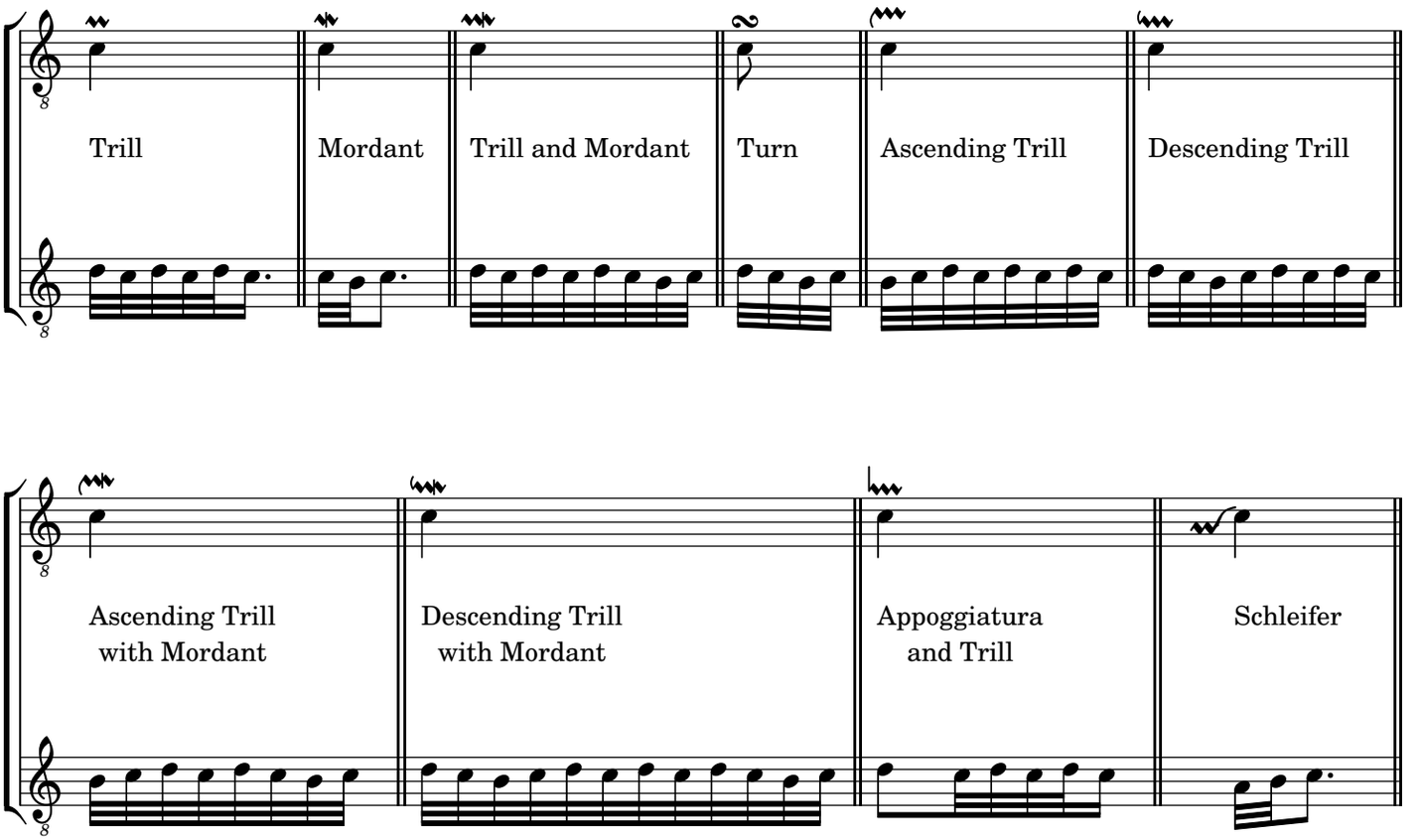




Aria da Capo e Fine.

Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). Hajo Delzelski (2008). CC BY-SA

# Table of Ornaments

This table of ornaments is taken from J. S. Bach's "Klavierbüchlein für Wilhelm Friedemann Bach", written for Bach's eldest son. It was meant to be schematic rather than literal. Ornaments in this period were typically improvised. Even when notated the length of the ornament and its articulation was dependent on its context and the performers preference.




Guitar Society of Toronto (2014). All rights reserved.

# Acknowledgements

This work is the product of a long chain of dependencies, beginning with the great master himself, J. S. Bach. The technological and social advances that have accrued since that time have allowed the creation and distribution of these Goldberg Variations on the scale that is now possible. Of particular importance is the GNU/Linux operating system, the LilyPond engraving system, the Internet, and the new model of network property upon which these things are all dependent.

The transcription and engraving of these Goldberg Variations is the work of Steve Shorter. Thanks is also due to Shayne Grey and Tim Smith for early error corrections, and to the Guitar Society of Toronto Orchestra for creating an inspired and dynamic forum for guitar performance. It was in that forum that these Goldberg Variations for Guitar Ensemble were first imagined and performed.

This work is based on source material from the MutopiaProject http://mutopiaproject.org

Special thanks to sync.com

The author/editor can be contacted at steve@linuxsuite.org

# Copyright

The Introduction and Acknowledgements are copyright "Guitar Society of Toronto" (2014). All rigths reserved.

The Goldberg Variations for Guitar Ensemble is a derived work and is copyright "Guitar Society of Toronto" (2014), Creative Commons - Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0

http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/

You are free:

* to Share - to copy, distribute, perform and transmit the work
* to Remix - to adapt the work
* to make commercial use of the work

Under the following conditions:

Attribution - must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work).
Share Alike - If you alter, transform, or build upon this work, you may distribute the resulting work only under the same or similar license to this one.

The original lilypond source from which this work is derived is copyright under the above licence by the following

| | |
|---|---|
| Aria | JD Erickson (2007) |
| Variation 1,2 | JD Erickson (2007) |
| Variation 18 | Benjamin Esham (2007) |
| Variation 3 - 17, 19 - 30 | Hajo Delzelski (2008) |

Engraved by LilyPond version 2.18.0 -- www.lilypond.org

# Errata

* Aria - bar 23, missing Schleifer

* Variation 27 - bar 23, "c#" not playable under given intstrument limitations

* Variation 23 - bar 31, "c" not playable under given instrument limititations

All other errata should be sent to steve@linuxsuite.org