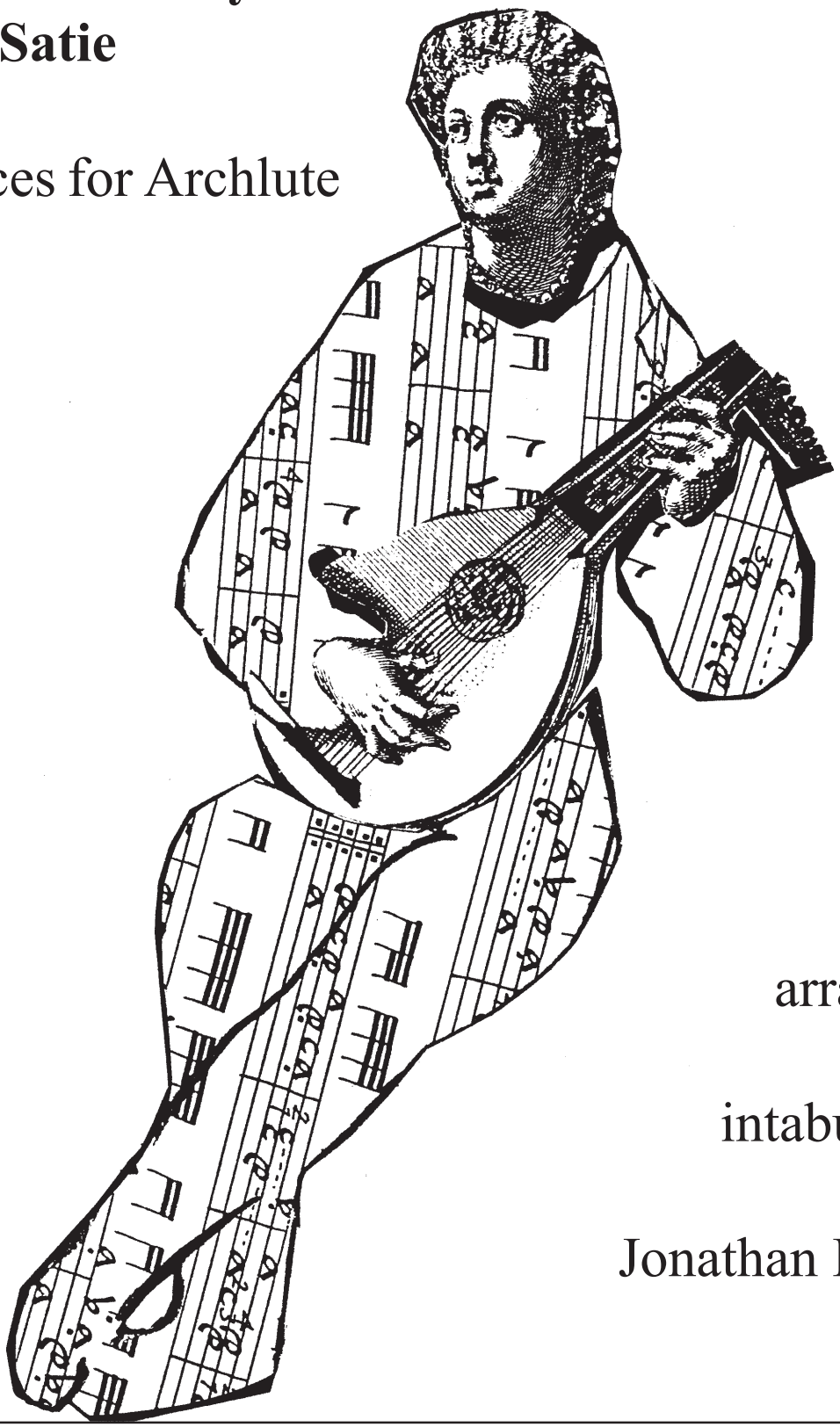
Claude Debussy
Erik Satie

4 Pieces for Archlute



arranged
and
intabulated
by
Jonathan Rubin

TREE EDITION

Claude Debussy
Erik Satie

4 Pieces for Archlute

Arranged and intabulated
by
Jonathan Rubin

Tablature copied
by
Albert Reyerman

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by
Bettina Langlotz

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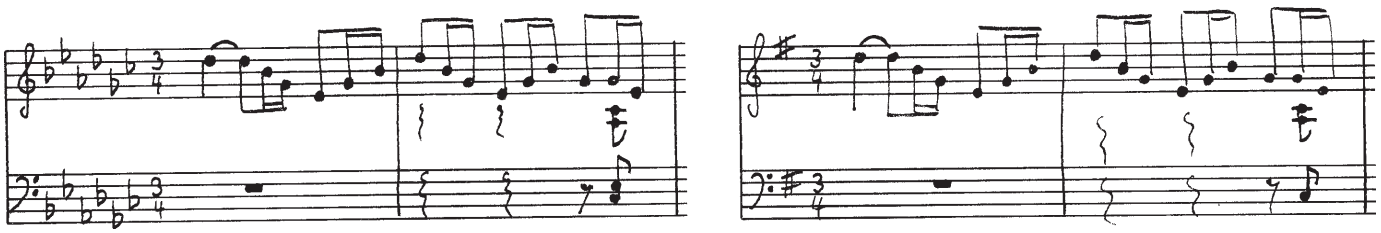
TREE EDITION
Albert Reyerman

Claude-Achille Debussy (1862-1918) was a french pianist-composer who produced works of unusual form,color and harmony. An explorer of orchestral sounds, there are descriptions of him launching himself at the piano, overdoing every effect as though inspired by some deep loathing. His teacher Marmontel is quoted as having said „ Debussy isn't very fond of the piano,but he loves music".

„La fille aux cheveux de lin" comes from Preludes Book 1 (1910), Debussy's last important works for the amateur pianist. It has been transposed here up half a step.

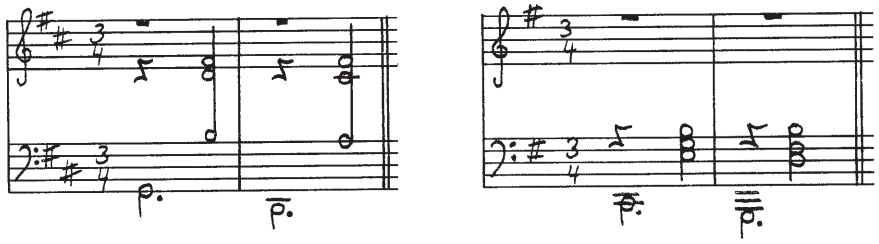


The translation of the indications is as follows:

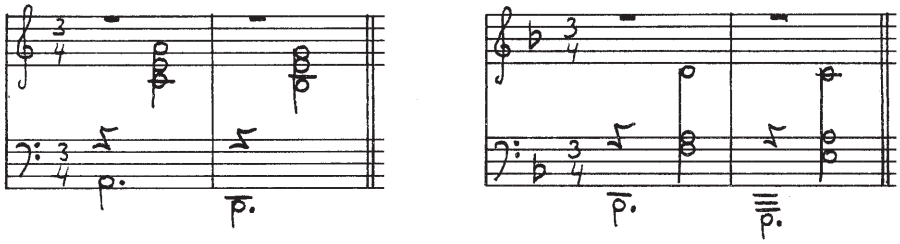
la fille aux cheveux de lin	the girl with the flaxen hair
tres calme et doucement expressif	very calm and sweetly expressive
Cedez	submit
Mouvt.	movement
un peu anime	a little animated
murmure et en retenant peu à peu	murmuring and holding back little by little

Erik Satie (1866-1925) was a french composer most remembered for the strange titles,and the intentional modesty of his pieces. In many of his earlier works, he was an innovator of harmonies, and unfamiliar progressions are given in unadorned simplicity. However, much of his music has a surprising depth of poetry that is more than just frivolous. The „3 Gymnopedies" (1888) and „3 Gnossiennes" (1890) were written at a time when Satie was interested in Gregorian chant, mystical religion, Gothic art and lives of the saints. In these works, monodies flow over simple modal accompaniments. The titles themselves have no particular meaning, though the name „Gnossienne" could be a vague allusion to Gnossos, an ancient city of Crete (where the minotaur was confined). The pieces have been transposed as follows:

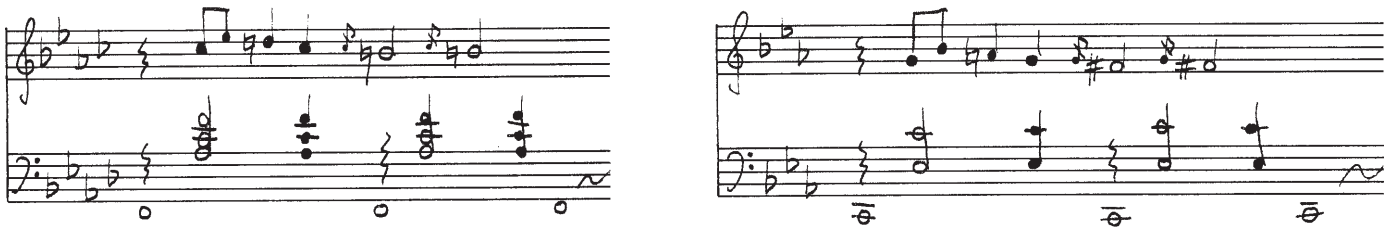
1re Gymnopedie



3me Gymnopedie



Gnossienne 1



A translation of the indication follows:

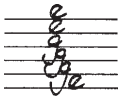
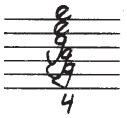
lent	slowly
tres luisant	very brightly
questionnez	ask
du bout de la pensee	on the edge of an idea
postulez en vous-meme	make your own demands
pas à pas	little by Iittle
sur 1a langue	on the tip of the tounge

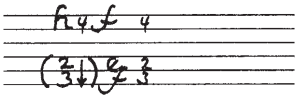
On the transcriptions

Apart from the transposition, the Satie required few adjustments from piano to lute. The chordal accompaniment retains as far as possible the original positions, but there are a number of minor alterations. Sometimes the basses are an octave higher. The two Gymnopedies are transcribed for 13-course renaissance lute, the low basses being essential. The Gnossienne is playable on either 10- or 13- course Renaissance lute (see „Explanations of symbols“)

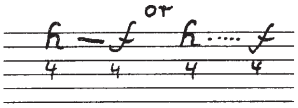
The Debussy makes much wider use of the piano`s range and texture possibilities. Consequently, some chords have been reduced, melodies in octaves are put into unison, and some other melodies have been put an octave lower. The transcription is for 10 or 13 course Renaissance Lute.
Jonathan Rubin, Geneva, August 1986

Explanation of symbols

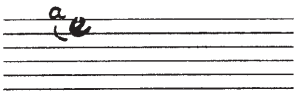
Indicates a choice of bass-notes -
if 10 courses, play  if 13 courses, play 



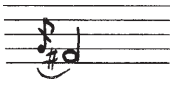
This is a technical indication. Prepare the next chord by extending here the 2nd and 3rd fingers of the left hand to the region of the 5th and 6th string.

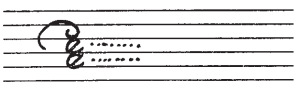


Slide finger along the string without pressure on it.
NB - not a glissando.

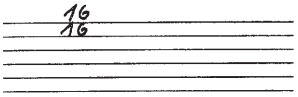


Play the note in small print as fast as possible. Original :

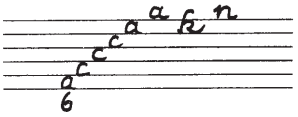




A hold (when not followed by a change of position) for the notes followed by the dotted line.



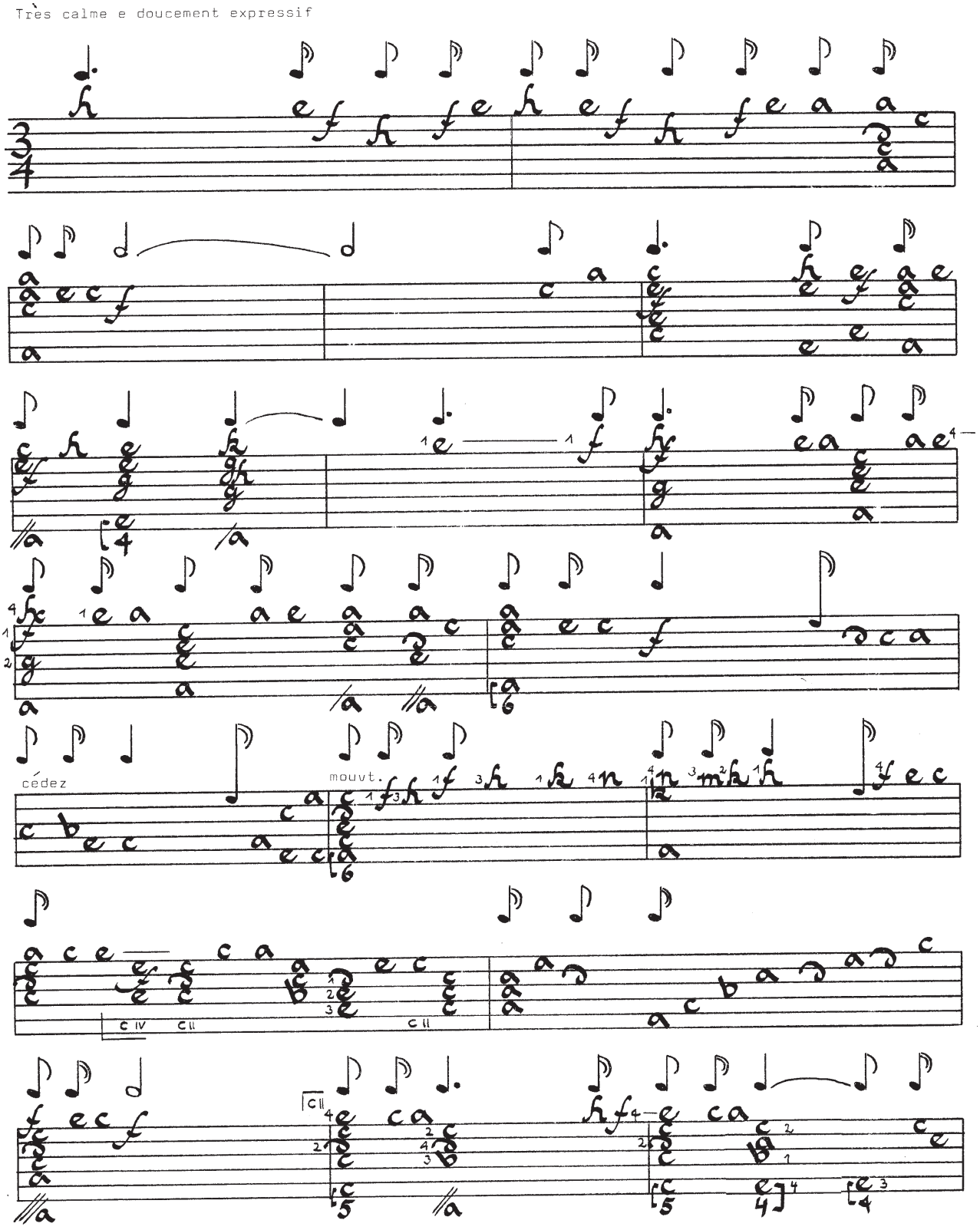
l6th fret. Attach a small gut fret to the soundboard.

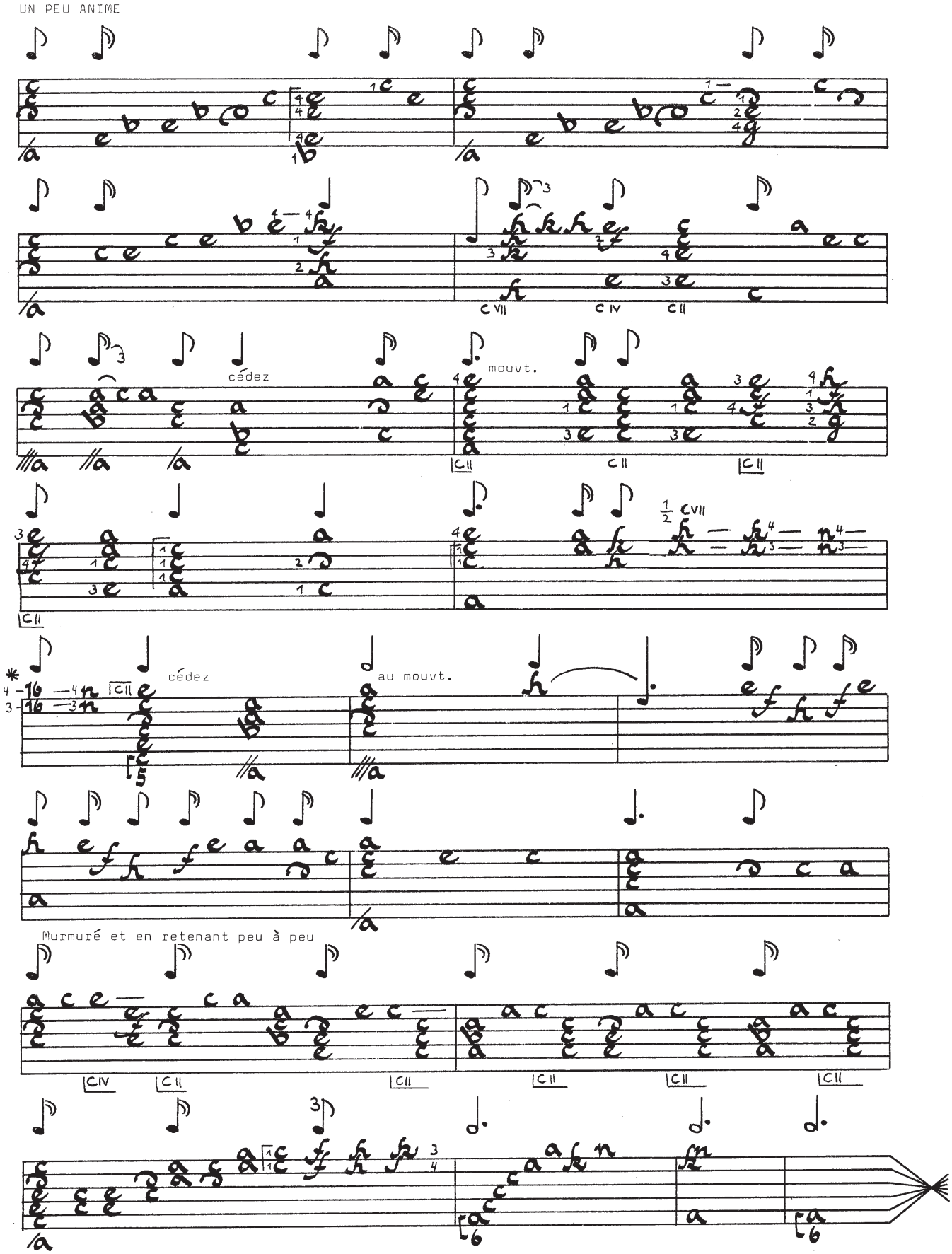


A 9-note chord with indication of the suggested order of arpeggiation.

Claude Debussy
La fille aux cheveux de lin

Prelude VIII from PRELUDES BOOK 1



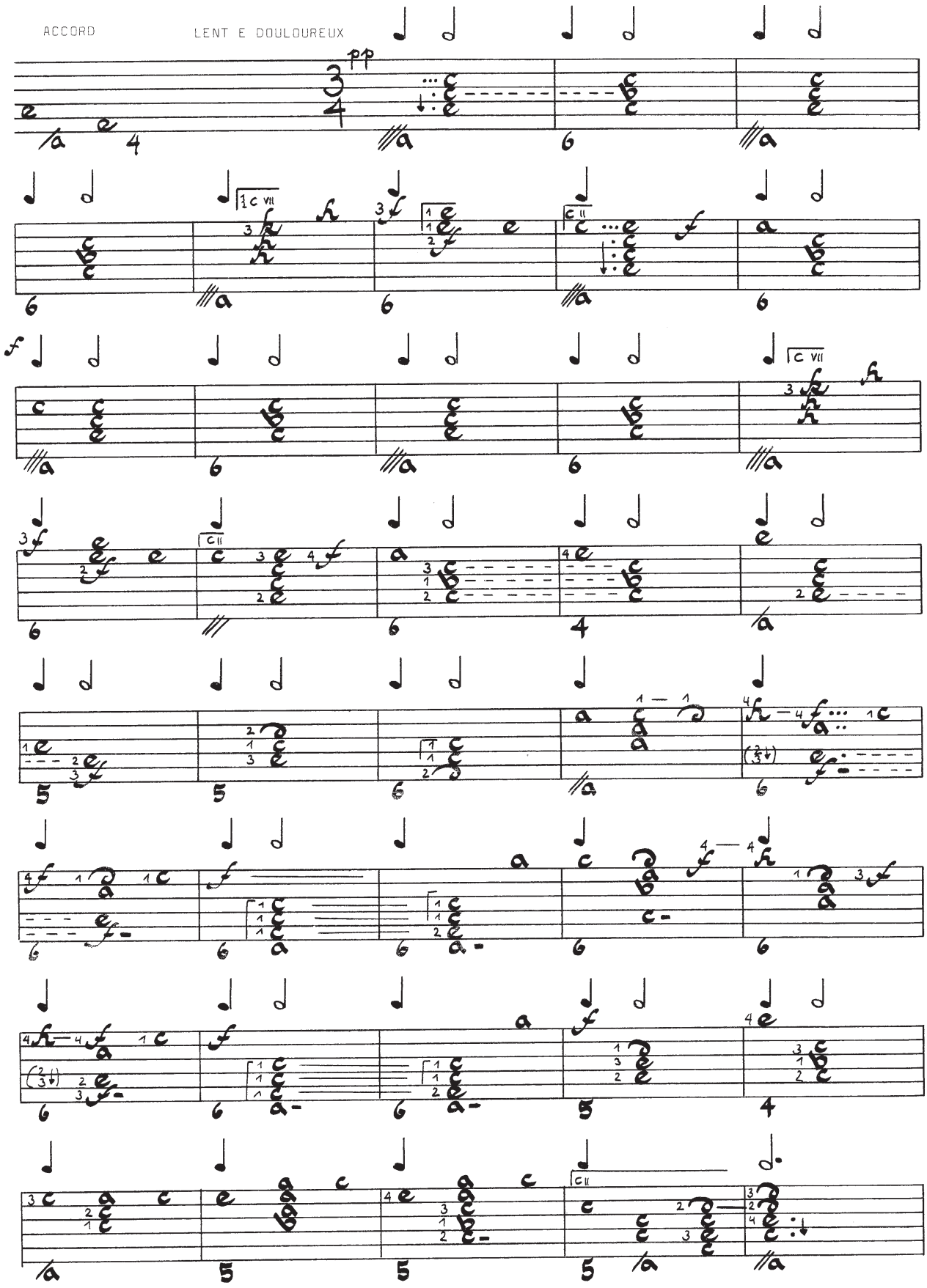


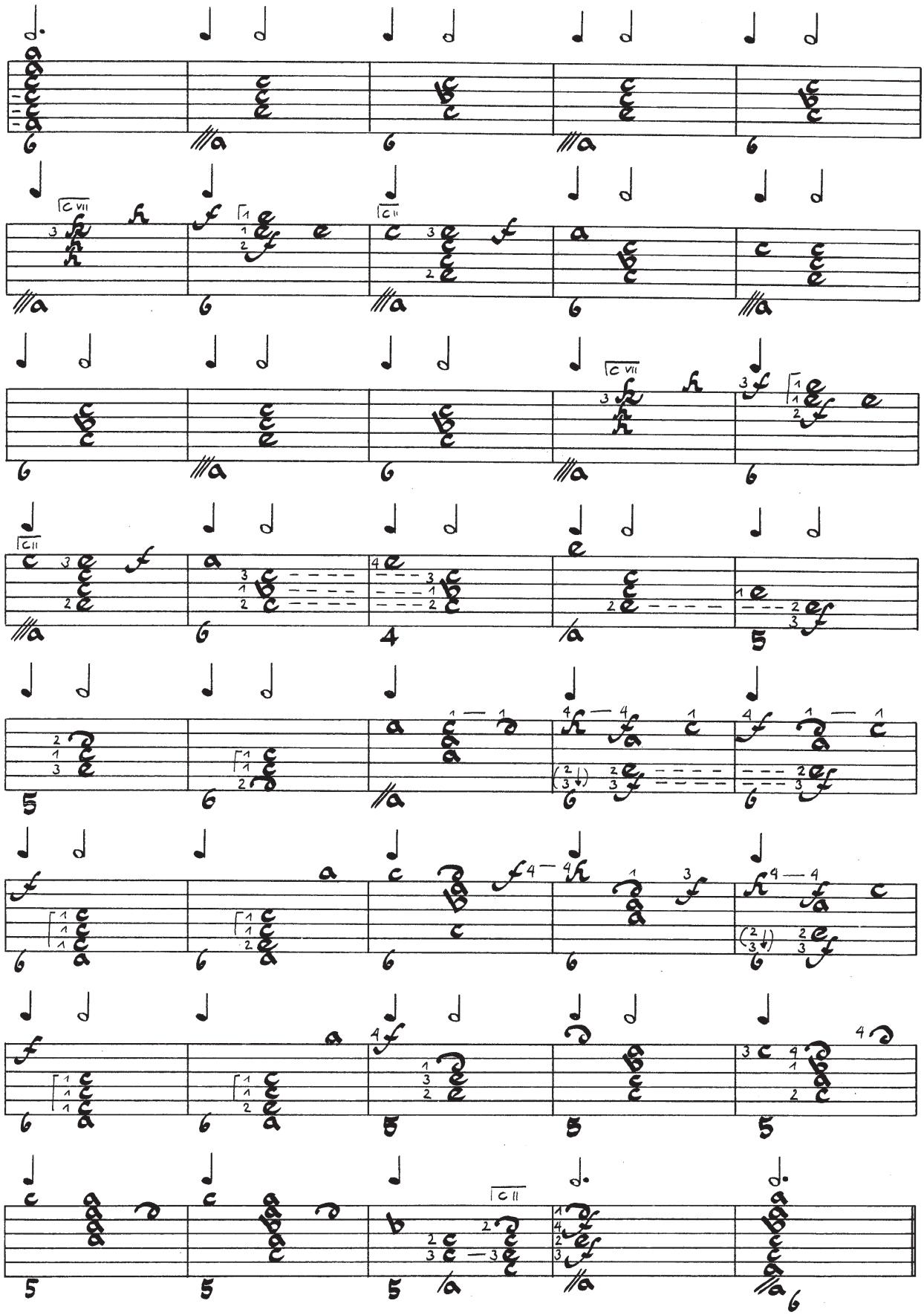
* 16th fret : stick a small piece of gut to the soundboard

Erik Satie

1re Gymnopedie

a Mlle Jean de Bret

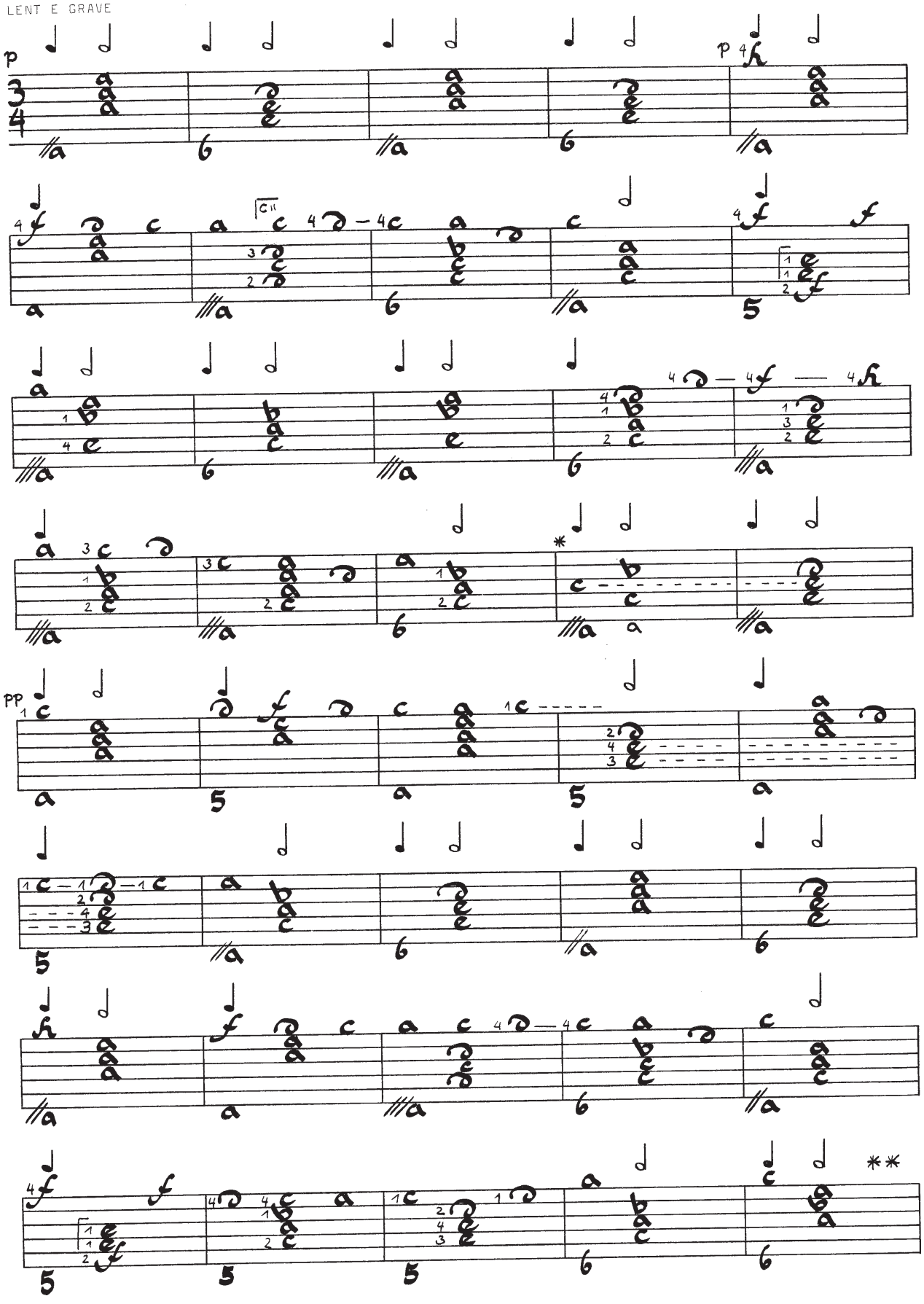


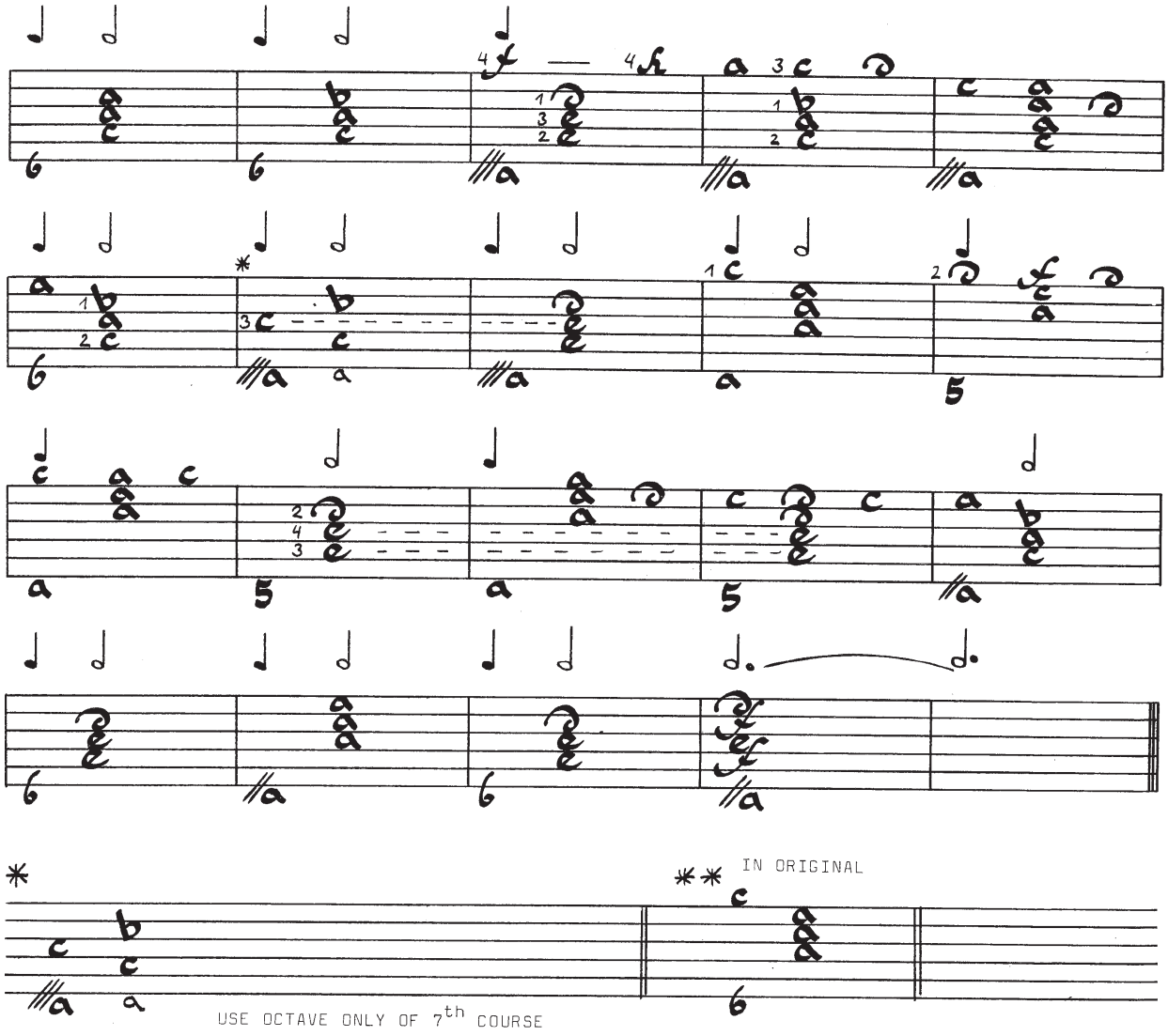


Erik Satie

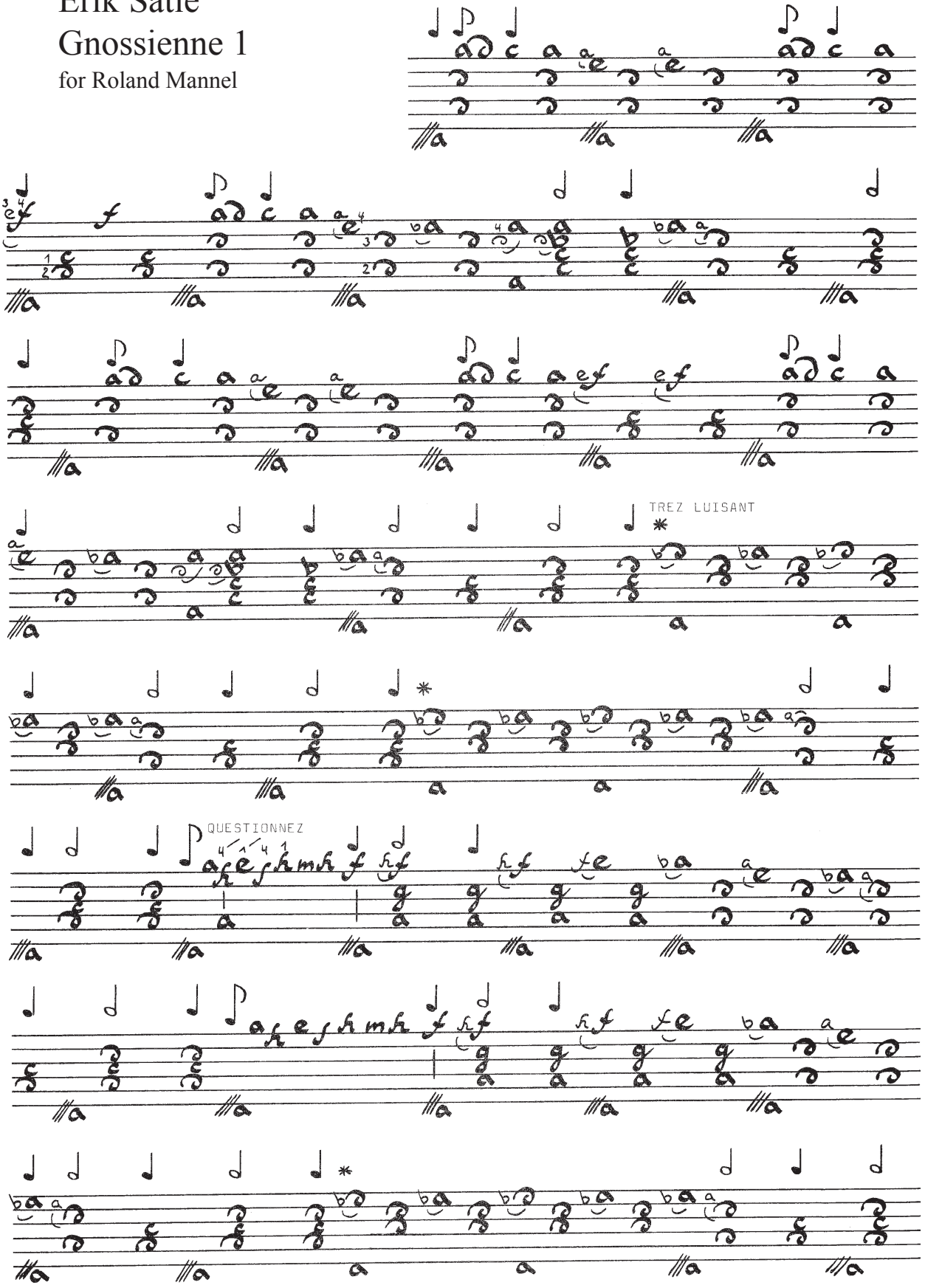
3me Gymnopedie

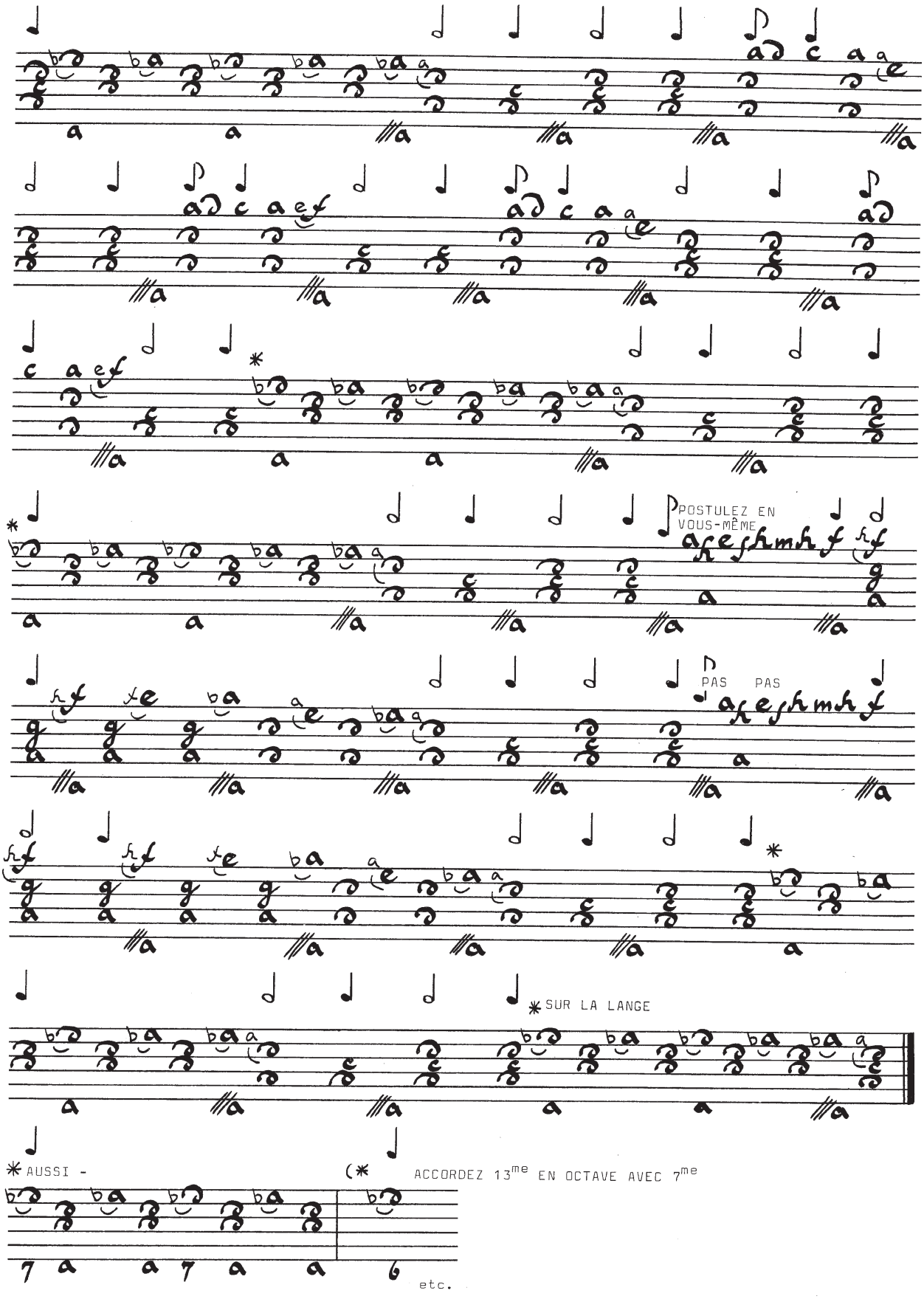
a Charles Levade




IN ORIGINAL
USE OCTAVE ONLY OF 7th COURSE

Erik Satie
Gnossienne 1
for Roland Mannel




POSTULEZ EN VOUS-MÊME
PAS PAS
* SUR LA LANGE
* AUSSI -
(* ACCORDEZ 13me EN OCTAVE AVEC 7me
etc.

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