Growling Old Man and Woman

Traditional

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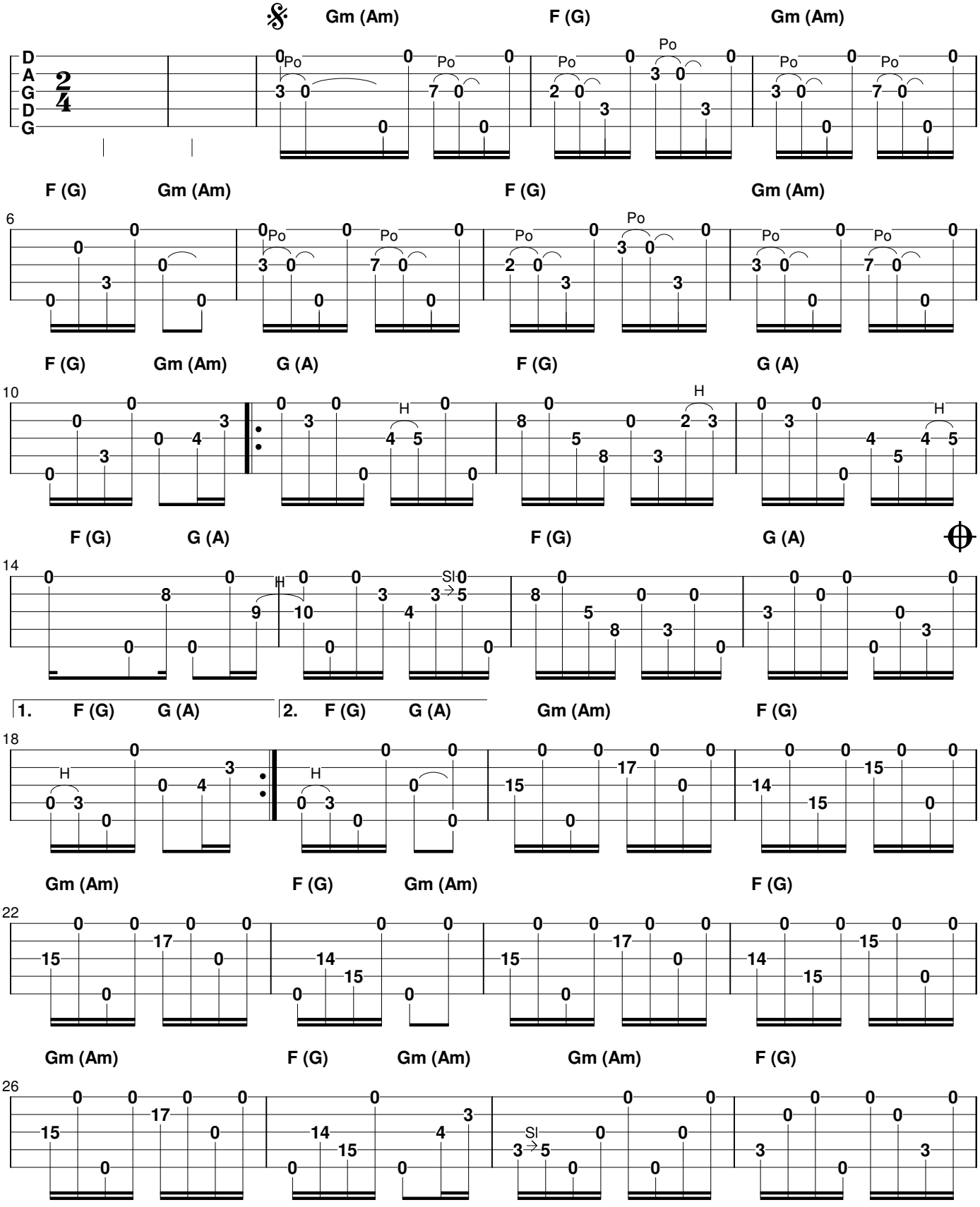

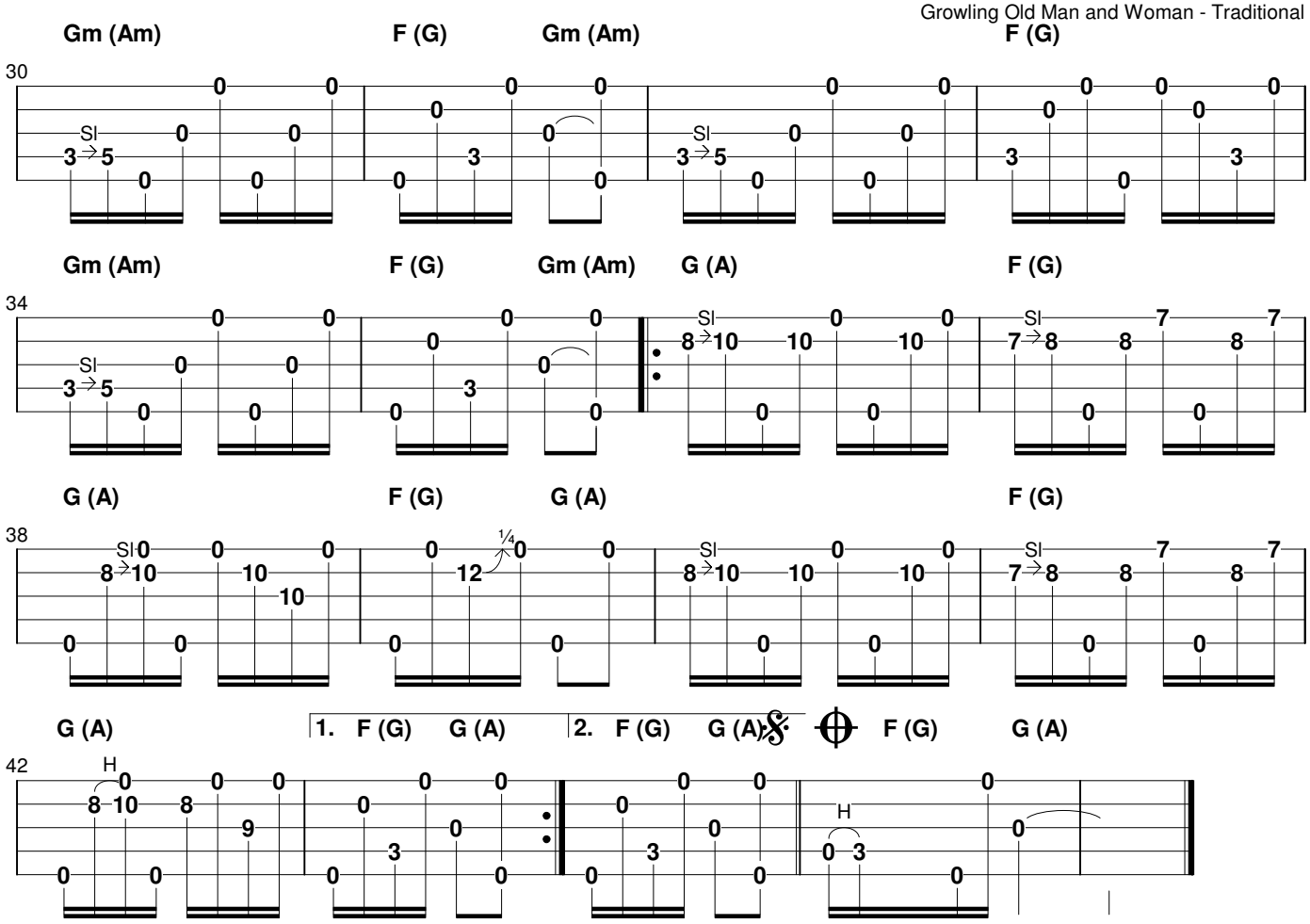

This is a French Canadian fiddle tune which I first learned playing on the street with Gene Swartz and Rob Hinson in Harvard Square and Park Street Station, back in the mid-seventies. The low part, the growling old man, is in Dorian Mode, while the high part, the grumbling old woman, is in Mixolydian.

The pull-offs in the A part mimic the fiddle shuffle, or attempt to, and the low, "growly" feeling of the melody. These need to be practiced so that the timing of the pull-offs is very smooth, right on the note timing. Otherwise, it sounds muddy, rather than growly. The high part is very melodic, and reguires a lot of left hand movement. It's not difficult to execute, no long left hand stretches, but it takes a lot of practice to get up to speed.

The chords shown above the tablature are for the open, key of G posiiton. Since the tune is generally fiddled in A, the MIDI is set up with the banjo capoed on 2, and the chords in parantheses are the actual key of A chords. The guitar, bass, and fiddle accopaniement are all playing open in the key of A.