Shebeg Shemore

Turlough O'Carolan

Banjo Tuning: aDF#AD

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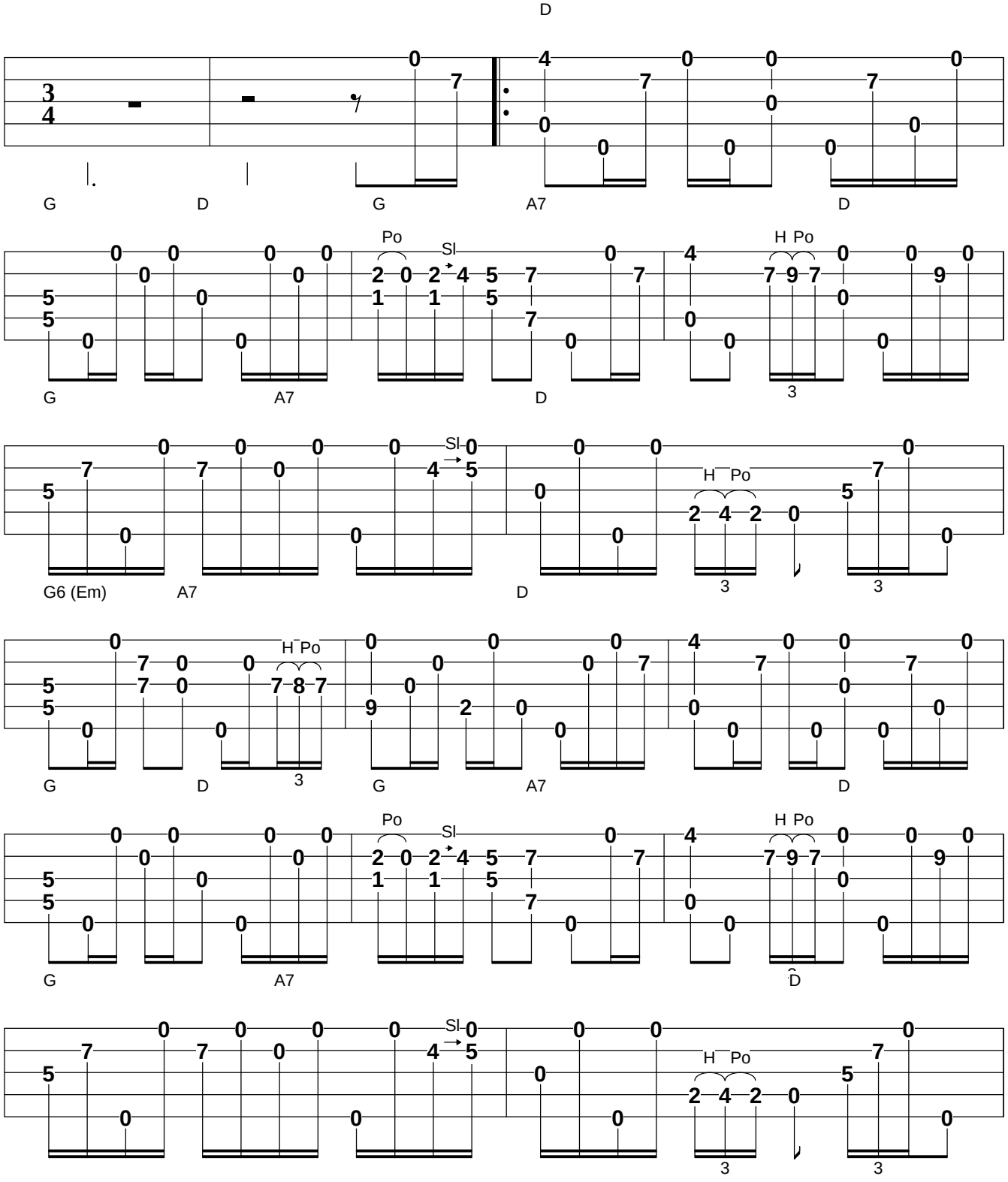
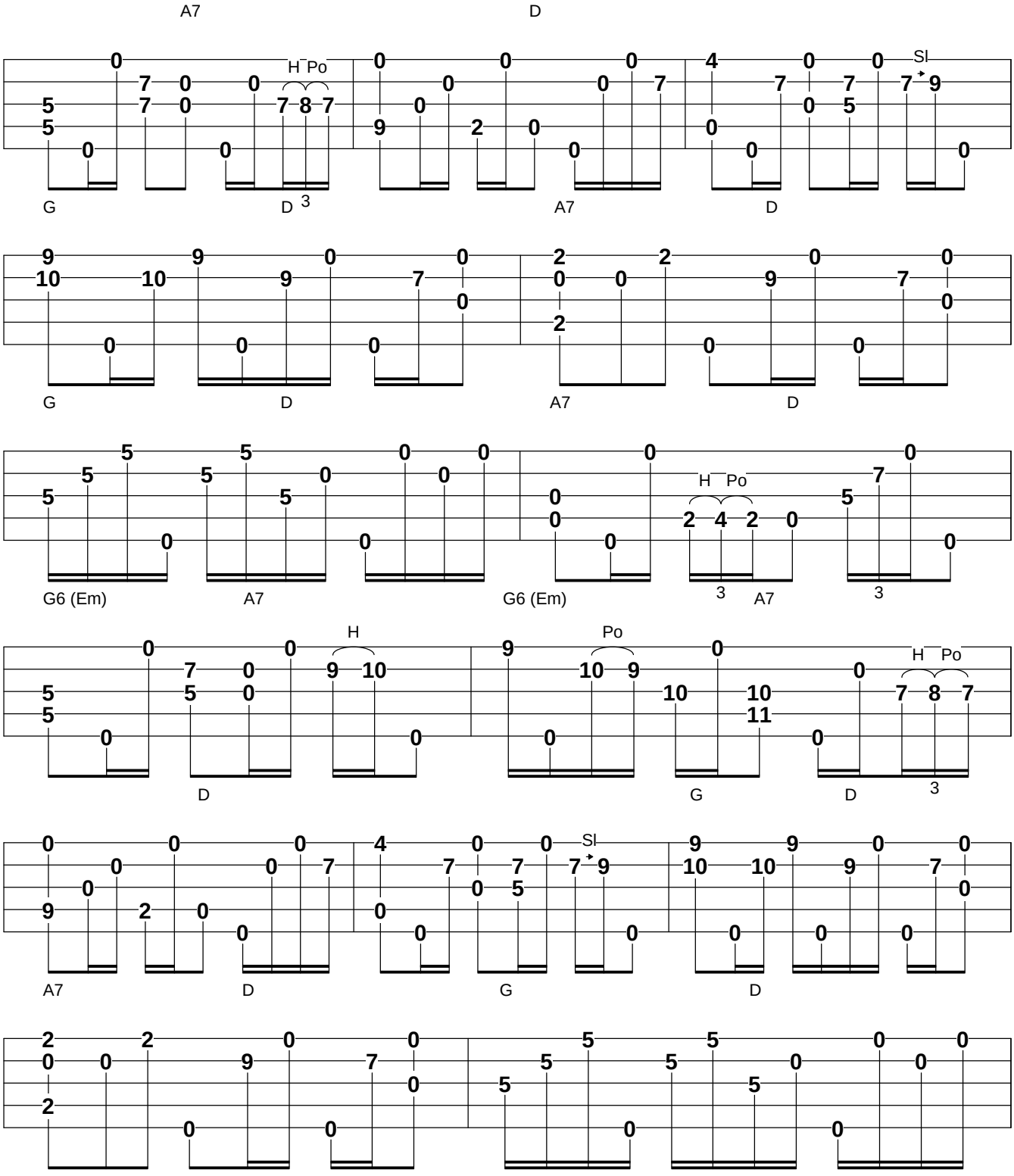
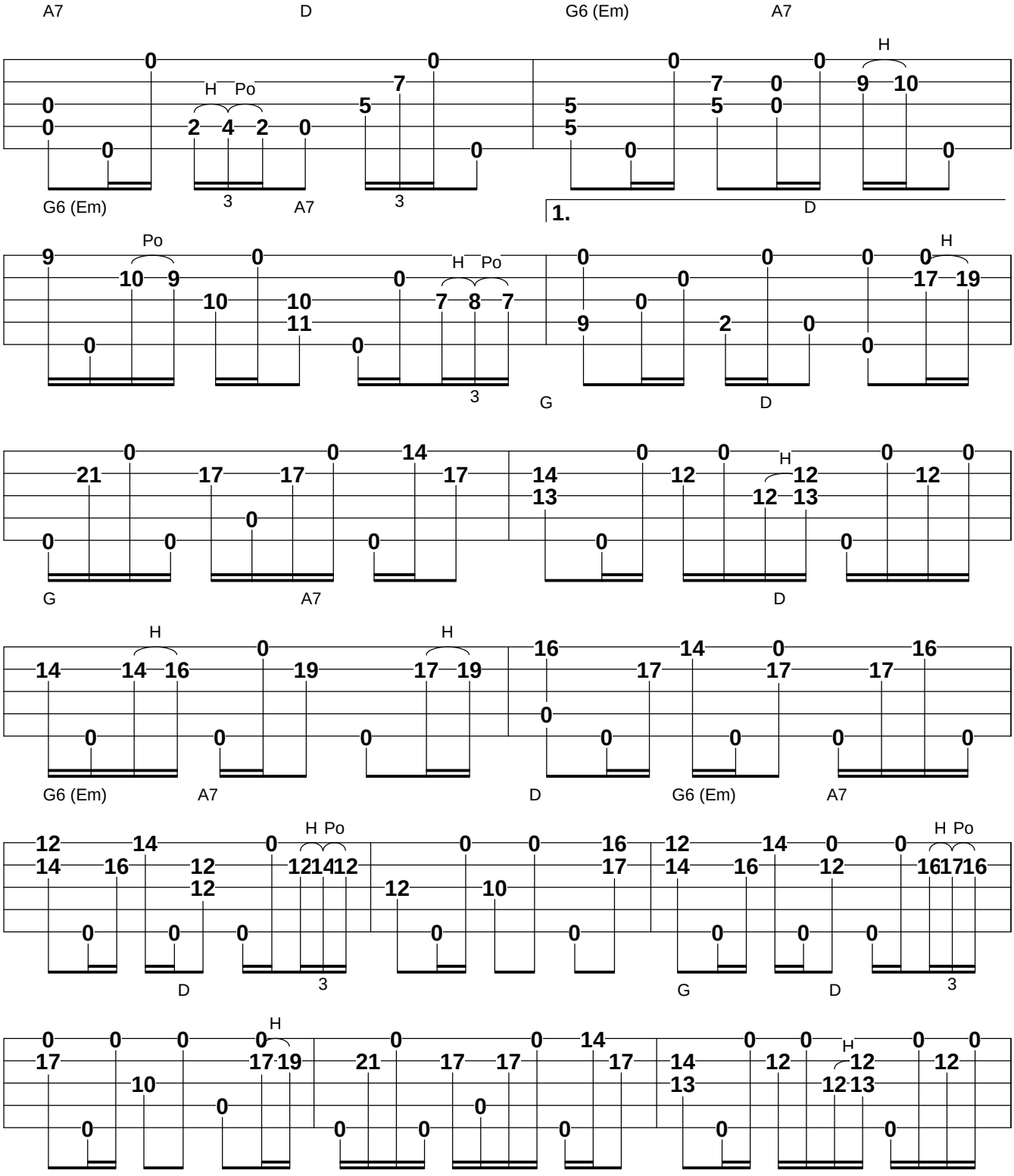
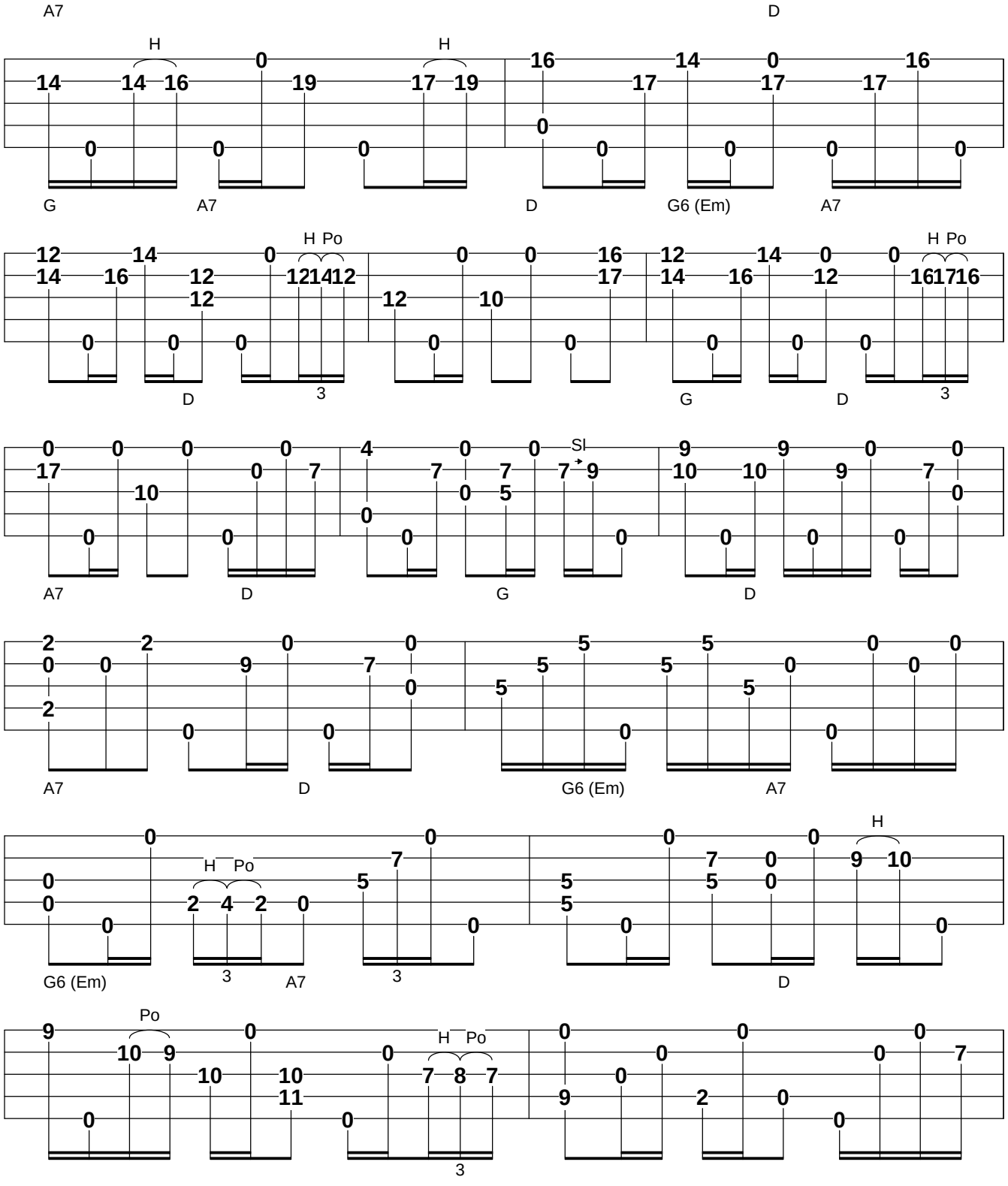
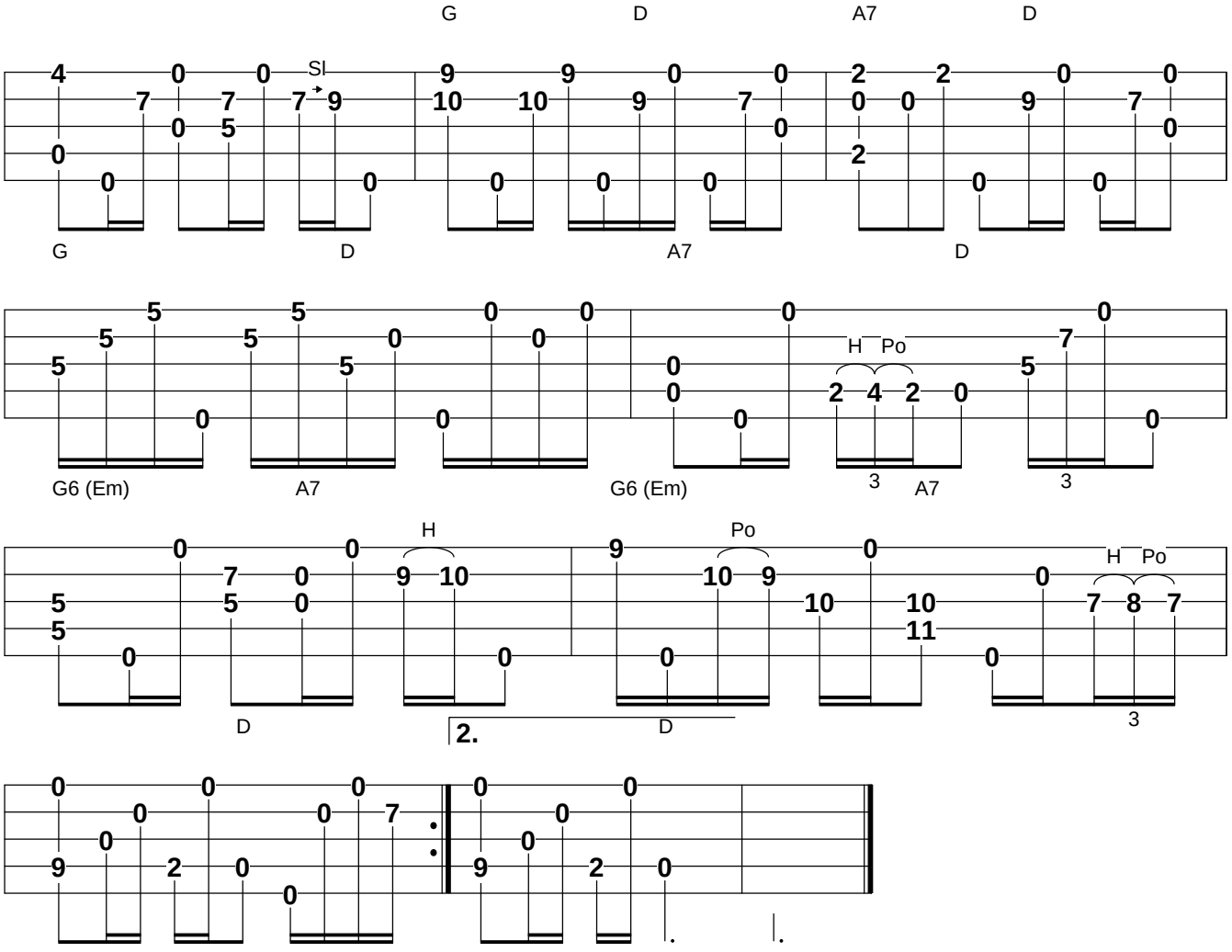



A7
D
H Po
Sl
G
D
3
A7
D
G
D
A7
D
G6 (Em)
A7
G6 (Em)
H Po
3
A7
3
H
Po
H Po
D
G
D
3
Sl
A7
D
G
D


A7
D
G6 (Em)
A7
H
H Po
G6 (Em)
A7
1.
D
Po
H Po
H
3
G
D
G
A7
D
H
H
G6 (Em)
A7
D
G6 (Em)
A7
H Po
H Po
D
G
D
H
3
3


A7
D
H
H
G
A7
D
G6 (Em)
A7
H Po
H Po
D
G
D
SI
A7
D
G
D
G6 (Em)
A7
H Po
H
G6 (Em)
A7
D
Po
H Po



This tune is reported to be the first tune of the many composed by the 18th century Irish harpist Turlough O'Carolan. The original Gaelic lyrics tell the story of a legendary battle between rival fairie queens and their armies, on the plain between two motes, or hills, Sigh beg and Sigh mor (Big hill, little hill) in Lough Scur. O'Carolan, sometimes called Ireland's national composer, was said to be a far better composer than harpist.

O'Carolan's melodies were only transcribed as single line melodies, so the harmonization, as in most folk music, has a certain leeway. I use a G6 chord in measure 15, for example, where you might use an E minor, or even a G chord. There is more than one way to be right, as there is more than one way to be wrong.