MUSICMAKERS

# THE REVERIE HARP

**Make soothing music. No practice needed.**

**CONGRATULATIONS** on obtaining a Reverie Harp. You now have a tool that can help you tap the amazing power of music.

Research confirms the benefits of music therapy for alleviating pain, elevating mood, counteracting depression, promoting movement for physical rehabilitation, calming agitation, inducing sleep, counteracting apprehension or fear, and reducing muscle tension for the purpose of relaxation.

Your Reverie Harp was hand-crafted in Stillwater, MN with these benefits in mind. With proper care we are confident that you can enjoy a lifetime of musical pleasure from this therapeutic instrument.

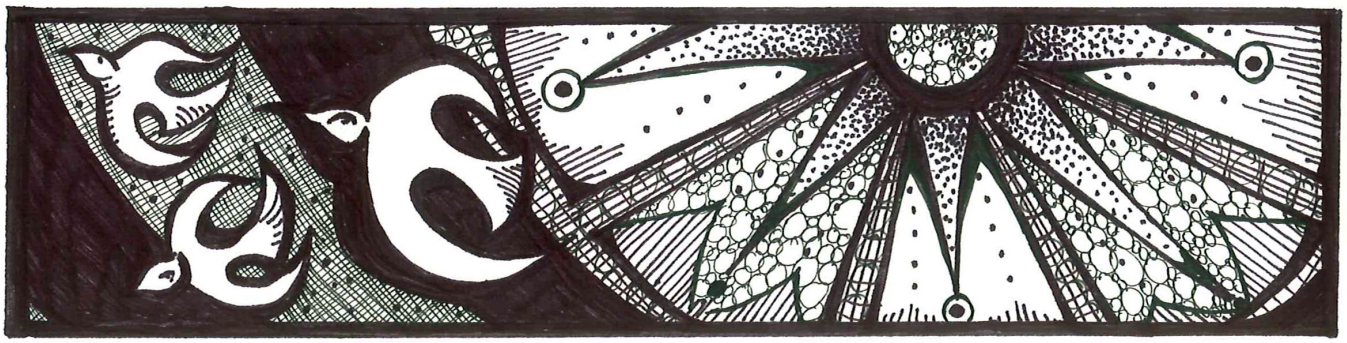
Enclosed in this folder you will find information on

- Care and maintenence.
- How to replace strings.
- How to tune your instrument.
- Playing suggestions.

There are many more resources available online at **www.harpkit.com/reverieharp**

We invite you to explore the beauty of this instrument. Just remember...

**There is no wrong way to play the Reverie Harp!**



## CARING FOR THE WOOD

The Classic model and the Reverie 2 Deluxe feature a solid mahogany top and a solid cherry frame. The Reverie 2 uses a baltic birch plywood top and back and a poplar frame. We have taken care during the assembly process to help ensure that your instrument will withstand most climates. However, if this instrument is exposed to an extremely dry environment for long periods of time, the soundboard may shrink and crack. So please take appropriate precautions. (Humidity Control)

**Good Rule of Thumb**

Your Reverie Harp is comfortable when you are comfortable. In other words - if you would get too cold or too hot sitting in your car for an hour - the same is true for your harp.

## CLEANING THE REVERIE HARP

The Reverie Harp is finished with a protective coat of Lacquer. We recommend Old English furniture polish to clean and restore the finish. We like this brand because it doesn't contain any wax. Cleaning under the strings can be more of a challenge. You can try compressed air, working a soft cloth under the strings, or the Dandy Dusters available from Musicmakers.

If you are using your Reverie Harp in a hospital setting and need to keep it disinfected you can wipe down the instrument and strings with most alcohol based disinfectant wipes. One non-alcohol based wipe recommend to us by several users in hospital settings is a product called **Oxivir Tb Wipes.**

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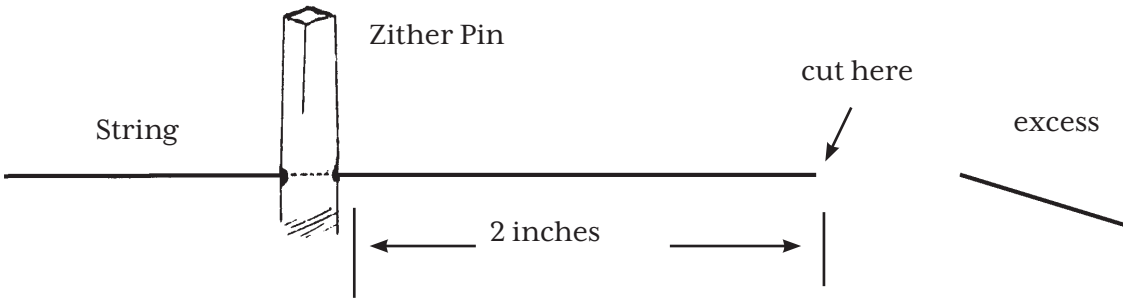
## REPLACING STRINGS

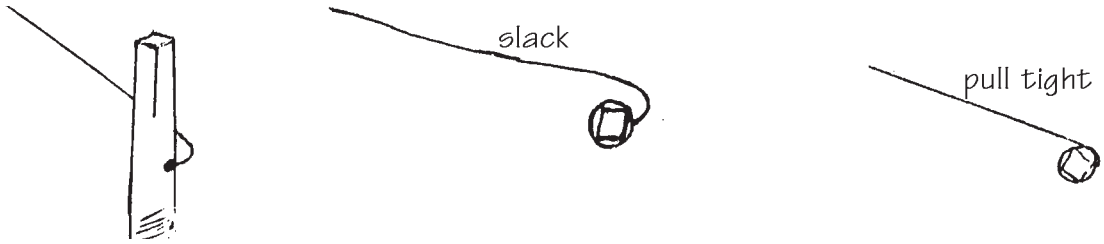
*If a string breaks, then it is important that you back the tuning pin out a few turns (counter-clockwise) before installing a replacement string.* If you don't do this you run the risk of screwing the tuning pin too deep in the hole. If you have the Classic Reverie Harp, be sure to save the tiny washer at the tail of the strings.

Thread the replacement string through the hole at the bottom of the instrument and pull the string through until it is stopped by the ball end (classic model) or place the loop end over the tail pin (Rev. 2 and Rev. 2 Deluxe models). Pull the string past the tuning pin and cut the excess string about 2 inches past the tuning pin.



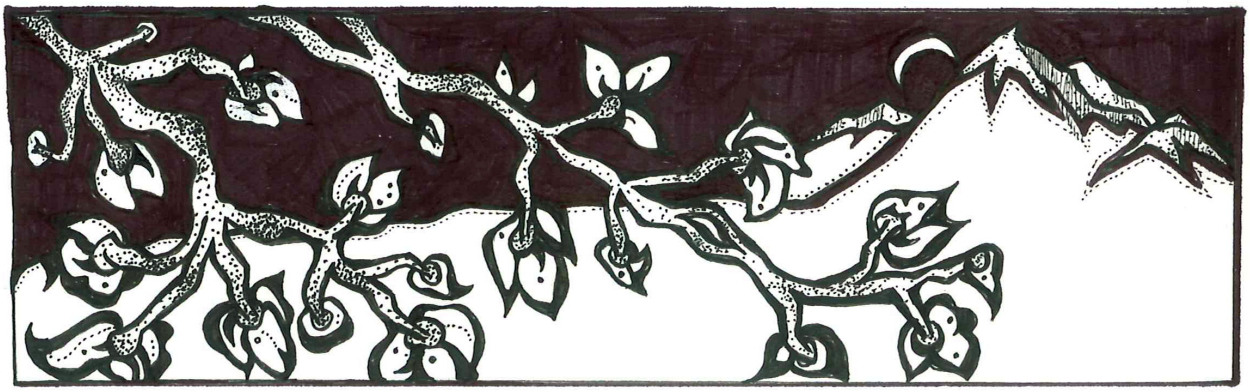
Poke the wire into, but not all the way through, the hole in the tuning pin. Use your tuning wrench to turn the pin clockwise about one-half turn before putting tension on the wire. Pull on the wire to "set" it in the pin. This puts a kink in the wire at the point where it enters the tiny hole in the tuning pin. If the wire pulls out of the pin when you pull on it, cut off the kinked end and try again.

Keeping tension on the wire at all times, turn the pin about two complete revolutions with the tuning wrench, letting the windings stack upwards as you turn the pin (look at the other pins to see what this looks like). Once you have taken all the slack out of the string you can bring the string up to pitch.




NOTE: This may seem like a silly exercise, especially if the wire keeps coming out of place when you pull. We install the strings this way because the sharp ends are left hidden in the tuning pins where they can't poke fingers or catch on clothing. It really does work, and it is worth learning the technique.

Log on to **www.harpkit.com/reverieharp** and check out the tuning section for a short video on how to install strings.



## WHEN TO REPLACE STRINGS

Strictly speaking, you don't ever HAVE TO change a string unless it breaks. Strings do lose their elasticity and begin to sound "dead" over time but you aren't likely to notice this gradual change. But put a fresh set of strings on your instrument after a year and you will be amazed at the difference in tone! If you want to keep your instrument sounding its best, change your strings every 6 months or once a year. If this isn't a concern for you - just replace them as needed.

Note that the Classic model uses **ball-end** acoustic strings and the Reverie 2 and 2 Deluxe use **loop-end** acoustic strings. You may be able to find replacements at your local music shop, otherwise replacement strings may be purchased from Musicmakers.

## TUNING THE REVERIE HARP

All finished Reverie Harps come tuned to our standard Reverie Tuning in the key of C unless otherwise specified. We tune your harp at the factory before shipping but you will likely need to tune the instrument a few times again when it arrives. After that you can expect to tune the Reverie Harp about as frequently as you would tune a guitar.

We have provided you with a tuning template for our standard Reverie Tuning that you can cut out and place under the strings. You'll want to use an electronic tuner to check the tuning.

For help with tuning log on to **www.harpkit.com/reverieharp** and check out the video and audio files in the Tuning section

### CLASSIC REVERIE HARP

| STRING | NOTE | GAUGE | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | E5 | .012" Steel | BALL012 |
| 2 | D5 | .014 Steel | BALL014 |
| 3 | C5 | .016 Steel | BALL016 |
| 4 | A4 | .018 Steel | BALL018 |
| 5 | G4 | .020 Steel | BALL020 |
| 6 | E4 | .025 Bronze Wound | BALL025 |
| 7 | D4 | .025 Bronze Wound | BALL025 |
| 8 | Mid. C4 | .032 Bronze Wound | BALL032 |
| 9 | G3 | .032 Bronze Wound | BALL032 |
| 10 | E3 | .042 Bronze Wound | BALL042 |
| 11 | C3 | .056 Bronze Wound | BALL056 |
| 12 | C3 | .056 Bronze Wound | BALL056 |
| 13 | G3 | .042 Bronze Wound | BALL042 |
| 14 | A3 | .032 Bronze Wound | BALL032 |
| 15 | Mid. C4 | .032 Bronze Wound | BALL032 |
| 16 | D4 | .025 Bronze Wound | BALL025 |
| 17 | E4 | .025 Bronze Wound | BALL025 |
| 18 | G4 | .020 Steel | BALL020 |
| 19 | A4 | .018 Steel | BALL018 |
| 20 | C5 | .016 Steel | BALL016 |
| 21 | D5 | .014 Steel | BALL014 |
| 22 | G5 | .012 Steel | BALL012 |

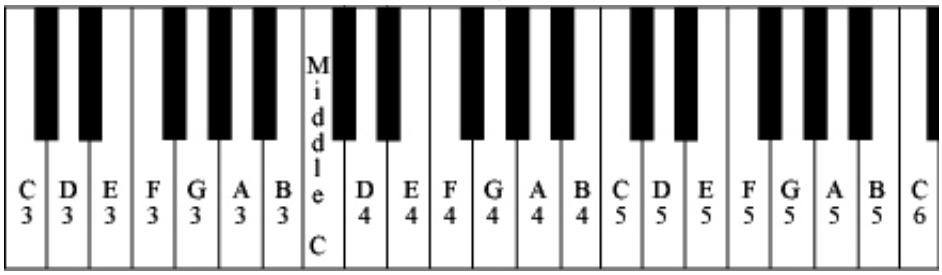
**Uses BALL-End Acoustic Strings**

### REVERIE 2 and REVERIE 2 DELUXE

| STRING | NOTE* | GAUGE | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | E5 | .012" Steel | LOOP012 |
| 2 | D5 | .014 Steel | LOOP014 |
| 3 | C5 | .016 Steel | LOOP016 |
| 4 | A4 | .018 Steel | LOOP018 |
| 5 | G4 | .020 Steel | LOOP020 |
| 6 | E4 | .024 Bronze Wound | LOOP024 |
| 7 | D4 | .024 Bronze Wound | LOOP024 |
| 8 | Mid. C4 | .032 Bronze Wound | LOOP032 |
| 9 | G3 | .032 Bronze Wound | LOOP032 |
| 10 | E3 | .042 Bronze Wound | LOOP042 |
| 11 | C3 | .048 Bronze Wound | LOOP048 |
| 12 | C3 | .048 Bronze Wound | LOOP048 |
| 13 | G3 | .042 Bronze Wound | LOOP042 |
| 14 | A3 | .032 Bronze Wound | LOOP032 |
| 15 | Mid. C4 | .032 Bronze Wound | LOOP032 |
| 16 | D4 | .024 Bronze Wound | LOOP024 |
| 17 | E4 | .024 Bronze Wound | LOOP024 |
| 18 | G4 | .020 Steel | LOOP020 |
| 19 | A4 | .018 Steel | LOOP018 |
| 20 | C5 | .016 Steel | LOOP016 |
| 21 | D5 | .014 Steel | LOOP014 |
| 22 | G5 | .012 Steel | LOOP012 |

**Uses LOOP-End Acoustic Strings**

reference keyboard




Musicmakers
14525 61st ST CT N
Stillwater, MN 55082

# The Reverie Harp

## Playing Suggestions

**Just play.**
Seriously. Put this paper down and go play your harp for 5 minutes. See how easy that was? Many people have a very loud inner voice that is trying to tell them they can't play an instrument. Nothing will still that voice faster than just playing.

**Strum and Pluck.**
Strum all the strings at once and while the strings are still ringing, pluck a series of single notes at random. Notice how all the strings sounding from the first strum provide a nice foundation for the individual notes. Experiment with this idea.

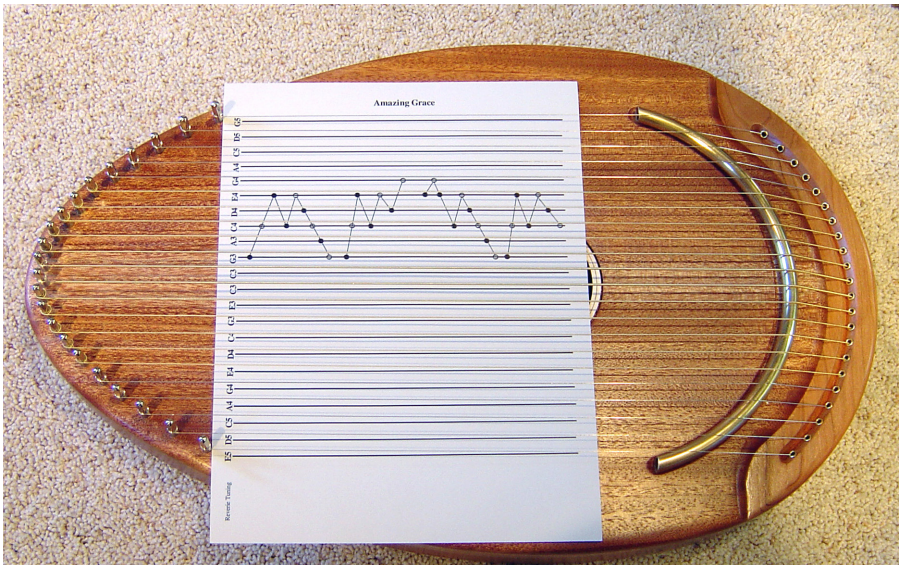
**Explore Rhythm.**
Pluck strings at random until you stumble upon a rhythmic pattern that you like. Pay more attention to the rhythm than the notes you are playing remembering that any note will sound OK. Notice if the rhythm wants to change over time. Let it change. Just be with the rhythm and follow wherever it goes.

**Explore Melody.**
Sit quietly and pluck strings randomly until you hear a phrase or combination of notes that sounds like a pleasing melody. Try to repeat what you just played. See how the melody wants to be and how you respond to it. See how it changes over time. Maybe you change it on purpose or maybe you hit a "wrong note" but feel like the "wrong note" is better...

**Mix it up.**
Combine any of these ideas together. Find a melody and then change the rhythm. Find a rhythm and then change the melody. Add a full strum into a melody or rhythm.

**Use a Songsheet.**
If you want to play a familar melody on the Reverie Harp you can use some of the included songsheets. See our directions for Using Songsheets on the other side of this sheet.

# Using Songsheets



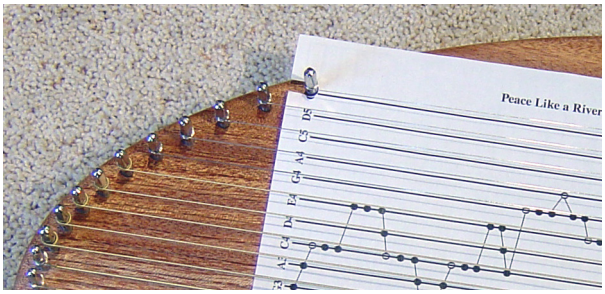

1. Take note of which tuning is shown on the sheet, and make sure your harp is tuned the same.

2. Slide the song sheet under the strings with the note names nearest the tuning pins, as shown.

3. Carefully line up the notes on the paper with the correct strings on the instrument.

4. If you use these song sheets with patients in a hospital, you should have them laminated with a plastic coating so you can easily clean them with sanitizing wipes between patients.

HINT: You might want to mark where the paper contacts one or both of the tuning pins on each side of the instrument. Then you can use a scissors and/or paper punch to make a "locator hole" in the paper to help hold the page in place.

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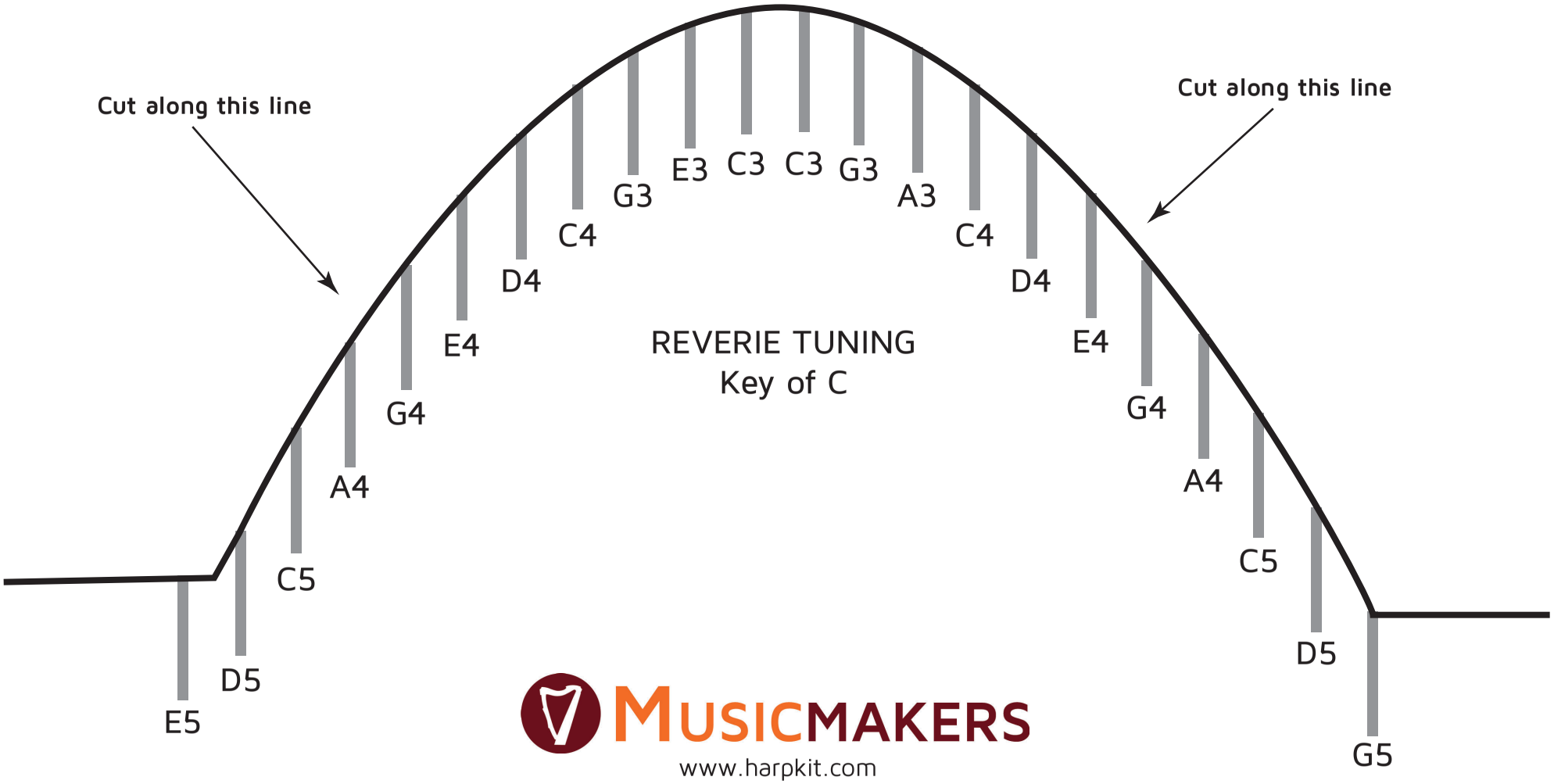


**Instructions For Use**

1. Cut out the template along the black line.

2. Place the template under the strings. The gray lines should sit just below the stings.

> **Note:** Every harp is handmade so the strings may not line up perfectly, but they should be close enough.

3. Tune the harp to the notes on the tuning chart.

**The number next to each note name indicates the octave.**

Middle C on a piano is C4. The numbers change every octave on the note C.

C3 is the C one ocatve below middle C
D4 is the D just above Middle C
C5 is the C one octave above middle C

# Lullabies with the Reverie Harp

Mothers have been singing their children to sleep since the dawn of time. This universal testament to the relaxing power of music takes place every single evening in homes all over the world. The simple lyrics and calming melodies of lullabies are perfectly suited to the Reverie Harp. The simplicity of this instrument means you don't have to know the first thing about music to accompany yourself with it's sweet sounds.

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# Using the Reverie Harp During Pregnancy

While still in the womb the developing baby can experience both the sound and feel of music. Play the Reverie Harp softly for the unborn child by holding it gently on your stomach. Pluck strings slowly with your thumb or finger to make soft, gentle sounds.

Try to determine if the baby stirs or quiets when you do this. Test it when the baby is active to see if the music calms it down. Test it when the baby is quiet to see if it stirs when the music is played.

If you have other children, get them involved quietly with your music, letting them play something softly for the baby. Keep these times very special and quiet, perhaps just before bedtime.

Keep a journal of any notable observations. How does the music affect the baby? How does it affect you as a pregnant woman? How does this activity affect the family dynamics?

# Using the Reverie Harp in the Hospital

Take the Reverie Harp with you to the birthing room. Use it to calm yourself and the baby during labor. Encourage your husband to play for you during labor and delivery.

After delivery, encourage the nursing staff to use the harp when the baby is under their care.

Use the Reverie Harp to connect with premature babies that may be in an incubator.

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# Singing with the Reverie Harp

There is an old saying that the Human Voice is the only musical instrument made by God. Nothing is as soothing to a young child as the sound of a parent's voice singing a lullaby.

Using the Reverie Harp to accompany yourself singing a lullaby is amazingly simple even for the complete non-musician. With no wrong notes and only 2 "chords", you will be playing along with confidence in no time.

If a child is sung to while still in the womb, singing the same song to the new born baby will provide comfort and familiarity.

Encourage older children to join you in singing. Having music in the home impacts the development of a "musical ear" in children. Take note of your child's interest in listening to music, the ability to sing along in tune, and the interest in learning to play a musical instrument.

We have included several lullabies in the following section that work well with the Reverie Harp. Begin by tuning the Reverie Harp to the **Lullaby Tuning**. This tuning lends itself to singing quite well. You will notice that this tuning produces 2 unique "chords"; one on either half of the instrument.

We use a very simple notation to help you accompany yourself with the Reverie Harp. Above the lyrics you will find an L or an R. If you see an L you would strum or pluck the strings on the Left side of the instrument (as you look at the instrument). Conversely - if you see an R you would strum or pluck the strings on the Right side of the instrument.

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# Song Selections

TENDER SHEPHERD
L R L R
Tender Shepherd, tender Shepherd
L R L R
Watches over all His sheep
L R
One, say your prayers and
L R
Two, close your eyes and
L R L R
Three safe and happily fall asleep.

SEEK YE FIRST
L
Seek ye first the kingdom of God
R L R
And His righteousness.
L
And all these things will be added unto you
R L R L
A - le - lu, a - le - lu - ia.

BRAHM'S LULLABY
L
Lullaby and good night, with roses bedight
R L
With lillies over spread, is baby's wee bed.
R L R L
Lay thee down now and rest, may thy slumbers be blest,
R L R L
Lay thee down now and rest, may thy slumbers be blest.

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ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT

L R L
Sleep my child and peace attend thee, all through the night
R L
Guardian angels God will send thee, all through the night
R
Soft the drowsy hours are creeping
L
Hill and dale in slumber sleeping
R L
I my longing vigil keeping, all through the night.

DOWN IN THE VALLEY

L R
Down in the valley, valley so low
L
Hang your head over, hear the wind blow.
R
Hear the wind blow, dear, hear the wind blow;
L
Hang your head over, hear the wind blow.

L R
Roses love sunshine, violets love dew;
L
Angels in heaven know I love you.
R
Know I love you, dear, know I love you;
L
Angels in heaven know I love you.

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HUSH LITTLE BABY

L R
Hush little baby, don't say a word,
L
Mamma's going to buy you a mocking bird.
R
If that mocking bird won't sing
L
Mamma's going to buy you a diamond ring.
R
If that diamond ring turns brass,
L
Mamma's going to buy you a looking glass.
R
If that looking glass gets broke,
L
Mamma's going to buy you a billy goat.
R
If that billy goat won't pull,
L
Mamma's going to buy you a cart and bull.
R
And if that cart and bull turn over,
L
Mamma's going to buy you a dog named Rover.
R
And if that dog named Rover won't bark,
L
Mamma's going to buy you a horse and cart.
R
And if that horse and cart fall down,
L
You'll still be the sweetest baby in town.

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RIDDLE SONG

L R L
I gave my love a cherry that had no stone
R L R
I gave my love a chicken that had no bone
L R
I gave my love a story that had no end,
L R L
I gave my love a baby with no cryin'.

L R L
How can there be a cherry that has no stone?
R L R
How can there be a chicken that has no bone?
L R
How can there be a story that has no end?
L R L
How can there be a baby with no cryin'?

L R L
A cherry when it's blooming, it has no stone.
R L R
A chicken when its pippin', it has no bone.
L R
A story of "I love you", it has no end.
L R L
A baby when it's sleeping, has no cryin'.

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AMAZING GRACE

L
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
R
That saved a wretch like me;
L R L
I once was lost but now am found;
R L
Was blind but now I see.

DANNY BOY

L R
Oh Danny Boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling
L R
From glen to glen and down the mountain side
L R
The summer's gone and all the roses falling,
L R L
Tis you, 'tis you must go and I must 'bide.
R L
But come ye back when summer's in the meadow,
R
Or when the valley's hushed and white with snow
L R L
Tis I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow,
R L
Oh Danny Boy, oh Danny Boy I love you so.

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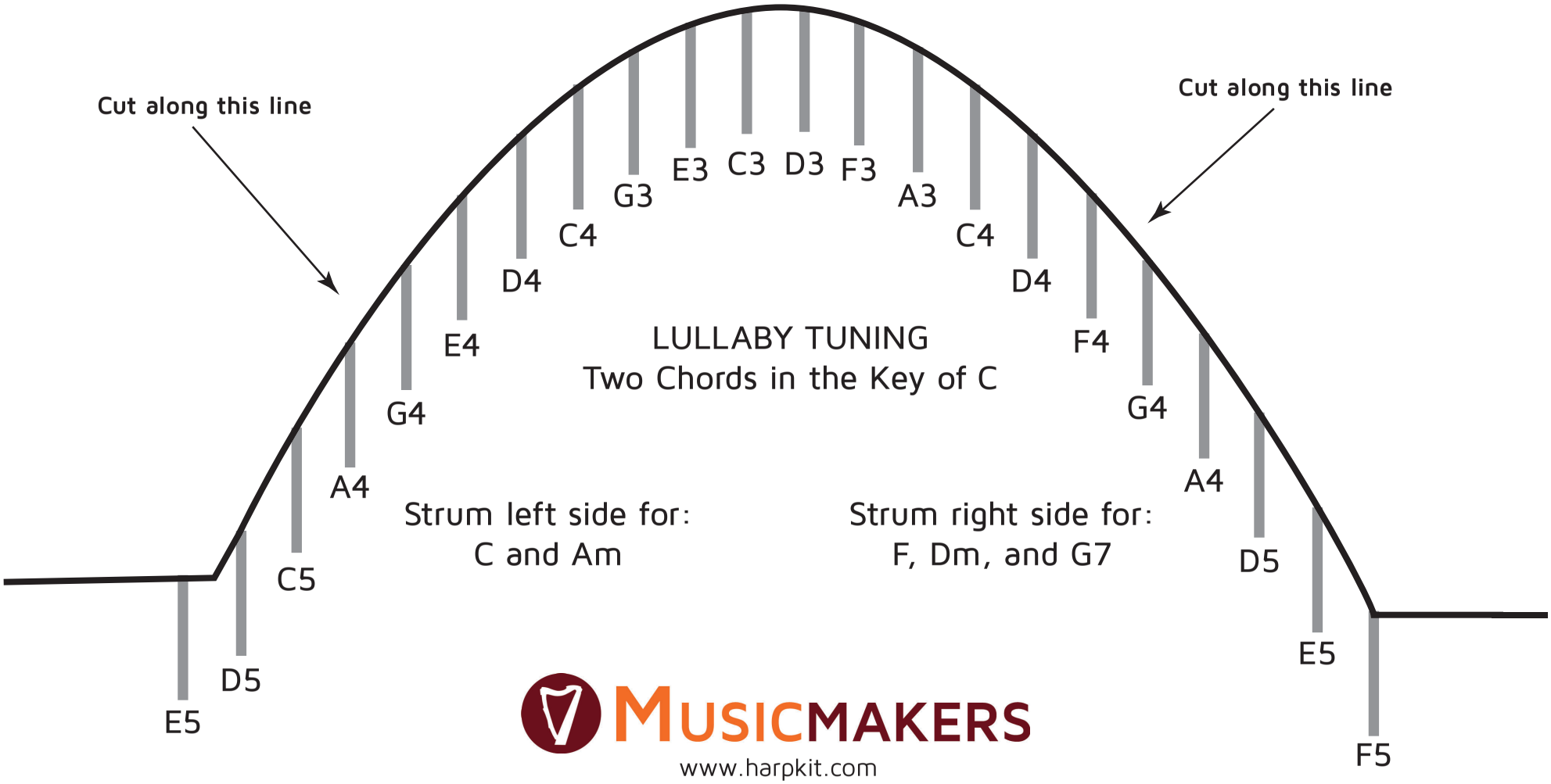


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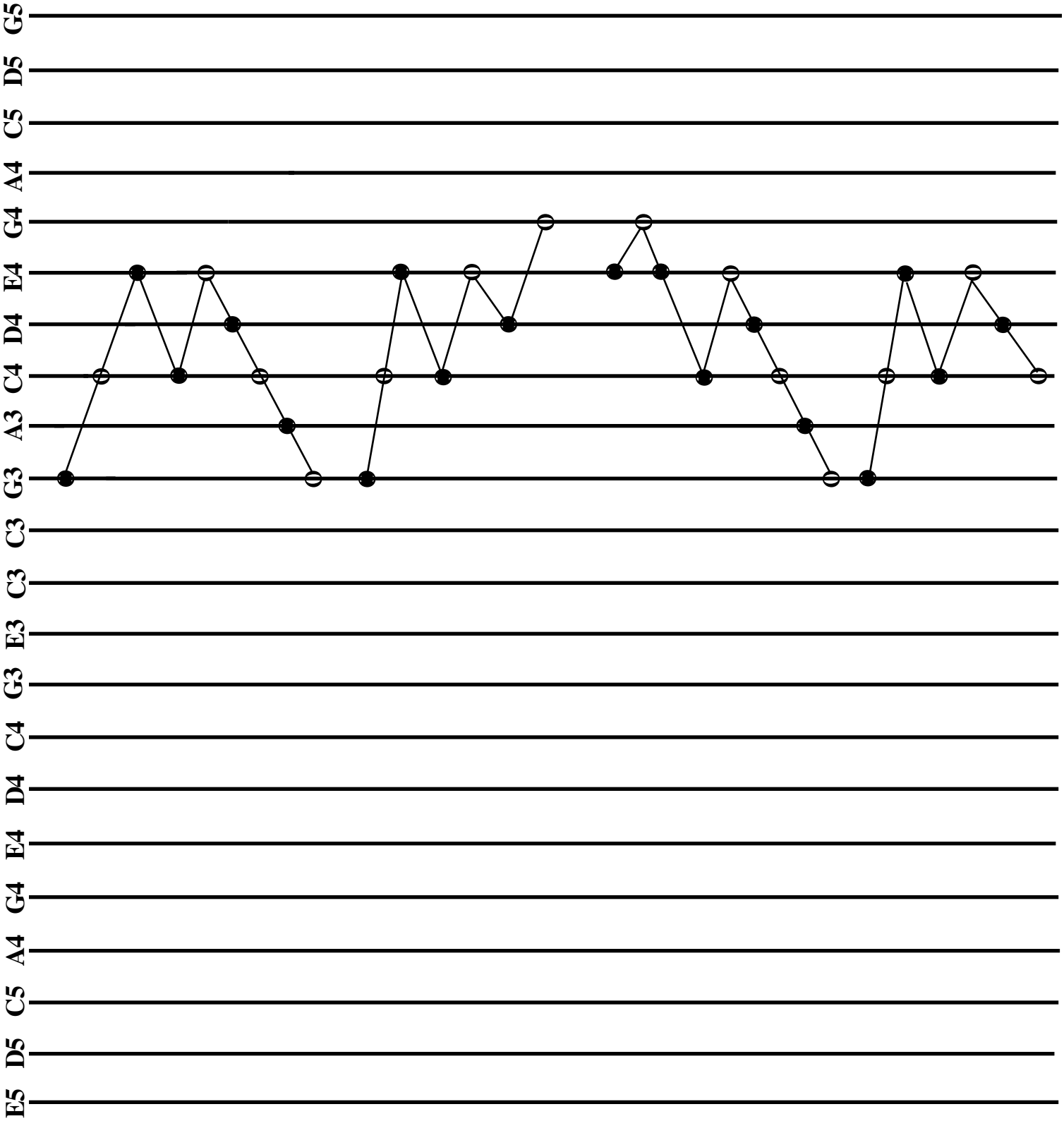
Middle C on a piano is C4. The numbers change every octave on the note C.

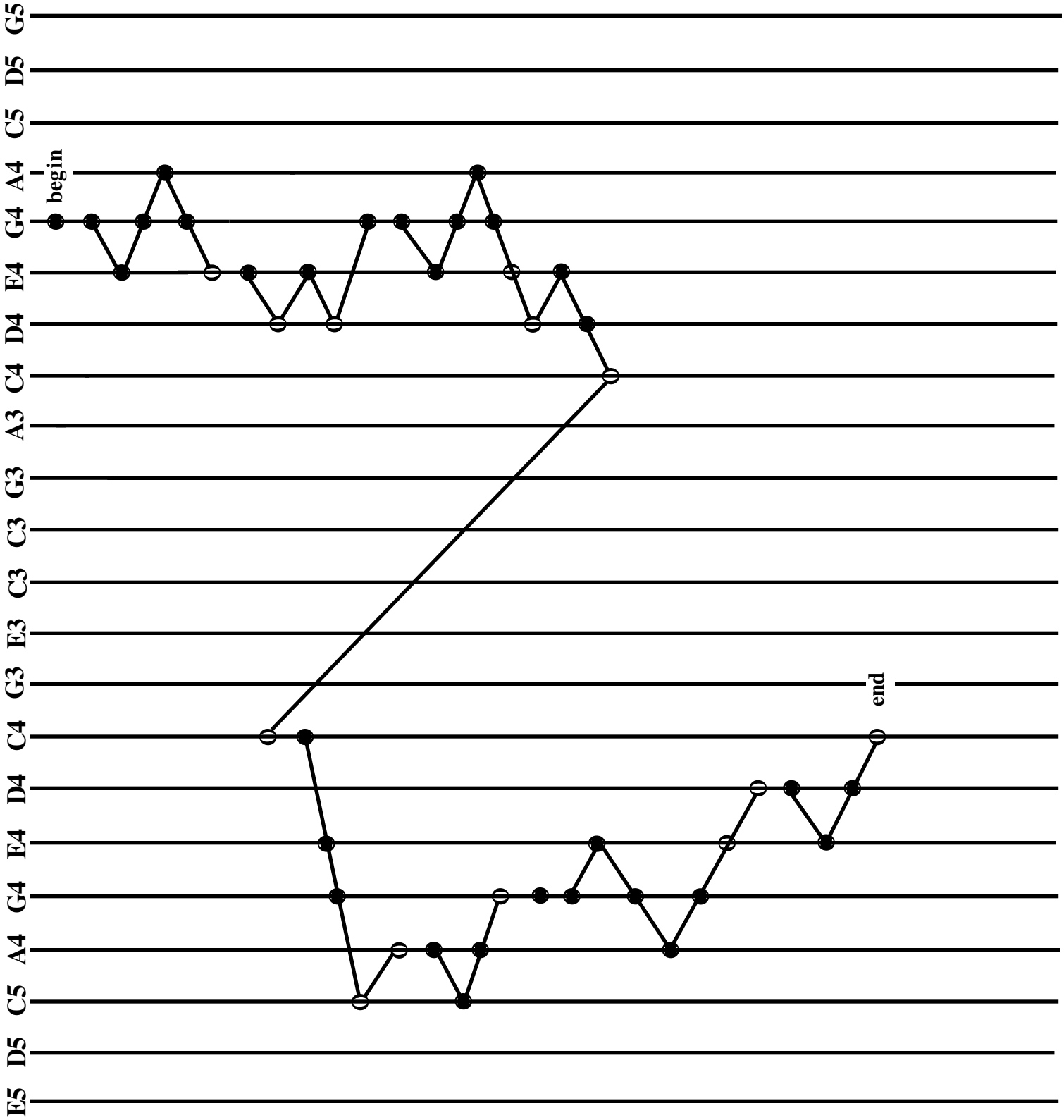
C3 is the C one ocatve below middle C
D4 is the D just above Middle C
C5 is the C one octave above middle C

# Amazing Grace



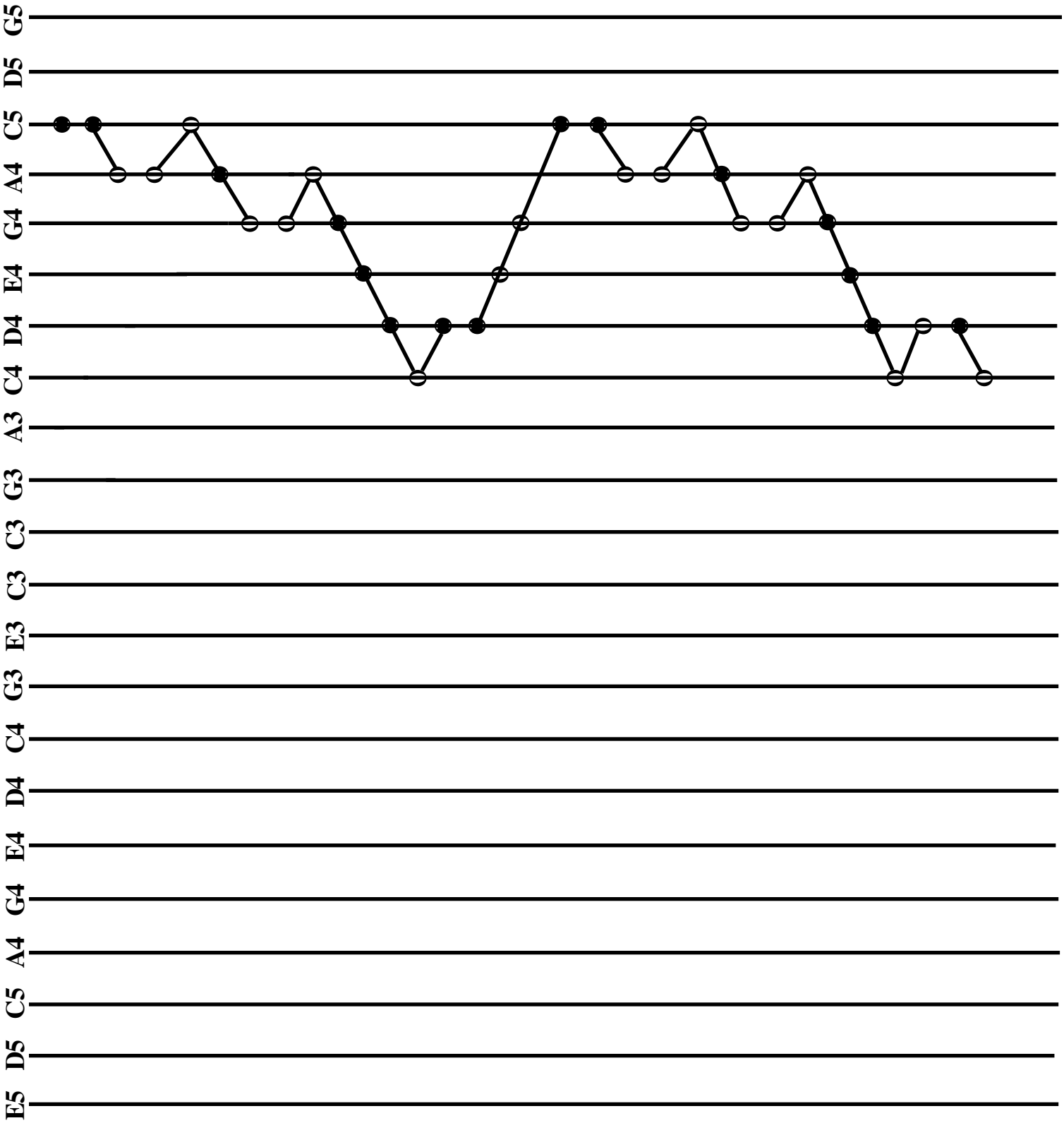

Reverie Tuning

# Camptown Races



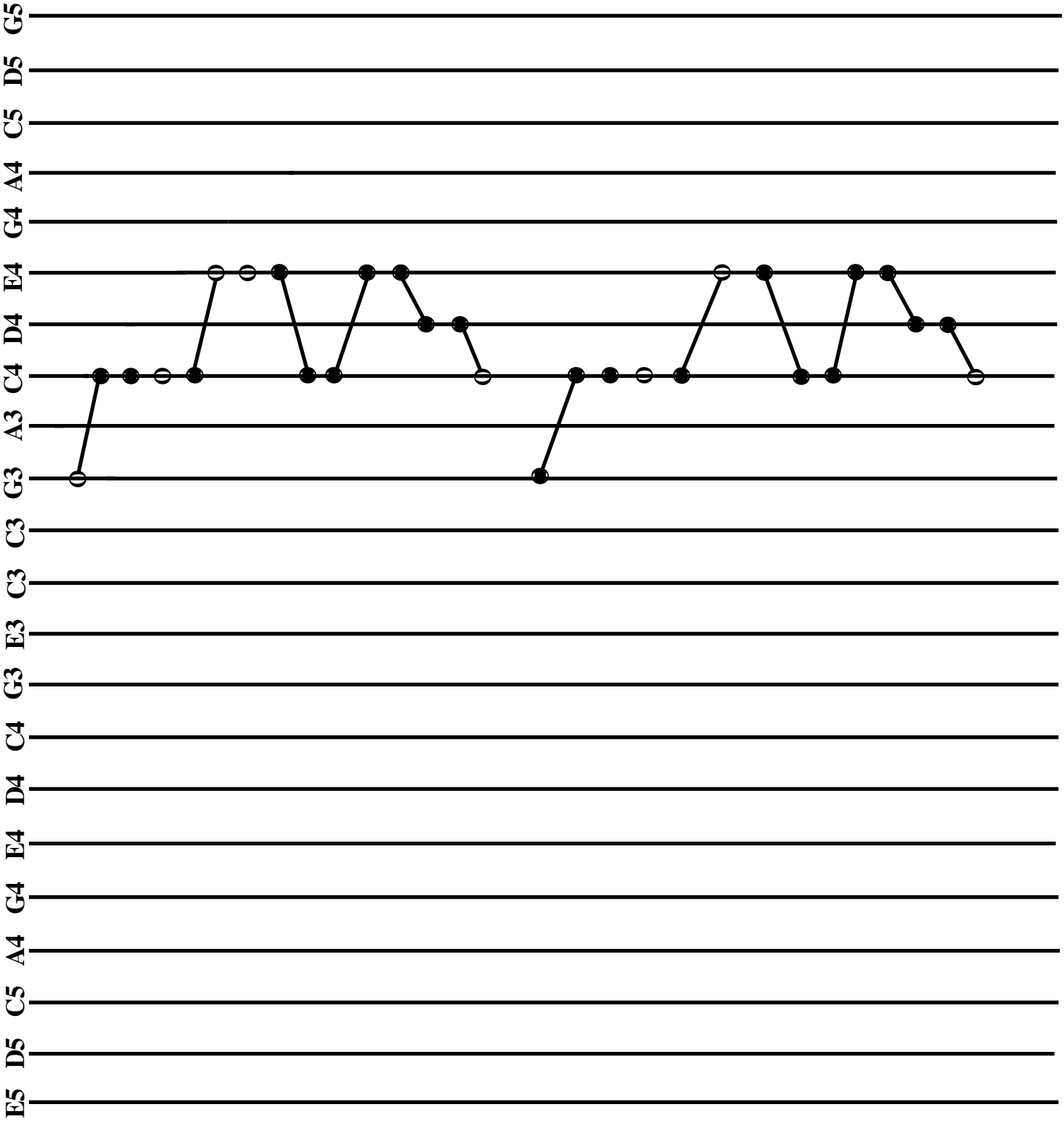

Reverie Tuning

# Every Time I Feel the Spirit



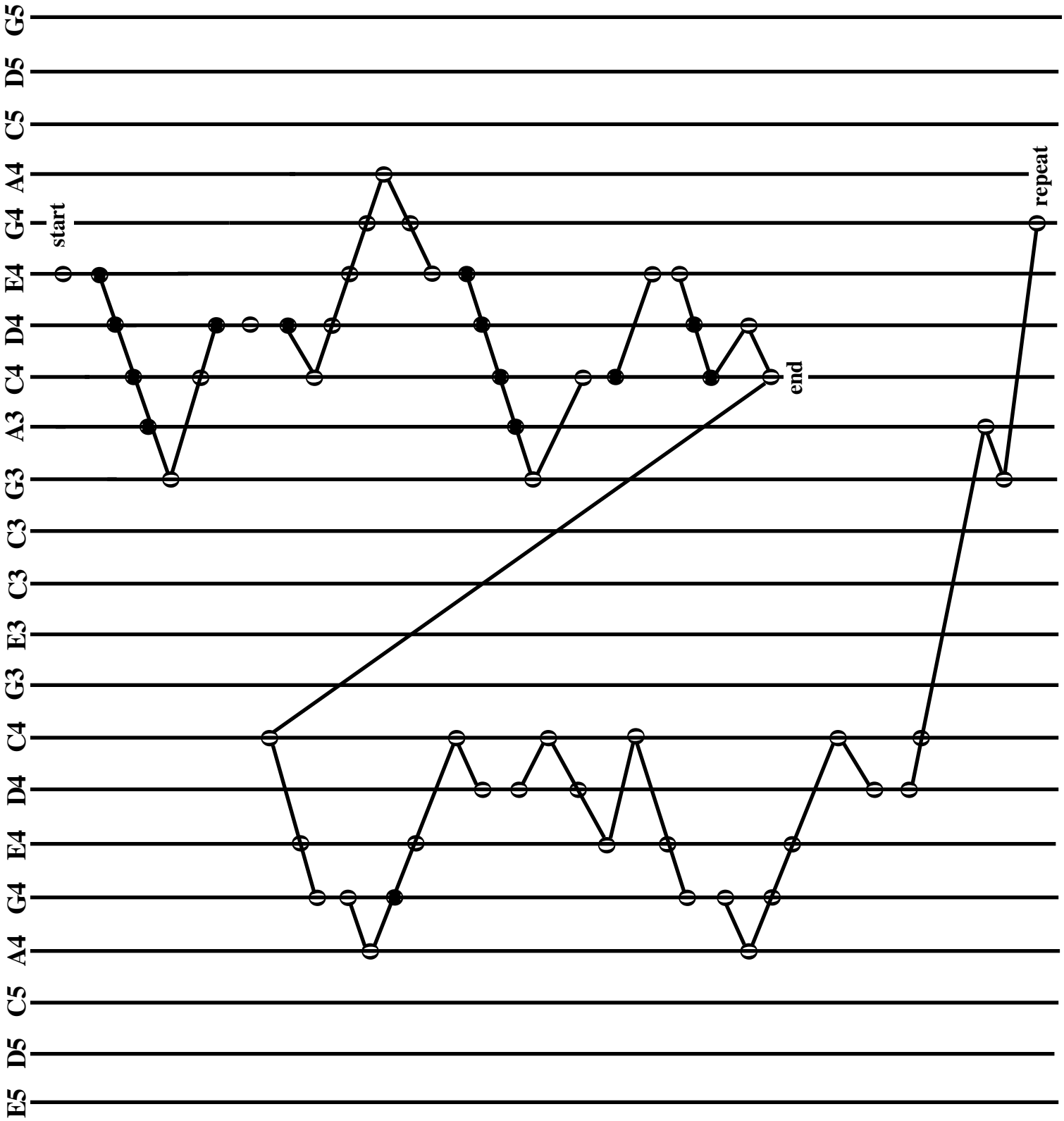

Reverie Tuning

# Ezekiel Saw the Wheel




Reverie Tuning

# GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

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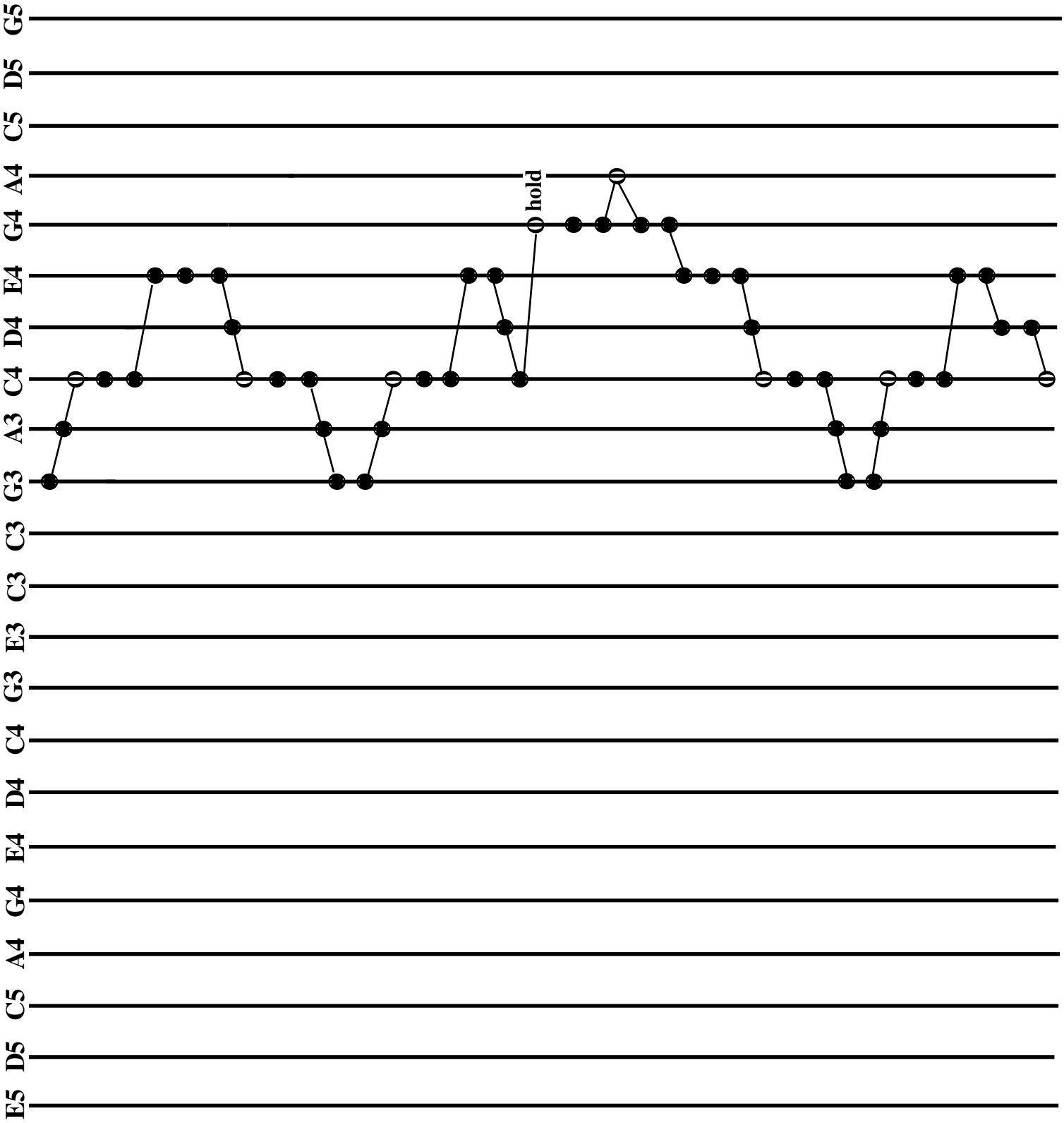
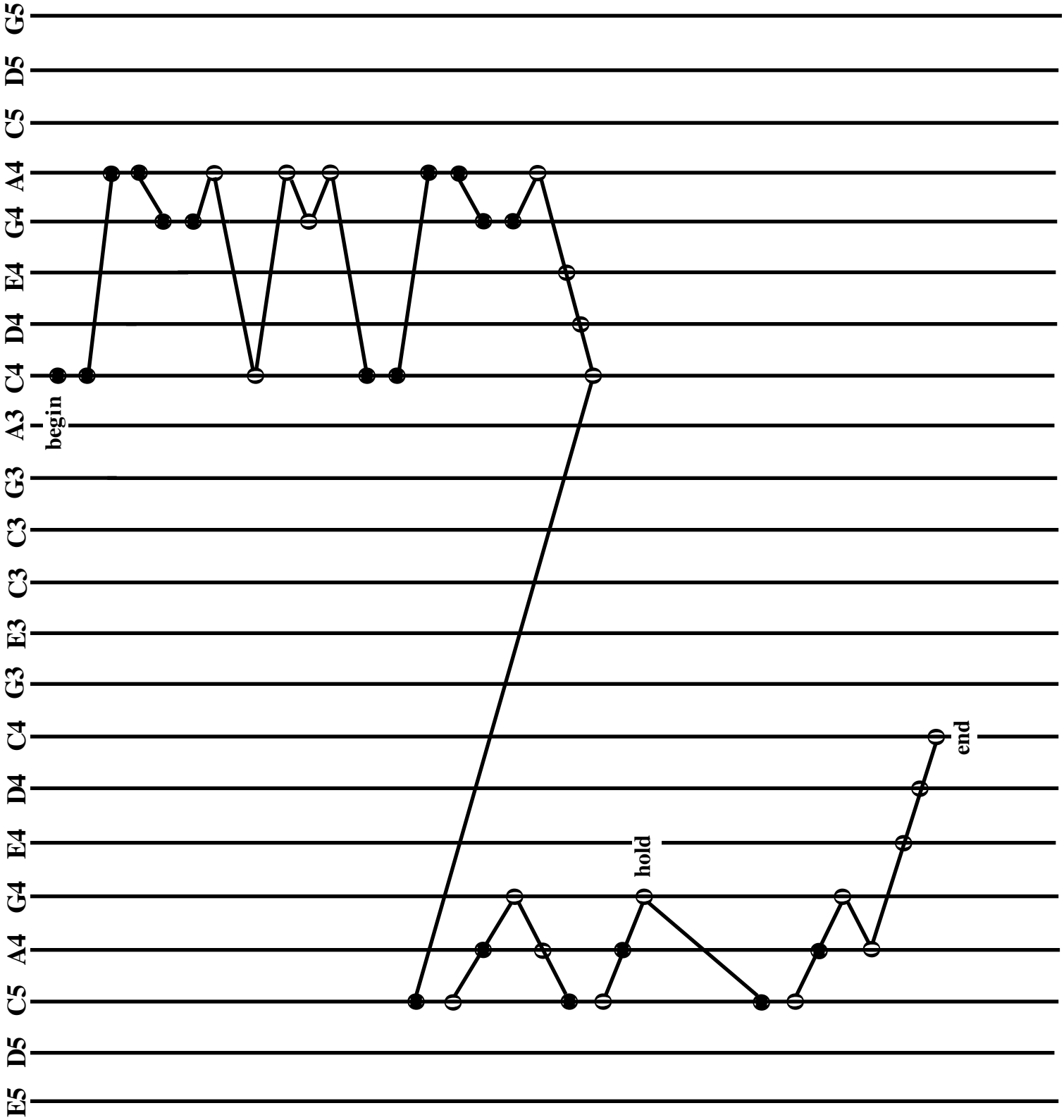
# Peace Like a River



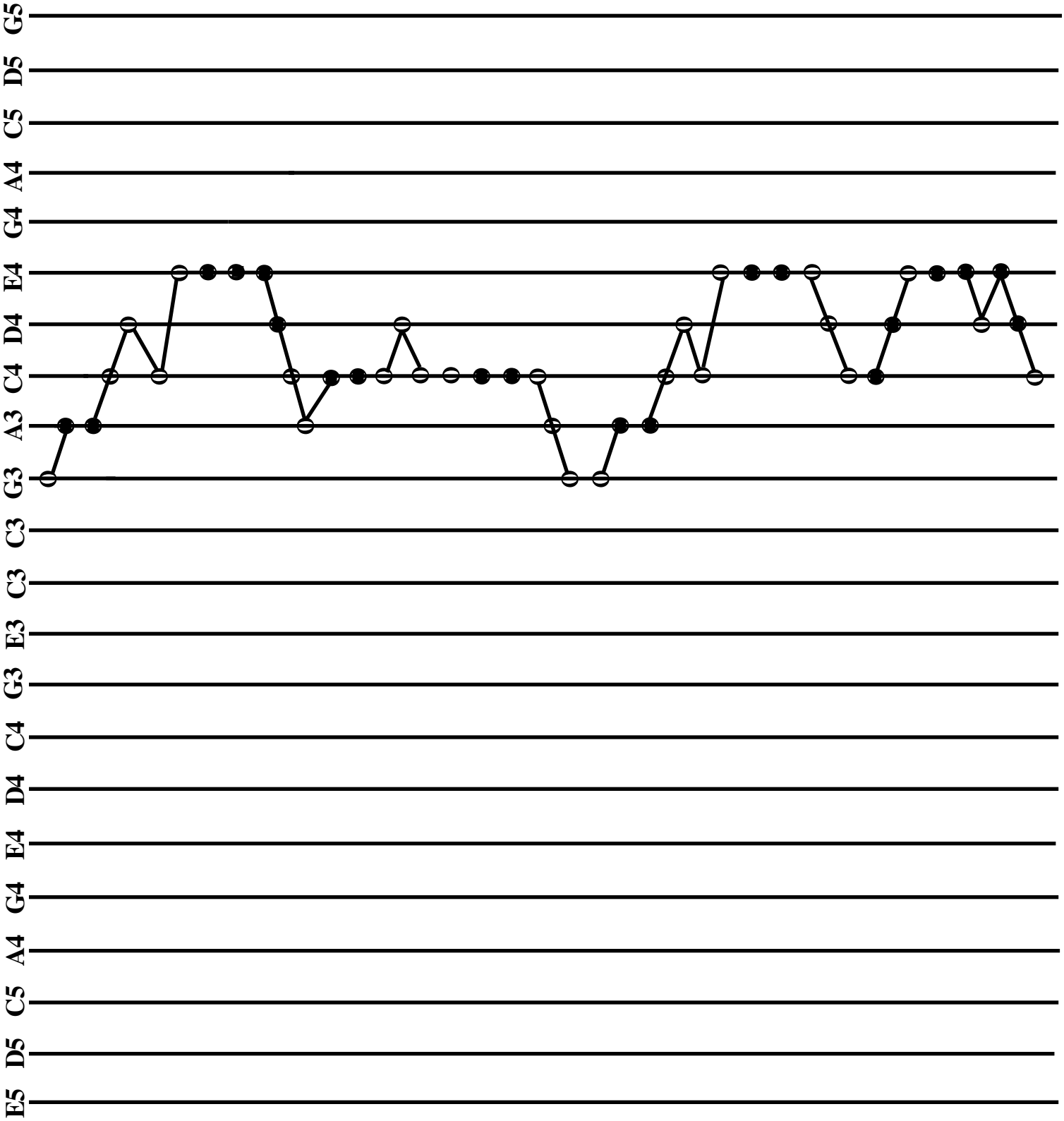

Reverie Tuning

# Shortnin' Bread



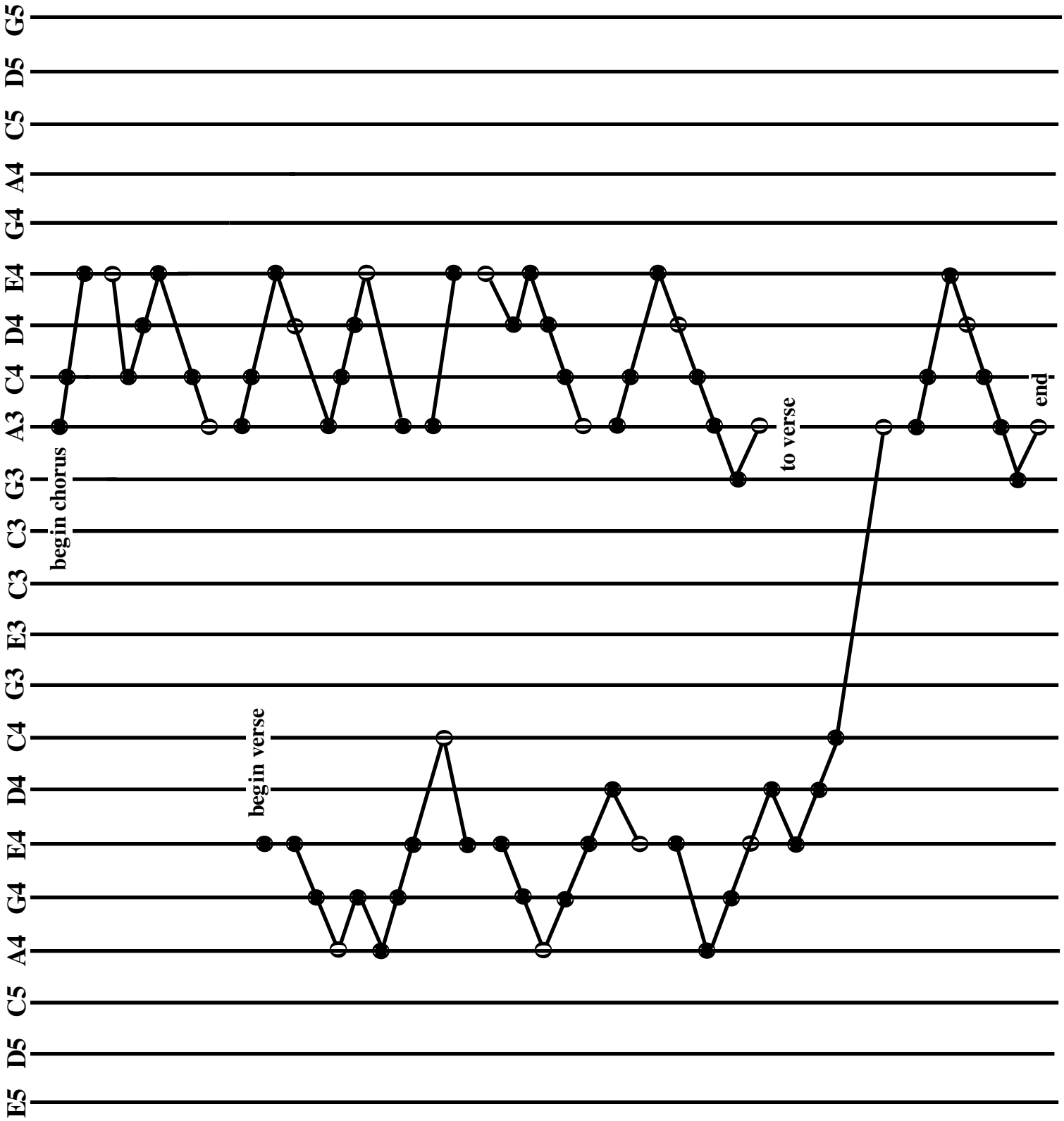

Reverie Tuning

# This Little Light of Mine

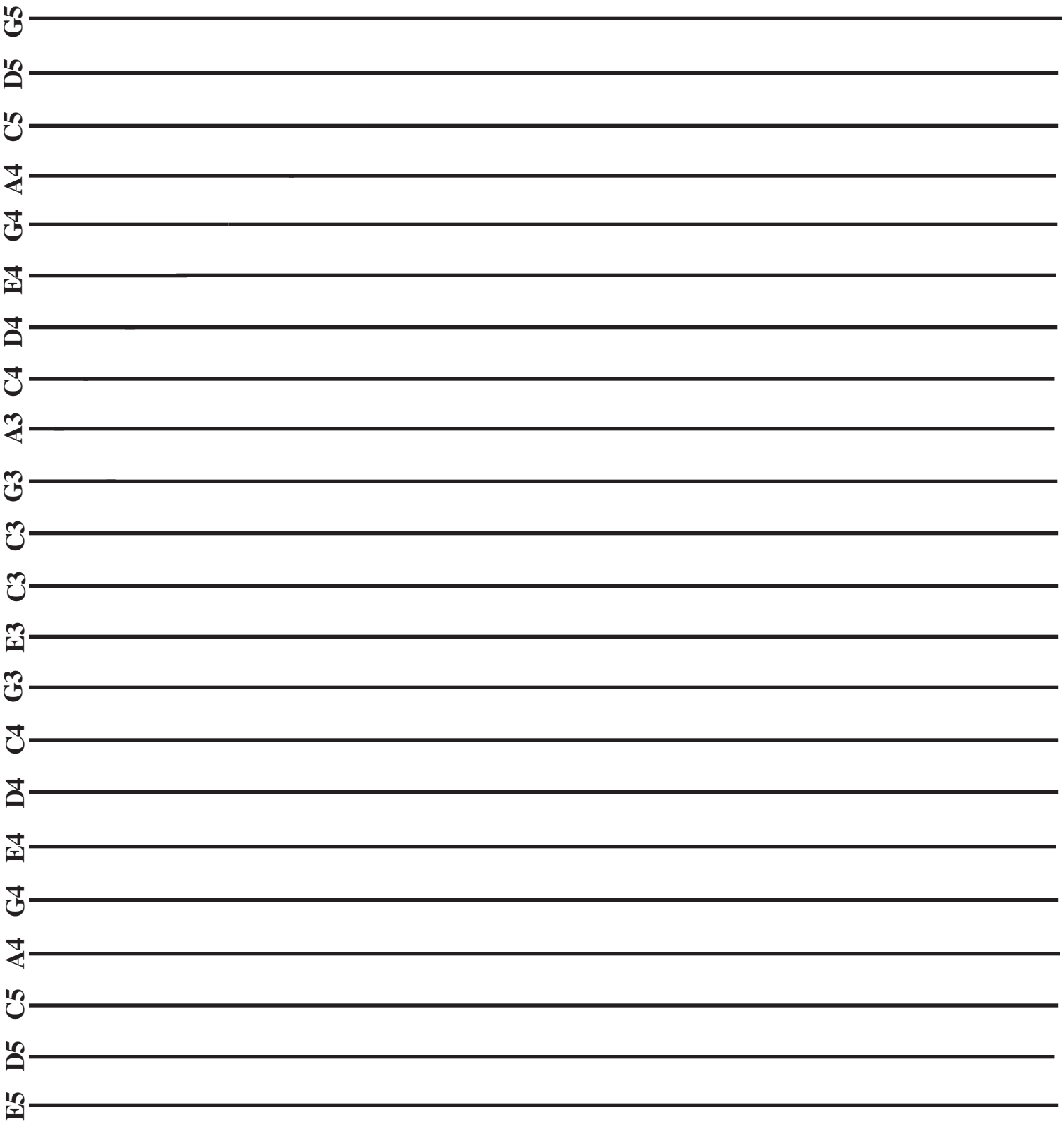



Reverie Tuning

# Wayfaring Stranger




Reverie Tuning




Copy this blank sheet for writing out other melodies

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