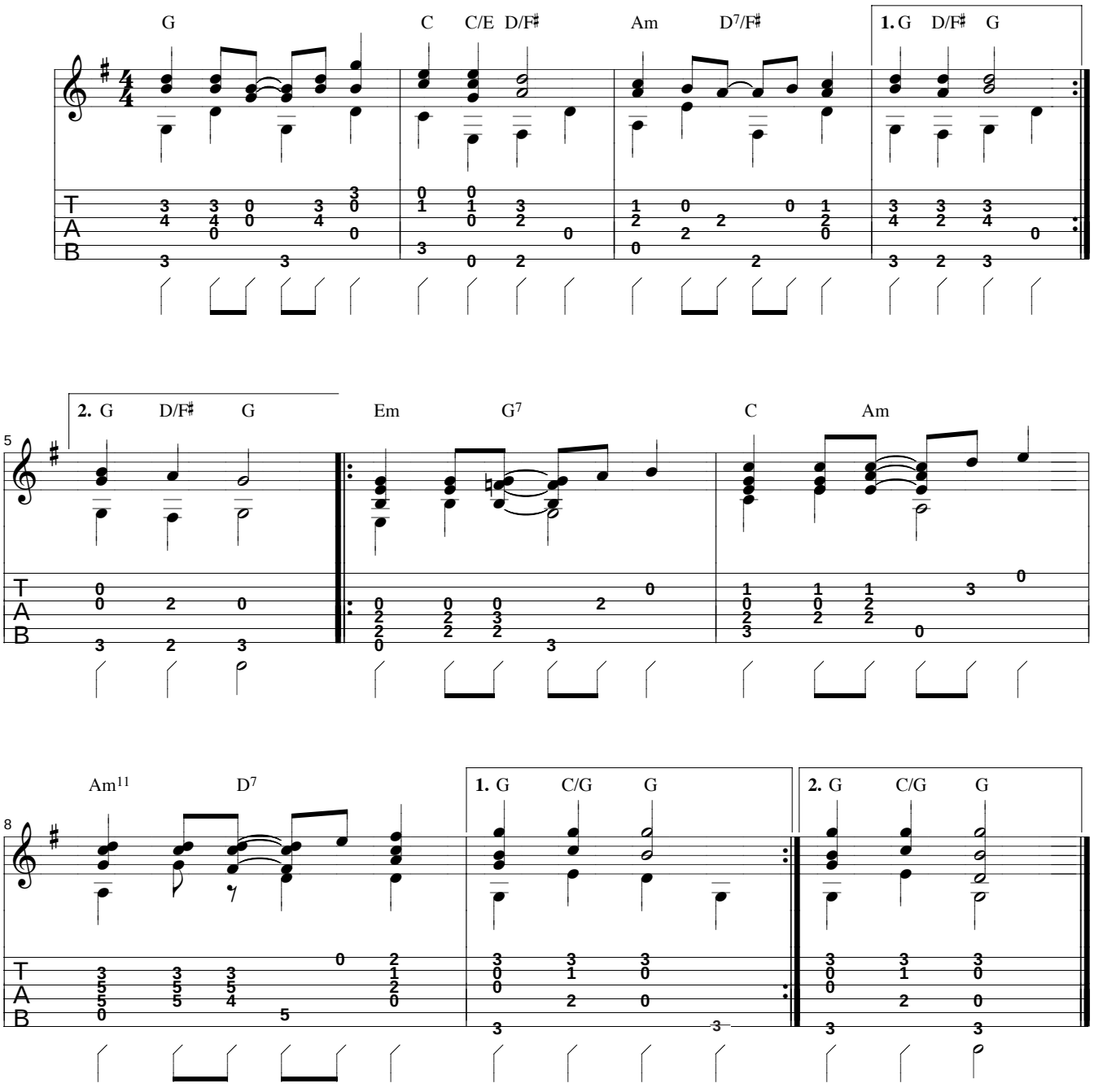
Jamaican Folk Tune

Mostly Alternating-Bass
Not too Fast

Traditional
Arrangement by Mark Hanson



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I set this traditional tune from Jamaica mostly in an alternating-bass style to give it some rhythmic regularity and make it quickly accessible to intermediate fingerpickers. The “More Rhythmic” version found in the Free Tab section of the Accent On Music website (www.AccentOnMusic.com) incorporates more syncopation that is so characteristic of the Jamaican style.

In the opening section I fret the bass string with my thumb on the G chord. This can be played as a barre if “thumbing” is outside your technique, but play the subsequent open-string notes (G and B) as fretted notes on the third and fourth strings if you barre.In M.6, I “pinch” the second-beat Em chord with the thumb and first two fingers. I pick the following three-note Em with three fingers (*i-m-a*), reserving my thumb for the subsequent low G on the sixth string. I do the same thing for the third-beat chord changes in Ms. 7-8.

Pay close attention to the first and second endings to ensure that you play the phrases properly - each section is an 8-bar phrase. Also, make sure to pick the correct strings in the final G chord. That will ensure the proper voice leading when moving from C/G to G. - *Mark Hanson*