

Piece in A minor

N. Coste
(1806-1883)

edited by H. G. Pellegrin

The musical score is presented in three systems. The first system is labeled 'Guitar' and features a treble clef, a 2/4 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a single staff with various note values and rests. Above the staff, a series of numbers indicates fingerings: 1 3 4 1-- 1 2 4 0 1 2 4 1 1 3 4 0 1 3 4 1- 1 2 4 2 1 4 3 1. Below the staff, guitar-specific symbols are used, including a bar line with a horizontal line through it, a vertical line with a horizontal bar, and a vertical line with a horizontal bar and a small circle. The second system begins at measure 8 and continues the melody with similar notation and fingerings: 3 1 0 2 1 0 0 3 1 0 1 0 1 3-3 0 1 4 1 4 0 0 3. The third system starts at measure 16 and shows a continuation of the piece with similar notation and fingerings.

This short piece in A minor presents a number of interesting little lessons for the student. The melody is played on the first string from the first measure to the repeat. From the repeat to the end, there is an interesting play between the two voices that poses some musical question. Which voice should be more prominent? Did the composer intend one voice to be of greater importance?

The student should play the piece with these questions in mind, accenting one voice then the other to see what he or she can conclude. There is no wrong answer. It is a question of taste coupled with contemporary performance practice. As the student is not necessarily aware of 19th Century performance styles and practices, he or she can experiment.