Cezar Mateus

On My Music for the Lute

For the past twenty-five years people have known me as Cezar Mateus The Lute Maker yet I have been a lute player and composer for the lute for much longer than that. Until recently, playing and composing has been done in a private way, for family and close friends.

I was born in Bucharest, Romania, in 1961, where I started playing classical guitar at age 13. After moving to the United States in 1980, I pursued studies in classical guitar and composition at CalArts and Northridge in California. Even though I eventually steered my professional career towards lute making, my passion for playing and composing for the lute never left me.

I find inspiration throughout the long history of music behind us, from medieval and traditional sources to Dufay, to Dowland, to Arvo Part to Philip Glass.

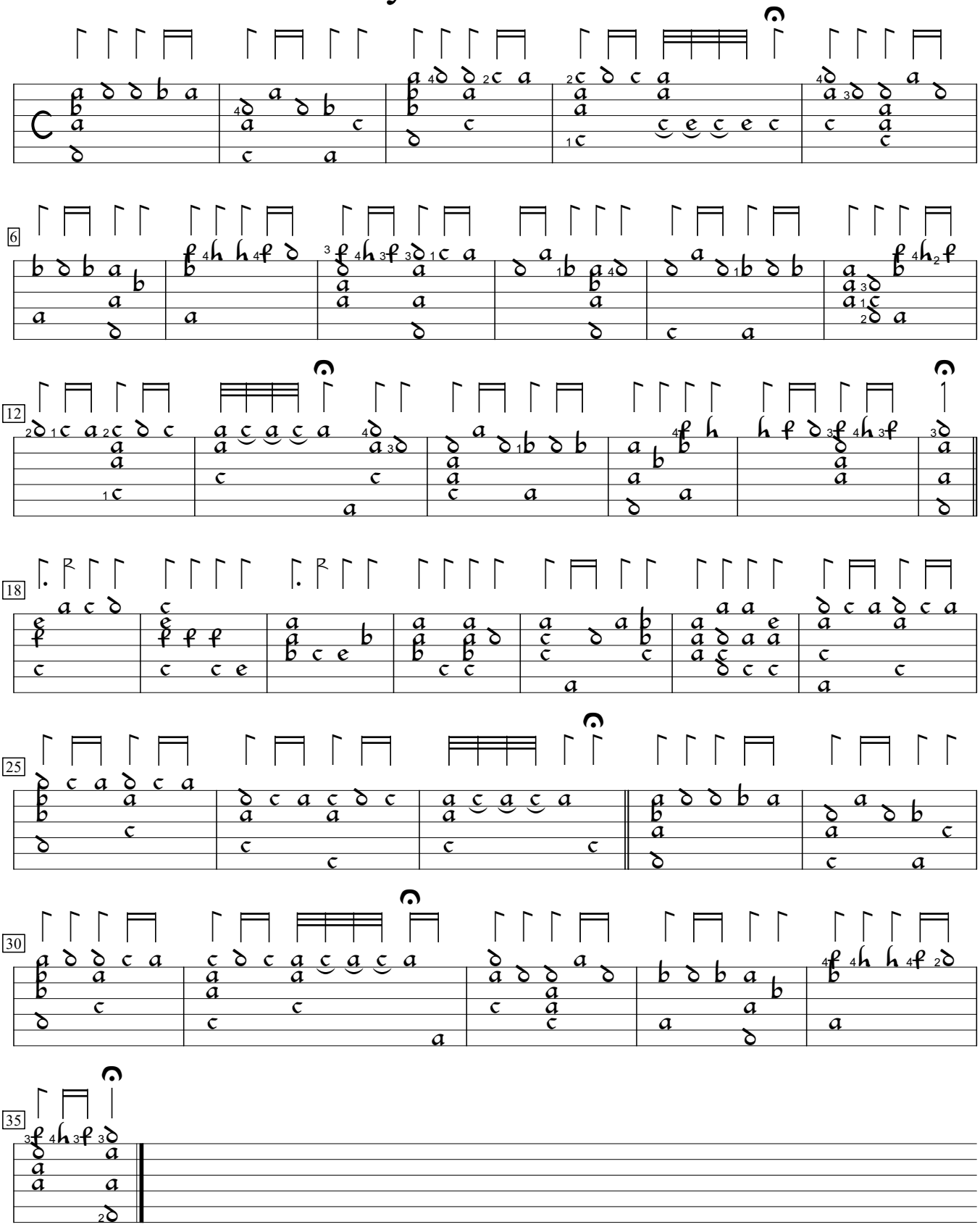
In my compositional explorations for the lute I oscillate between a non idiomatic - yet still tonal/modal style - and a more idiomatic, recognizable style introducing exceptions and oddities that will alter the historical landscape and definitely tell the listener that it is not an authentic period piece. I do believe in the power of the natural resonance, namely the first frequencies of the harmonics series, which create beautiful triads and beautifully bearable and enticing dissonances.

Within this pseudo historical (neo renaissance) style I am bringing to the plate – and to the palate – those delicious flavors the lovers of historical lute music so much enjoy.

Feel free to contact me at cezarmateus@gmail.com

Do you remember?

Cezar Mateus



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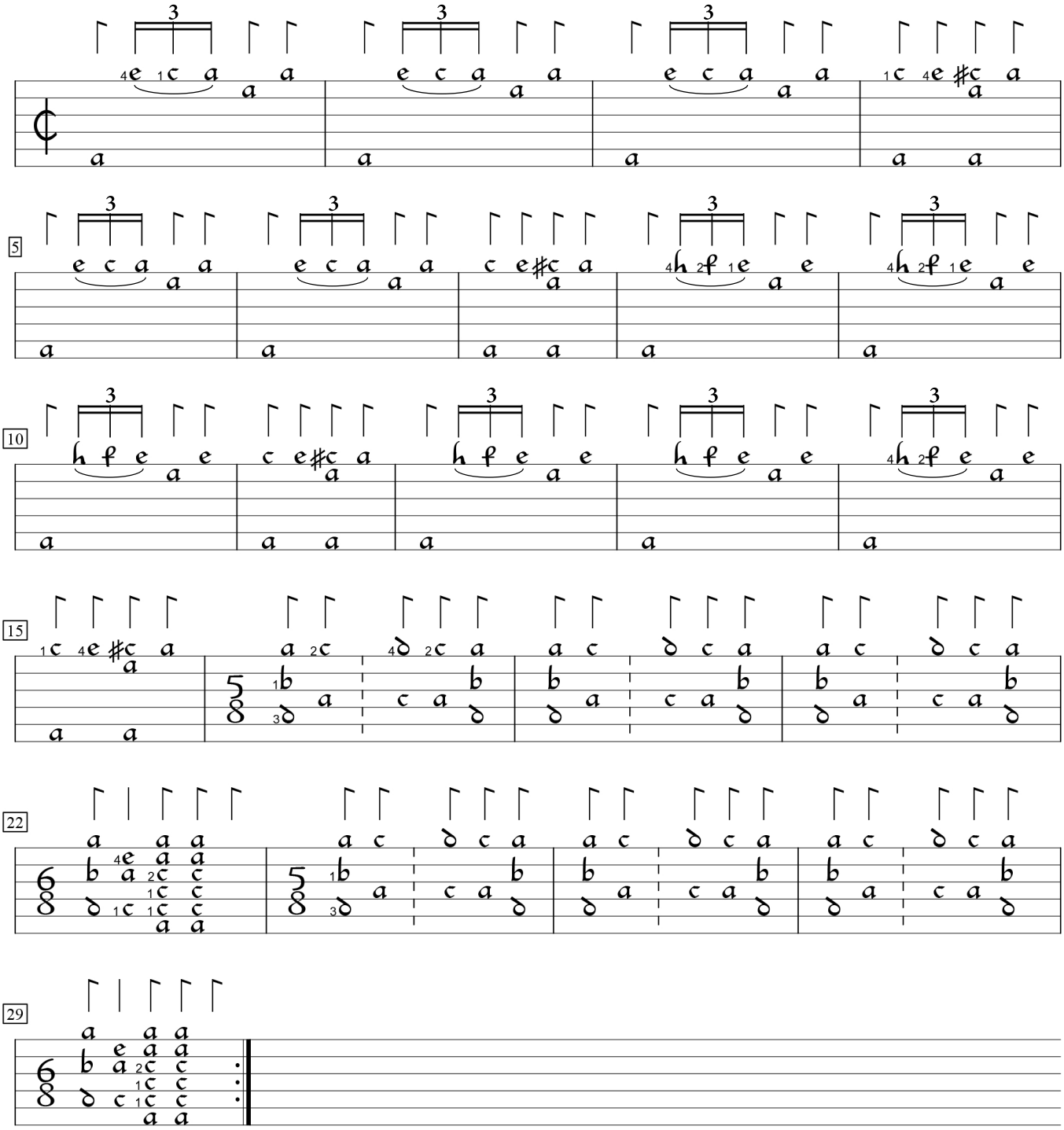
Lively

Morning call

Cezar Mateus
b.1961



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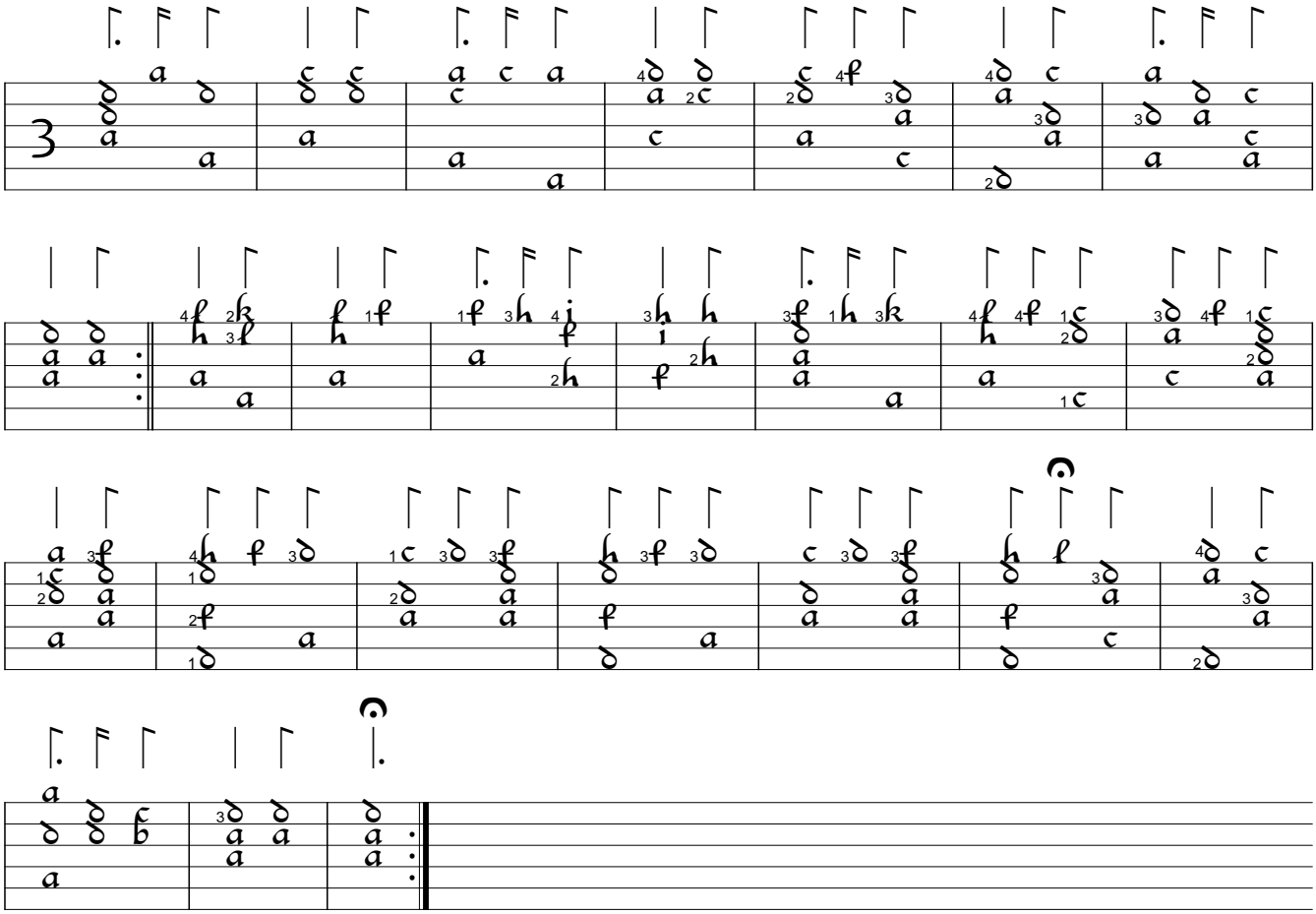
Lively

Lillibullero

A new Irish tune

Traditional/Henry Purcell

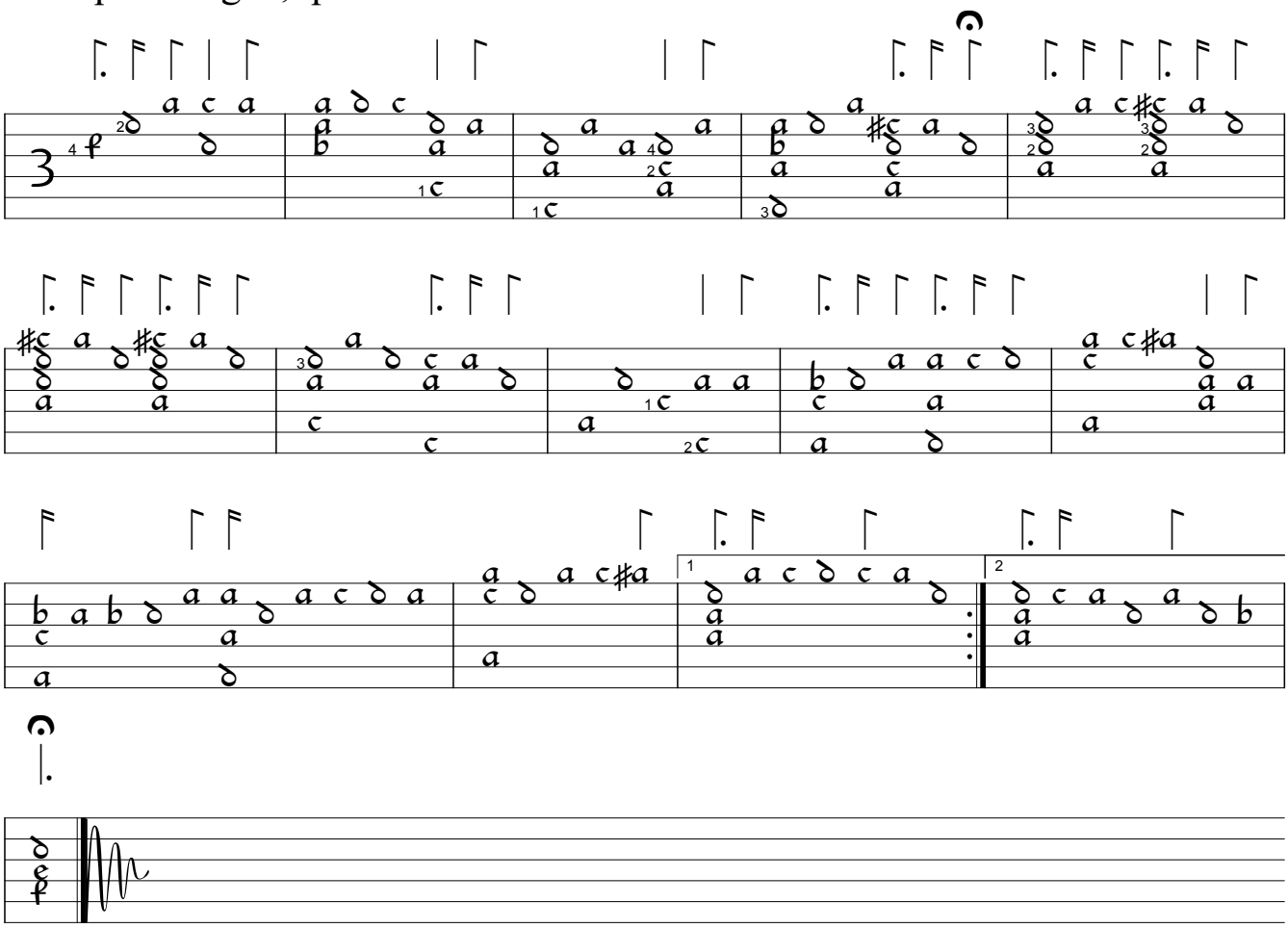


Arranged for 6C lute by Cezar Mateus 2015

A Dance

Une quasi Gigue, quasi triste

Mateus



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