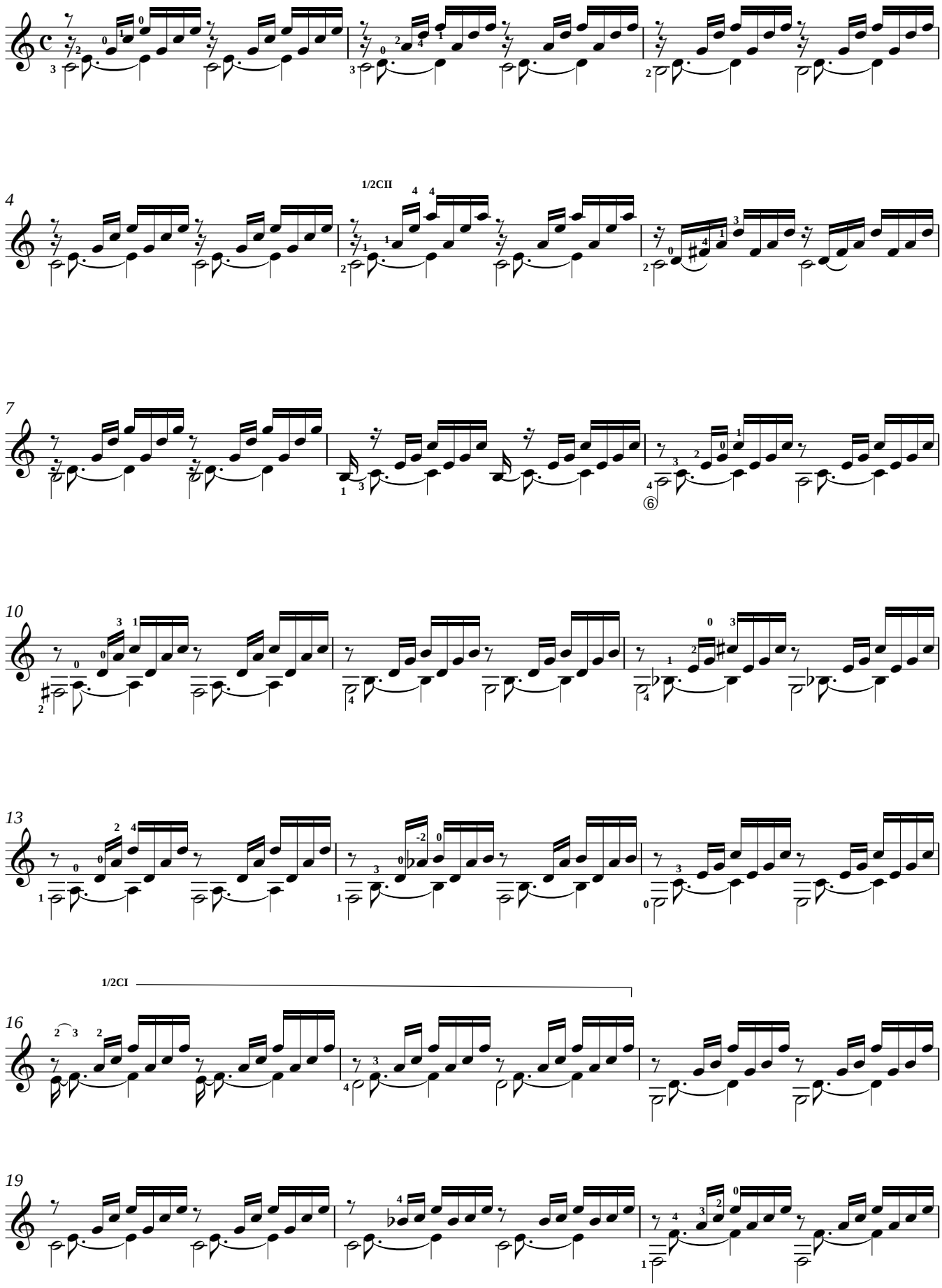
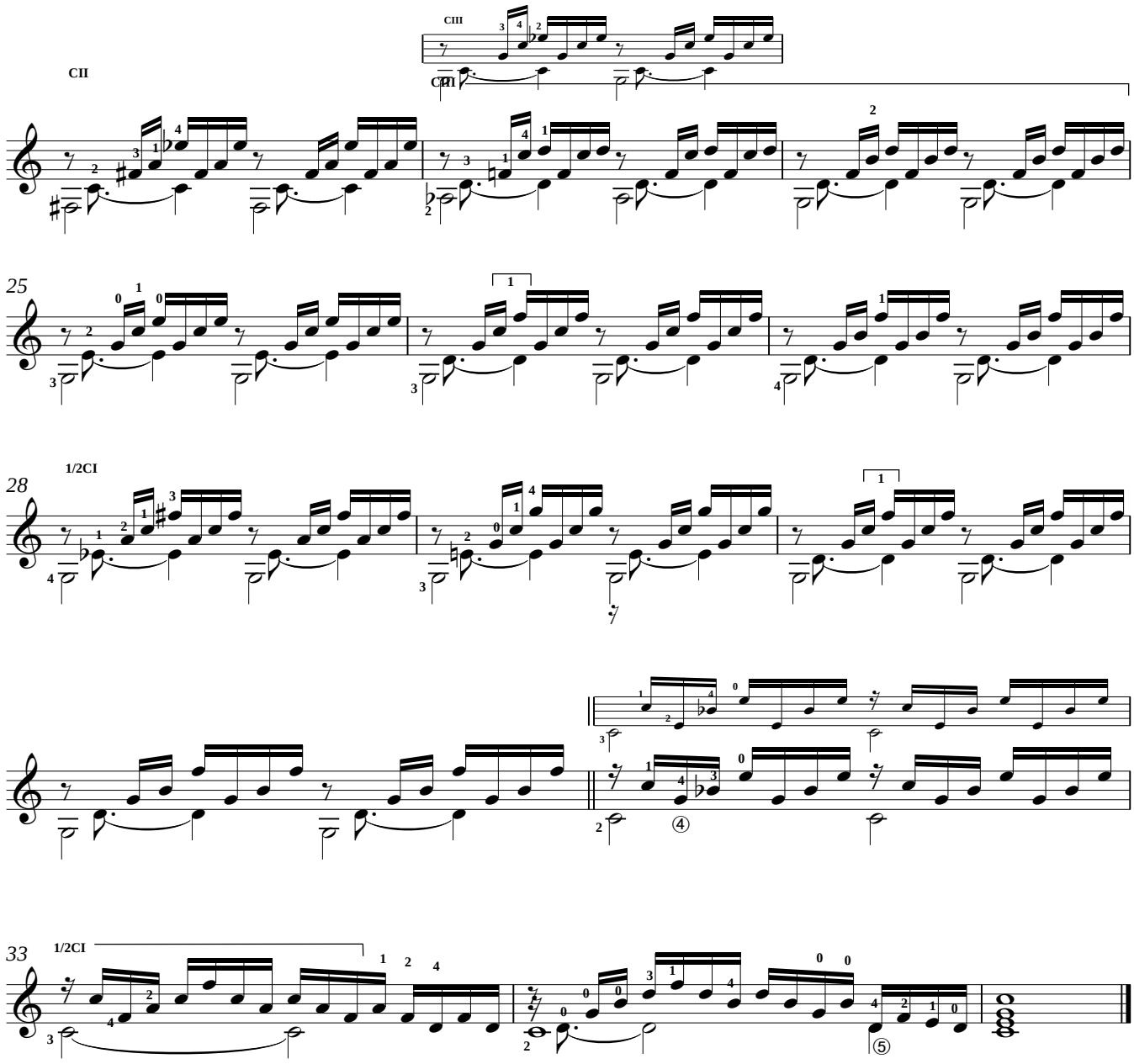
The Well Tempered Clavier - Book I

Prelude I - for Solo Guitar

JS Bach (1685 - 1750)
Arr: Tony Cusack
www.tonycusack.com





Performance Notes:

This arrangement is not completely faithful to the original keyboard work, the arpeggios having been revoiced at bars 10, 14, 15, 22, 23 and 32. There is also an octave transposition at bar 16.

At bar 5 hold both of the notes on strings 1 and 2 at once by making a small bar with your 4th finger.

You should damp strings 5 and 6 at the beginning of bar 16 to avoid obscuring that bar's harmony.

The small staff at bar 23 is not an alternative but is an additional bar to be inserted between bars 22 and 23 when using the arrangement as accompaniment to Gounod's Ave Maria. (i.e. skip it if you are simply playing the Prelude.)

Swap from your 3rd to 4th LH finger for the bass G on entering bar 27. This fingering isn't necessary for bar 27 itself but allows time to make the 4th finger quite secure before forming the very difficult chord in bar 28.

The small staff at bar 32 IS an alternative. The voicing on the main staff is preferable because closer to the original score but is quite difficult. The alternative voicing is acceptable IMHO and much easier to play.