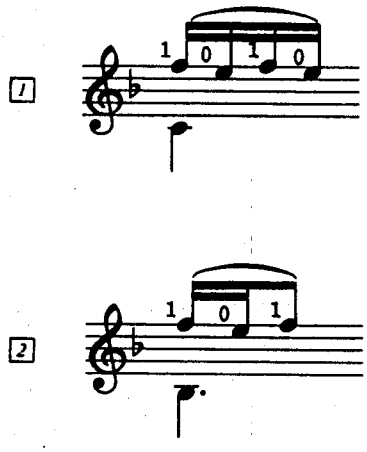
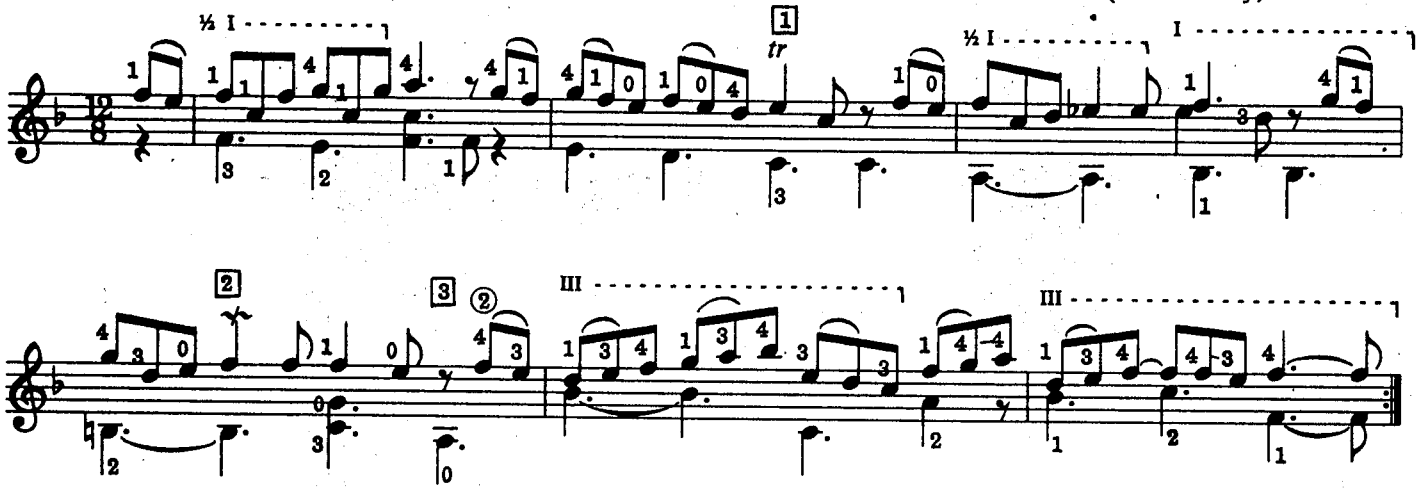
Cancion O Tocata

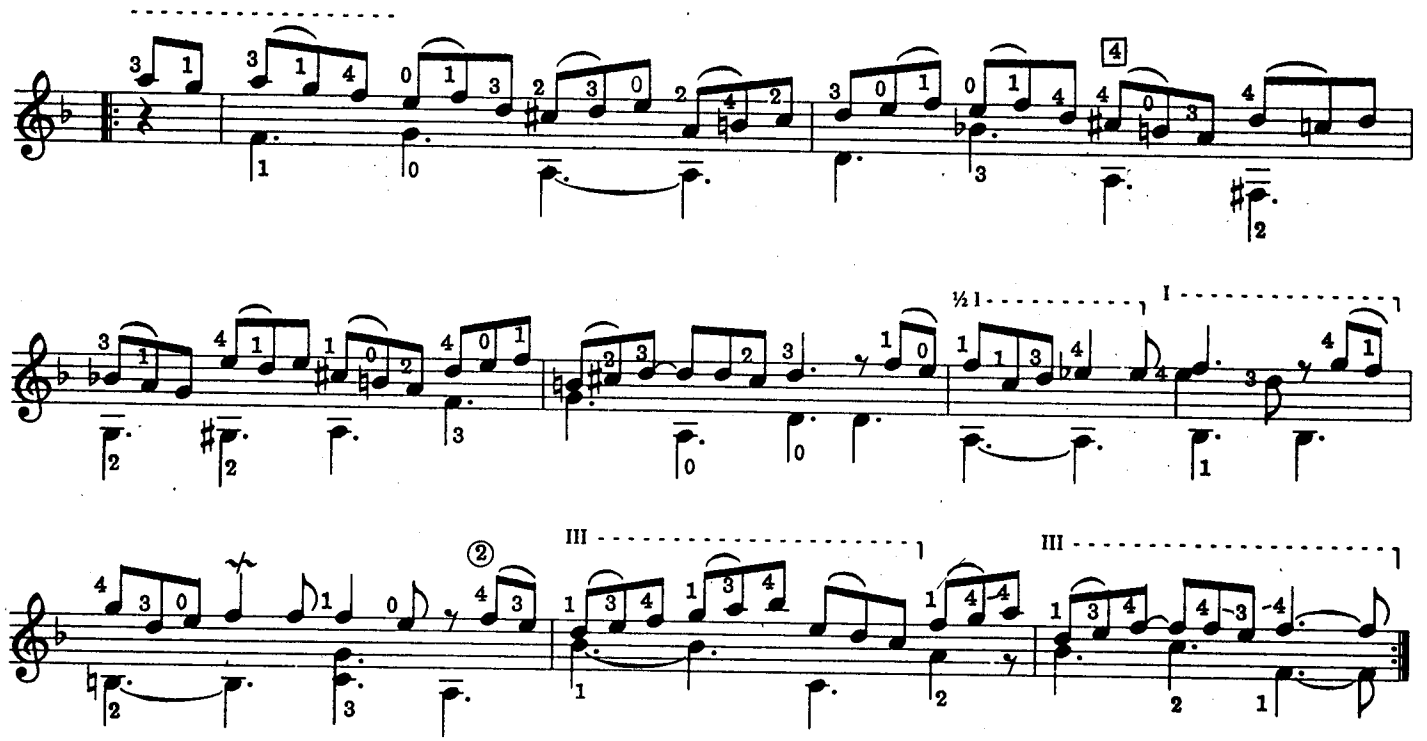
Santiago de Murcia was a court musician to Phillip V of Spain, and guitar instructor to his first wife, Maria Luisa of Savoy. This piece is taken from a manuscript collection of his pieces dated 1732, and is one of the last examples of guitar tablature before the final decline of interest in the five-course guitar.
I would suggest a lively tempo (♩ = 96) and a light hearted approach. The rather nebulous title translates as *Song or Instrumental Piece.*



[3] *It is important to damp the open A at the end of the measure to prevent an unpleasant over-ring. The right hand thumb is the most convenient to use for this.*
[4] *This rather curious fingering facilitates the change to the next chord. The third finger should not leave the string in travelling from the B♭ to the A.*

Santiago de Murcia
(18th Century)





Jean Antoine Mezzetin Watteau
The guitarist's hand indicates that he is playing in the "rasguedo" or strumming style. *The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Munsey Fund, 1934, New York, N. Y. 10028.*