### **CLASSICAL GUITAR CORNER ACADEMY**



# 120 RIGHT HAND STUDIES

BY MAURO GIULIANI









BY DR. SIMON POWIS

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WWW.CLASSICALGUITARCORNER.COM



## Introduction

The 120 Right Hand Studies were written by the Italian virtuoso Mauro Giuliani (1781 - 1829) in the early nineteenth century, and the fact that they are still widely used today is a testament to their quality. Using a simple alternation between a C Major chord and a G Dominant Seventh chord, Giuliani has come up with progressive studies that will help you structure practice, work on specific right hand techniques, and systematically develop almost any arpeggio pattern that might be encountered in the classical repertory.

Music has changed over the years and modern repertoire has made new demands on the right hand. However, the 120 studies remain as one of the most effective tools to develop a solid technique in the right hand, creating a firm foundation for any repertoire.

As with scales, these right hand studies can be built upon by teacher and student to refine musical aspects such as chord voicing, articulation, tone control, and dynamics. Challenge yourself to compound your technical workout with a musical agenda and these simple studies will provide another level of musical development.

#### **Practice technique**

When I first encountered these studies, I was stuck on the first one for quite some time. Seemingly simple, the first study requires the student to balance the voices in the right hand making the chord progressions balanced and smooth. Aim to bring out the various voices and you will be on the path to developing the refined right hand control that is needed to play the majority of classical guitar music.

Don't let the 120 studies overwhelm you by trying to tackle them all in one sitting, or even several sittings. Take small groups of them and work diligently being critical of your sound, articulation and shifting. If you feel comfortable with a particular study, then add some challenges to it such as altering the rhythm, adding dynamics, and varying the tone quality. If you do find that some provide difficulty, make a note of them and single them out for slow, methodical practice. With time and patience you will be able to conquer each study and your technique will be the better for it. We all have different skills and challenges, so don't be down on yourself if you struggle with some. Rather, be exited that you have isolated a problem and now have the opportunity to improve!

#### **Adding exercises**

Here is a list of ideas for you to add more aspects to the 120 studies:

Dynamics (p, mf, f, ff, crescendo, decrescendo)
Articulation (staccato, legato, accents)
Tone control (tasto, pont, and variations in between!)
Tempi (adagio to presto, accelerando and decelerando)
Expression (sadly, joyfully, nostalgically, serenely)
Voicing (bring out different lines in the studies, bass, middle and upper voices)

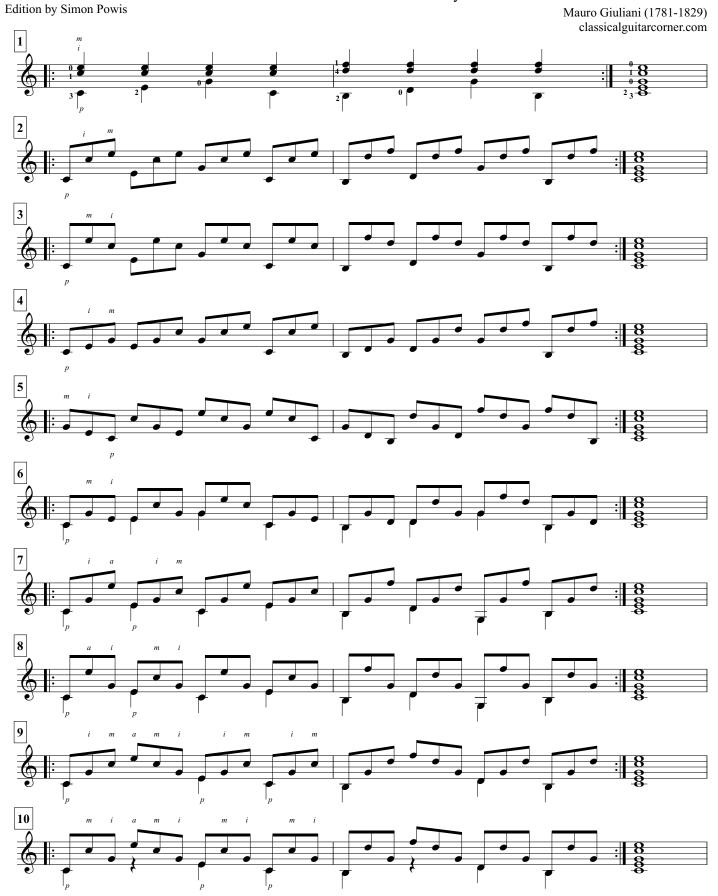
Good luck!

Simon Johis

www.simonpowis.com www.classicalguitarcorner.com

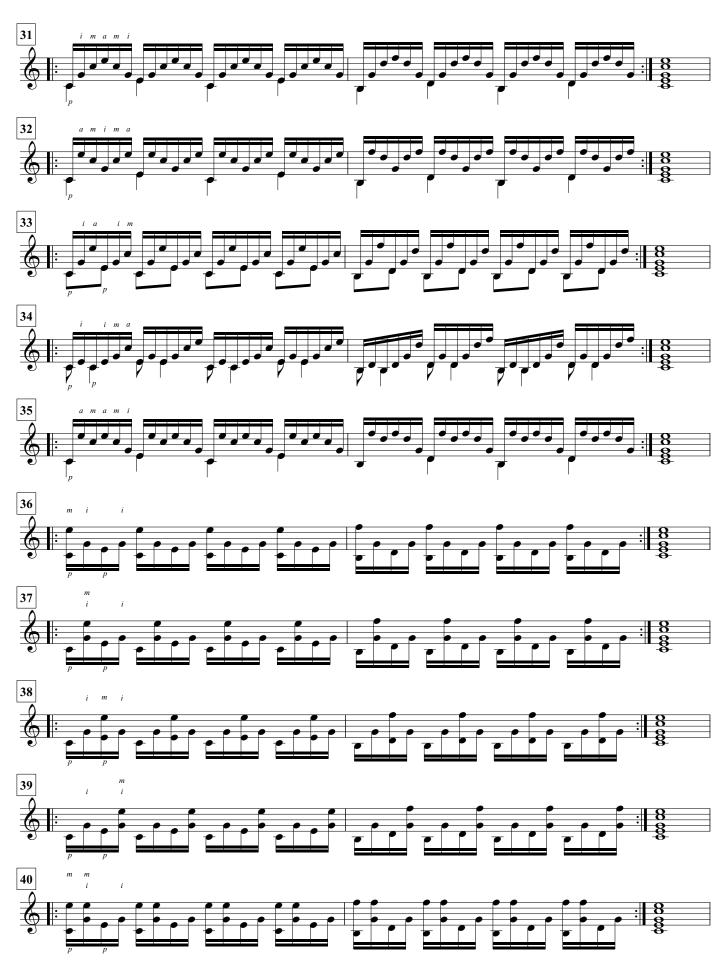
## 120 Right Hand Studies

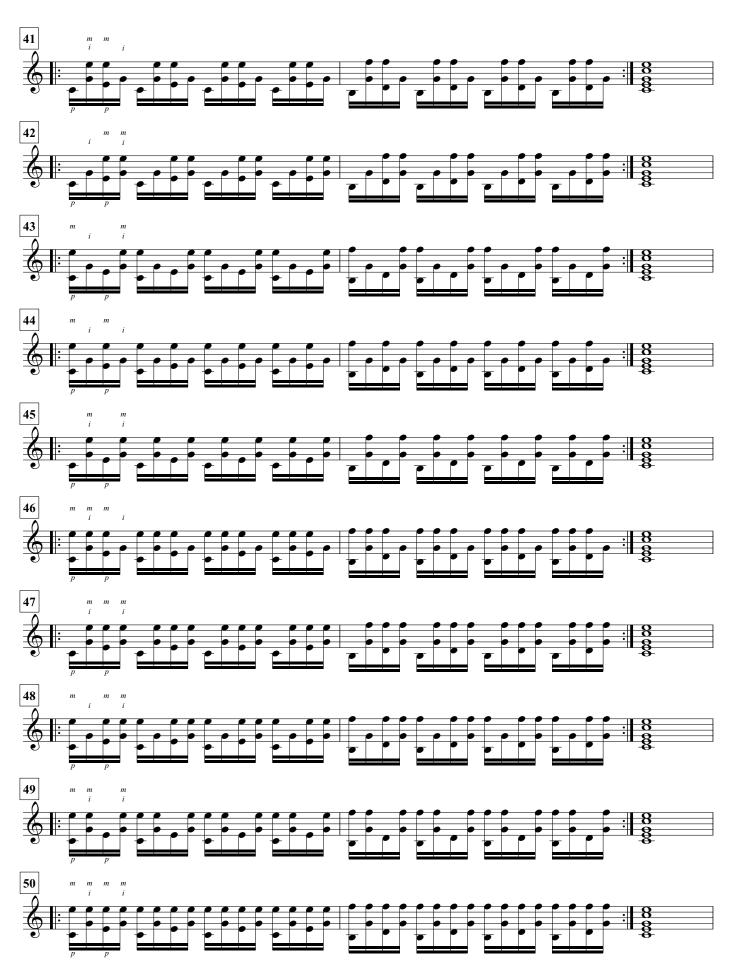
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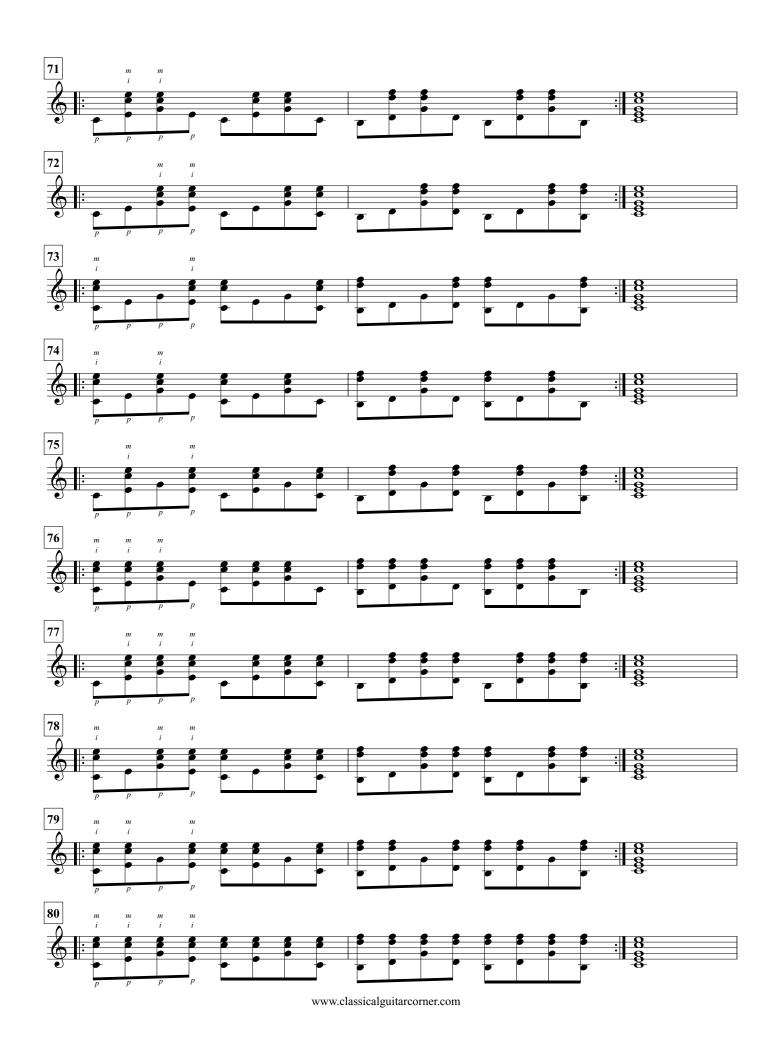


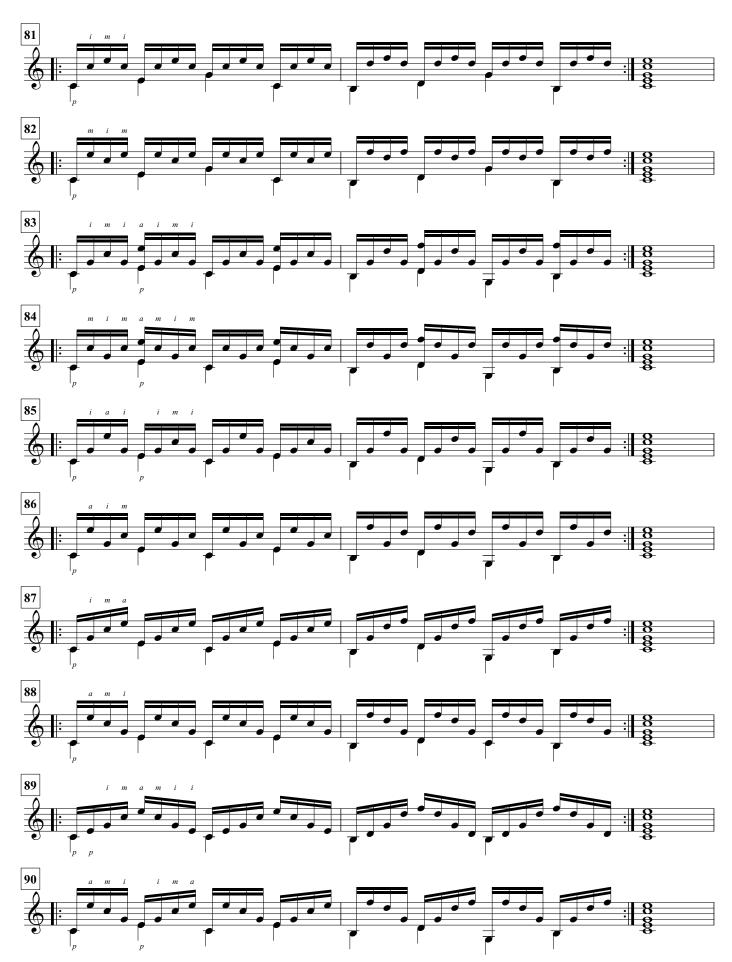




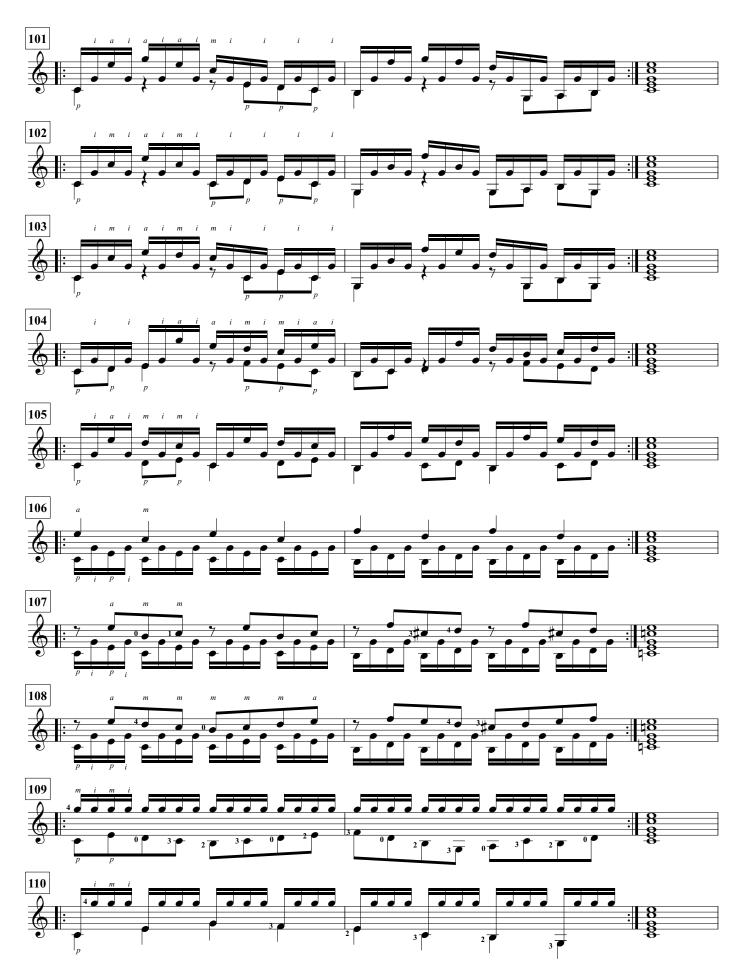


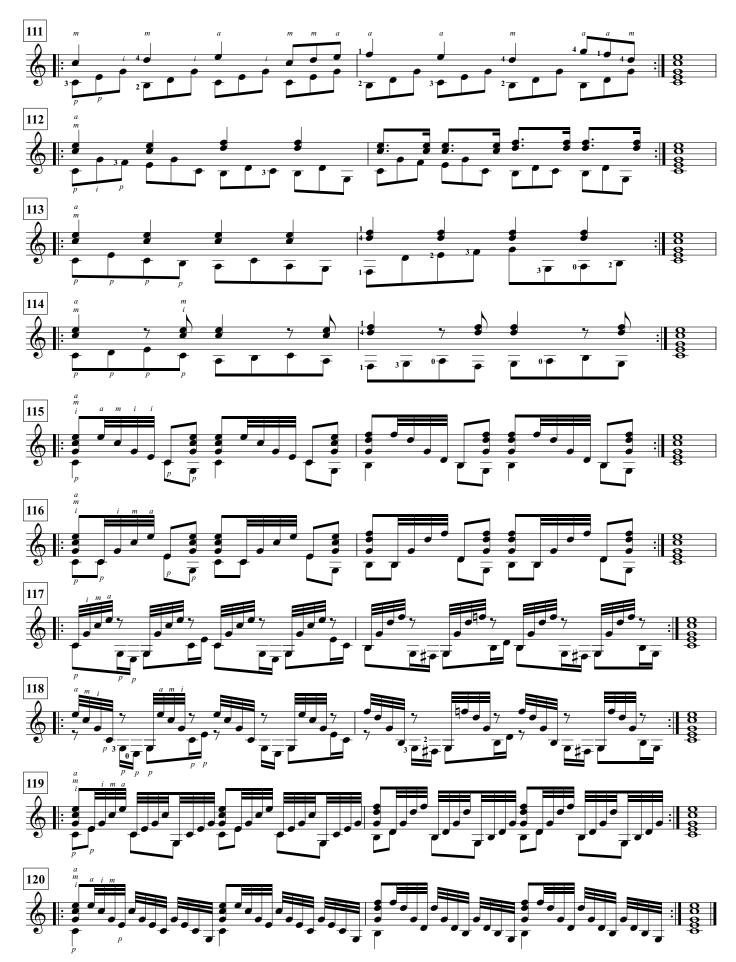














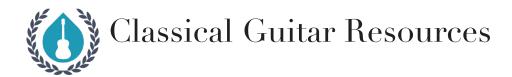
#### **About the Academy**

The Academy at Classical Guitar Corner has become much more than an online resource to learn classical guitar. It has become a community, a sanctuary for learning, a source of inspiration, and a family.

With a structured approach to learning, students at the Academy benefit from a clear path to progress. That path guides them through the maze of materials that make up the learning process and leaves them feeling positive about music. The feeling of achievement, of success, and of mutual respect fuels further dedicated practice and a virtuous cycle ensues.

If you find that these materials suit your learning style and help you focus in your practice sessions, then I highly encourage you to join the CGC Academy as it is a world class institution filled with people who are passionate about the classical guitar.

www.classicalguitarcorner.com/join-cgc



#### **CGC Podcast Episodes**

John Williams
Gohar Vardanyan
David Russell
Andrew York
Sharon Isbin

#### **Books and Publications**

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Graded Repertoire for Classical Guitar
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Graded Duets for Classical Guitar
Classical Guitar Study Guides
The Classical Guitar Handbook

#### **Live Events**

Summer School
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How to Tune a Guitar by Ear 4 Practice Templates for Classical Guitar The Segovia Scales: A Practical Guide How to Change Strings on Classical Guitar Learning Guitar at an Older Age

#### **CGC Lessons**

Lágrima by Francisco Tárrega
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How to Develop Speed in the Right Hand
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