Combining Rest and Free Stroke

One of the challenges in playing classical guitar music is controlling the balance between the different parts. At bars 13-23 below, there are three parts to control: a melody, bass, and a pedal (the open G string). The melody notes here (stems up) are the most important and should be played with a rest stroke so that they are brought out. The pedal notes on the open G string are least significant and should be played with a free stroke so as not to compete with the melody. Bass notes are always played with the thumb and with a free stroke.

Study No. 1

Andante

free stroke

rest and free stroke

simile

free stroke