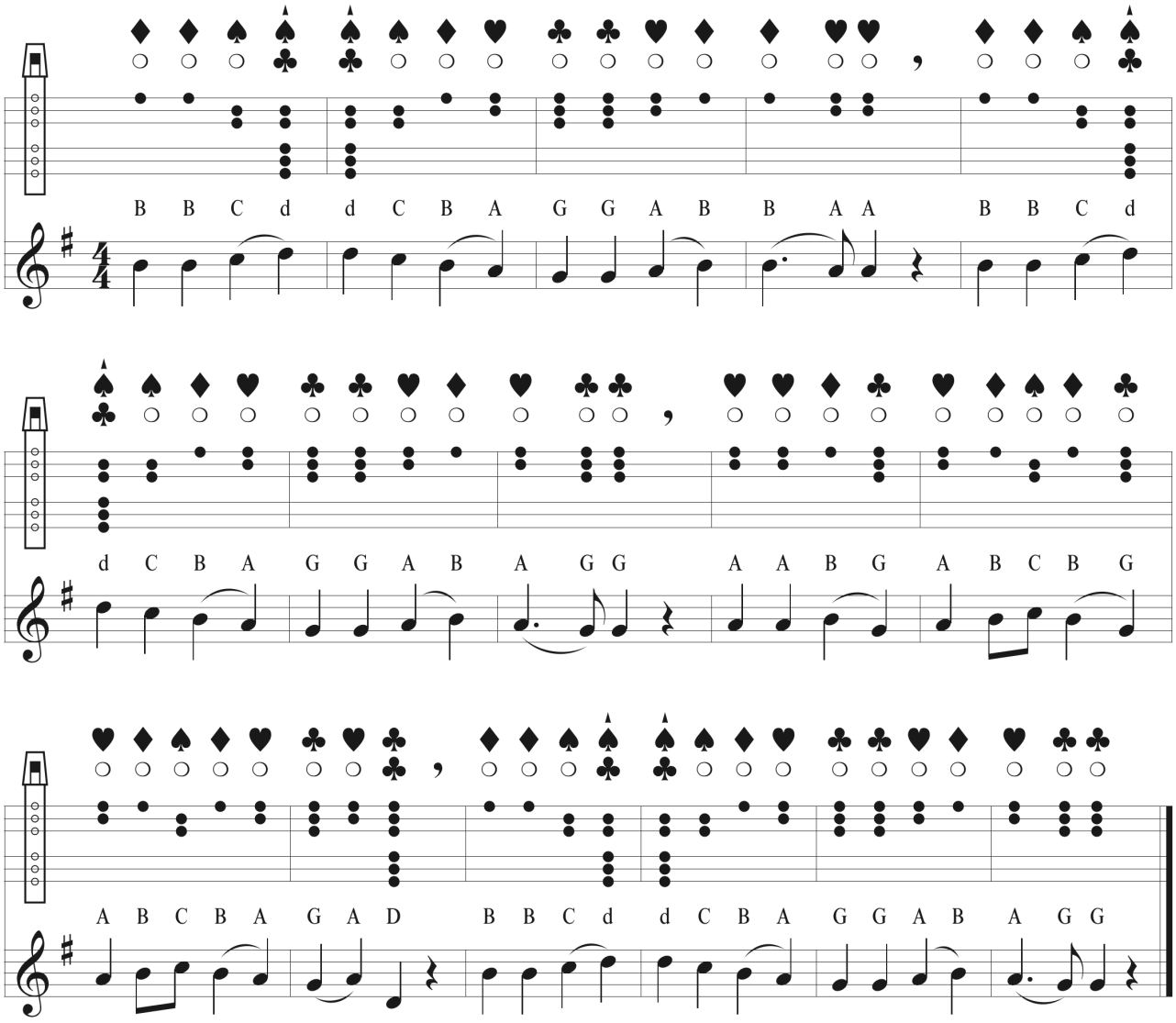
Tune 12: Ode to Joy

Audio File 21 🎧

This beautiful melody is from the fourth movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. I have altered the composer's rhythm in mm. 12–13 to create a breathing place.

In the first measure of "Ode to Joy" we encounter **opposing finger movement** for the first time. When moving from B up to C, we lift T1 and, at the same time, drop T2 and T3 onto their holes. Try to move all three fingers at exactly the same time. It's challenging for some of us to move fingers simultaneously in opposite directions like this.

Next, when moving from C up to high D, keep T2 and T3 covered and simply drop B1, B2 and B3 onto their holes while increasing your air speed just a bit. It may seem odd at first that you're moving to a higher note by putting fingers *down*. But as noted earlier, when you "cross the break" the fingering sequence is not as straightforward as when you move by a single scale step within just the high or low register.

You might also enjoy playing this tune higher, in D major, by starting on high F♯.