

Napoléon Coste (1805 -1883)

Claude Antoine Jean Georges Napoléon Coste was a French virtuoso guitarist and composer. He liked to play a seven-string guitar; this guitar with its 'floating' string can be seen on the bottom left of a famous photo of N. Coste, alongside other interesting types of guitar (an image easily found on the internet).

Among his many guitar compositions are 25 etudes. This one, with its Chopin-like scalar meditation in the middle section, I found particularly pleasing. The etude was written in the normal way in a binary rhythm (2/4), but some melodies, as here, seem made to be combined with the irresistible lilt of three-time, and tremolo always brings a specially enhancing effect.