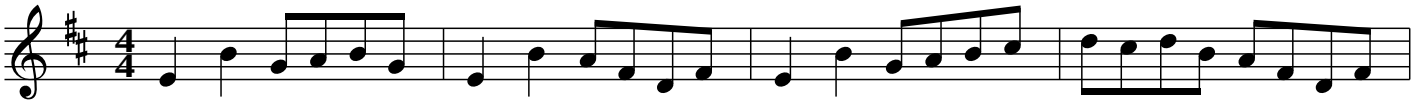Crossing the Shannon