NIU Jazz Audition Requirements

Please review and prepare all requirements thoroughly. Auditions are held in person at NIU in February, unless otherwise determined. Please register for an audition date on our website or at go.niu.edu/musicaudition.

If you are unable to attend NIU's official audition days, contact the Music Admissions Coordinator (avmenk@niu.edu) for permission to schedule an independent audition or obtain approval to submit an unedited video audition. Please bring copies of your music for the adjudication panel.

All applicants (undergraduate and graduate) must prepare the requirements under Assigned Excerpt, Technique, Improvisation, and Reading sections as appropriate for the instrument you will be auditioning. Graduate students have additional requirements listed at the end of this page. Undergraduates will complete an aural skills assessment at the time of audition. Sight reading exercises may be given at the time of audition for all applicants.

If you are auditioning only for the undergraduate Music Minor, you will complete all Technique and Reading requirements, and only the blues melody under Improvisation.

- Assigned excerpt
    - Each instrument has an assigned excerpt of music in the later portion of this document. Please scroll to find the appropriate assignment for the instrument(s) you will be auditioning on. Some excerpts may have a distinction between undergraduate and graduate requirements, others may not.

Attached music:

- Tenor Saxophone - p. 3
- Alto Saxophone - p. 4
- Bass - p. 5-6
- Piano - p. 7-8
- Drums - p. 9-12
- Guitar - p. 13-14
- Tenor Trombone - p. 15-18
- Trumpet - p. 19

- Technique
    - Assigned audition excerpt (please see below for respective studio excerpts)
    - Scales, full range
        - Major: Bb, E, and Ab; E melodic minor; C harmonic minor; Chromatic scale
        - Guitar* - major, natural and harmonic minor – multiple position; pentatonic
    - Triad arpeggios, full range
        - Major: C, Eb, F#
        - Minor: D, F, Ab
        - Guitar*: Major and minor triads; diatonic 7th chords (Maj7, Min7, Dm7, Min7b5), 2 octaves
- Improvisation
    - Blues melody of choice and 2 choruses of improvisation (*rhythm section players must also comp appropriate to style for 2 choruses);
    - Rhythm changes or standard melody of choice and 1 chorus of improvisation (*rhythm section players must also comp appropriate to style for 1 chorus)
- Reading
    - Sight reading of music appropriate for level of entrance (including chord reading for bass, guitar and piano
- Graduate candidates also prepare
    - Rhythm changes and standard melody of choice
    - Ballad of choice, 2 choruses maximum including melody and improvisation (unaccompanied, chord melody for guitar)
    - One transcription example

Questions? Contact Professor Reggie Thomas (reggiethomas@niu.edu).

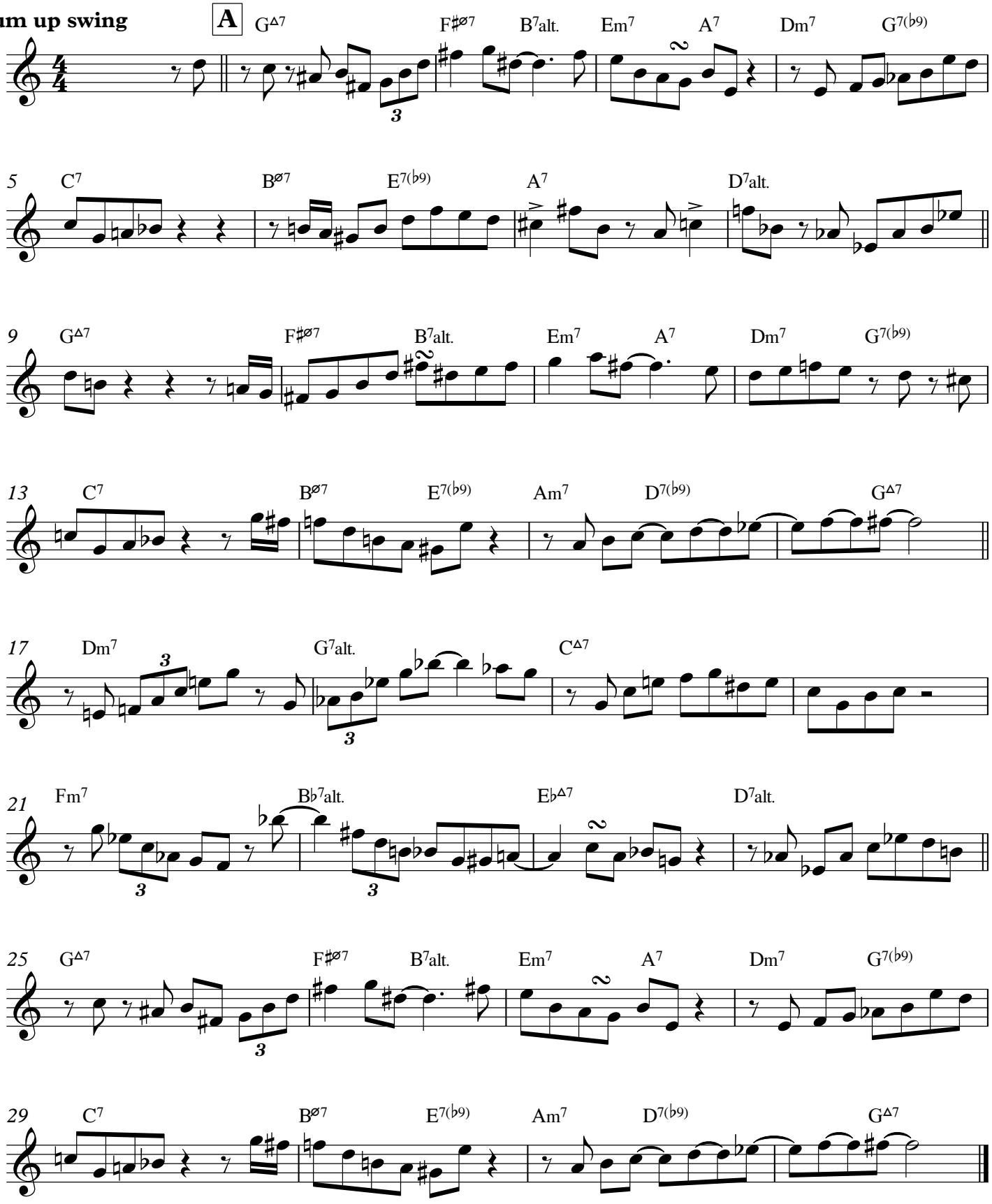
Tenor Saxophone

Denial

Based on the changes of "Confirmation"

Geof Bradfield

medium up swing



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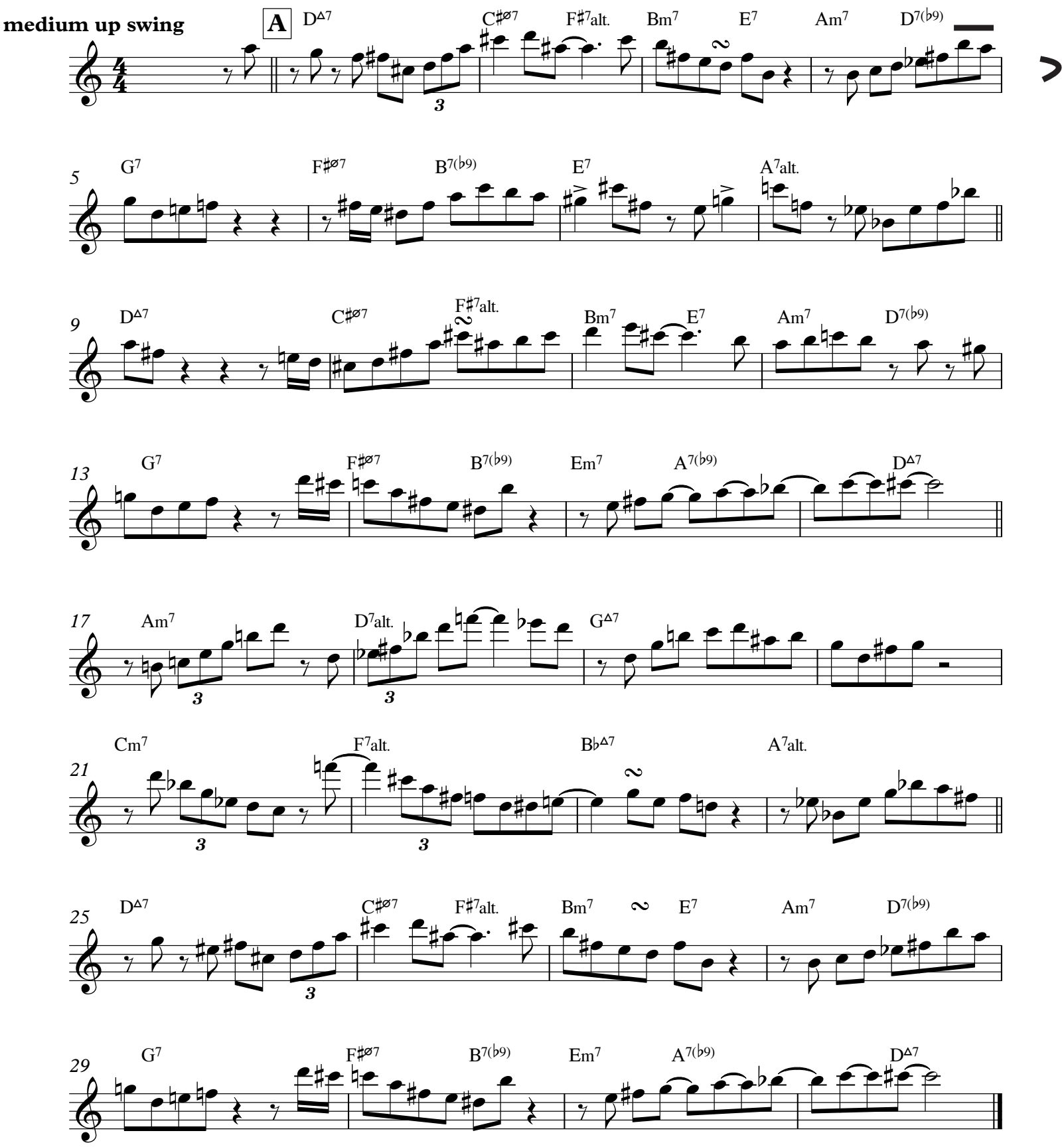
Alto Saxophone

Denial

Based on the changes of "Confirmation"

Geof Bradfield



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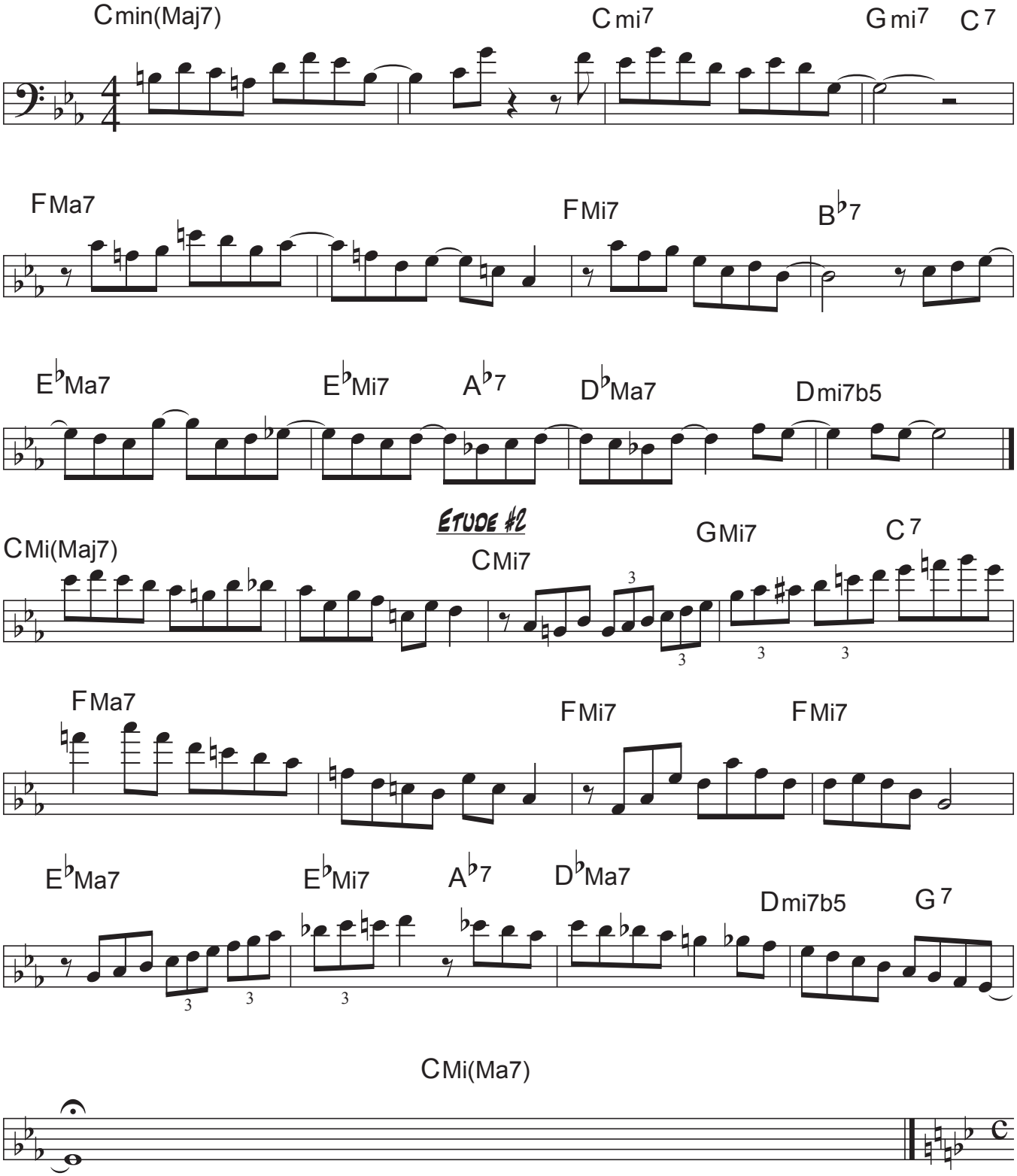
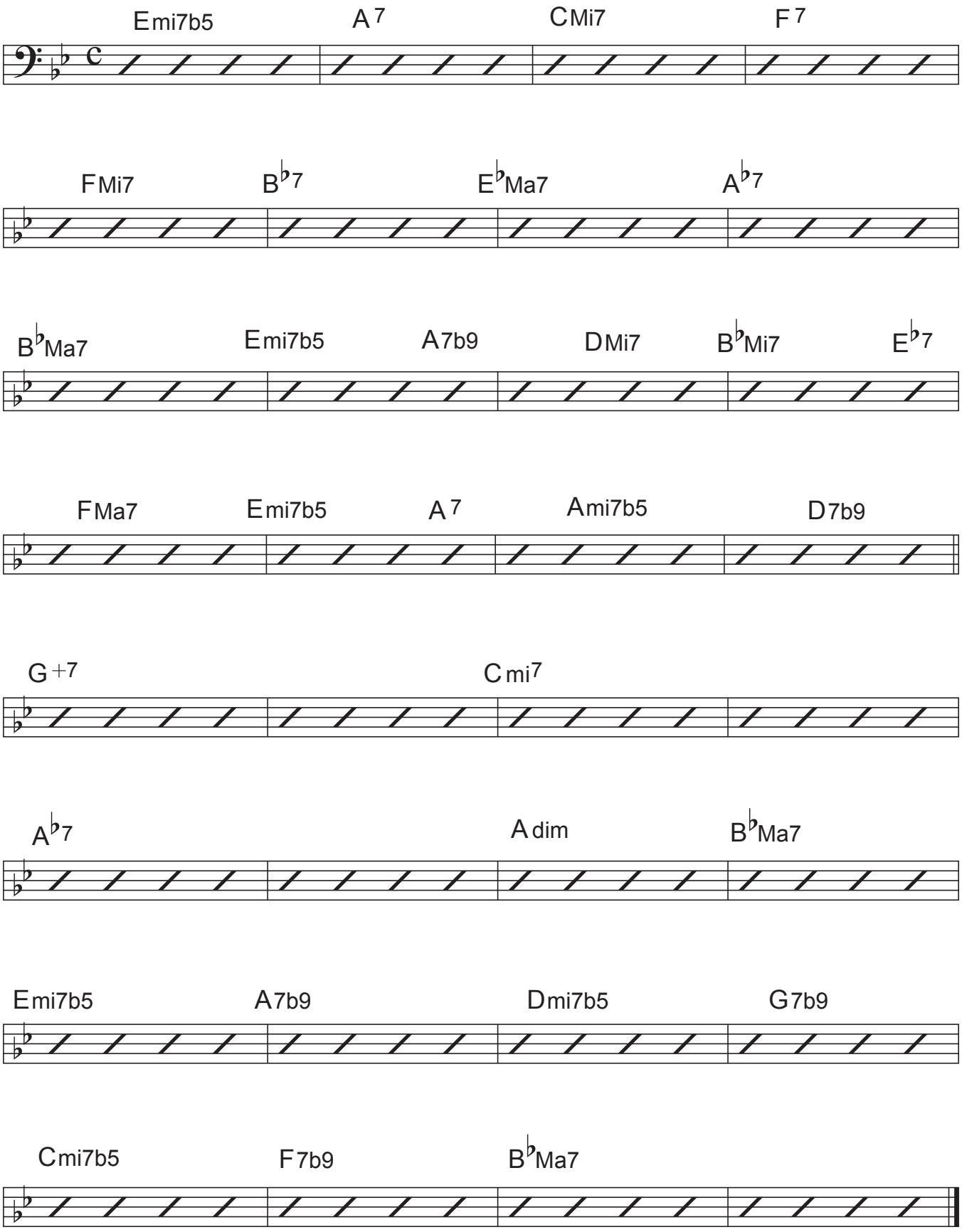
NIU Audition Bass-Jazz

Etude #1



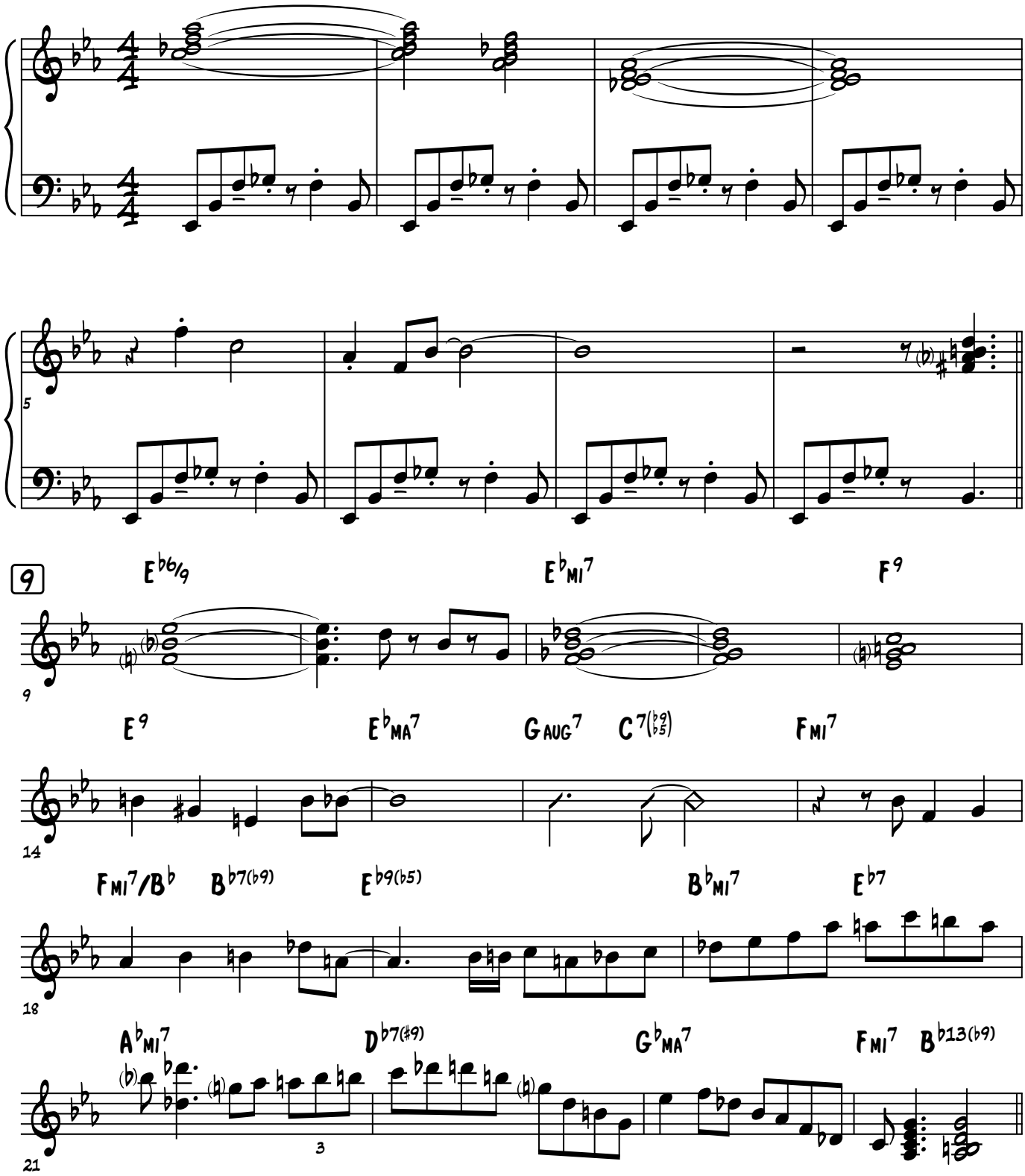
Etude #2

Etude #3- Walk Basslines



Piano Audition Excerpt

Quarter note- 180 or faster



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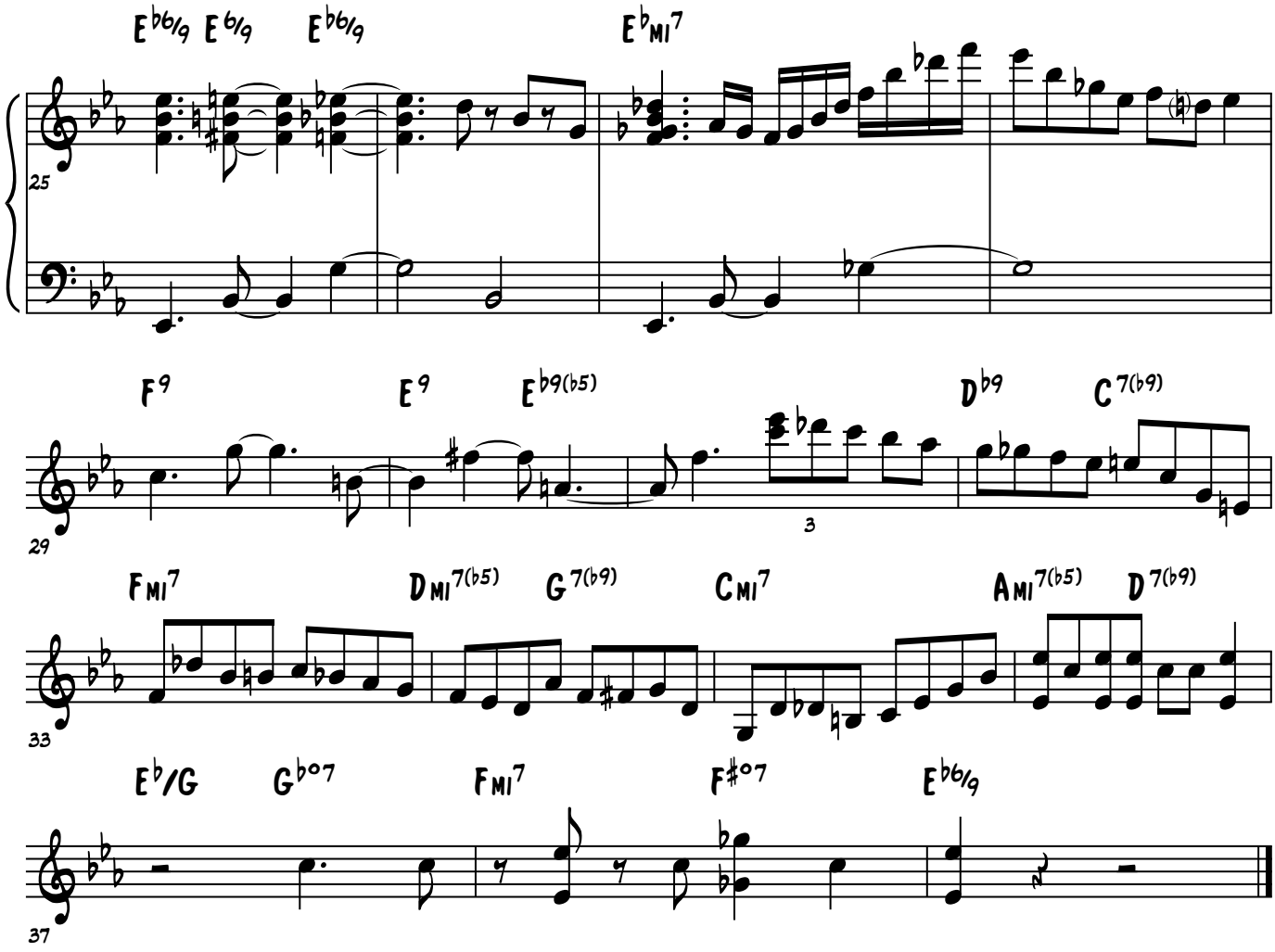
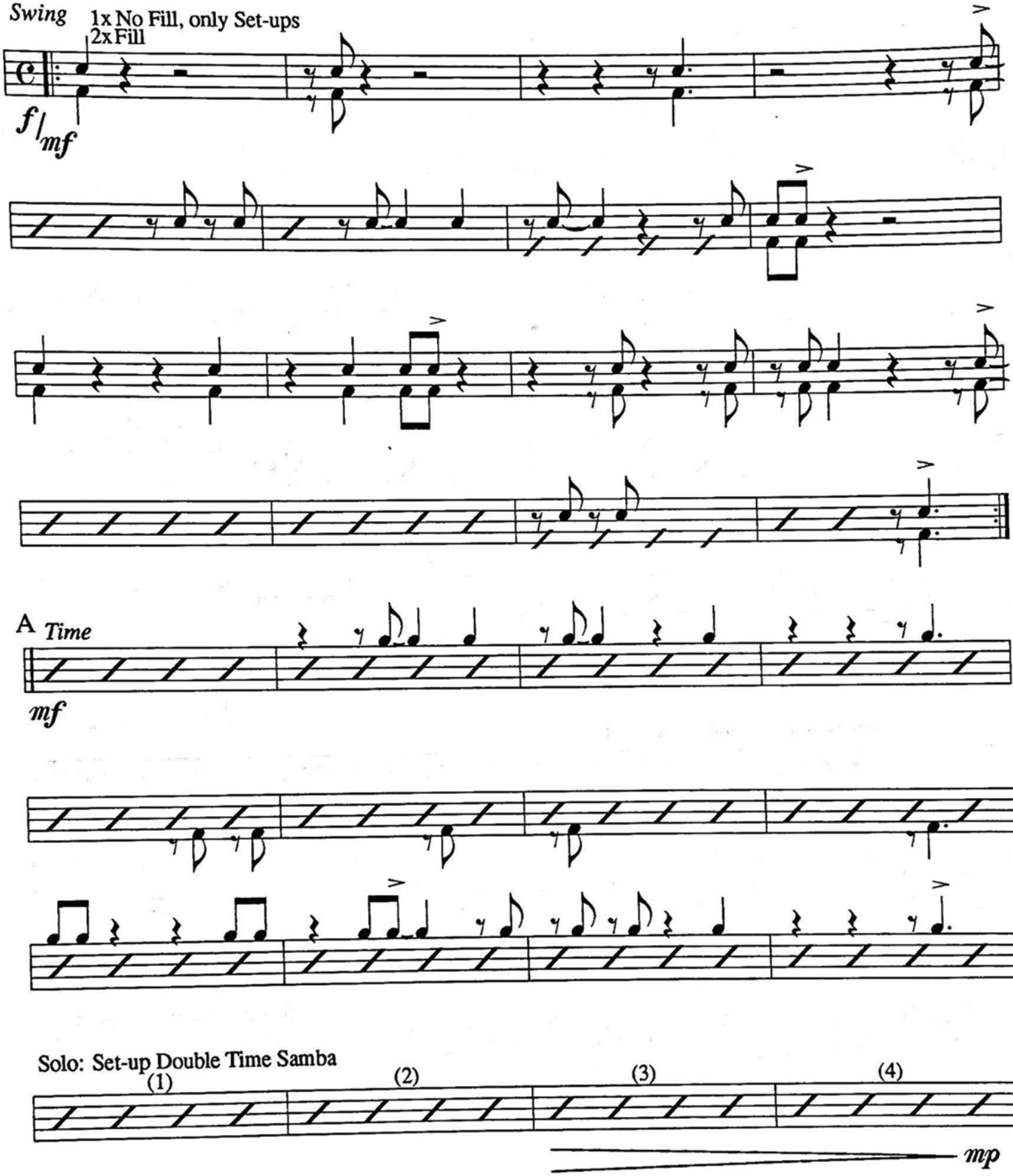

E♭6/9 E6/9 E♭6/9
E♭MI7
25
F9
E9
E♭9(♭5)
D♭9
C7(♭9)
3
29
FMI7
DMI7(♭5)
G7(♭9)
CMI7
AMI7(♭5)
D7(♭9)
33
E♭/G
G♭07
FMI7
F♯07
E♭6/9
37

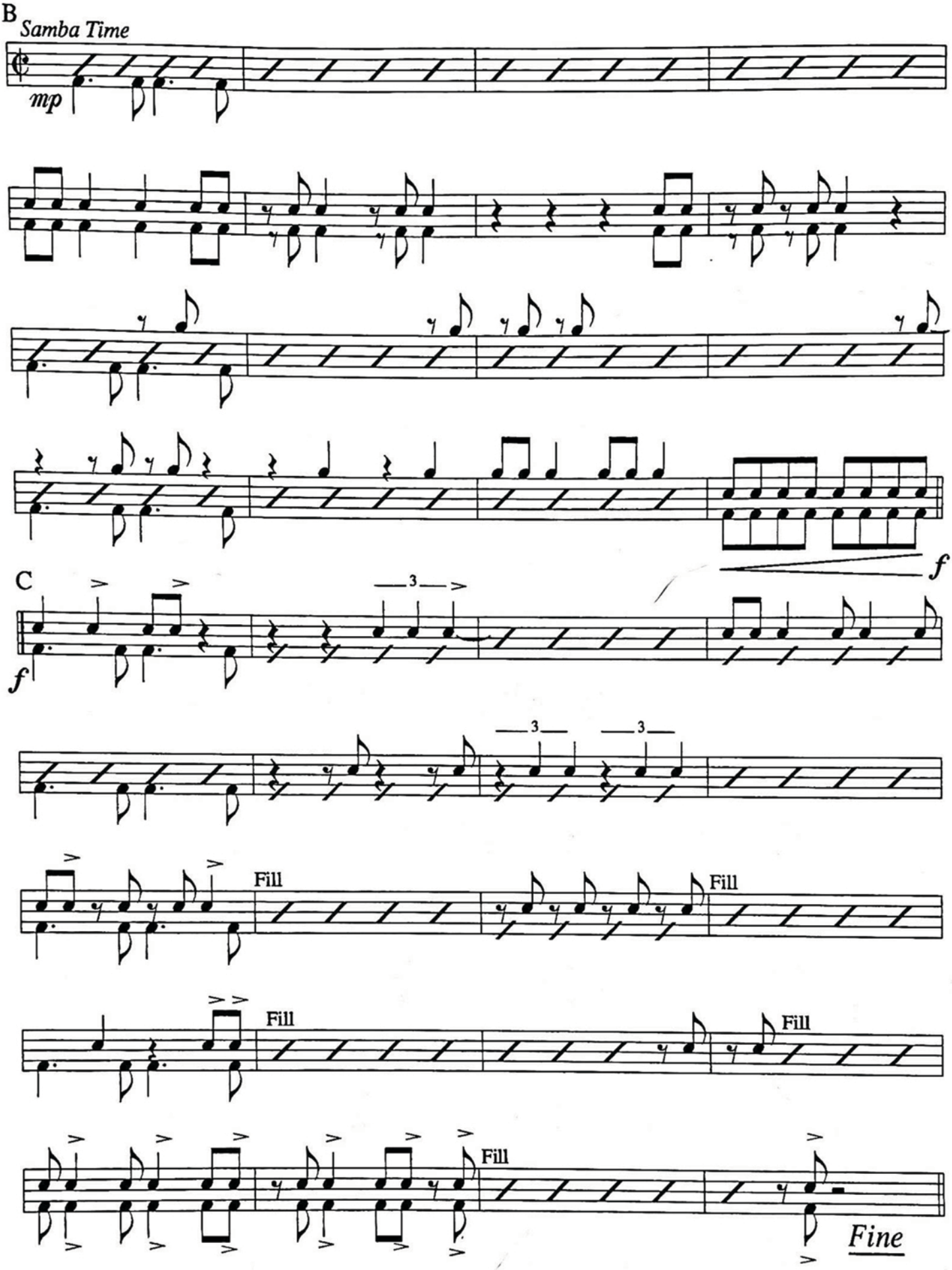
Swing / Double-Time Samba

3

♩= 90-120

Swing 1x No Fill, only Set-ups
2x Fill



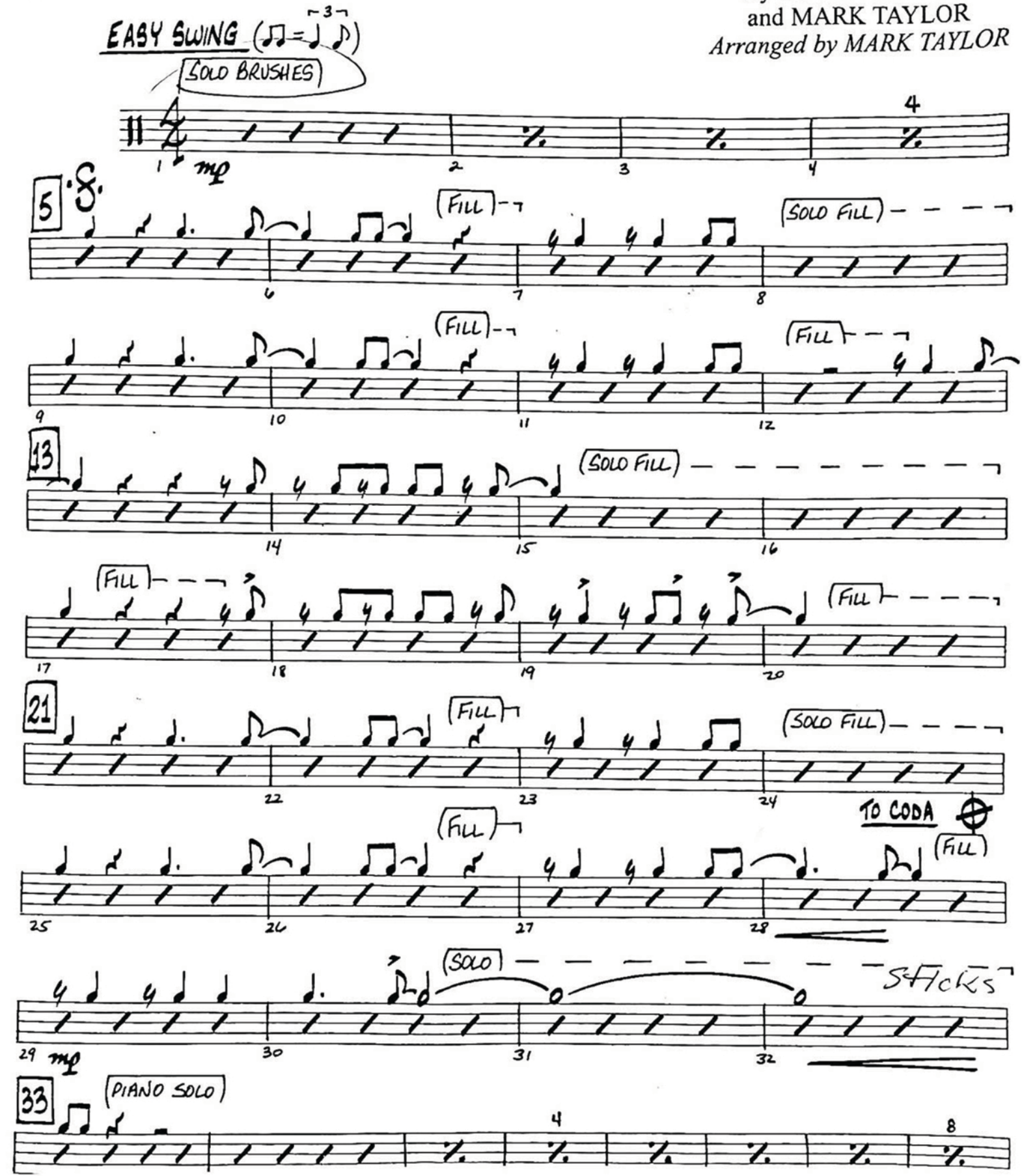

B
Samba Time
mp
f
C
f
Fill
Fill
Fill
Fill
Fill
Fine

BRUSH TAPS

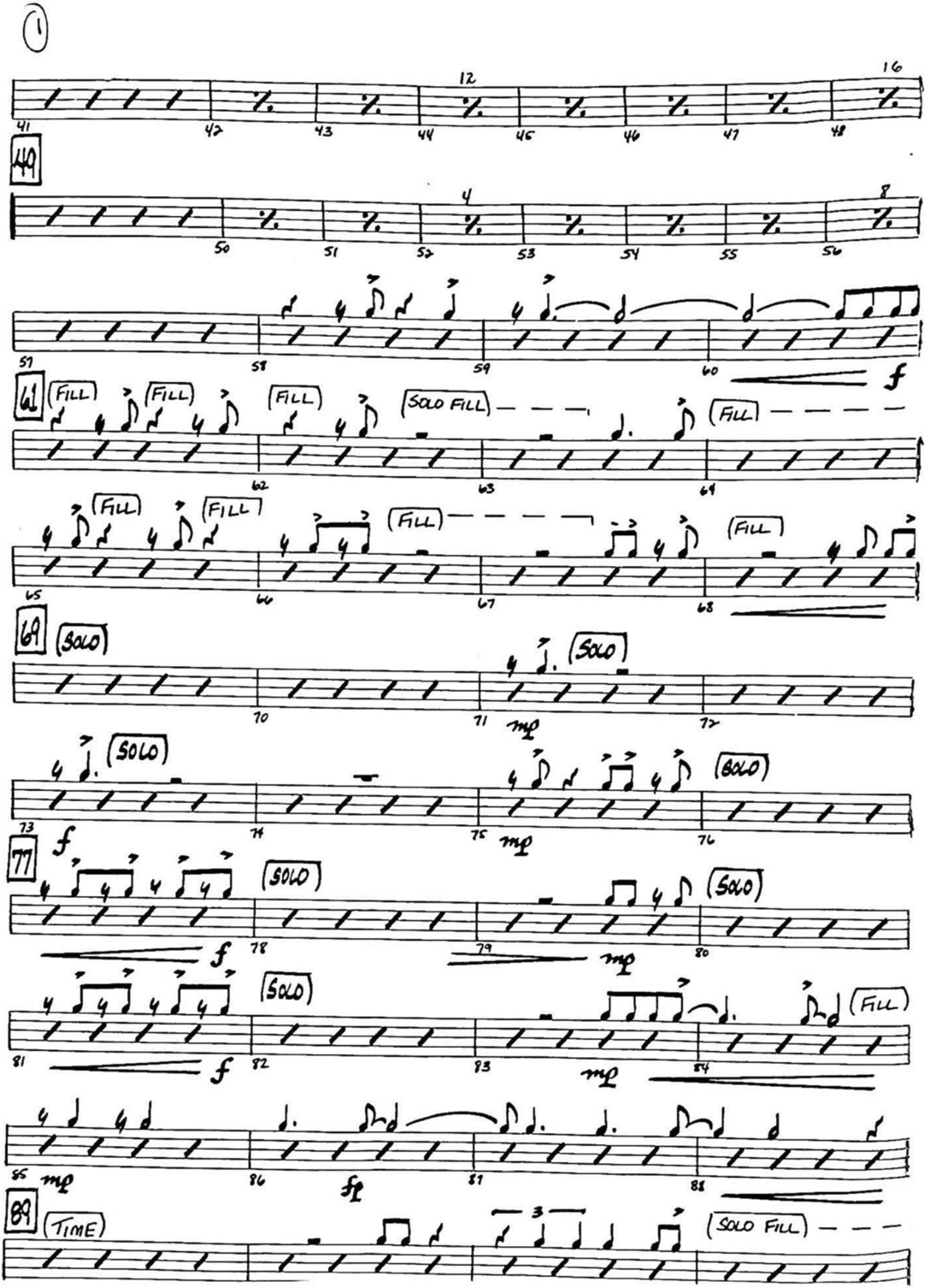
Drums

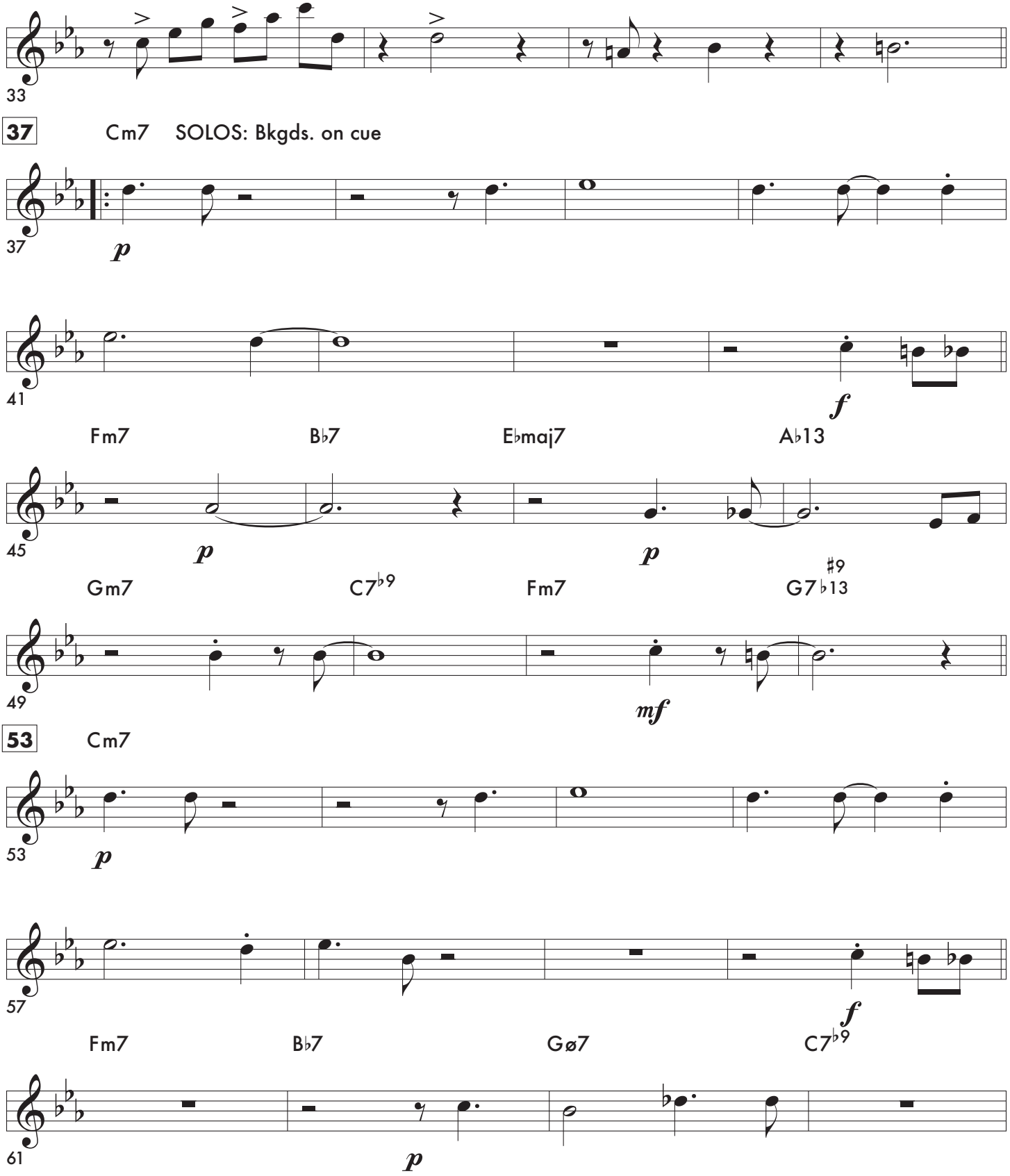
Dedicated to JO JONES

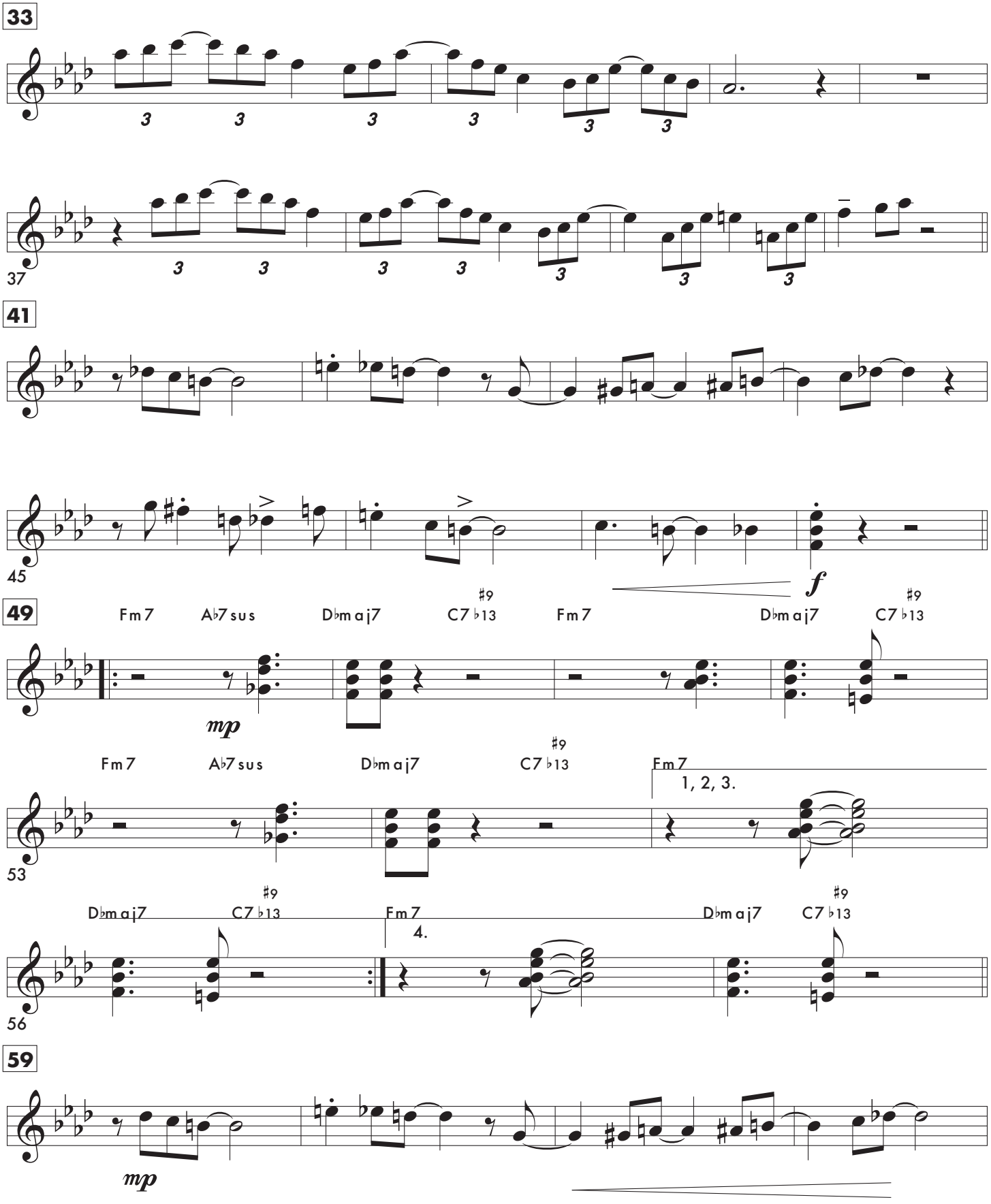
By LOUIE BELLSON
and MARK TAYLOR
Arranged by MARK TAYLOR



DRUMS


1
12
16
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
4
8
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
f
61
FILL
FILL
FILL
SOLO FILL
FILL
62
63
64
FILL
FILL
FILL
FILL
65
66
67
68
69
SOLO
SOLO
70
71
mp
72
SOLO
SOLO
73
f
74
75
mp
76
77
SOLO
SOLO
f
78
79
mp
80
SOLO
FILL
81
f
82
83
mp
84
85
mp
86
ff
87
88
89
TIME
3
SOLO FILL


33
37
Cm7 SOLOS: Bkgds. on cue
37
p
41
f
Fm7
B♭7
E♭maj7
A♭13
45
p
p
Gm7
C7♭9
Fm7
#9
G7♭13
49
mf
53
Cm7
53
p
57
f
Fm7
B♭7
Gø7
C7♭9
61
p

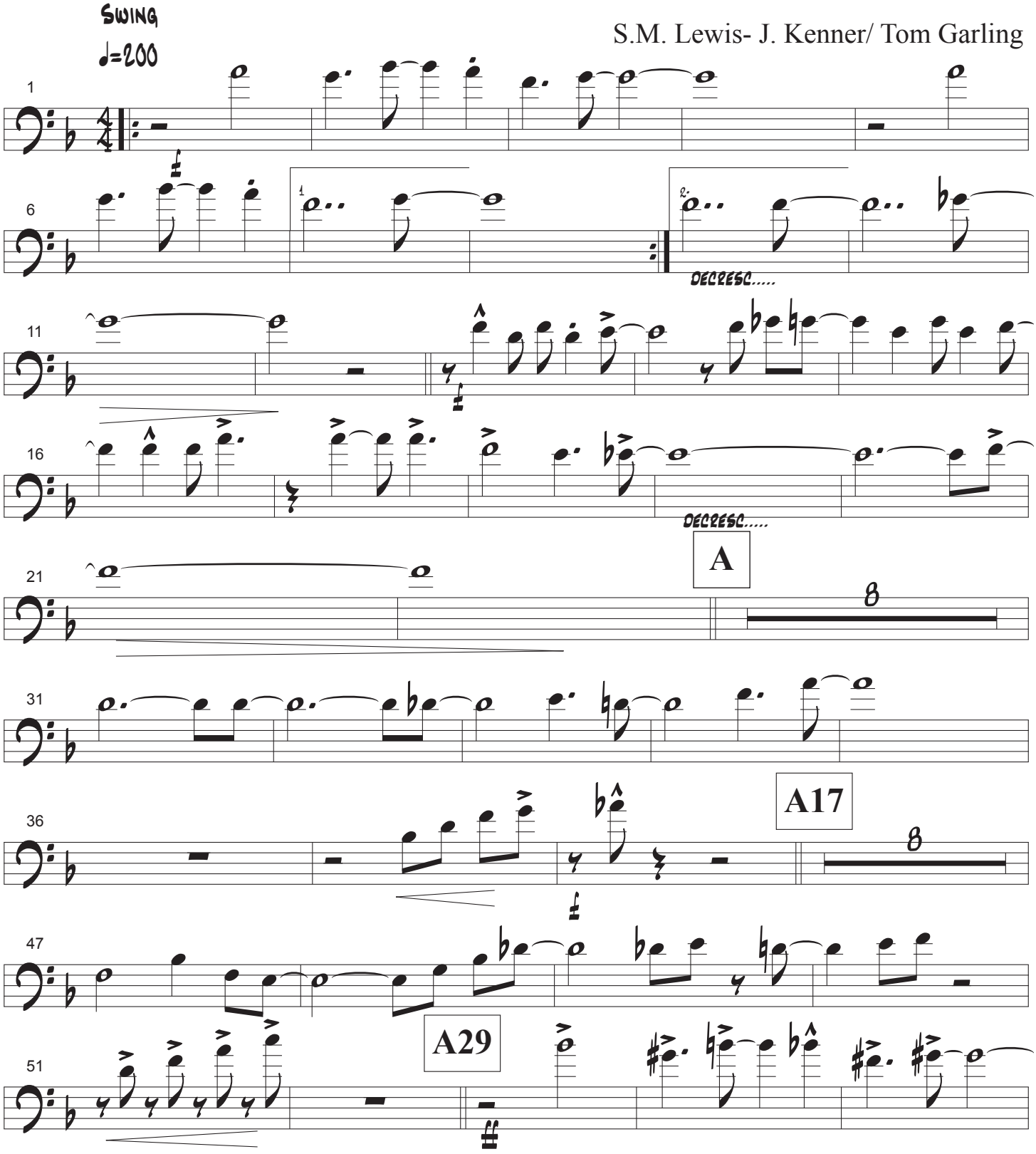

33
37
41
45
49
Fm7 Ab7sus Dbmaj7 C7♭13 Fm7 Dbmaj7 C7♭13
mp
Fm7 Ab7sus Dbmaj7 C7♭13 Fm7
1, 2, 3.
53
Dbmaj7 C7♭13 Fm7 Dbmaj7 C7♭13
4.
56
59
mp
f

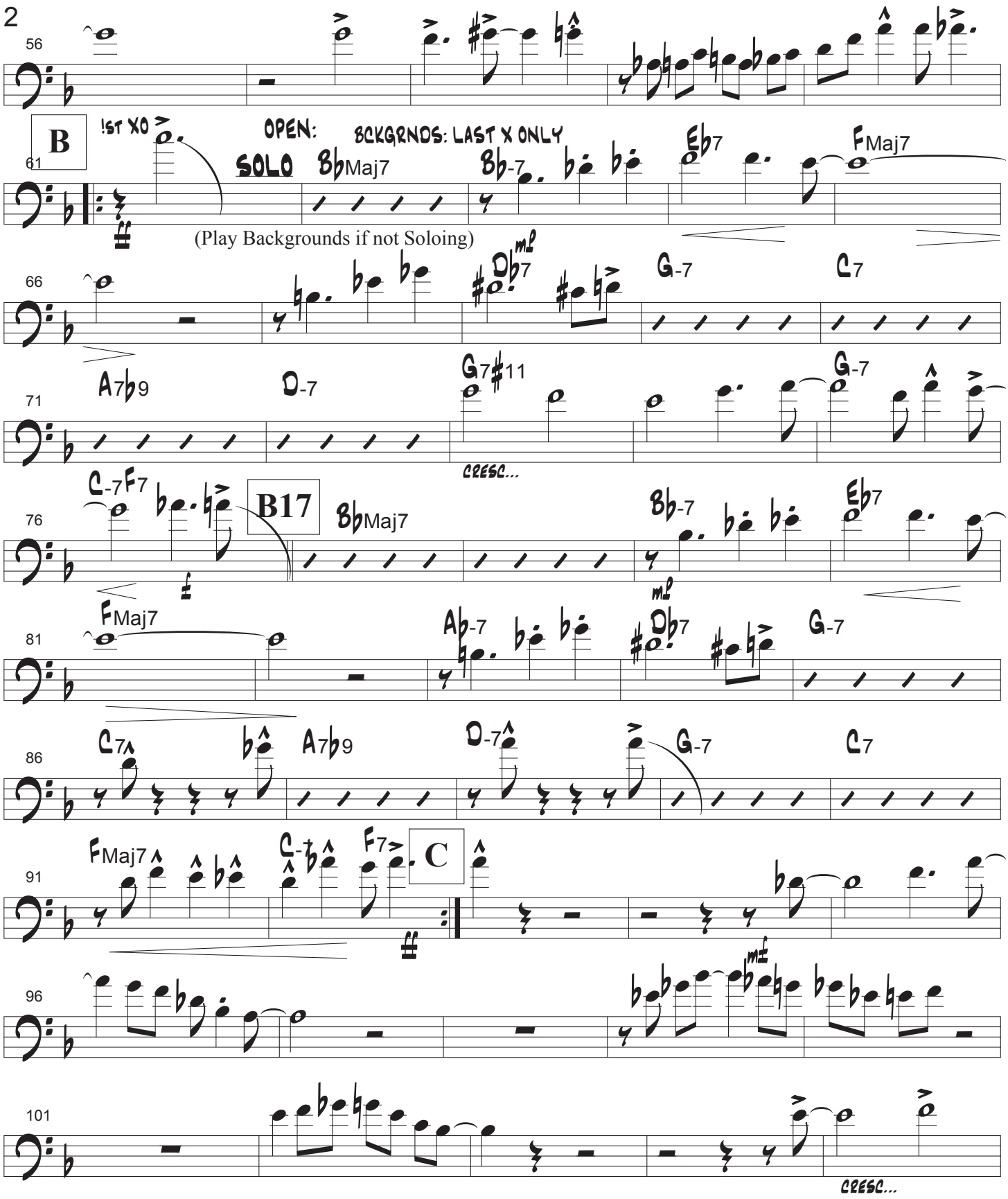
Tenor

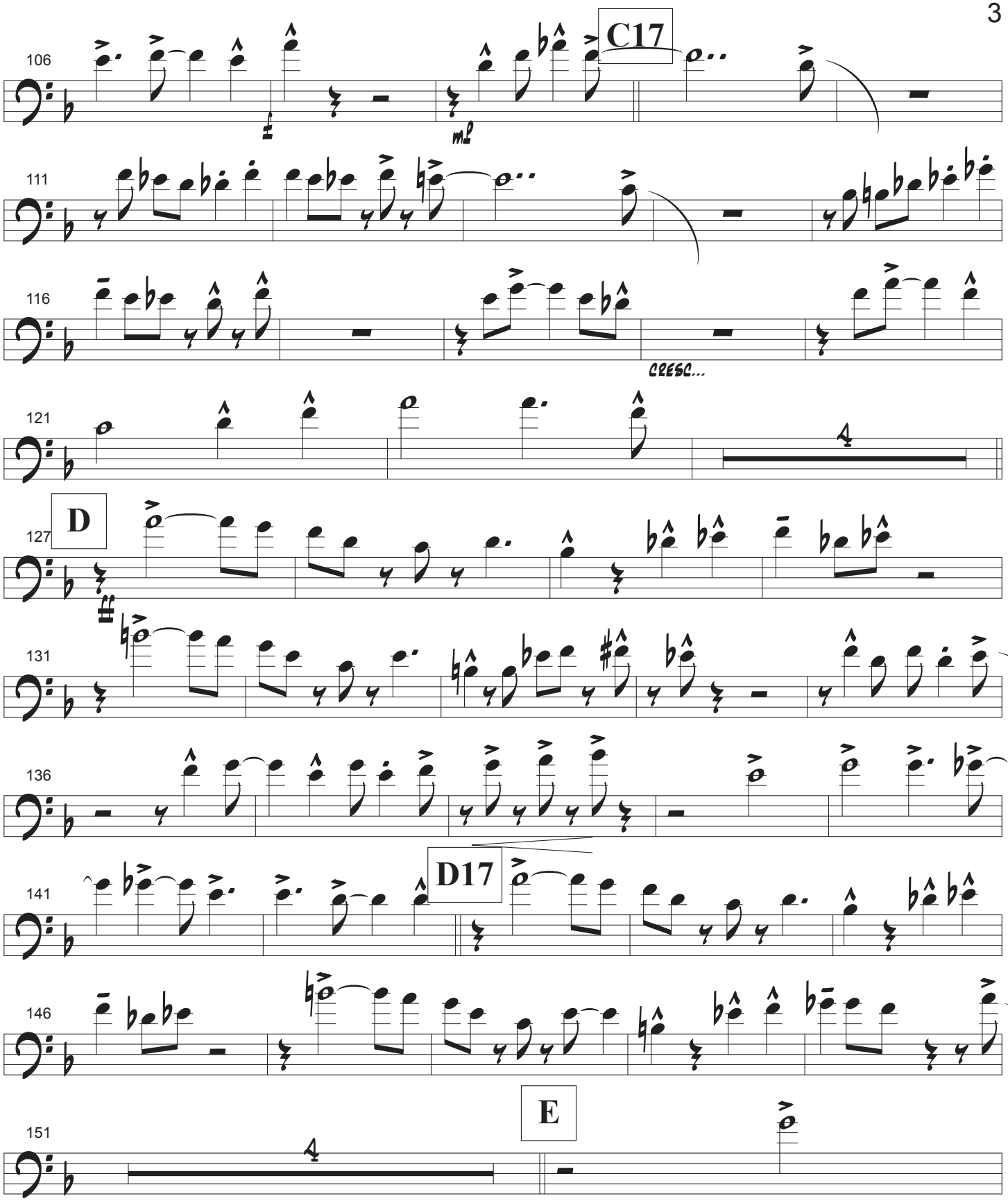
BONE 1

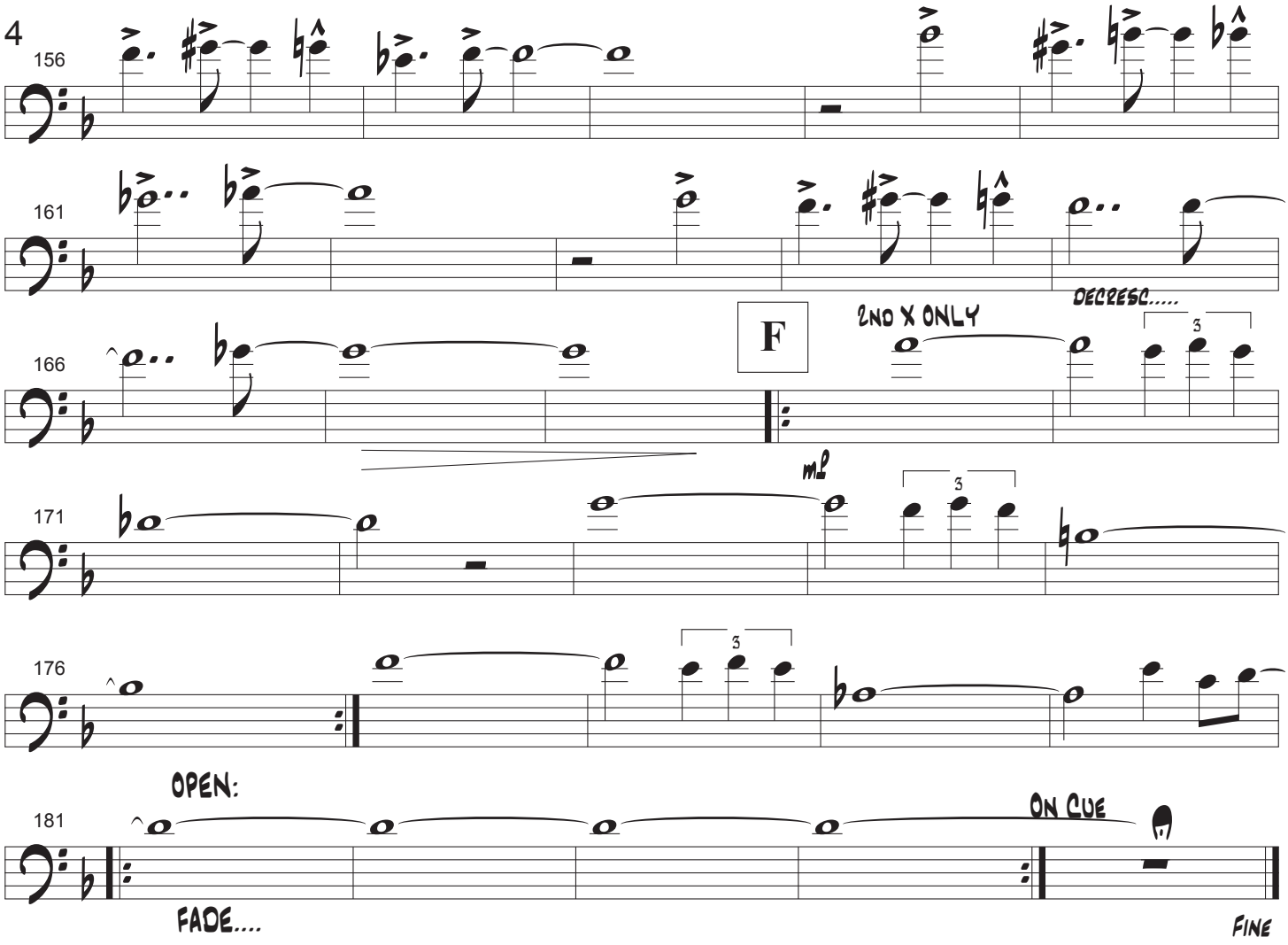
JUST FRIENDS

S.M. Lewis- J. Kenner/ Tom Garling

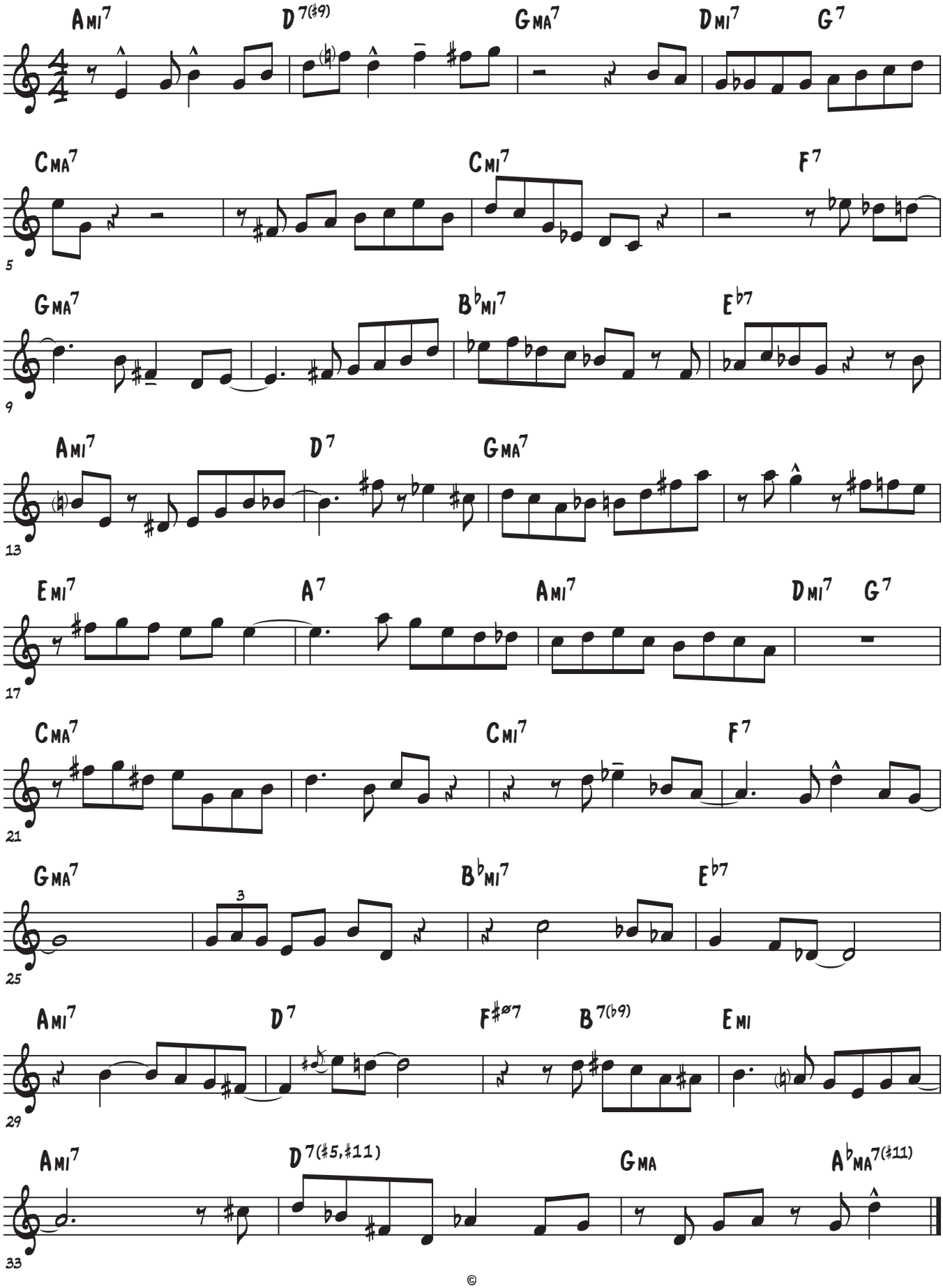



56
B
1ST X0
OPEN:
BCKGRNDS: LAST X ONLY
61
SOLO
BbMaj7
Bb-7
Eb7
FMaj7
(Play Backgrounds if not Soloing)
66
Db7
G-7
C7
71
A7b9
D-7
G7#11
G-7
CRESC...
76
C-7F7
B17
BbMaj7
Bb-7
Eb7
81
FMaj7
Ab-7
Db7
G-7
86
C7
A7b9
D-7
G-7
C7
91
FMaj7
C-7
F7
C
96
101
CRESC...


106
C17
111
116
CRESC...
121
4
D
127
131
136
D17
141
146
E
151
4


156
161
166
F
2ND X ONLY
DECREASC.....
mp
171
176
OPEN:
181
ON CUE
FADE....
FINE

NIU Jazz Trumpet Audition Excerpt



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