Jazz Improvisation Using Motivic Development

Presented by

Gabe Condon, Lecturer of Jazz Studies, Ithaca College

Mike Titlebaum, Director of Jazz Studies, Ithaca College

2019 JEN Conference, Reno, Nevada

Funding provided by

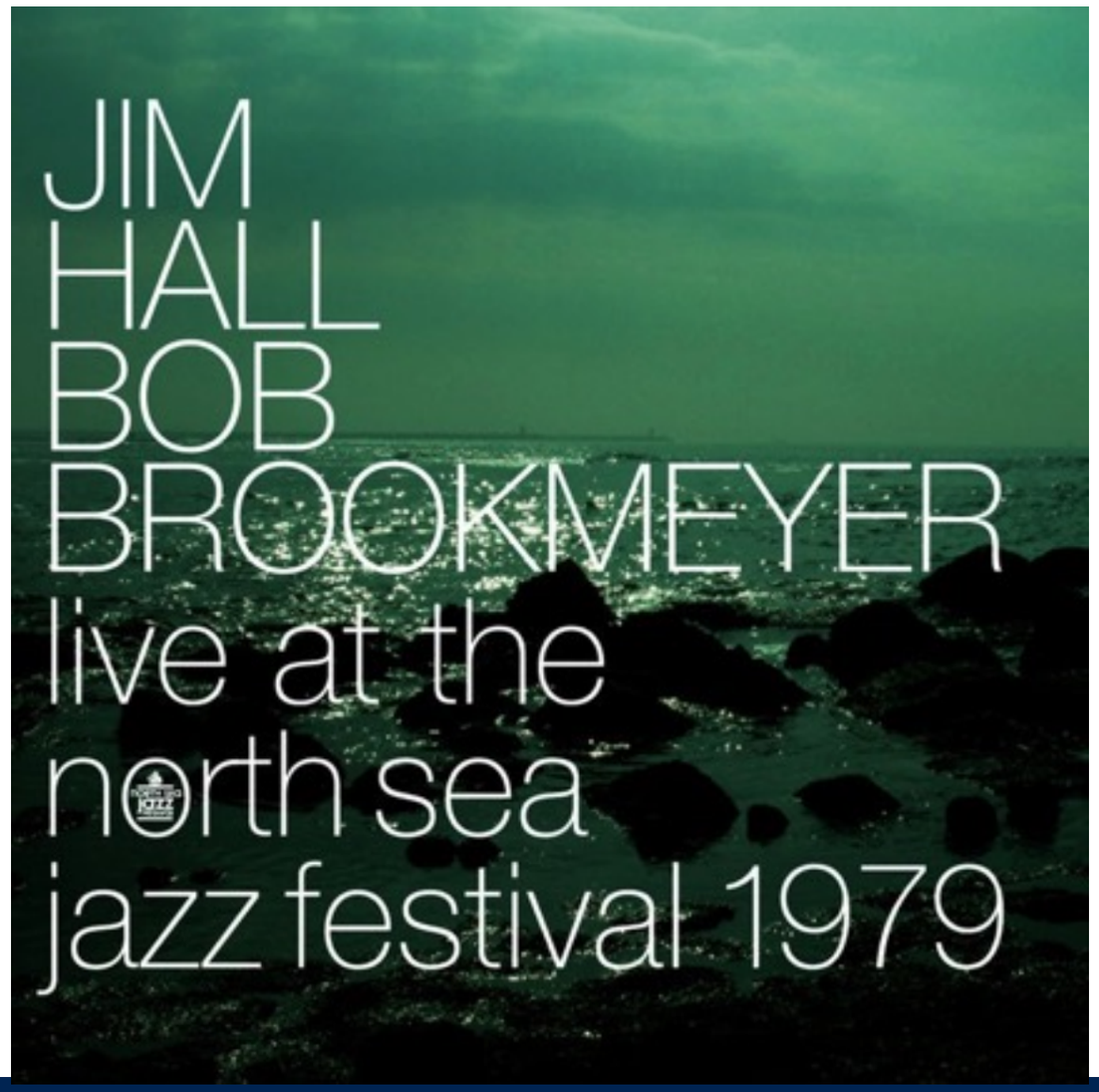
ITHACA COLLEGE
School of Music

Skating in Central Park

Performed by

Bob Brookmeyer, valve trombone

Jim Hall, guitar



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Trombone

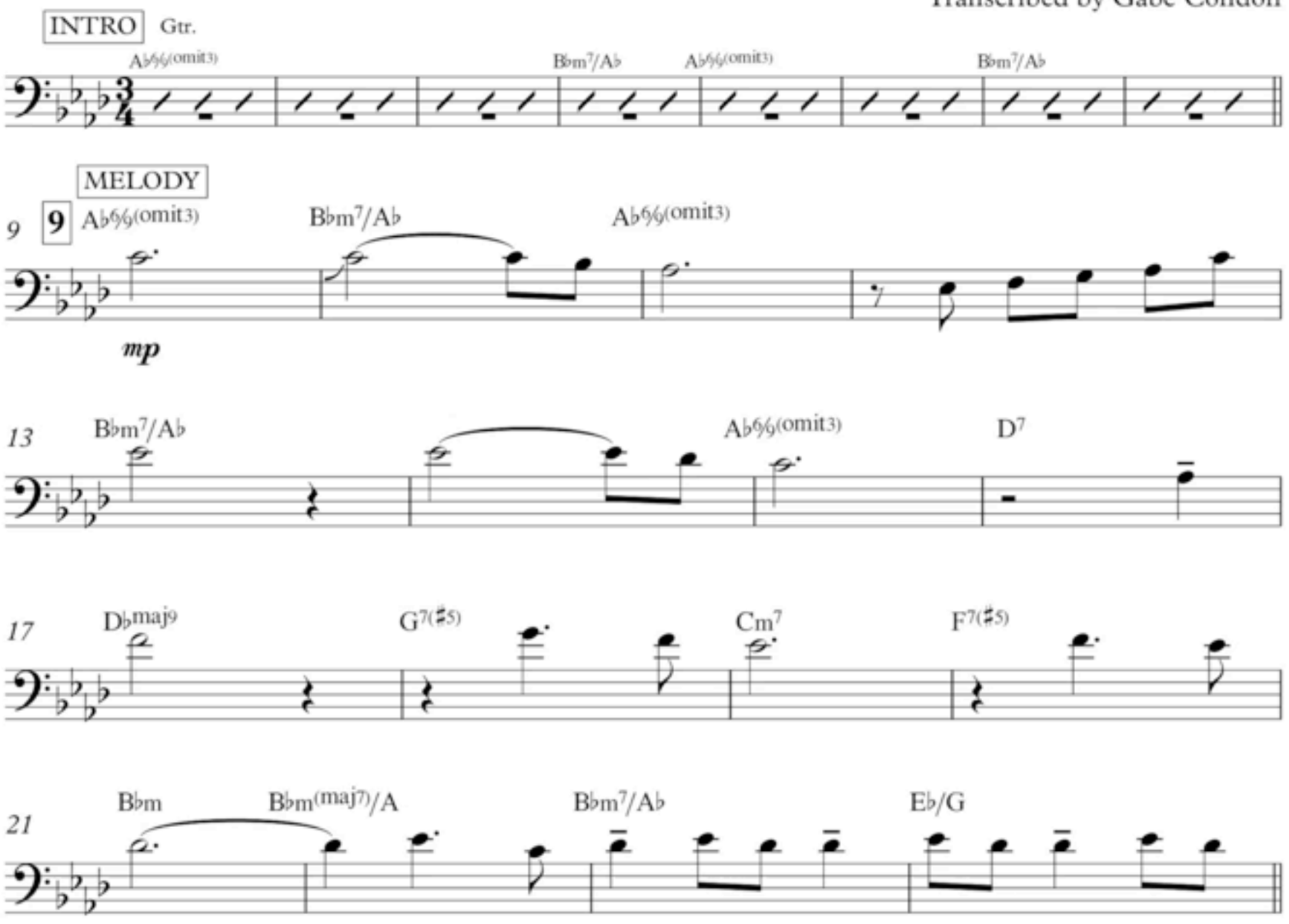
Skating in Central Park

Melody and solo as performed on

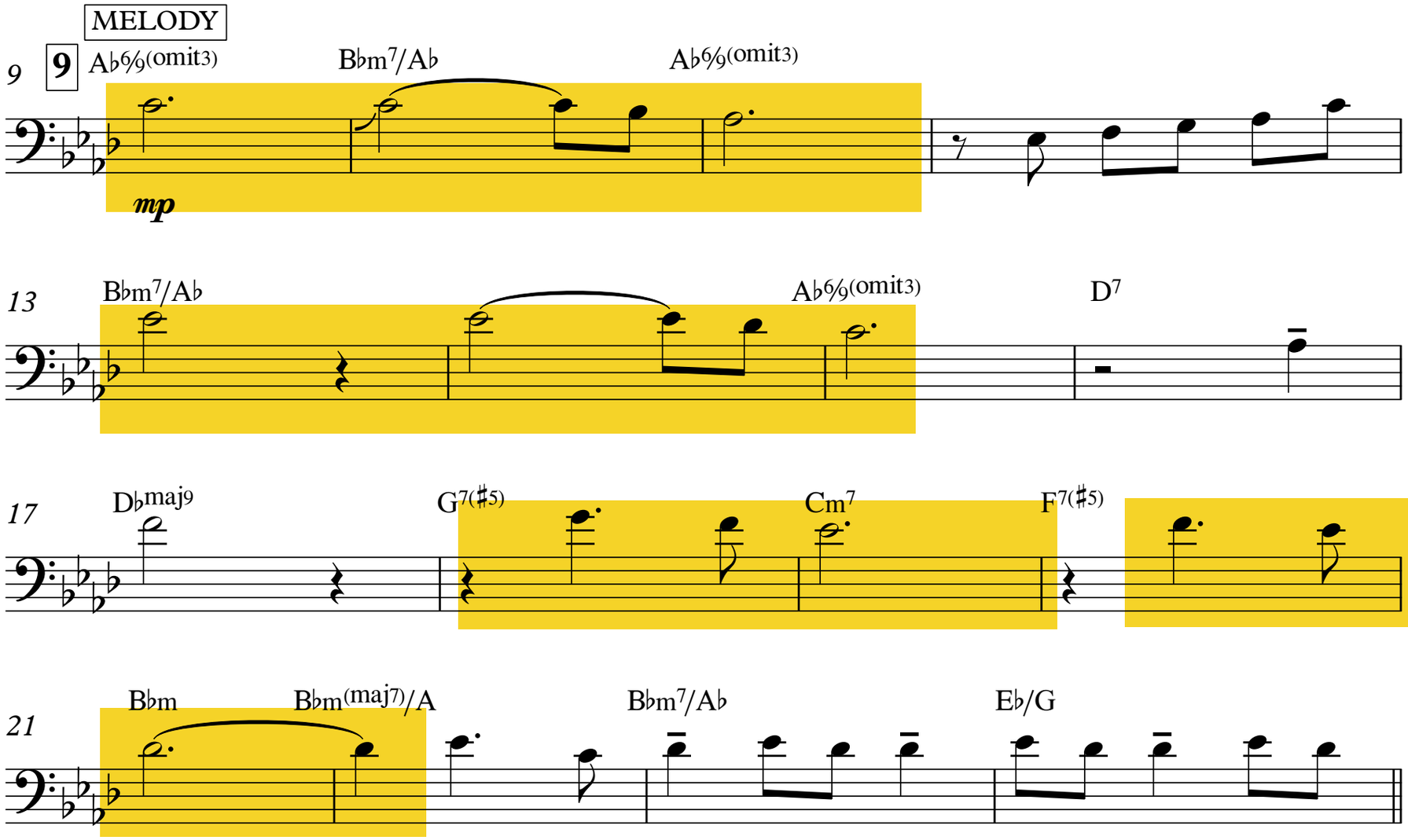
Jim Hall/Bob Brookmeyer *live at the north sea jazz festival 1979*

John Lewis

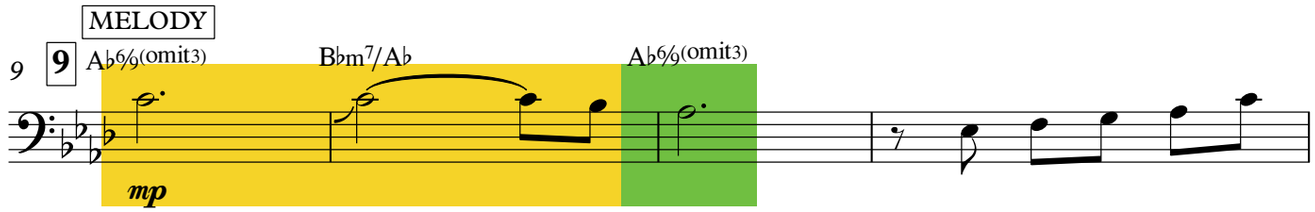
Transcribed by Gabe Condon



Primary melody motive

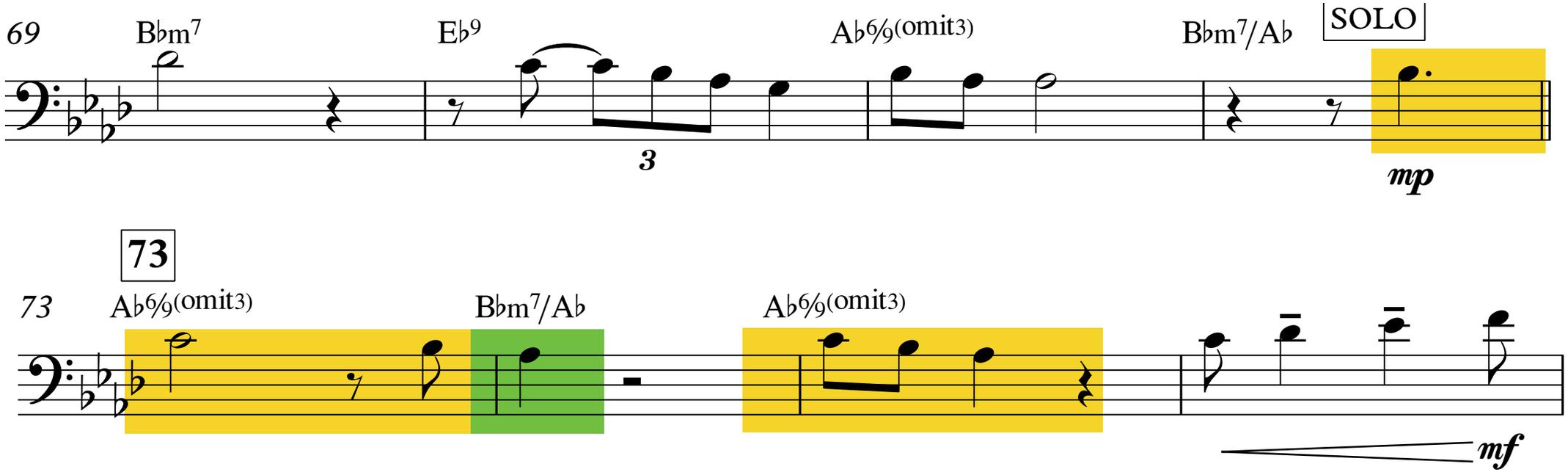


(the melody)

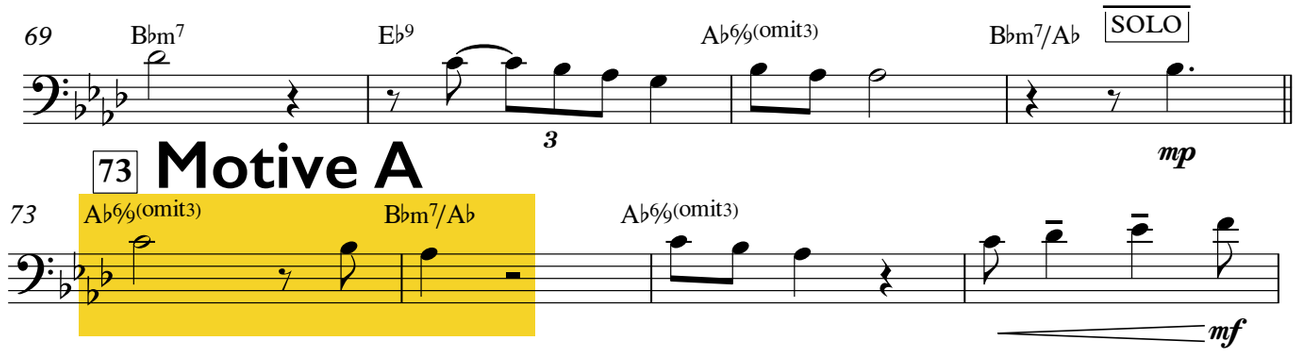


Improvisation Motive A

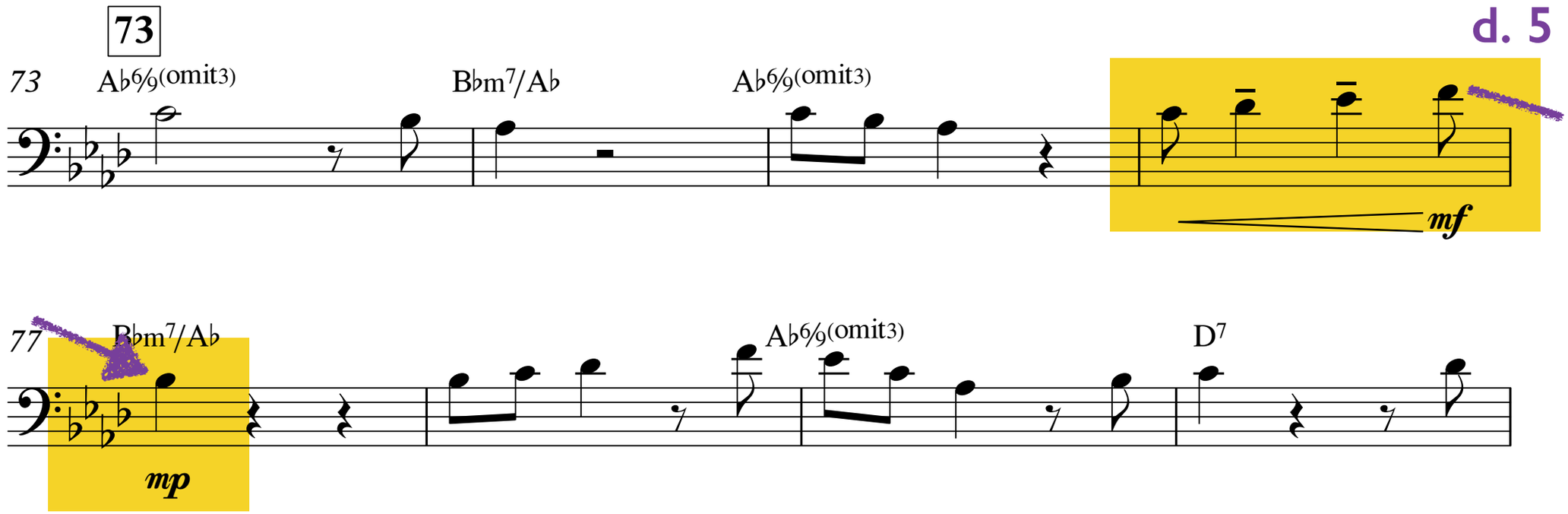
(Derived from the melody)



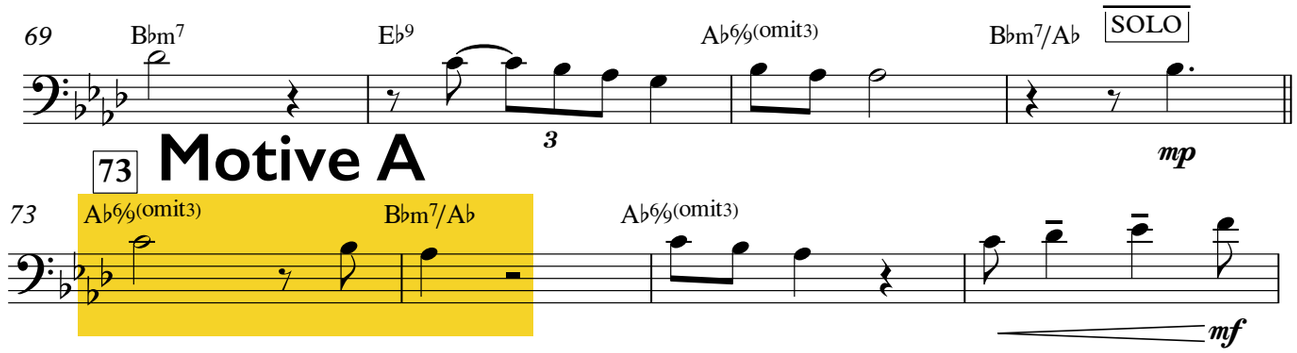
Derived from Motive A



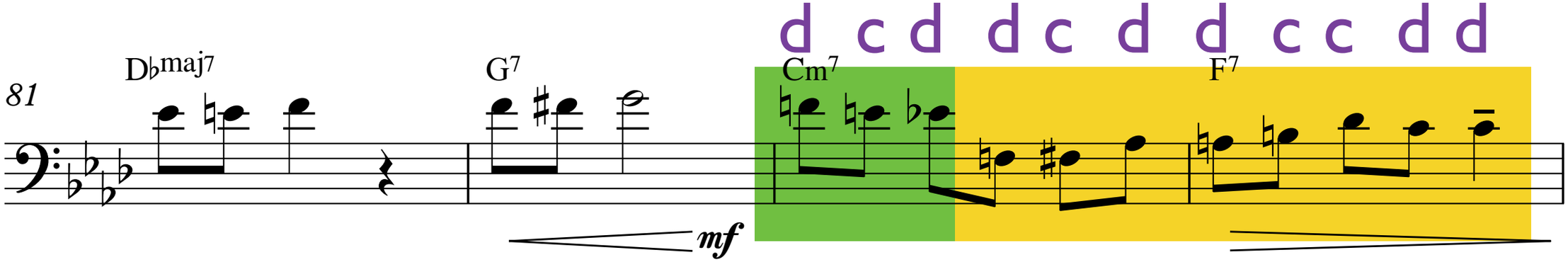
Motive A’



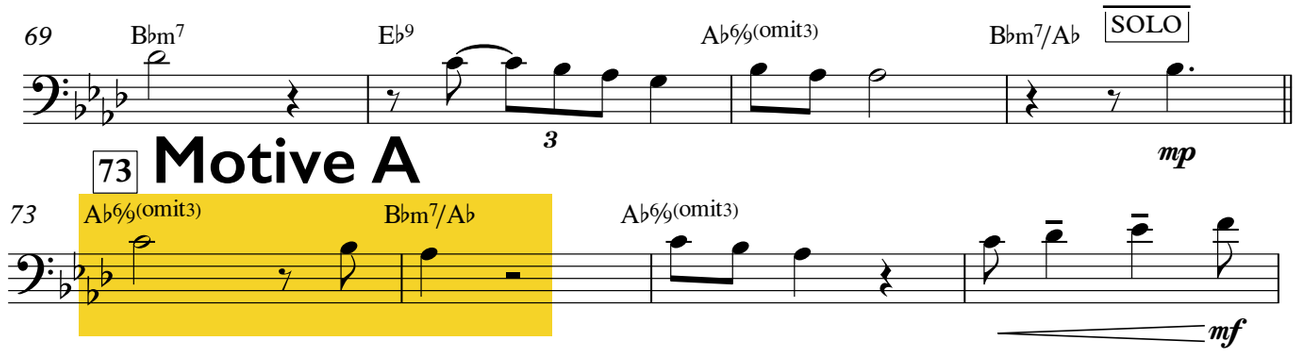
Derived from Motive A



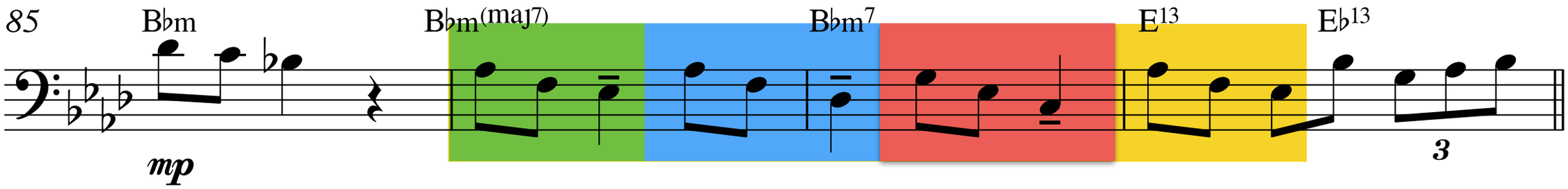
Motive B



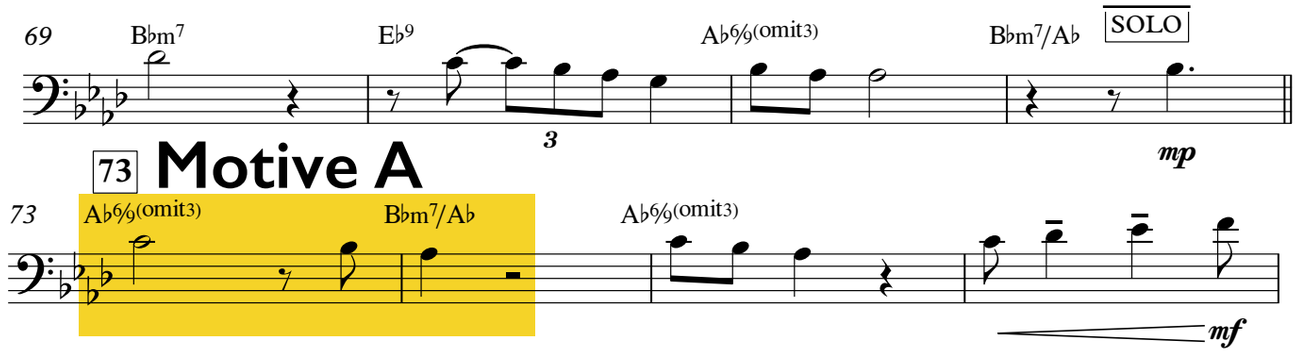
Derived from Motive A



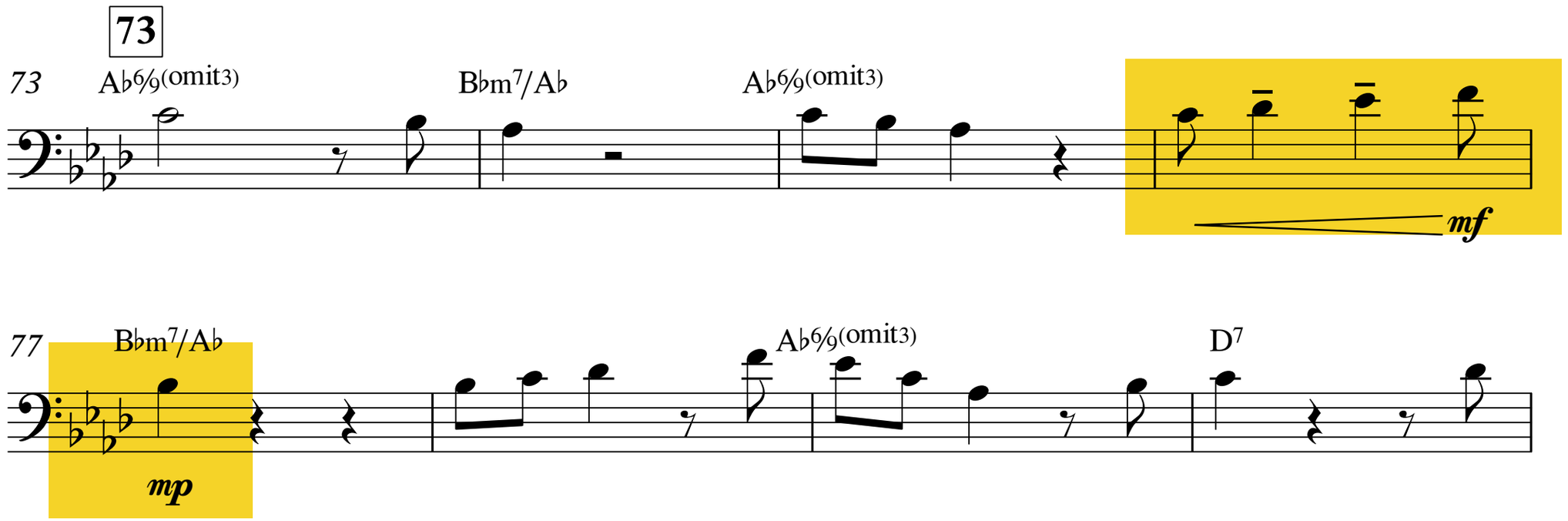
Motive C



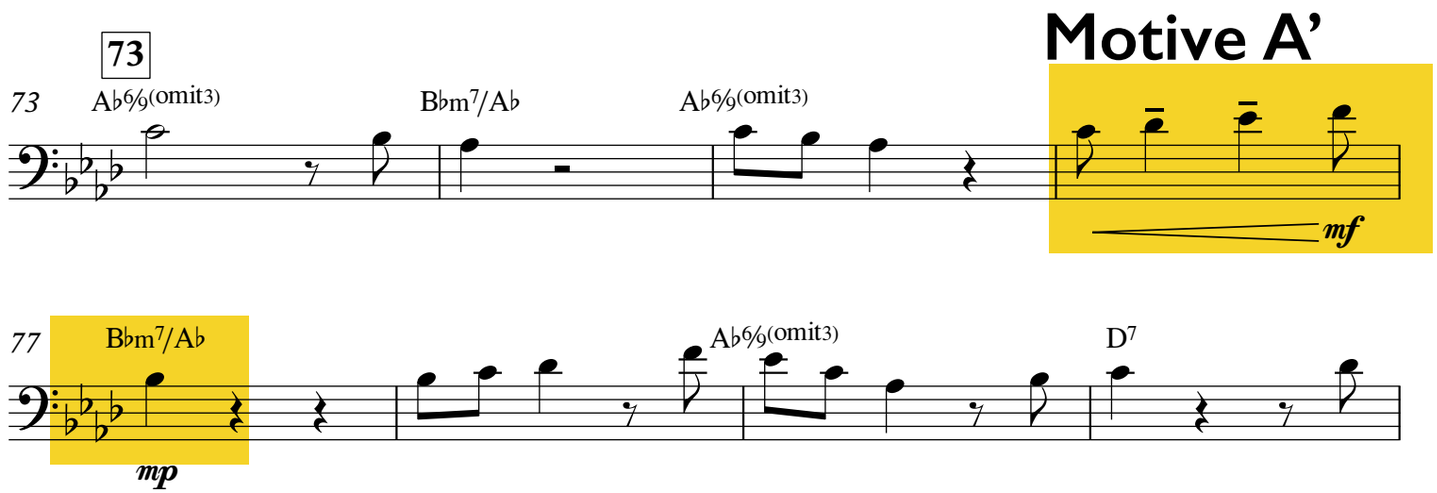
Derived from Motive A

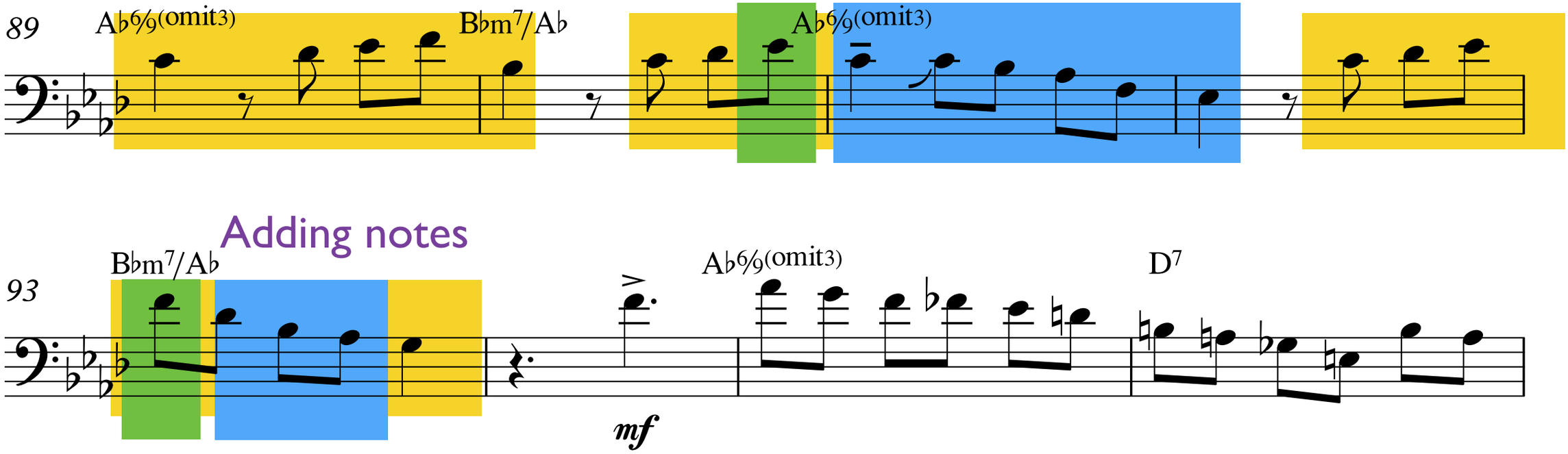


Motive A’

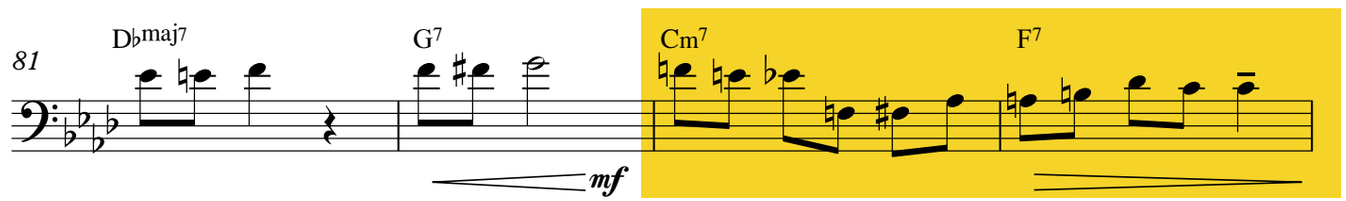


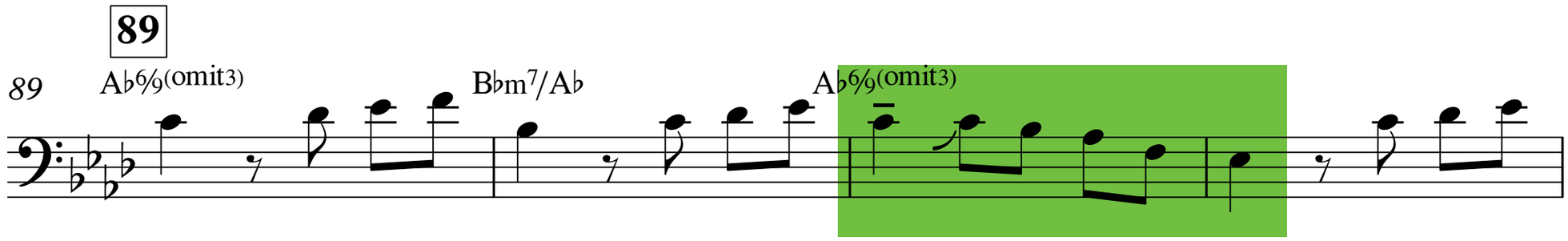
Development of Motive A’

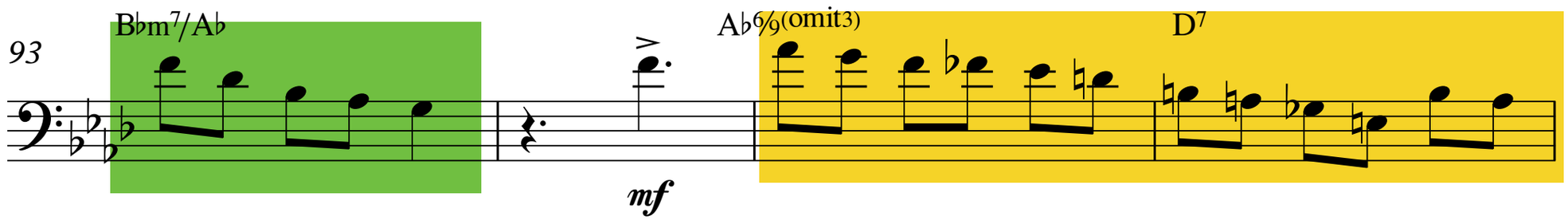




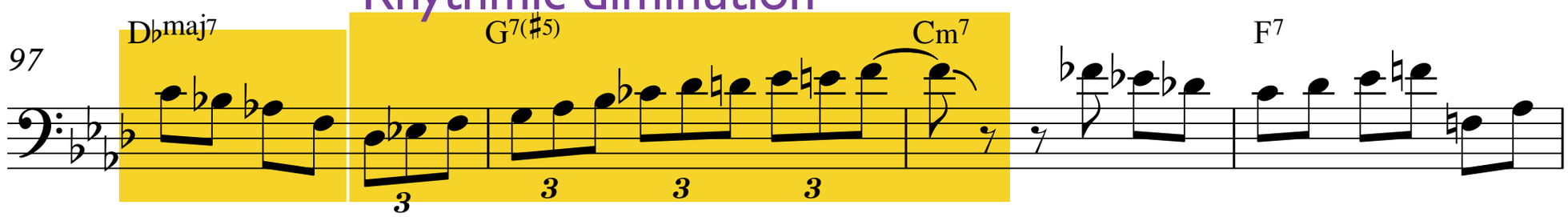
Development of Motive B



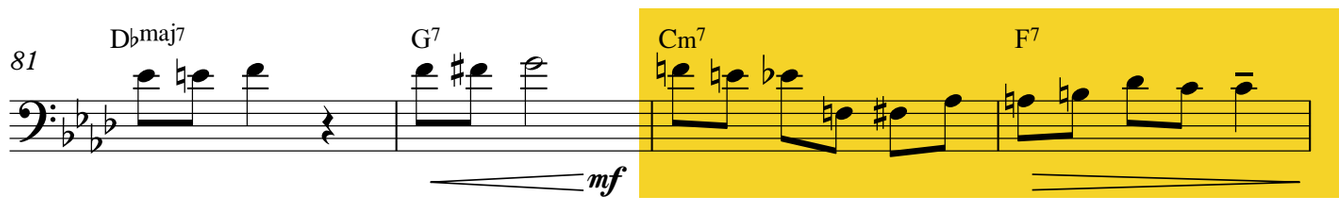


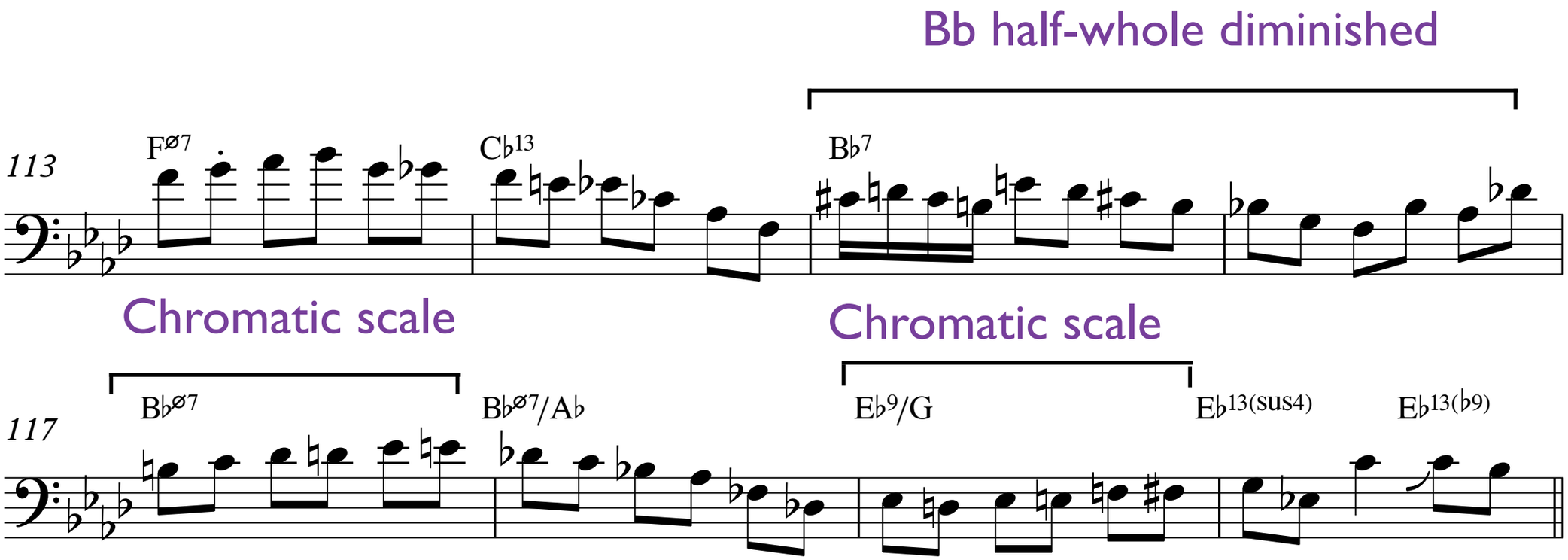


Rhythmic diminution

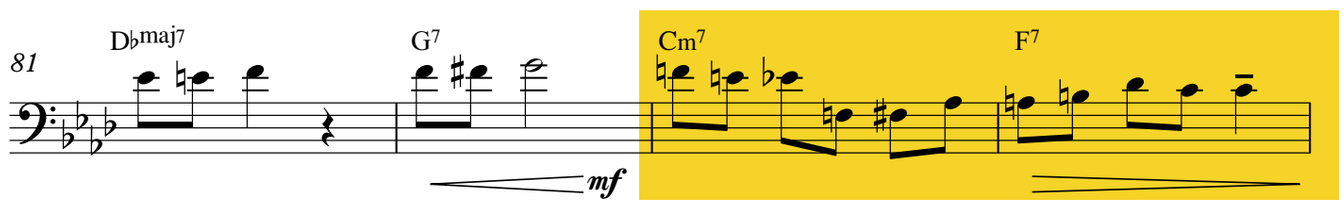


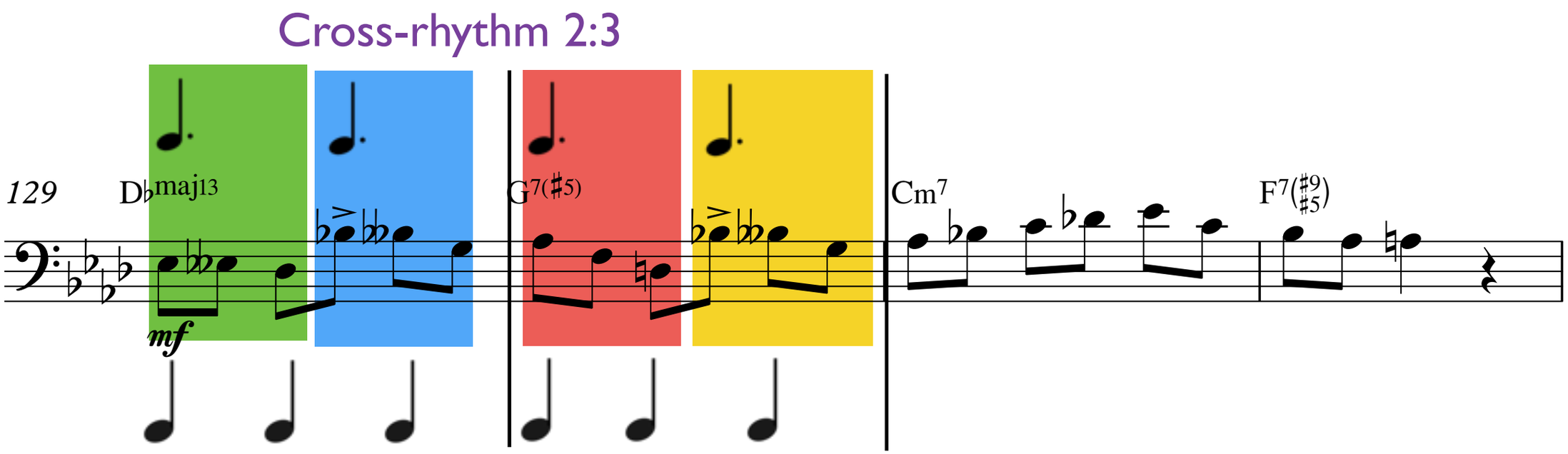
Development of Motive B



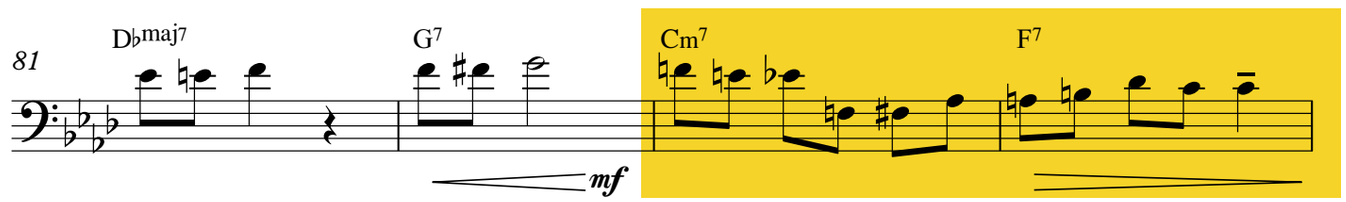


Development of Motive B

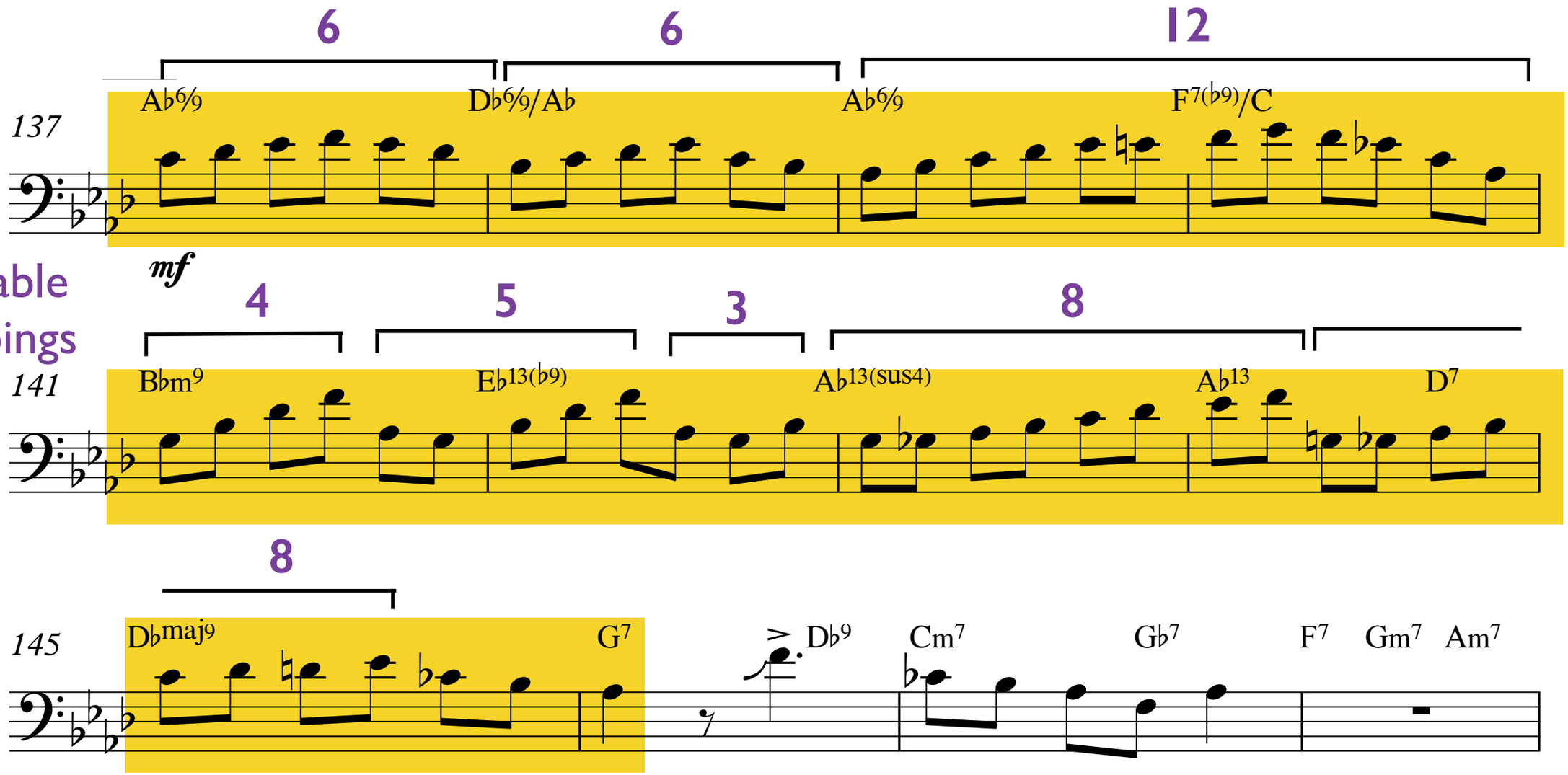




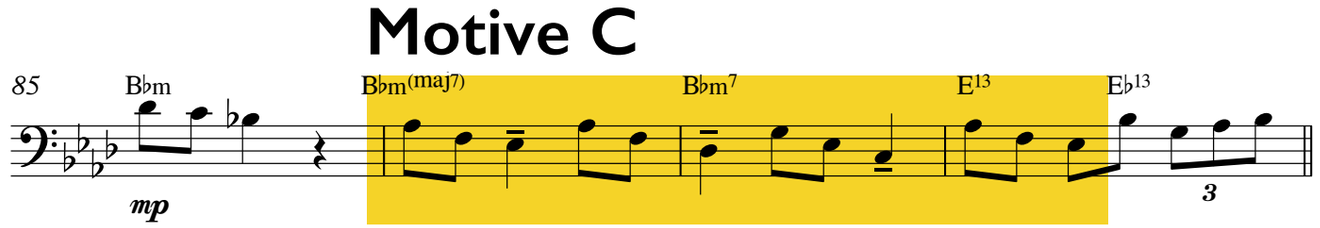
Development of Motive B

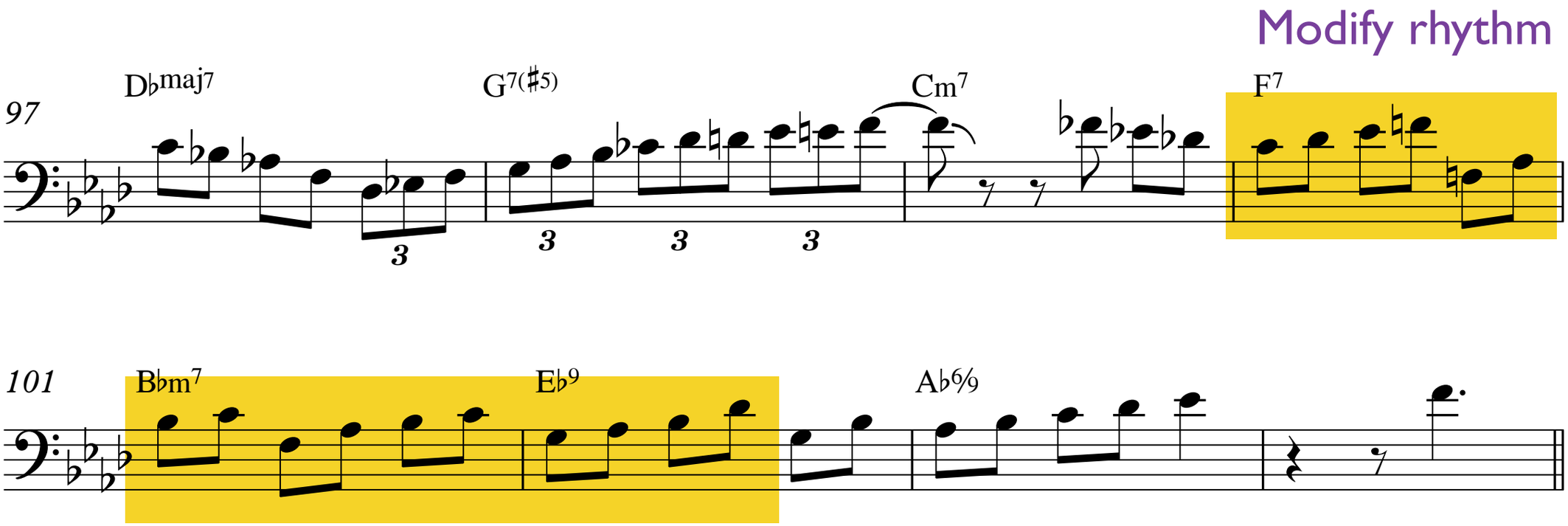


Unstable groupings

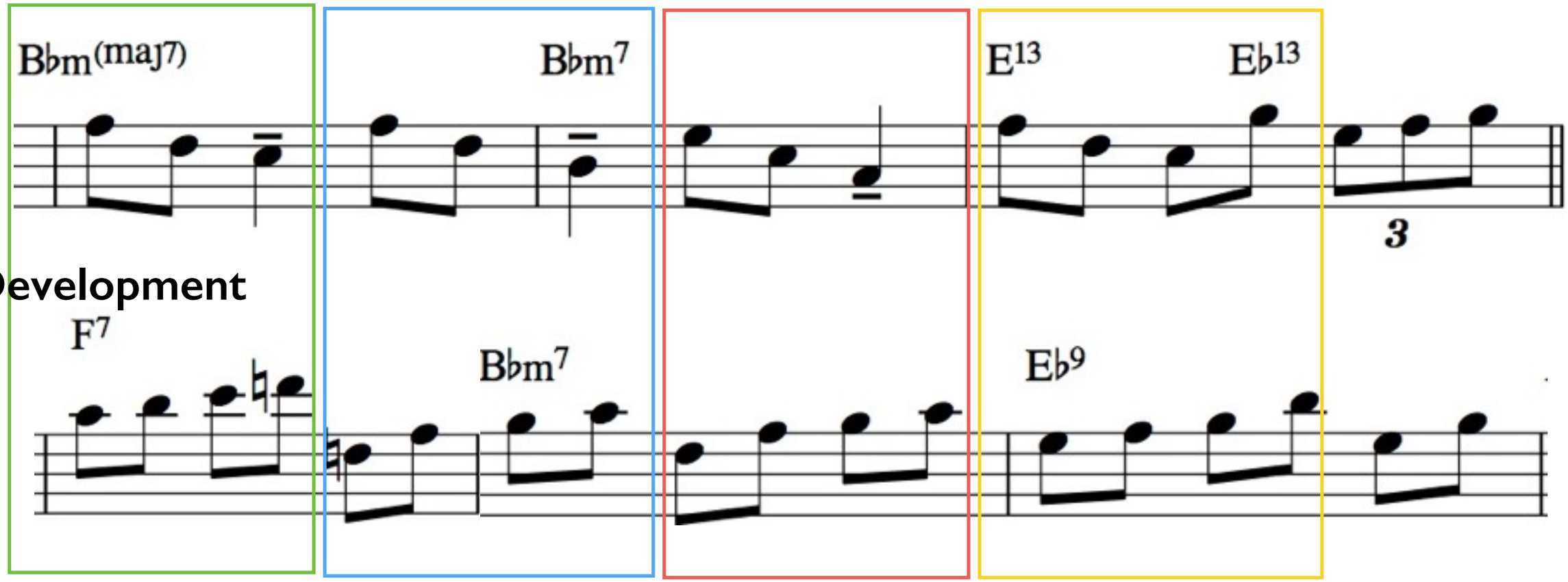


Development of Motive C



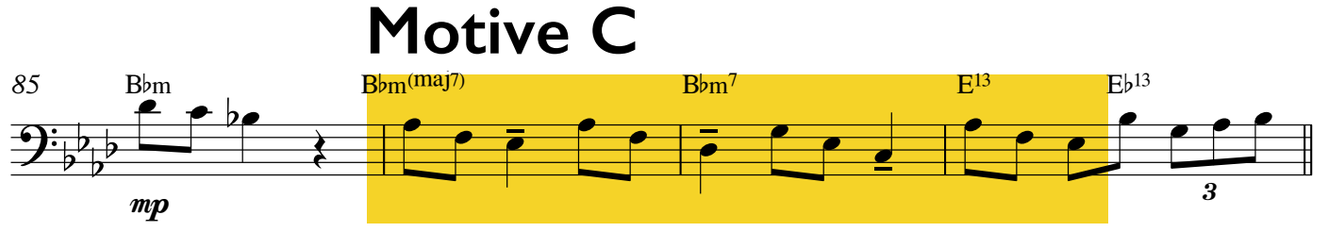


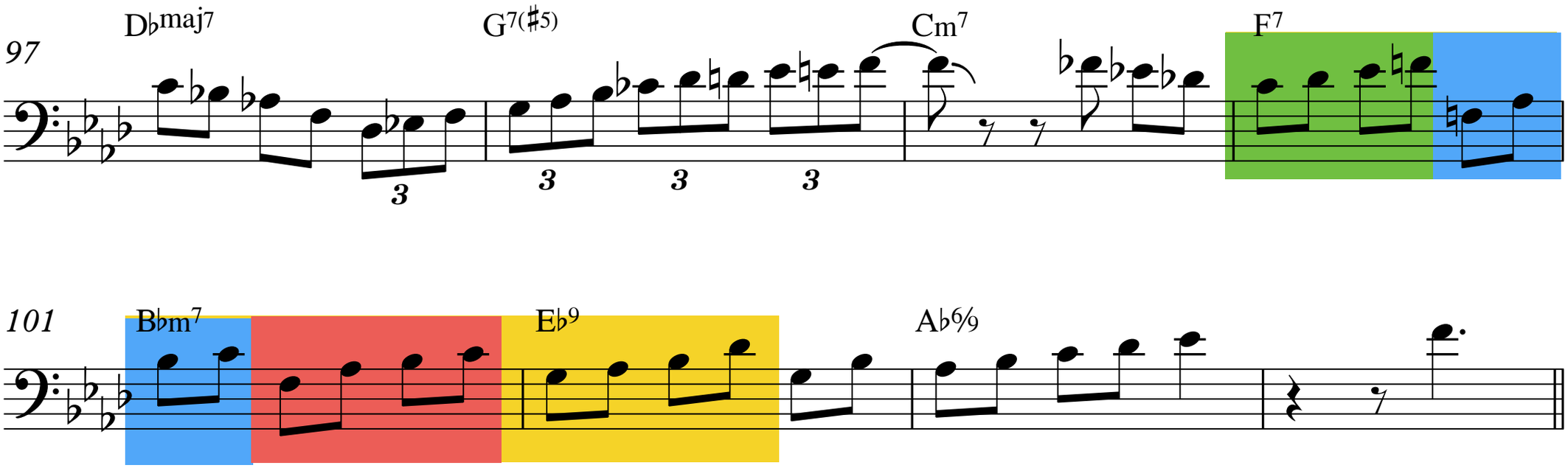
Motive C



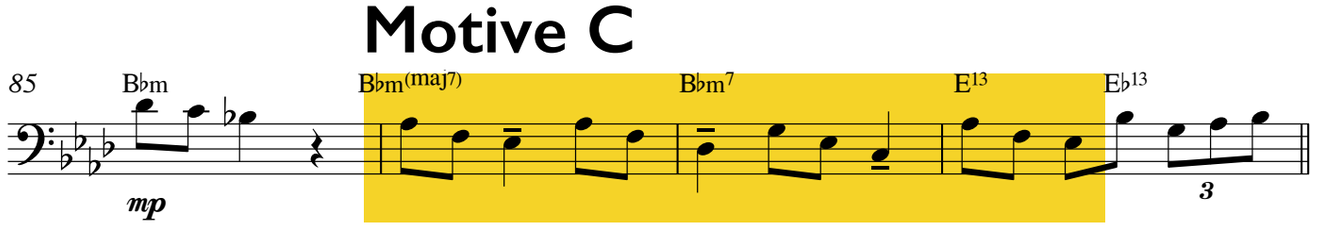
Development

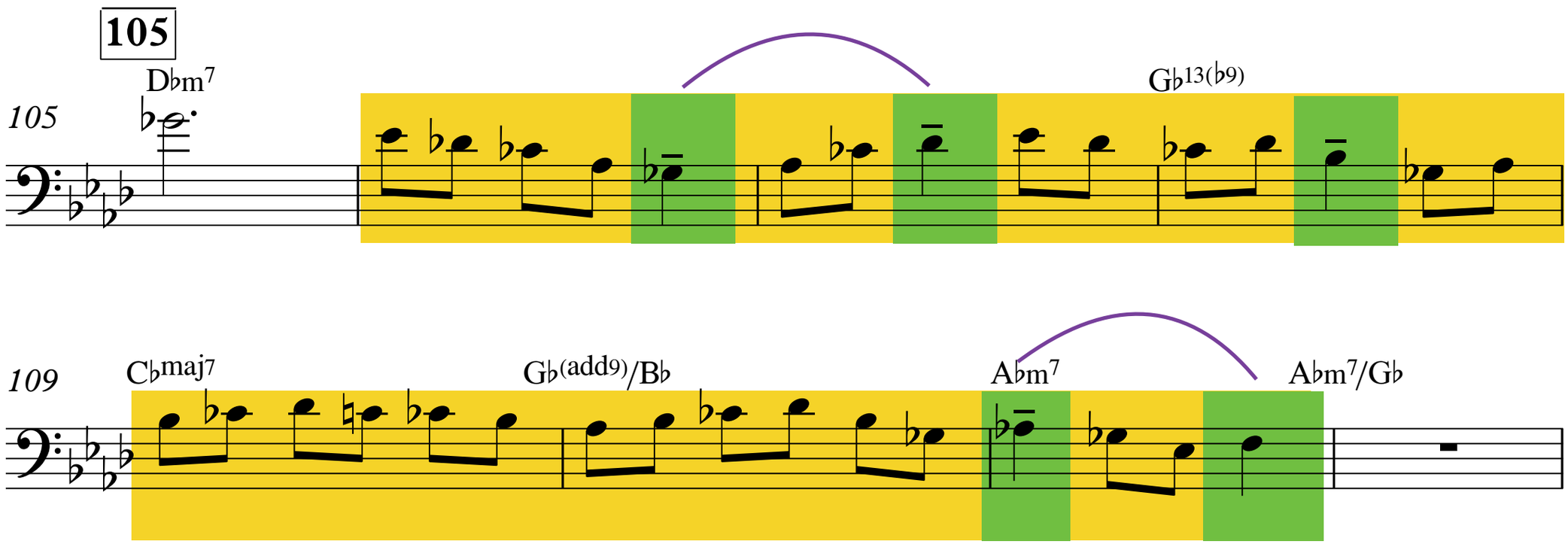
Development of Motive C



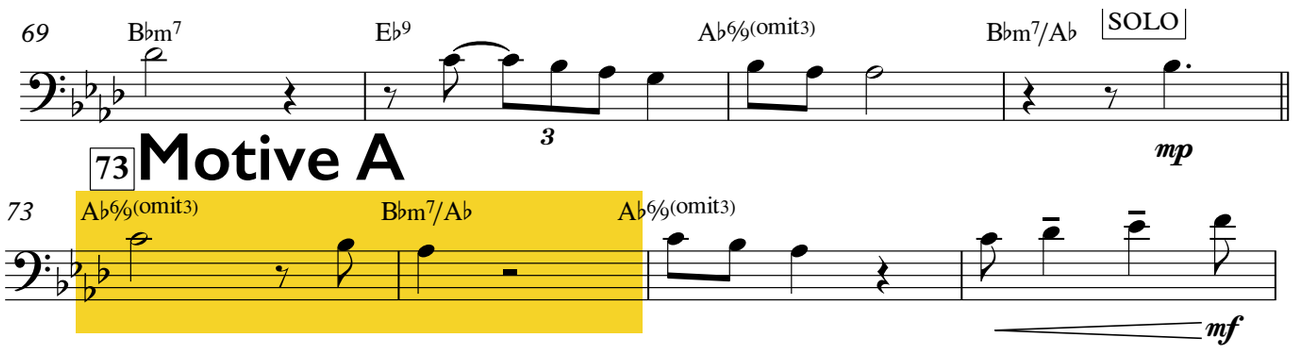


Development of Motive C

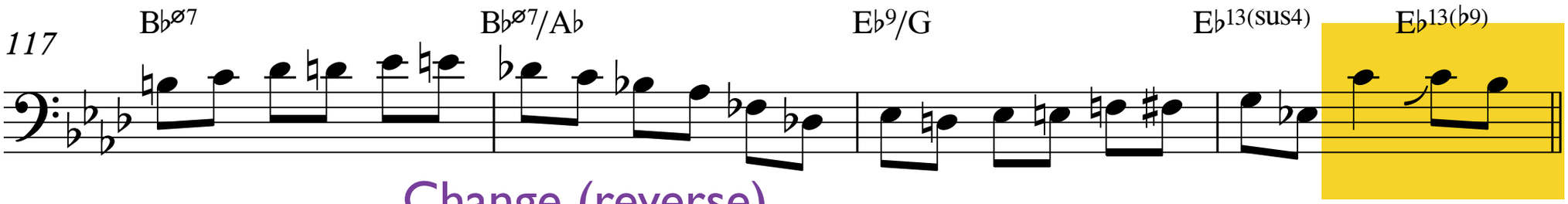




Development of Motive A

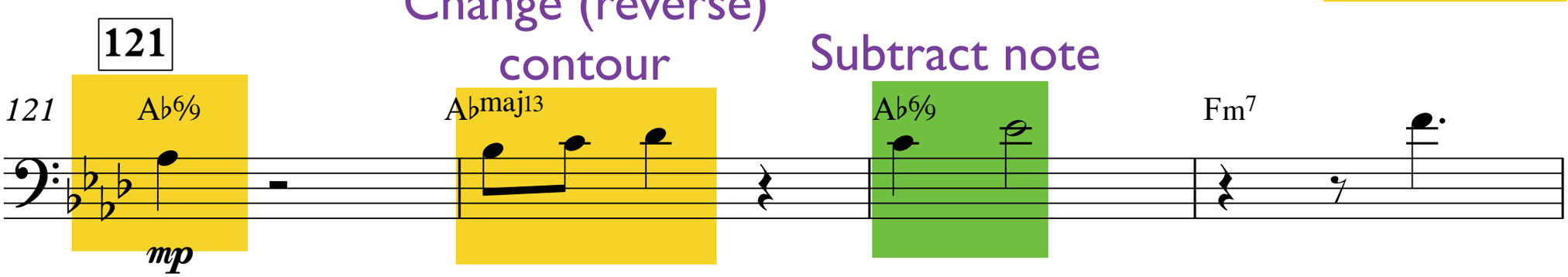


Rhythmic alteration

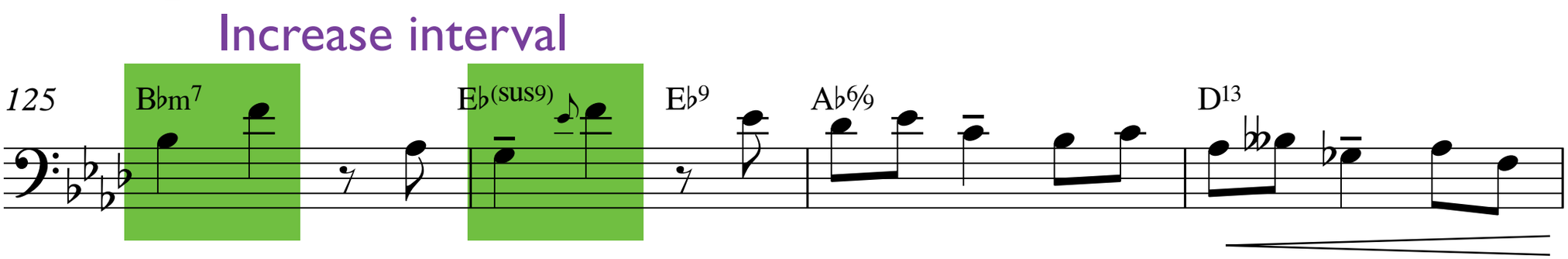


Change (reverse) contour

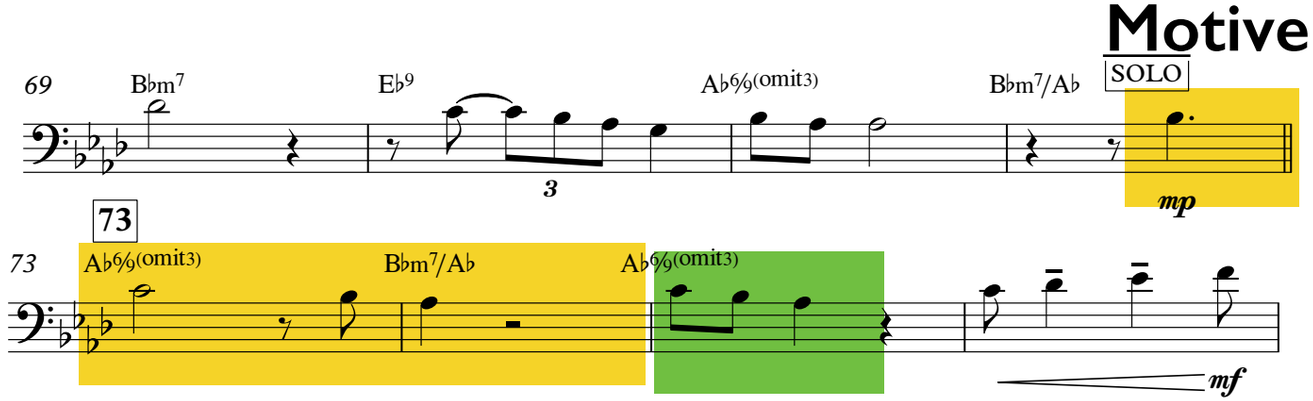
Subtract note

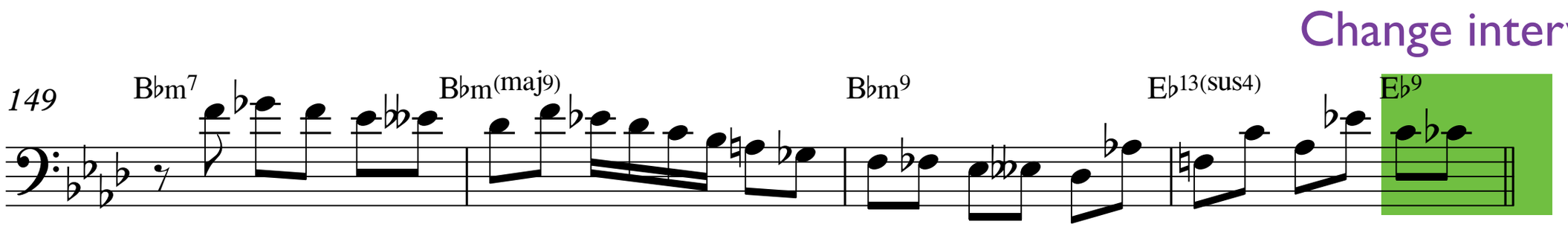


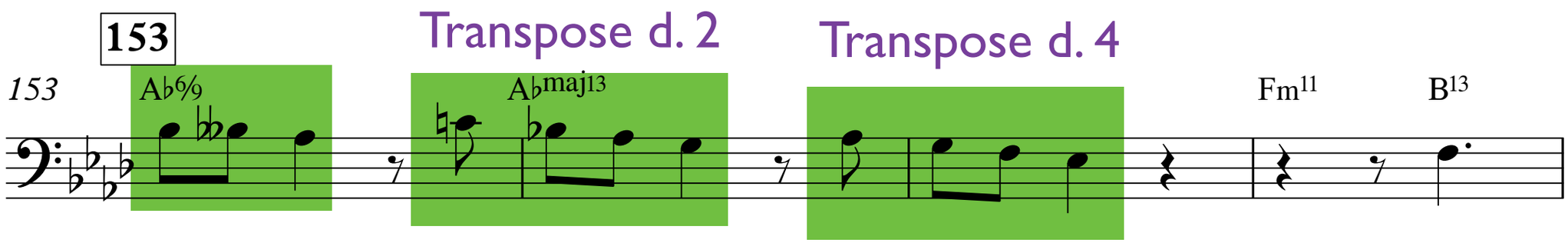
Increase interval



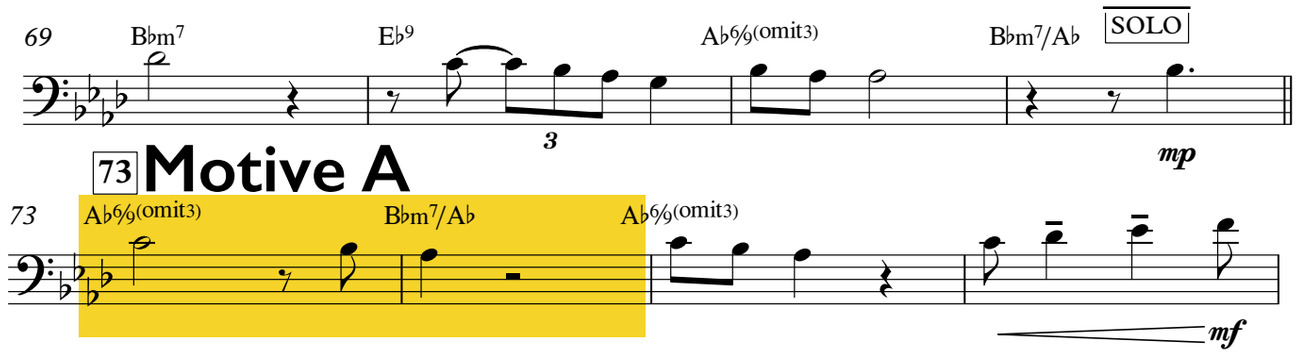
Development of Motive A



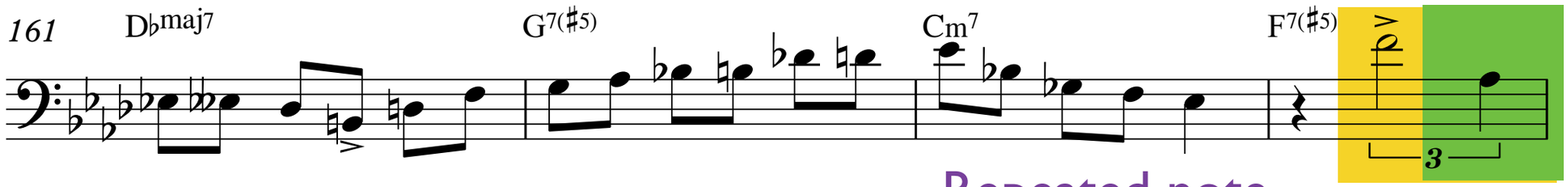




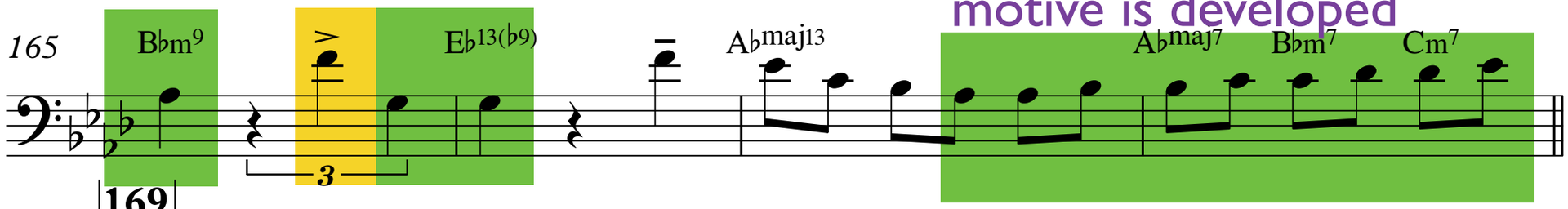
Development of Motive A

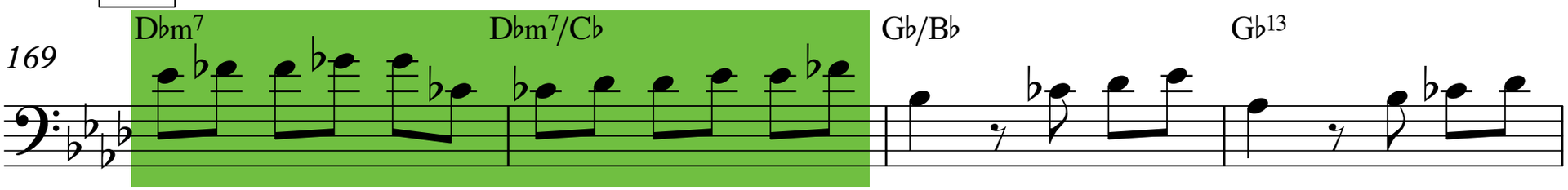


Repeated note motive is introduced

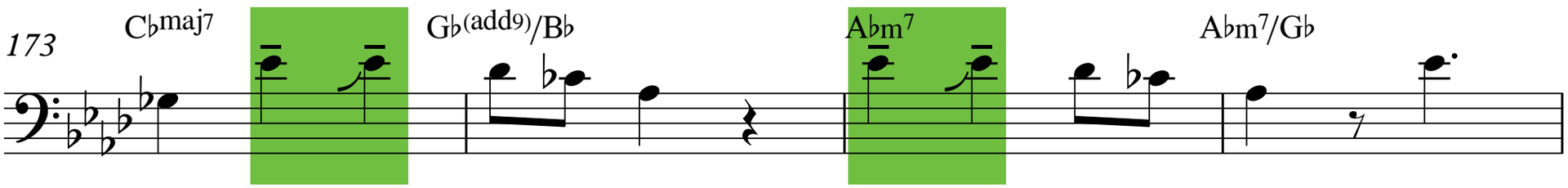


Repeated note motive is developed

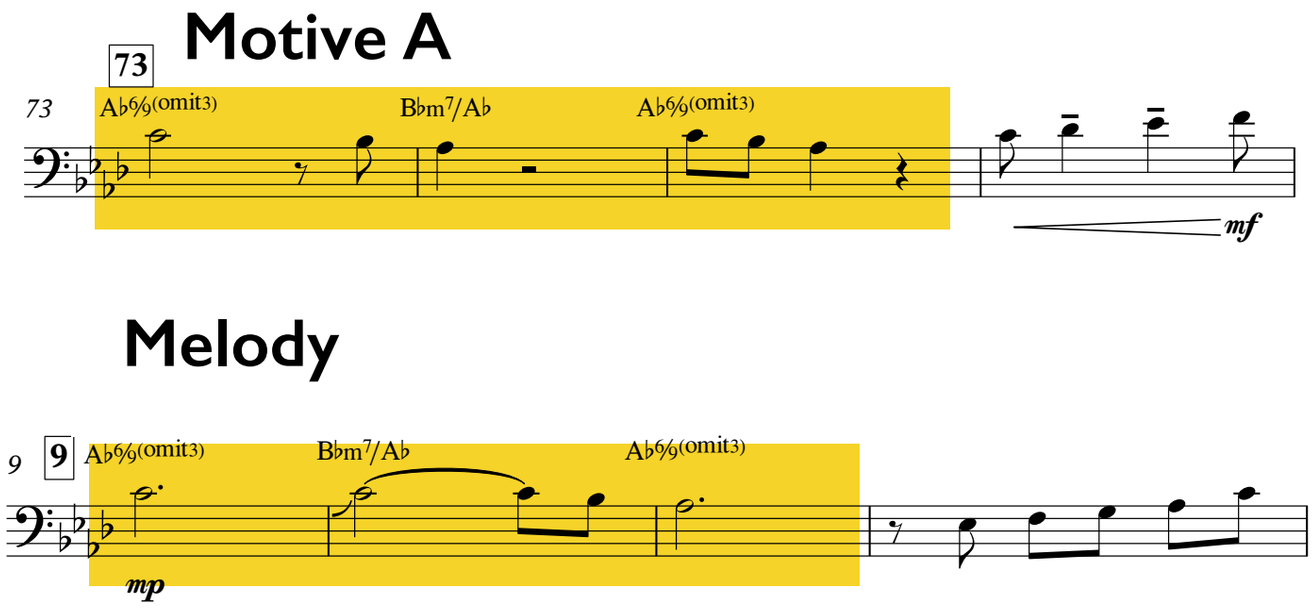


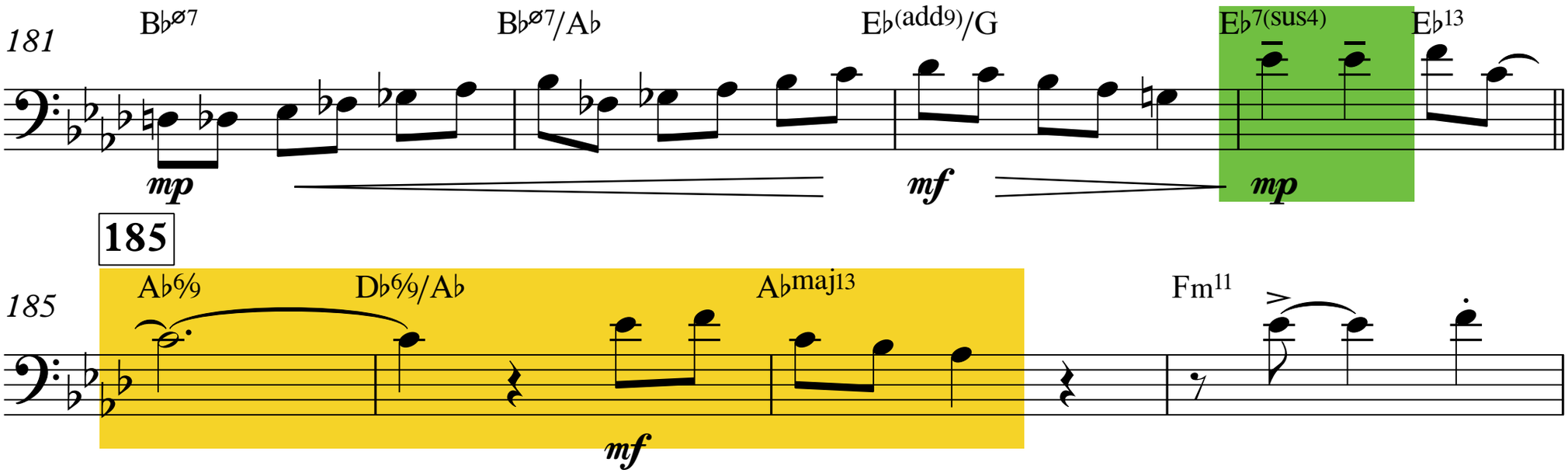


Metric displacement



Derived from the Motive A (and the melody)



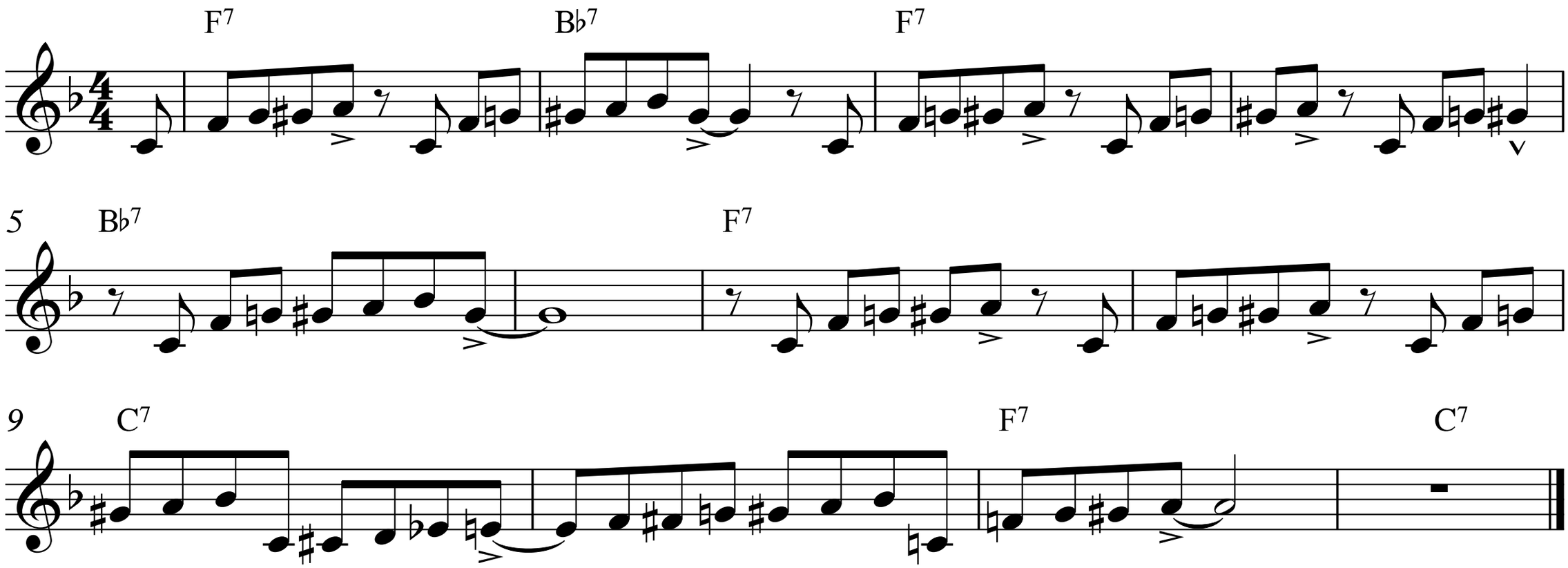


Summary: methods of motivic development

- Adding notes
- Subtracting notes
- Rhythmic alteration
- Rhythmic diminution (or augmentation)
- Metric displacement
- Increasing/decreasing chromaticism
- Transposition
- Changing contour
- Changing intervallic content

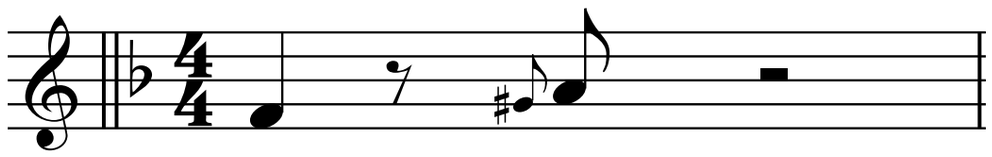
Straight, No Chaser

Thelonious Monk



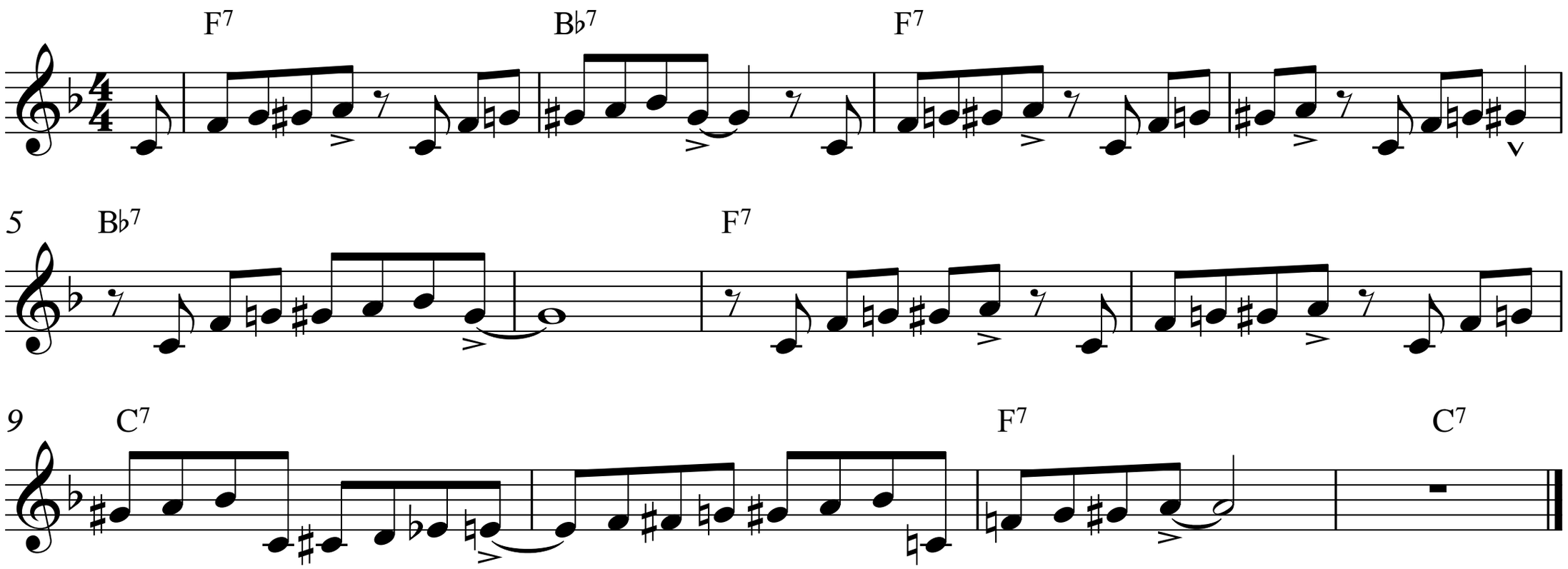
ITHACA COLLEGE
School of Music

Gabe's Motive for Straight, No Chaser



Straight, No Chaser

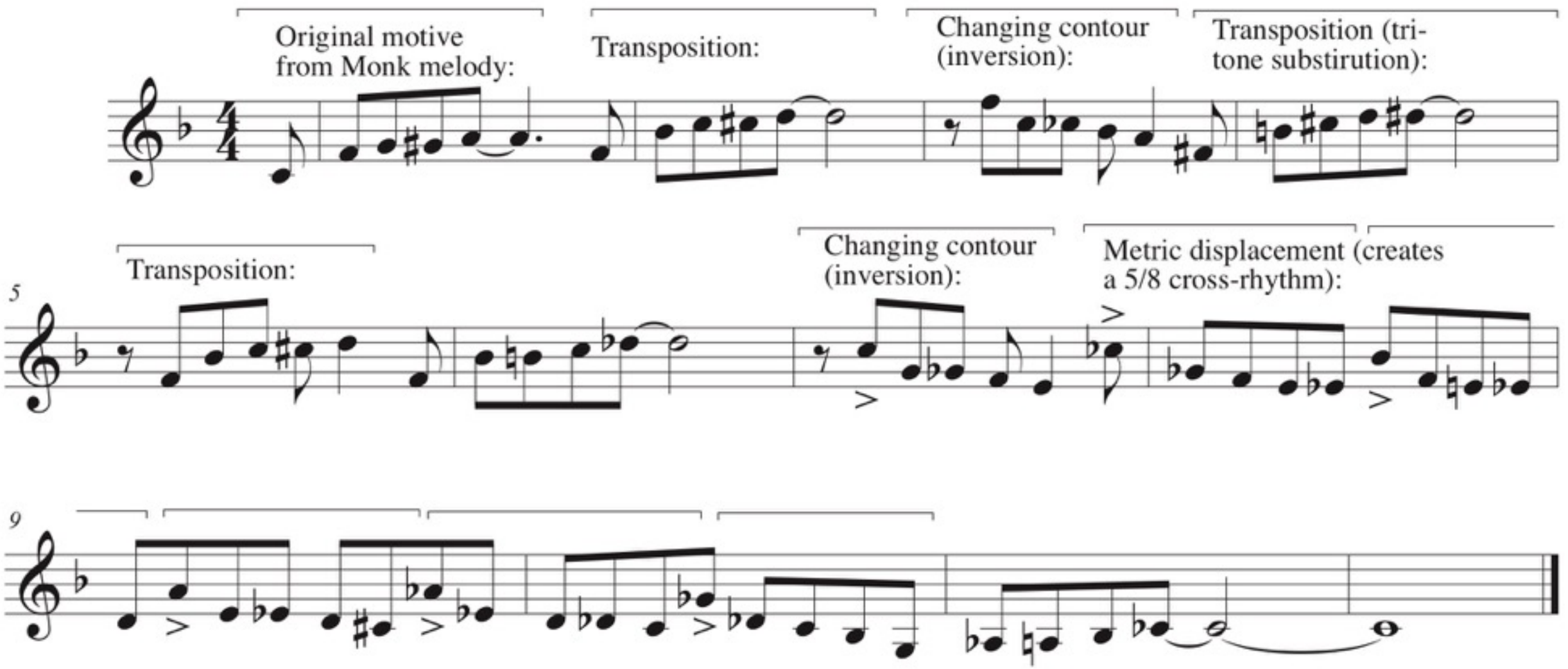
Thelonious Monk



- Adding notes
- Subtracting notes
- Rhythmic alteration
- Rhythmic diminution (or augmentation)
- Metric displacement
- Increasing/decreasing chromaticism
- Transposition
- Changing contour
- Changing intervallic content

Score

Mike's "Straight, No Chaser"-based line



Bibliography:

Lewis, J. (1959). Skating in Central Park [Recorded by Jim Hall and Bob Brookmeyer]. On *Jim Hall and Bob Brookmeyer Live at the North Sea Jazz Festival 1979* [mp3]. Amersfoort, The Netherlands: Challenge Records. (1979)

Mehldau, B. (2003). Ideology, Burgers, and Beer. *Jazz Times*. Retrieved from https://jazztimes.com/features/brad-mehldau-ideology-burgers-and-beer/

GabeCondon.com/jen