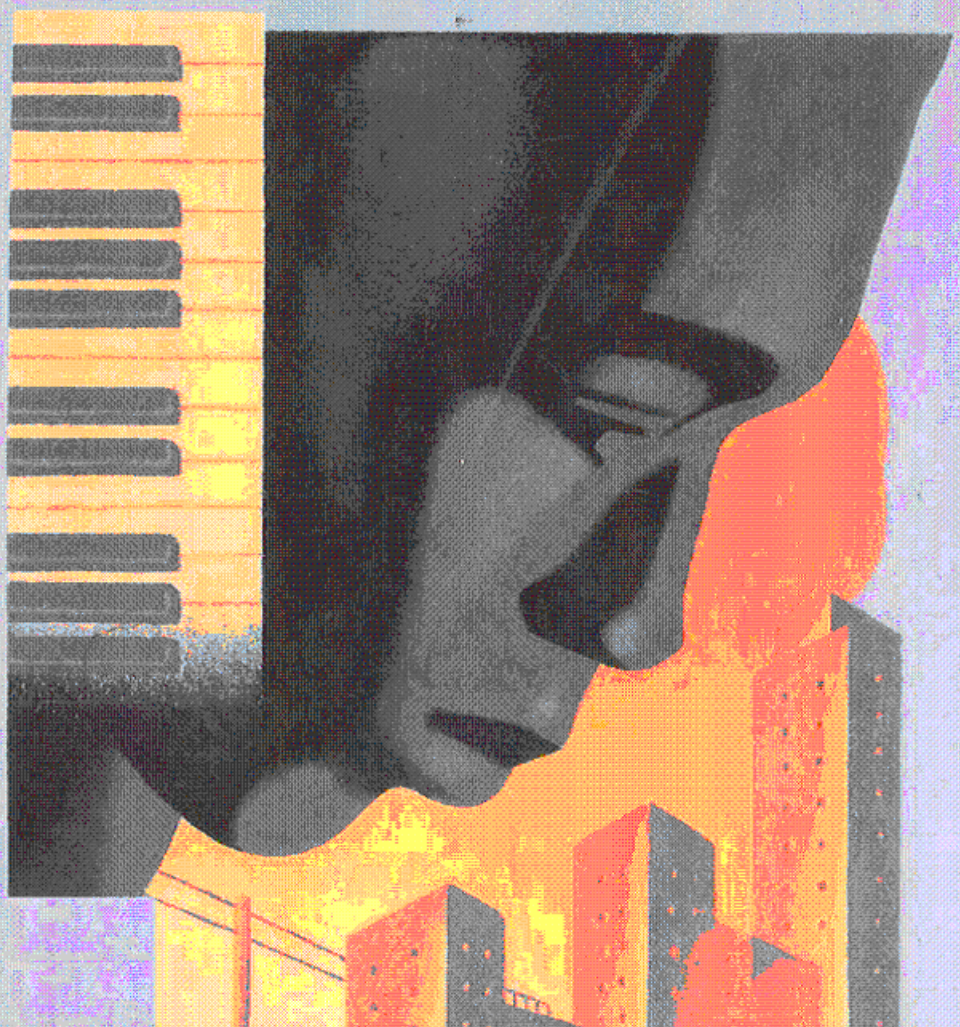
The Joy of Modern Blues

Selected and arranged by Denes Agay and Frank Metis.



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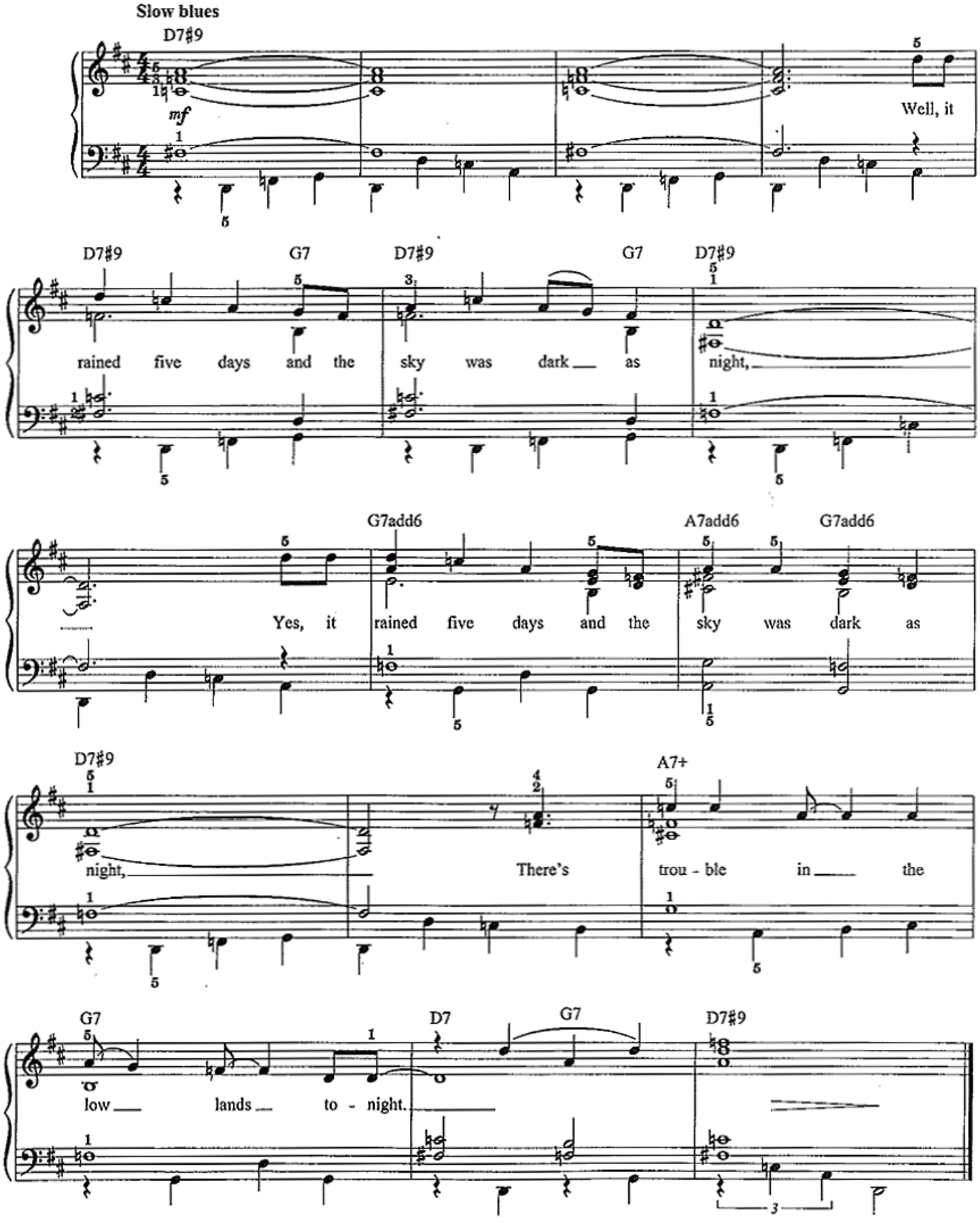
Back Water Blues

Traditional



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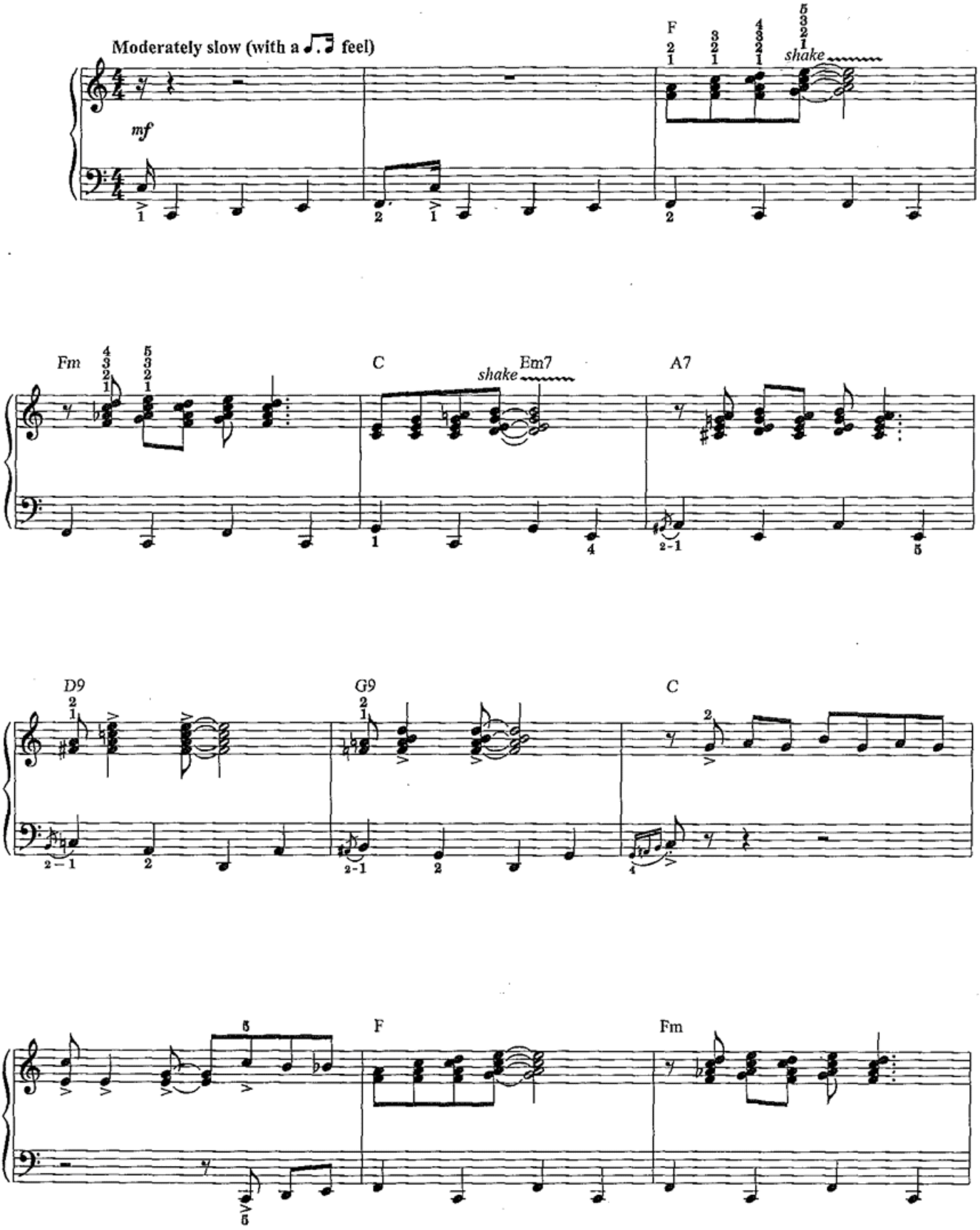
After You've Gone

Creamer and Layton



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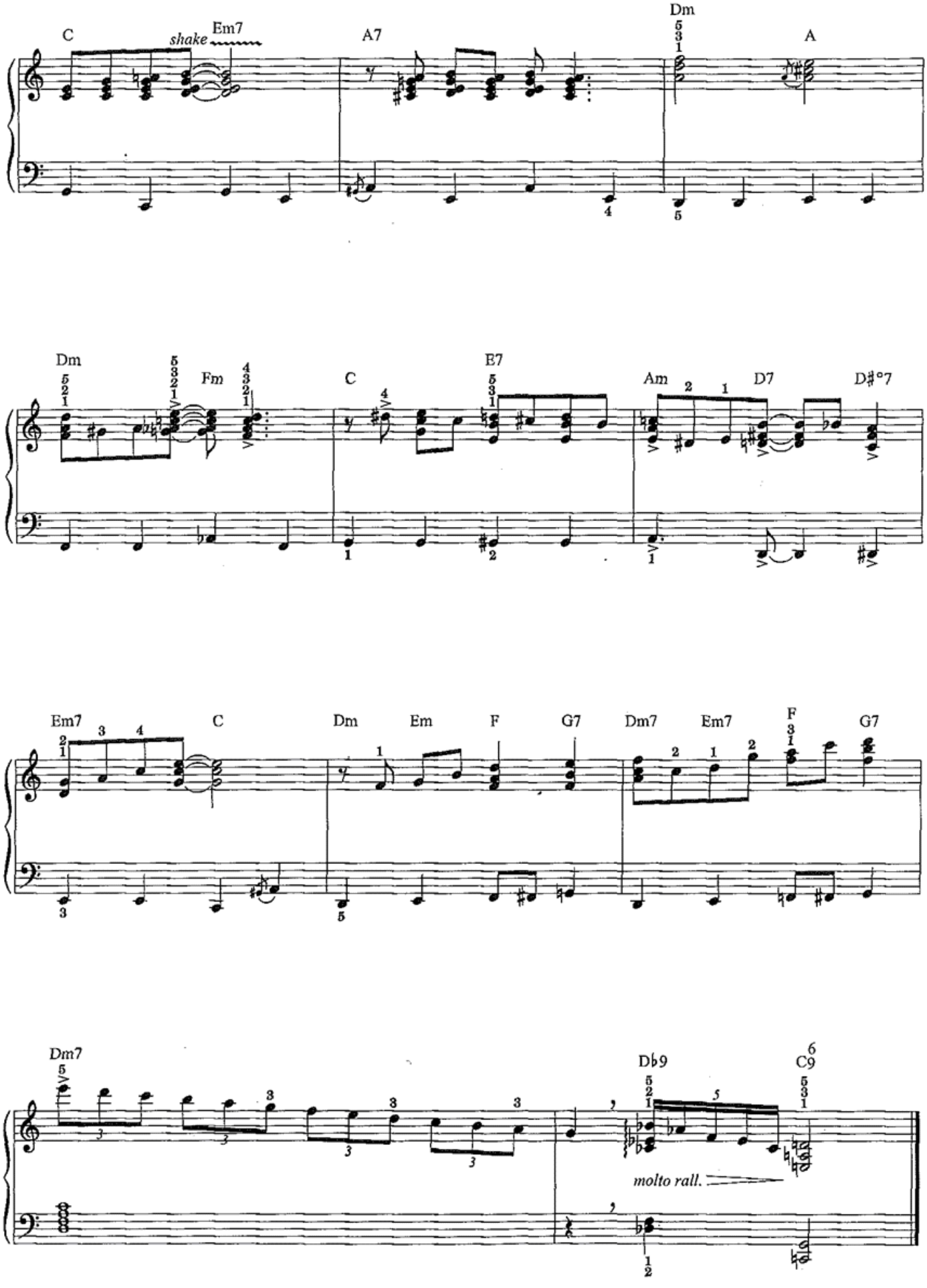
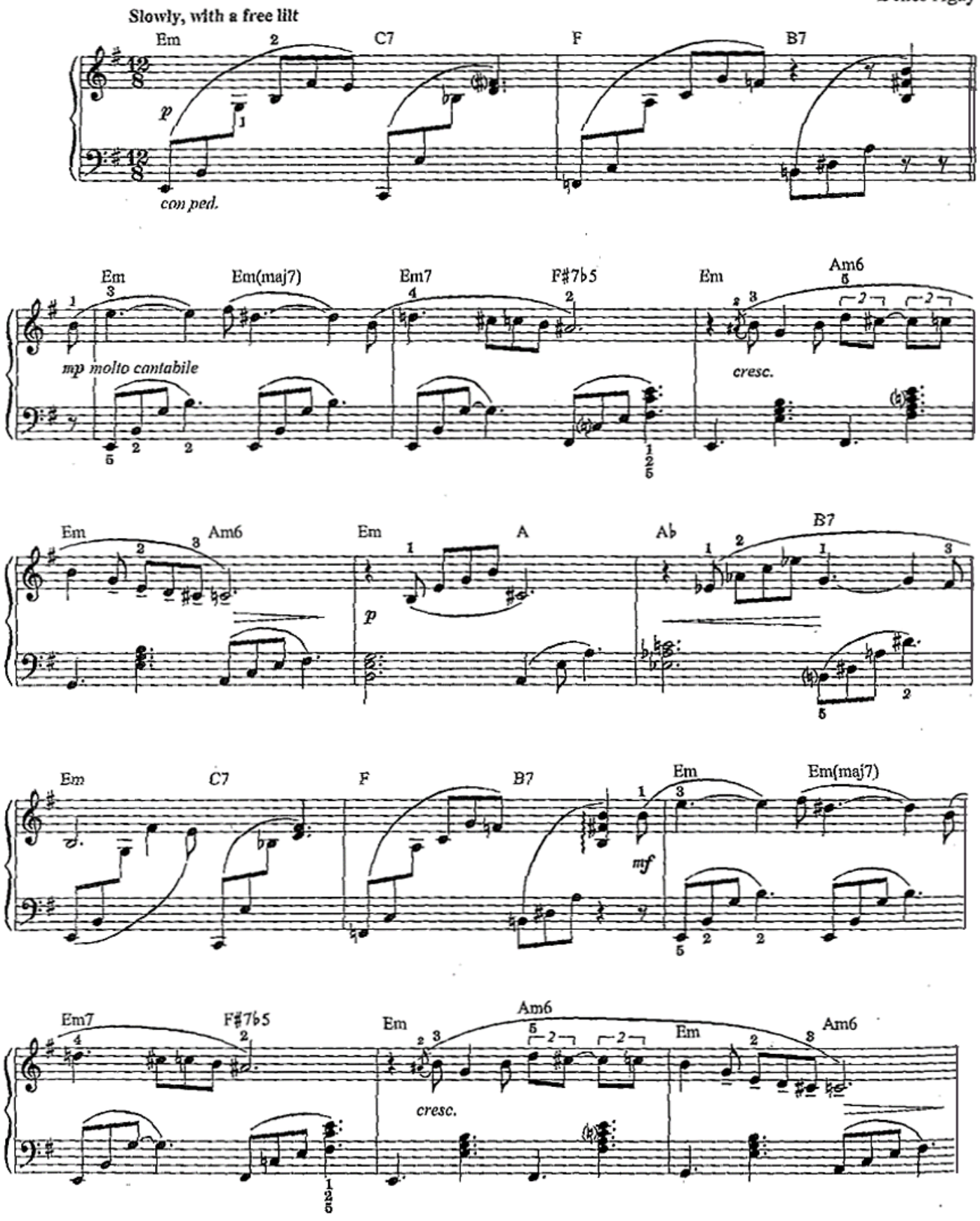

C
shake
Em7
A7
Dm
A
Dm
Fm
C
E7
Am
D7
D♯°7
Em7
C
Dm
Em
F
G7
Dm7
Em7
F
G7
Dm7
D♭9
C9
molto rall.

Another Shade of Blue

Denes Agay



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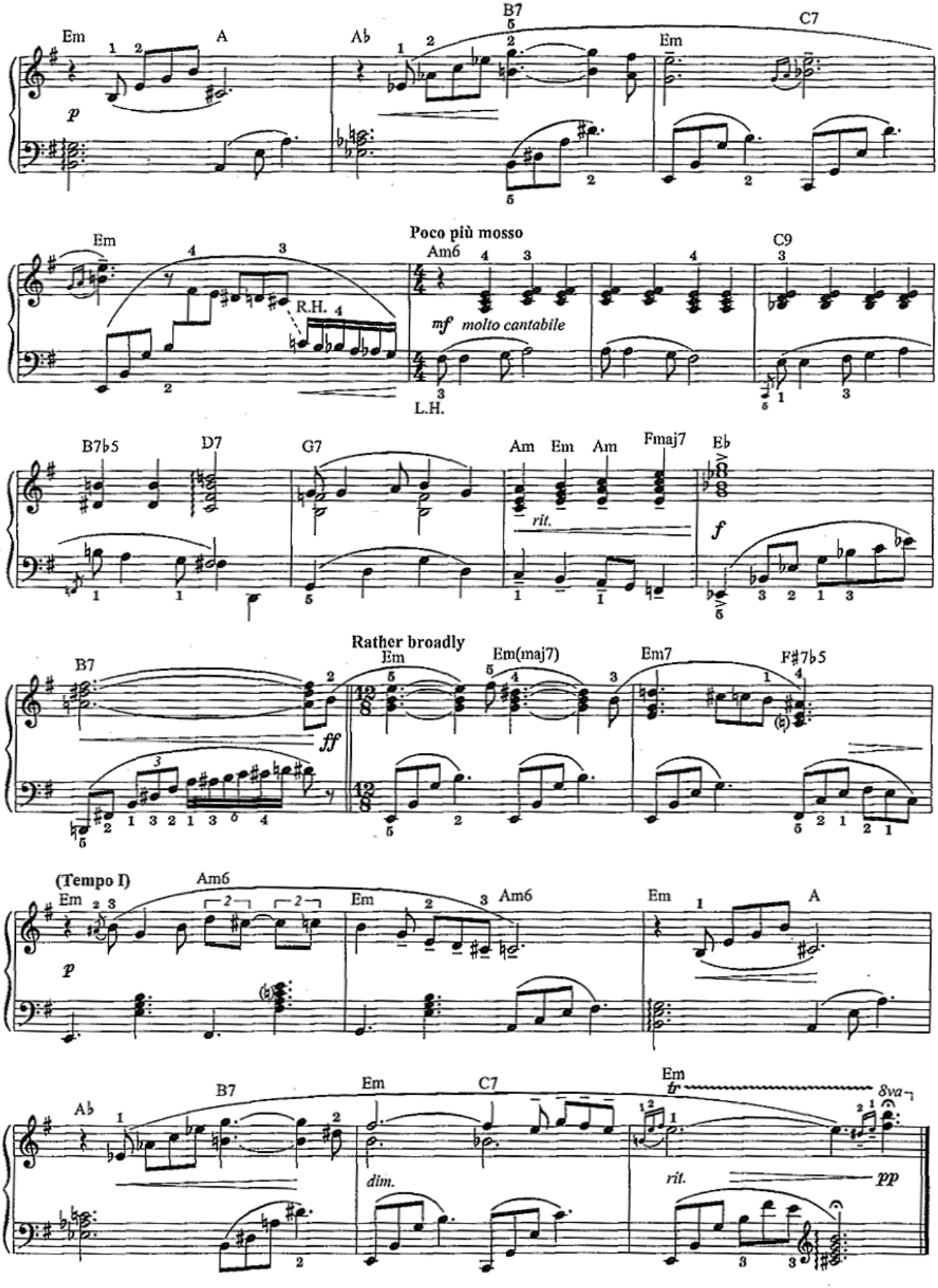
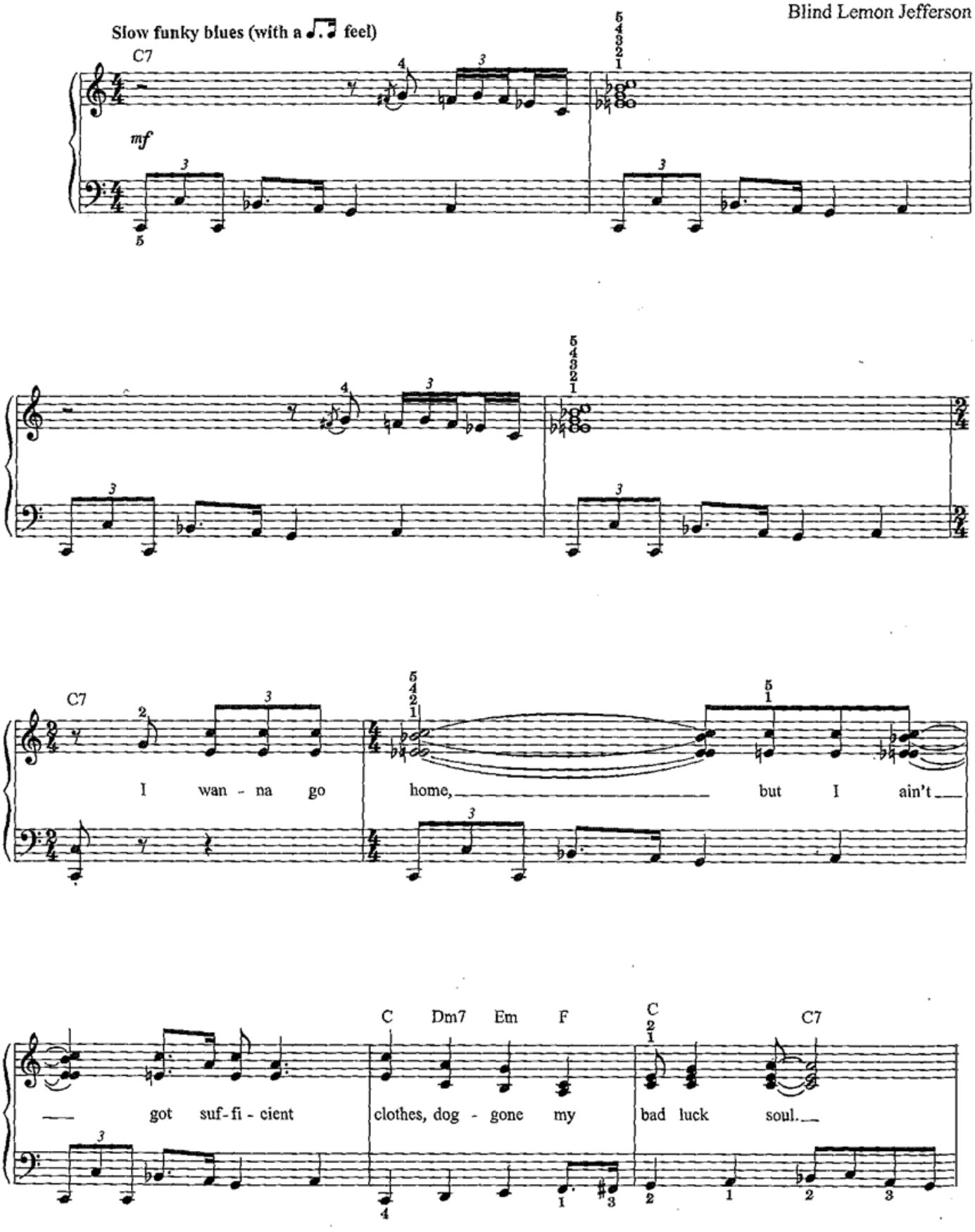

Em
A
Ab
B7
C7
Em
p
Poco più mosso
Em
Am6
C9
R.H.
mf molto cantabile
L.H.
B7b5
D7
G7
Am
Em
Am
Fmaj7
Eb
rit.
f
Rather broadly
B7
Em
Em(maj7)
Em7
F#7b5
ff
(Tempo I)
Em
Am6
Em
Am6
Em
A
p
Ab
B7
Em
C7
Em
tr
8va
dim.
rit.
pp

Bad Luck Blues

Blind Lemon Jefferson



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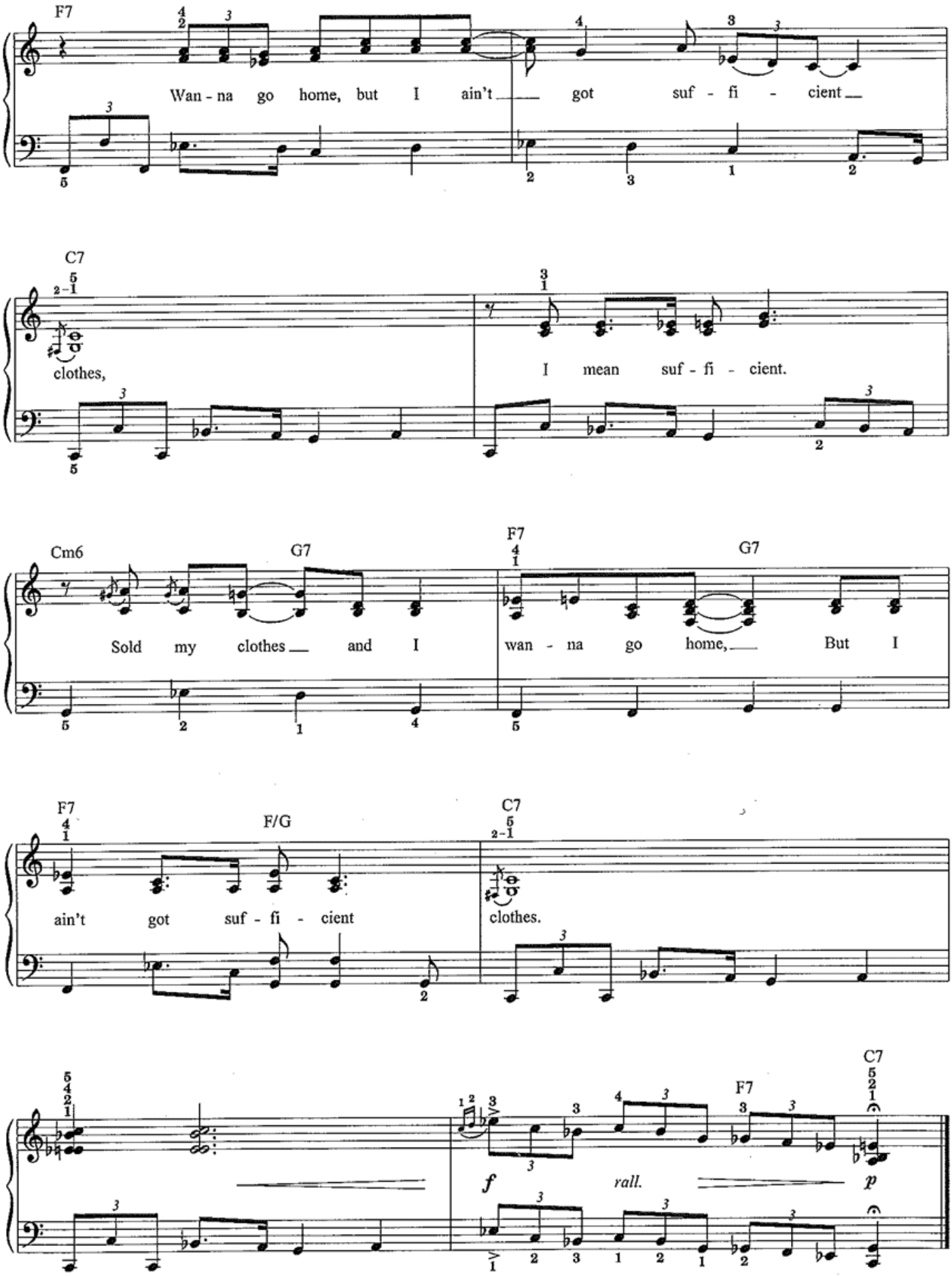
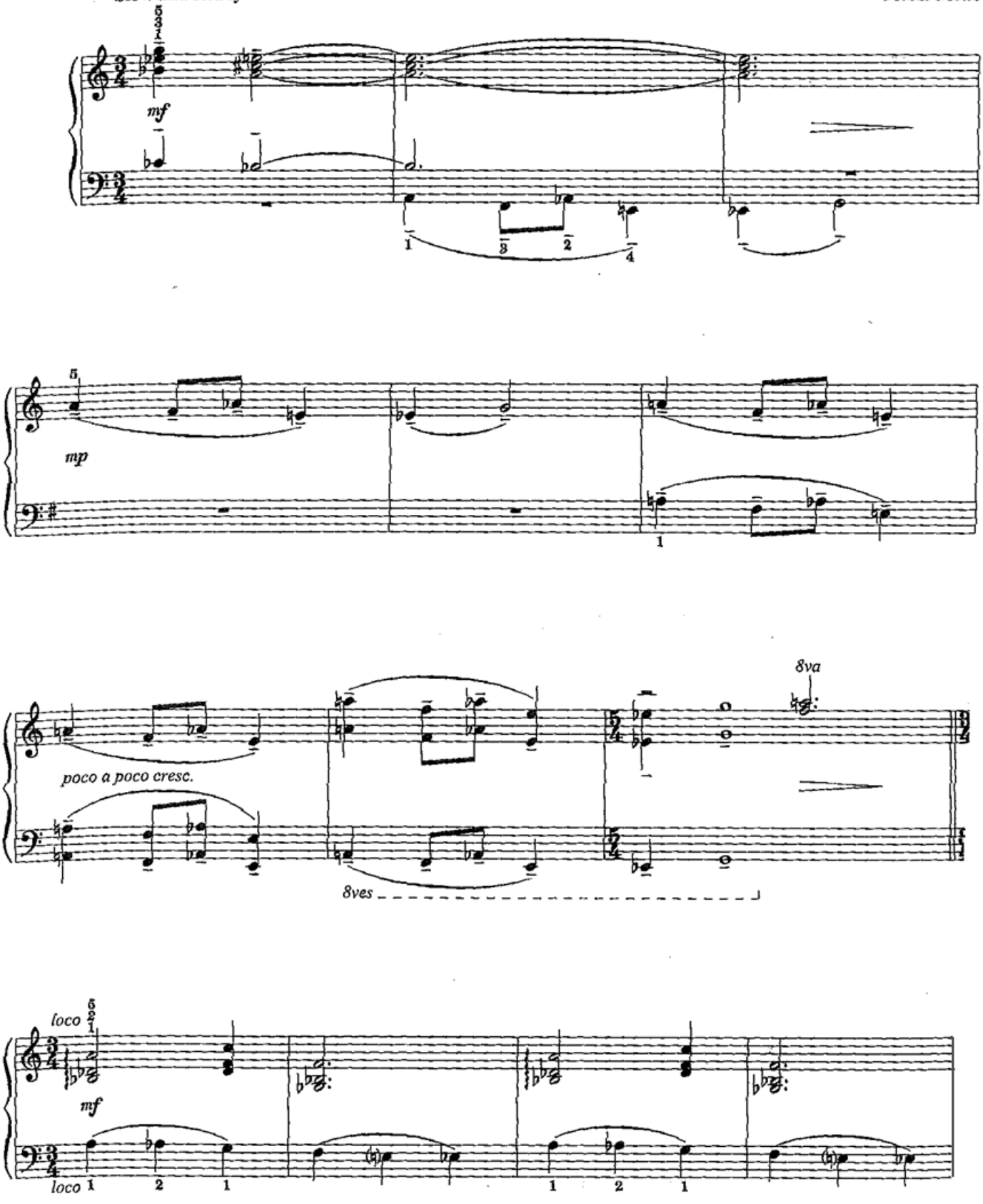

F7
Wan - na go home, but I ain't got suf - fi - cient
C7
clothes,
I mean suf - fi - cient.
Cm6
G7
Sold my clothes and I
F7
G7
wan - na go home, But I
F7
F/G
ain't got suf - fi - cient
C7
clothes.
f
rall.
F7
C7
p

Blue Odyssey

Slow and steady

Frank Metis



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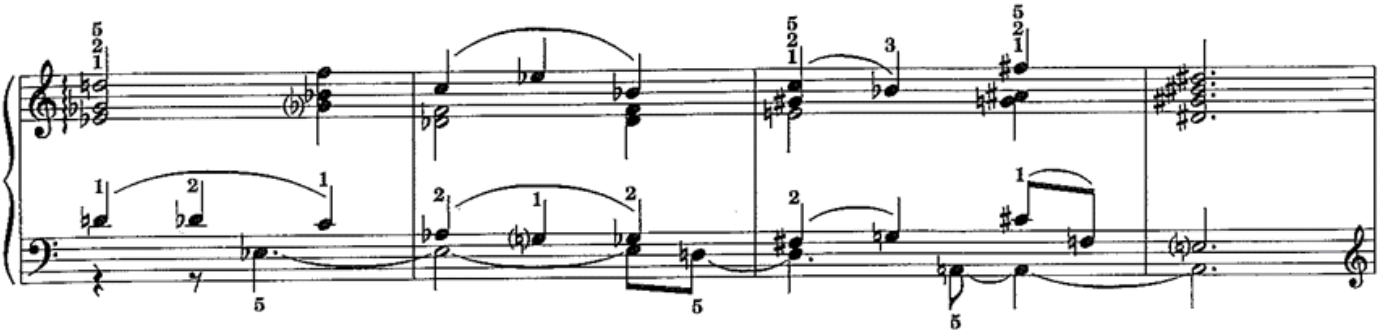
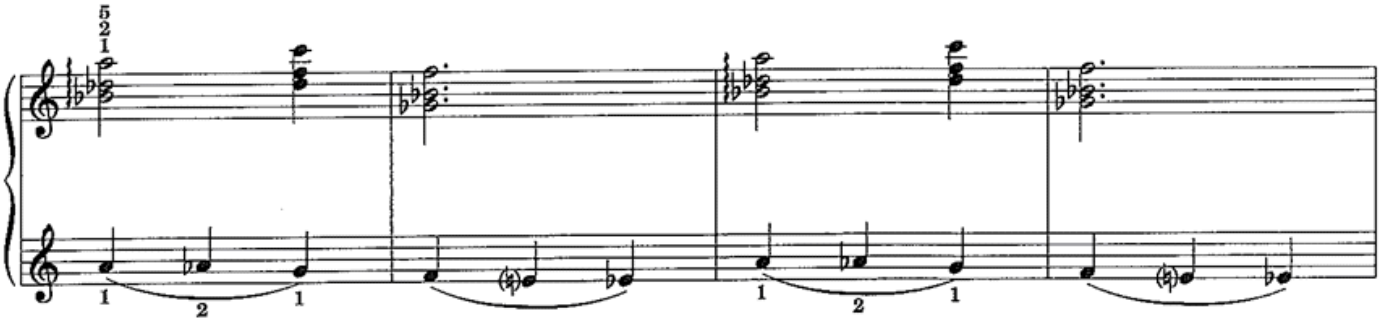
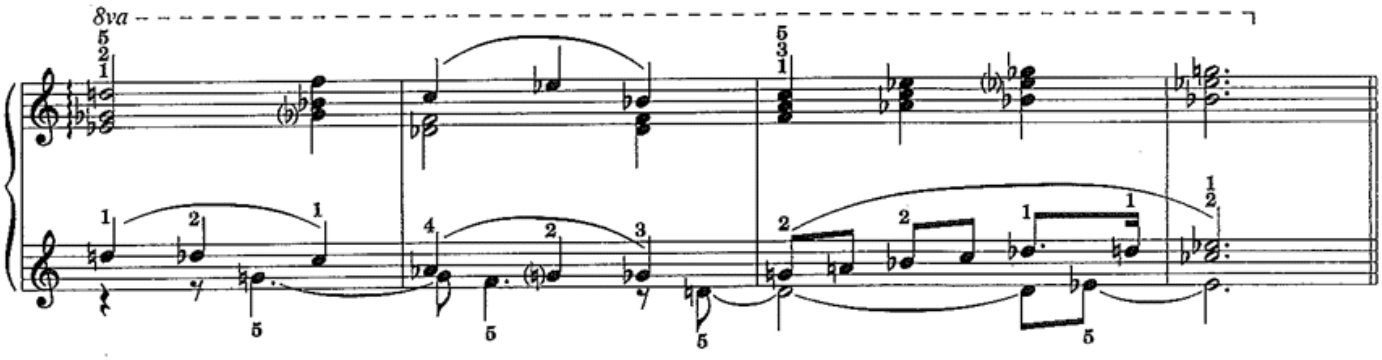
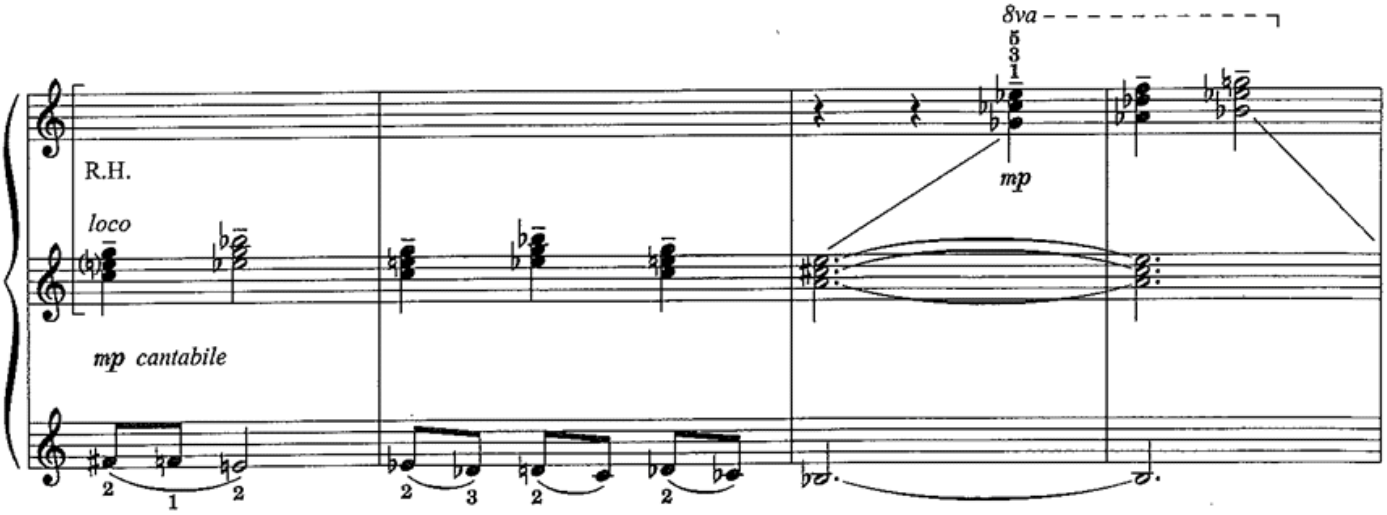
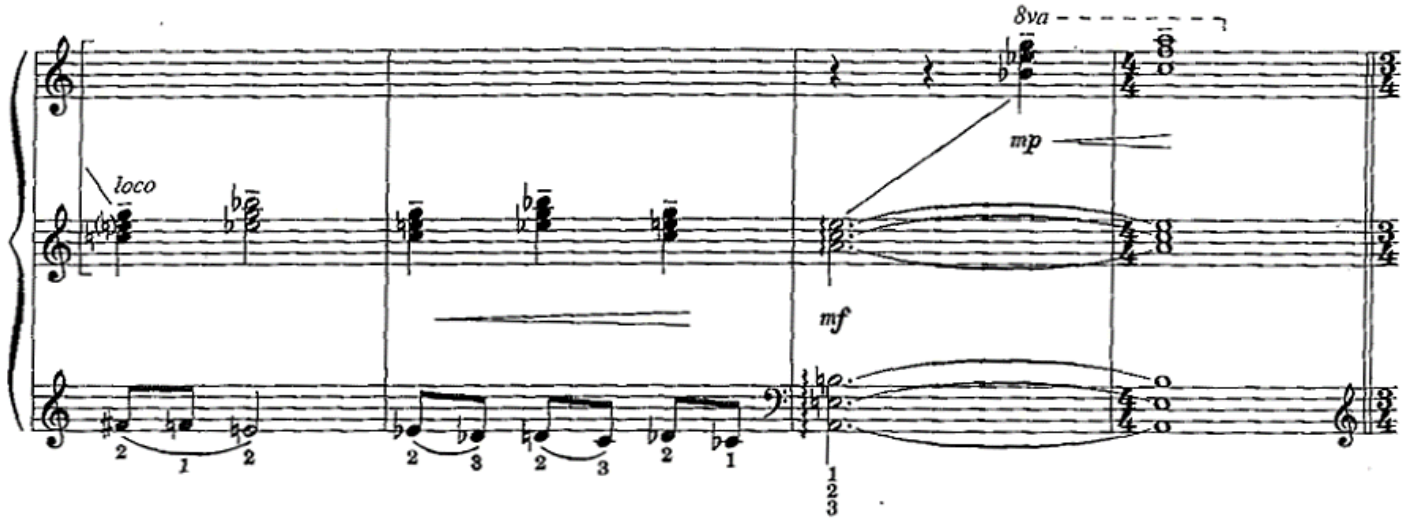
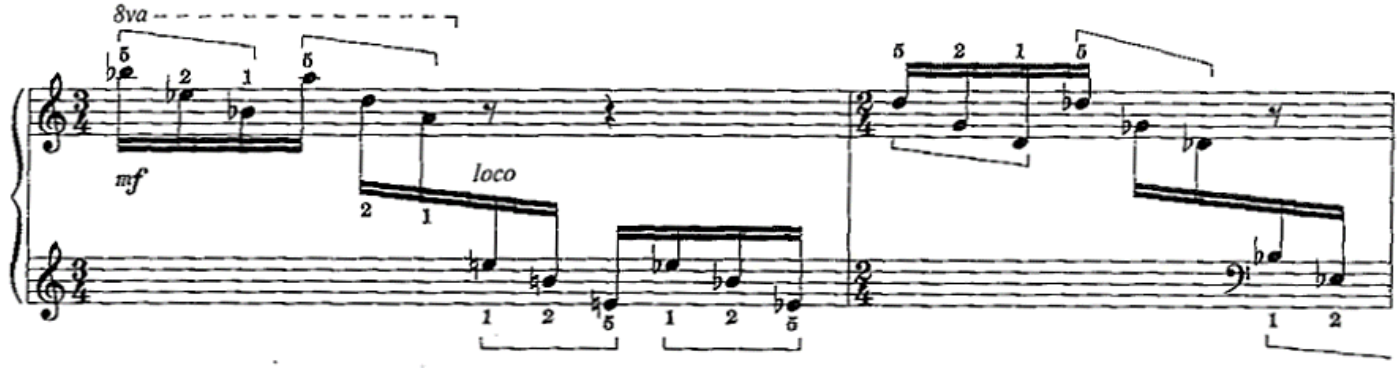


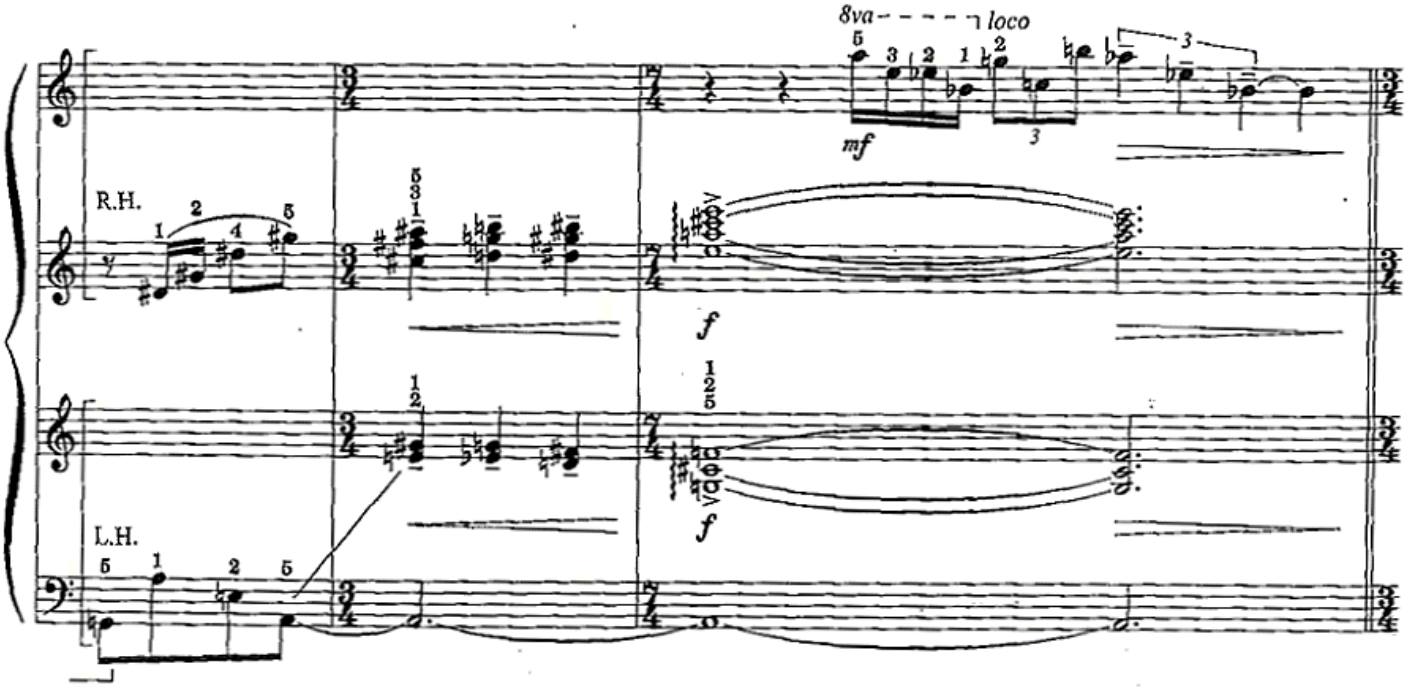


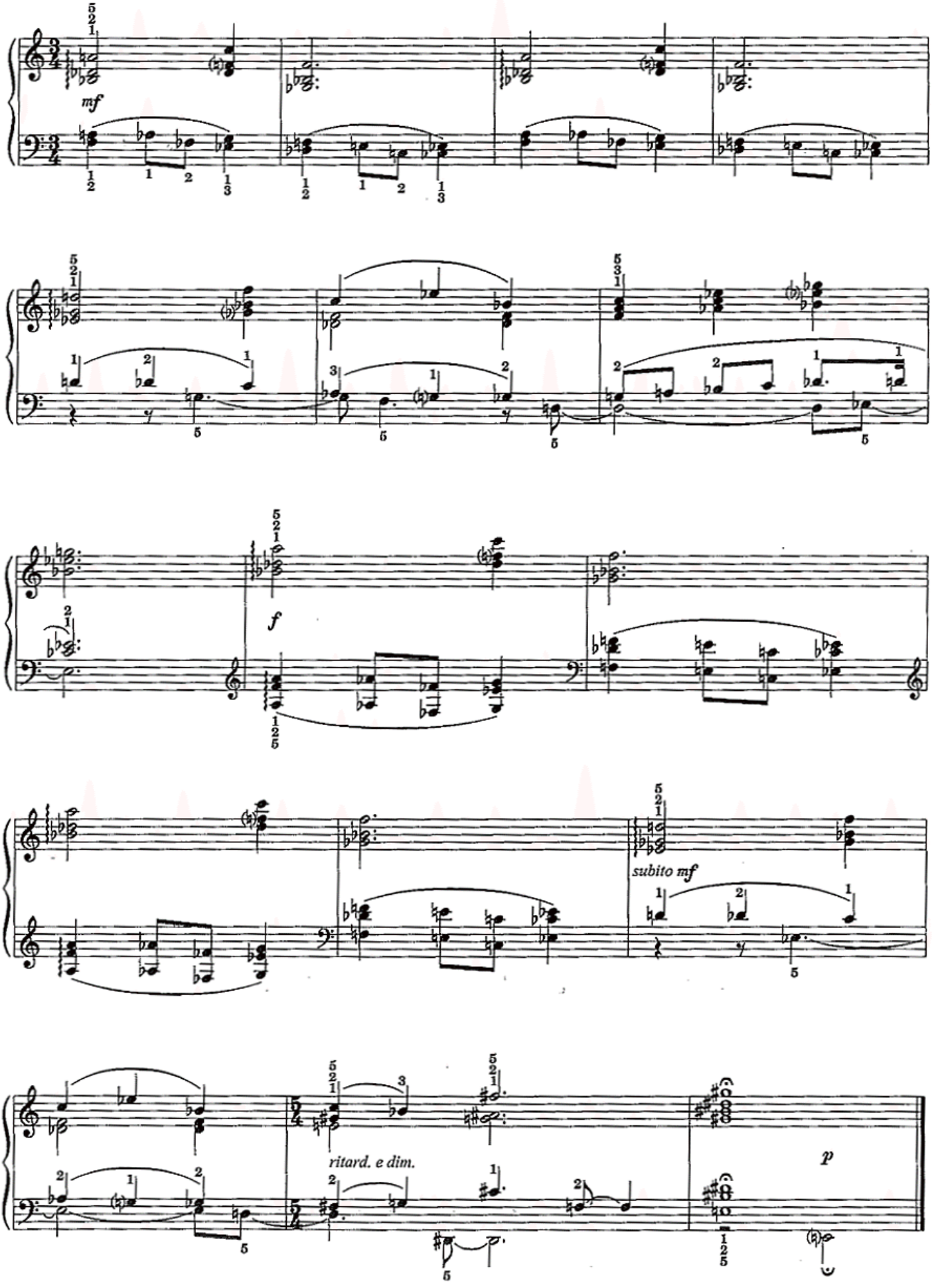

8va


8va
R.H.
loco
mp
mp cantabile


8va
loco
mp
mf


8va
mf
loco

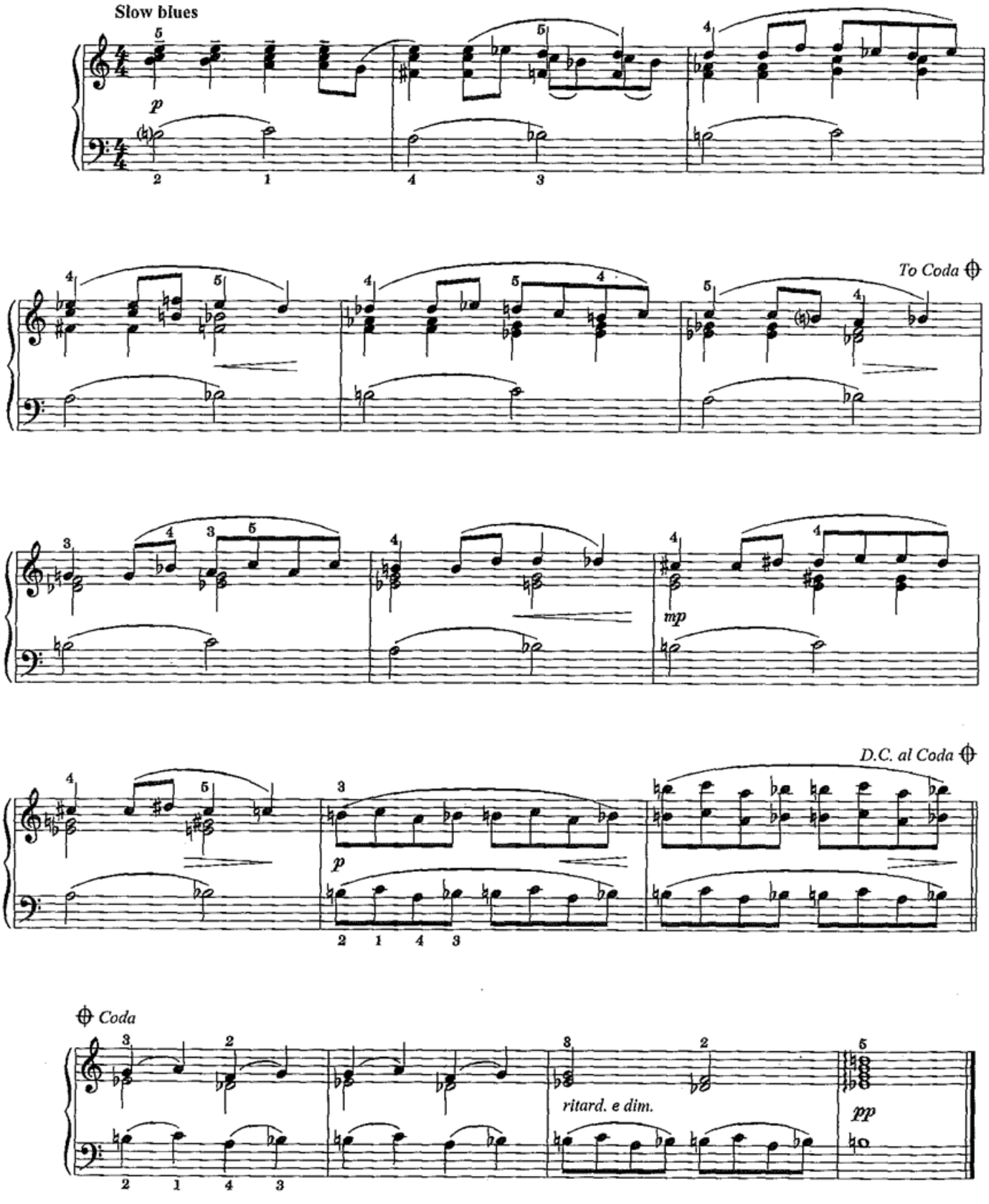

8va
loco
mf
R.H.
f
L.H.
f


mf
f
subito mf
ritard. e dim.
p

Blues on Bach Backwards

(The left-hand ostinato is based on the notes B - C - A - B♭ which, read in reverse, are the anglicized version of the letters B - A - C - H.)

Frank Metis



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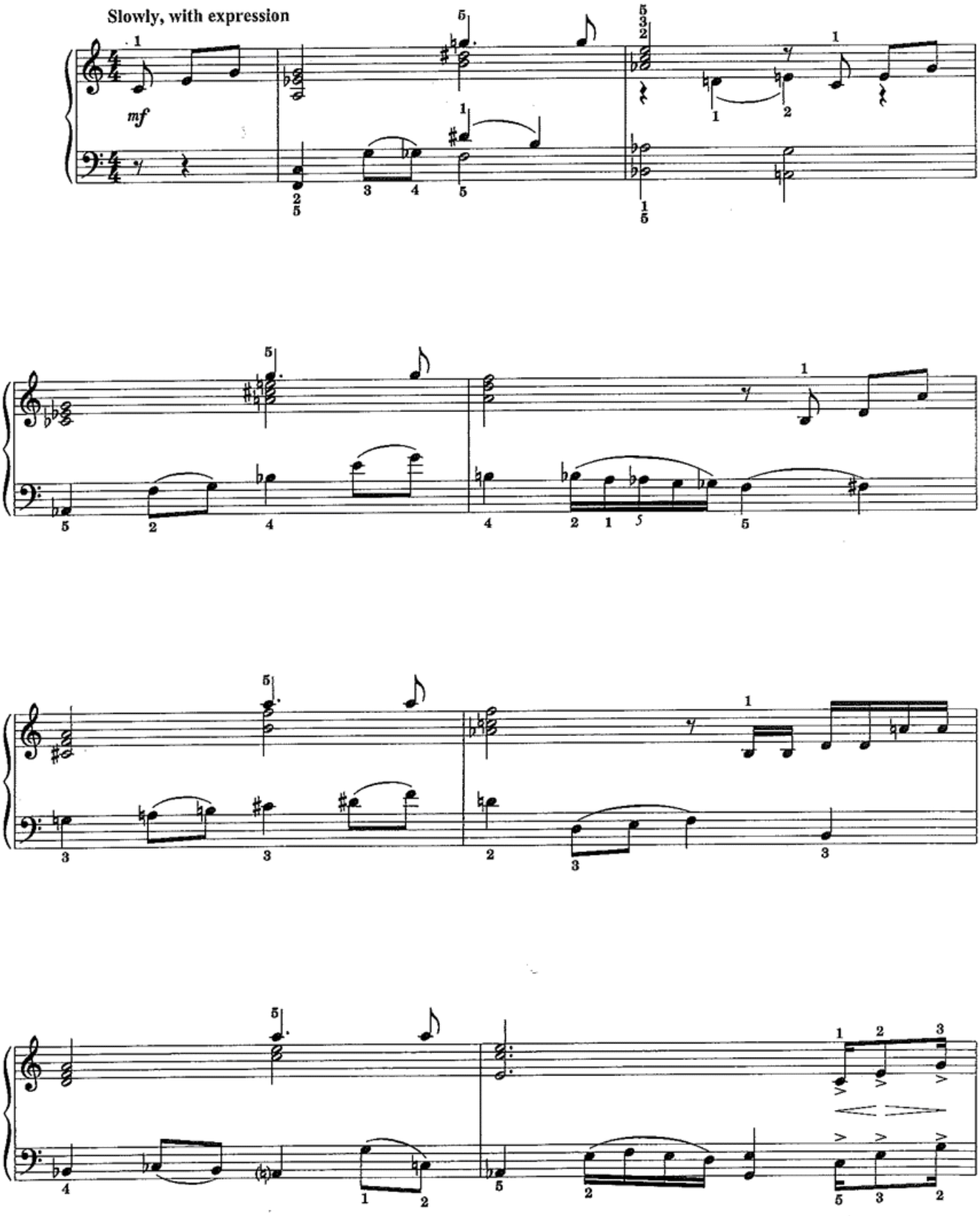
Blues Danube

(With apologies to Johann Strauss)

Frank Metis



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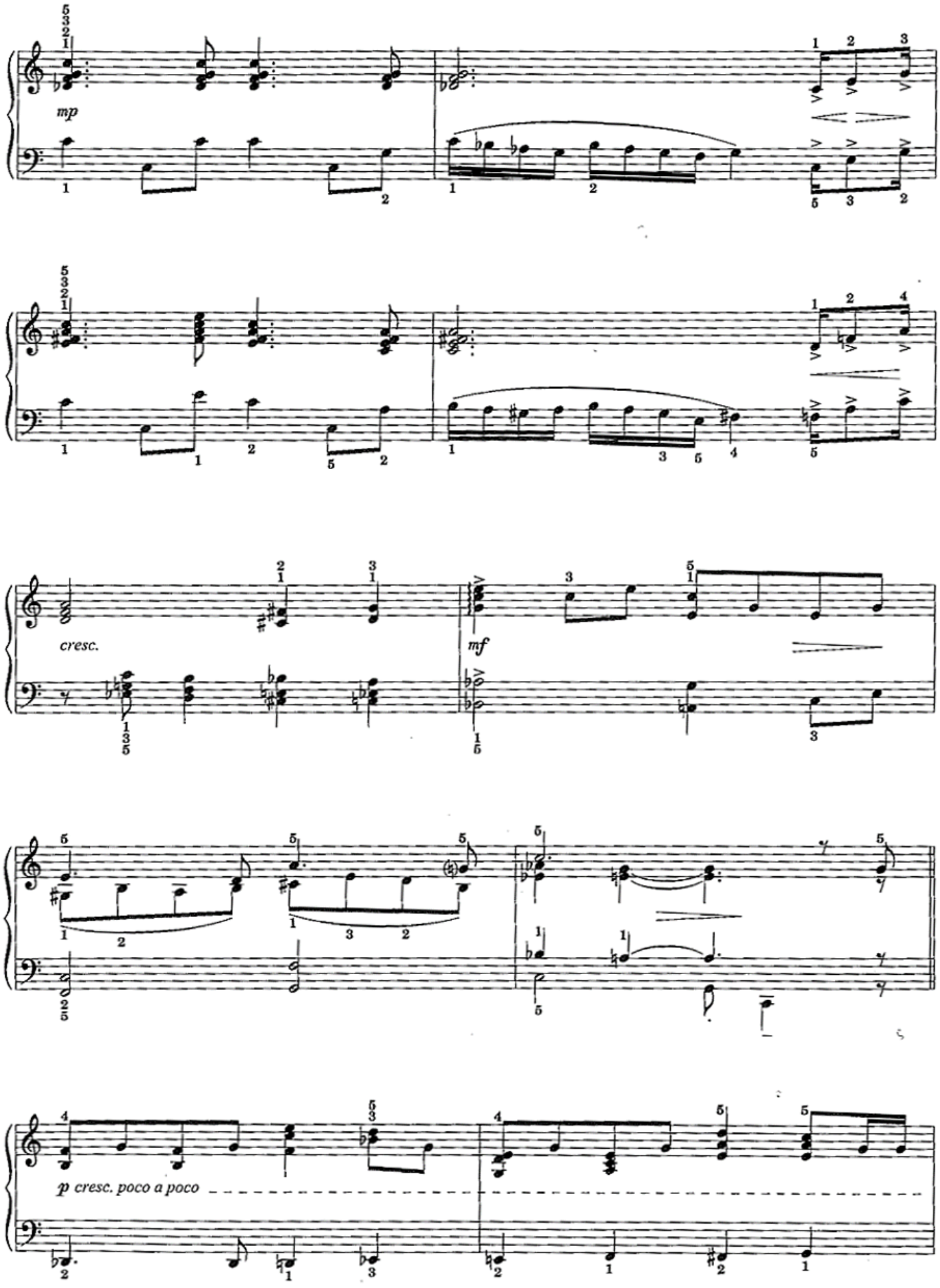
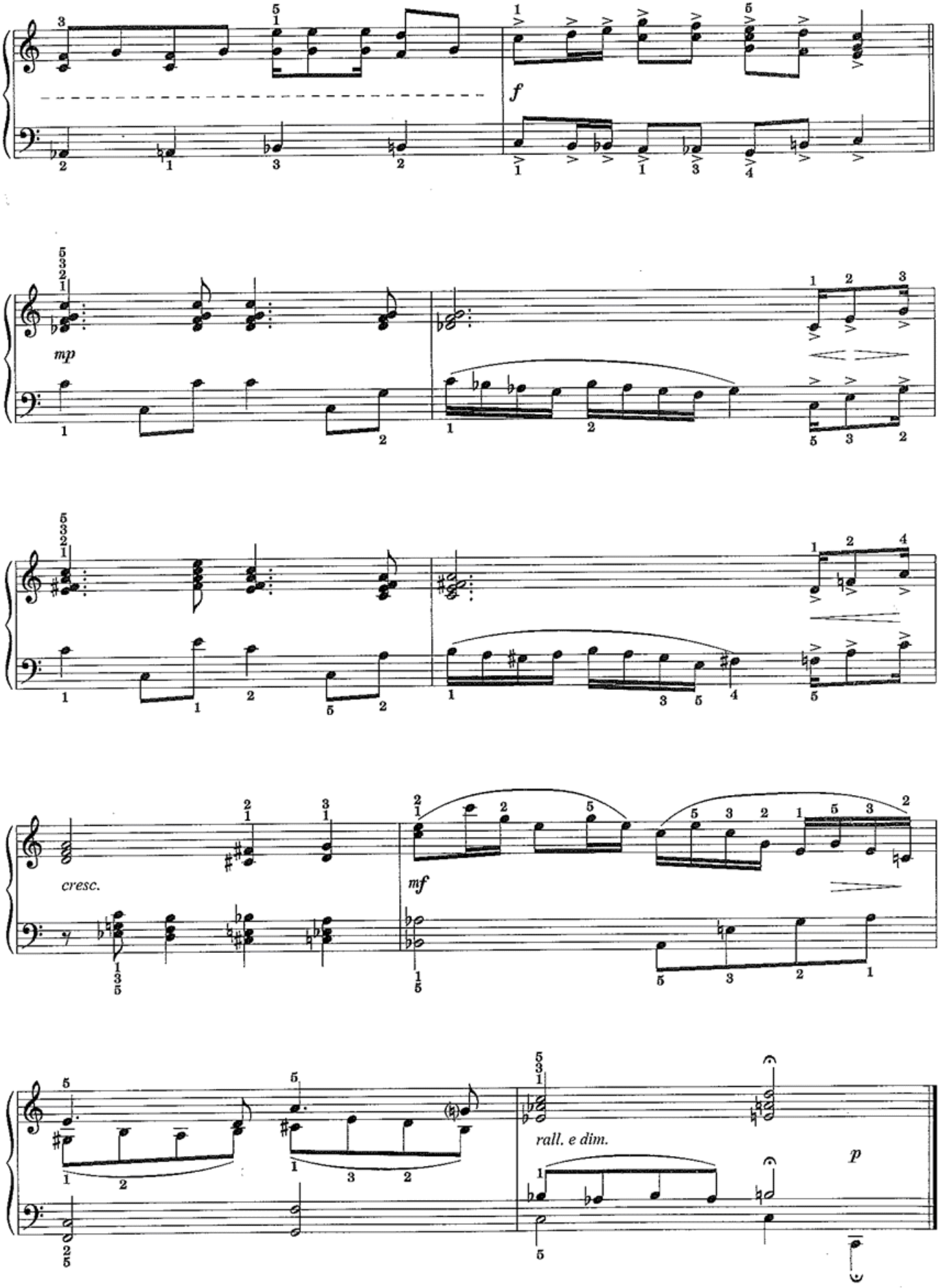
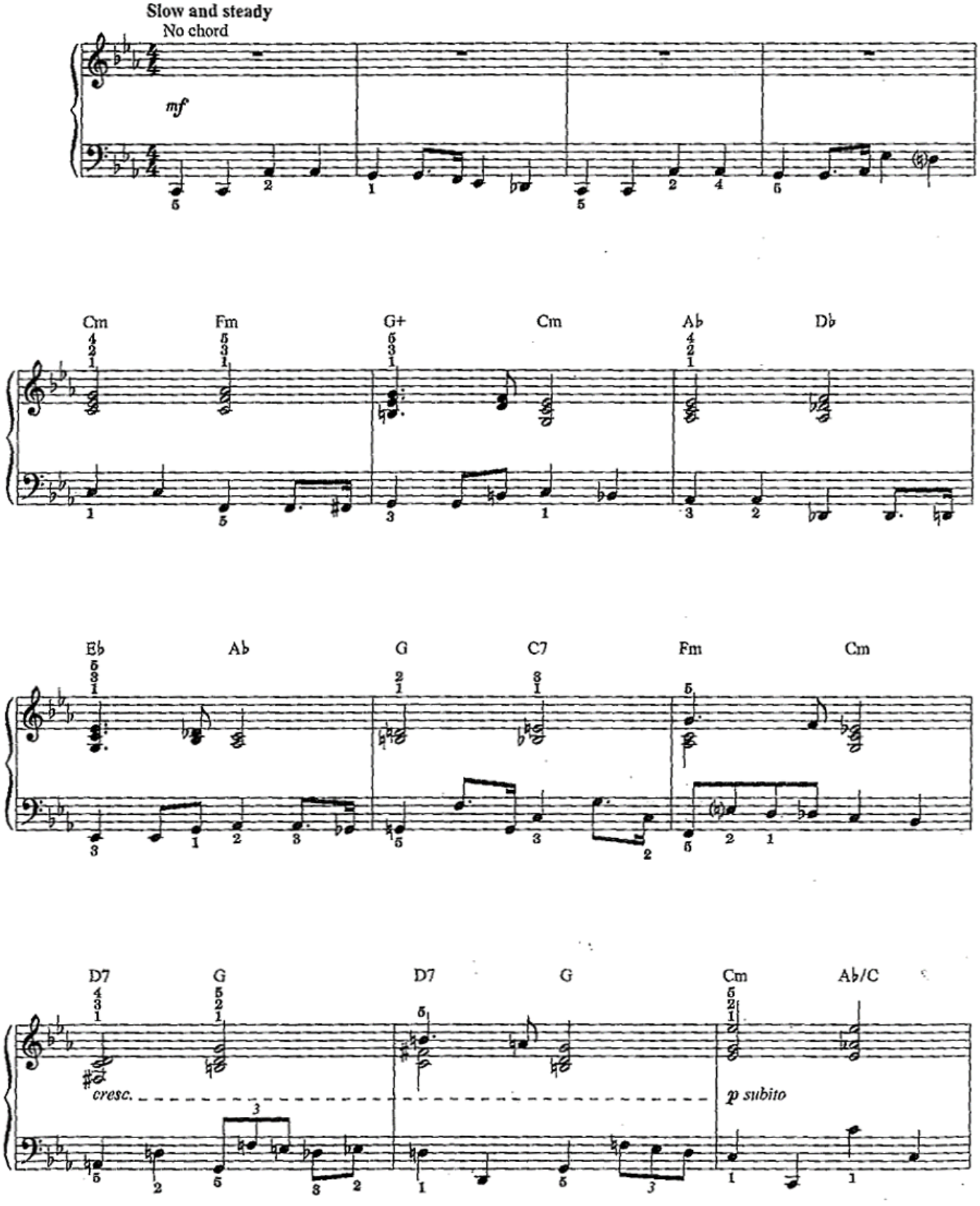

mp
cresc.
mf
p cresc. poco a poco


f
mp
cresc.
mf
rall. e dim.
p

Chopin in Blue

Prelude in C minor

by Frédéric Chopin



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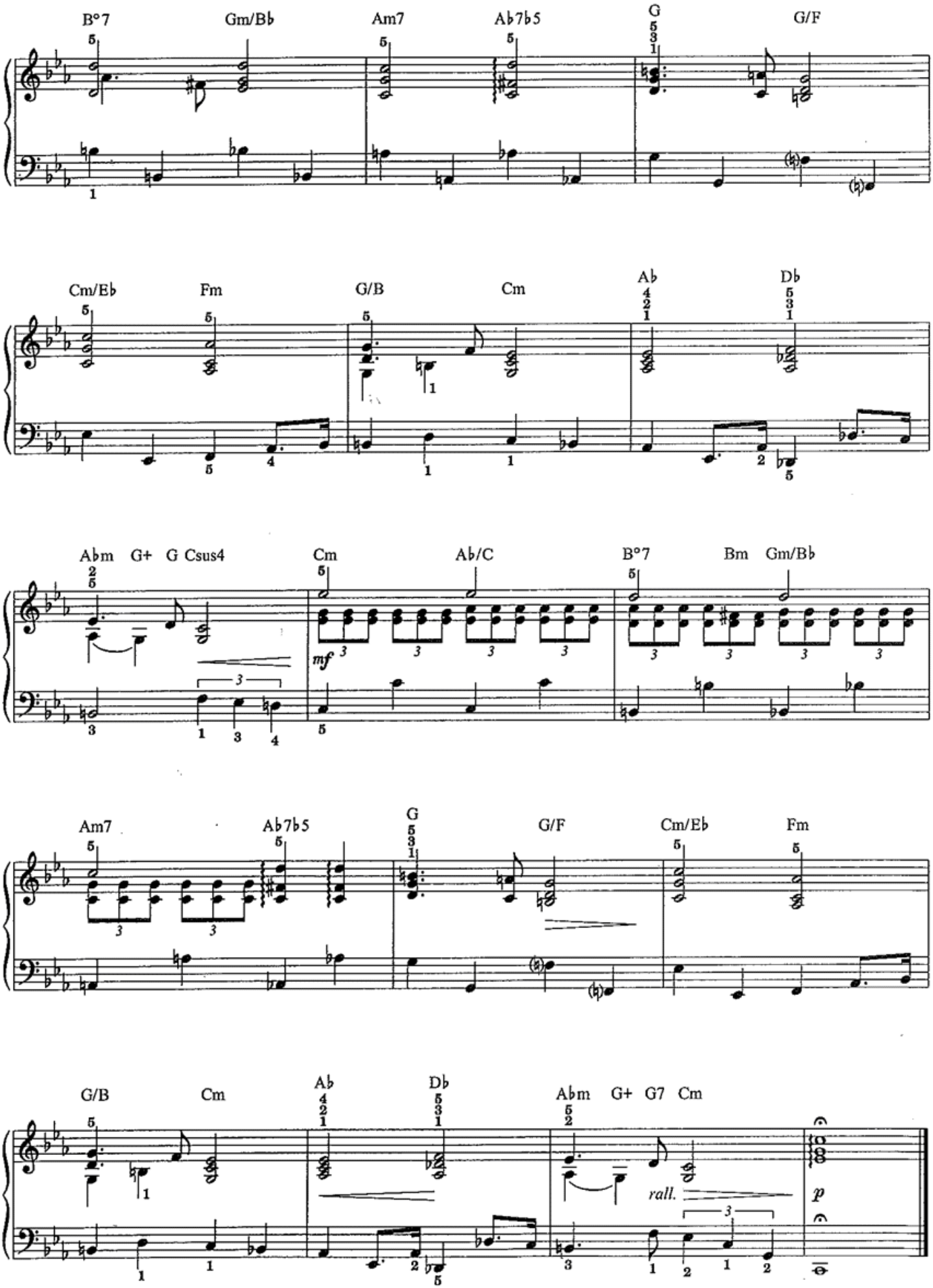
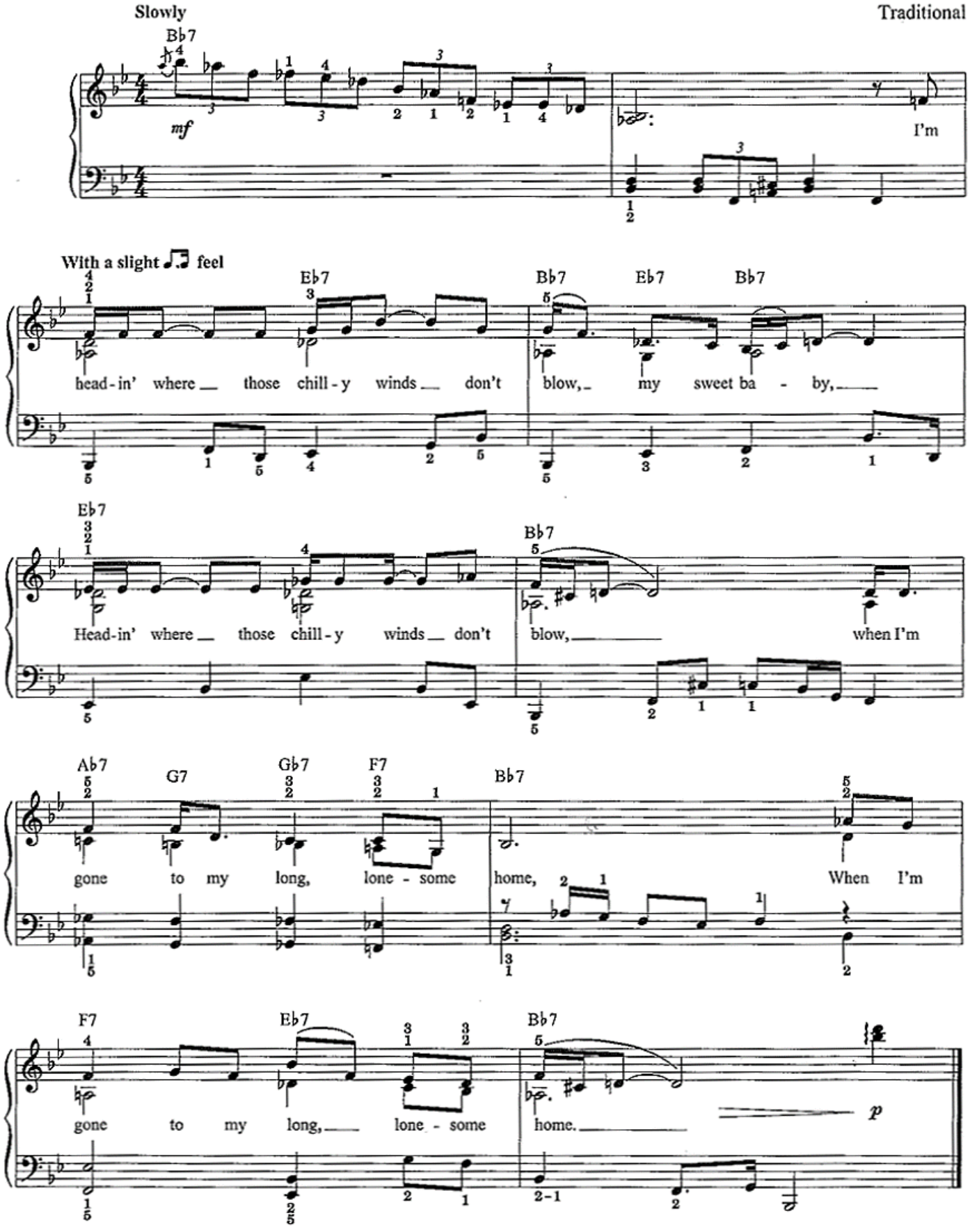

B°7
Gm/Bb
Am7
Ab7b5
G
G/F
Cm/Eb
Fm
G/B
Cm
Ab
Db
Abm
G+
G Csus4
Cm
Ab/C
B°7
Bm
Gm/Bb
mf
Am7
Ab7b5
G
G/F
Cm/Eb
Fm
G/B
Cm
Ab
Db
Abm
G+
G7
Cm
rall.
p

Chilly Wind Blues



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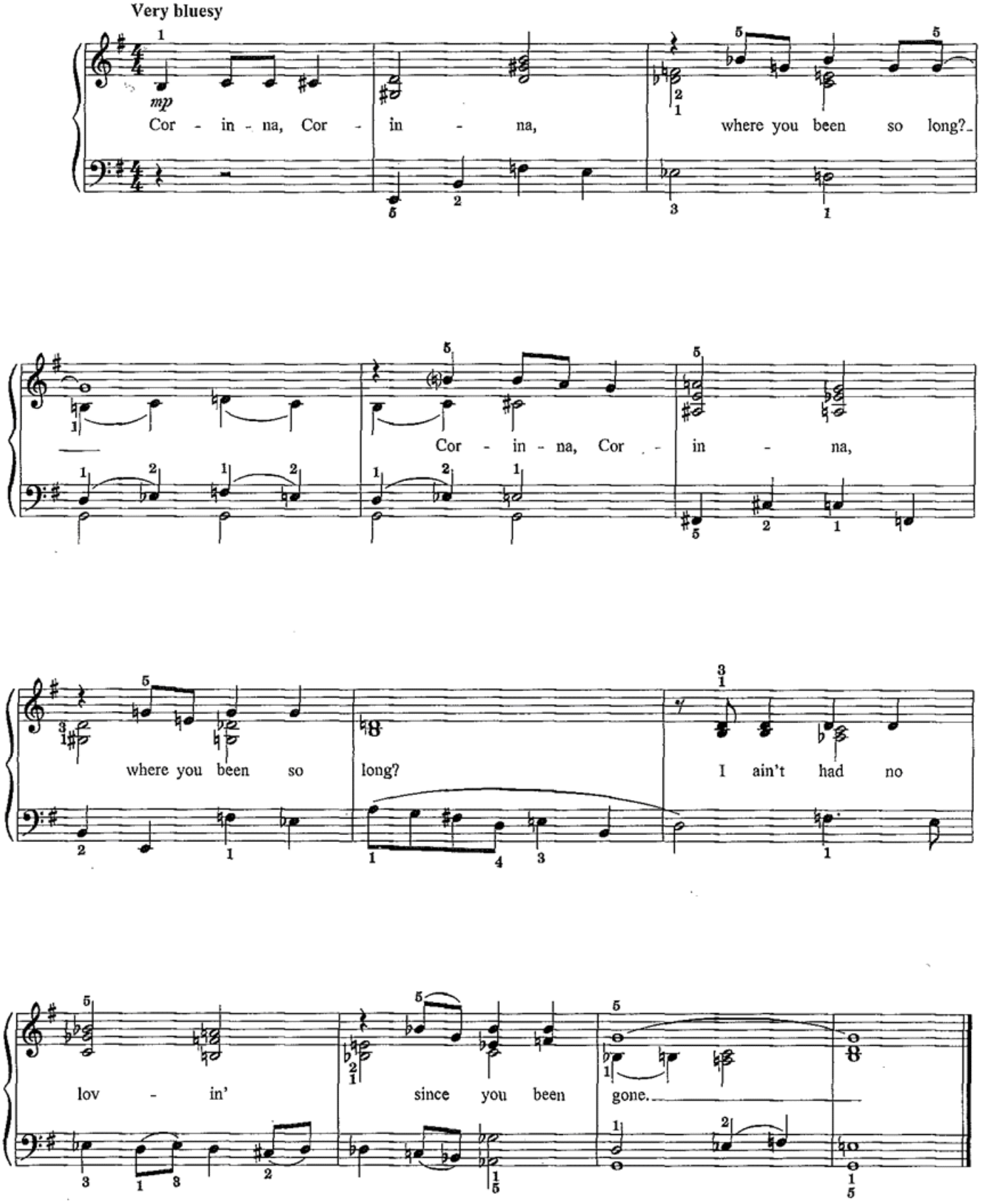
Corinna

Traditional



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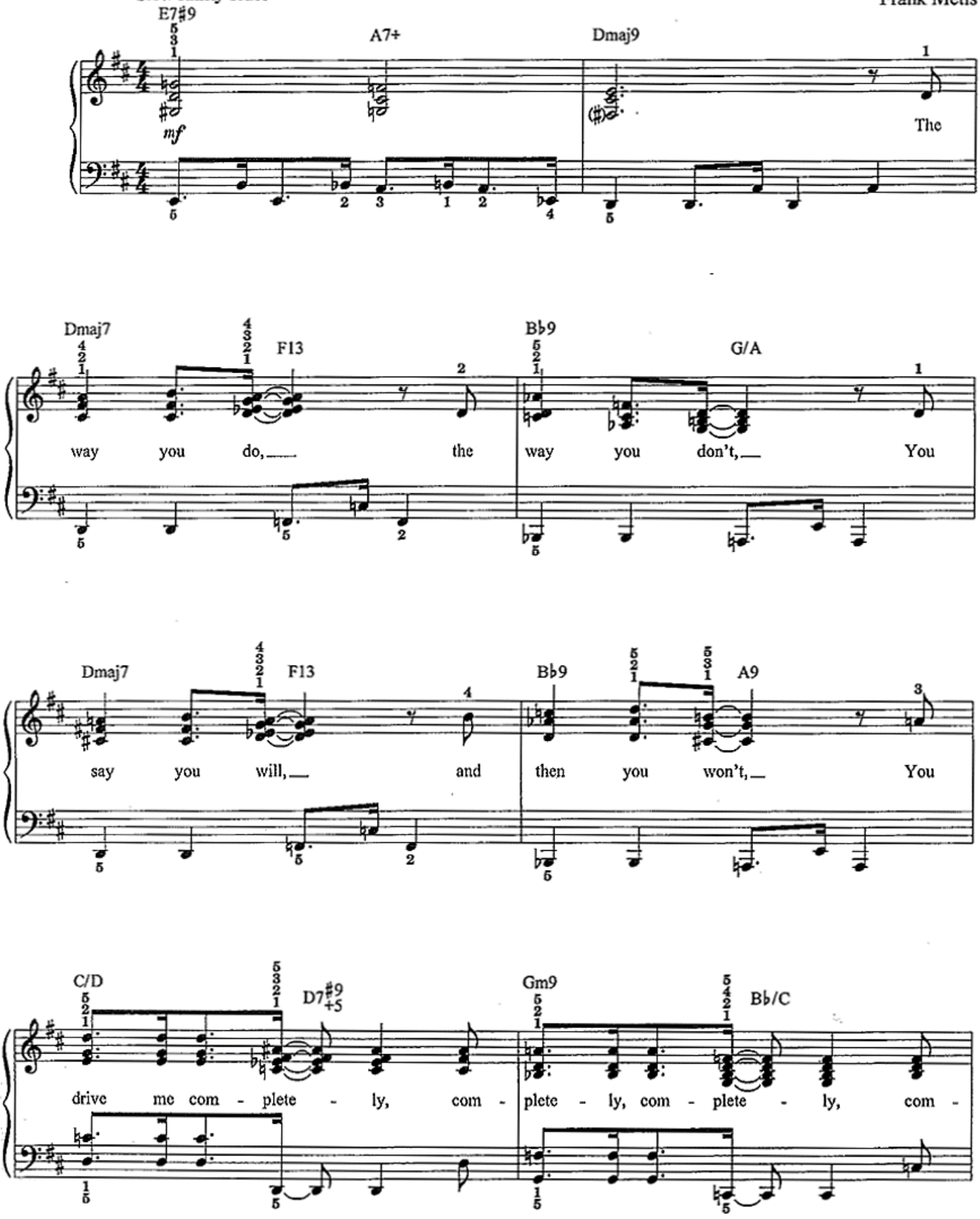
Completely, Completely Crazy

Slow funky blues

Frank Metis



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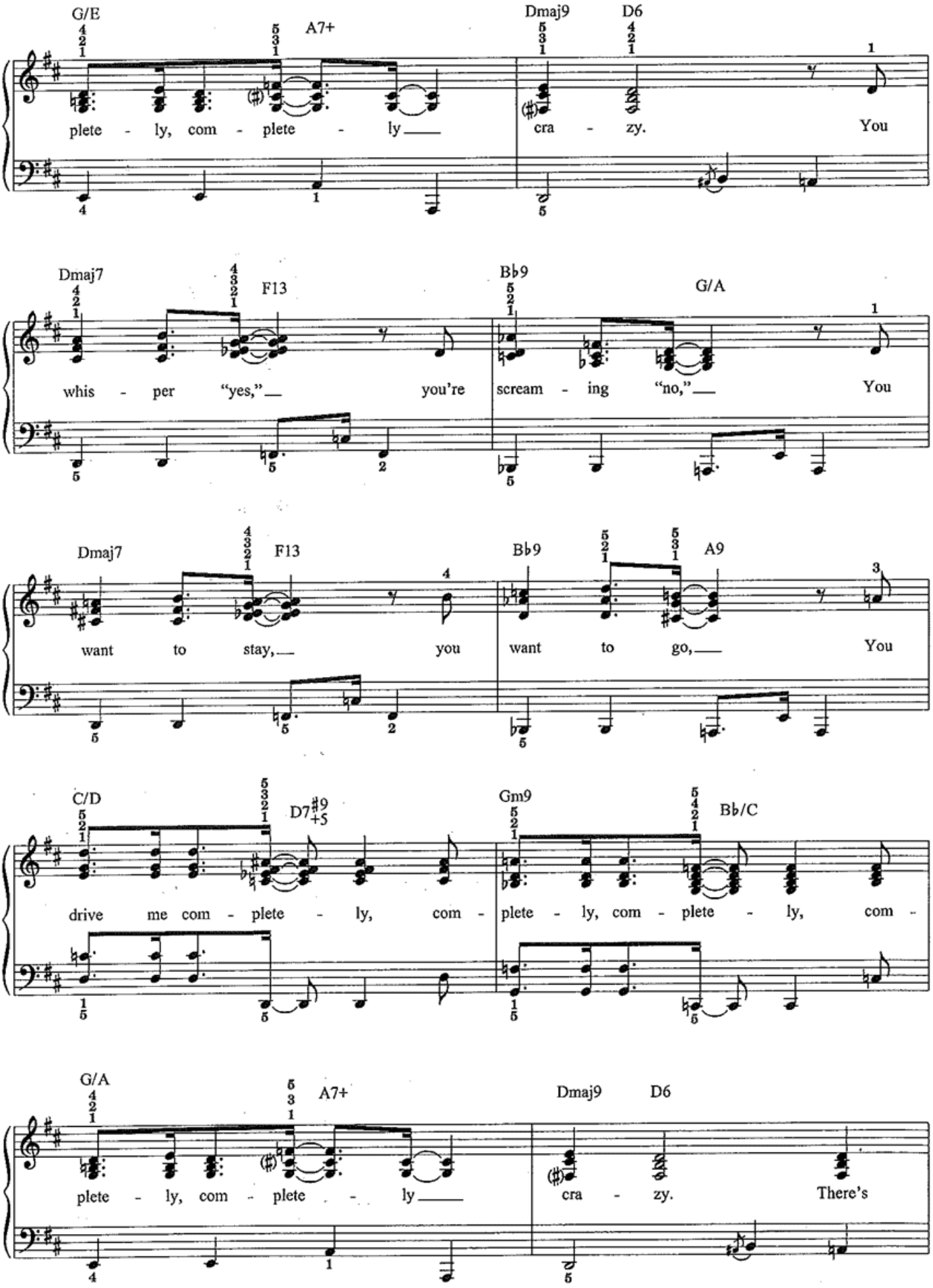
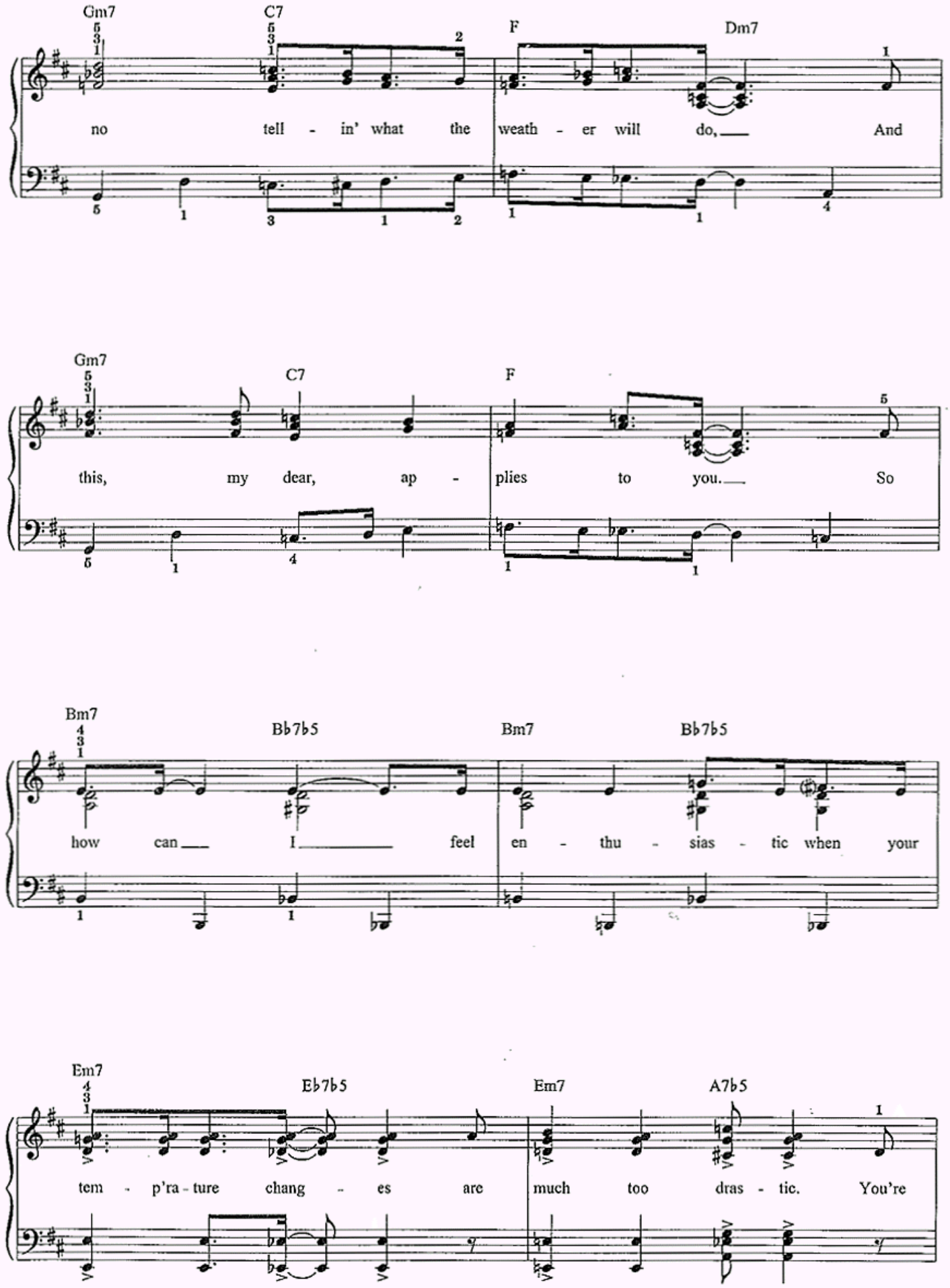
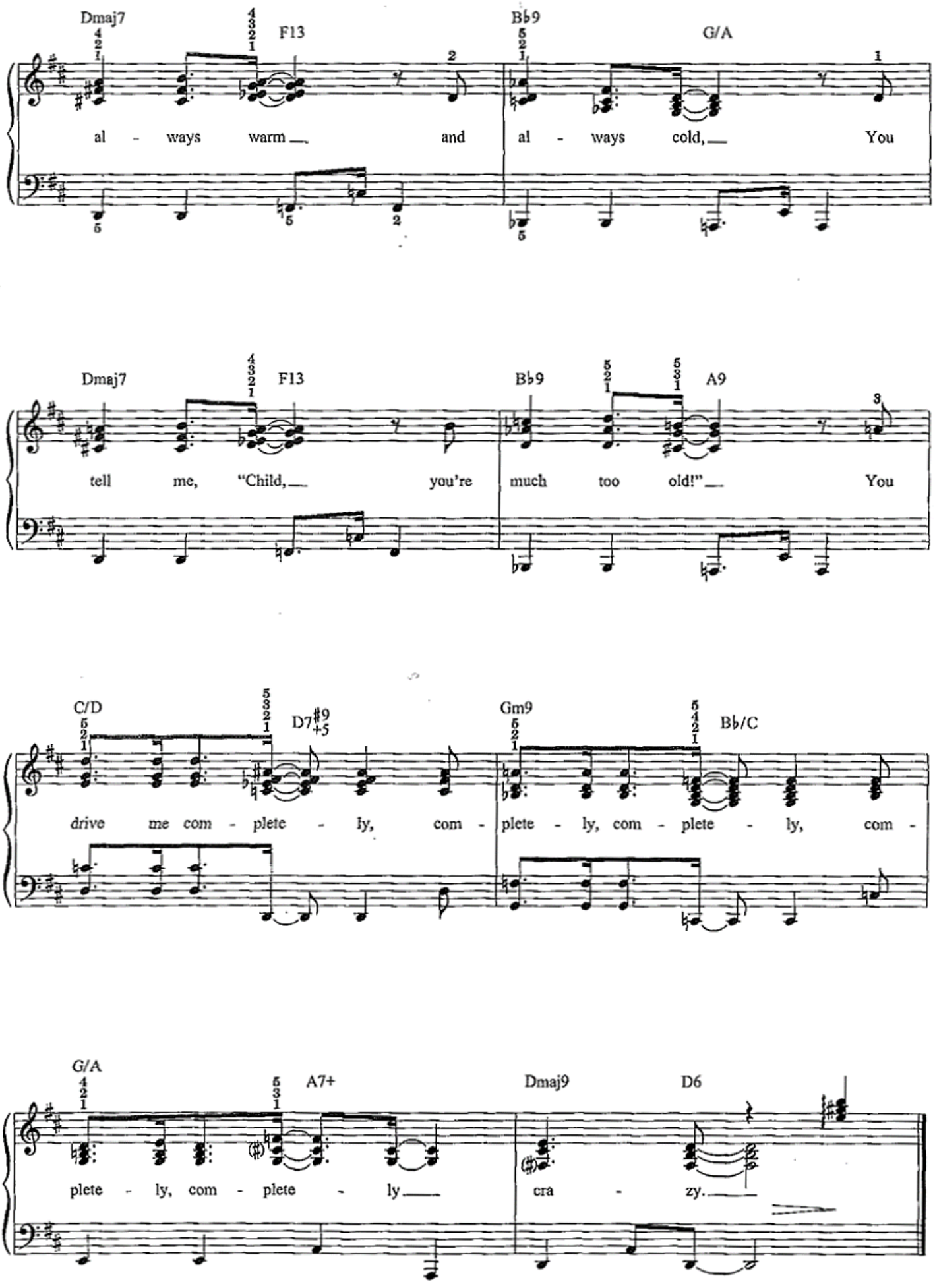

G/E
A7+
Dmaj9
D6
plete - ly, com - plete - ly
cra - zy.
You
Dmaj7
F13
B♭9
G/A
whis - per "yes,"
you're
scream - ing "no,"
You
Dmaj7
F13
B♭9
A9
want to stay,
you
want to go,
You
C/D
D7♯9 +5
Gm9
B♭/C
drive me com - plete - ly, com -
plete - ly, com - plete - ly, com -
G/A
A7+
Dmaj9
D6
plete - ly, com - plete - ly
cra - zy.
There's

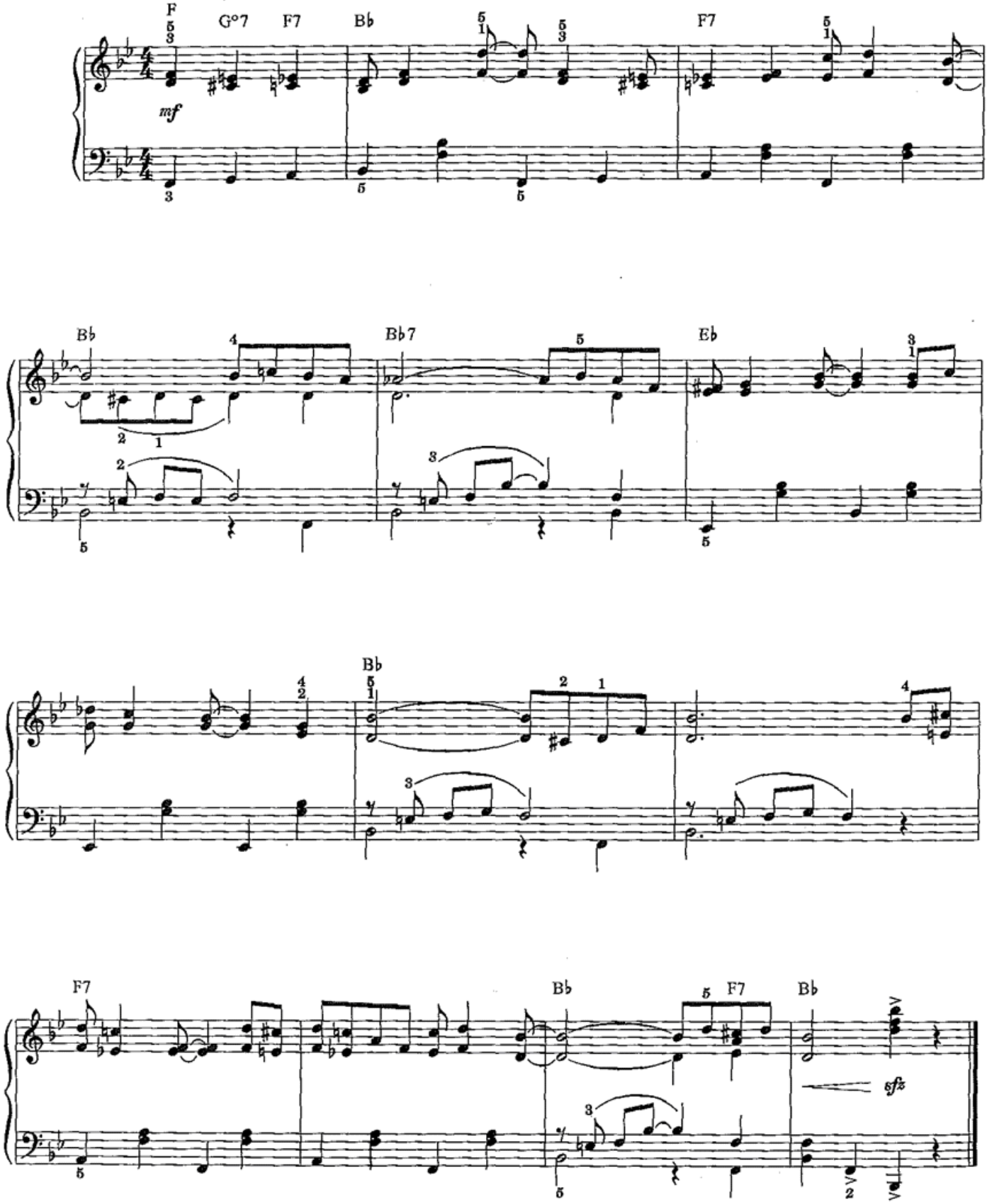

Gm7
C7
F
Dm7
no tell - in' what the weath - er will do, And
Gm7
C7
F
this, my dear, ap - plies to you. So
Bm7
Bb7b5
Bm7
Bb7b5
how can I feel en - thu - sias - tic when your
Em7
Eb7b5
Em7
A7b5
tem - p'ra - ture chang - es are much too dras - tic. You're


Dmaj7
F13
B♭9
G/A
al - ways warm and al - ways cold, You
Dmaj7
F13
B♭9
A9
tell me, "Child, you're much too old!" You
C/D
D7♯9 +5
Gm9
B♭/C
drive me com - plete - ly, com - plete - ly, com - plete - ly, com -
G/A
A7+
Dmaj9
D6
plete - ly, com - plete - ly cra - zy.

Dallas Blues

Moderately

Hart A. Wand and L. Garrett



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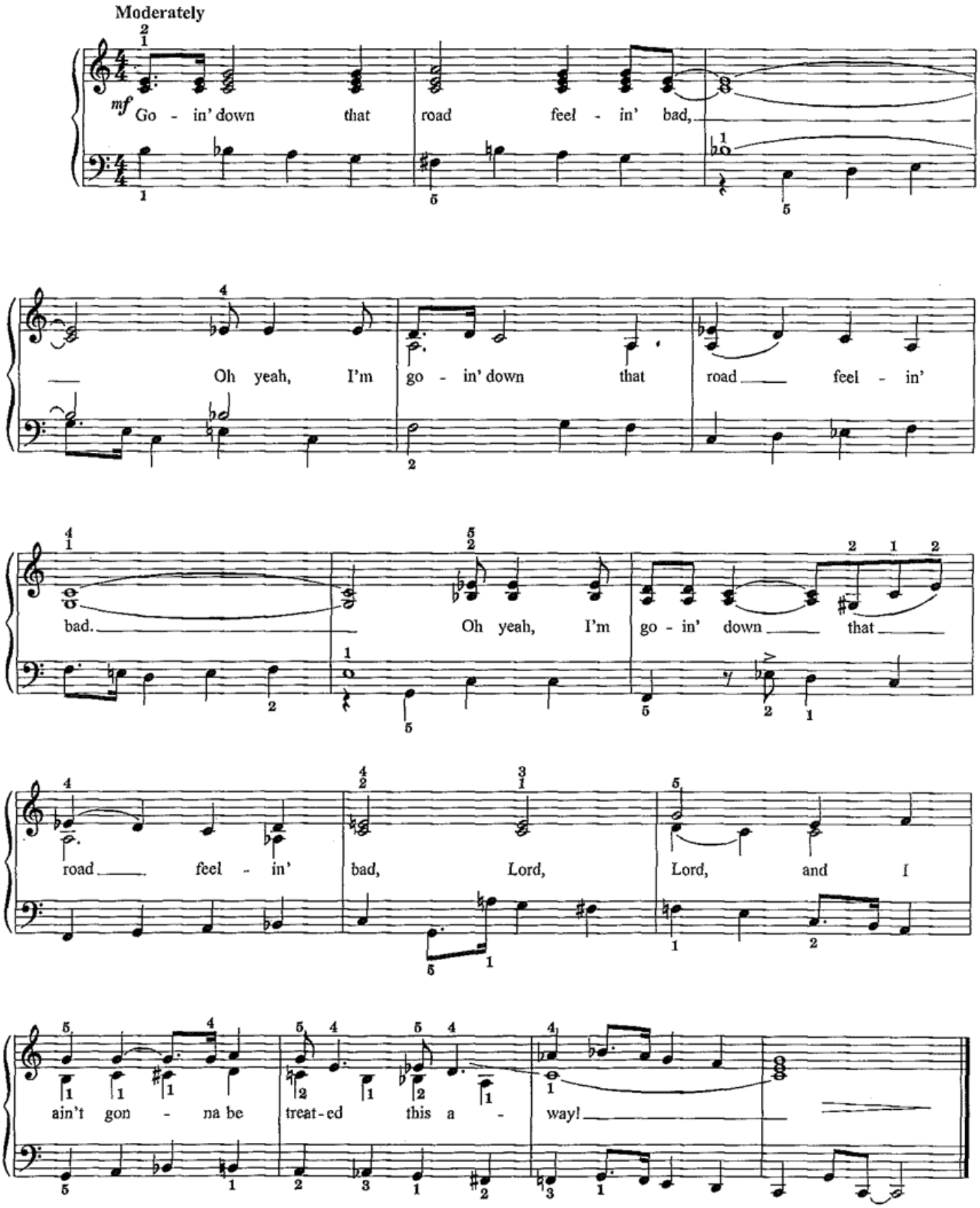
Goin' Down That Road Feelin' Bad

Traditional



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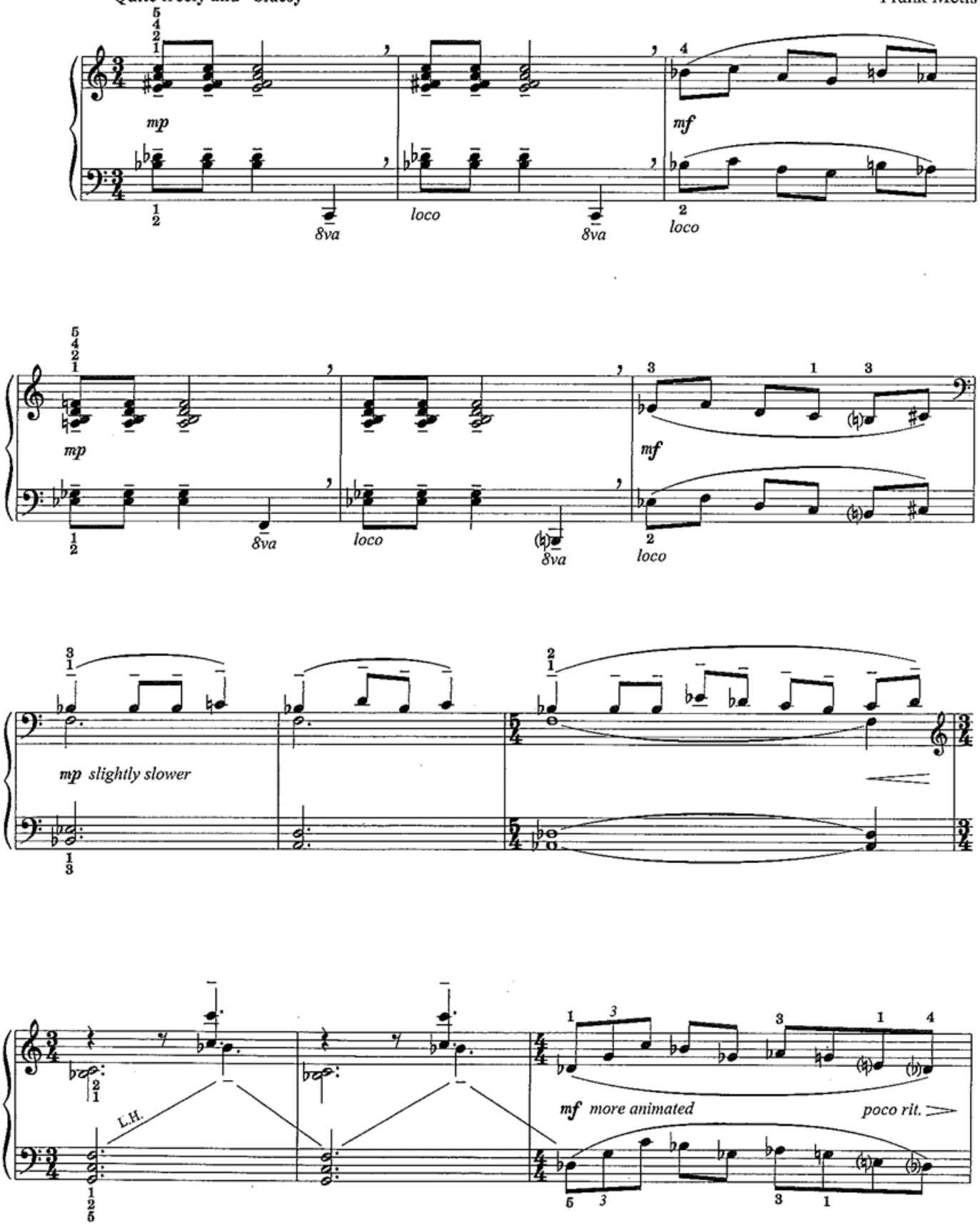
To Dr. Arnold Weg

The Doctor

Quite freely and "bluesy"

Frank Metis



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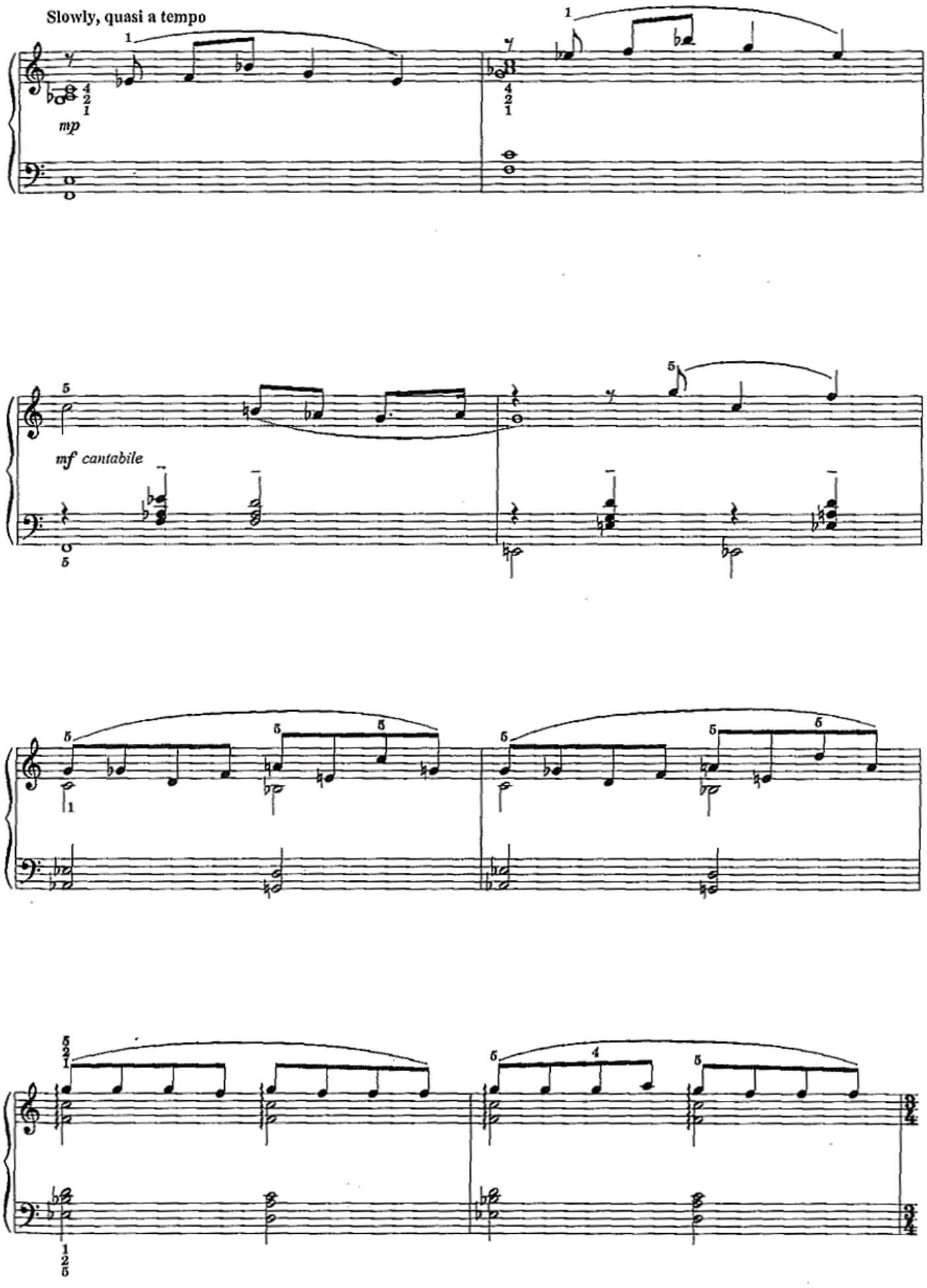
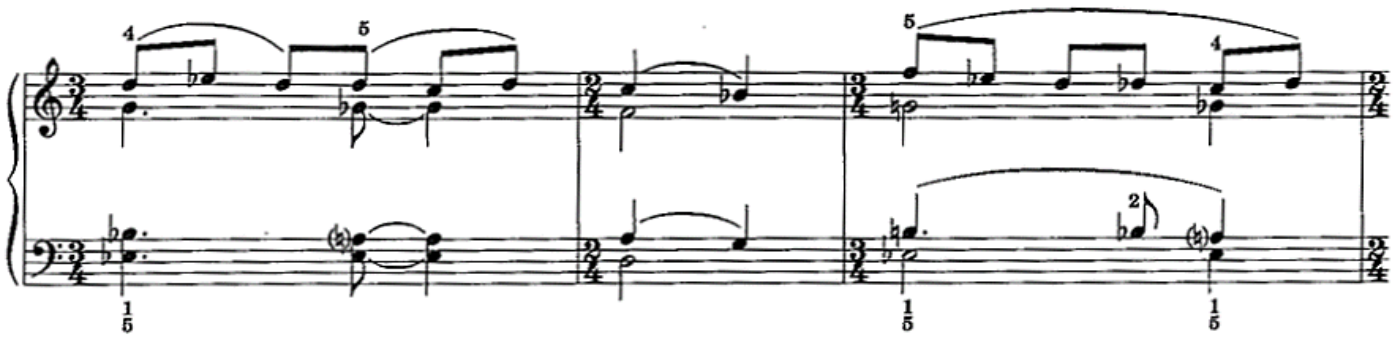
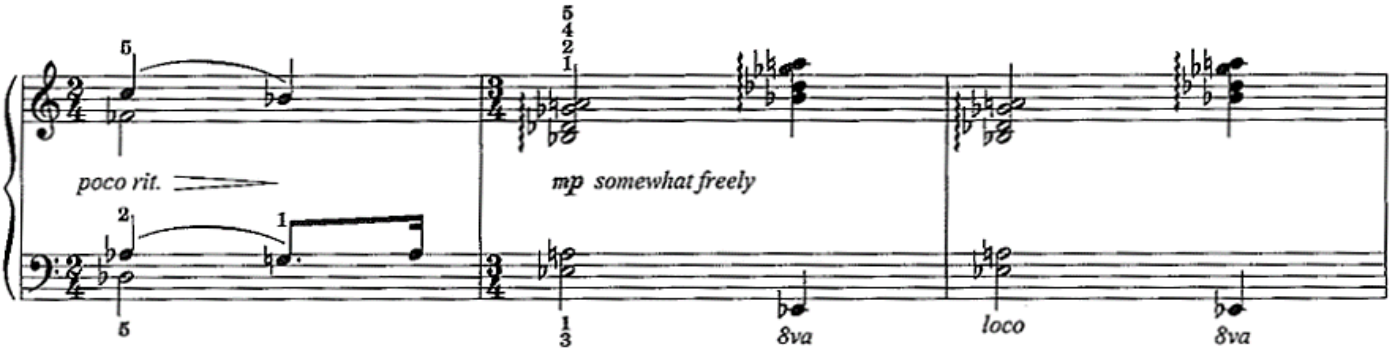
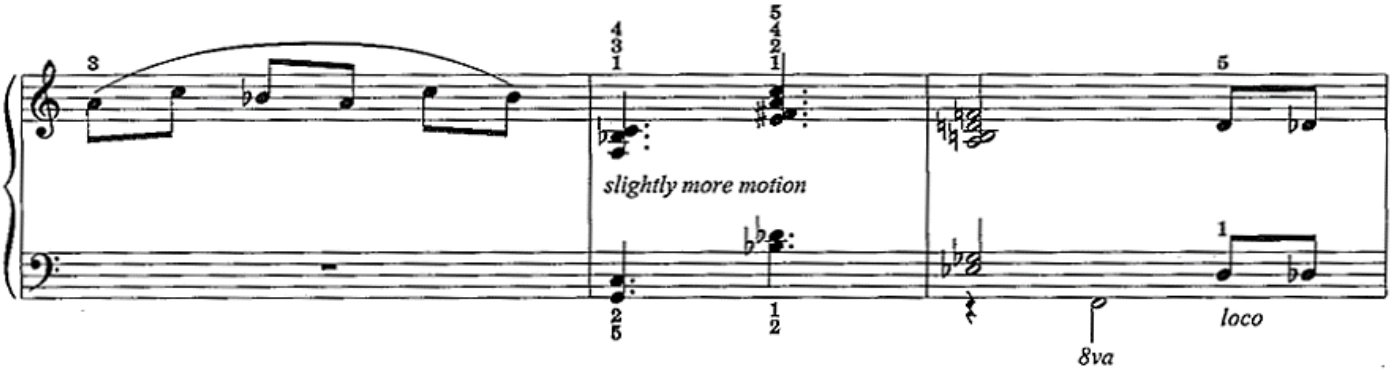
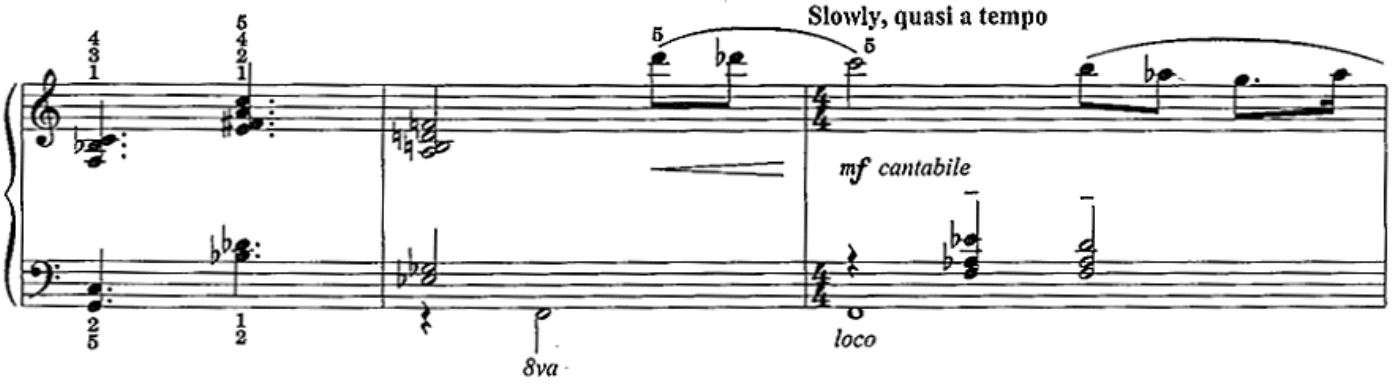
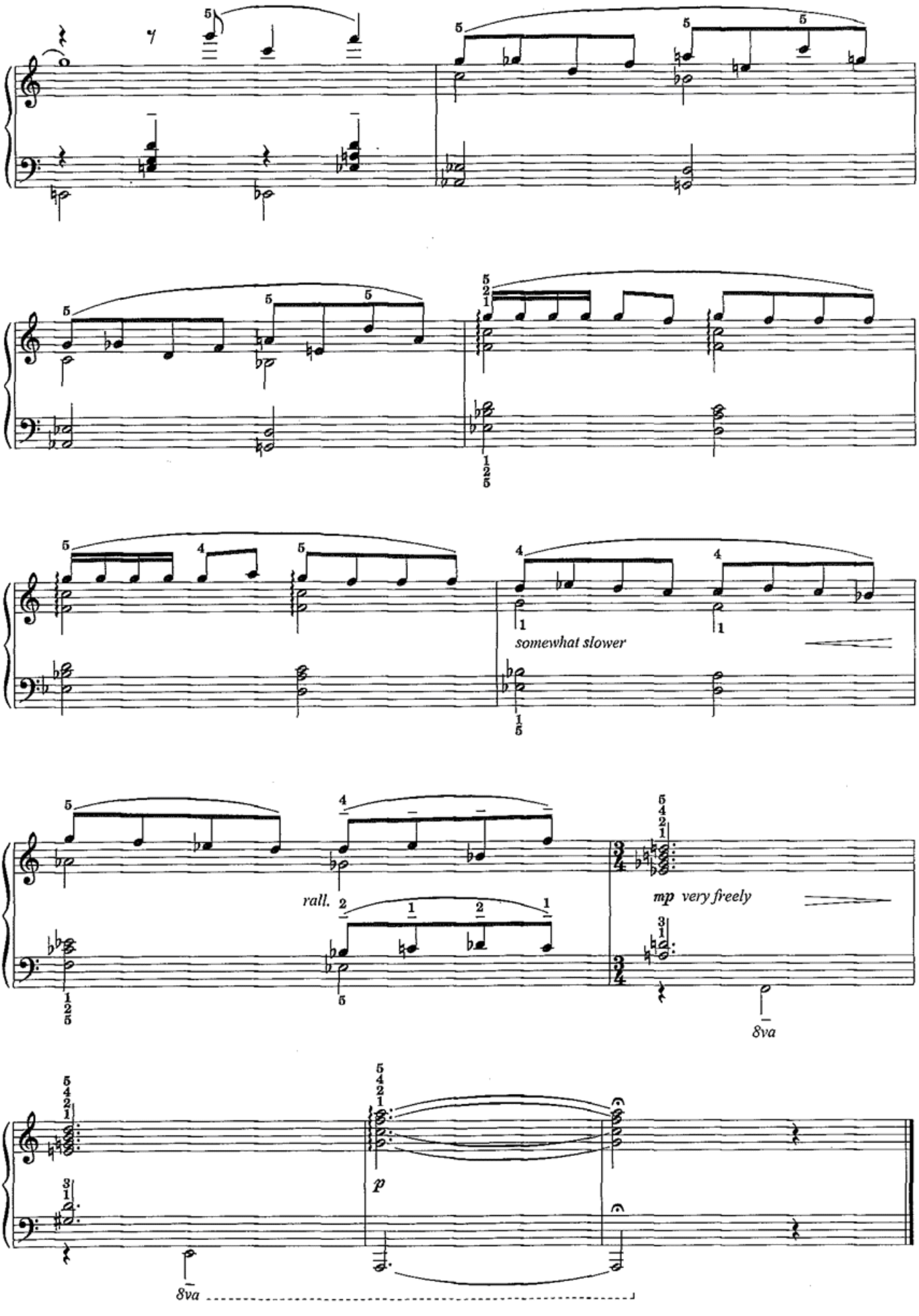

Slowly, quasi a tempo
mp
mf cantabile




poco rit.
mp somewhat freely
8va
loco
8va

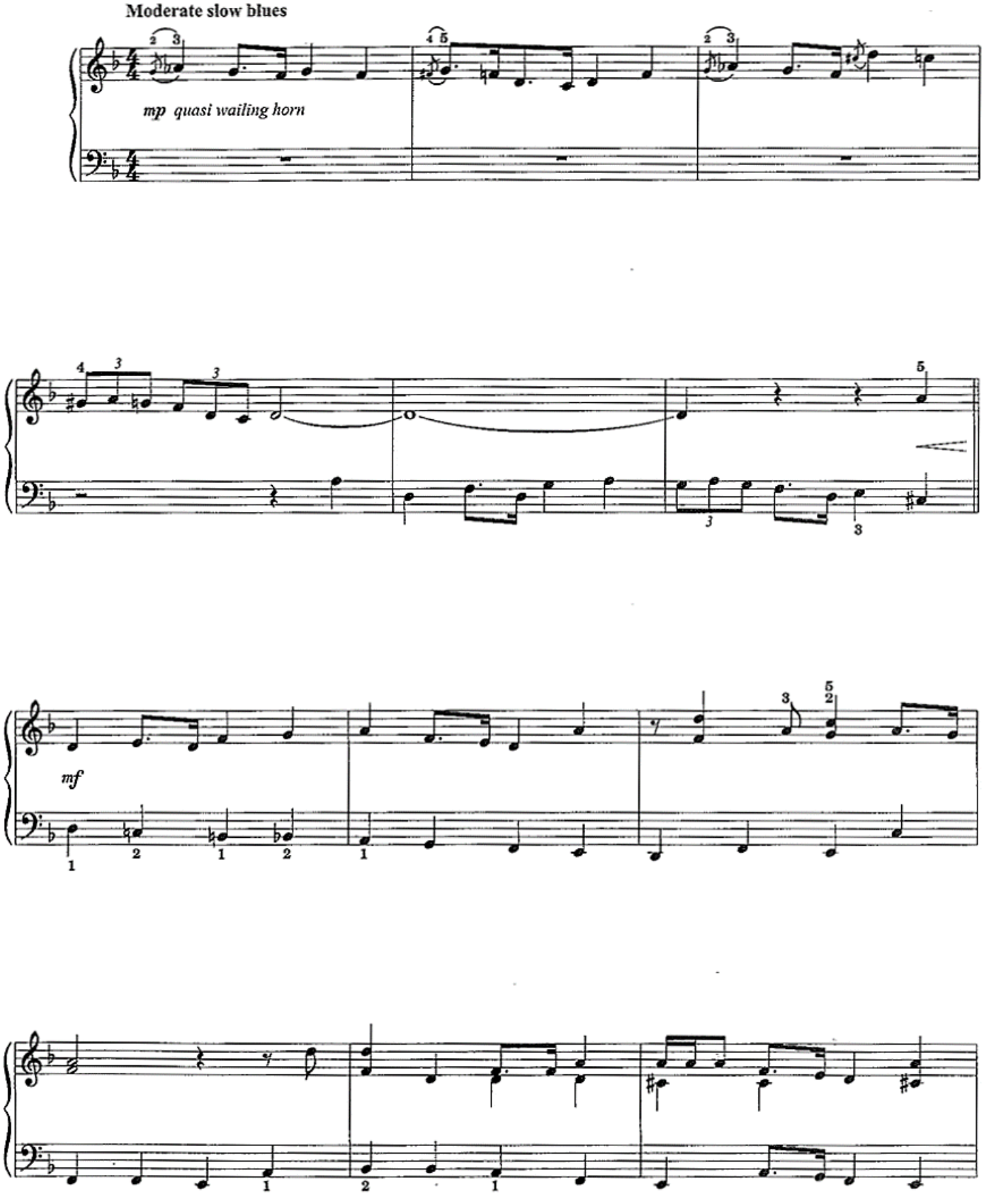

slightly more motion
8va
loco


Slowly, quasi a tempo
mf cantabile
8va
loco


somewhat slower
rall.
mp very freely
8va
p
8va

House of the Rising Sun

Traditional



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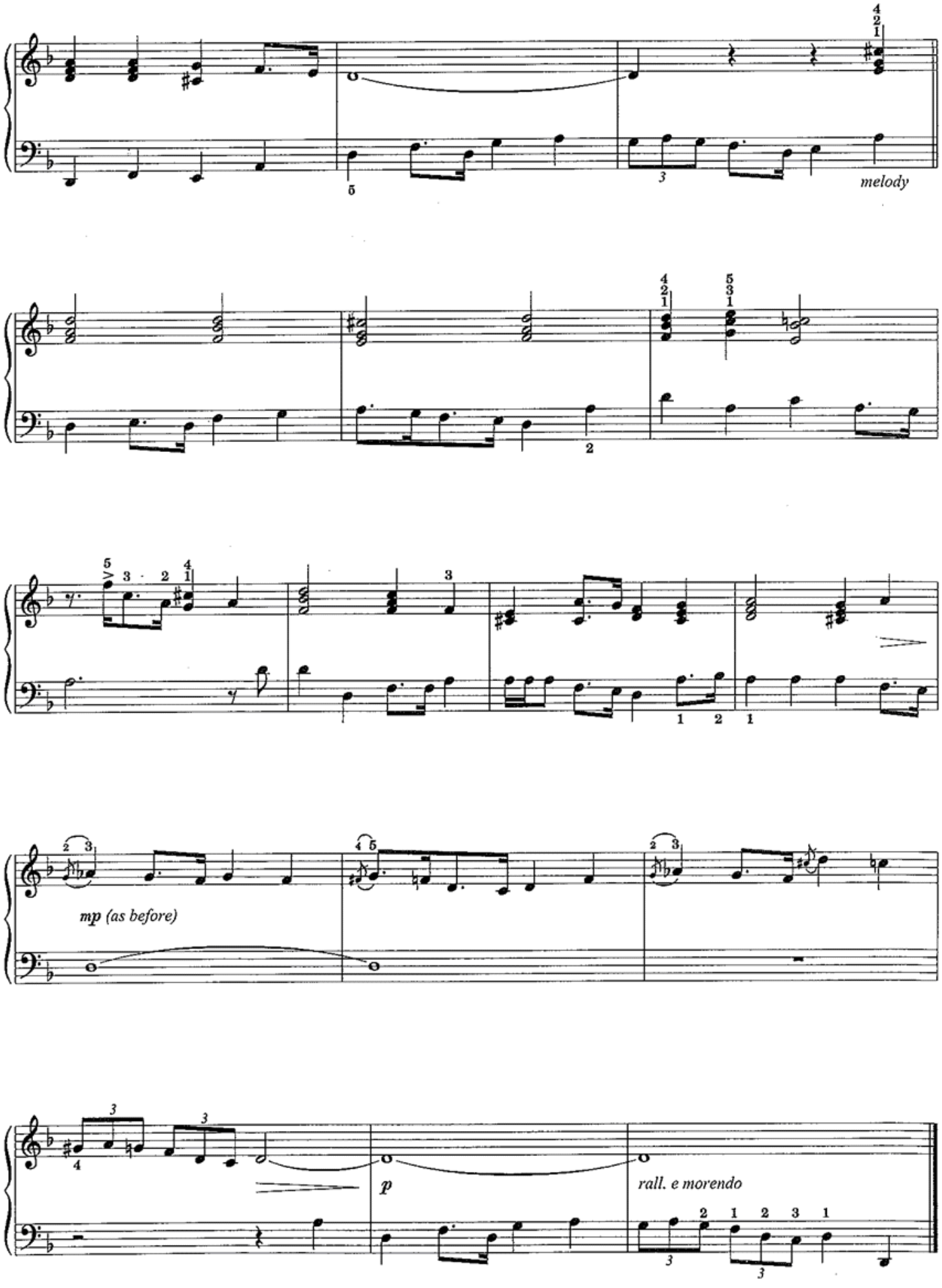
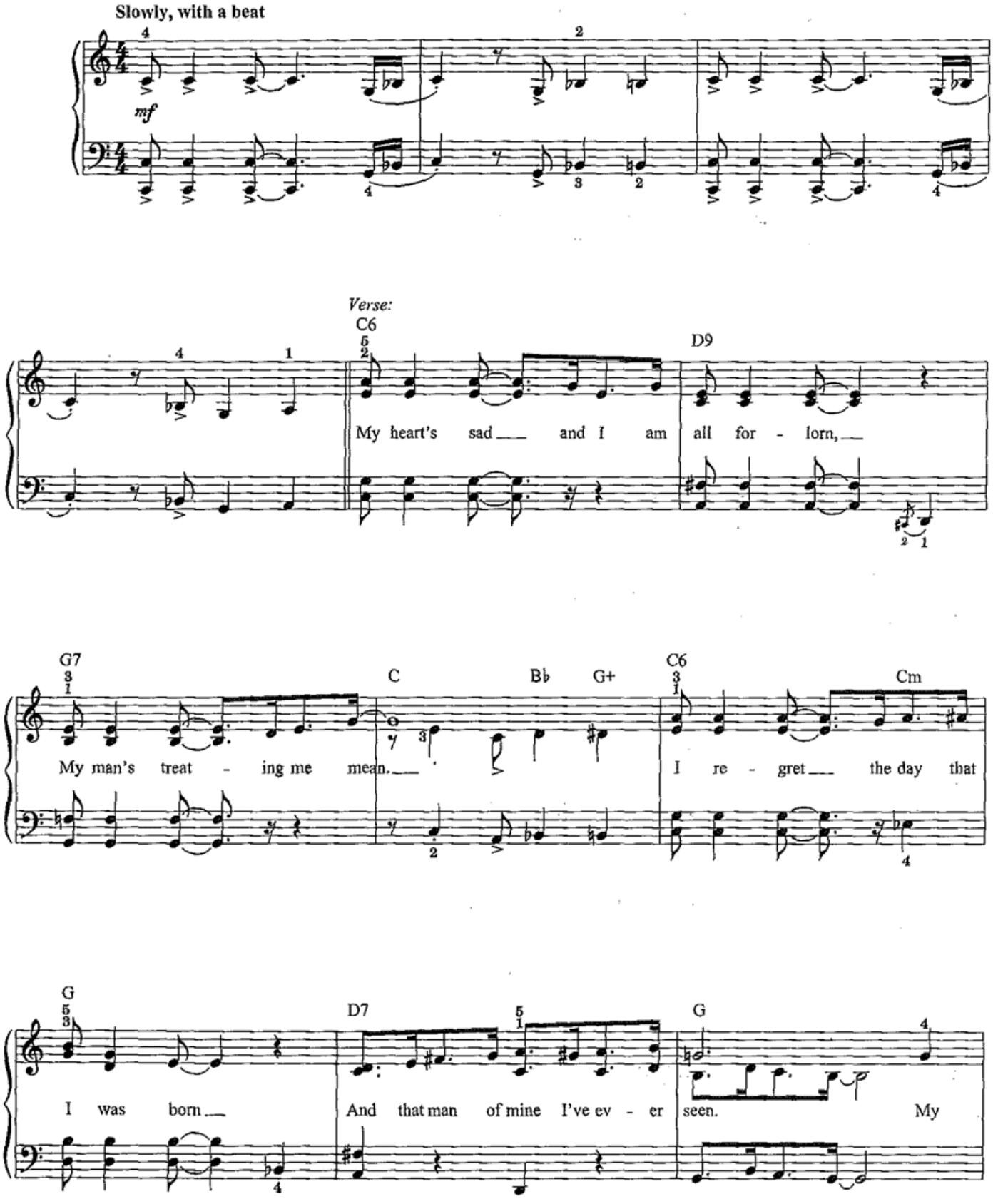

melody
mp (as before)
p
rall. e morendo

A Good Man Is Hard to Find

Eddie Green



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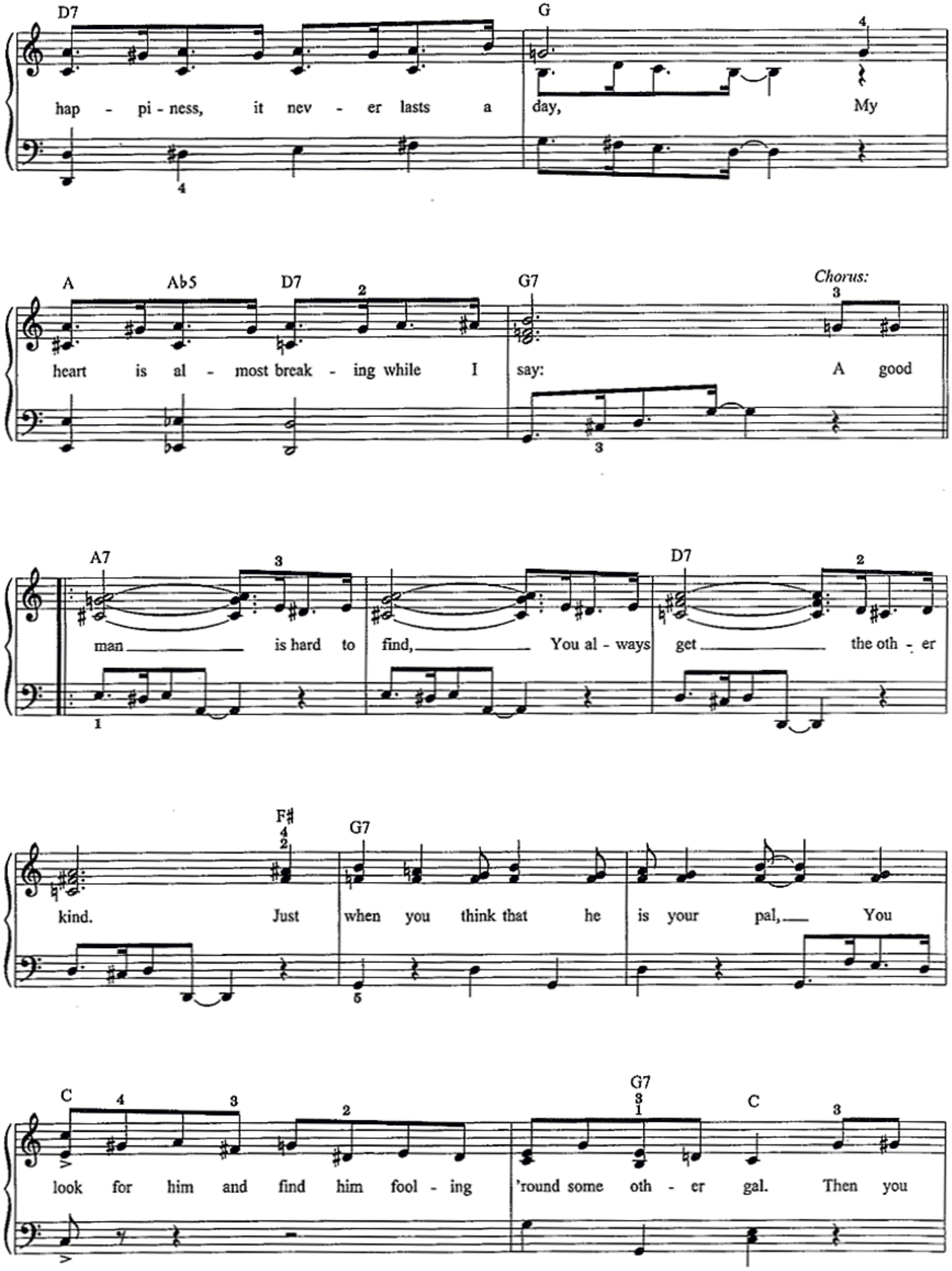
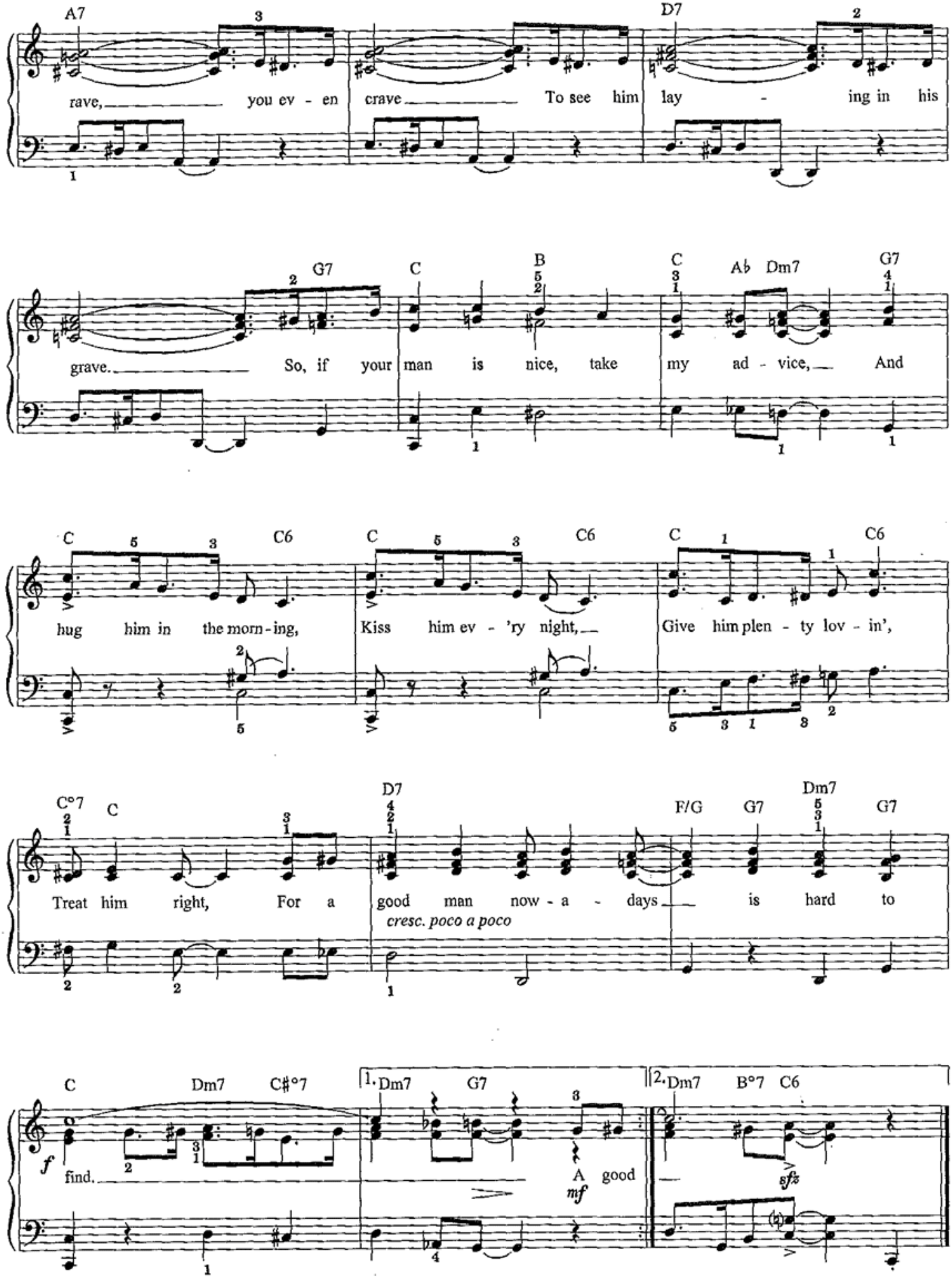
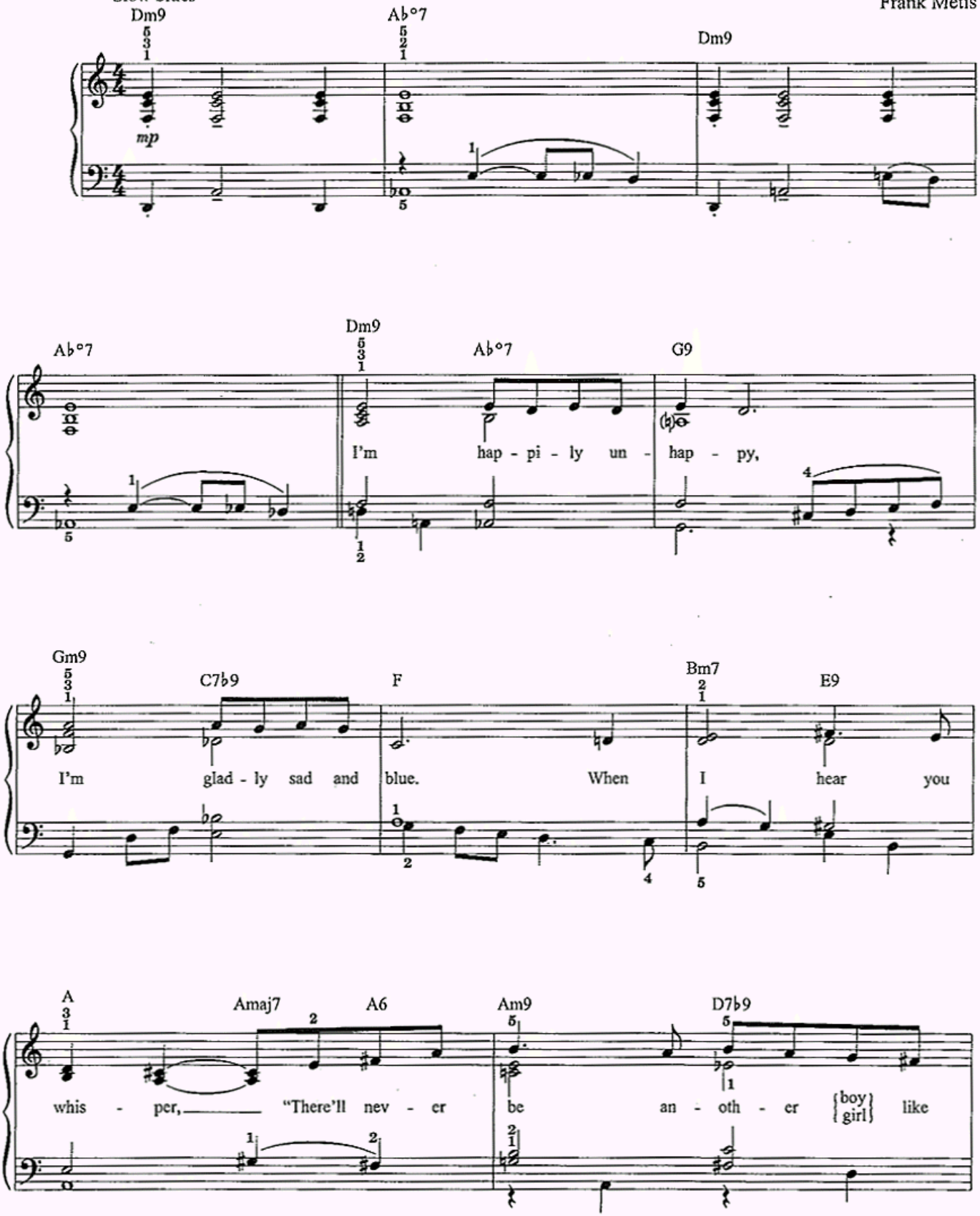

D7
G
hap - pi - ness, it nev - er lasts a day, My
A
Ab5
D7
G7
Chorus:
heart is al - most break - ing while I say: A good
A7
D7
man is hard to find, You al - ways get the oth - er
F♯
G7
kind. Just when you think that he is your pal, You
C
G7
C
look for him and find him fool - ing 'round some oth - er gal. Then you


A7
D7
rave, you ev - en crave To see him lay - ing in his
G7
C
B
C
Ab Dm7
G7
grave. So, if your man is nice, take my ad - vice, And
C
C6
C
C6
C
C6
hug him in the morn-ing, Kiss him ev - 'ry night, Give him plen - ty lov - in',
C°7
C
D7
F/G
G7
Dm7
G7
Treat him right, For a good man now - a - days is hard to
cresc. poco a poco
C
Dm7
C♯°7
1. Dm7
G7
2. Dm7
B°7
C6
find.
A good
mf
sfz

Happily Unhappy

Slow blues

Frank Metis



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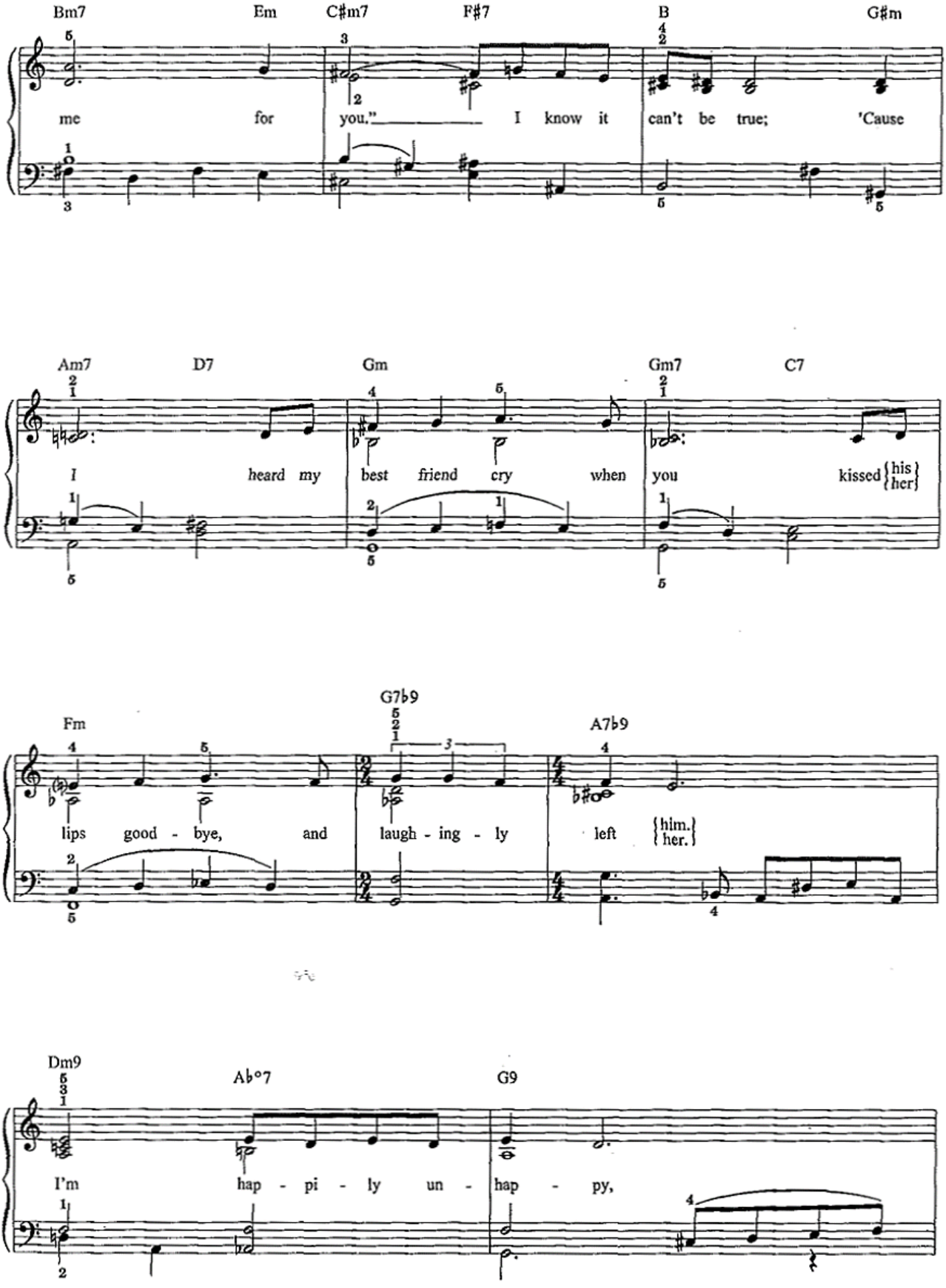
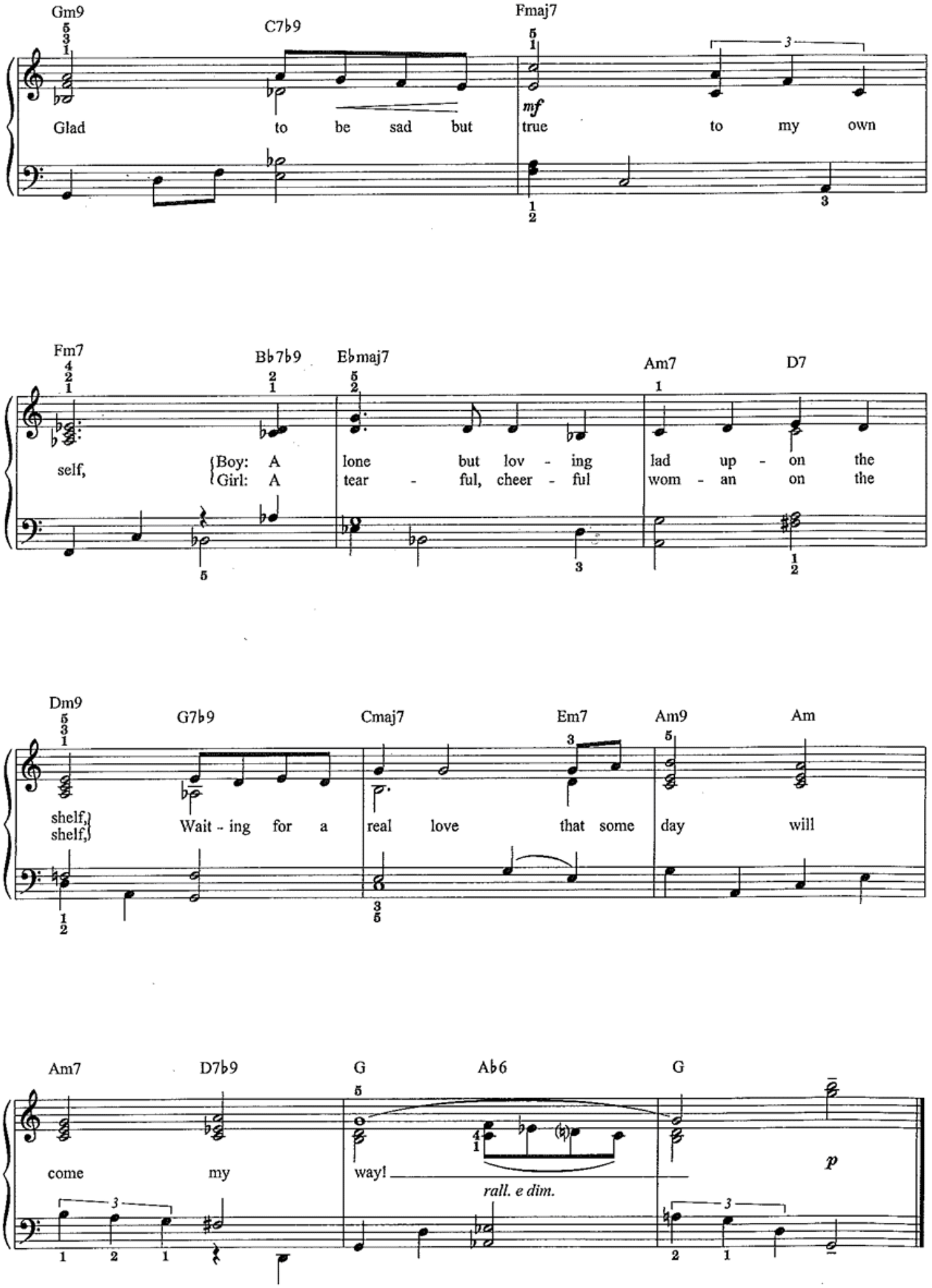
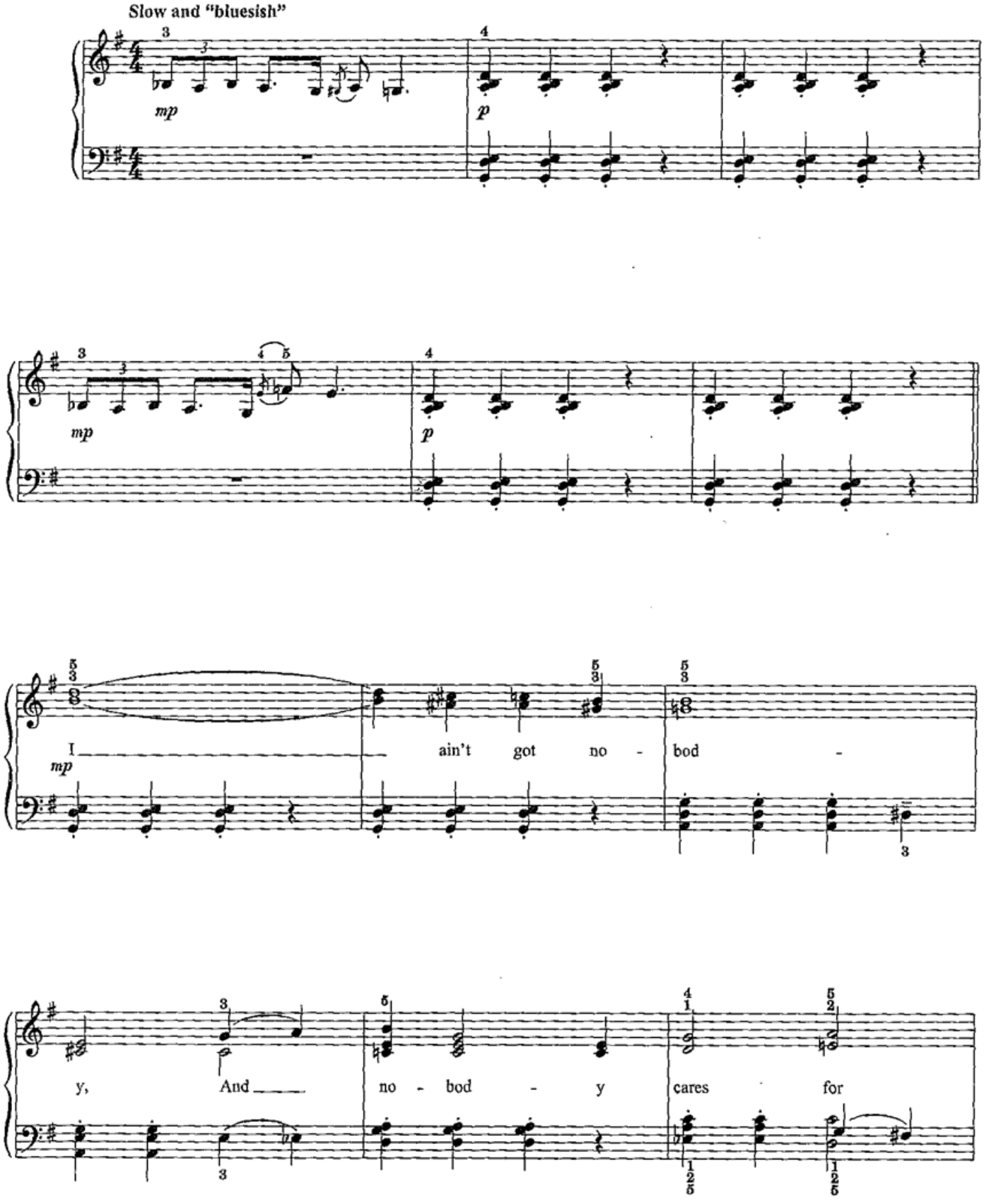

Bm7 Em C♯m7 F♯7 B G♯m
me for you." I know it can't be true; 'Cause
Am7 D7 Gm Gm7 C7
I heard my best friend cry when you kissed {his her}
Fm G7♭9 A7♭9
lips good - bye, and laugh - ing - ly left {him. her.}
Dm9 A♭°7 G9
I'm hap - pi - ly un - hap - py,


Gm9
C7♭9
Fmaj7
mf
Glad to be sad but true to my own
Fm7
B♭7♭9
E♭maj7
Am7
D7
self,
Boy: A lone but lov - ing lad up - on the
Girl: A tear - ful, cheer - ful wom - an on the
Dm9
G7♭9
Cmaj7
Em7
Am9
Am
shelf,
shelf,
Wait - ing for a real love that some day will
Am7
D7♭9
G
A♭6
G
come my way!
rall. e dim.
p

I Ain't Got Nobody

Words by Roger Graham

Music by Spencer Williams and Dave Peyton



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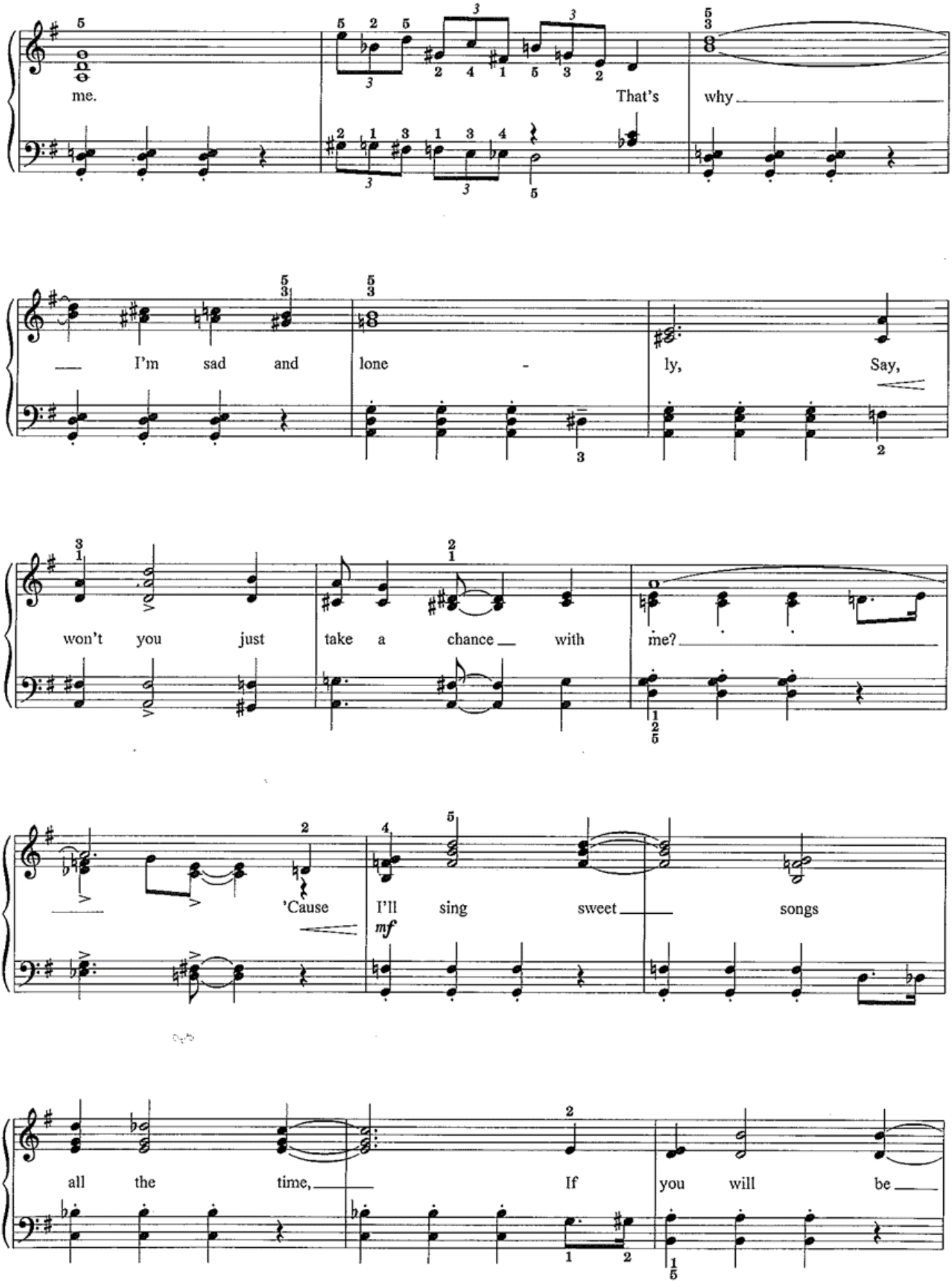
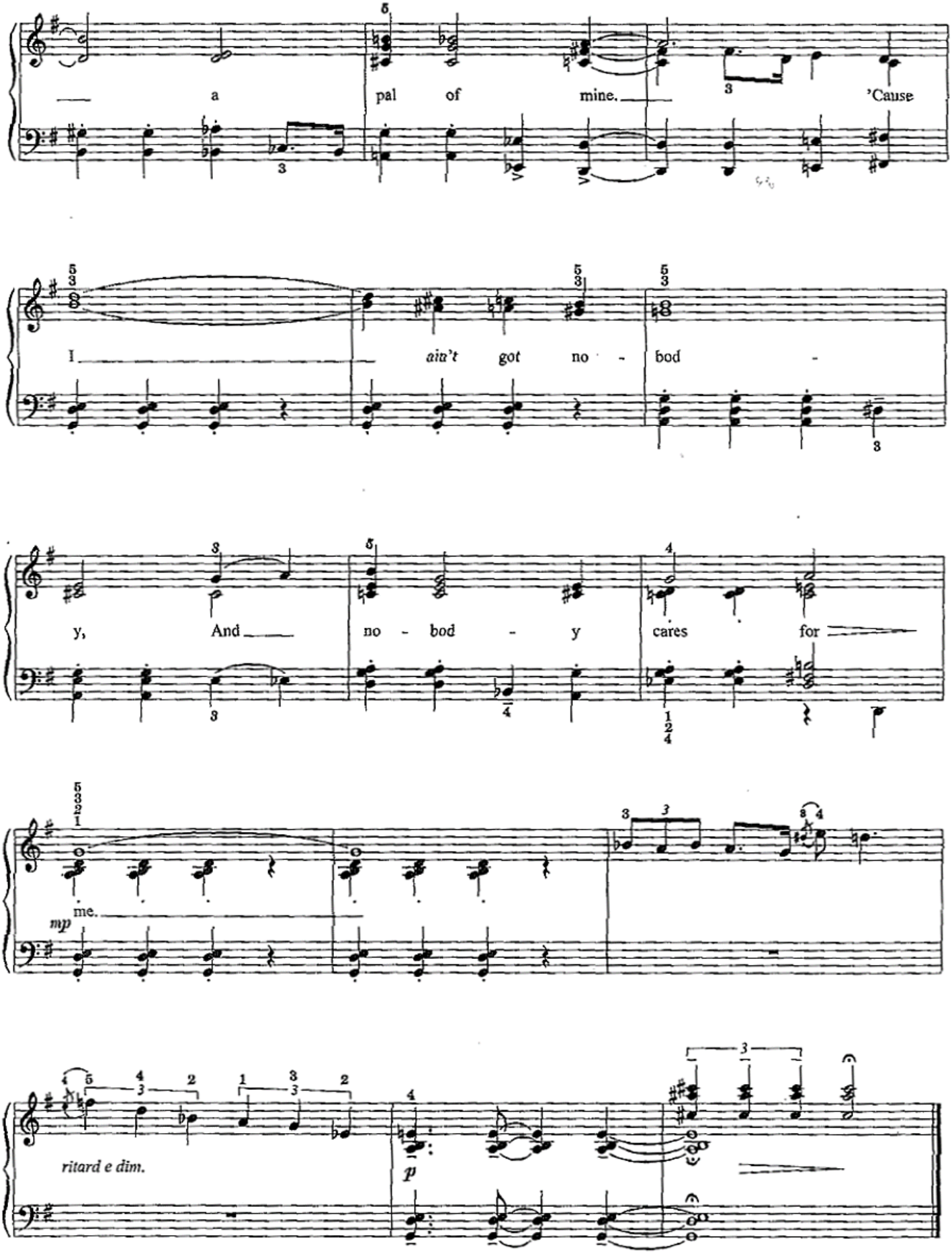
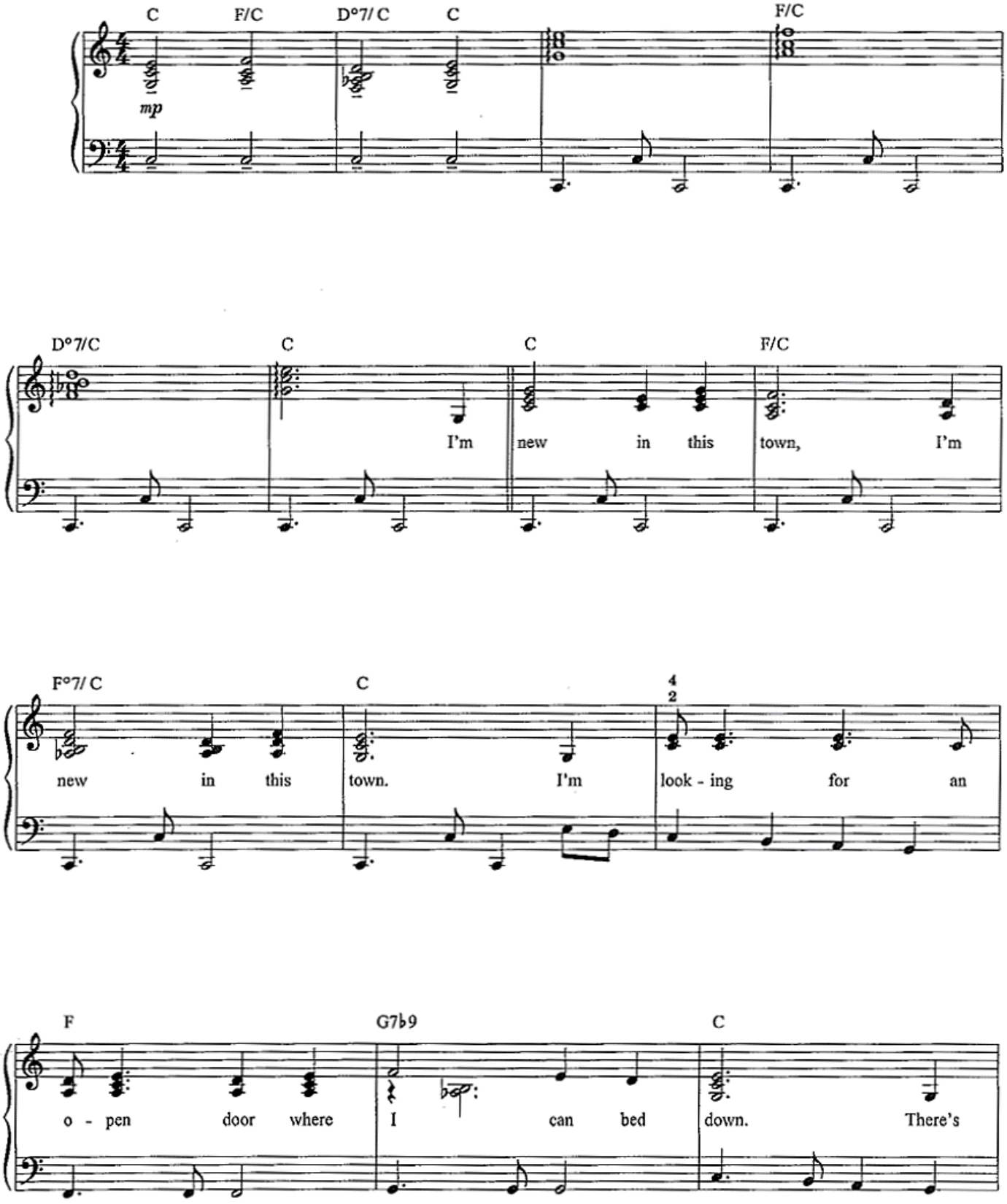

me.
That's why
I'm sad and lone - ly, Say,
won't you just take a chance with me?
'Cause I'll sing sweet songs
mf
all the time, If you will be


a pal of mine. 'Cause
I ain't got no - bod -
y, And no - bod - y cares for
me.
mp
ritard e dim.
p

I Should Have Stayed Home

Frank Metis

Moderately slow blues, sadly reflecting



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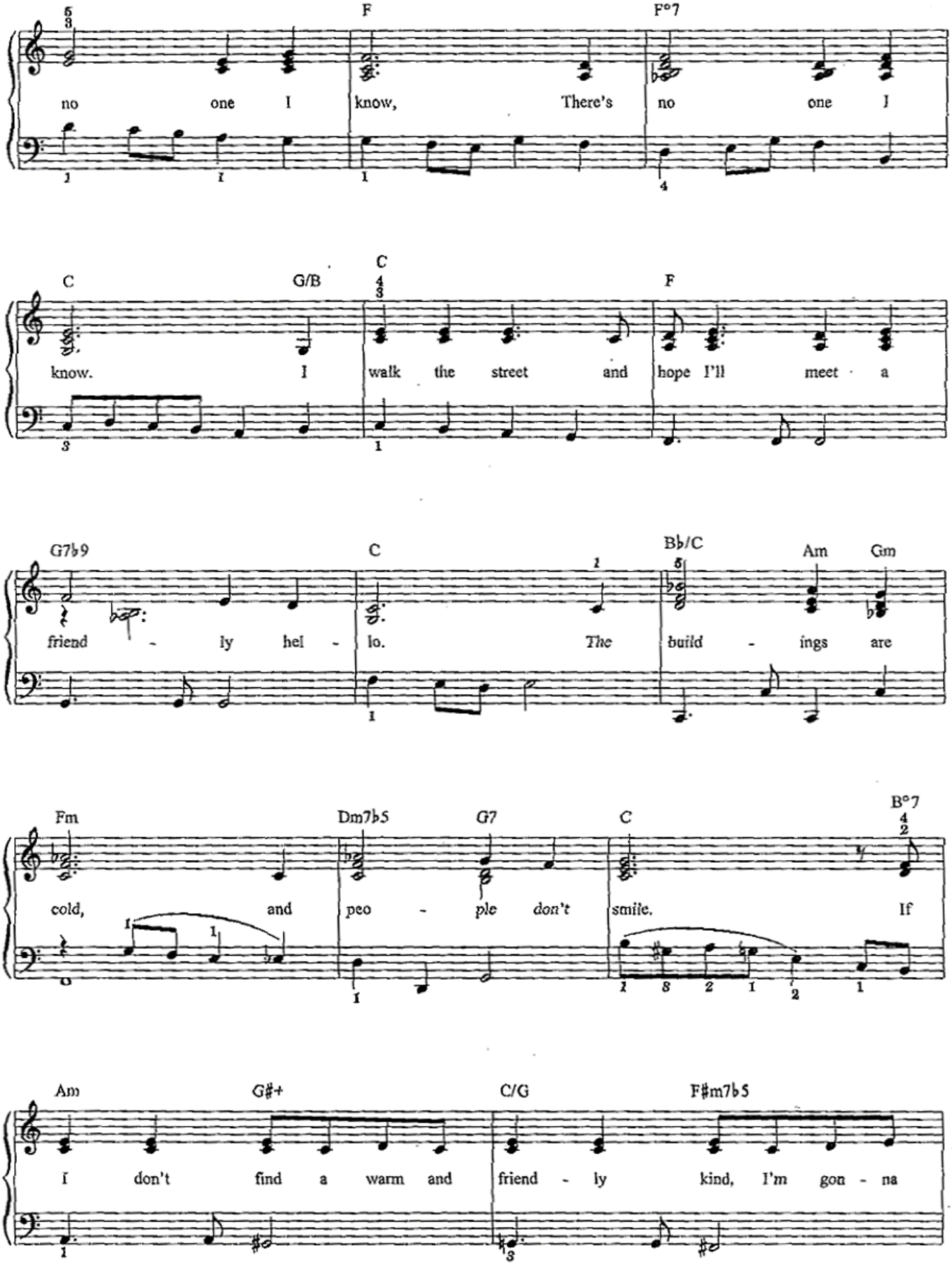
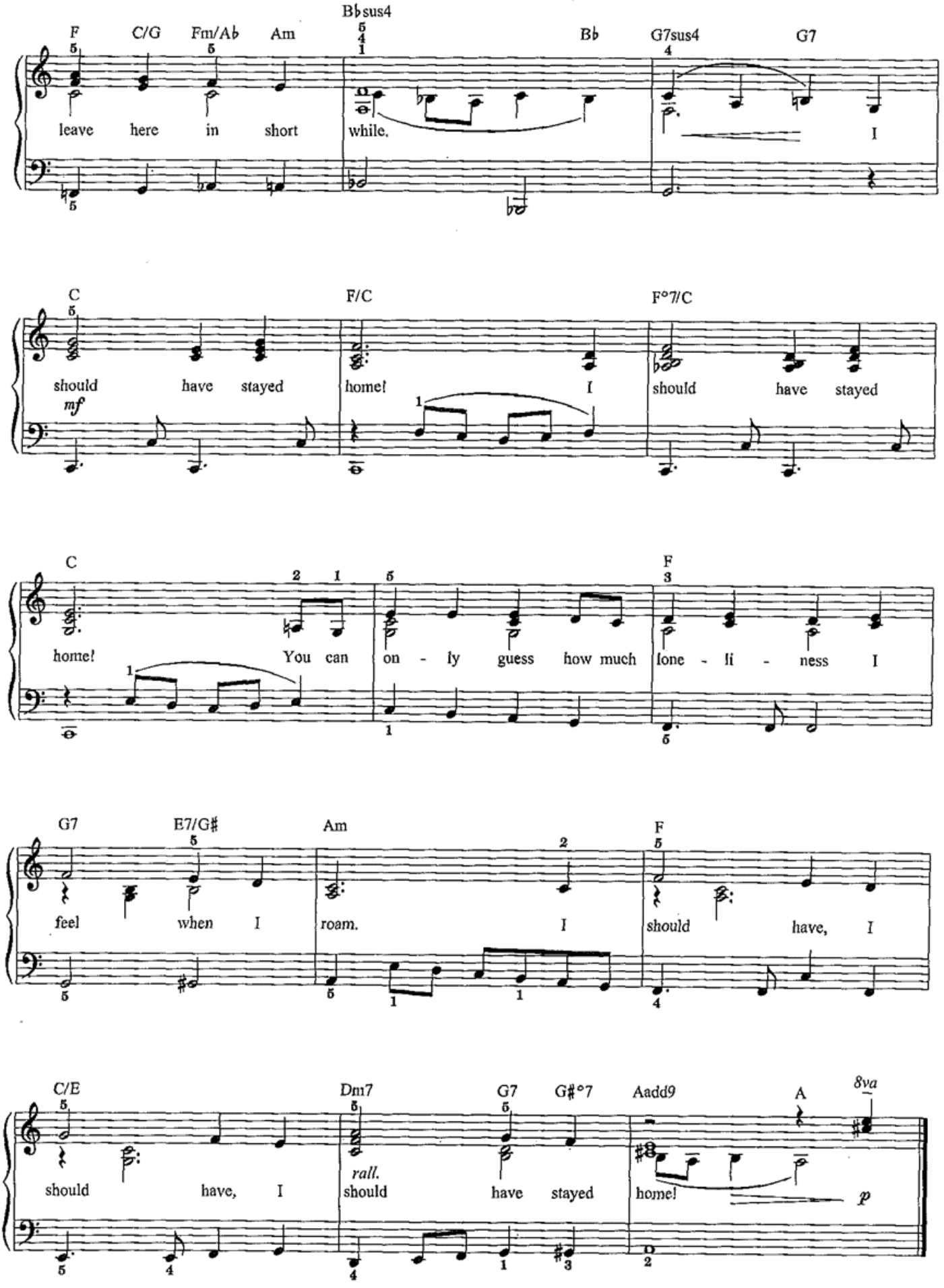
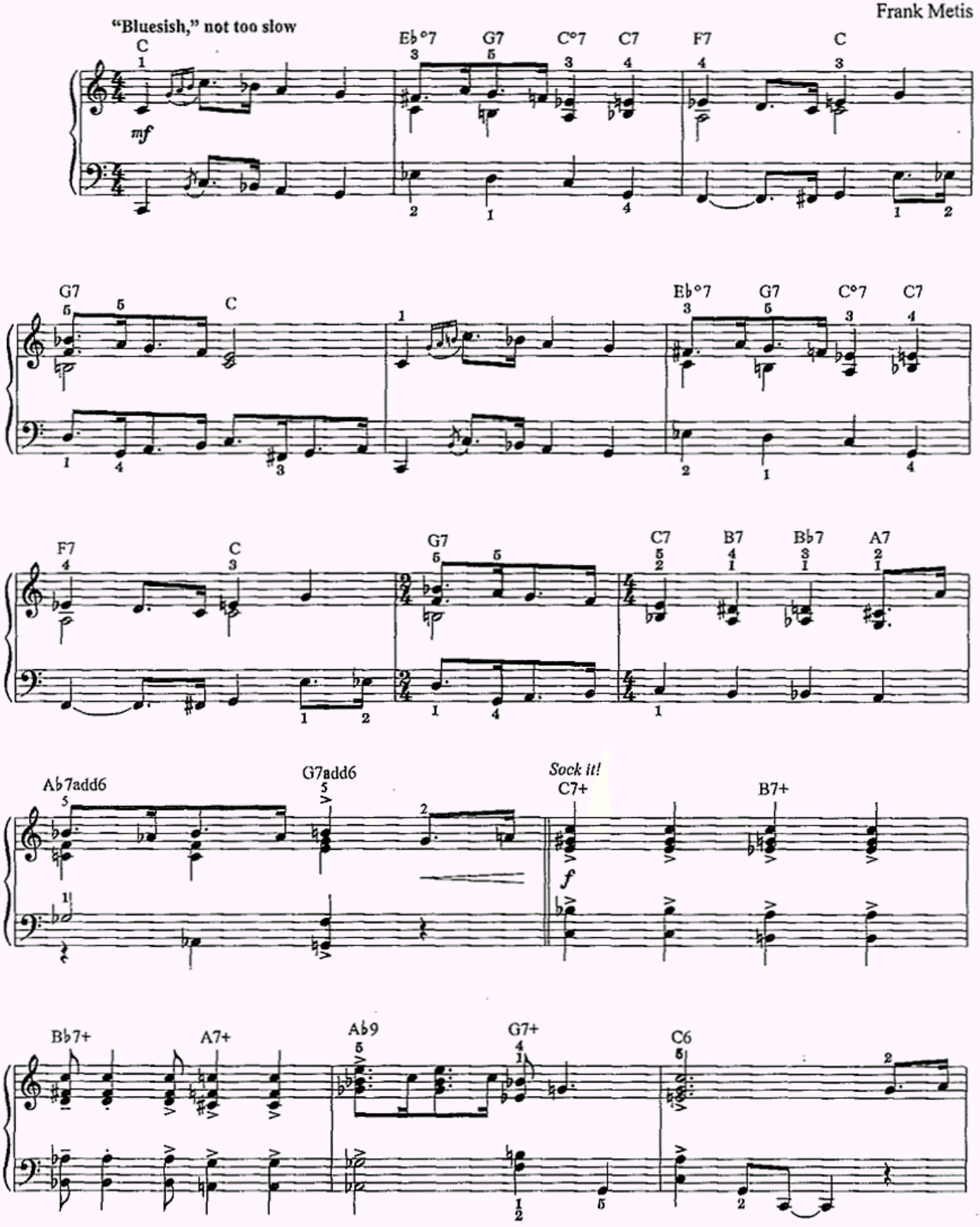

F
F°7
no one I know, There's no one I
C
G/B
C
F
know. I walk the street and hope I'll meet a
G7♭9
C
B♭/C
Am
Gm
friend - ly hel - lo. The build - ings are
Fm
Dm7♭5
G7
C
B°7
cold, and peo - ple don't smile. If
Am
G♯+
C/G
F♯m7♭5
I don't find a warm and friend - ly kind, I'm gon - na


F C/G Fm/A♭ Am B♭sus4 B♭ G7sus4 G7
leave here in short while. I
C F/C F°7/C
should have stayed home! I should have stayed
mf
C F
home! You can on - ly guess how much lone - li - ness I
G7 E7/G♯ Am F
feel when I roam. I should have, I
C/E Dm7 G7 G♯°7 Aadd9 A 8va
should have, I rall. should have stayed home!
p

Just Some Plain Ol' B♯ Blues

Frank Metis



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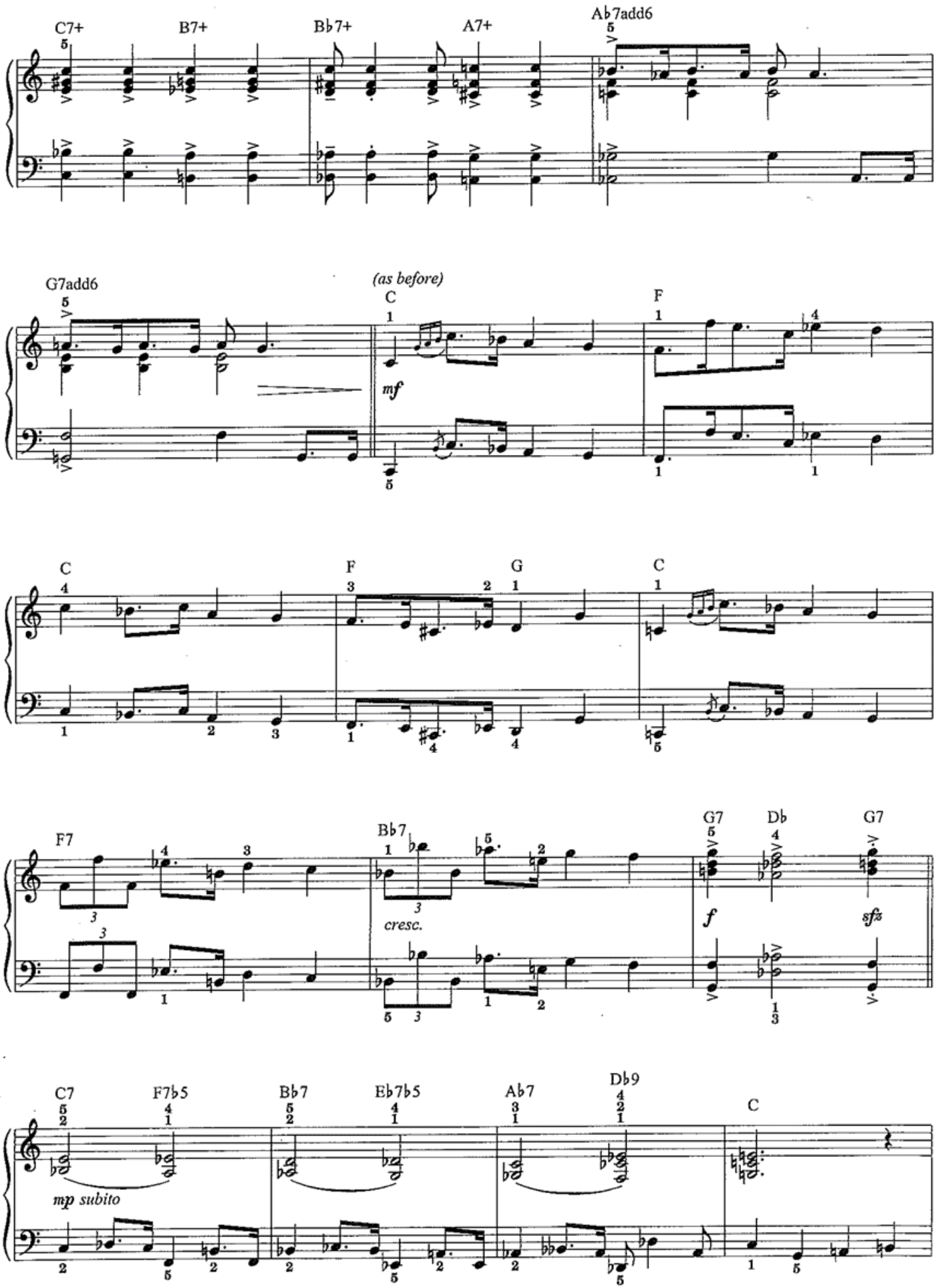
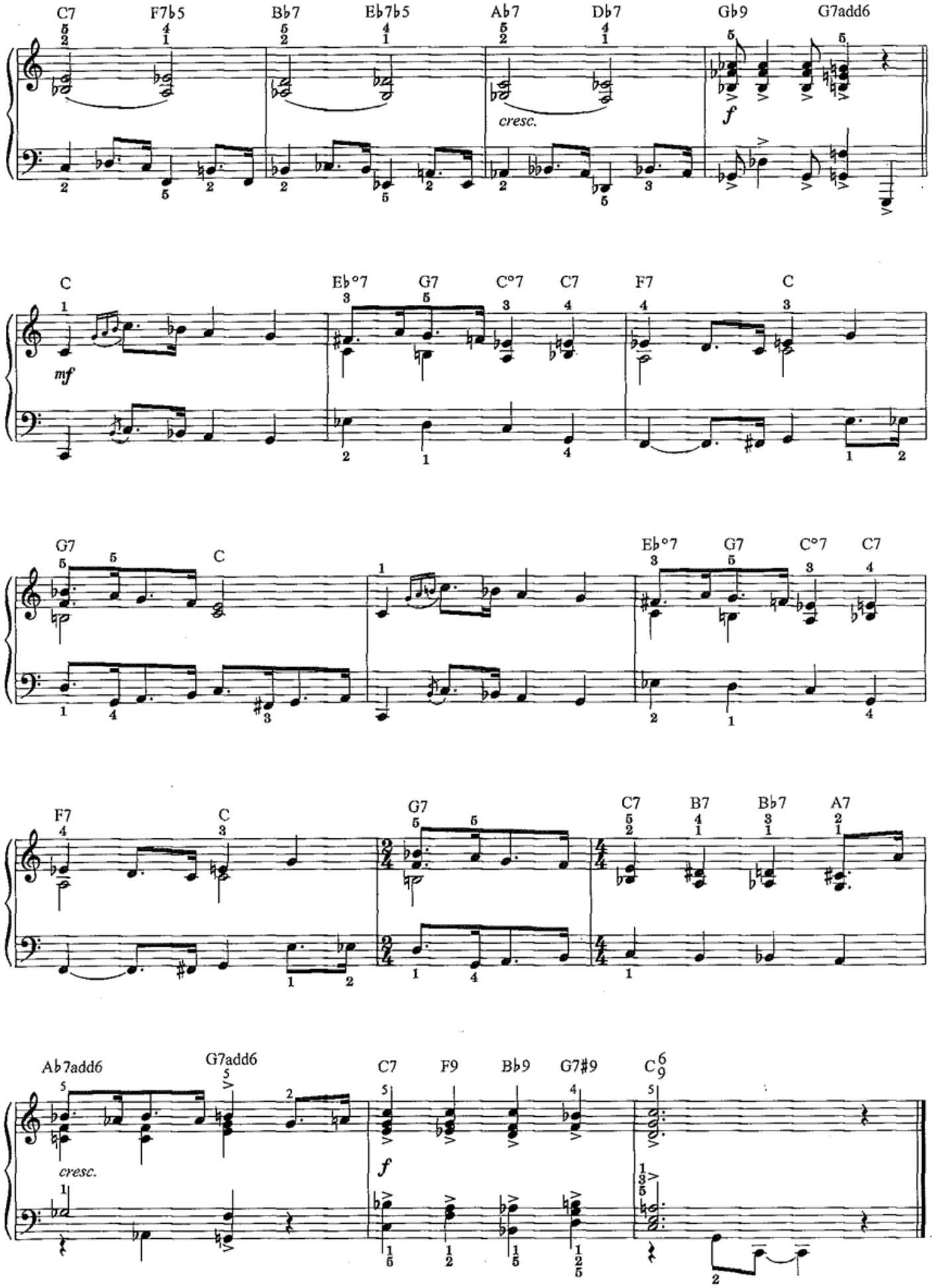

C7+
B7+
B♭7+
A7+
A♭7add6
G7add6
(as before)
C
mf
F
C
F
G
C
F7
B♭7
cresc.
G7
D♭
G7
f
sfz
C7
F7♭5
B♭7
E♭7♭5
A♭7
D♭9
C
mp subito

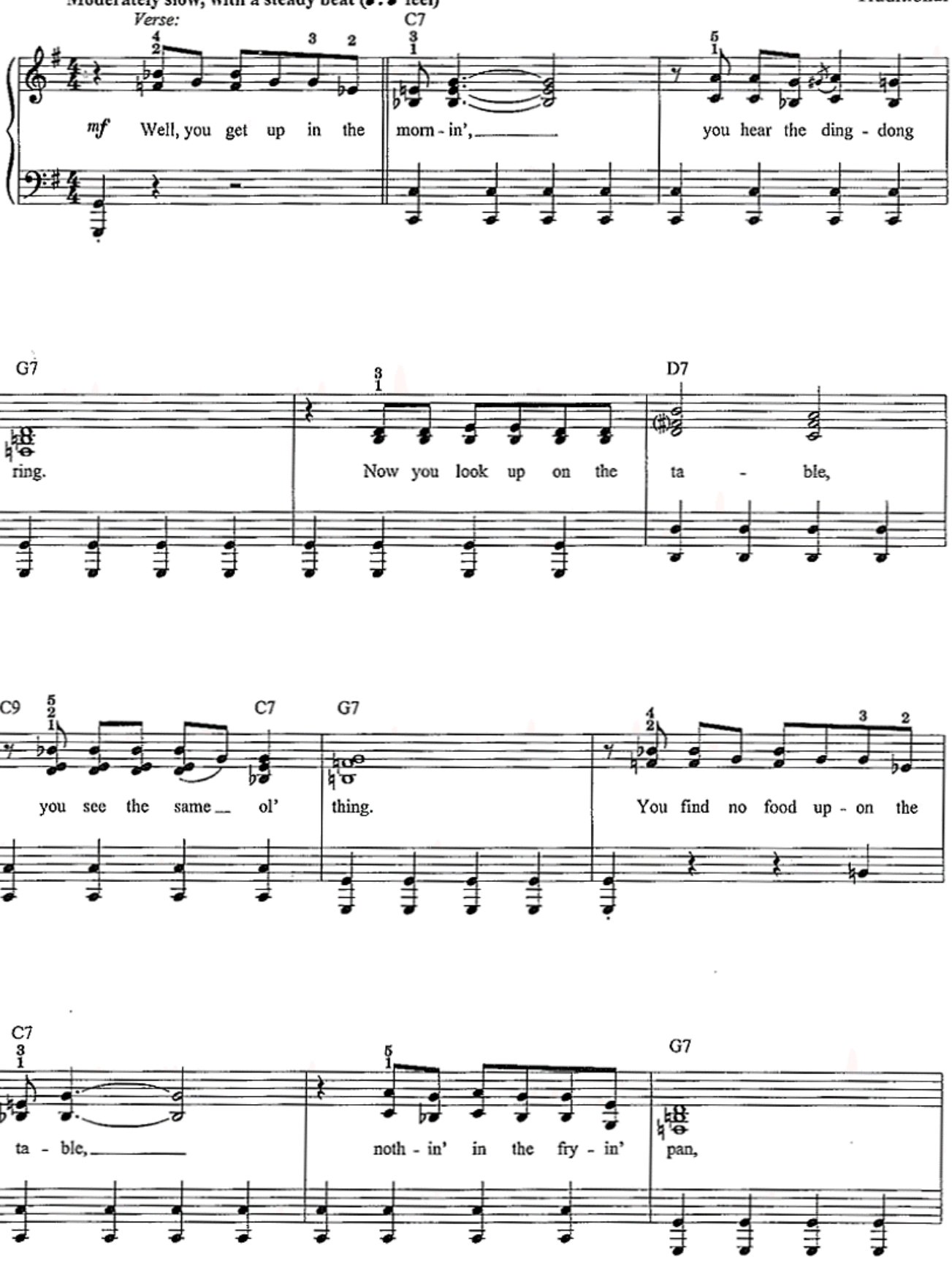

C7 F7b5 Bb7 Eb7b5 Ab7 Db7 Gb9 G7add6
cresc.
f
C Eb°7 G7 C°7 C7 F7 C
mf
G7 C Eb°7 G7 C°7 C7
F7 C G7 C7 B7 Bb7 A7
Ab7add6 G7add6 C7 F9 Bb9 G7#9 C6/9
cresc.
f

Midnight Special

Moderately slow, with a steady beat (♩. ♪ feel)

Traditional

Verse:



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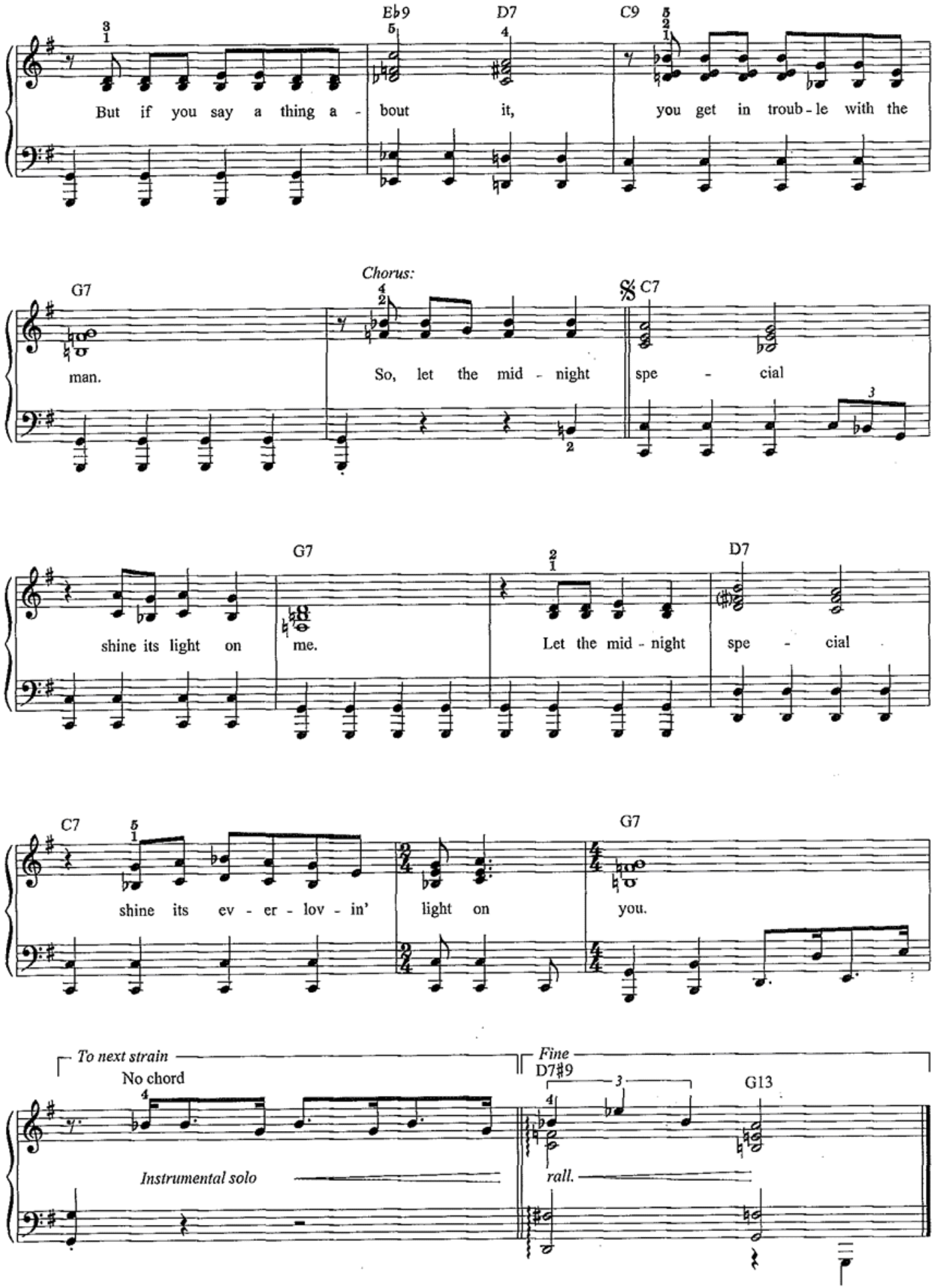
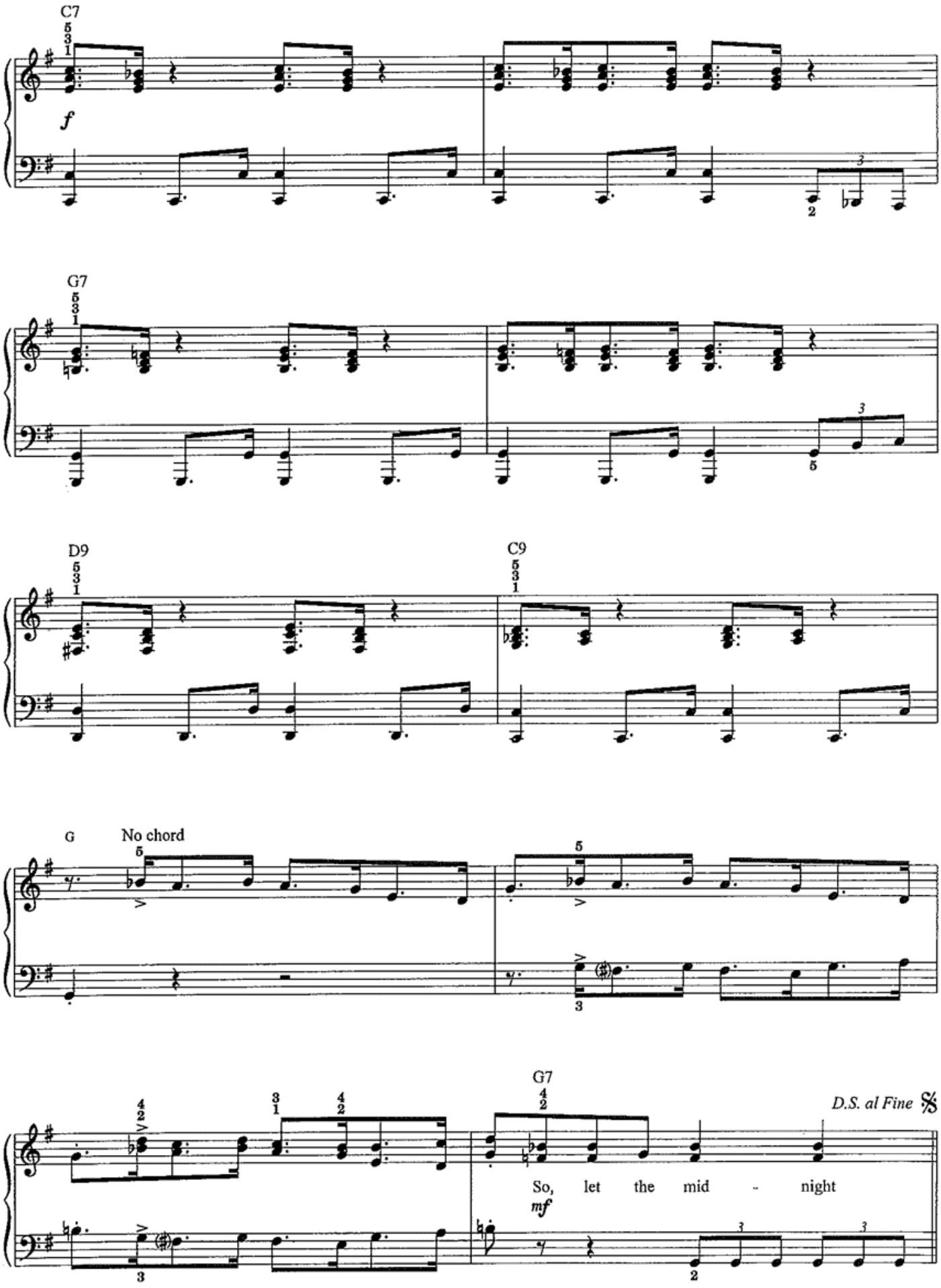
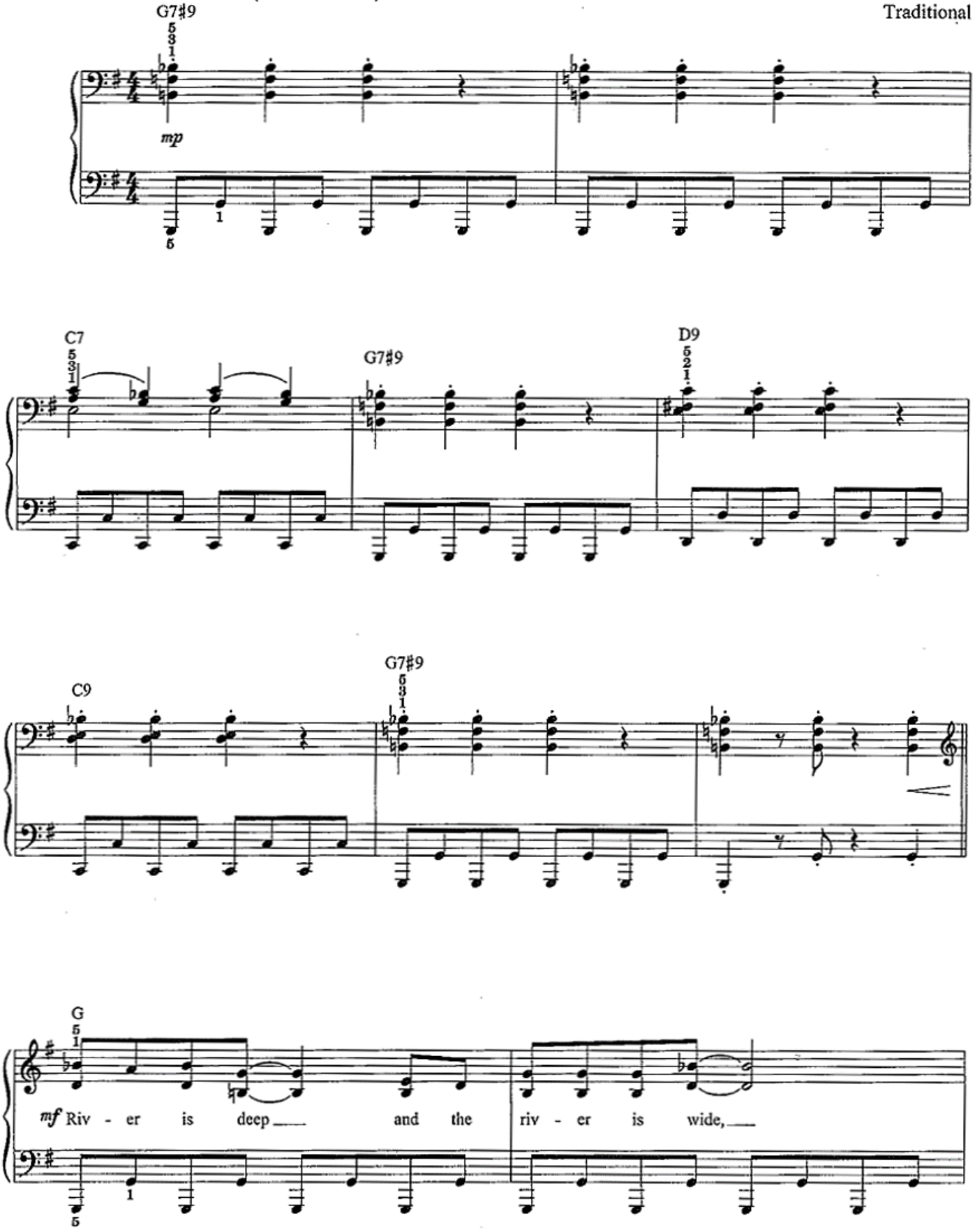

Eb9
D7
C9
But if you say a thing a - bout it, you get in troub - le with the
Chorus:
G7
C7
man. So, let the mid - night spe - cial
G7
D7
shine its light on me. Let the mid - night spe - cial
C7
G7
shine its ev - er - lov - in' light on you.
To next strain
No chord
Instrumental solo
Fine
D7#9
G13
rall.


C7
f
G7
D9
C9
G
No chord
G7
D.S. al Fine
So, let the mid - night
mf

Kansas City Blues

Moderate blues (with a ♩.♫ feel)

Traditional



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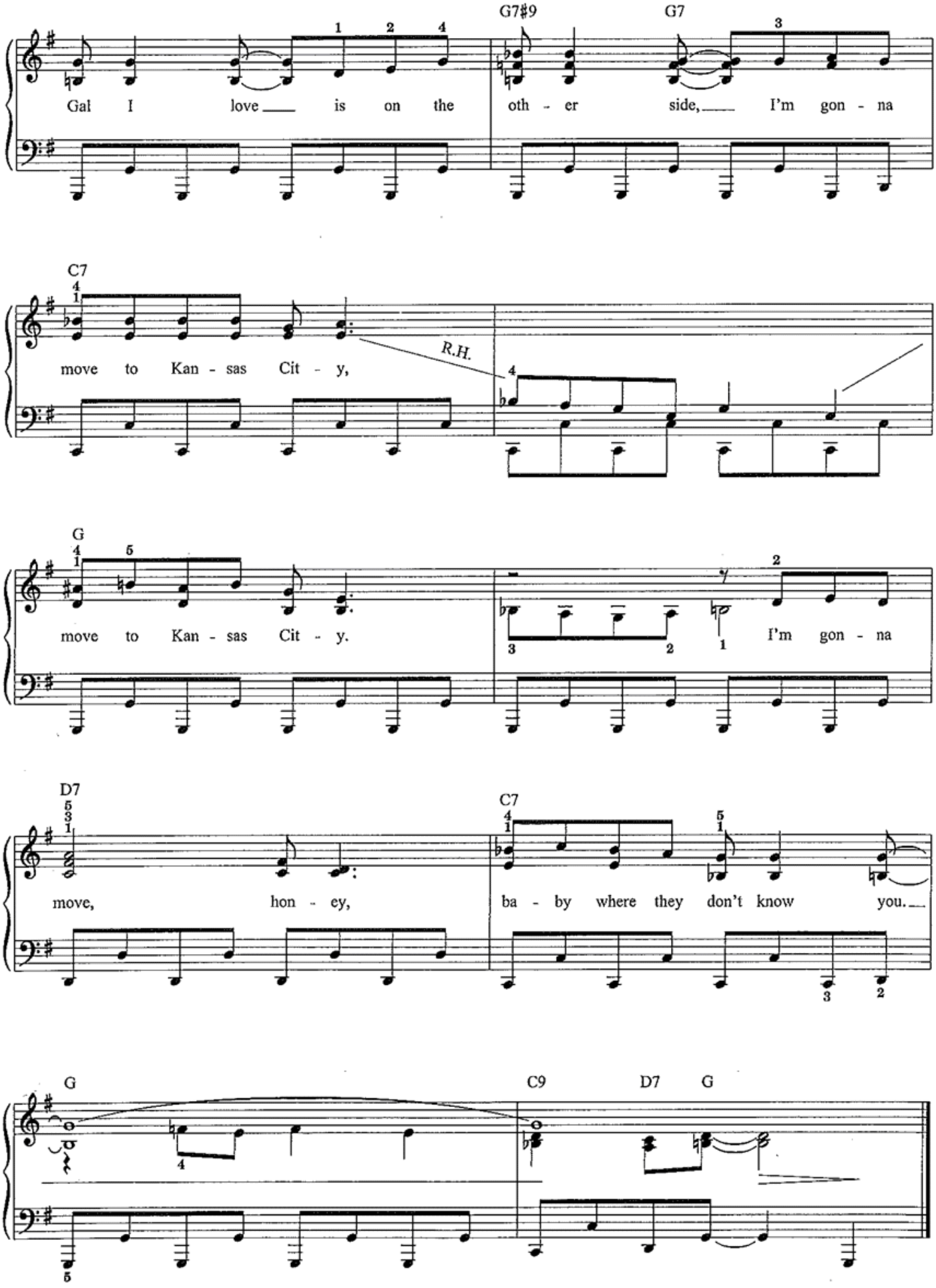
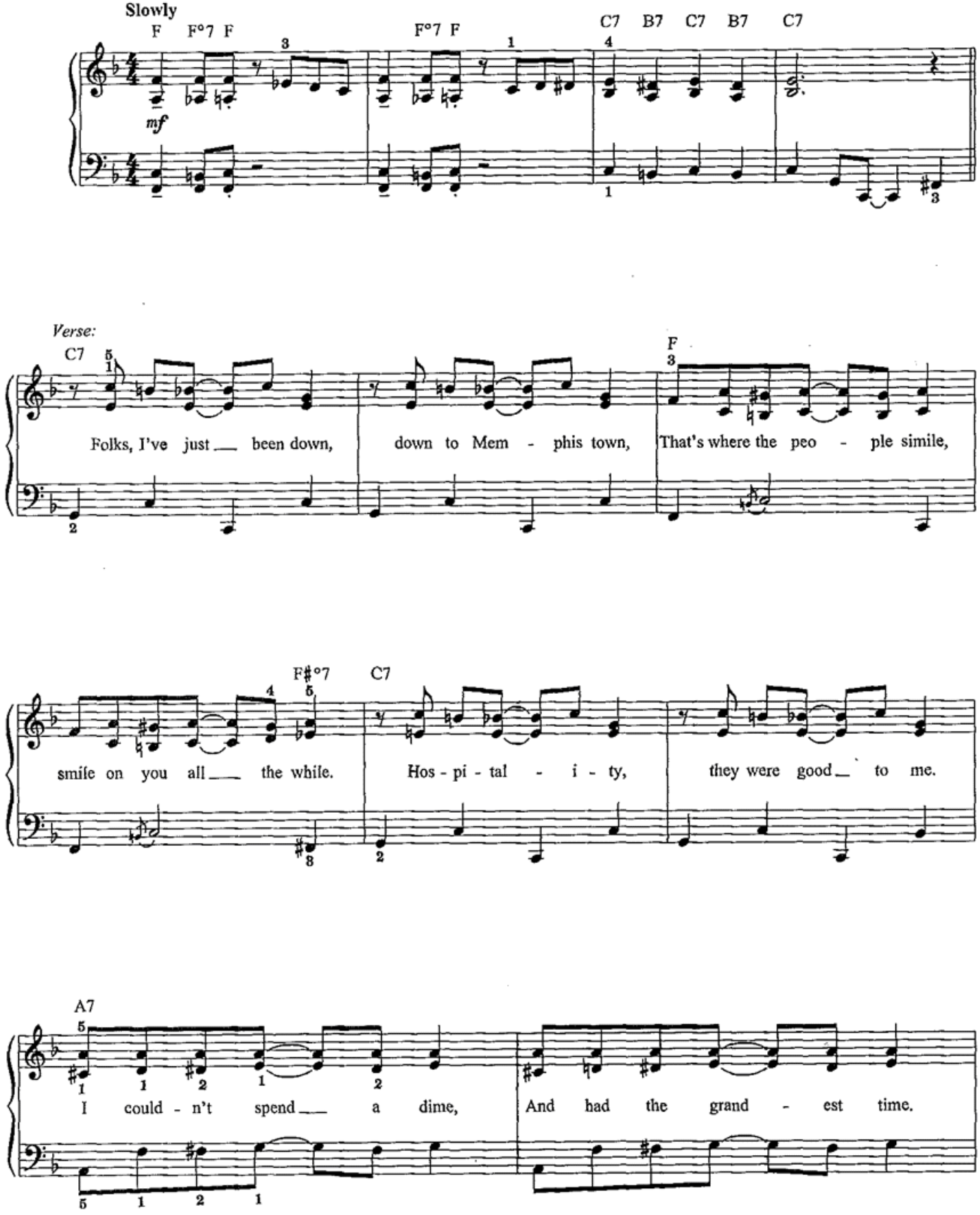

G7♯9
G7
Gal I love is on the oth - er side, I'm gon - na
C7
move to Kan - sas Cit - y,
R.H.
G
move to Kan - sas Cit - y.
I'm gon - na
D7
C7
move, hon - ey,
ba - by where they don't know you.
G
C9
D7
G

The Memphis Blues

Words by George A. Norton

Music by W. C. Handy



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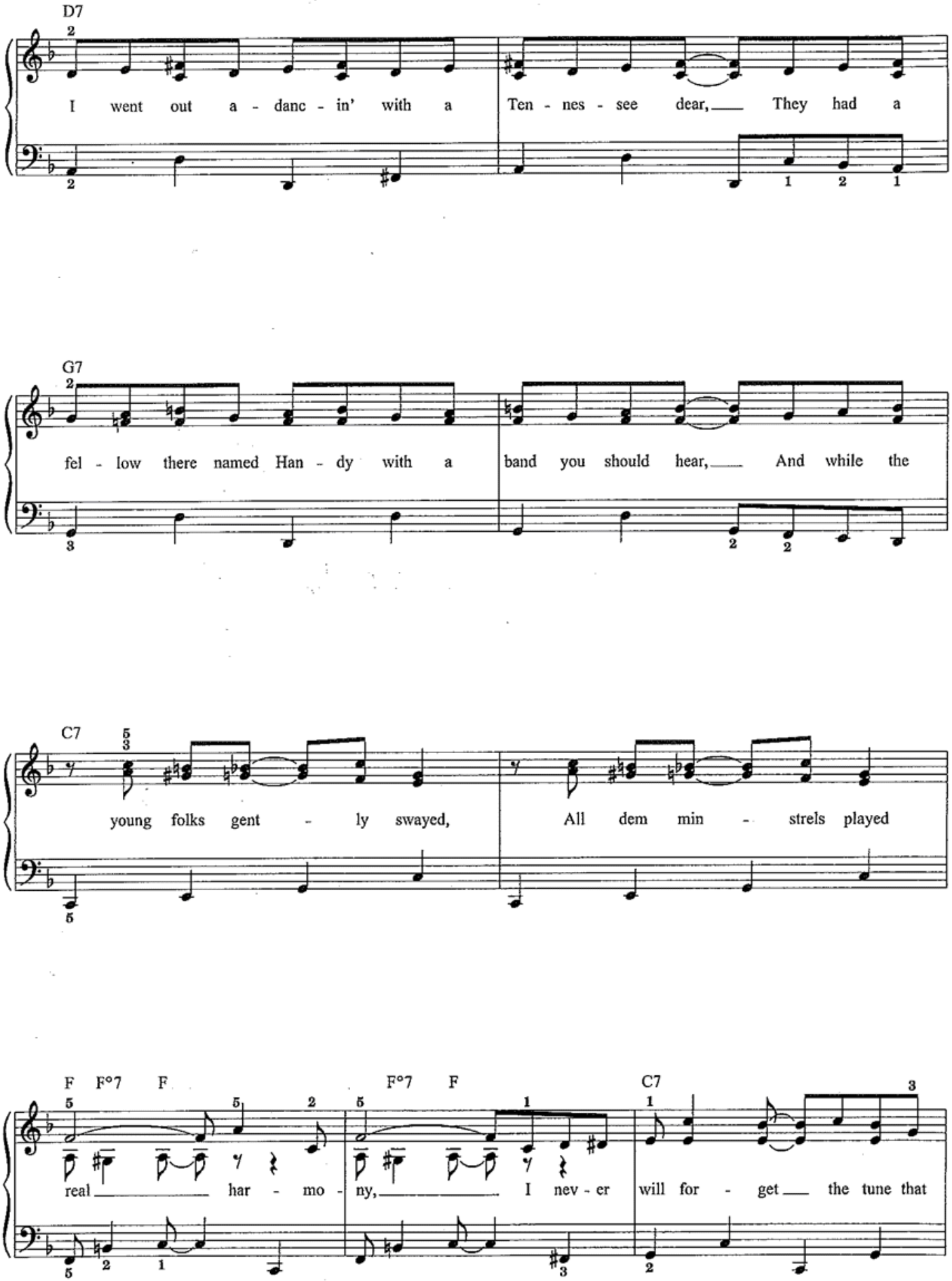
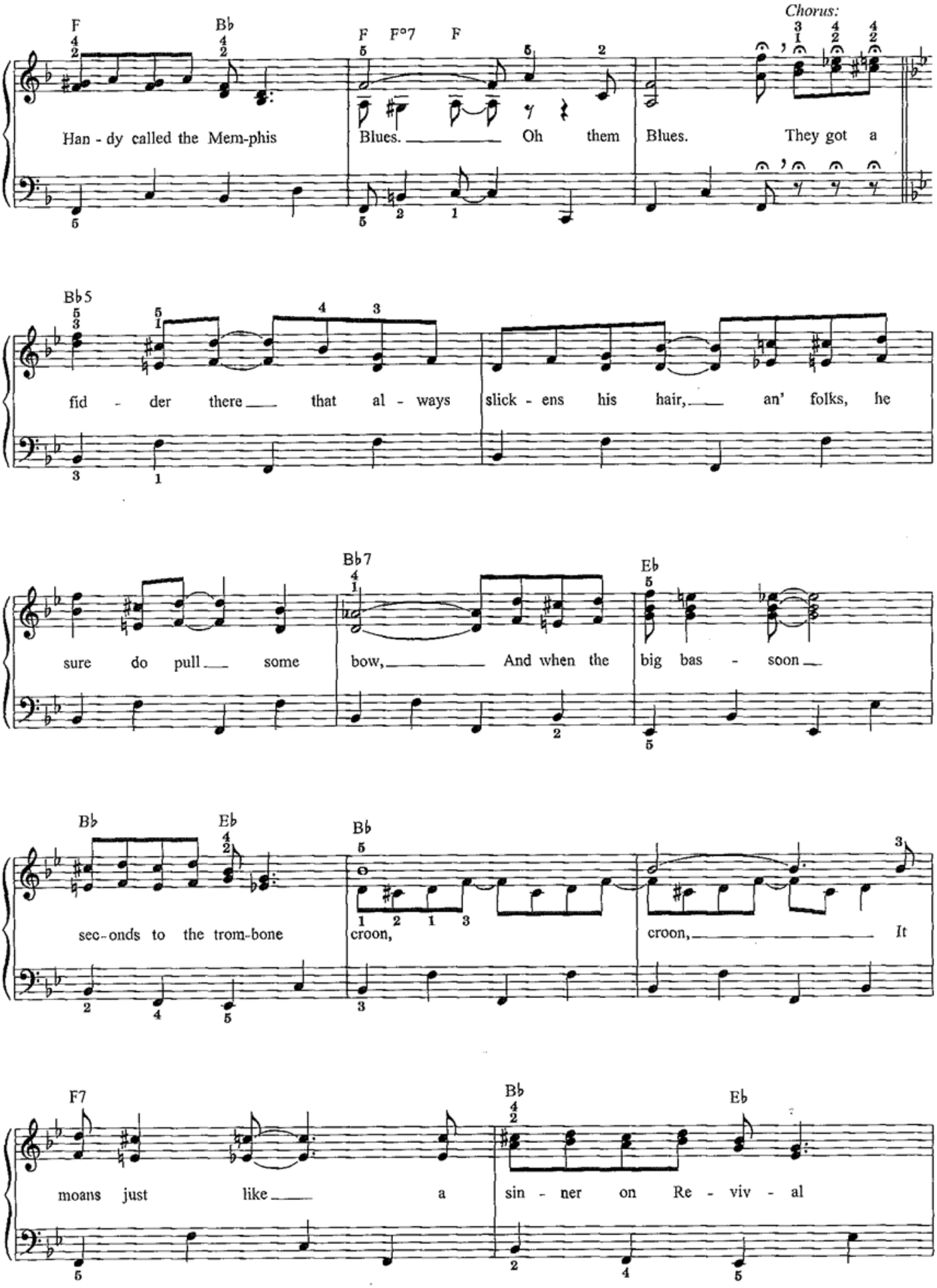
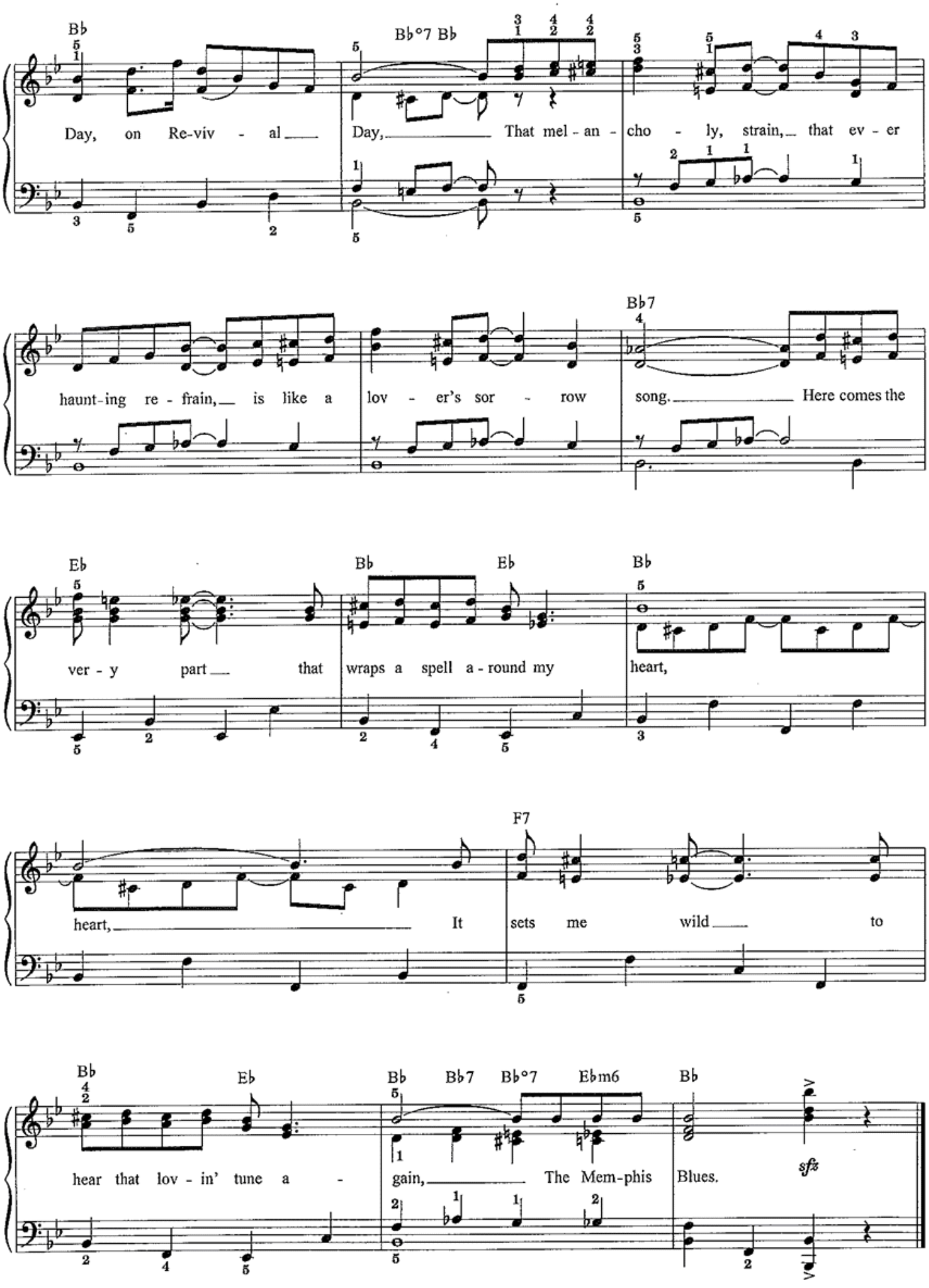
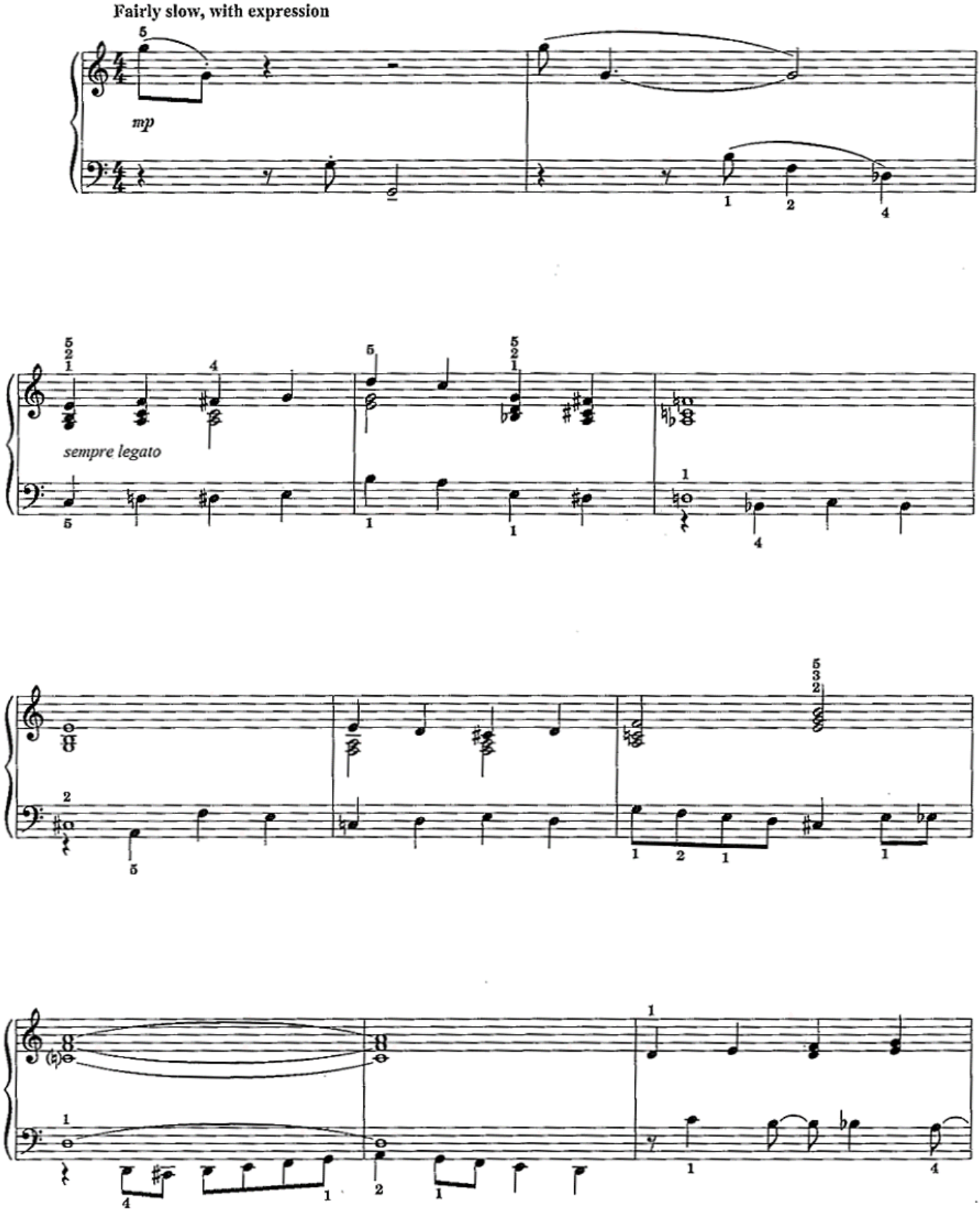

D7
I went out a - danc - in' with a Ten - nes - see dear, They had a
G7
fel - low there named Han - dy with a band you should hear, And while the
C7
young folks gent - ly swayed, All dem min - strels played
F F°7 F F°7 F C7
real har - mo - ny, I nev - er will for - get the tune that


Chorus:
F
B♭
F
F°7
F
Han - dy called the Mem-phis
Blues. Oh them
Blues. They got a
B♭5
fid - der there that al - ways
slick - ens his hair, an' folks, he
B♭7
E♭
sure do pull some
bow, And when the
big bas - soon
B♭
E♭
B♭
sec - onds to the trom-bone
croon,
croon, It
F7
B♭
E♭
moans just like a
sin - ner on Re - viv - al


B♭
B♭°7 B♭
Day, on Re-viv - al
Day, That mel - an - cho - ly, strain, that ev - er
B♭7
haunt-ing re - frain, is like a lov - er's sor - row song. Here comes the
E♭
B♭
E♭
B♭
ver - y part that wraps a spell a - round my heart,
F7
heart, It sets me wild to
B♭
E♭
B♭
B♭7
B♭°7
E♭m6
B♭
hear that lov - in' tune a - gain, The Mem-phis Blues.
sfz

My Melancholy Baby

Ernie Burnett



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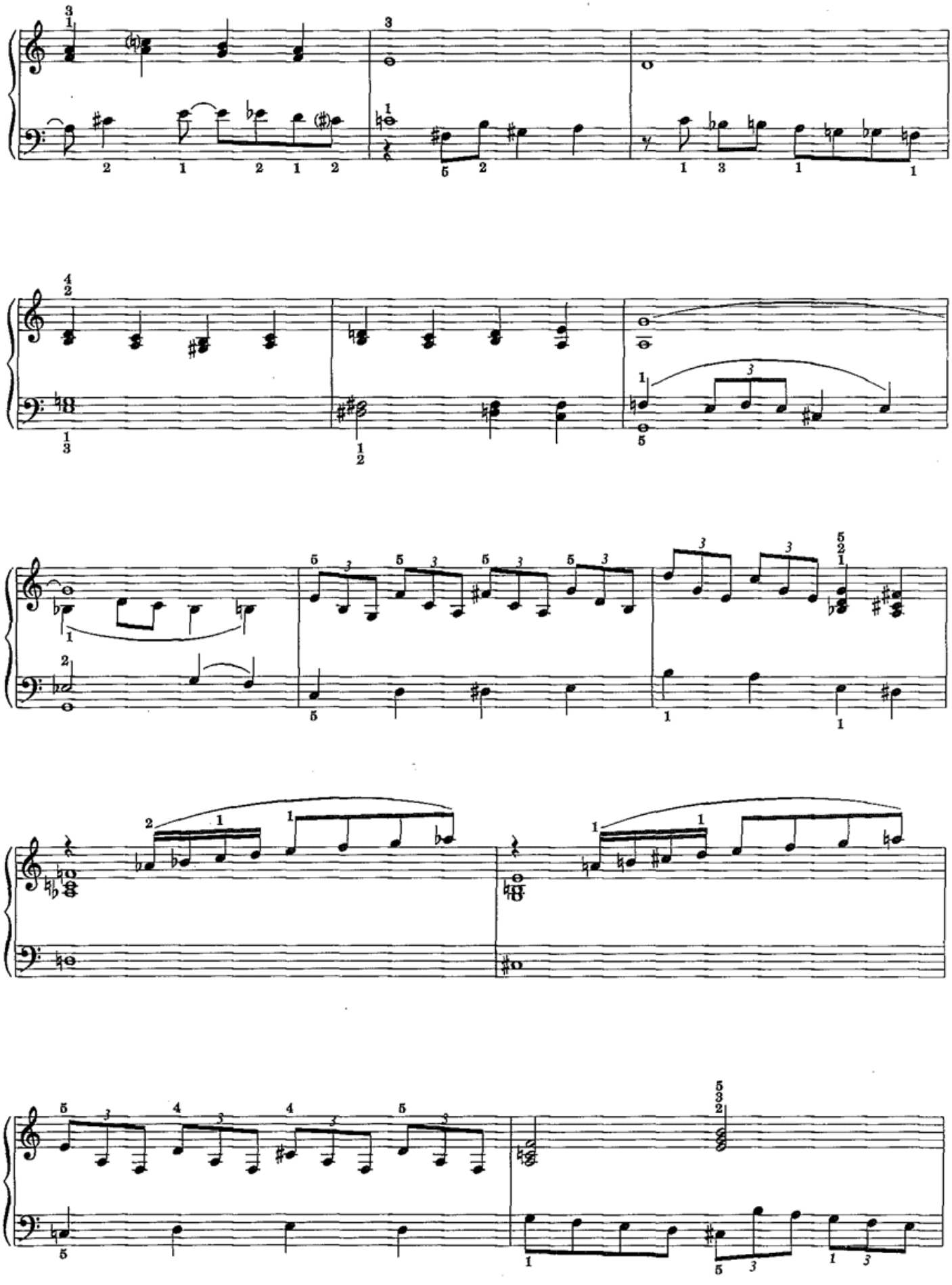
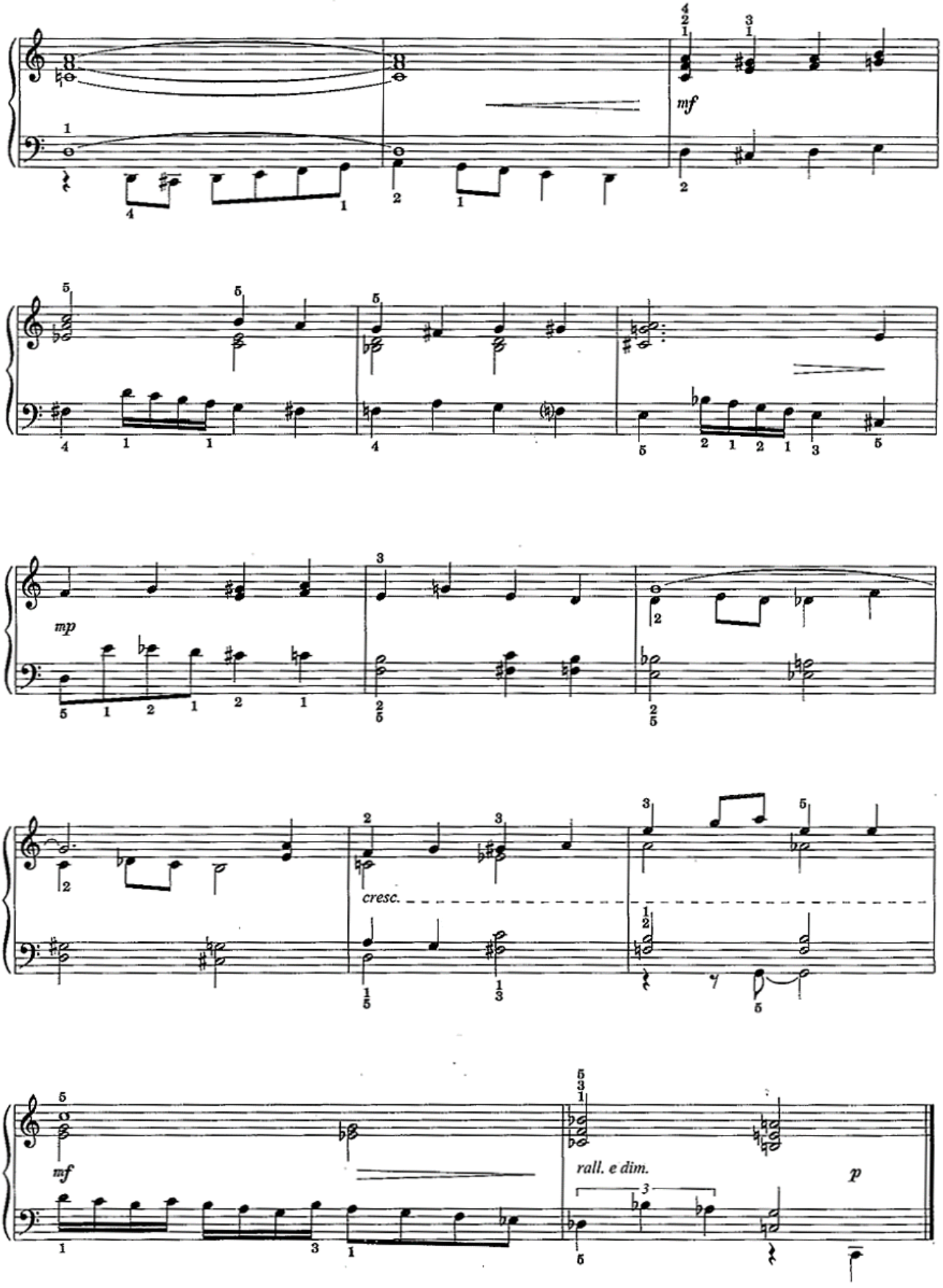
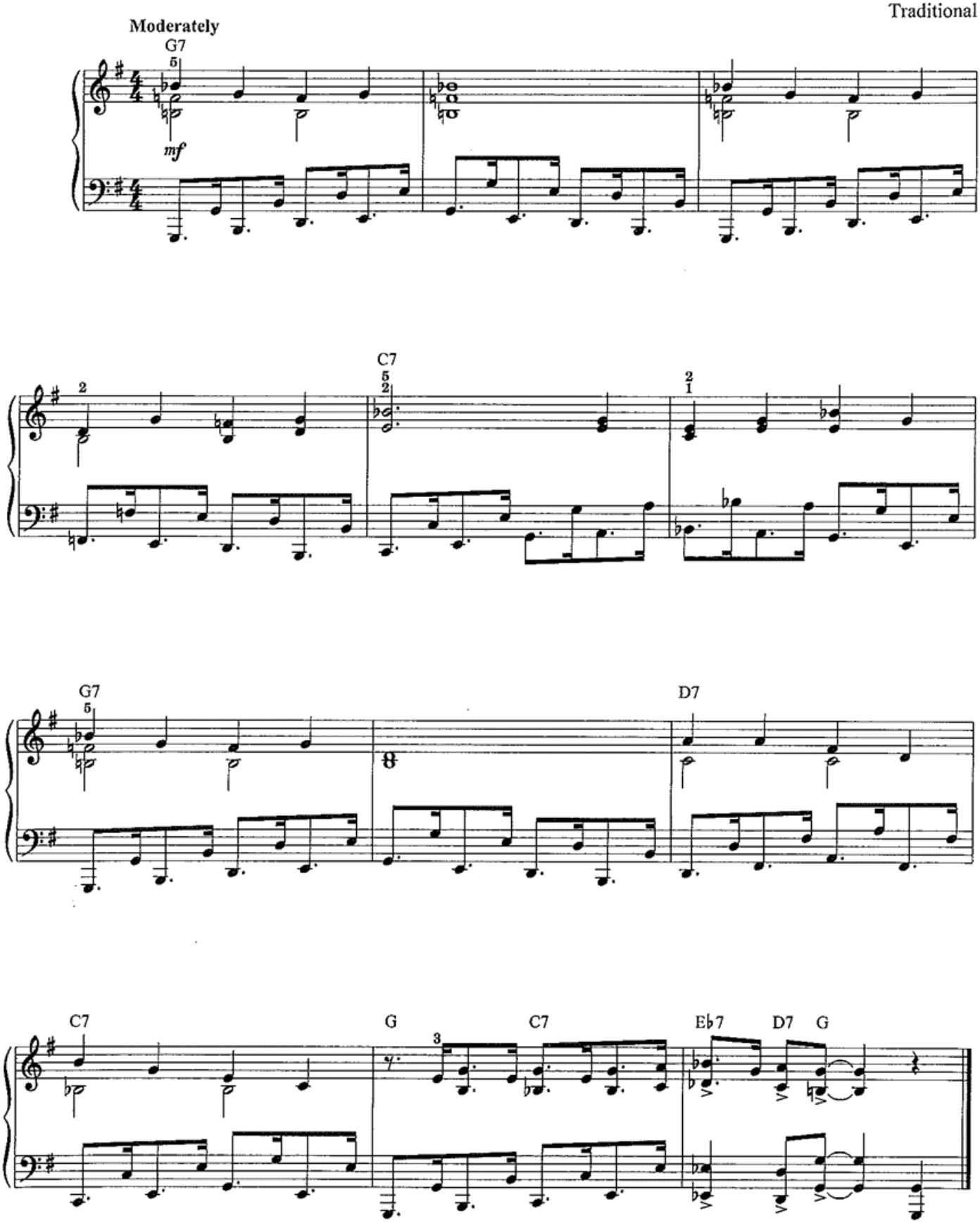



mf
mp
cresc.
mf
rall. e dim.
p

Plain Ol' Boogie-Woogie Blues

Traditional



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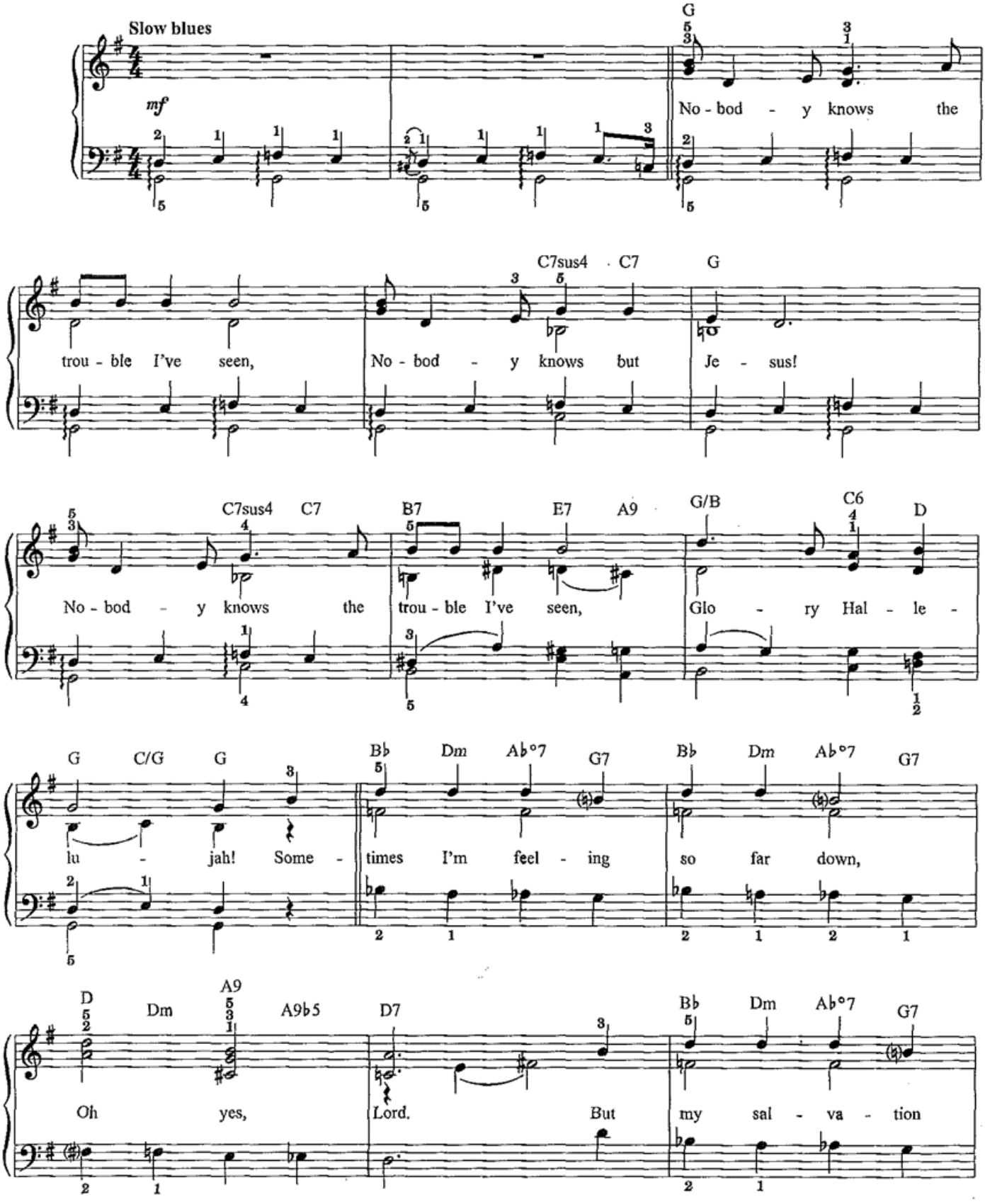
Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

Traditional



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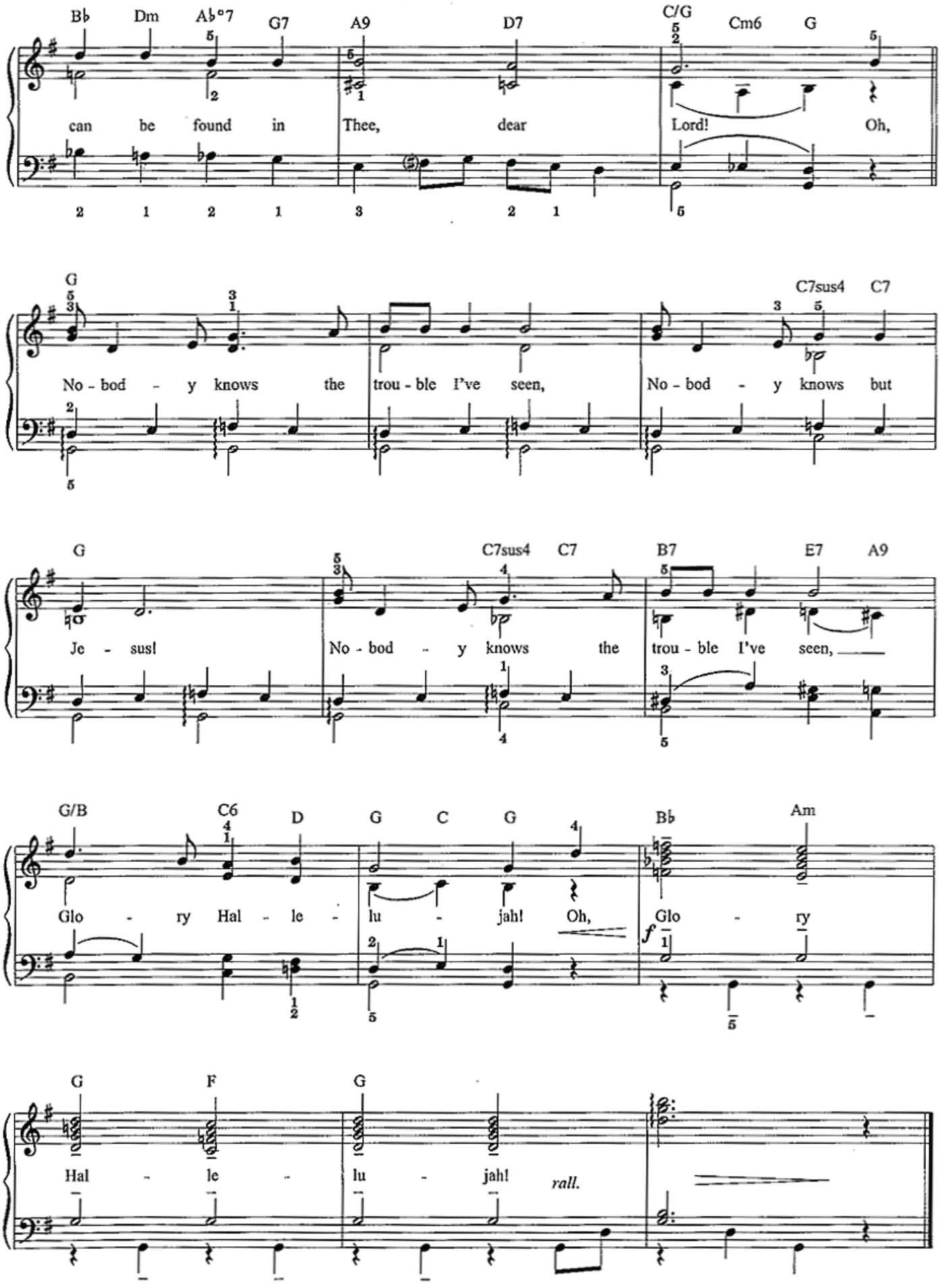
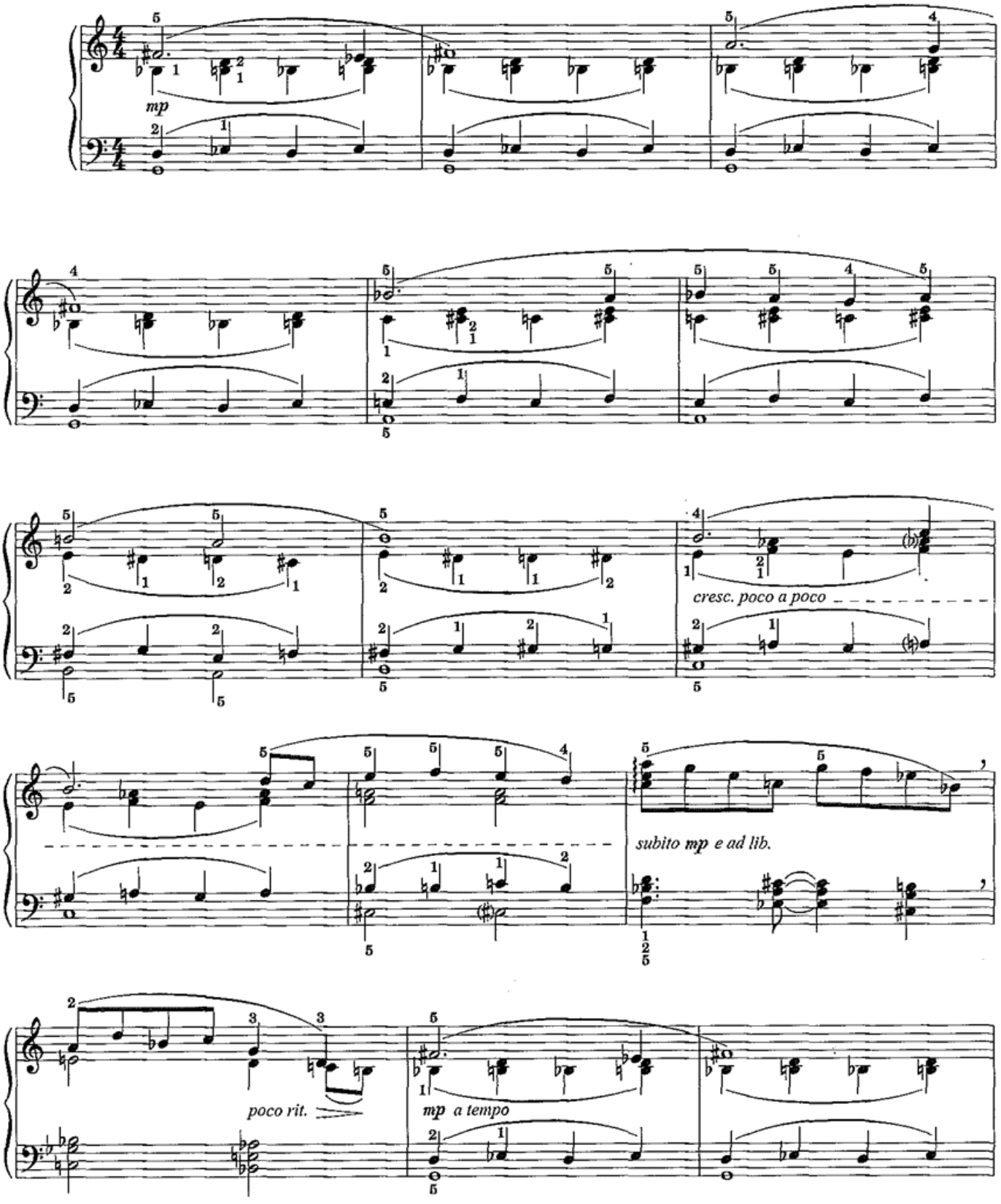

B♭ Dm A♭°7 G7 A9 D7 C/G Cm6 G
can be found in Thee, dear Lord! Oh,
G C7sus4 C7
No - bod - y knows the trou - ble I've seen, No - bod - y knows but
G C7sus4 C7 B7 E7 A9
Je - sus! No - bod - y knows the trou - ble I've seen,
G/B C6 D G C G B♭ Am
Glo - ry Hal - le - lu - jah! Oh, Glo - ry
f
G F G
Hal - le - lu - jah!
rall.

Painful Love

Frank Metis

Slow blues



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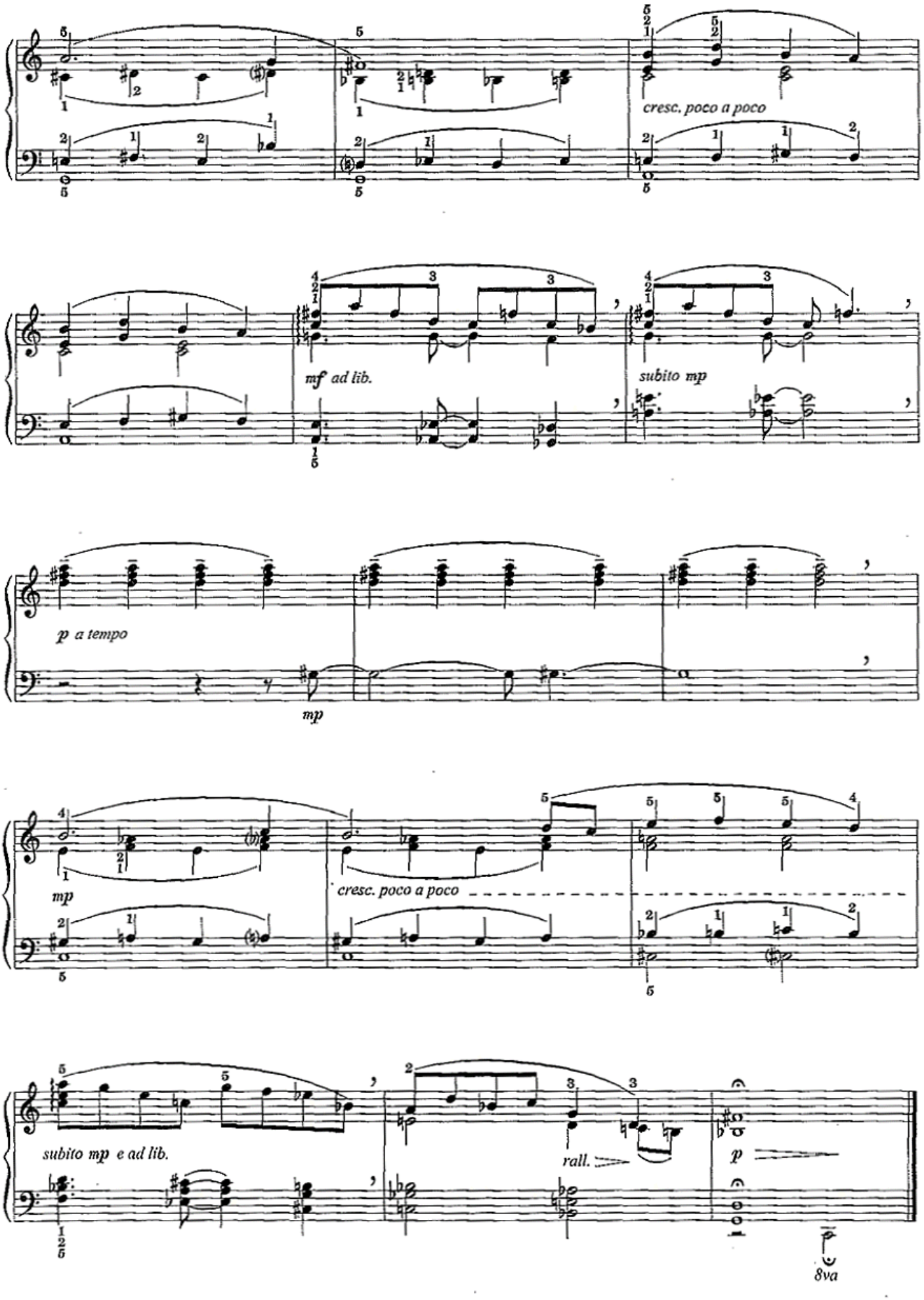
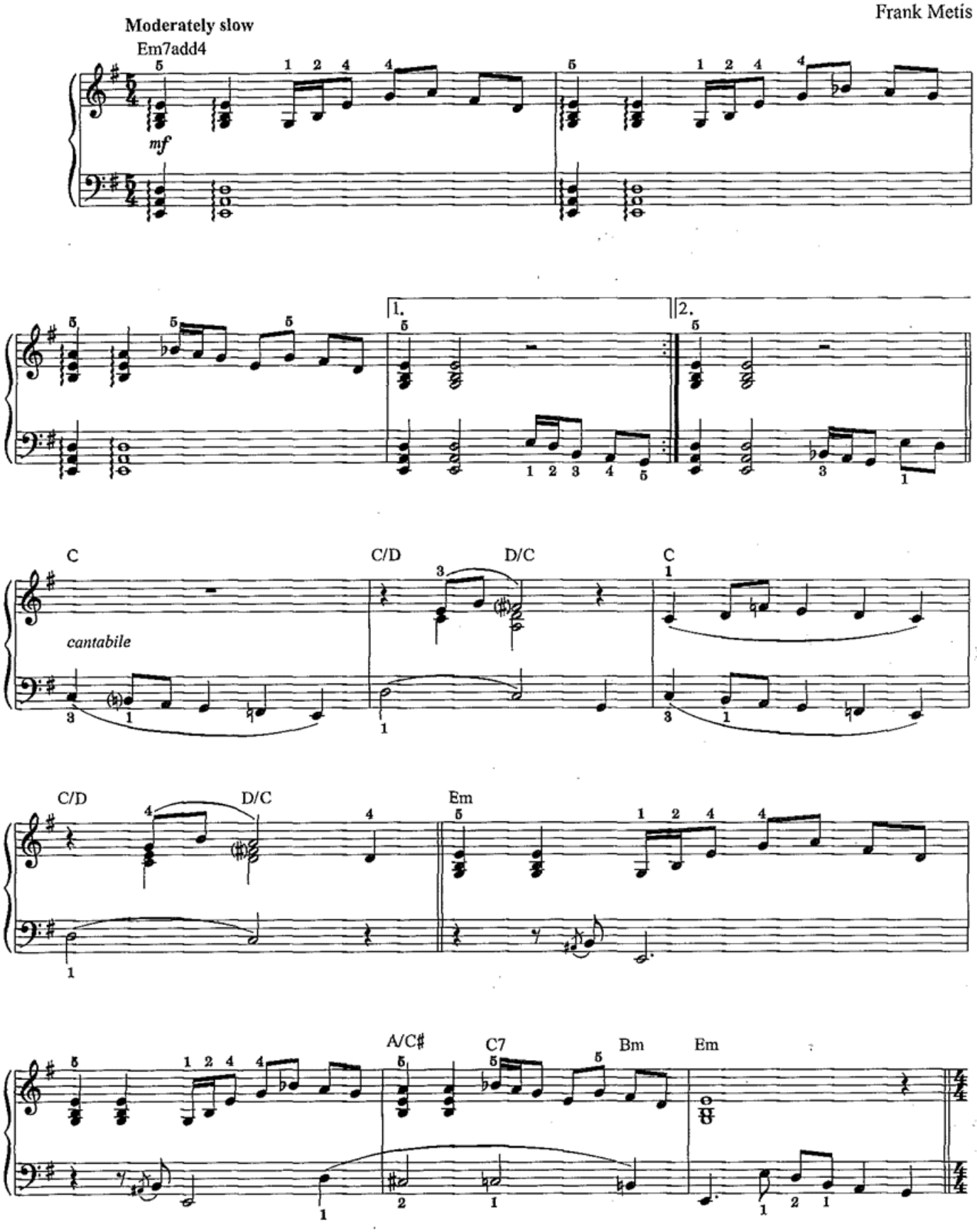

cresc. poco a poco
mf ad lib.
subito mp
p a tempo
mp
mp
cresc. poco a poco
subito mp e ad lib.
rall.
p
8va

To Peter Pickow

Reverend Peter's Blues Guitar

Frank Metis



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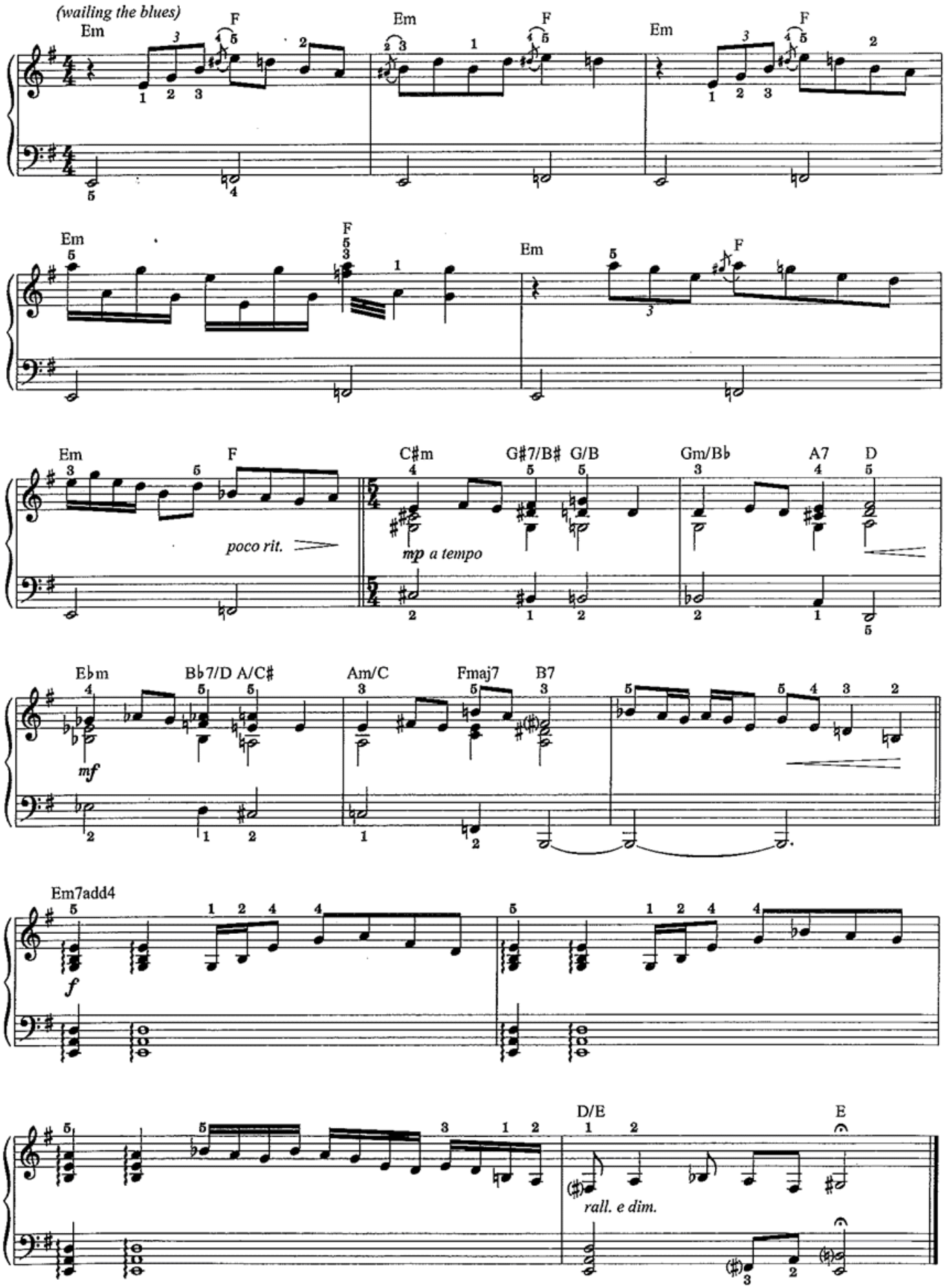
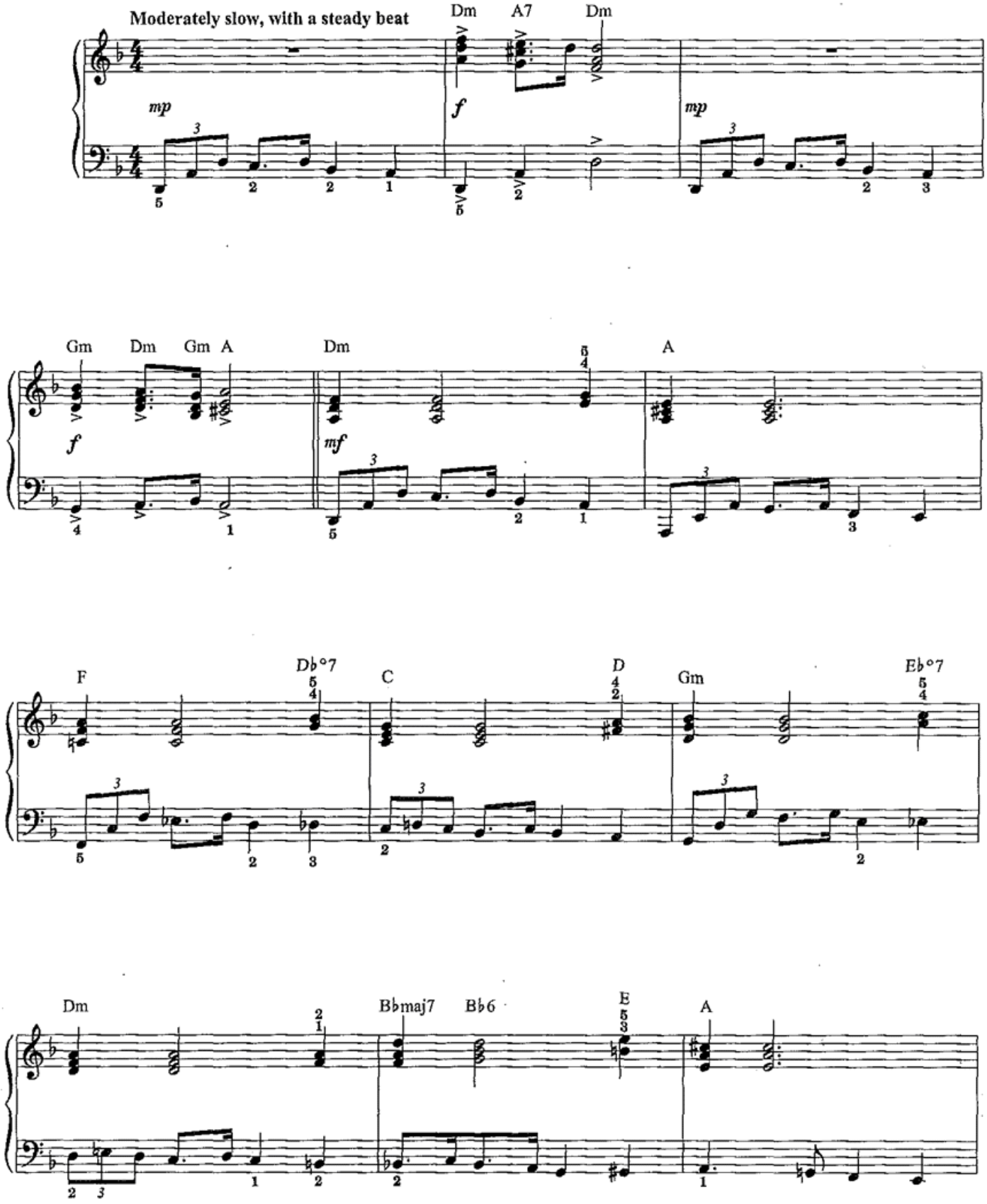

(wailing the blues)
Em
F
Em
F
Em
F
Em
F
Em
F
poco rit.
C♯m
G♯7/B♯
G/B
mp a tempo
Gm/B♭
A7
D
E♭m
B♭7/D
A/C♯
mf
Am/C
Fmaj7
B7
Em7add4
f
D/E
E
rall. e dim.

Sarabande in Blue

Adapted by Frank Metis

G.F. Handel



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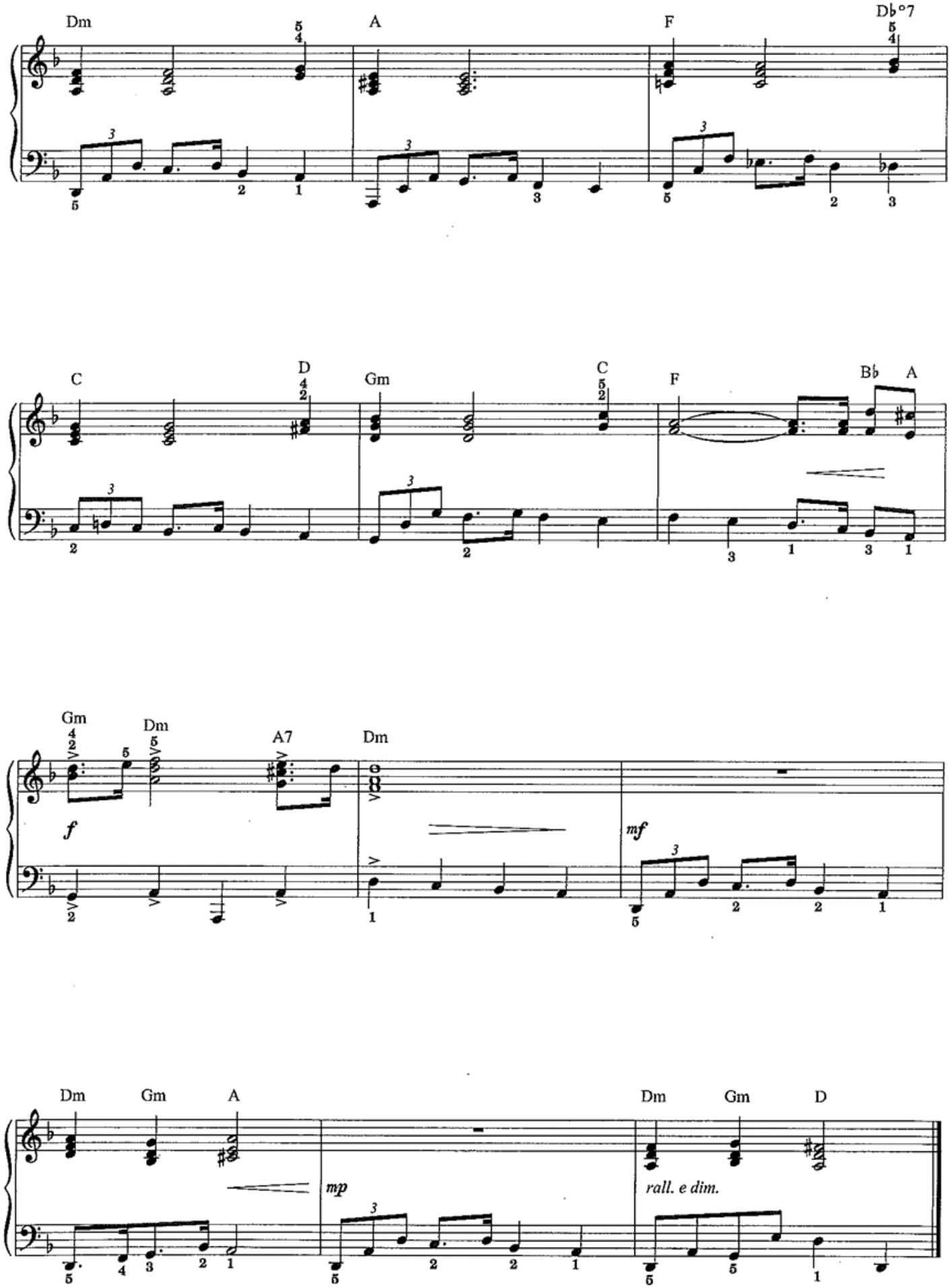
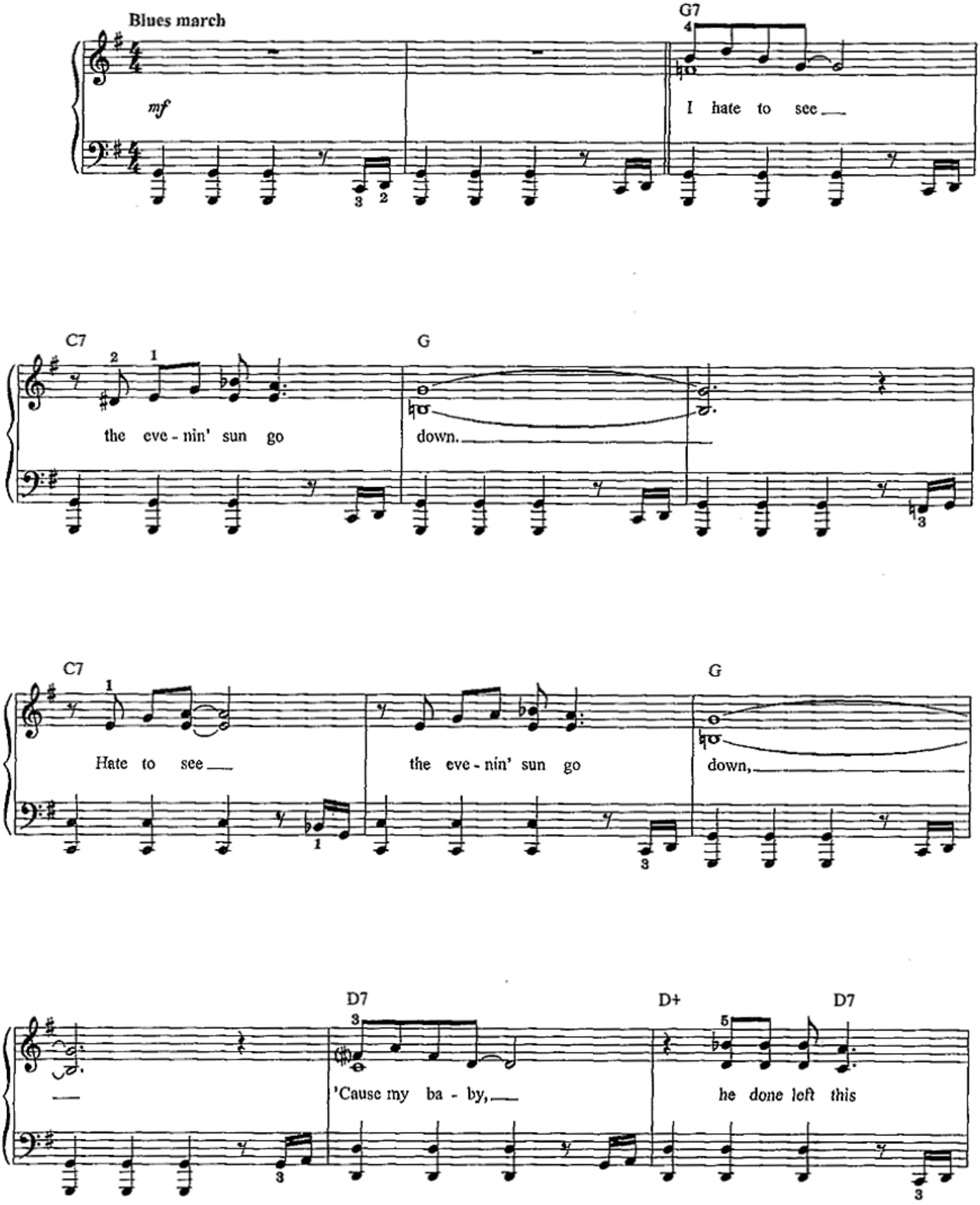

Dm
A
F
D♭°7
C
D
Gm
C
F
B♭
A
Gm
Dm
A7
Dm
f
mf
Dm
Gm
A
Dm
Gm
D
mp
rall. e dim.

St. Louis Blues

W. C. Handy



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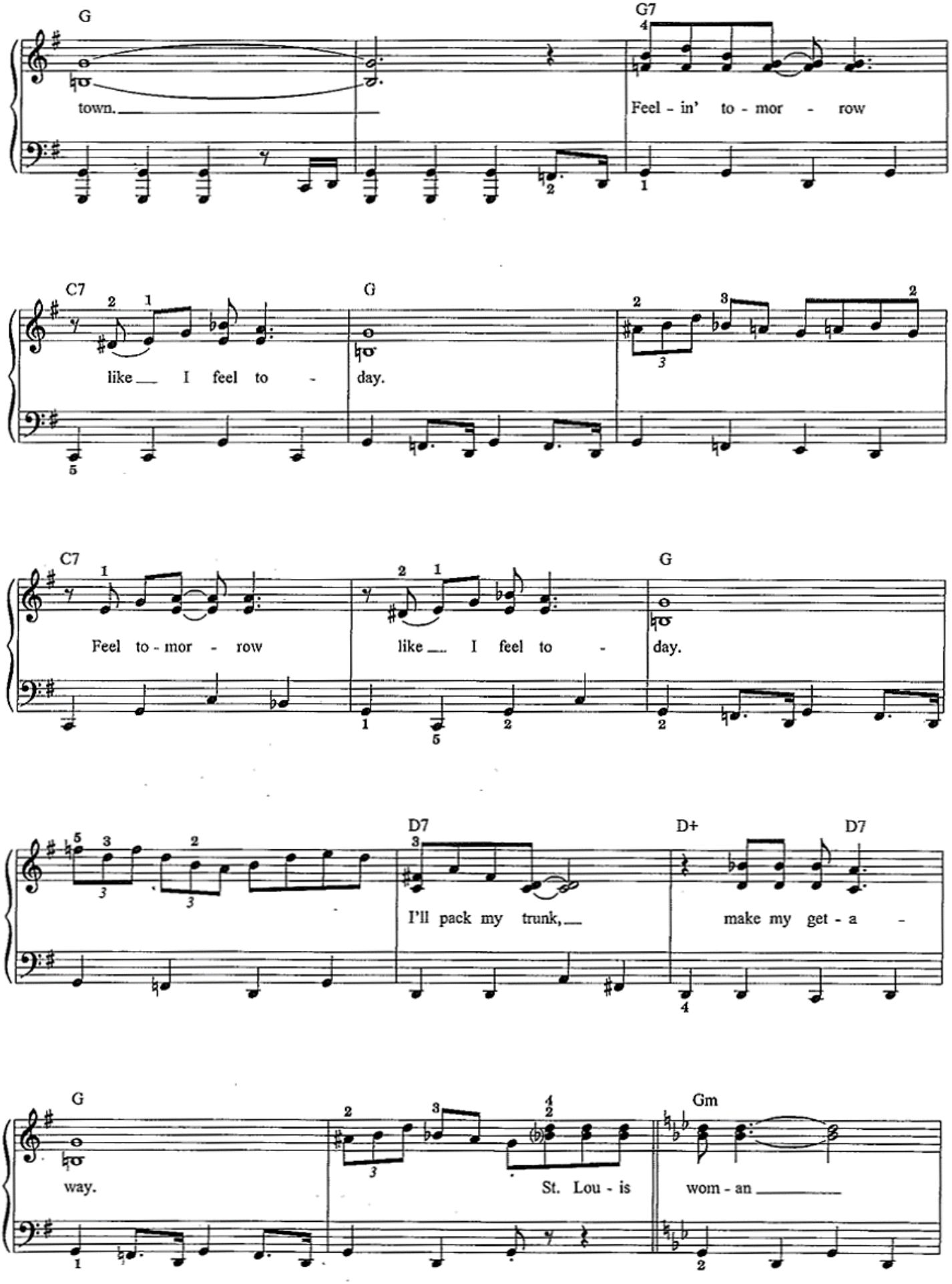
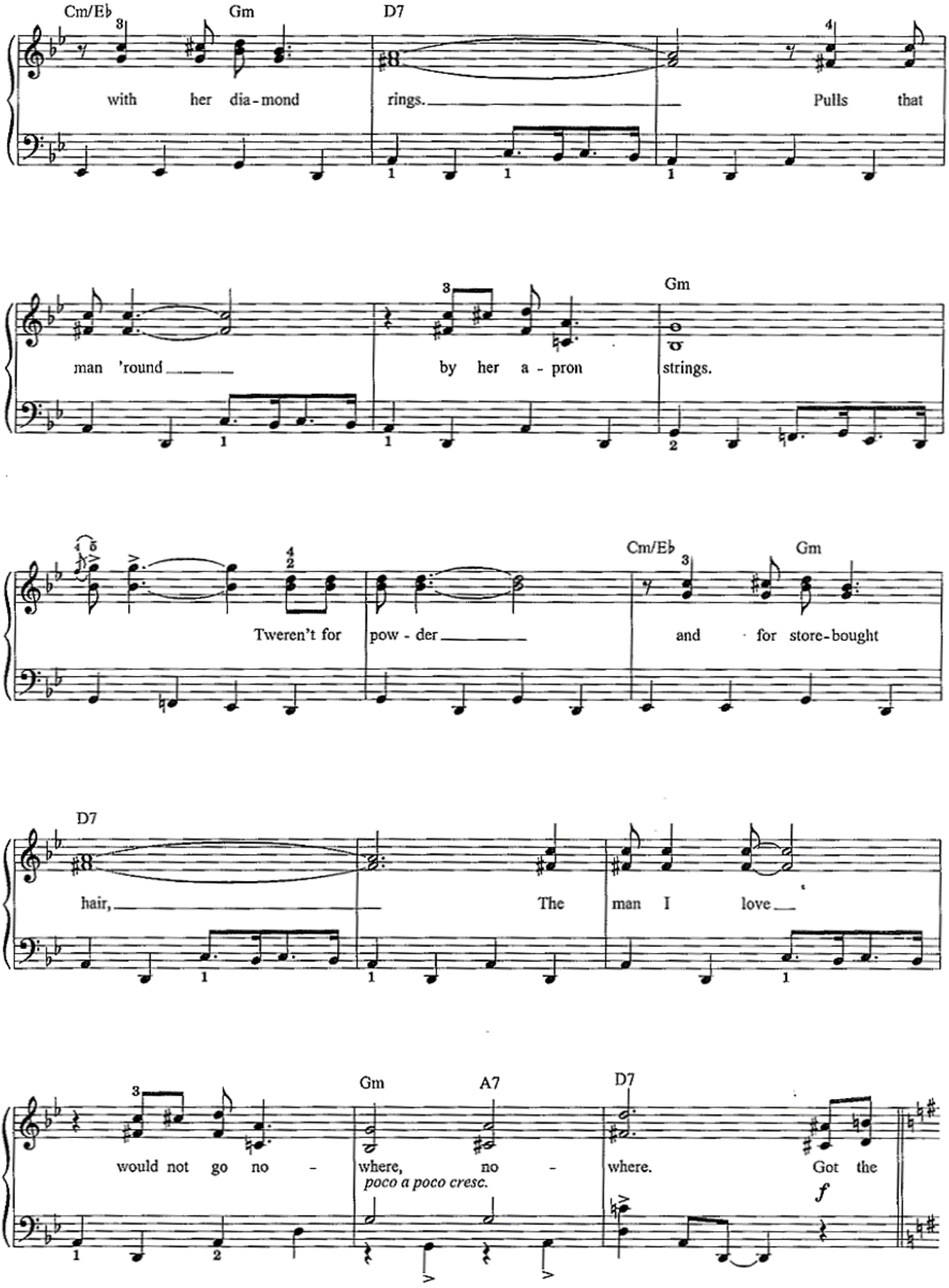
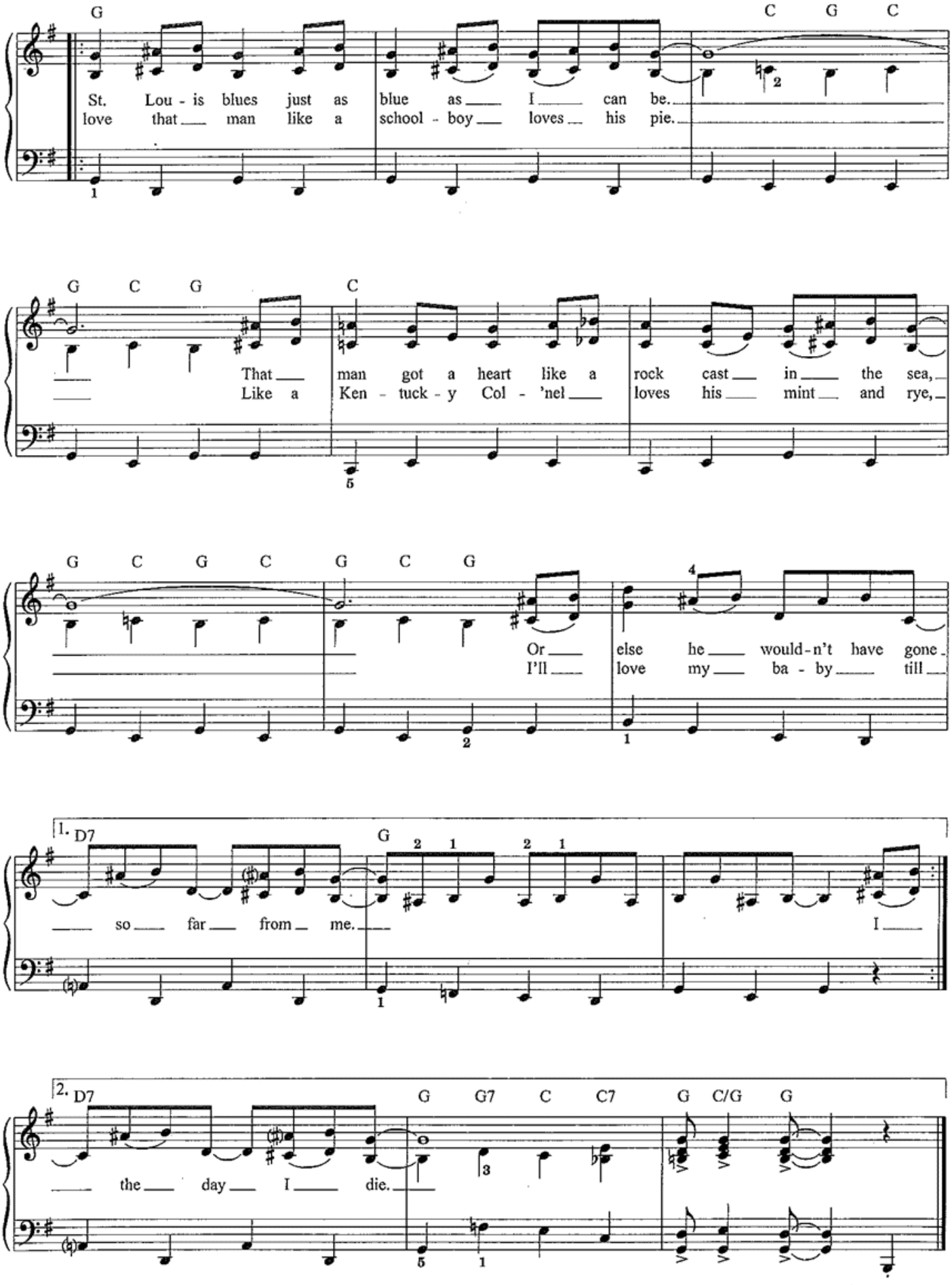
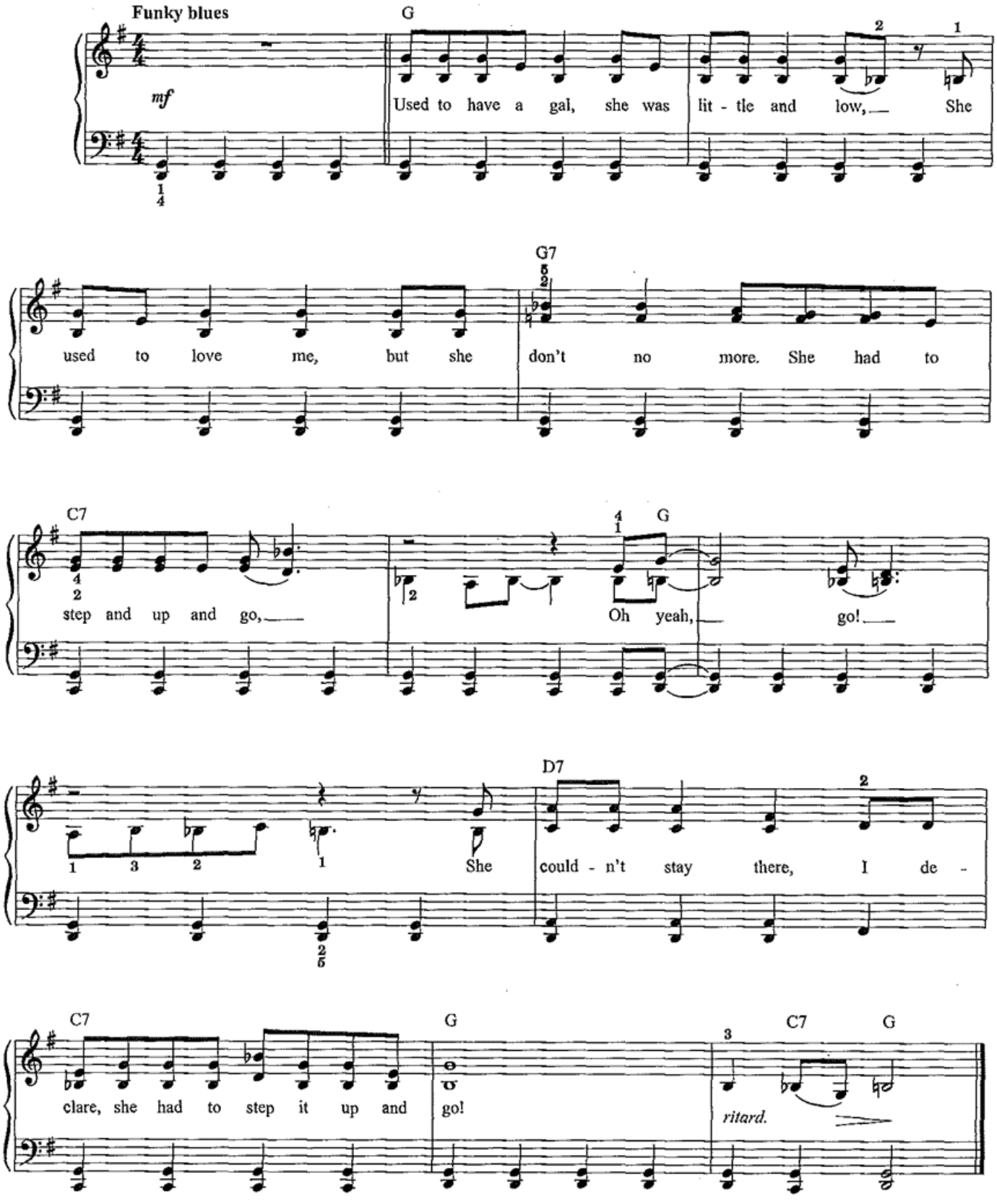

G
G7
town.
Feel - in' to - mor - row
C7
G
like I feel to -
day.
C7
G
Feel to - mor - row
like I feel to -
day.
D7
D+
D7
I'll pack my trunk,
make my get - a -
G
Gm
way.
St. Lou - is
wom - an


Cm/Eb
Gm
D7
with her dia-mond rings. Pulls that
man 'round by her a-pron strings.
Gm
Tweren't for pow-der and for store-bought
Cm/Eb
Gm
D7
hair, The man I love
Gm
A7
D7
would not go no - where, no - where. Got the
poco a poco cresc.
f


G
C G C
St. Lou - is blues just as blue as I can be.
love that man like a school - boy loves his pie.
G C G C
That man got a heart like a rock cast in the sea,
Like a Ken - tuck - y Col - 'nel loves his mint and rye,
G C G C G C G
Or else he would-n't have gone
I'll love my ba - by till
1. D7 G
so far from me. I
2. D7 G G7 C C7 G C/G G
the day I die.

Step It Up and Go

Traditional



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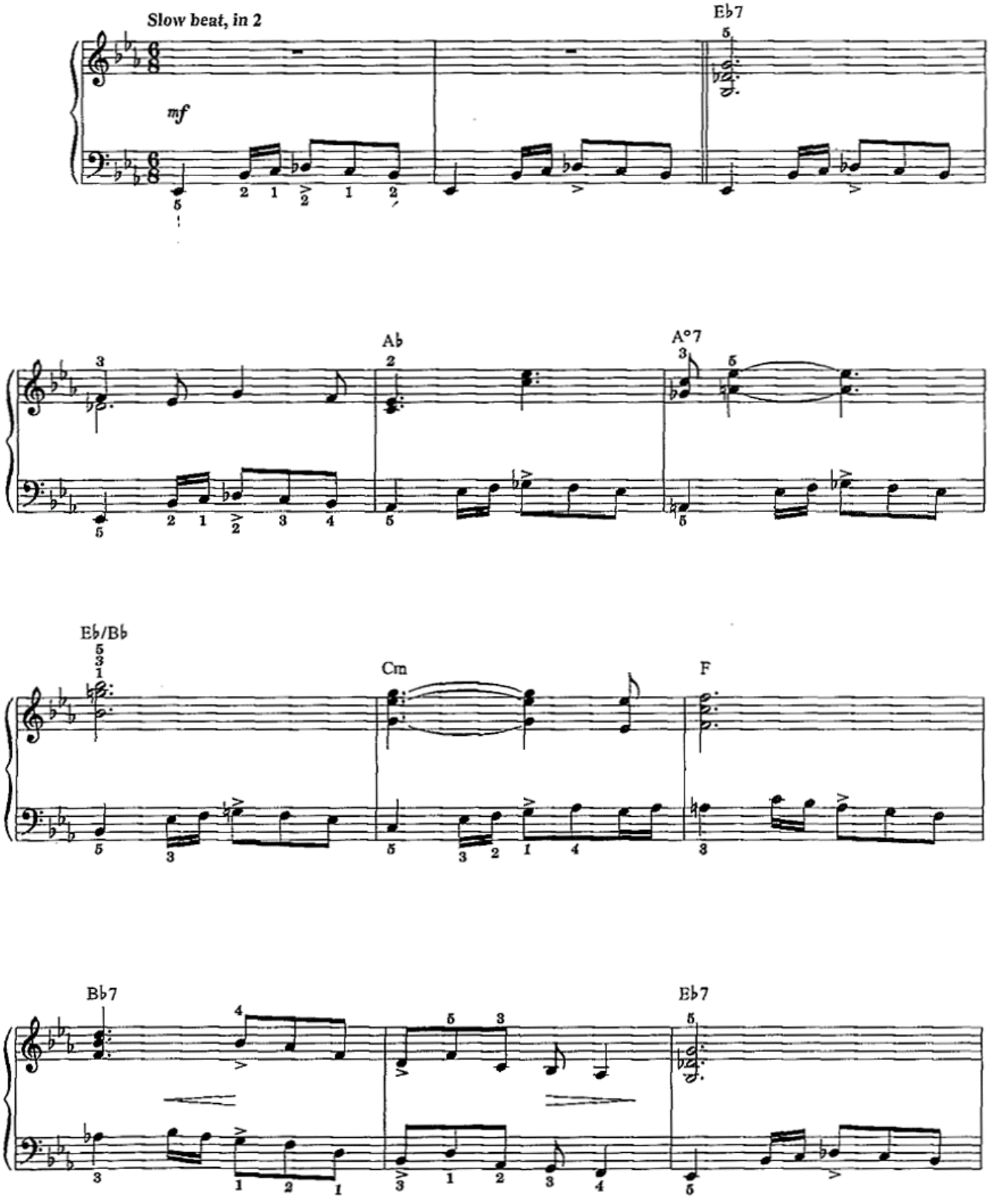
Swanee River Spiritual

Stephen Foster



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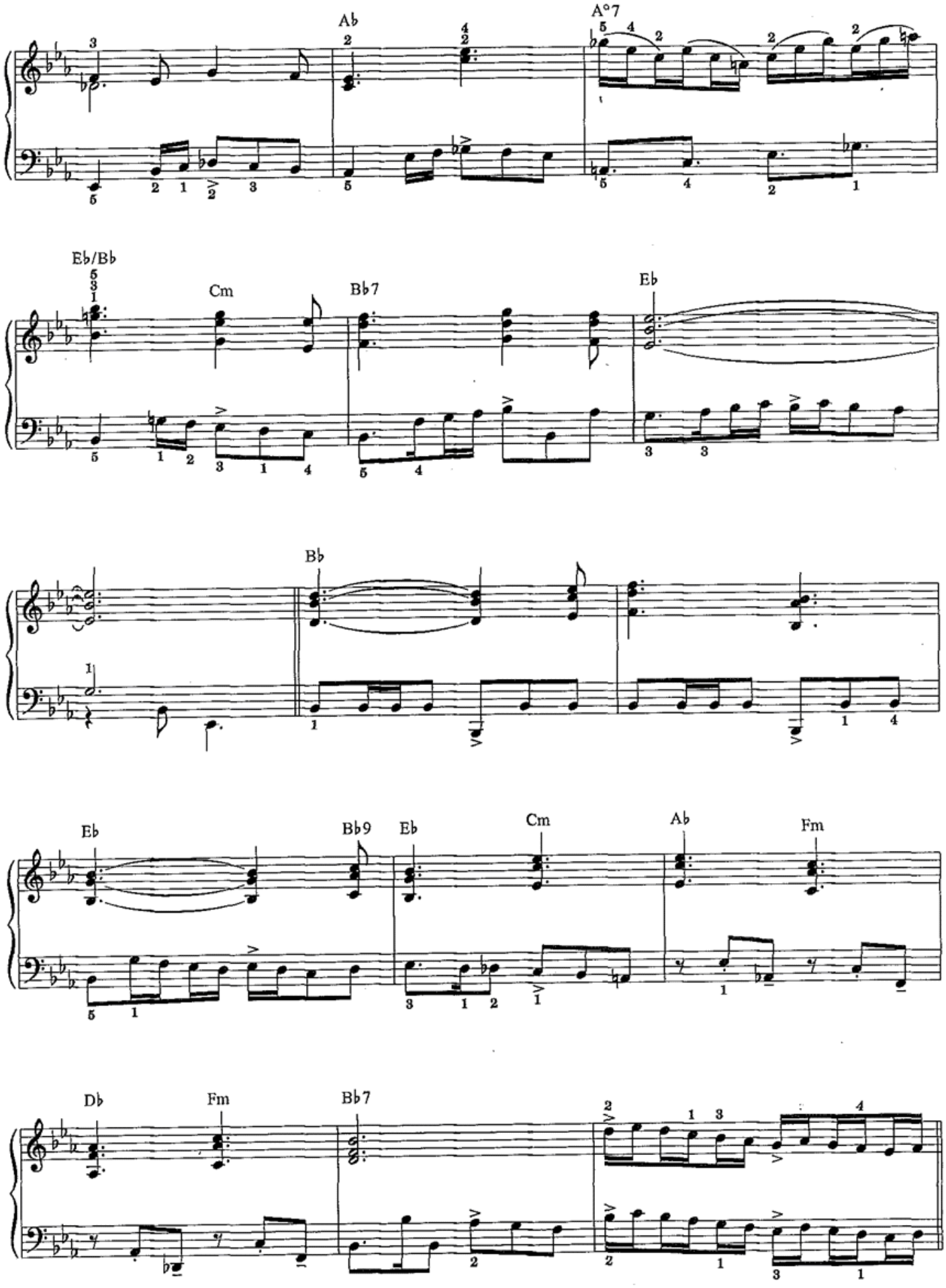
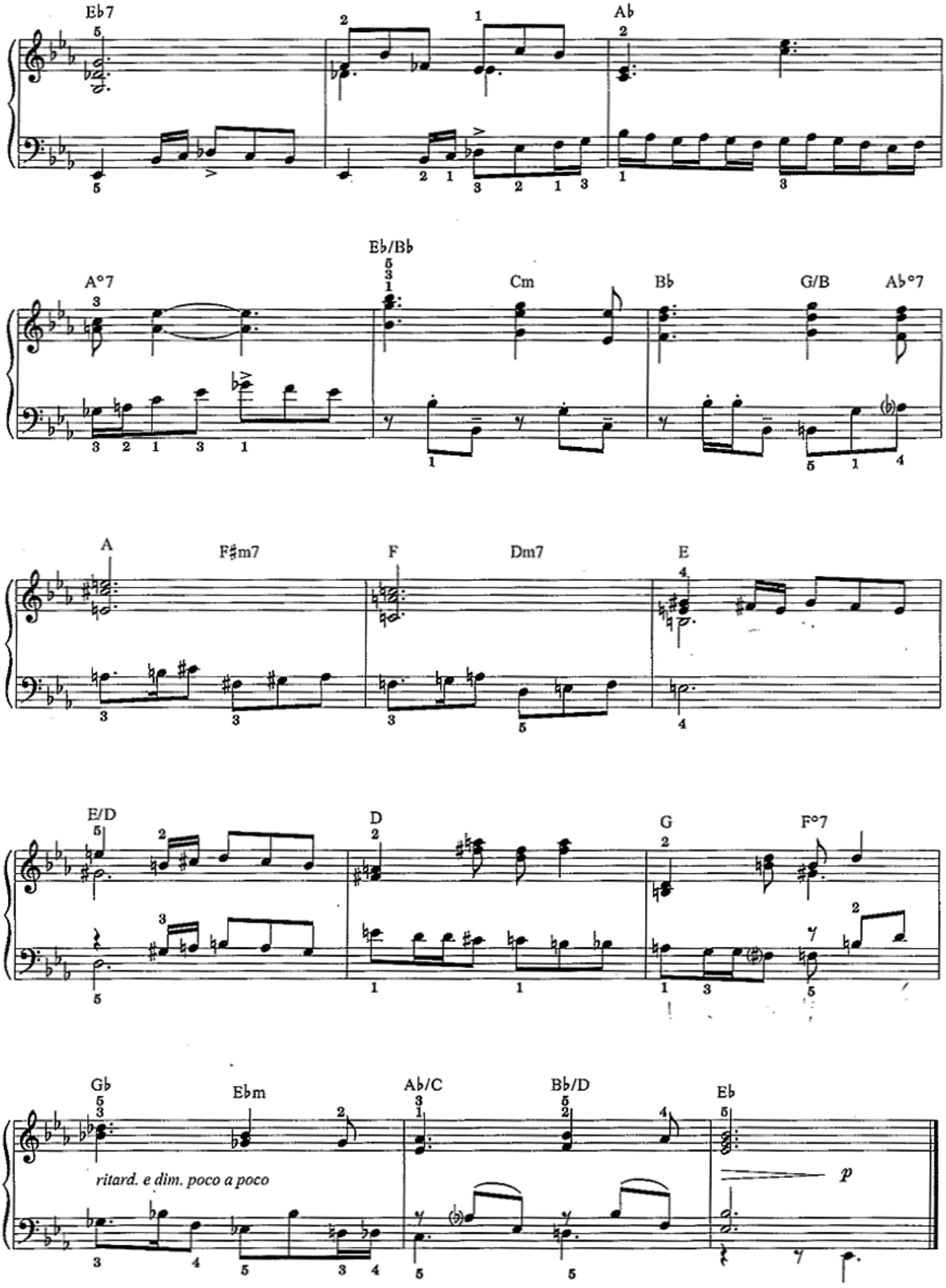
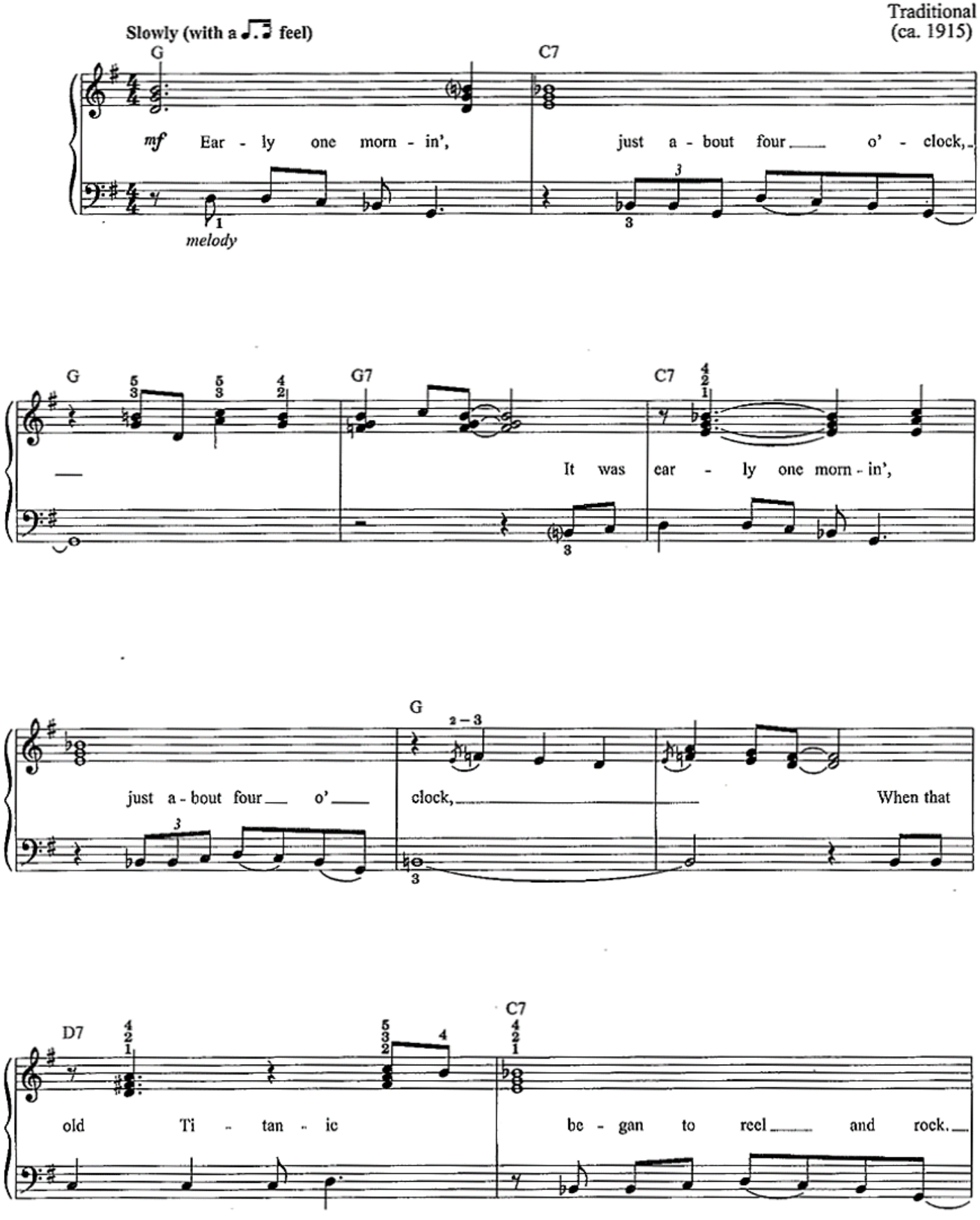

Ab
A°7
Eb/Bb
Cm
Bb7
Eb
Bb
Eb
Bb9
Eb
Cm
Ab
Fm
Db
Fm
Bb7


E♭7
A♭
A°7
E♭/B♭
Cm
B♭
G/B
A♭°7
A
F♯m7
F
Dm7
E
E/D
D
G
F°7
G♭
E♭m
A♭/C
B♭/D
E♭
ritard. e dim. poco a poco
p

Titanic Blues

Traditional
(ca. 1915)



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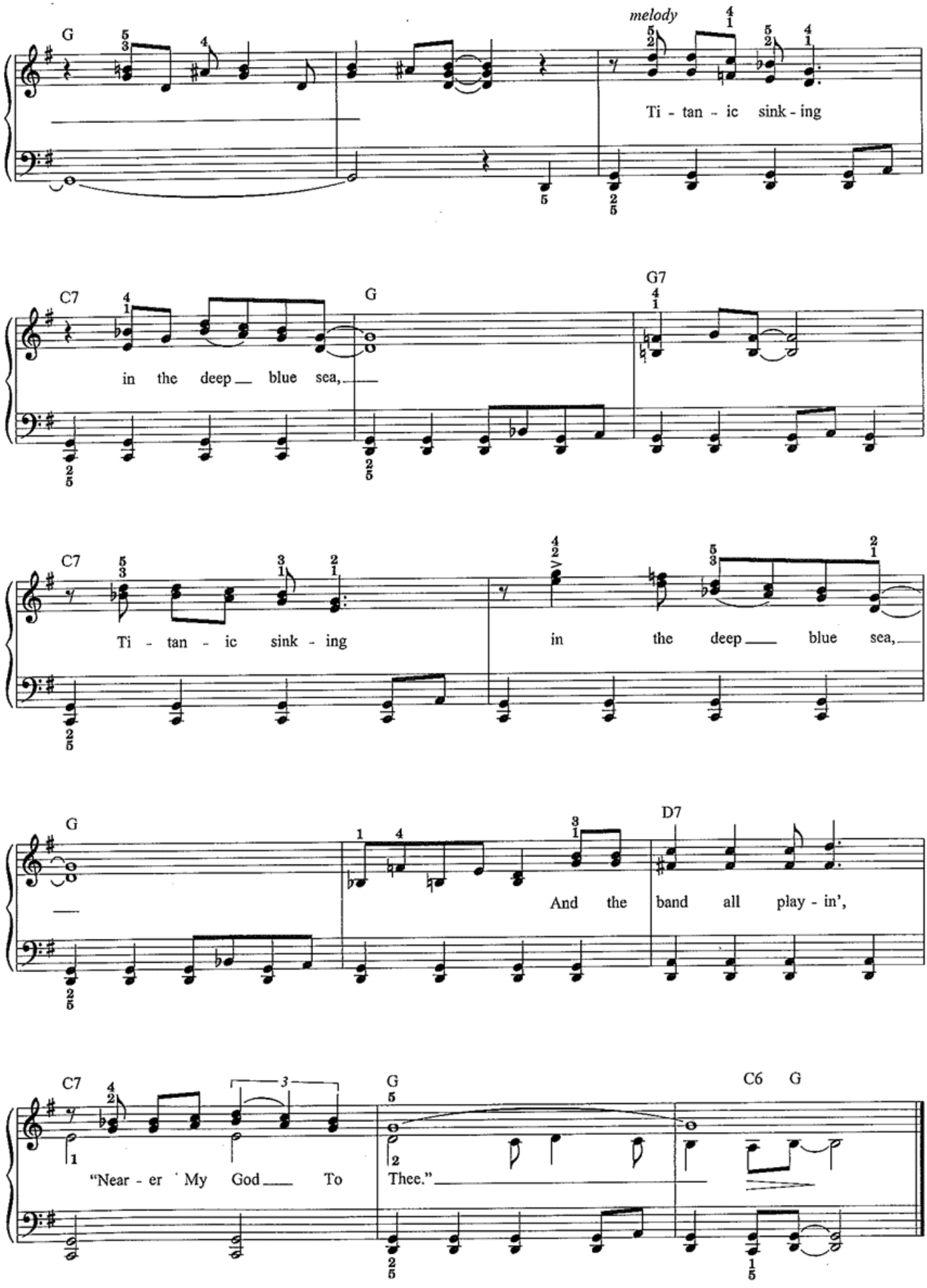
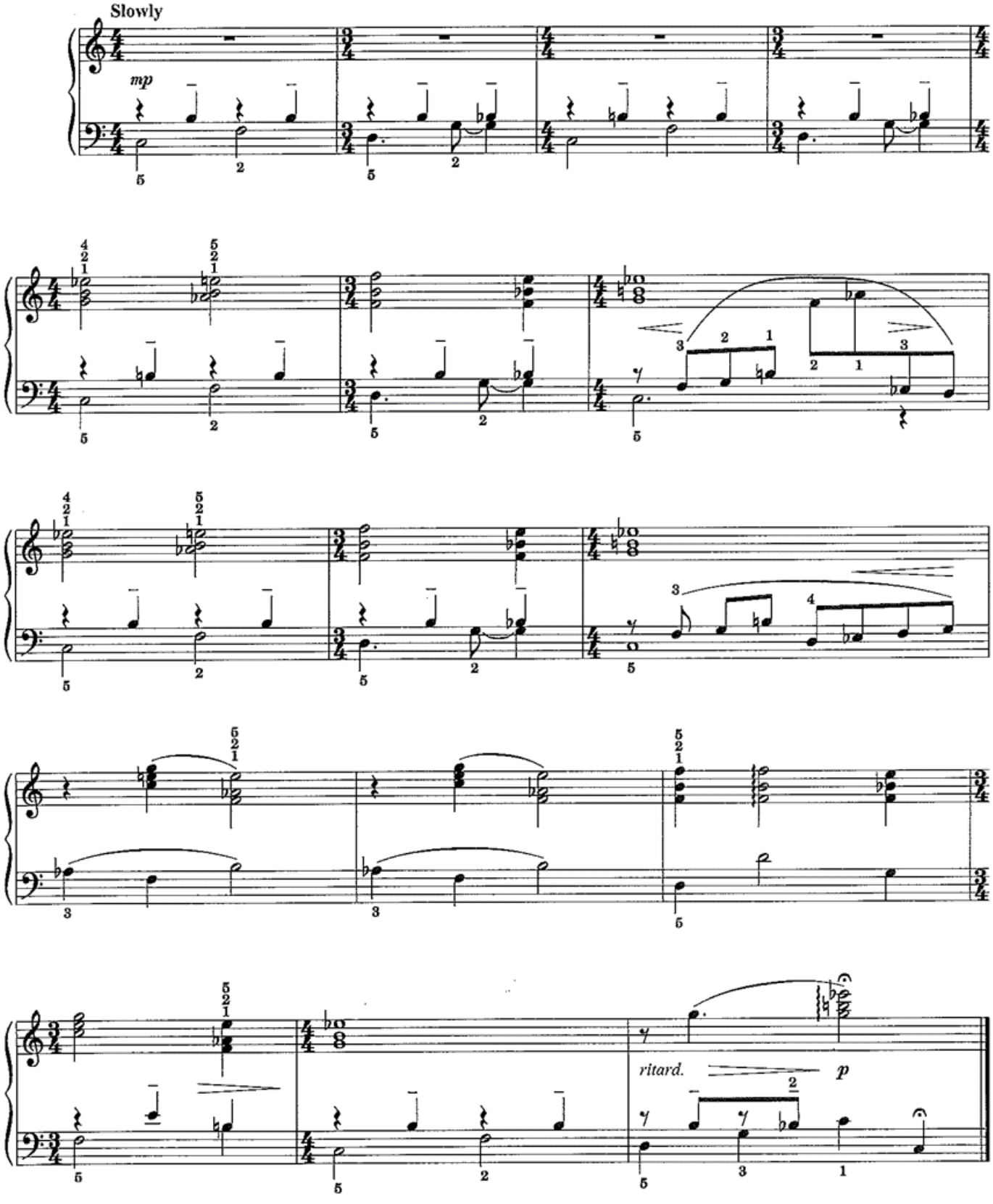

G
melody
Ti - tan - ic sink - ing
C7
G
G7
in the deep blue sea,
C7
Ti - tan - ic sink - ing
in the deep blue sea,
G
D7
And the band all play - in',
C7
G
C6 G
"Near - er My God To Thee."

Telephone Blues

Note: The numerical values of a phone number were used to create the scale, rhythm patterns, harmony, melody and form for this composition. Hence the title!

Frank Metis



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