HOME

# Charlie Parker
# Tune Book

Transcriptions by Fred Parcells

I would like to thank Alex Adrian and all my friends at the Eastman School of Music for the inspiration to start this project. I am especially grateful to Joe Salzano in Rochester, NY, who first motivated me to study Bird.

I am also indebted to Ran Blake, chairman of the Third Stream Department at the New England Conservatory for his teaching. I used his method to put this book together. First, I memorized the music from the various recordings and then learned to play the songs on my instrument, the trombone. Finally, I transcribed from memory exactly what I had learned, correcting my mistakes against the recordings.

To check the work, I used two sources: 1) Charlie Parker Ommibook by Jamie Abersold and Ken Slone (Atlantic Music Corp., 1978) and 2) Charlie Parker: Techniques of Improvisation by Thomas Owens (Doctoral Dissertation, University of California, L.A., 1974).

In closing, this book is dedicated to the genius of Charlie Parker. To my knowledge, this collection is the best available representation of the melodies and chords of Bird. In essence, this book is my attempt to write down the music of Charlie Parker with the same excellence with which he played.

Enjoy.

Fred Parcells, Transcriber
August 2, 1979

# BIRD TUNES

AH LEU CHA

AN OSCAR FOR TREADWELL

ANOTHER HAIR DO

ANTHROPOLOGY (Thriving on a Riff)

AU PRIVAVE

BACK HOME BLUES

BALLADE

BARBADOS

BIG FOOT (Drifting on a Reed)
(Air Conditioning)

BILLIES' BOUNCE

BIRD, THE

BIRD FEATHERS

BIRD GETS THE WORM

BIRD OF PARADISE

BIRDS NEST

BLOOMDIDO

BLUE BIRD

BLUES (fast)

BLUES FOR ALICE

BONGO BEEP

BONGO BOP

BUZZY

CARDBOARD

CELEBRITY (Celerity)

CHARLIE'S WIG

CHASIN' THE BIRD

CHERYL

CHI CHI

CONFIRMATION

CONSTELLATION

COOL BLUES

COSMIC RAYS

CRAZEOLOGY

DEWEY SQUARE

DEXTERITY

DONNA LEE

HAPPY BIRD BLUES

HOME COOKIN' II

HOME COOKIN' III

HYMN, THE

JUMPIN' BLUES, THE

K. C. BLUES

KIM

KLACTOVEEDSEDSTENE

KLAUNSTANCE

KO KO

LAIRD BAIRD

LEAP FROG

LITTLE WILLIE LEAPS

MARMADUKE

MEANDERING

# BIRD TUNES (2)

MERRY GO ROUND

MOHAWK

MOOSE THE MOOCH

MY LITTLE SUEDE SHOES

NOW'S THE TIME

ORNITHOLOGY

PARKER'S MOOD

PASSPORT

PERHAPS

QUASIMADO

RED CROSS

RELAXIN' WITH LEE

RELAXIN' AT CAMARILLO

SCRAPPLE

SEGMENT (Diverse)

SHAW NUFF

SHE ROTE

SI SI

STEEPLE CHASE

STREET BEAT, THE (Rifftide)

VISA

WARMIN' UP A RIFF

YARDBIRD SUITE

# BIRD TUNES
## by Form and Key

F BLUES

AU PRIVAVE

BARBADOS

BILLIE'S BOUNCE

BLUES FOR ALICE

THE JUMPIN'BLUES

NOW'S THE TIME

SI SI

F "I GOT RHYTHM"

AH LEU CHA

CHASIN' THE BIRD

LEAP FROG

SCRAPPLE

F OTHER

BALLADE
"I GOT IT BAD" AABA

CONFIRMATION
AABA

KLAUNSTANCE
"THE WAY YOU LOOK TONIGHT"

LITTLE WILLIE LEAPS
"ALL GOD'S CHILDREN GOT RHYTHM"

MARMADUKE
"HONEYSUCKLE ROSE"

$B^b$ BLUES

ANOTHER HAIR DO

BIG FOOT

BIRD FEATHERS

BLOOMIDO

BLUES (fast)

BUZZY

THE HYMN

LAIRD BAIRD

MOHAWK

PARKERS MOOD

$B^b$ "I GOT RHYTHM"

ANTHROPOLOGY

BIRDS NEST
(Different 'B' section)

CELEBRITY

CRAZEOLOGY

DEXTERITY

KIM

KLACTOVEEDSEDSTENE

MERRY GO ROUND
(HONEYSUCKLE ROSE 'B')

MOOSE THE MOOCHE

PASSPORT

RED CROSS

SHAW NUFF

STEEPLE CHASE

BIRD TUNES
by Form and Key (2)

$B^b$ "CHEROKEE"

HOME COOKIN' II

KO KO

WARMIN' UP A RIFF

$B^b$ OTHER

CHARLIE'S WIG
"WHEN I GET TOO OLD TO DREAM"

SEGMENT
$B^b$ MINOR AABA

SHE ROTE
ABAC

C BLUES

BACK HOME BLUES

BONGO BEEP

BONGO BOP

CHERYL

COOL BLUES

COSMIC RAYS

HAPPY BIRD BLUES

K.C. BLUES

PERHAPS

RELAXIN' AT CAMARILLO

VISA

C "I GOT RHYTHM"

AN OSCAR FOR TREADWELL

CONSTELLATION
"HONEYSUCKLE ROSE 'B'"

C OTHER

THE BIRD
C MINOR ABCA

CARDBOARD
ABAC

YARDBIRD SUITE
AABA

$E^b$ BLUES

BLUE BIRD

$E^b$ "I GOT RHYTHM"

DEWEY SQUARE

HOME COOKIN' III

MY LITTLE SUEDE SHOES

$E^b$ "EMBRACEABLE YOU"

MEANDERING

QUASIMADO

$A^b$ BLUES

CHI CHI

$A^b$ "I GOT RHYTHM"

THE STREET BEAT

$A^b$ OTHER

BIRD GETS THE WORM
"LOVER COME BACK TO ME"

BIRD OF PARADISE
"ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE"

DONNA LEE
"INDIANA"

BIRD TUNES
by Form and Key (3)

$D^b$ OTHER

RELAXIN' WITH LEE
"STOMPIN AT THE SAVOY"

G OTHER

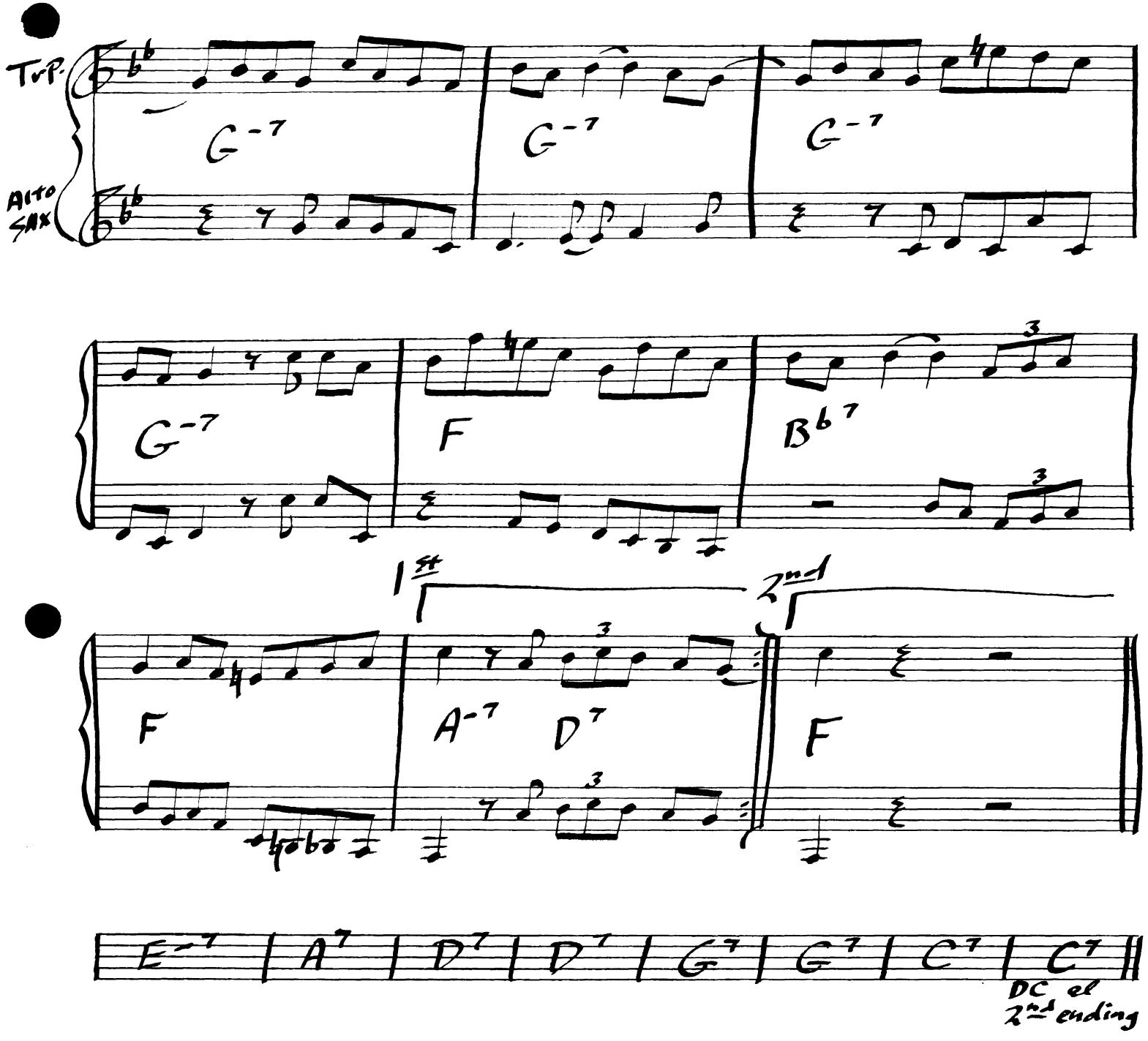
ORNITHOLOGY
"HOW HIGH THE MOON"

C. Parker

F RHY.

# AH-LEU-CHA

9/18/48
SAVOY 5500

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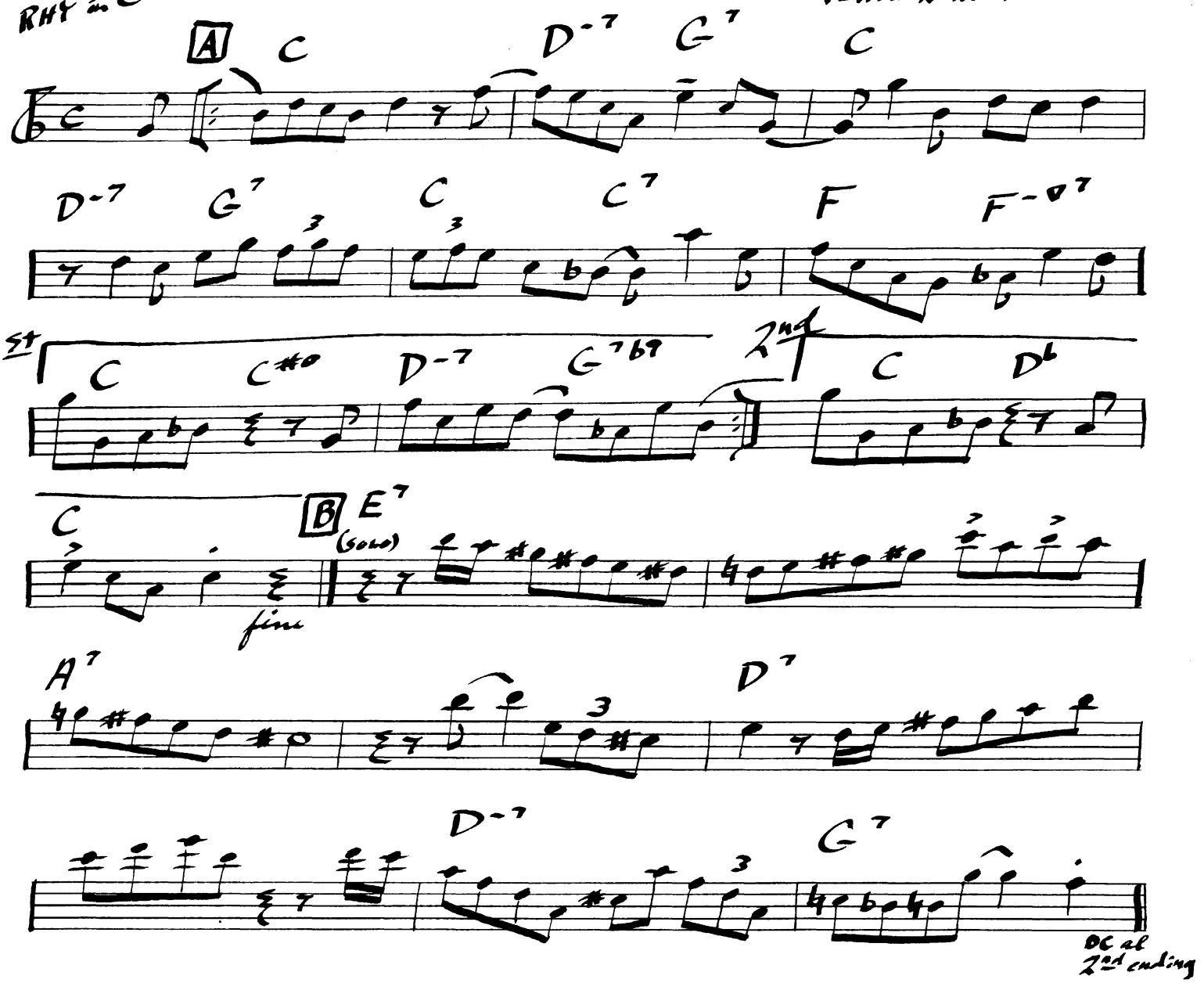
# AN OSCAR FOR TREADWELL

C. Parker
5/6/50
VERVE 2-2501

RHY in C




AABA (Last x 2nd ending)

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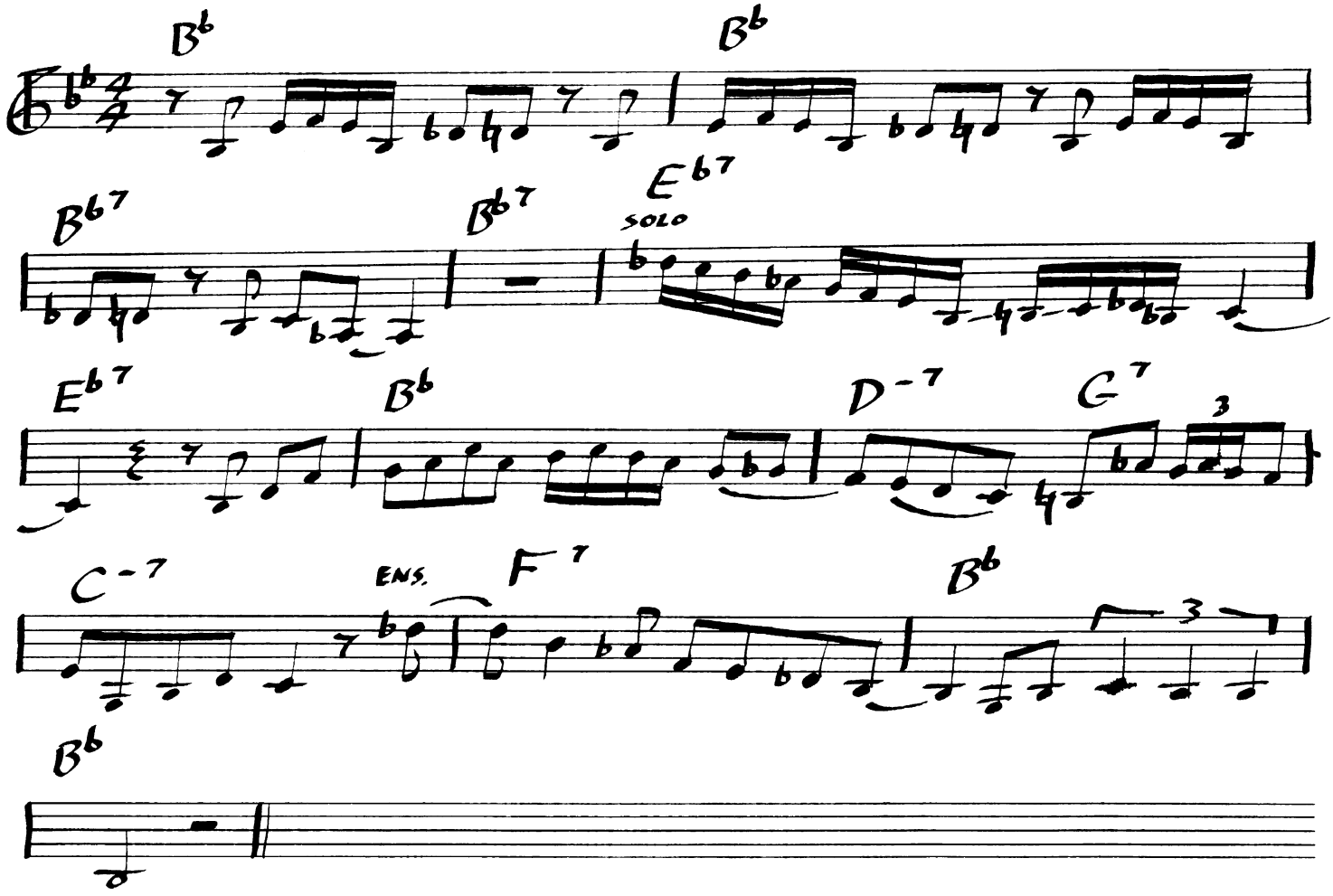
B♭ BLUES

C. Parker

# ANOTHER HAIR DO

12/21/47
SAVOY 5500

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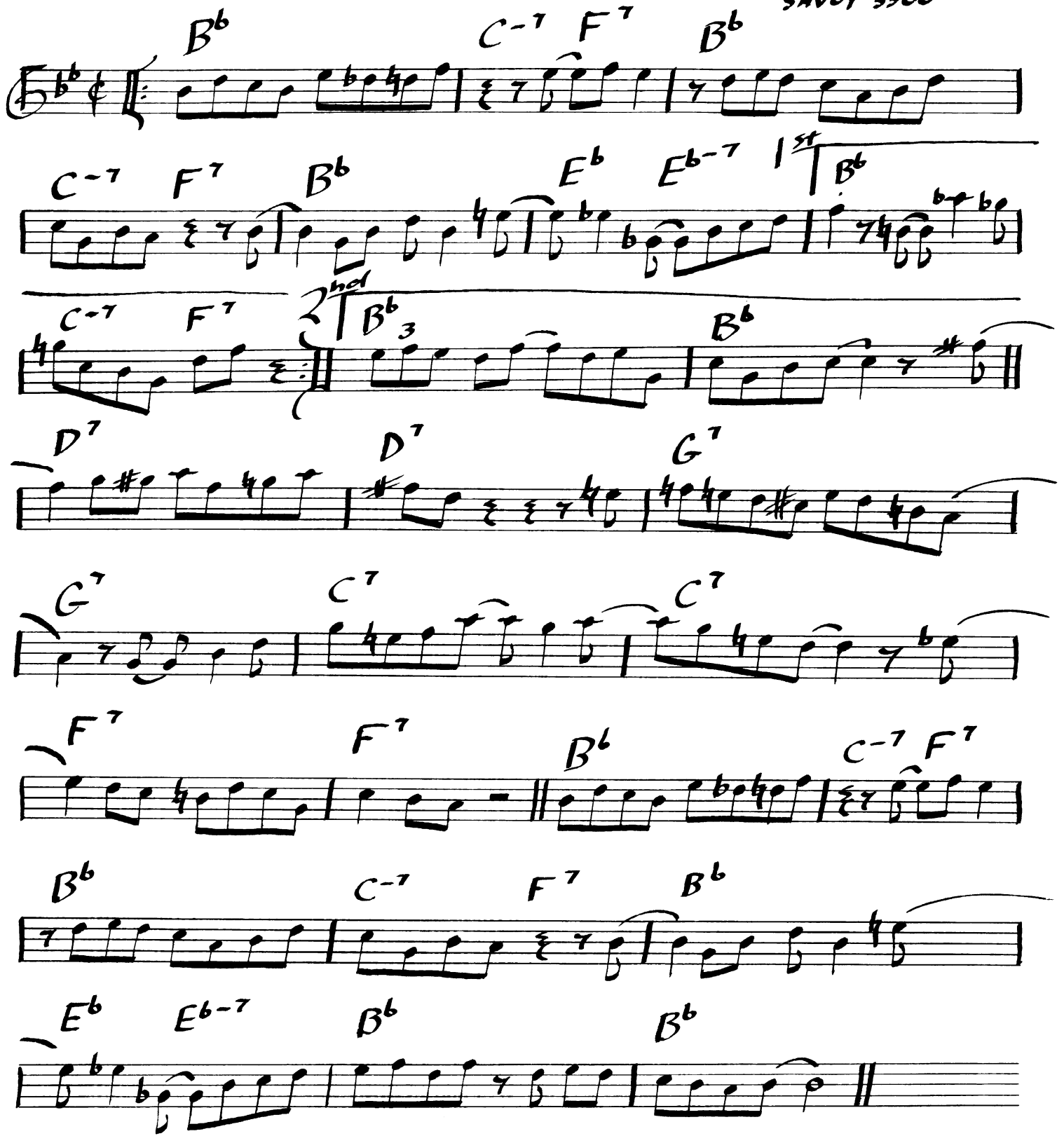
(THRIVING ON A RIFF)

# ANTHROPOLOGY

C. Parker
D. Gillespie

11/26/45
SAVOY 5500

B♭ RHY.

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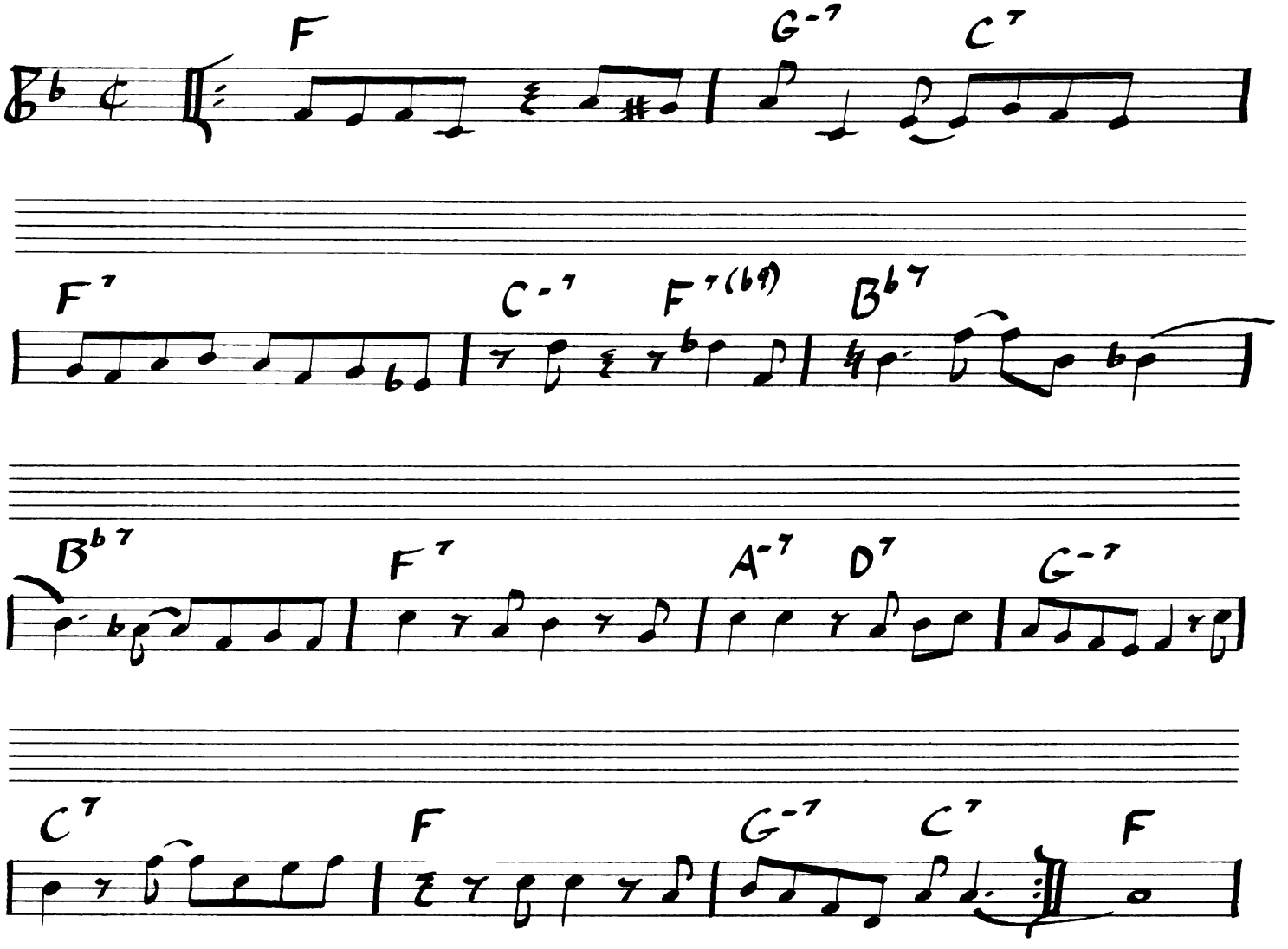
C. Parker

F BLUES

# AU-PRIVAVE

1/17/51
VERVE 2-2512

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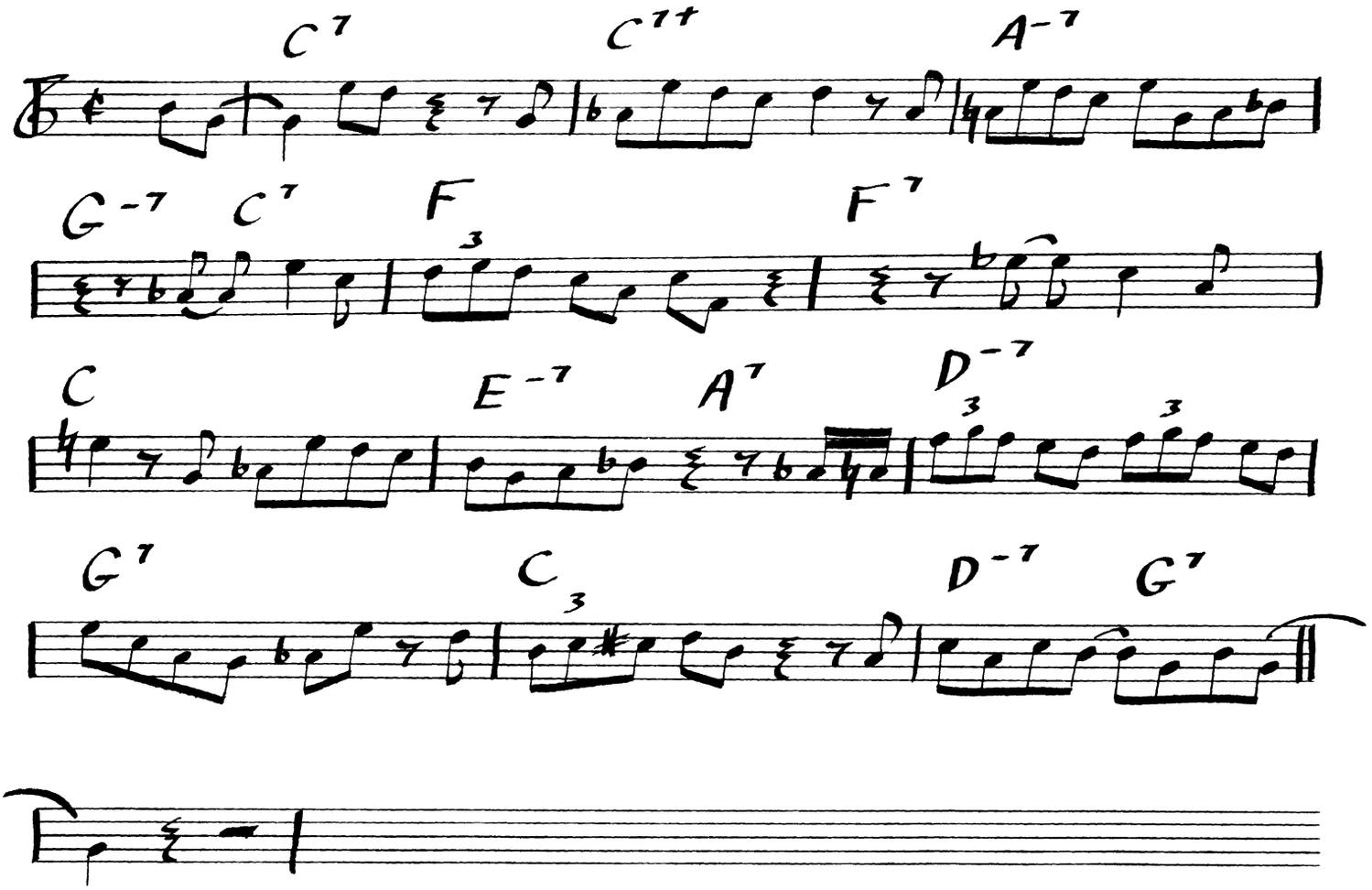
C BLUES

C. Parker

# BACK HOME BLUES

8/8/51
VERVE 2-2512

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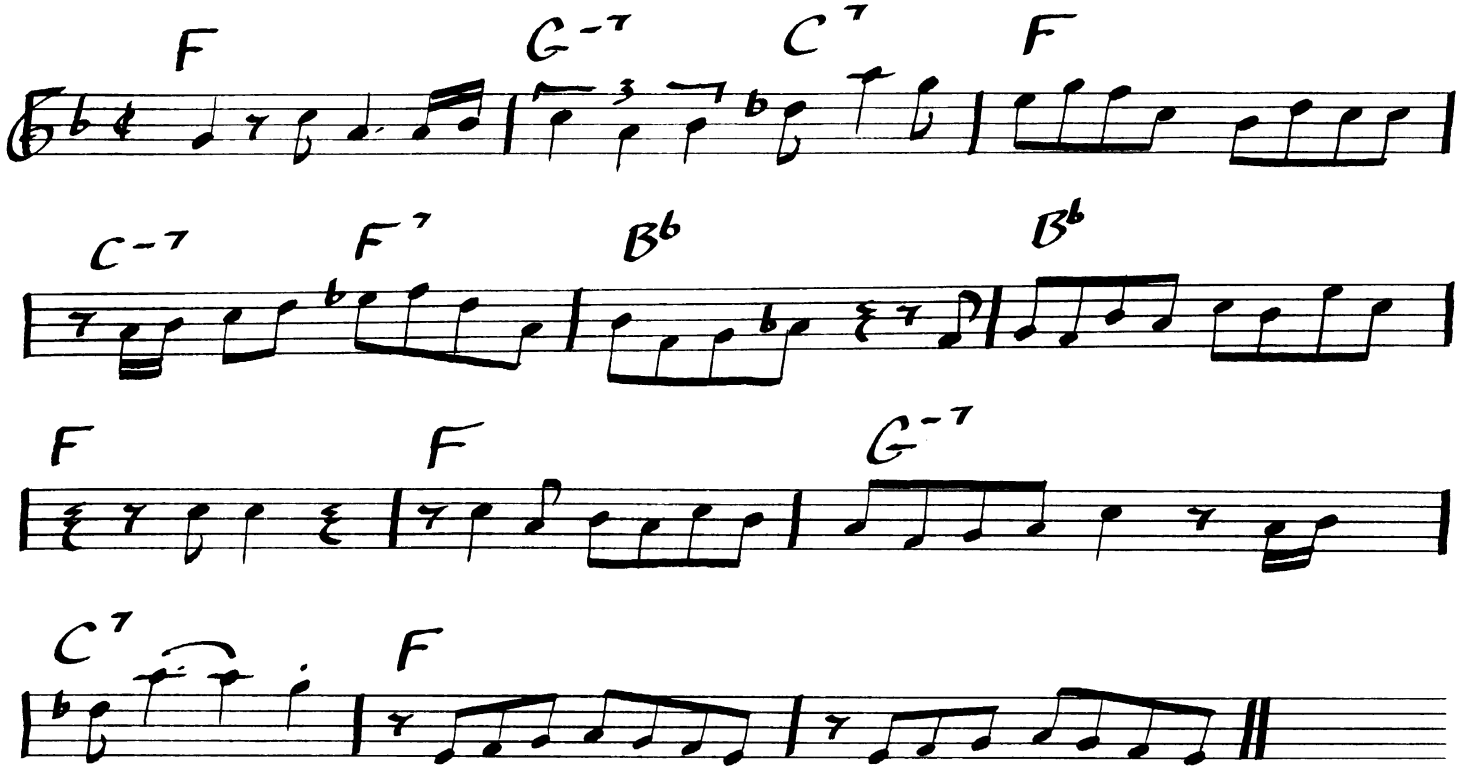
F BLUES

C. Parker

# BARBADOS

9/18/48
SAVOY 5500

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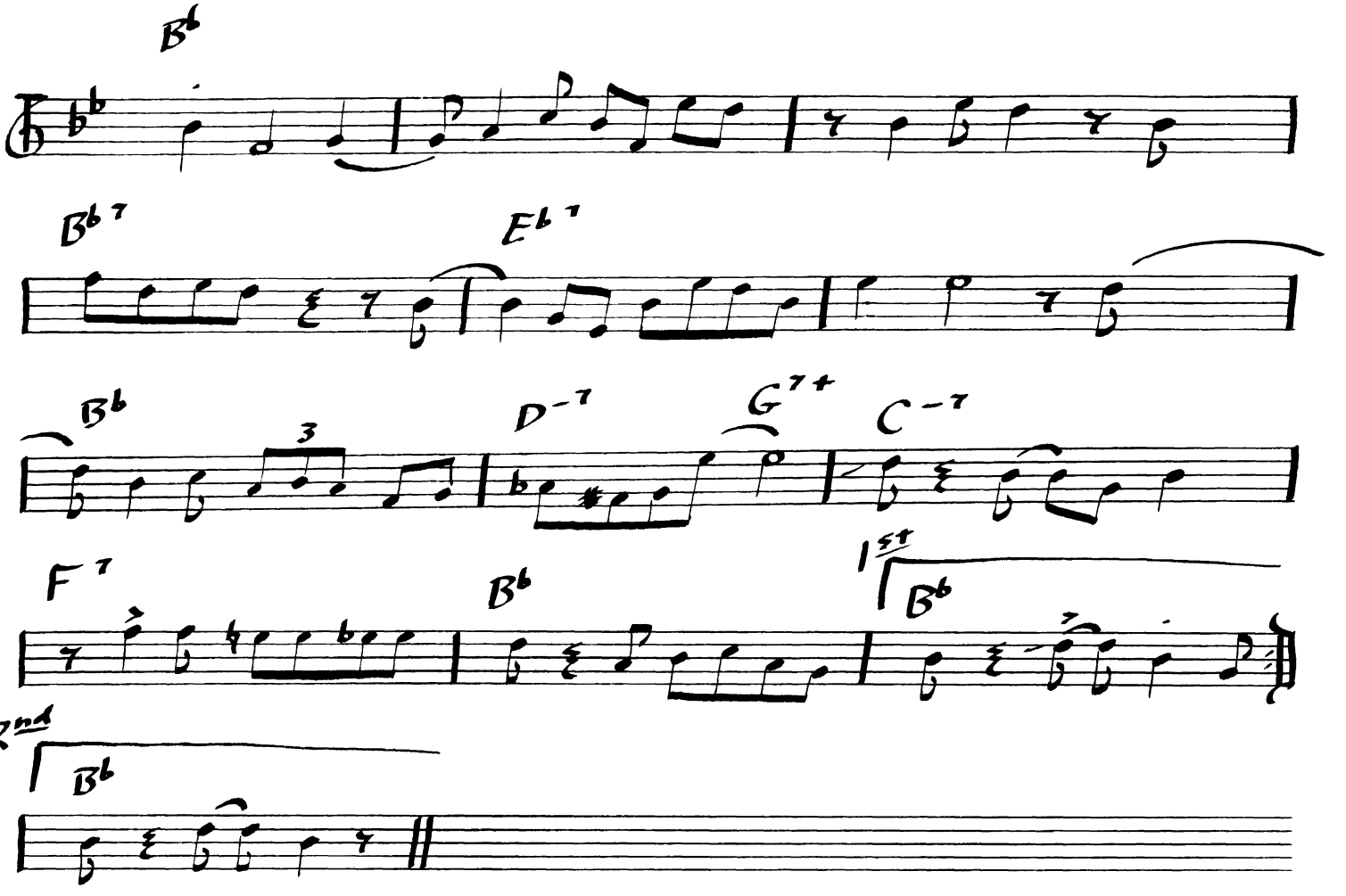
B♭ BLUES

# BIG FOOT

(Air Conditioning)
(Drifting on a Reed)

Parker

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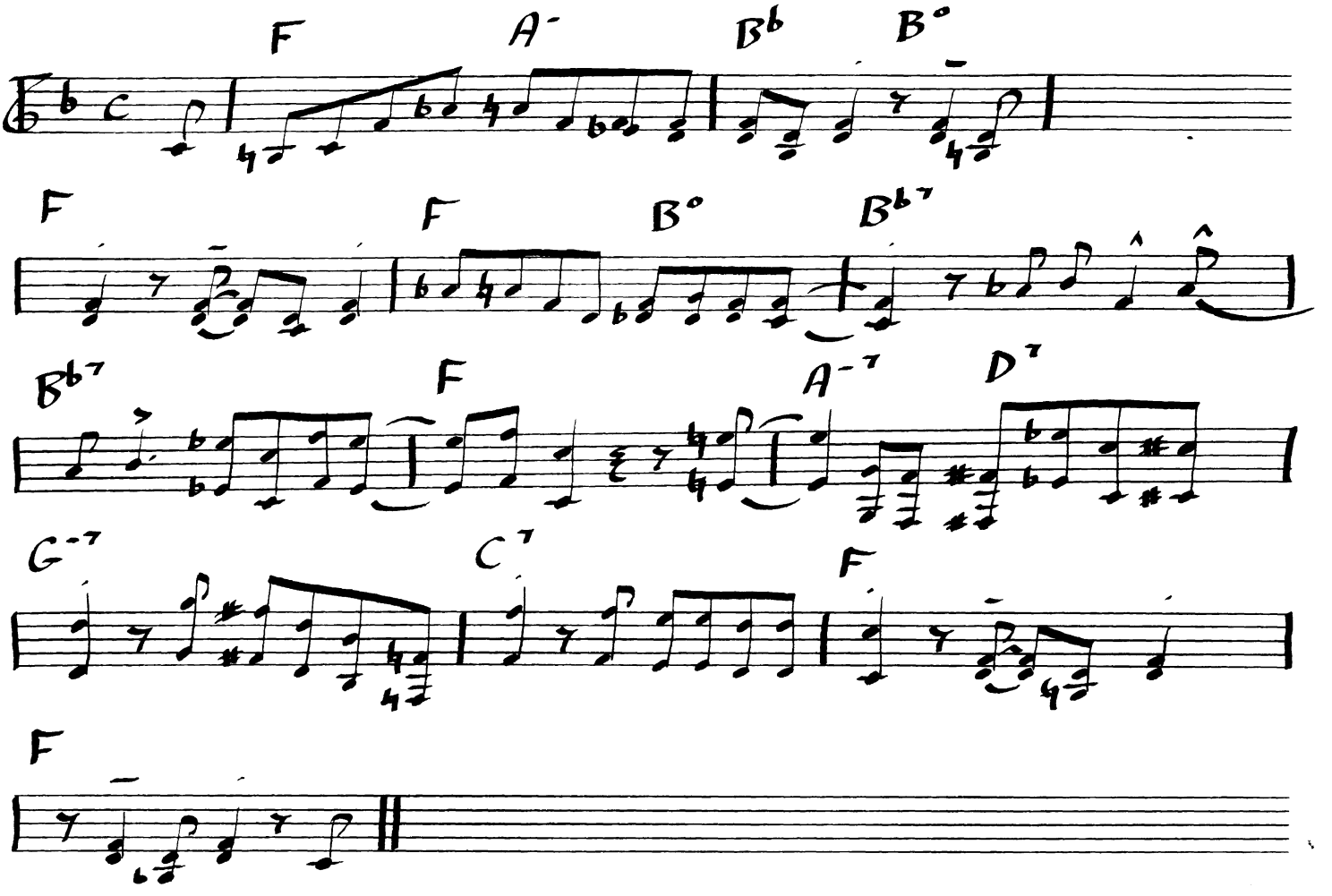
F blues

# Billie's Bounce

C. Parker
11/26/45
SAVOY 5500

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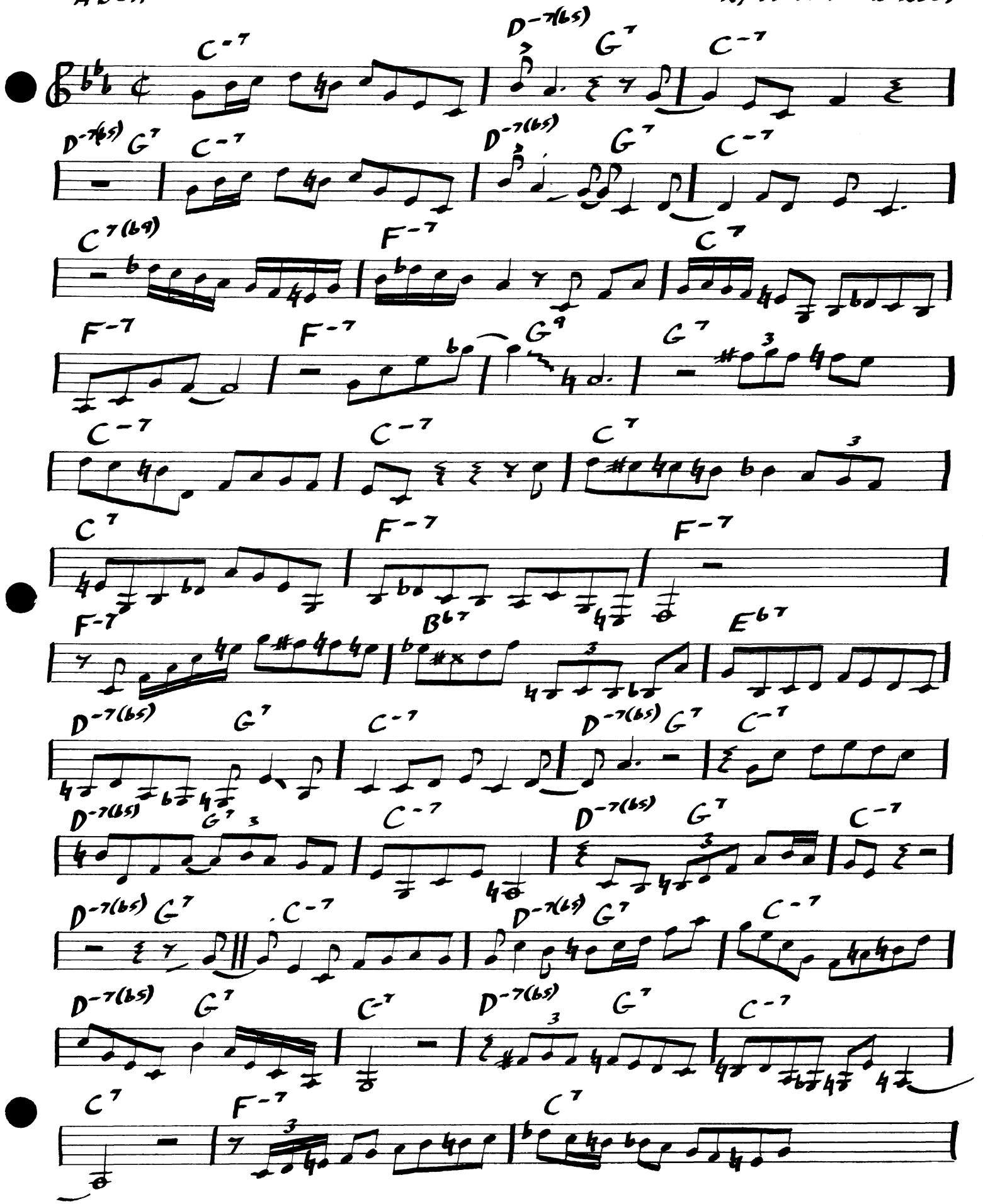
C minor
ABCA

# THE BIRD

C. Parker
2/49 VERVE 2-2501

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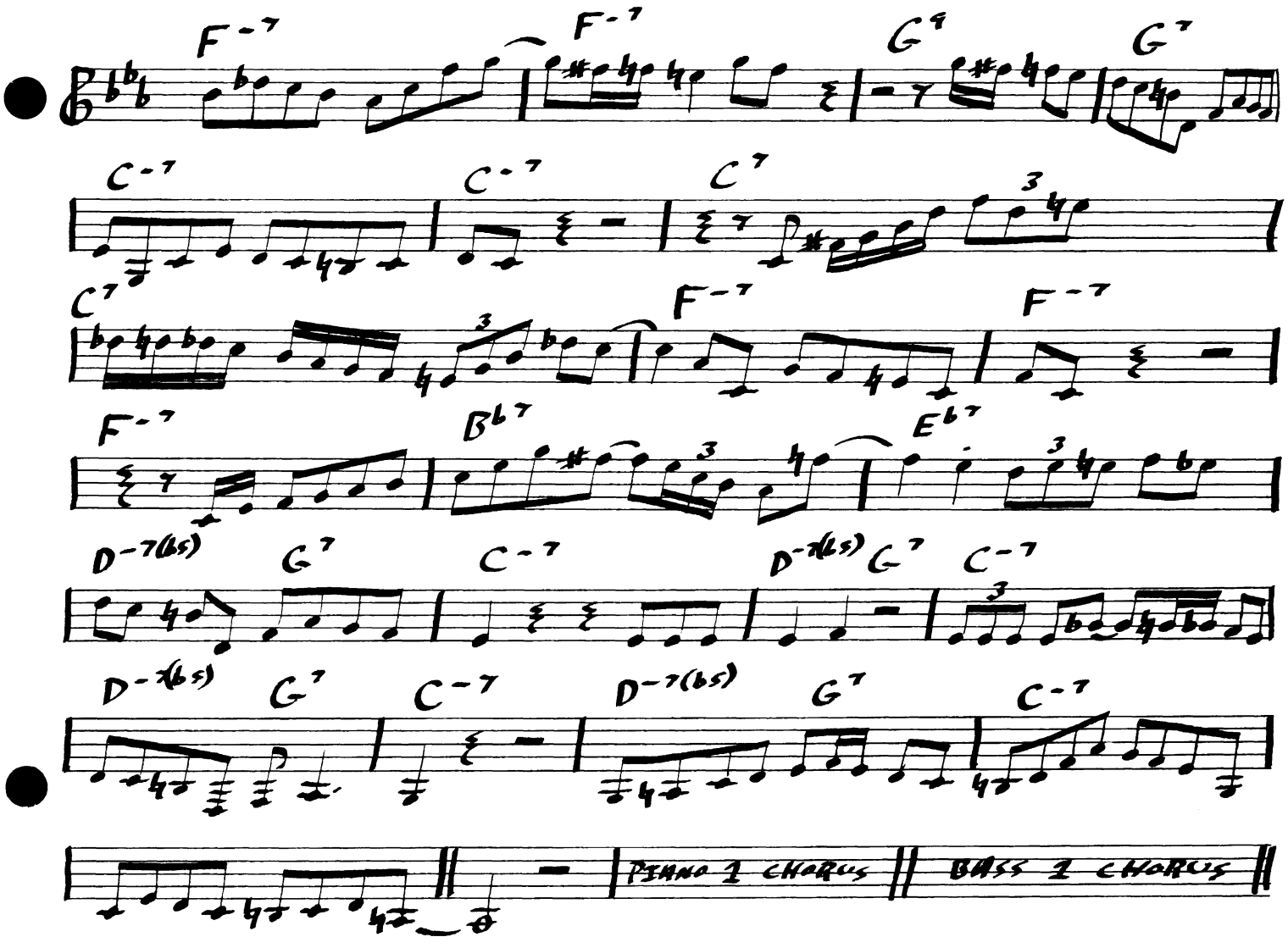
2) The Bird

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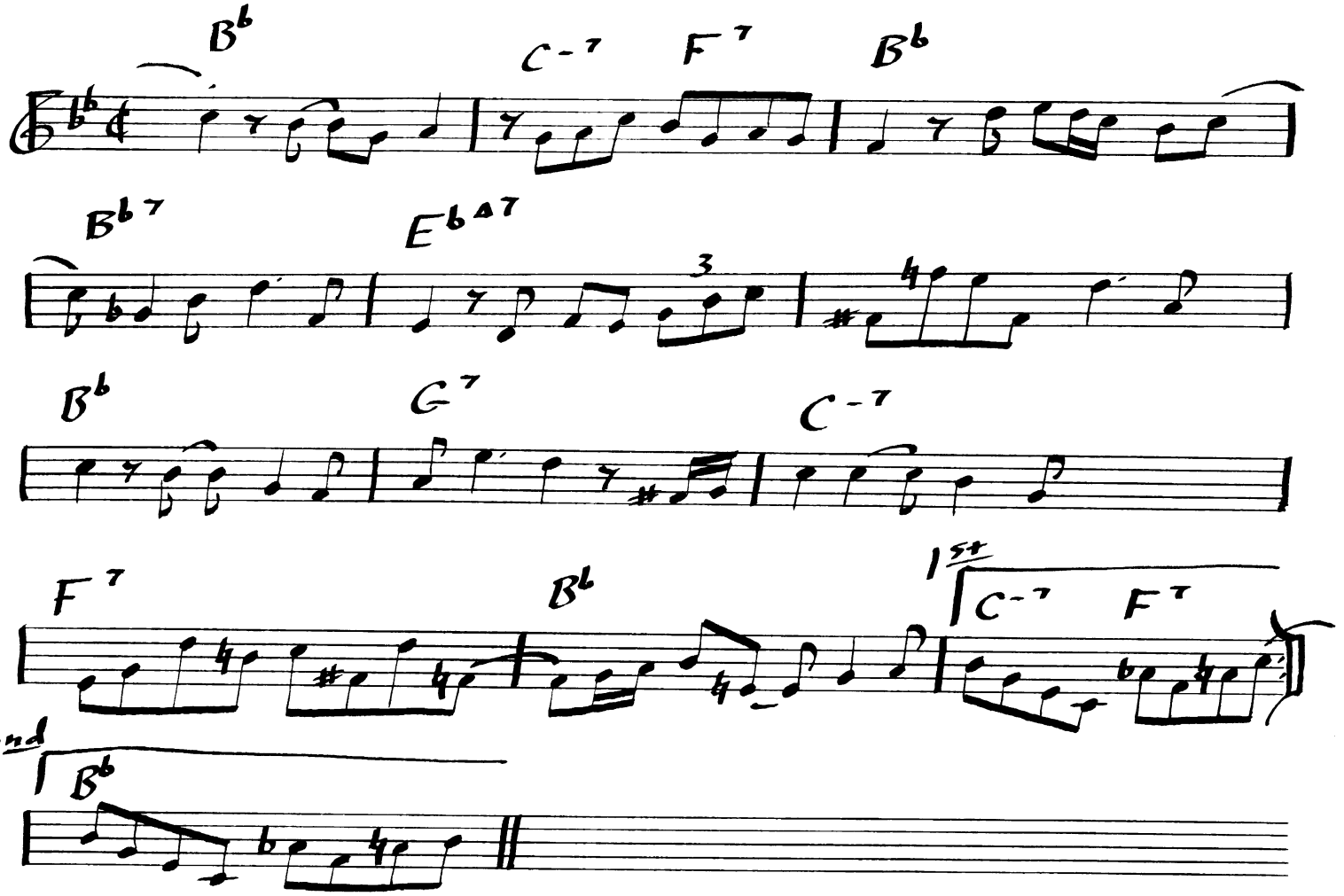
B♭ BLUES

C. Parker

# BIRD FEATHERS

11/4/47
SPOTLITE 105

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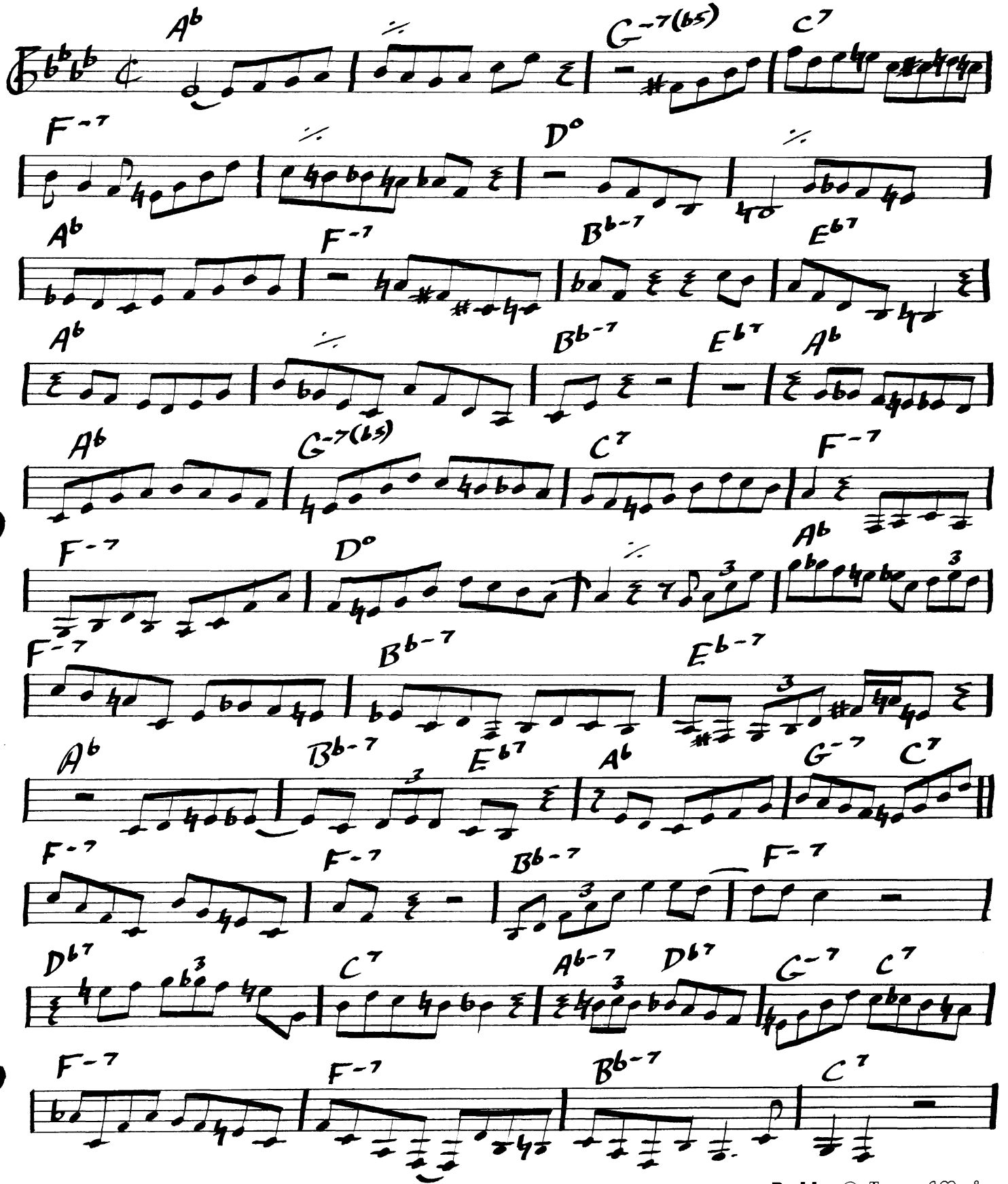
A♭ "Lover Come Back To Me"

# BIRD GETS THE WORM

12/21/47
SAVOY 5500

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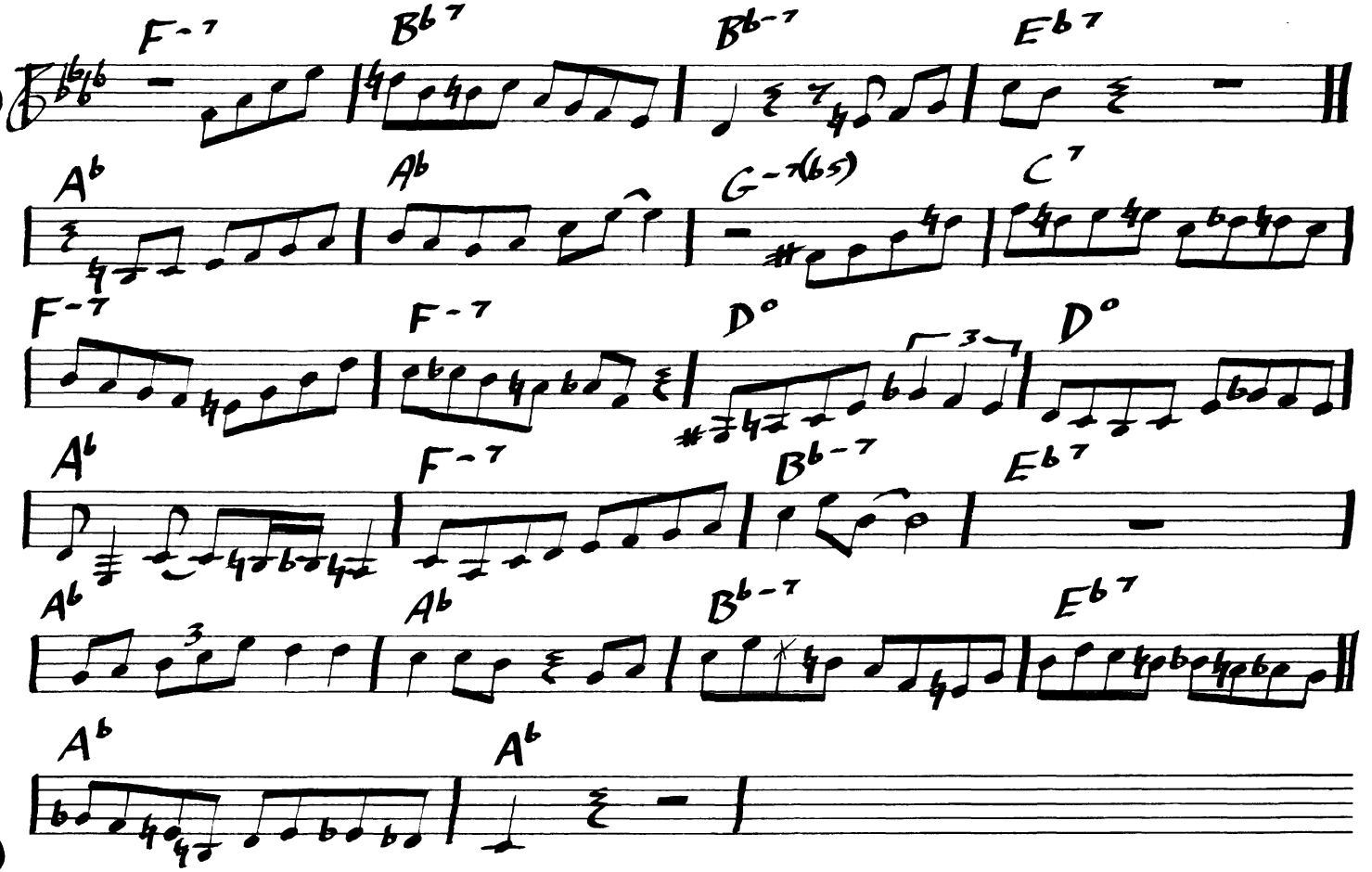
2)

# BIRD GETS THE WORM

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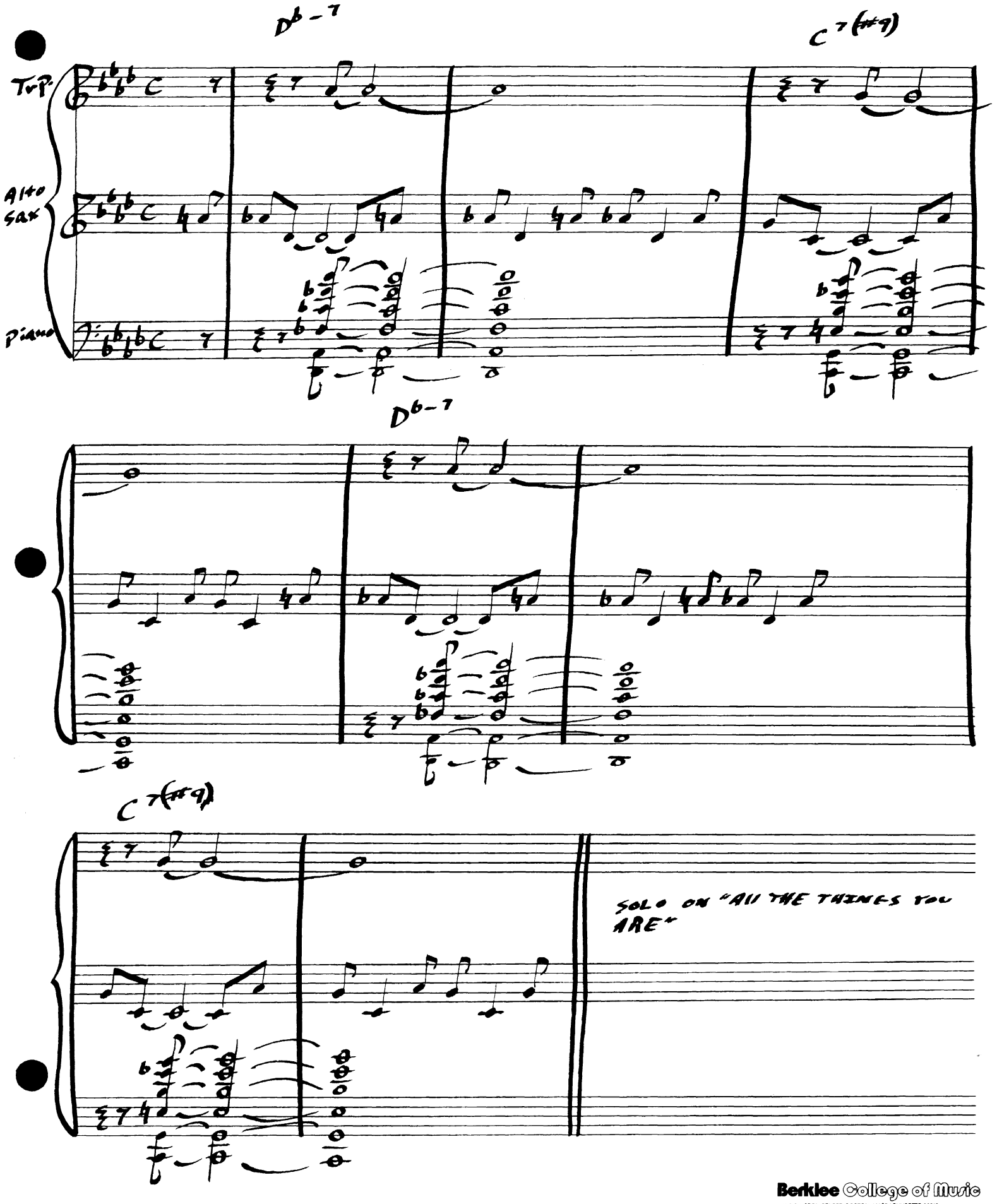
# BIRD OF PARADISE

C. Parker
10/28/48
SPOTLITE 104

A♭
"All the Things You Are"

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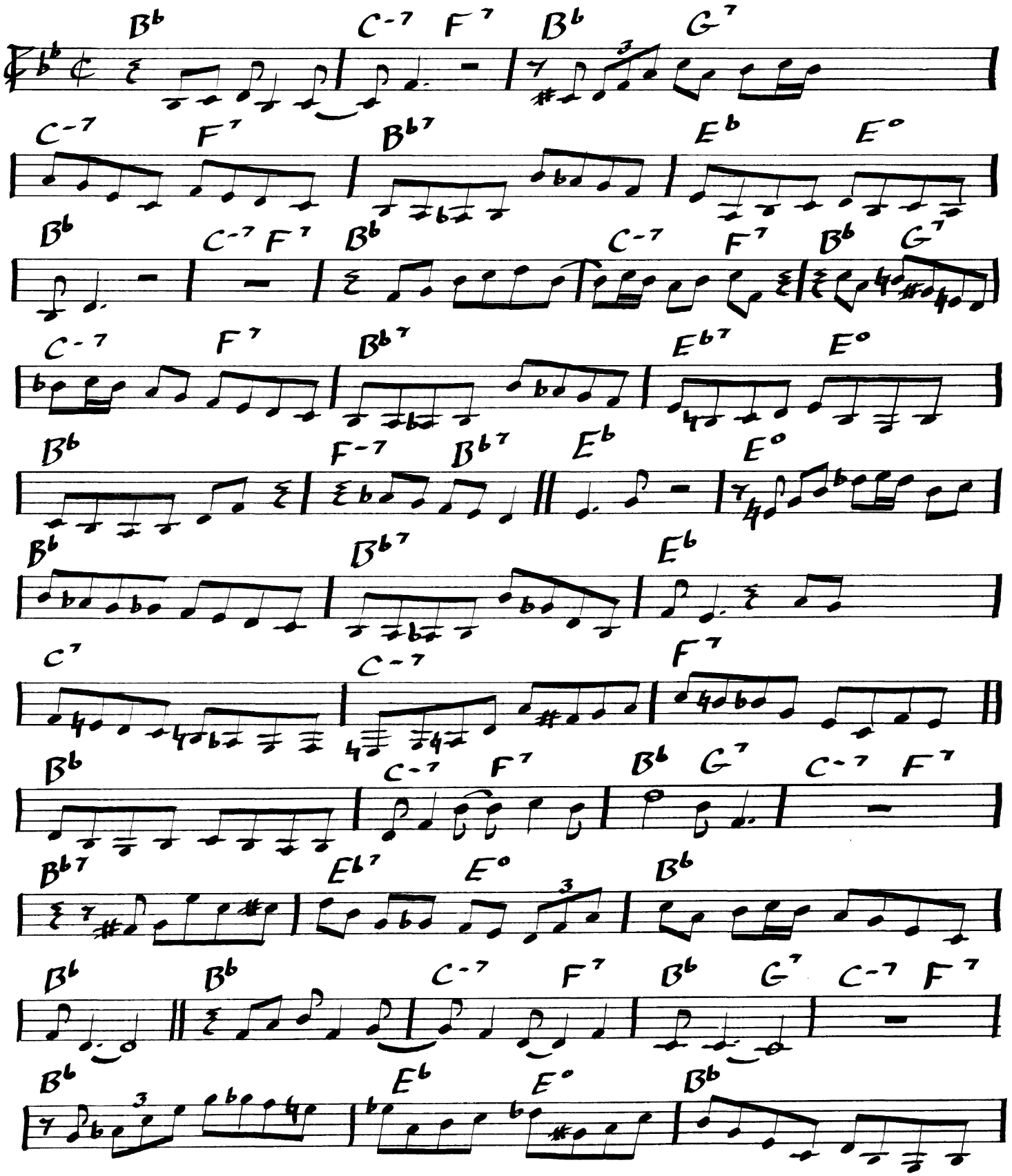
C. Parker

B♭ RHY.
w/different 'B'

# BIRD'S NEST

2/19/47
SPOTLITE 102

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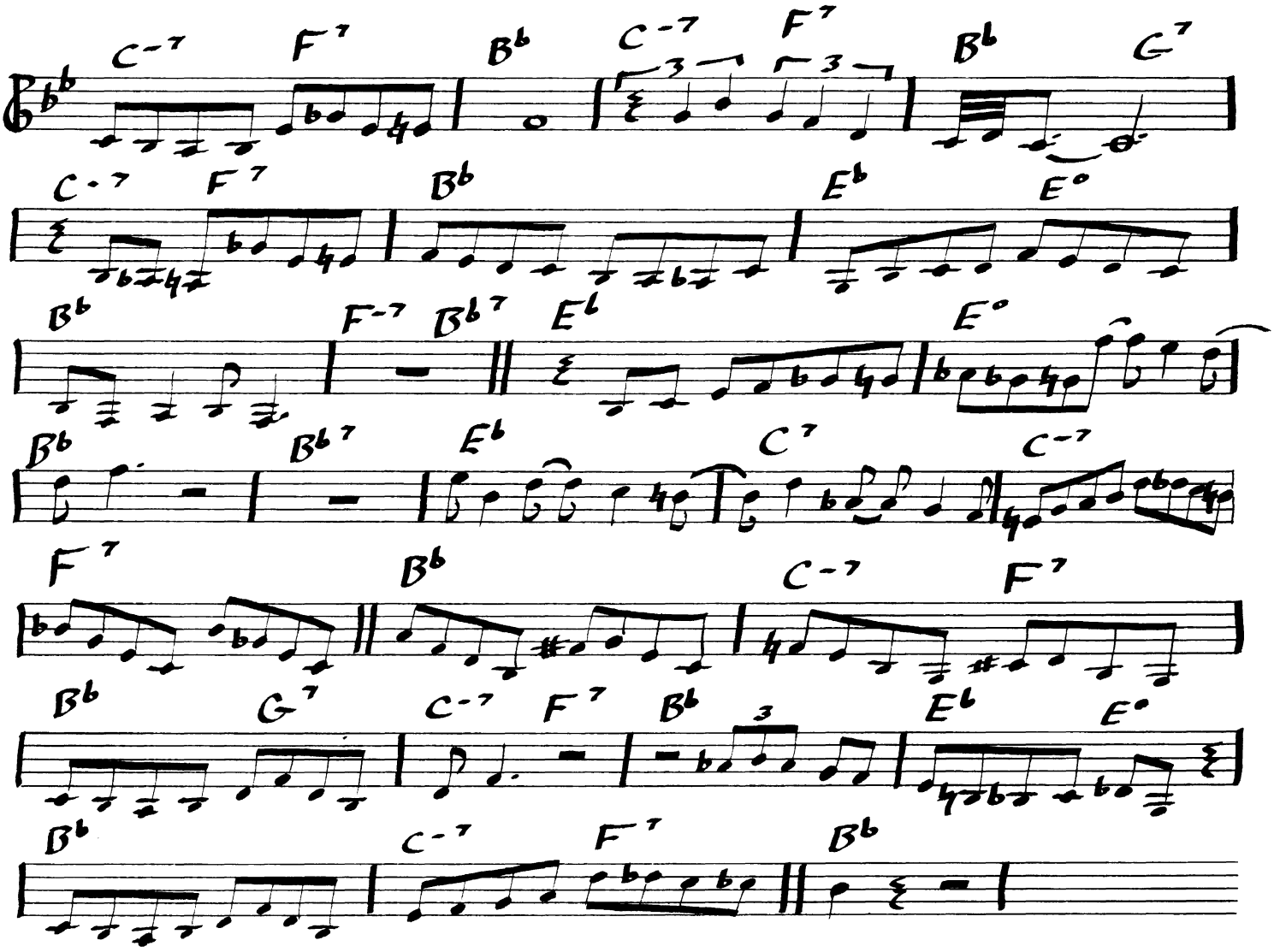
2)

# BIRD'S NEST

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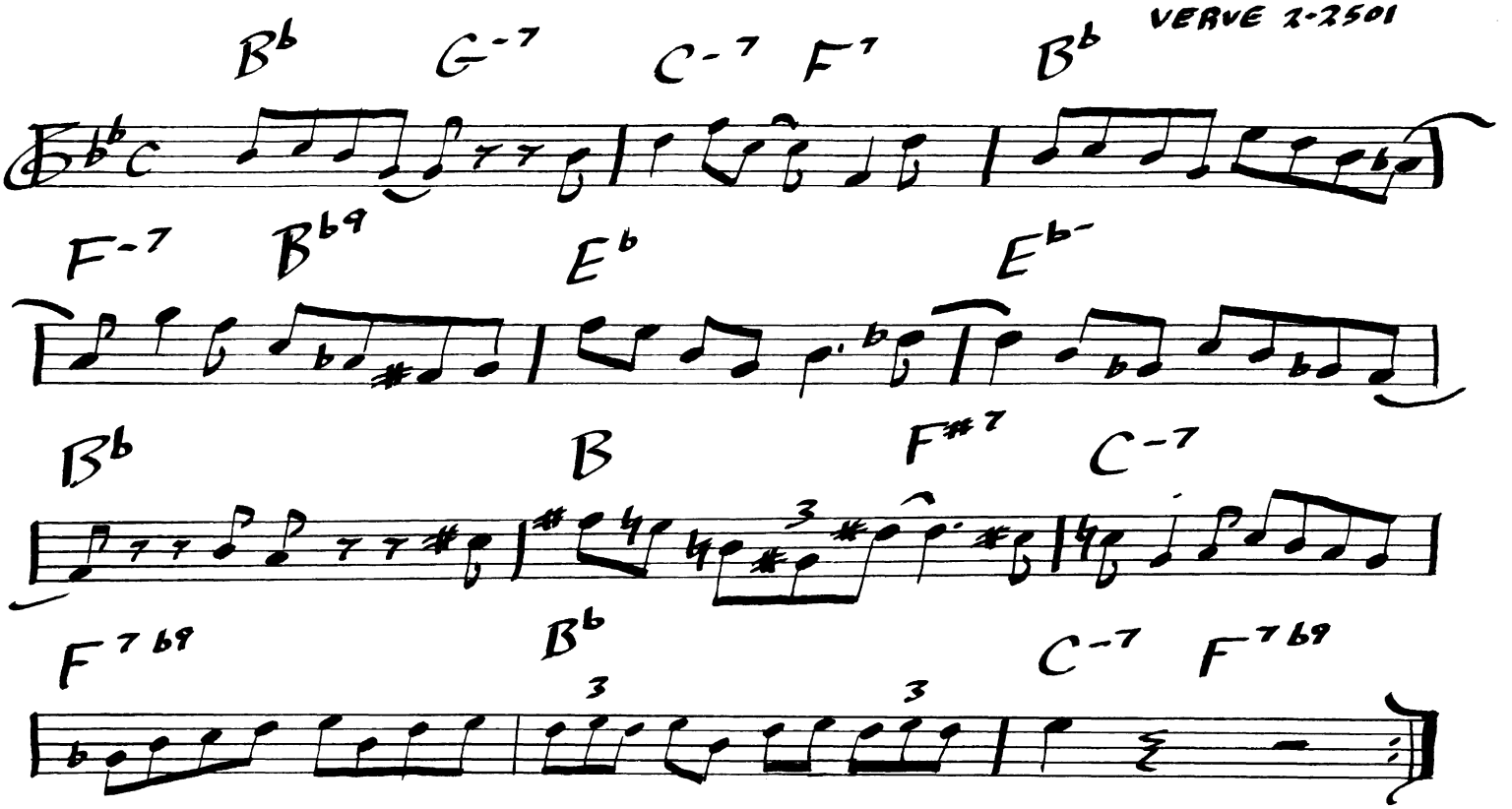
B♭ BLUES

# BLOOMDIDO

C. Parker
5/6/50
VERVE 2-2501

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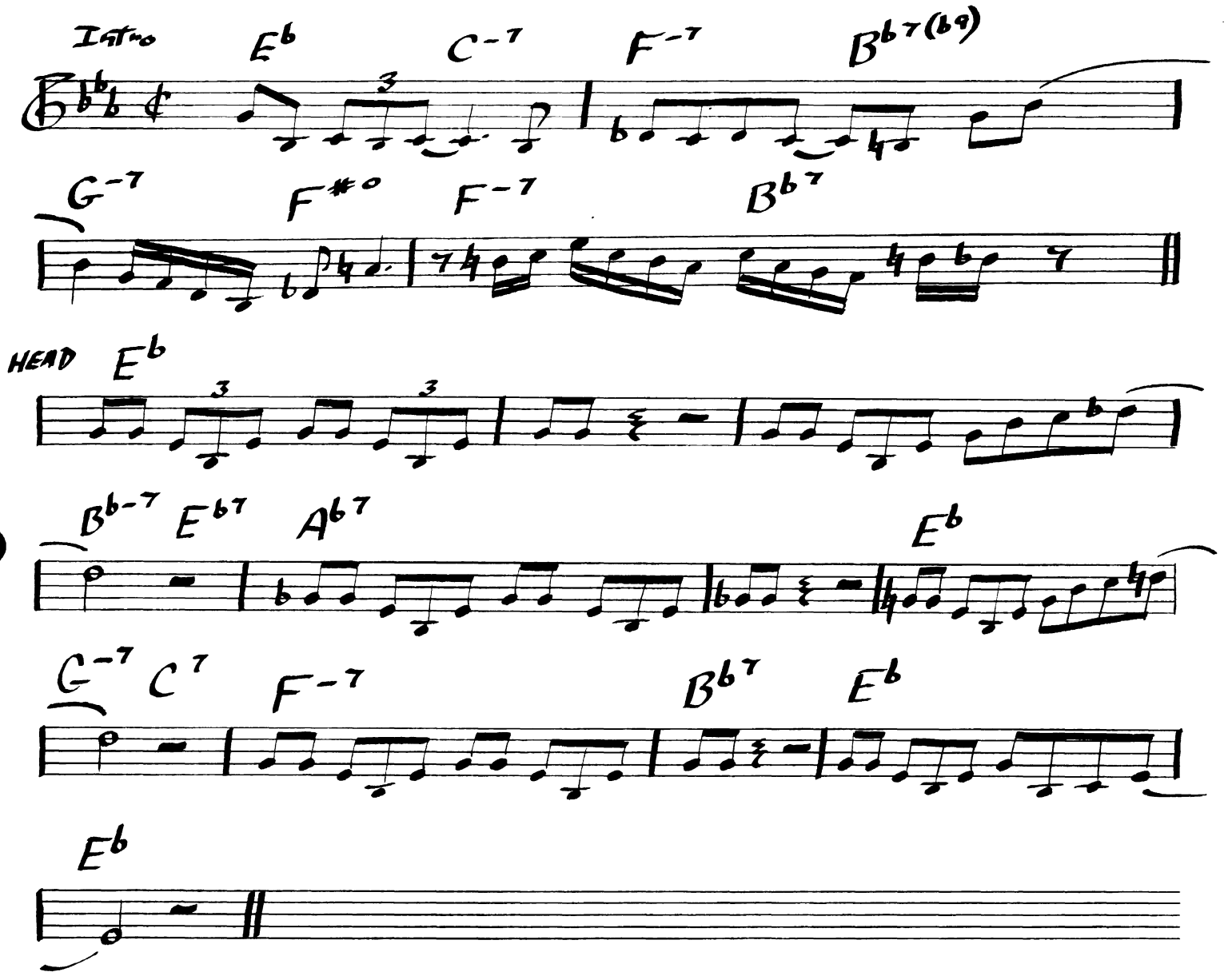
E♭ BLUES

C. Parker

# BLUE BIRD

12/21/47
SAVOY 5500

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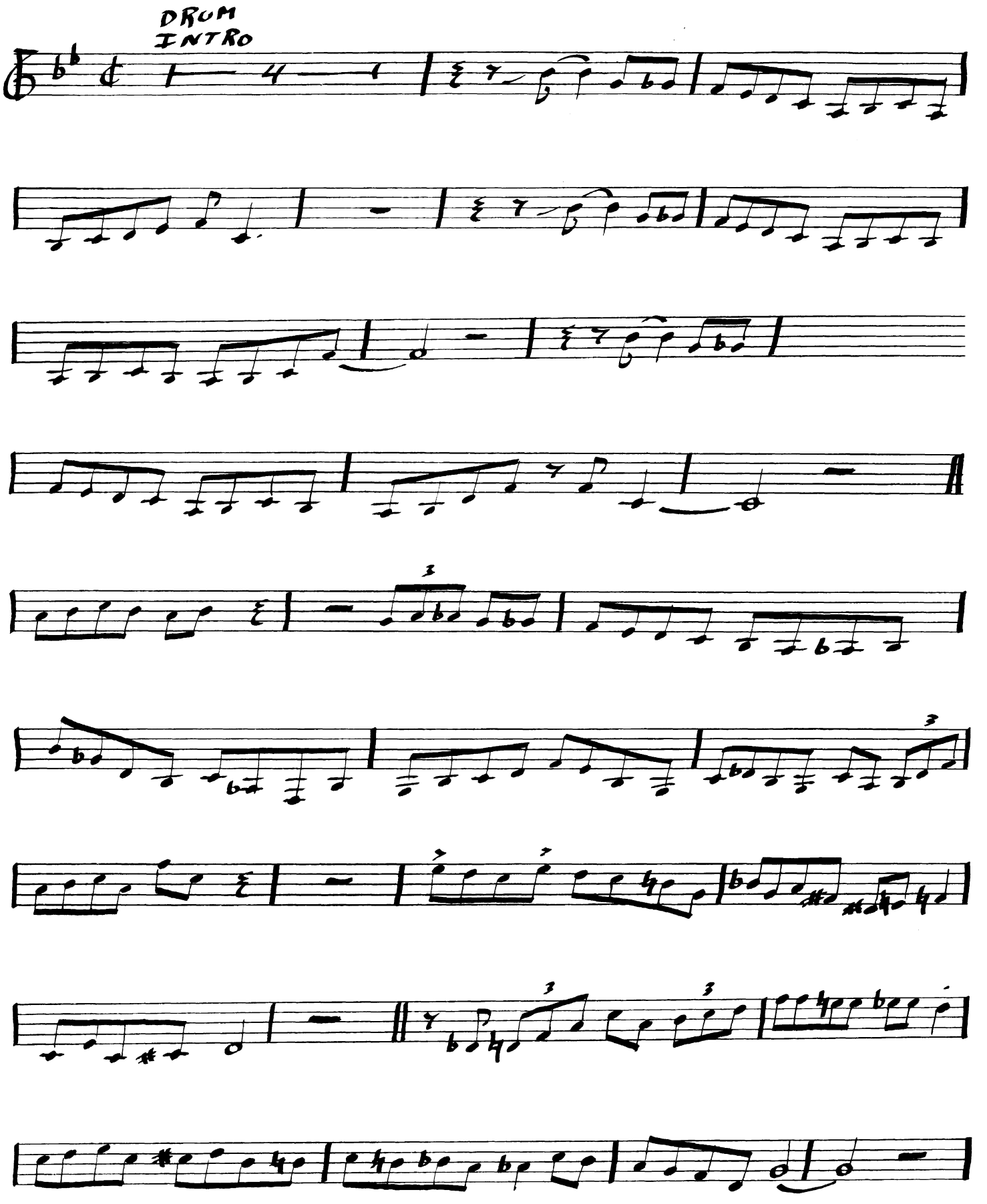
B♭ BLUES

# BLUES (fast)

C. Parker
3-4/50
VERVE 2-2501

♩= 132

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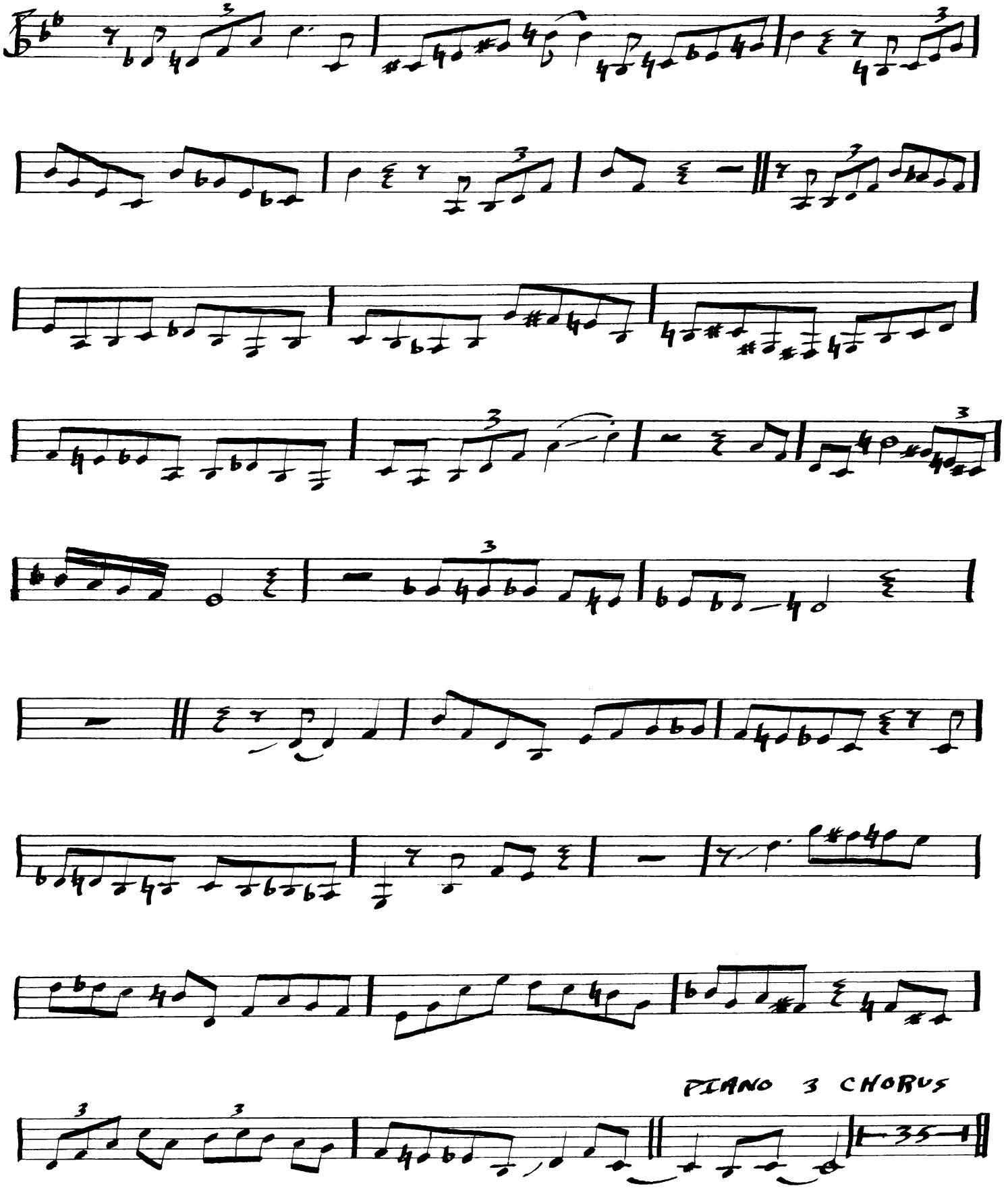
# Blues (cont'd)

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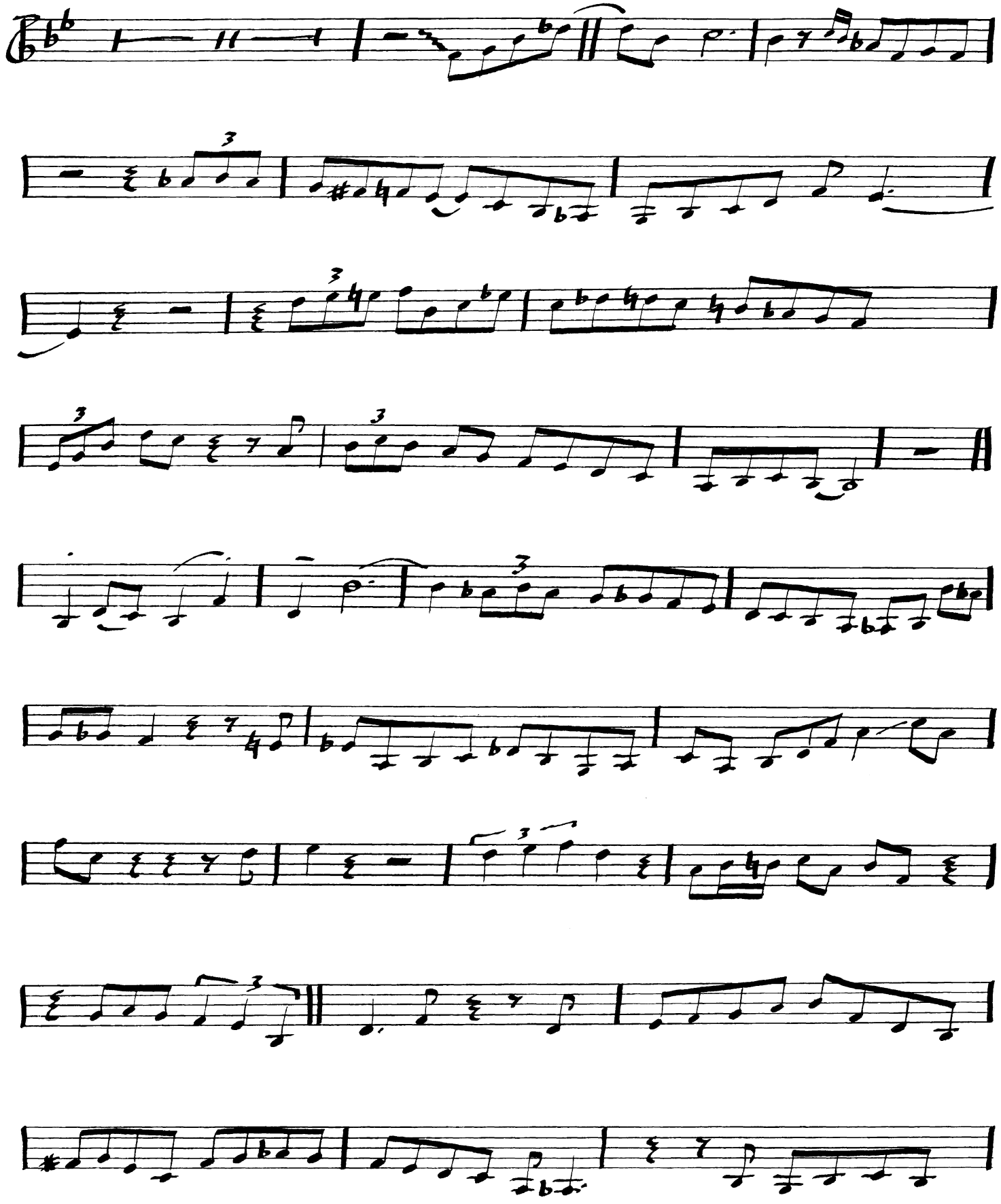
# Blues (cont'd)

DRUM 1 CHORUS



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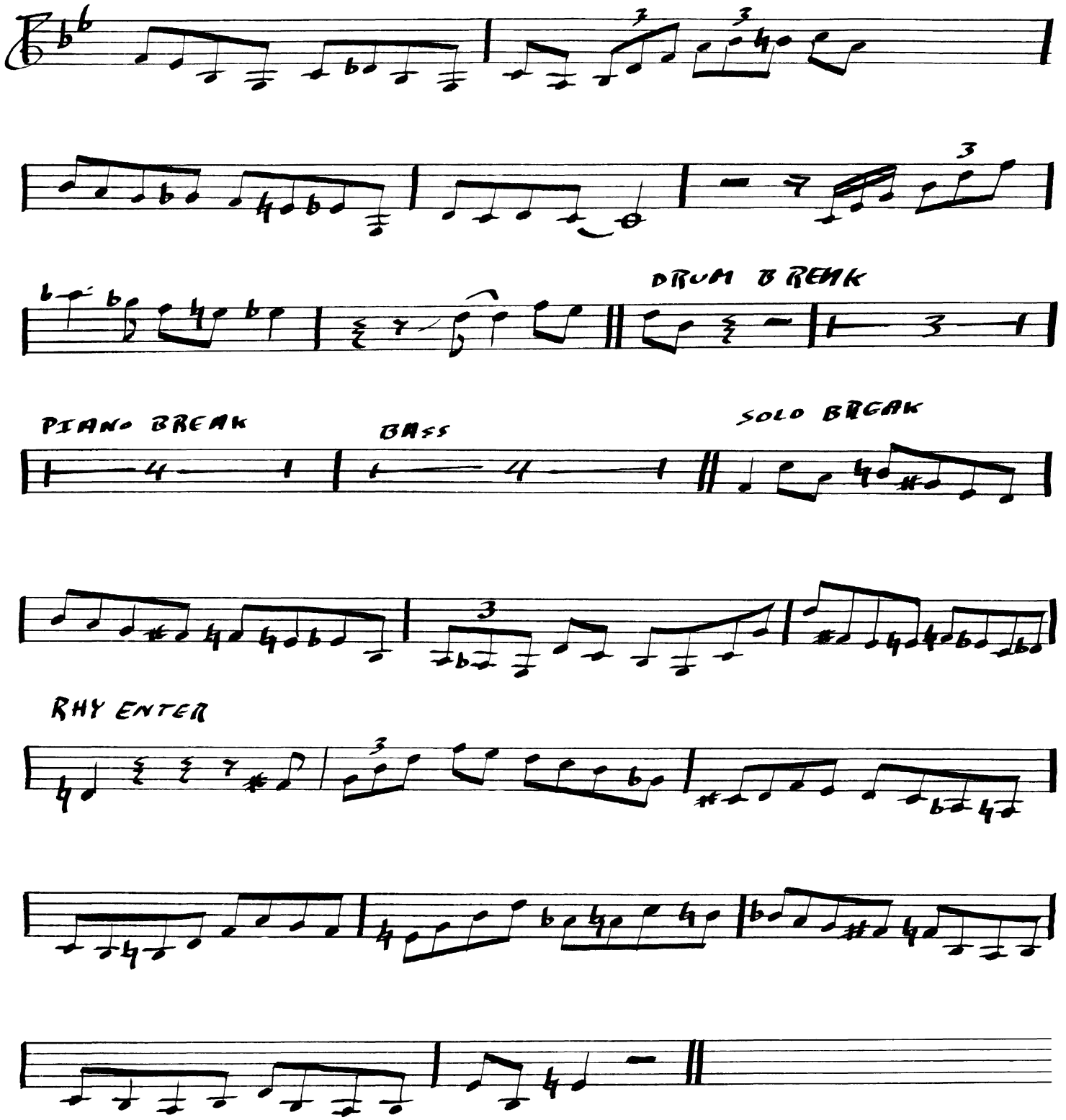
# Blues (cont'd)

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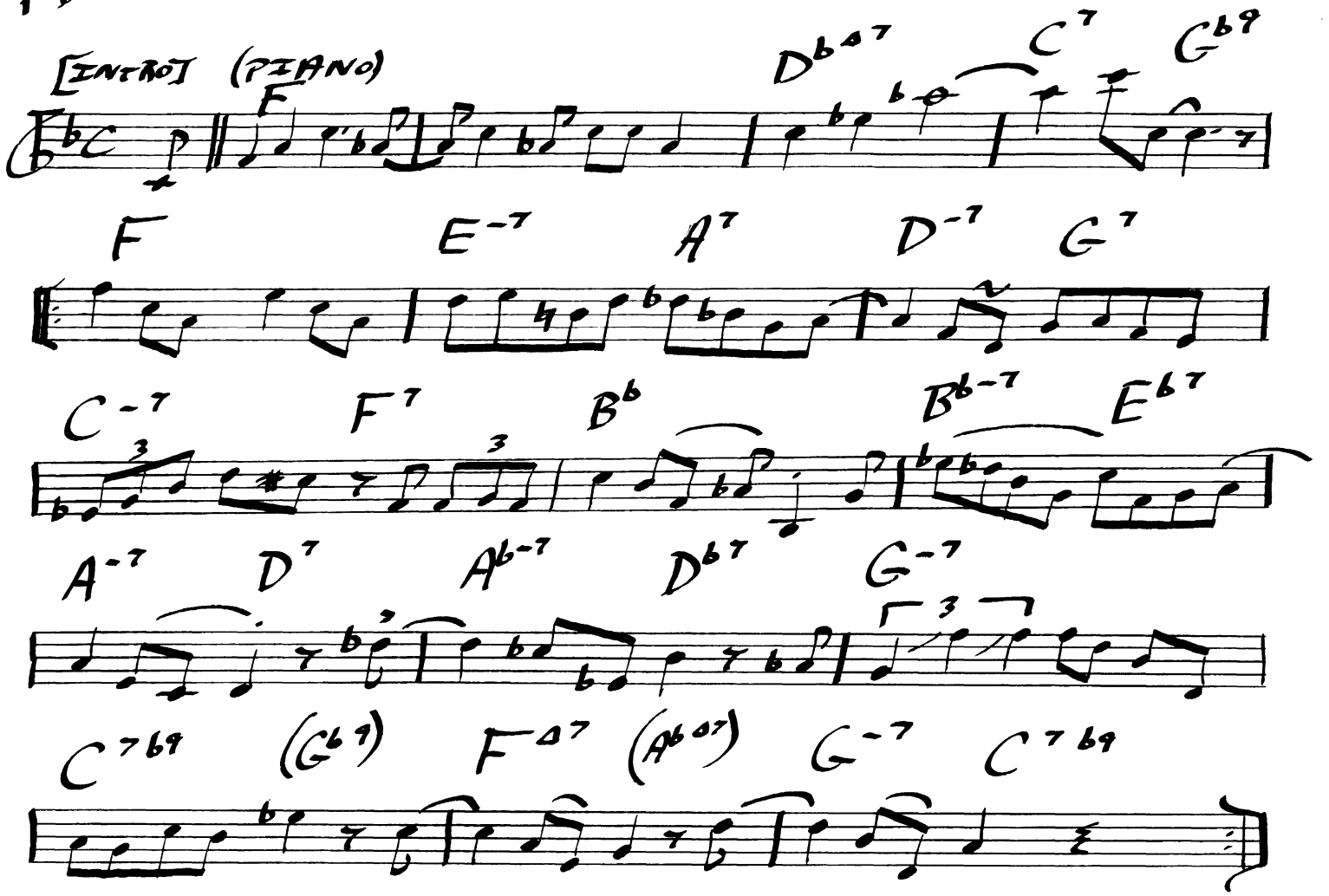
F BLUES

# BLUES FOR ALICE

C. Parker
8/8/51
VERVE 2-2512

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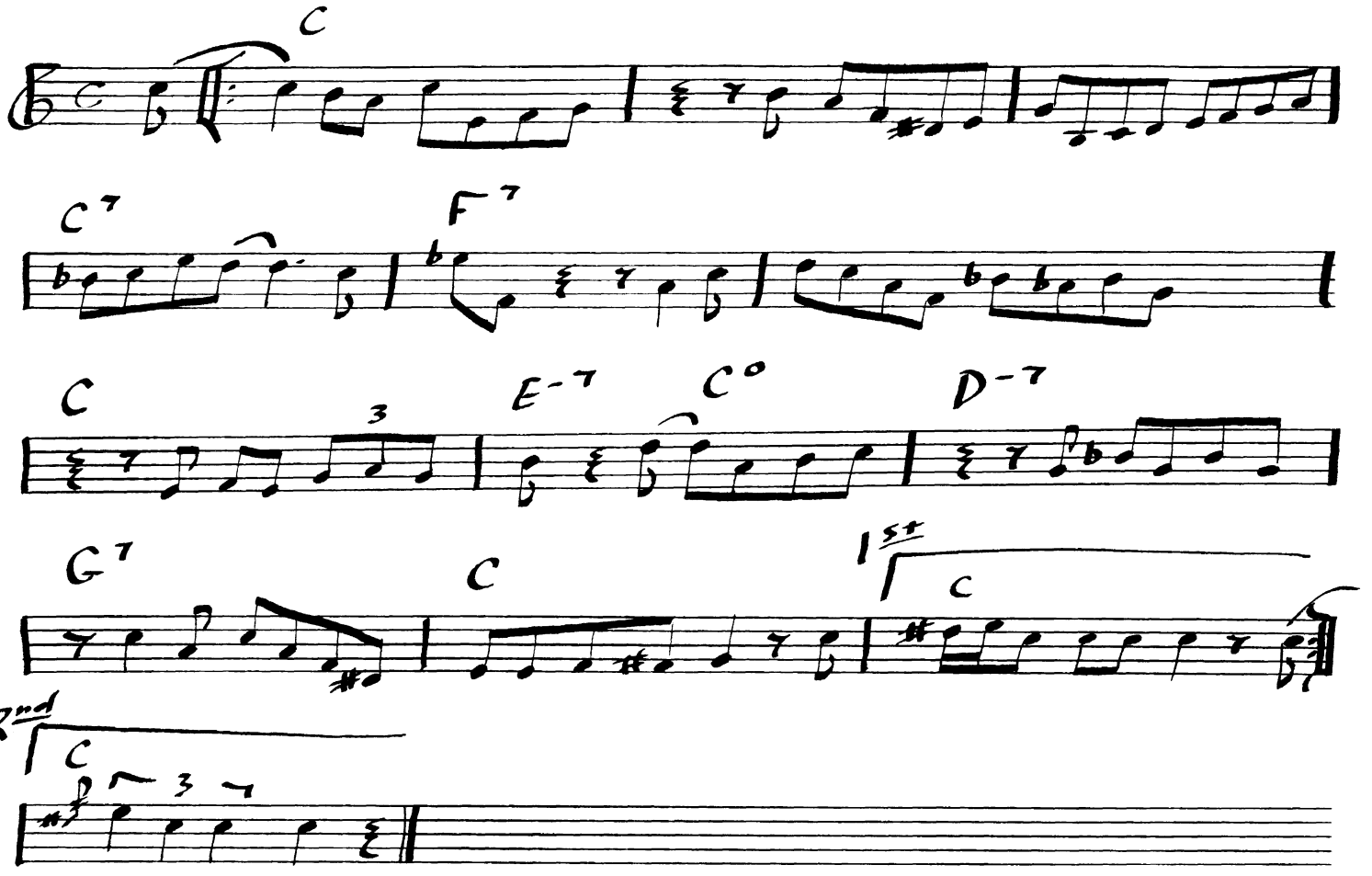
C BLUES

C. Parker

# BONGO BEEP

12/17/47
SPOTLITE 106

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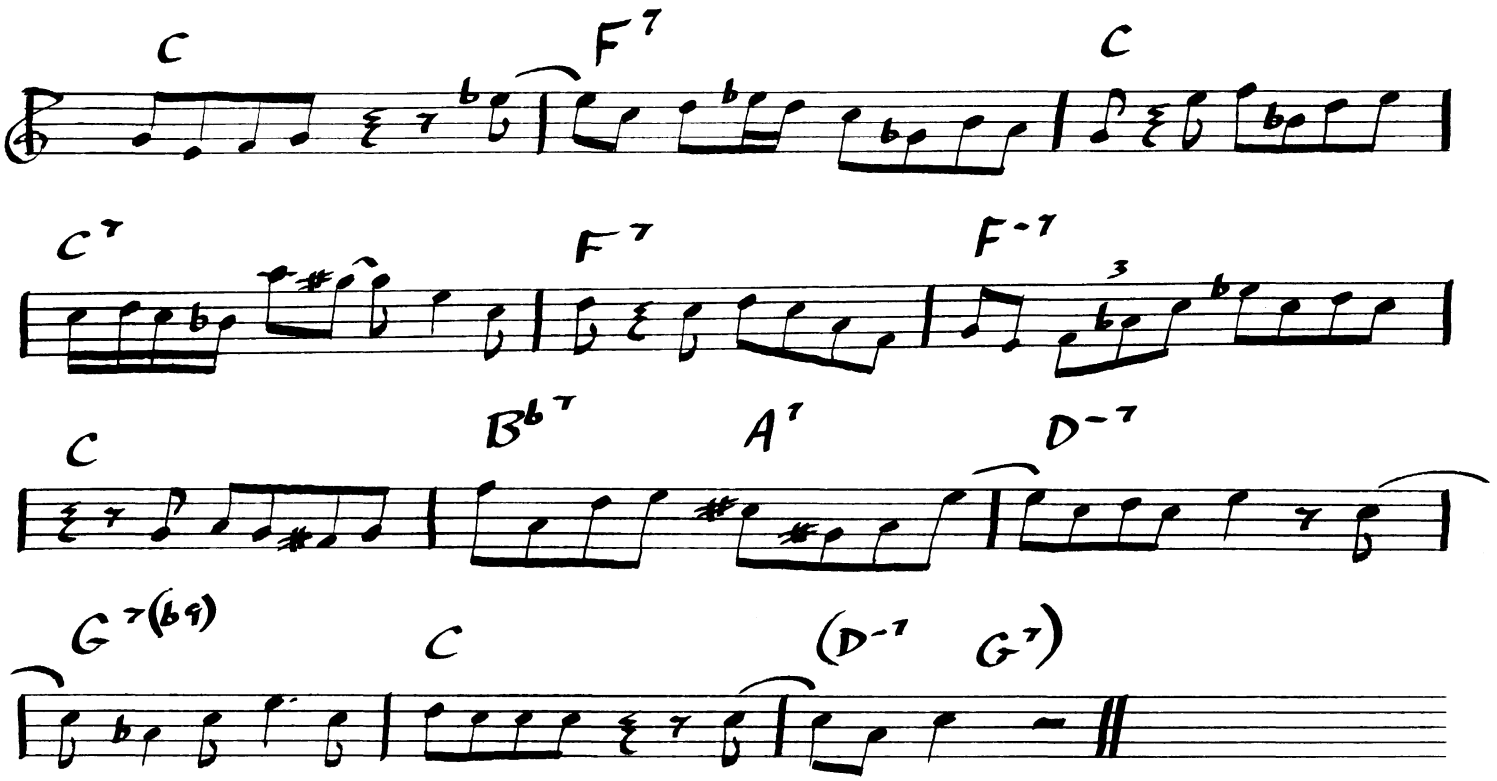
C BLUES

C. Parker

# BONGO BOP

10/28/47
SPOTLITE 104

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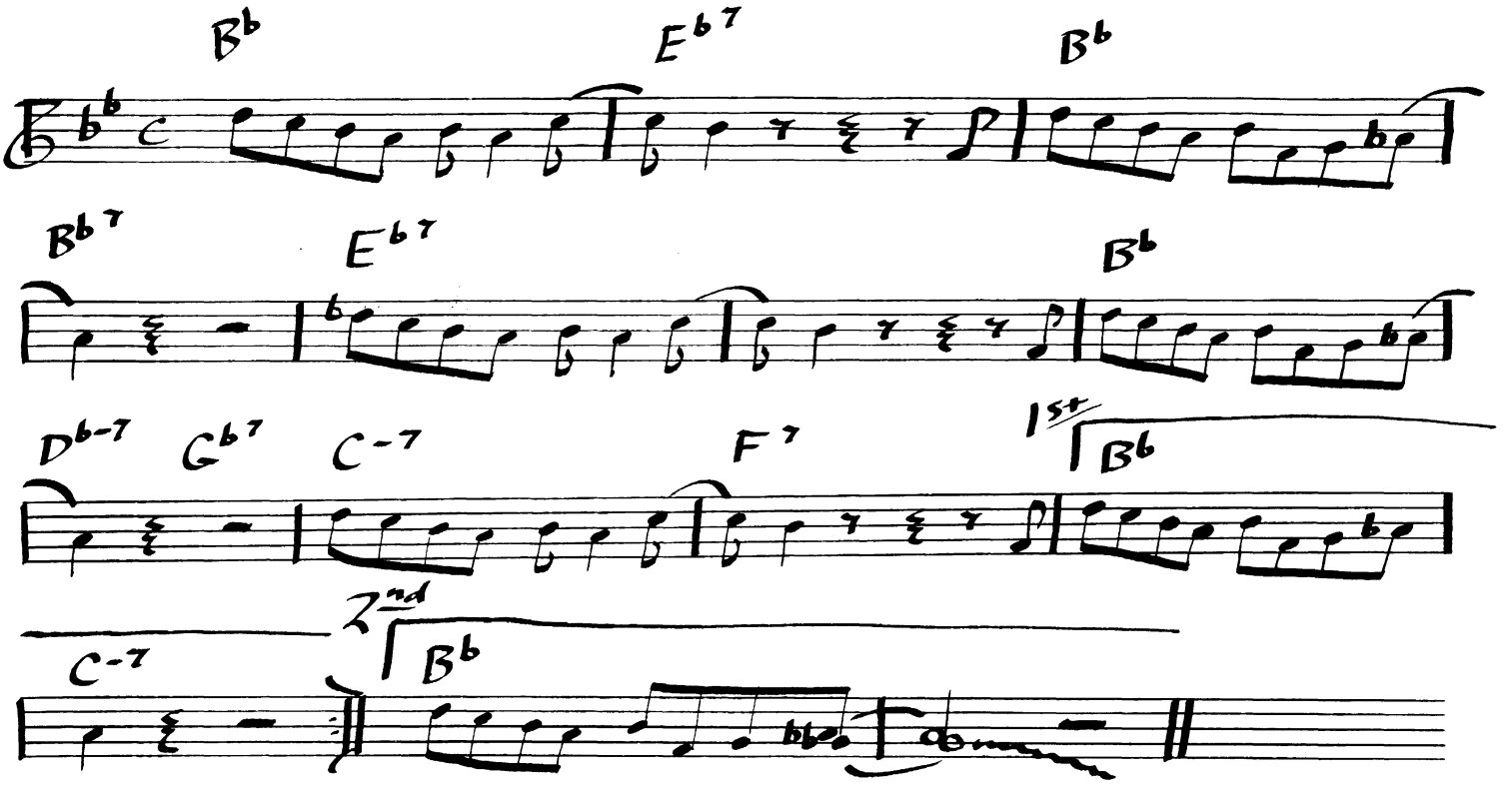
B♭ BLUES

# BUZZY

C. Parker
5/8/47
SAVOY 5500

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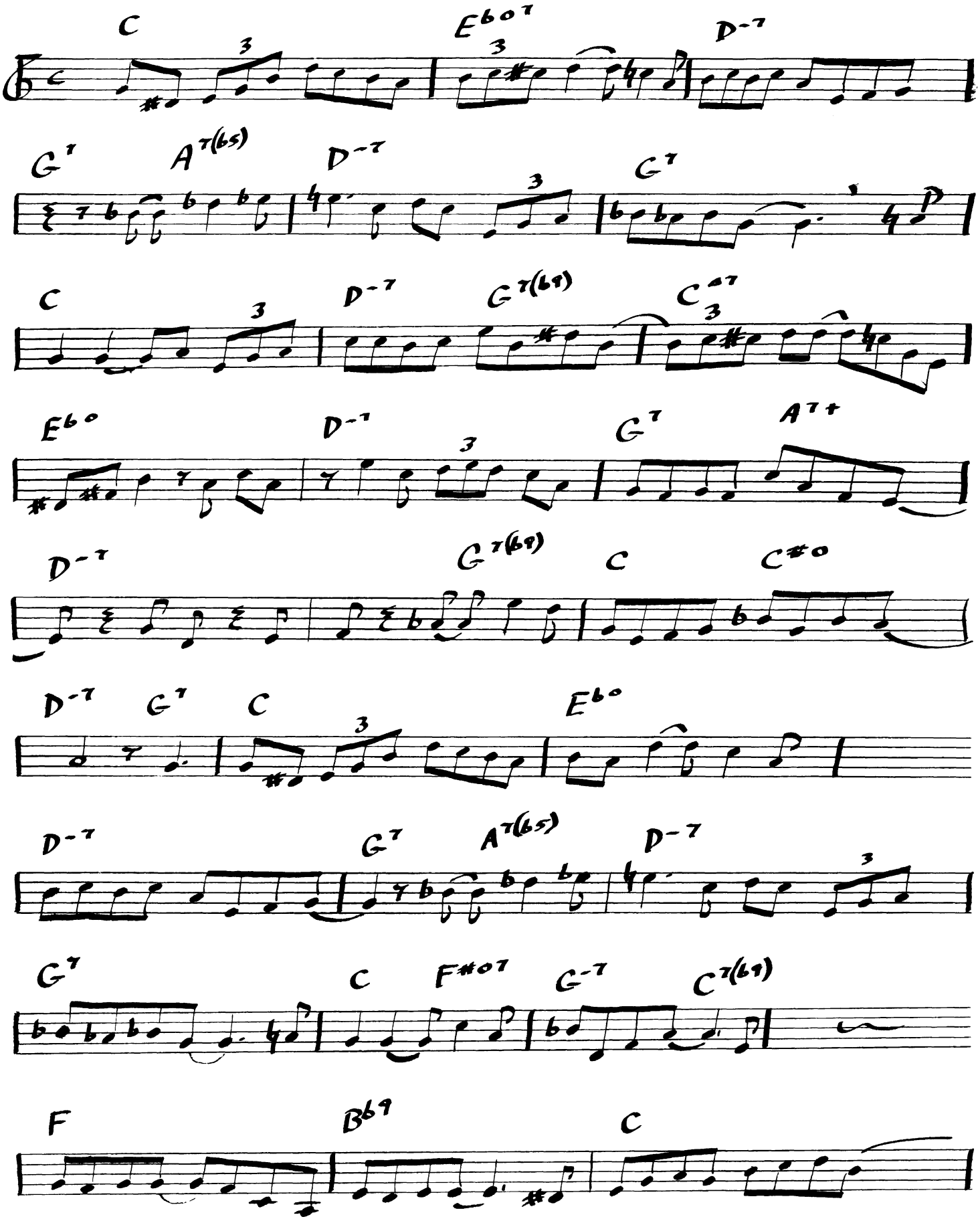
# CARDBOARD

C. Parker
4/49
VERVE 2-2501

C ABAC

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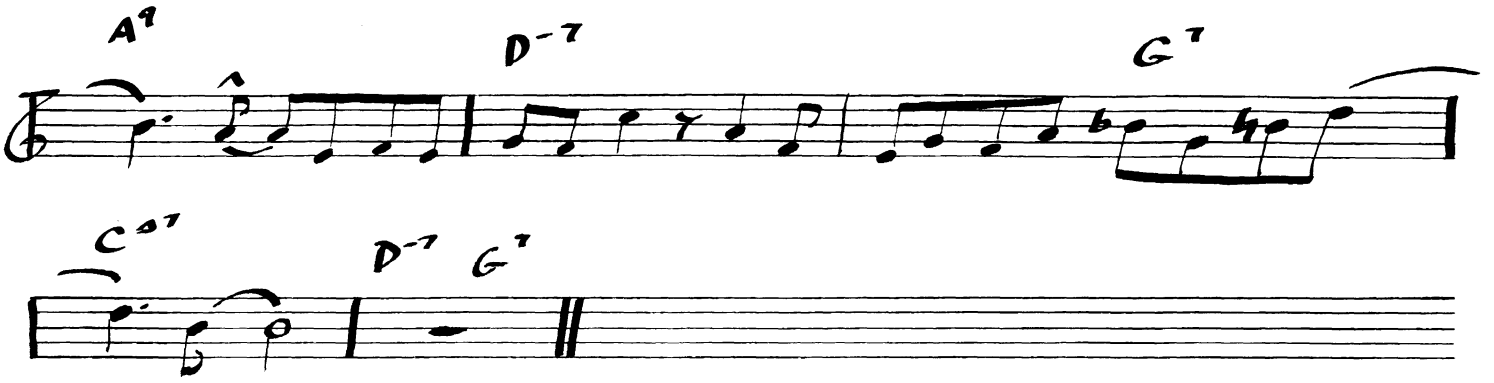
(2) Cardboard

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B♭ RHY

# CELEBRITY

10/50
VERVE 2-2512

B♭ | C-7 F7 | D-7 G7 | C-7 F7 |
B♭7 | E♭ E° | B♭ | C-7 F7 |
B♭ | C-7 F7 | D-7 G7 | C-7 F7 |
B♭7 | E♭7 E° | B♭ | B♭ ||
D7 | D7 | G7 | G7 |
C7 | C7 | F7 |
F7 | B♭ | C-7 F7 | D-7 G7 |
C-7 F7 | B♭7 | E♭7 E° | B♭ |
DRUMS 31

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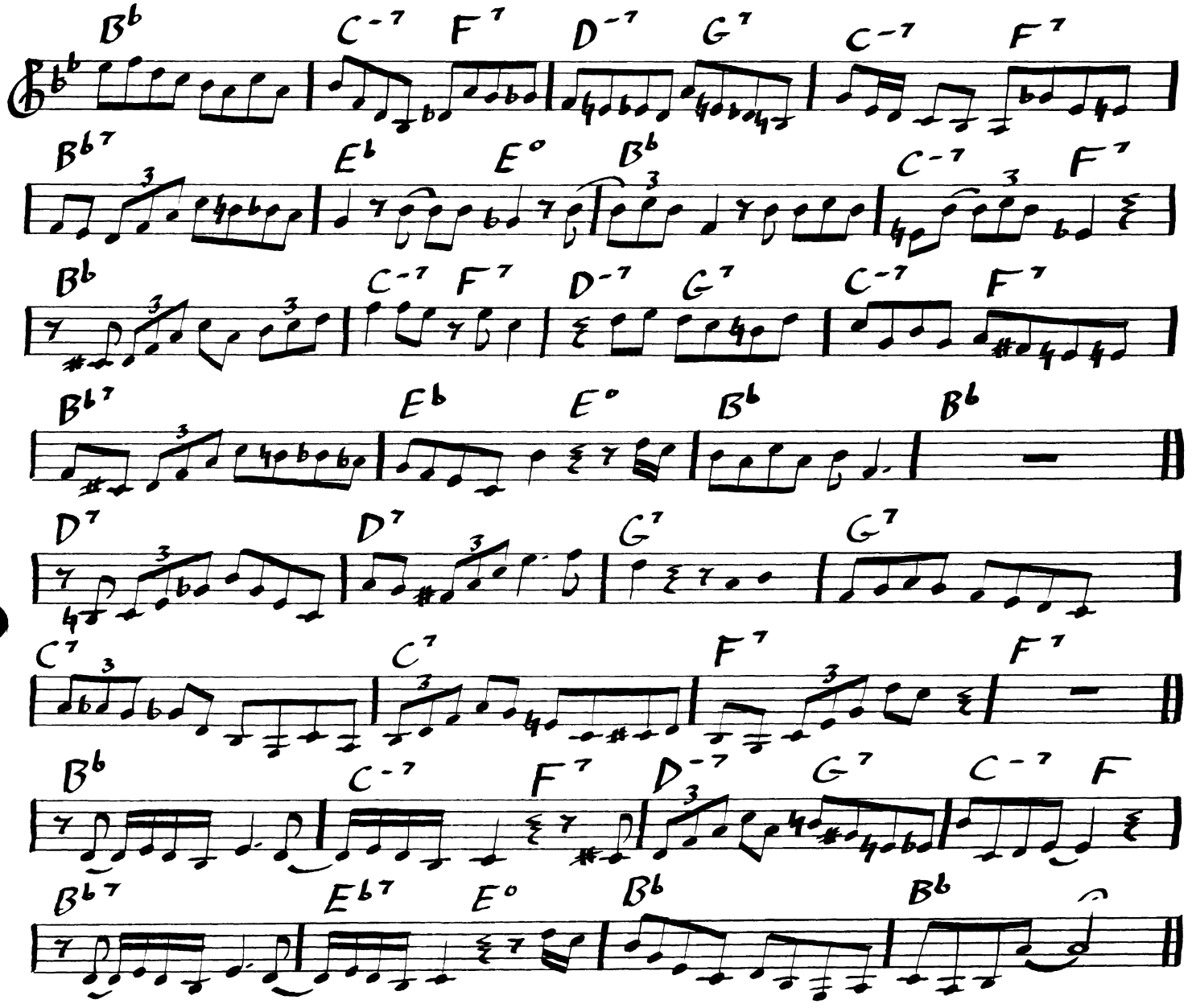
2)

# CELEBRITY (CONT'D)

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B♭ "When I Get Too Old To Dream"
ABCB

# CHARLIE'S WIG

C. Parker
12/17/47
SPOT LITE 106

Intro

B♭ C-7 F7 B♭ F7 B♭7

C-7 E♭-7 B♭7 F7 B♭7

E♭ E♭-7 B♭ A♭7 G7

C-7 F7 B♭ B♭ C-7
SOLO

F7 B♭ B♭ D7

D7 G-7 F#o F-7 B♭+7 E♭
ENS.

E♭-7 B♭ G7 C-7

F7 B♭ F# F7

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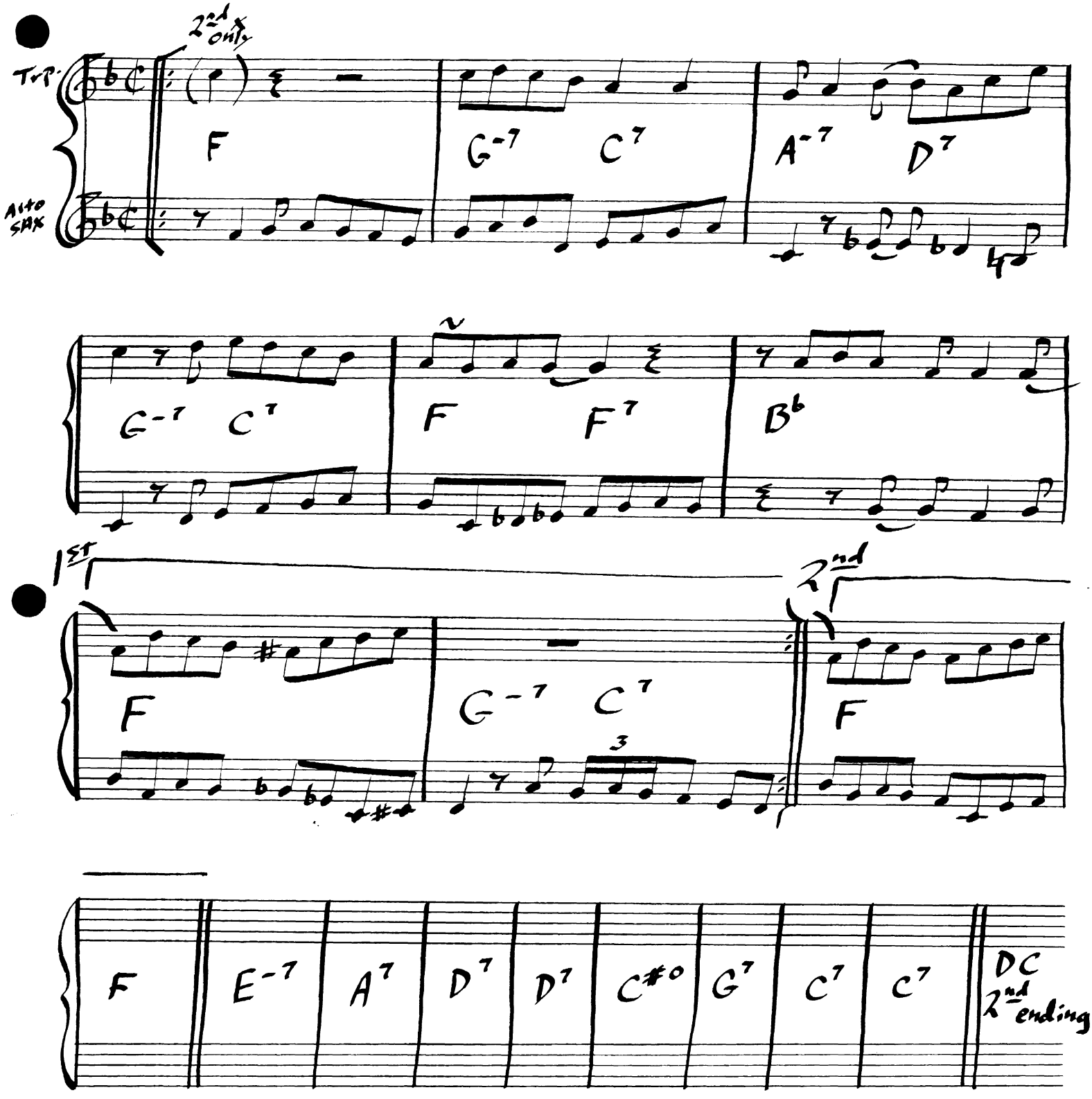
F Rhy.

# CHASIN' THE BIRD

C. Parker
5/18/47
SAVOY 5500

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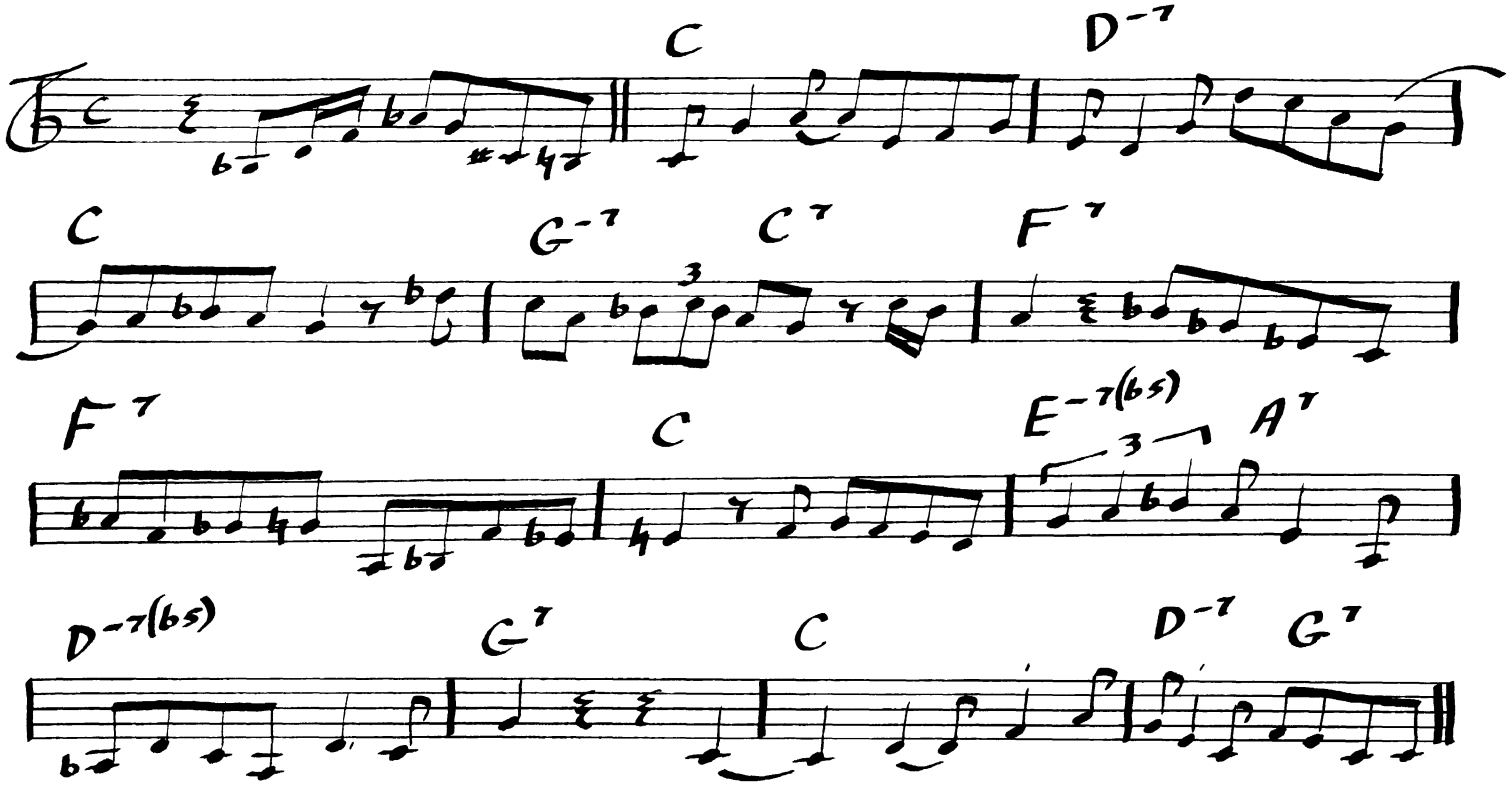
C BLUES

# CHERYL

C. Parker
5/8/47
SAVOY 5500

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# CHI CHI

C. Parker
8/4/53
VERVE 2-2523

A♭ BLUES

A♭ B♭-7 E♭7

A♭ E♭-7 A♭7 D♭

A♭ F7 B♭-7 E♭7

A♭ 1st B♭-7 E♭7 2nd B♭-7 E♭7

SOLOS

DS al Fine

LAST X only B♭-7 E♭7

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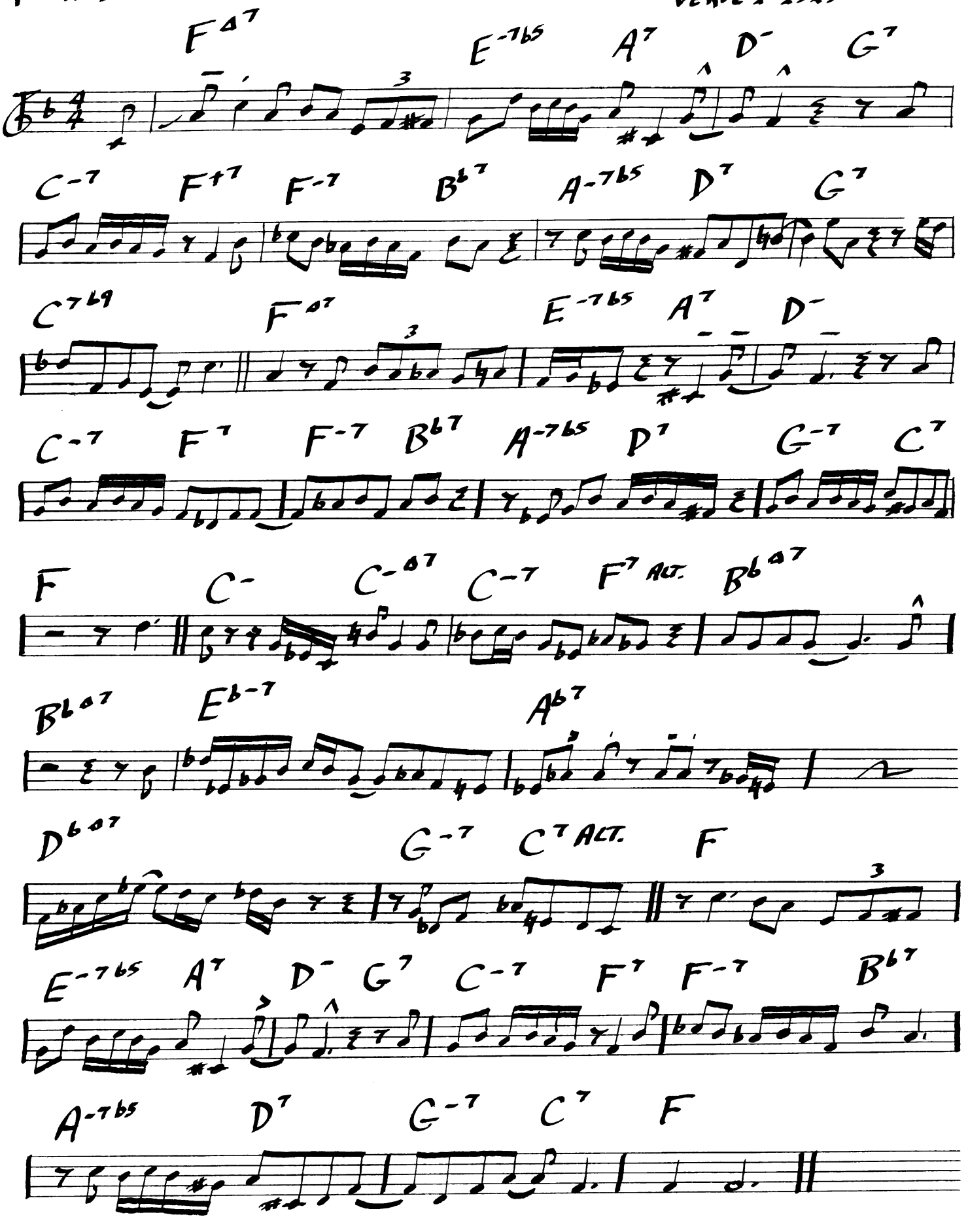
# CONFIRMATION

C. Parker
8/4/53
VERVE 2-2523

F AABA




CHARLIE PARKER "THE VERVE YEARS"

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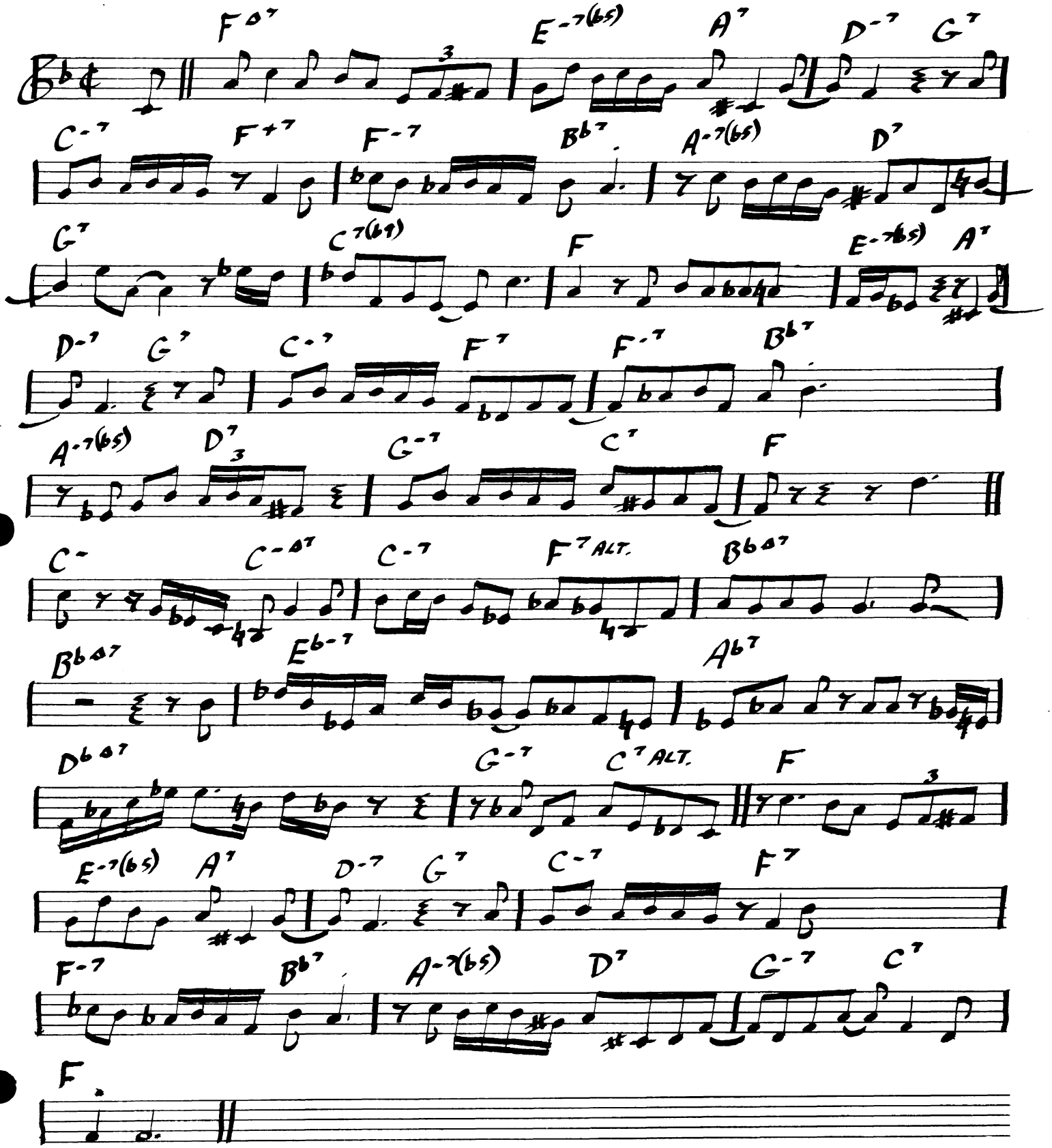
C. Parker

F AABA

# CONFIRMATION

2/18/50
PRESTIGE 24009

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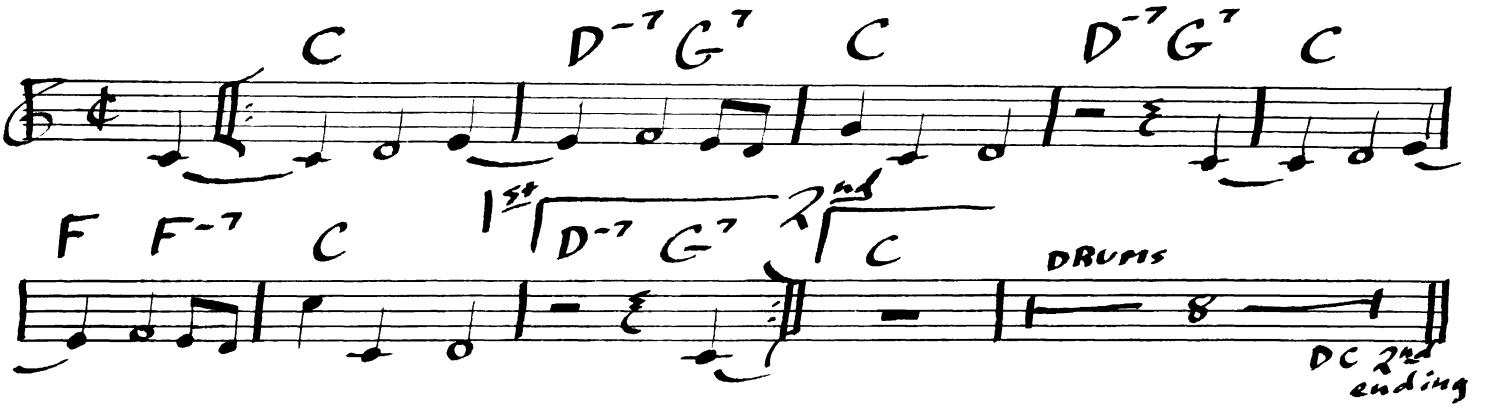
C Rhy

C. Parker

# CONSTELLATION

9/18/48
SAVOY 5500

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C BLUES

C. Parker

# COOL BLUES
## (HOT BLUES)

2/19/47
SPOTLITE 102

C F C

F7 F7 C E-7 Eb°

D-7 G7 C

## COOL BLUES (TAKE 3)
OUT CHORUS

2/19/47
SPOTLITE 102

C F C C

F7 F7 C E-7 Eb°

D-7 G7 C

C

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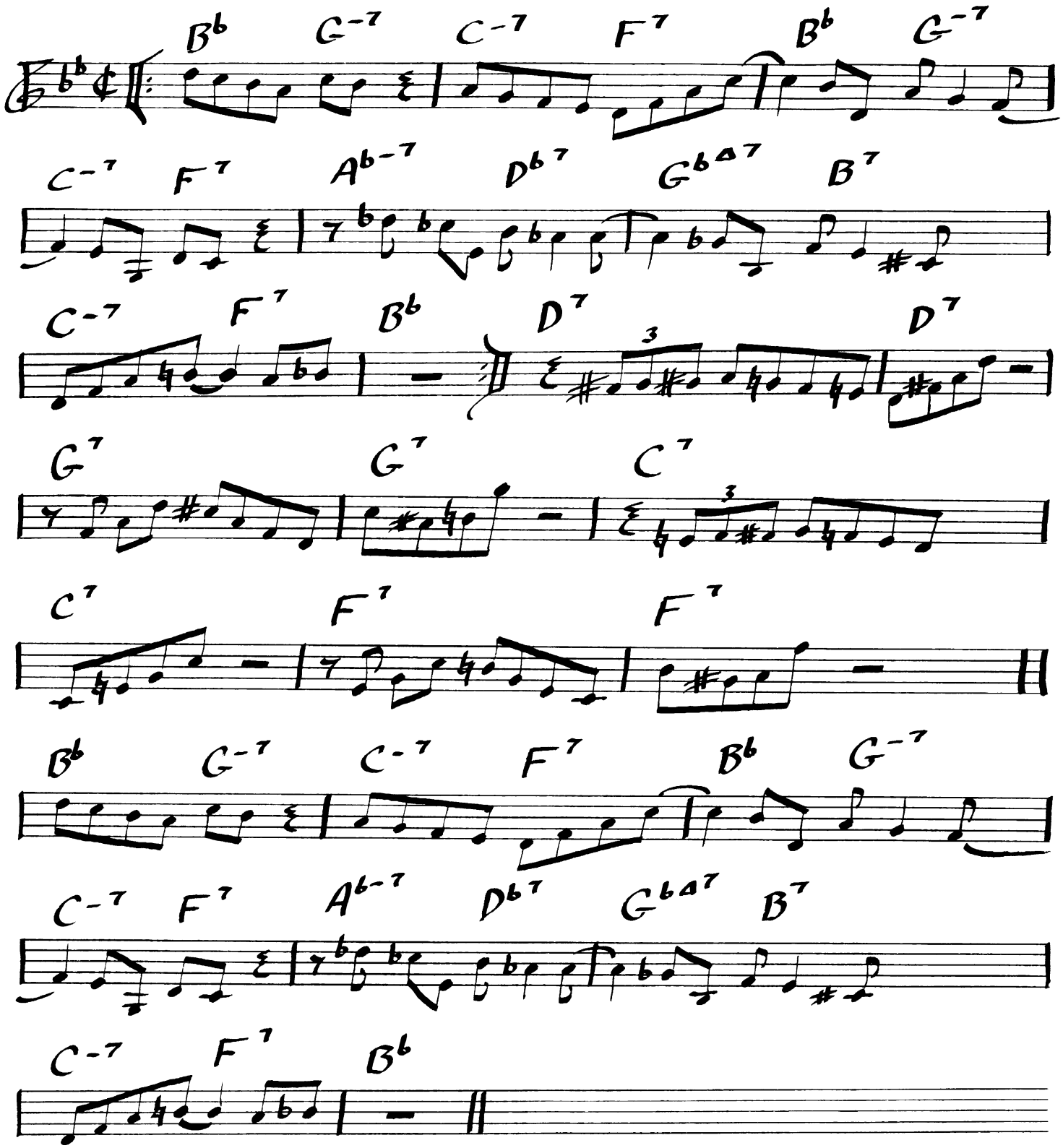
B♭ BHY.

# CRAZEOLOGY
## LITTLE BENNY

C. Parker
Benny Harris
12/17/47
SPOTLITE 106

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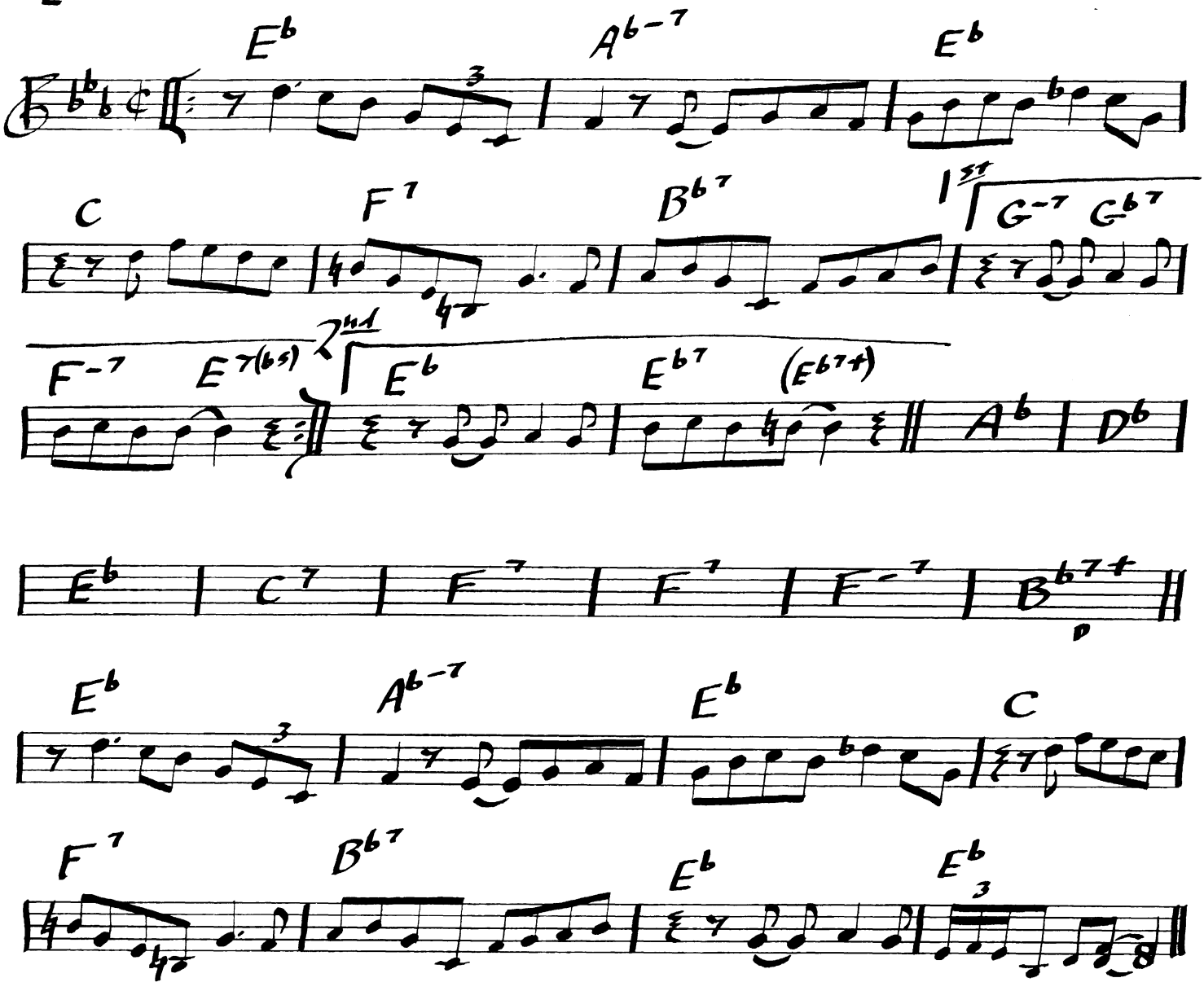
# DEWEY SQUARE

C. Parker
10/28/47
SPOTLITE 104

E♭ RHY.

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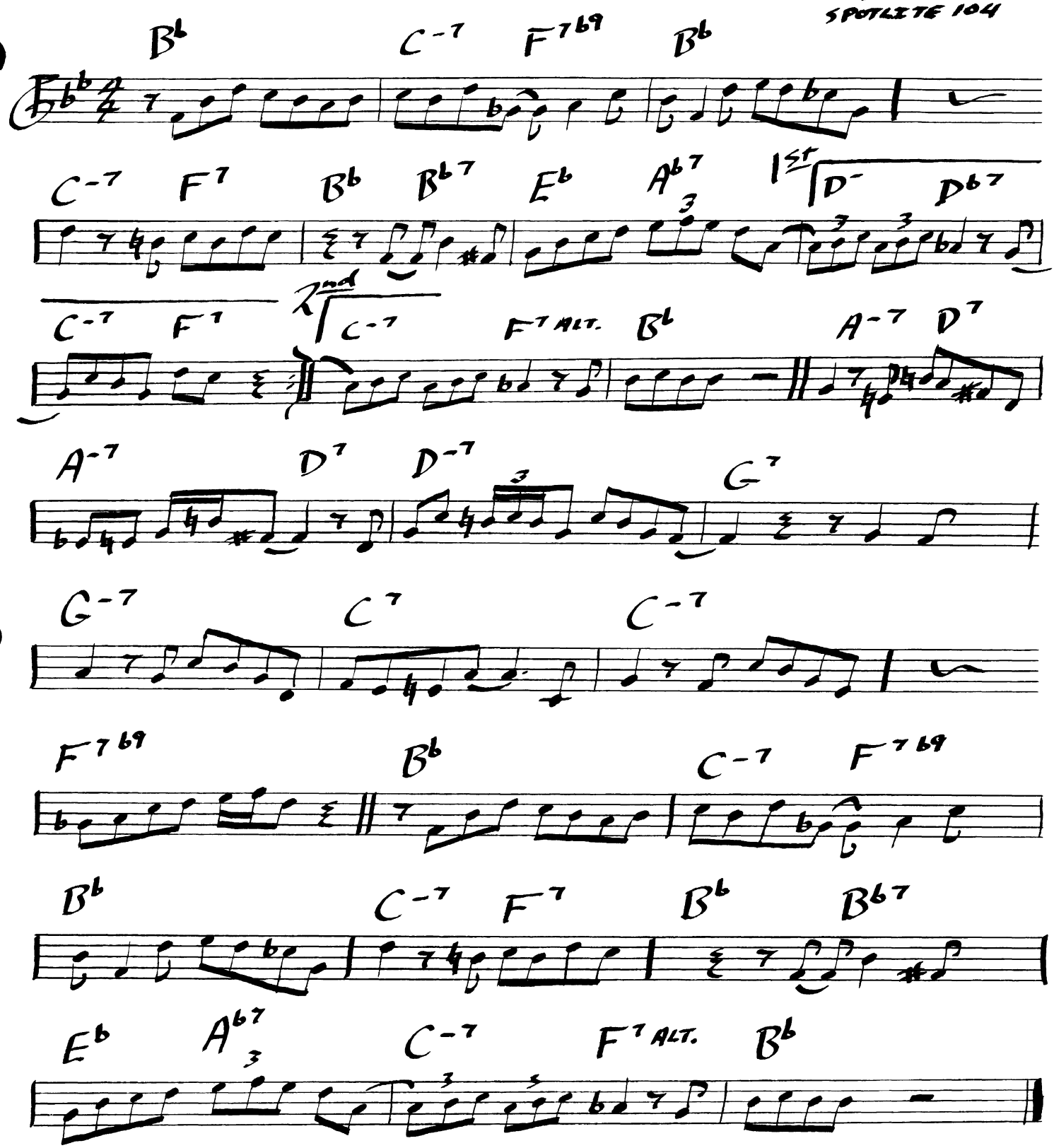
# DEXTERITY

C. Parker

B♭ RHY

10/28/47
SPOTLITE 104




CHARLIE PARKER - "THE BOP" [ITALIAN IMPORT]

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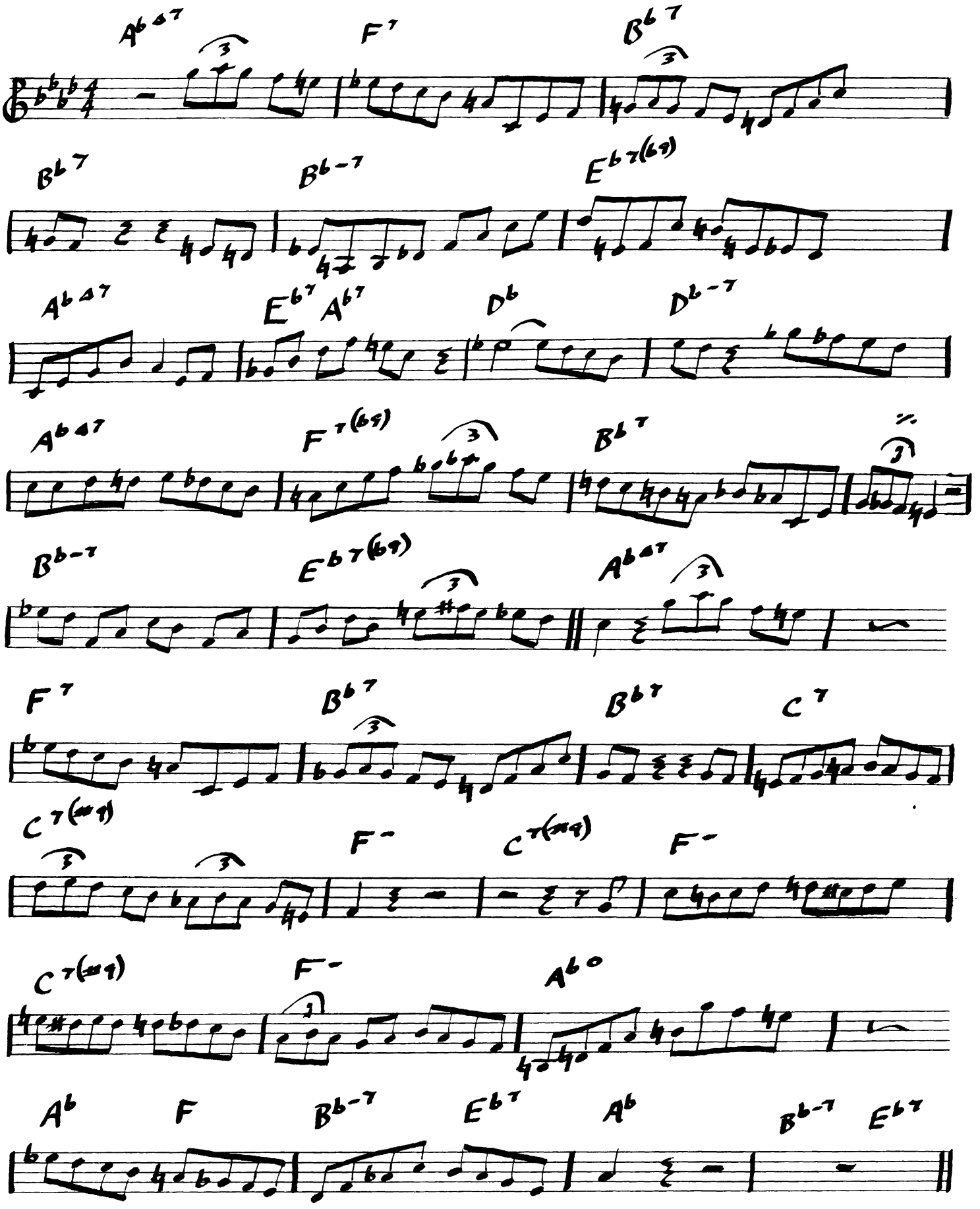
A♭ "Indiana"

# Donna Lee

C. Parker
5/8/47
SAVOY 5500

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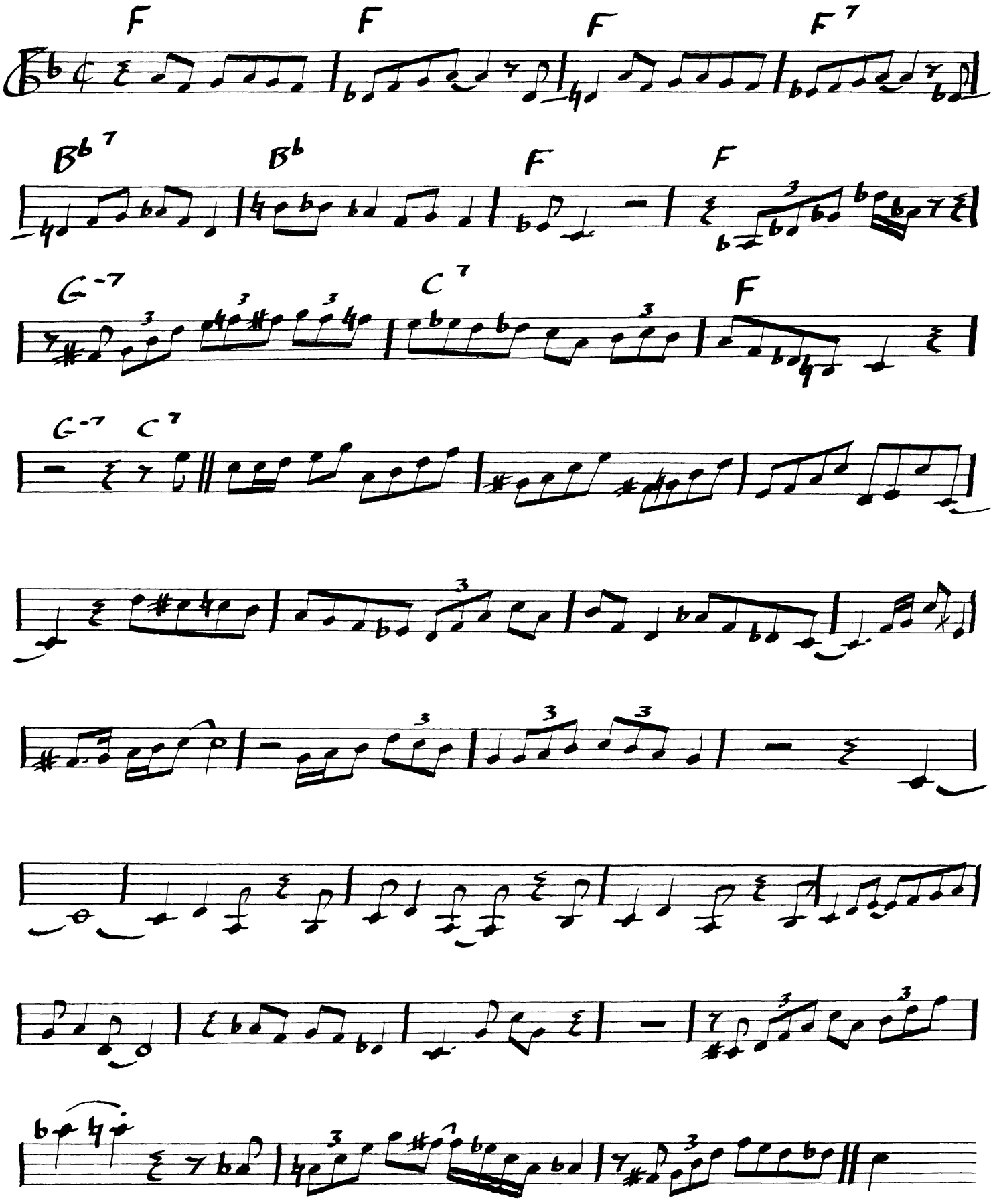
F BLUES

C. Parker
4/12/51
PLP-404

# HAPPY BIRD BLUES

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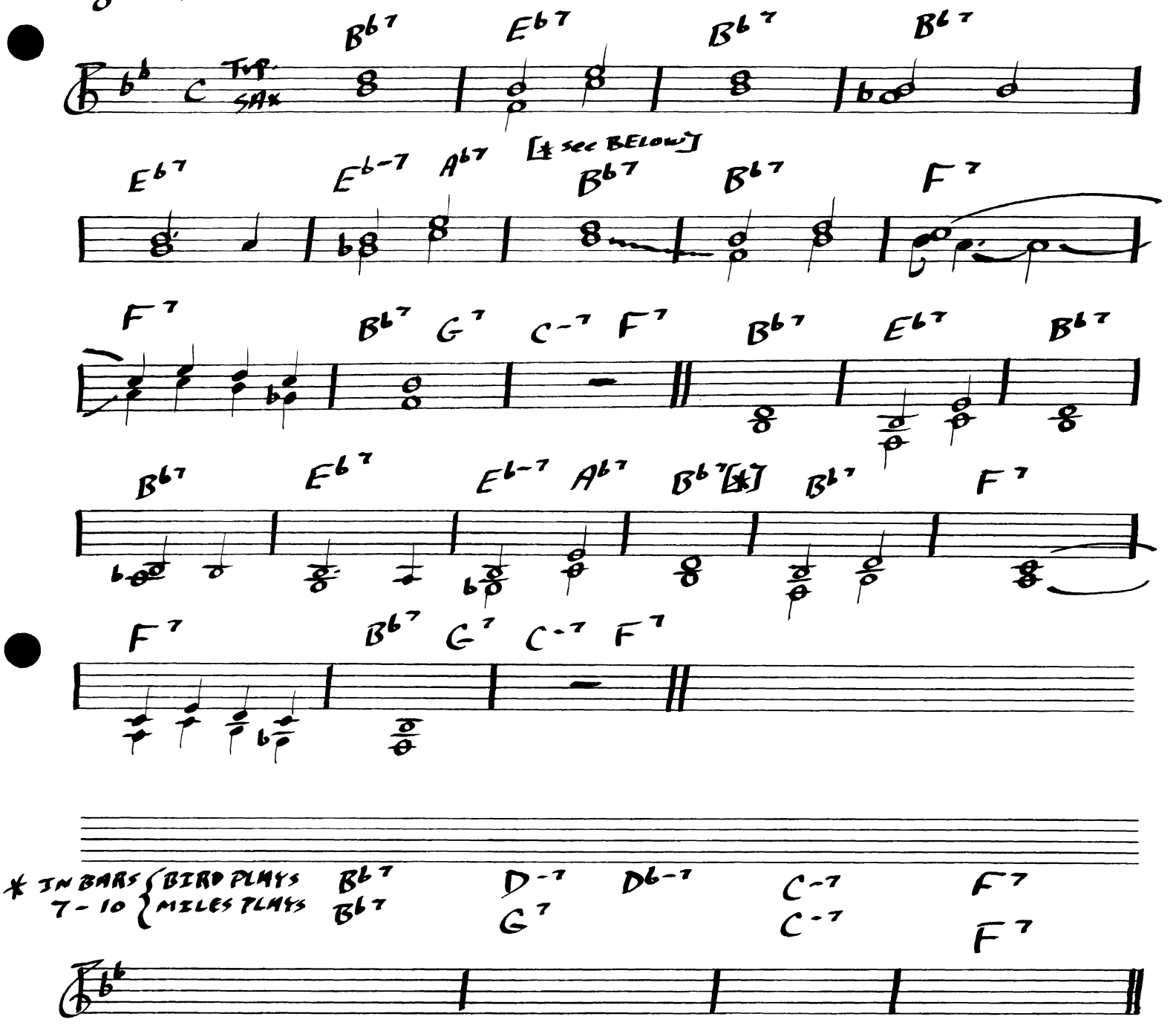
B♭ BLUES

# The Hymn

C. Parker
10/26/47
SPOTLITE 104

♩ = 240

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C BLUES

# K. C. BLUES

1/17/51
VERVE 2-2512

C F7 C

C7 F7 F7

C A7 D-7

G7 C C

C F7 C

C7 F7

F7 C C A7

D-7 G7

C C C (DELAYED) F7

C C7 F7

F7 C C A7

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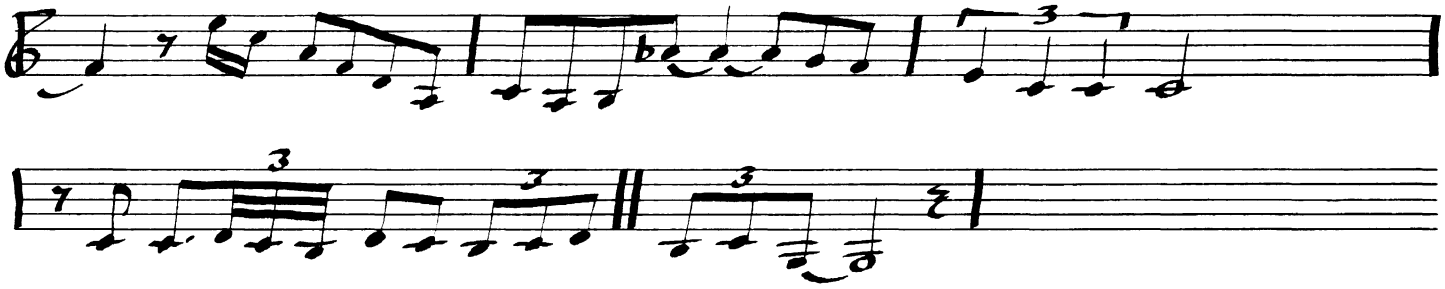
2)

# K.C. BLUES



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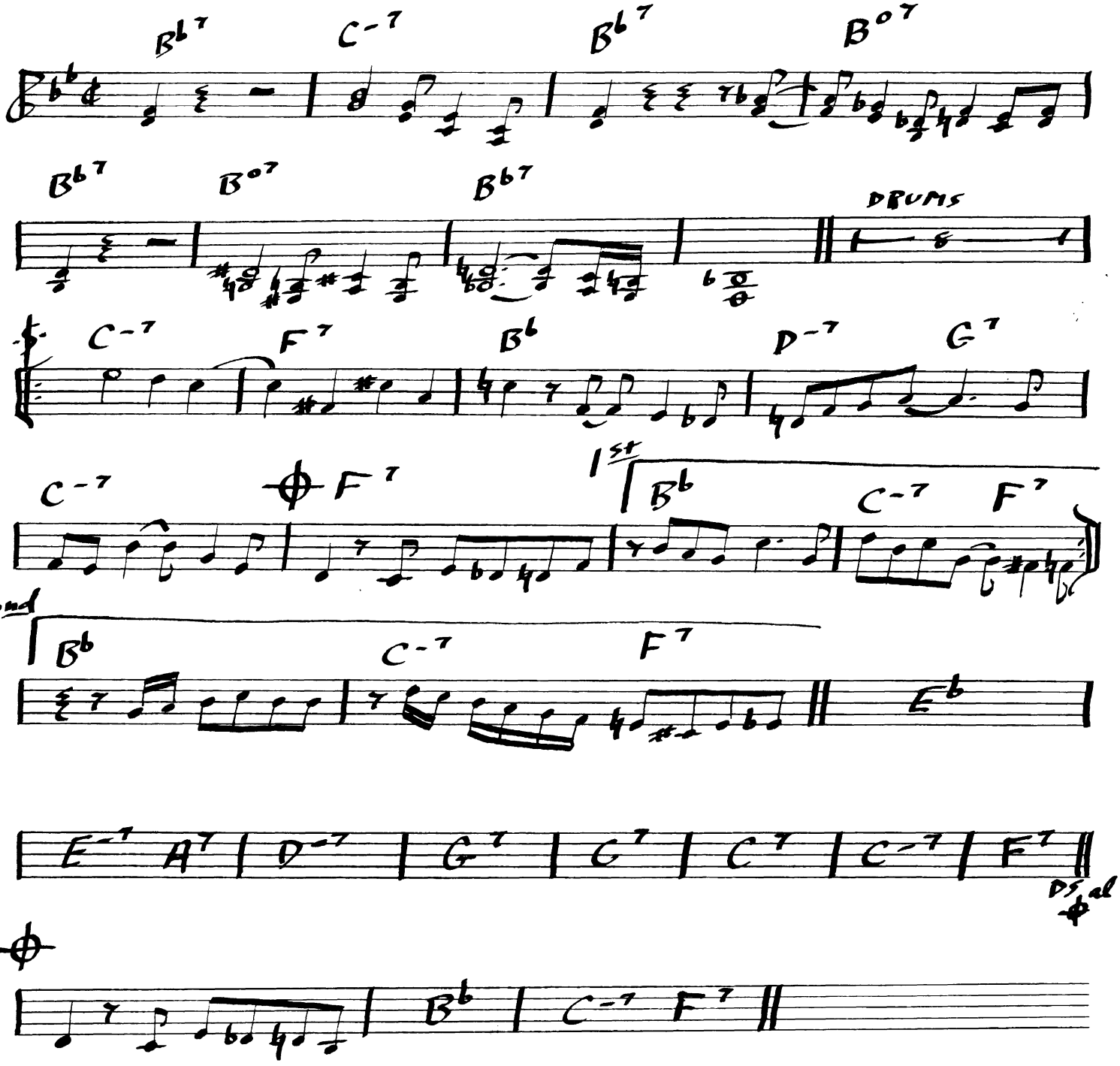
C. Parker

B♭ RHY.

# KLACTOVEEDSEDSTENE

11/4/47
SPOTLITE 105

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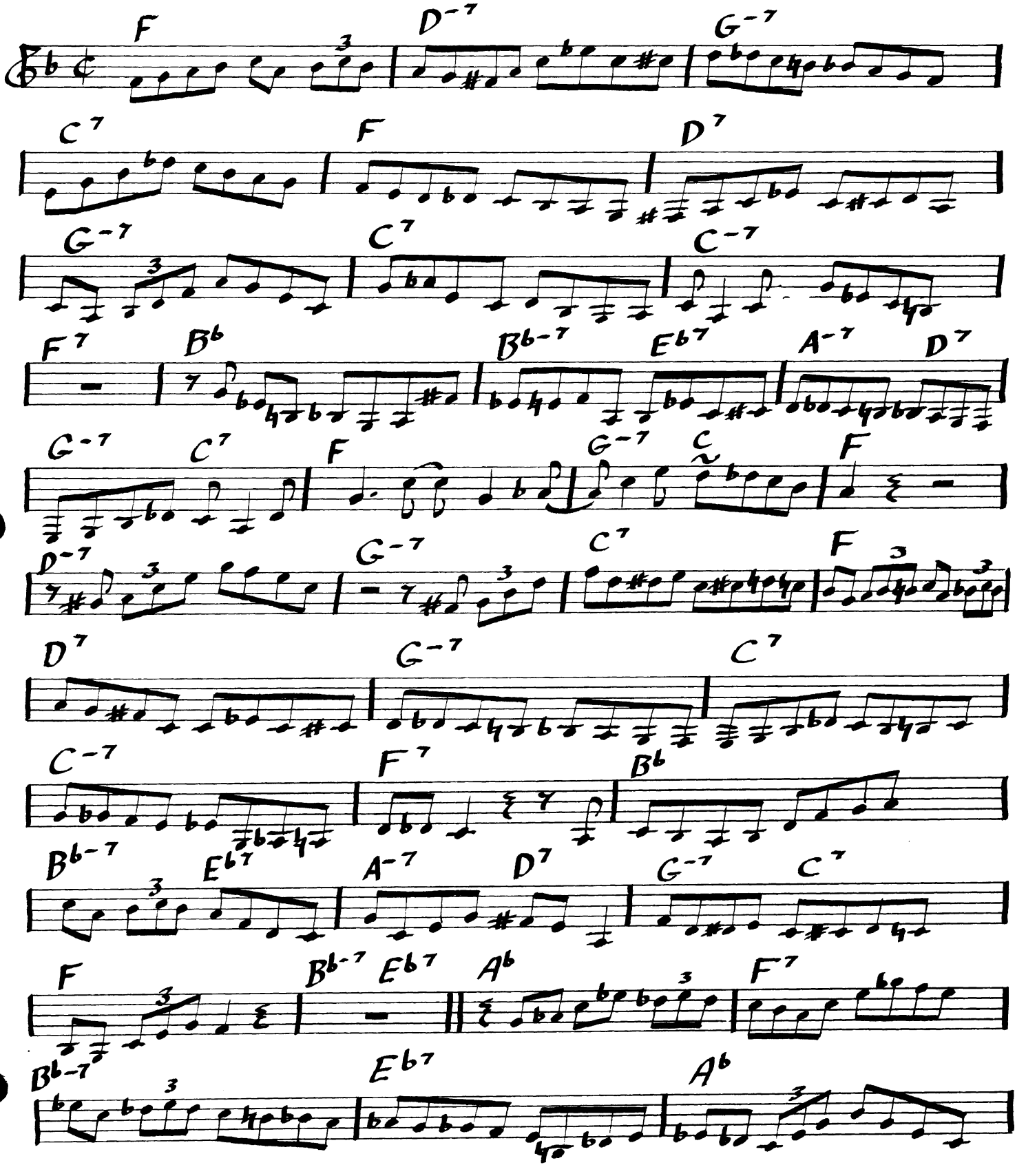
C. Parker

# KLAUNSTANCE

F "The Way You Look Tonight"

12/21/47
SAVOY 5500

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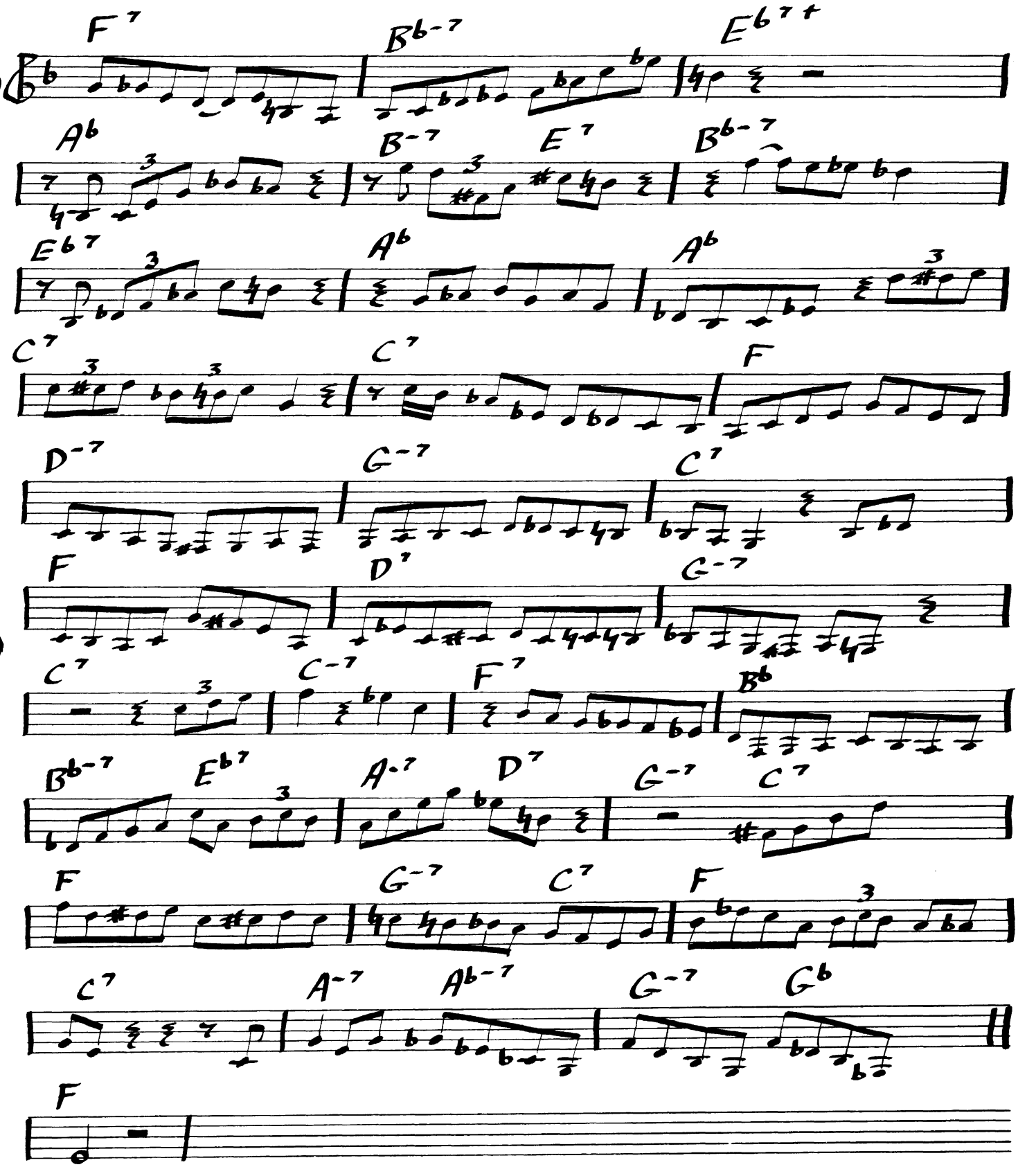
2)

# KLAUNSTANCE

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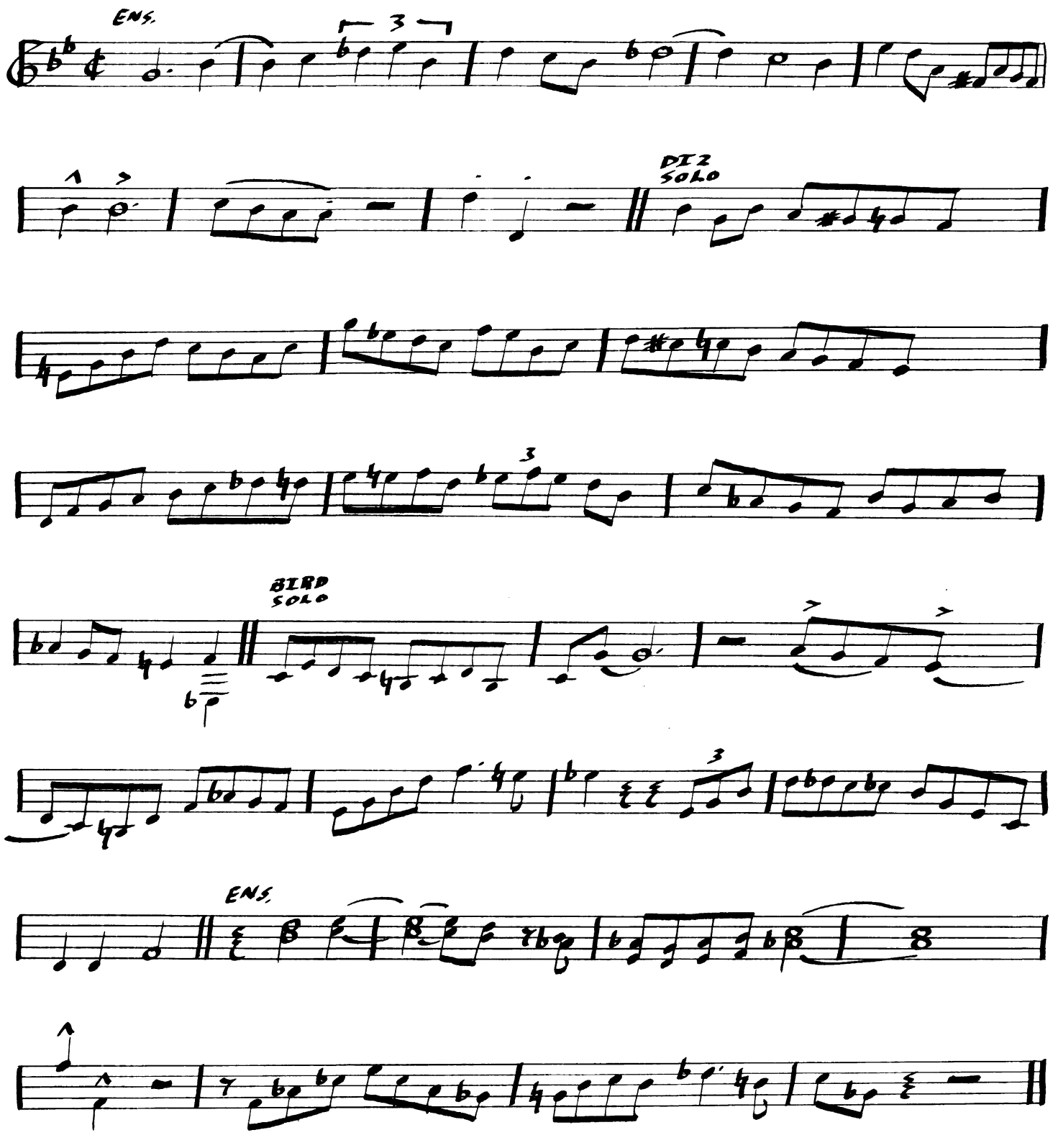
B♭ Cherokee

# KO KO

C. Parker
11/26/45
SAVOY 5500

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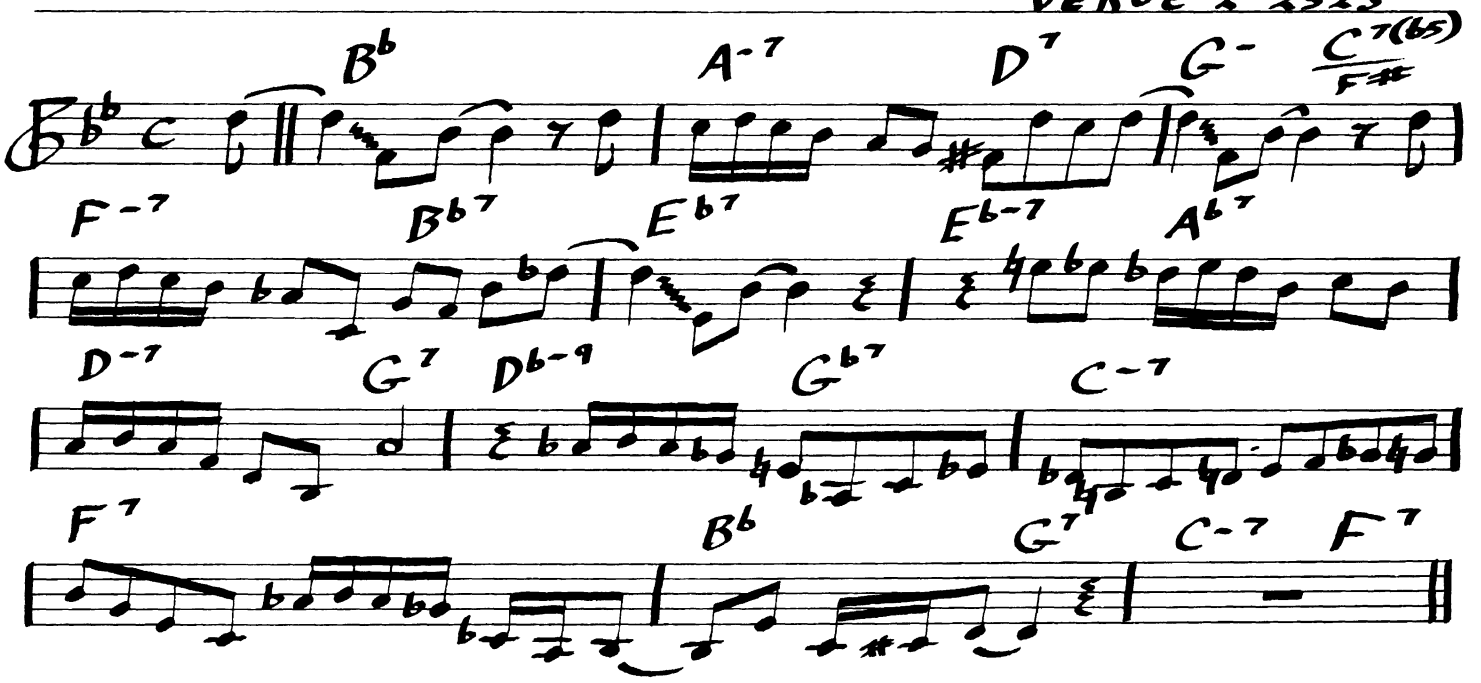
C. Parker

B♭ BLUES

# LAIRD BAIRD

12/30/52
VERVE 2-2523

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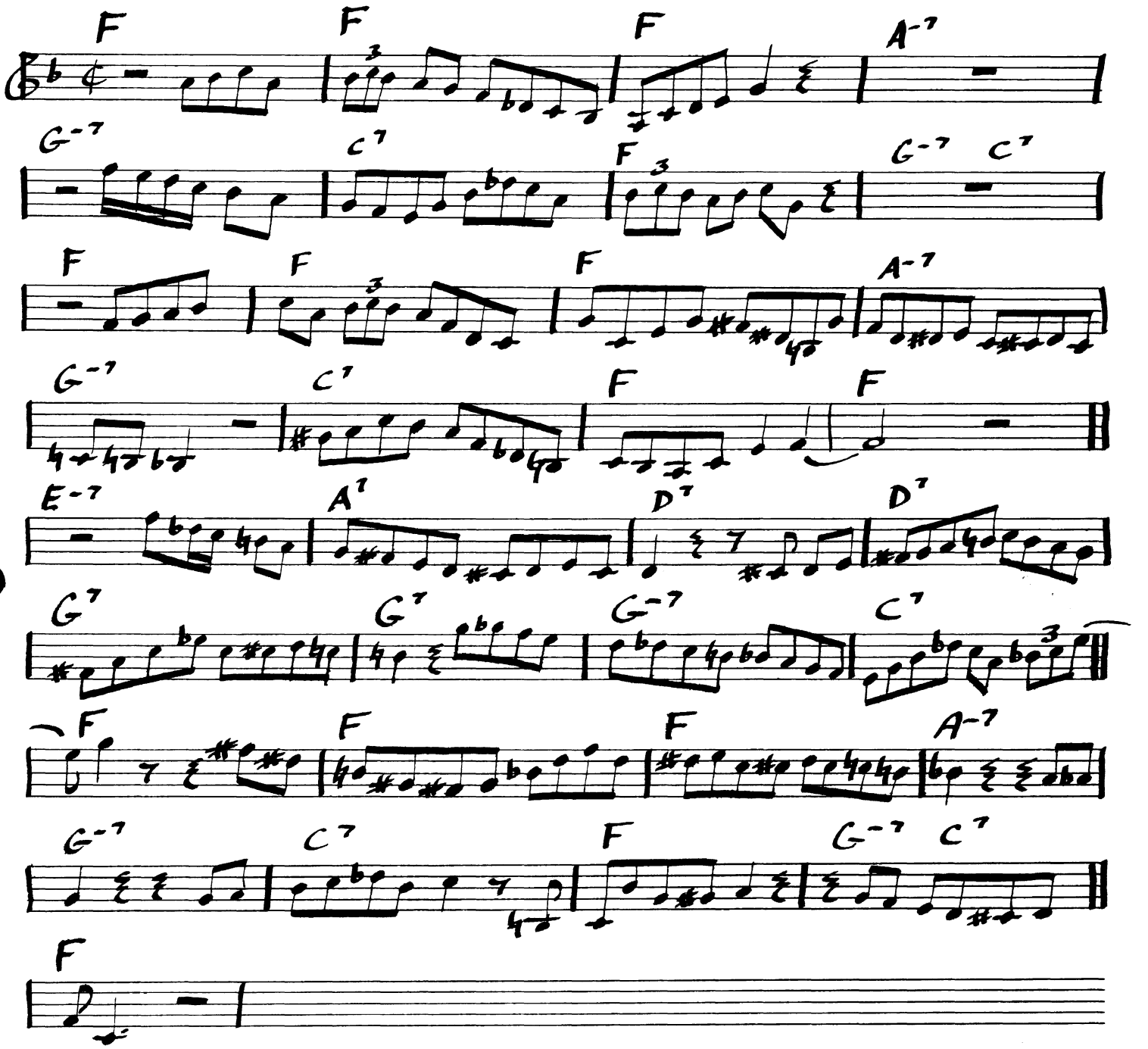
C. Parker

F RHY

# LEAP FROG

6/6/50
VERVE 2-2501

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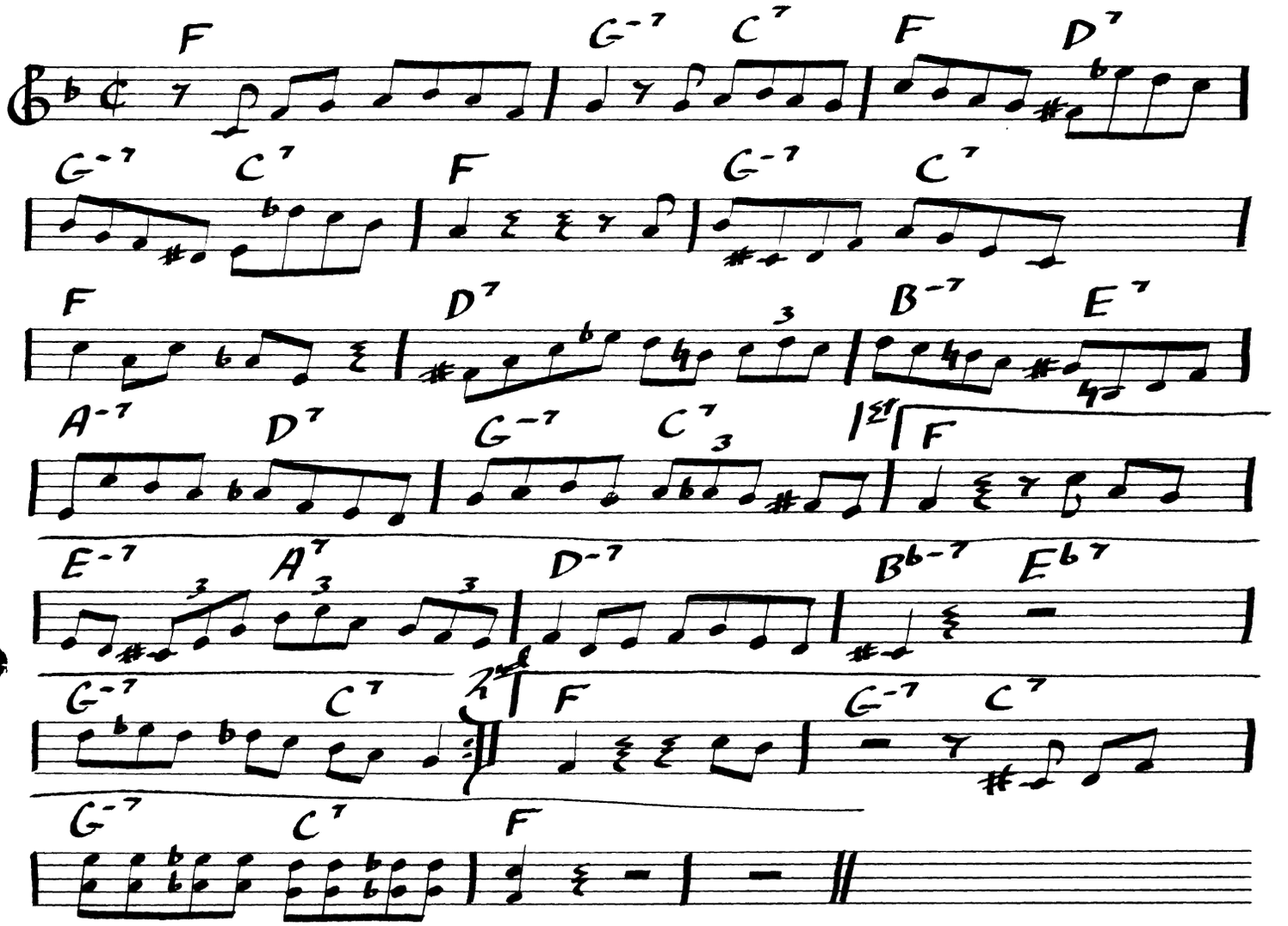
F "All God's Children got Rhythm"

# LITTLE WILLIE LEAPS

8/14/47
SAVOY 5500

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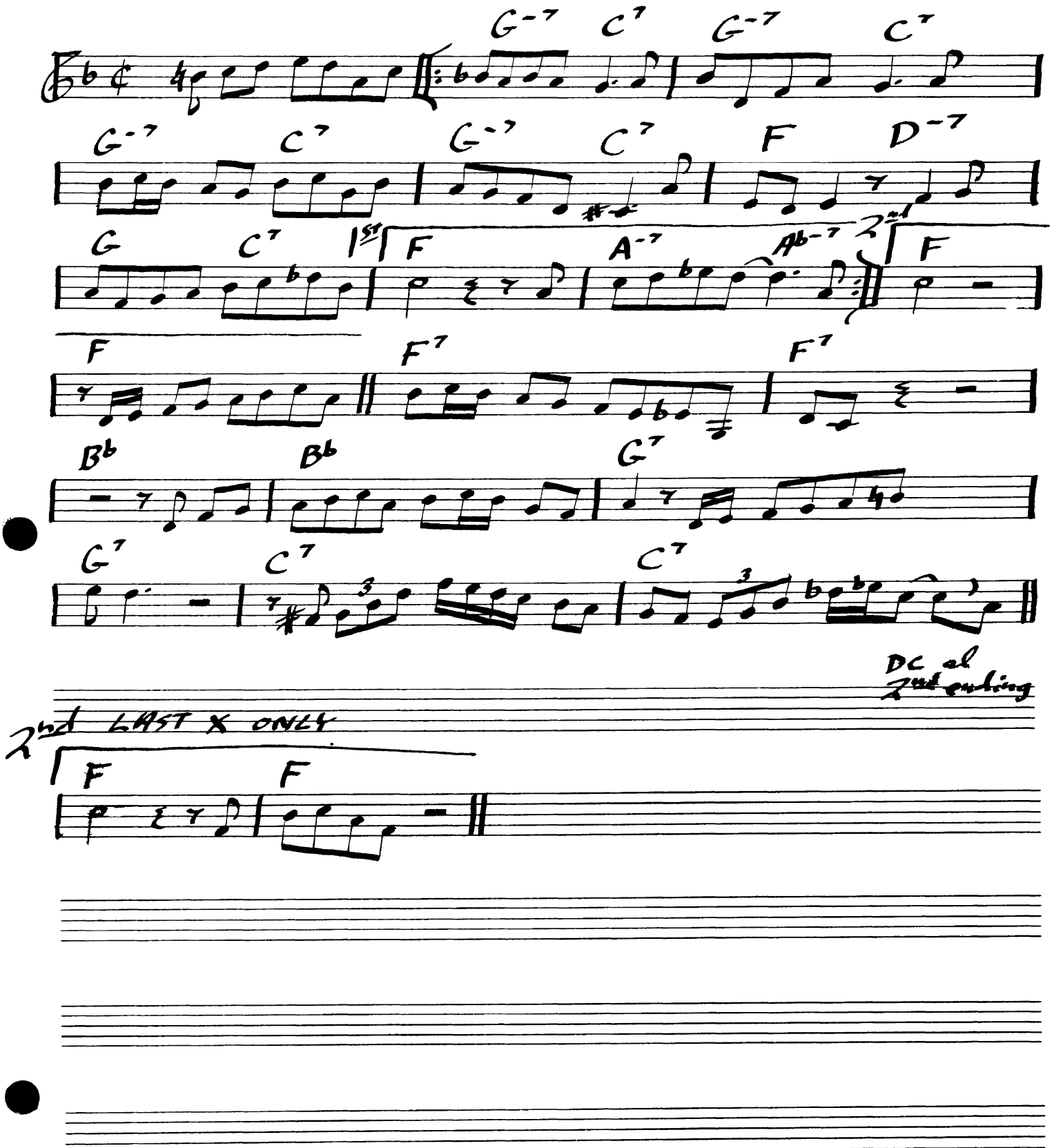
C. Parker

F "Honeysuckle Rose"

# MARMADUKE

9/24/48
SAVOY 5500

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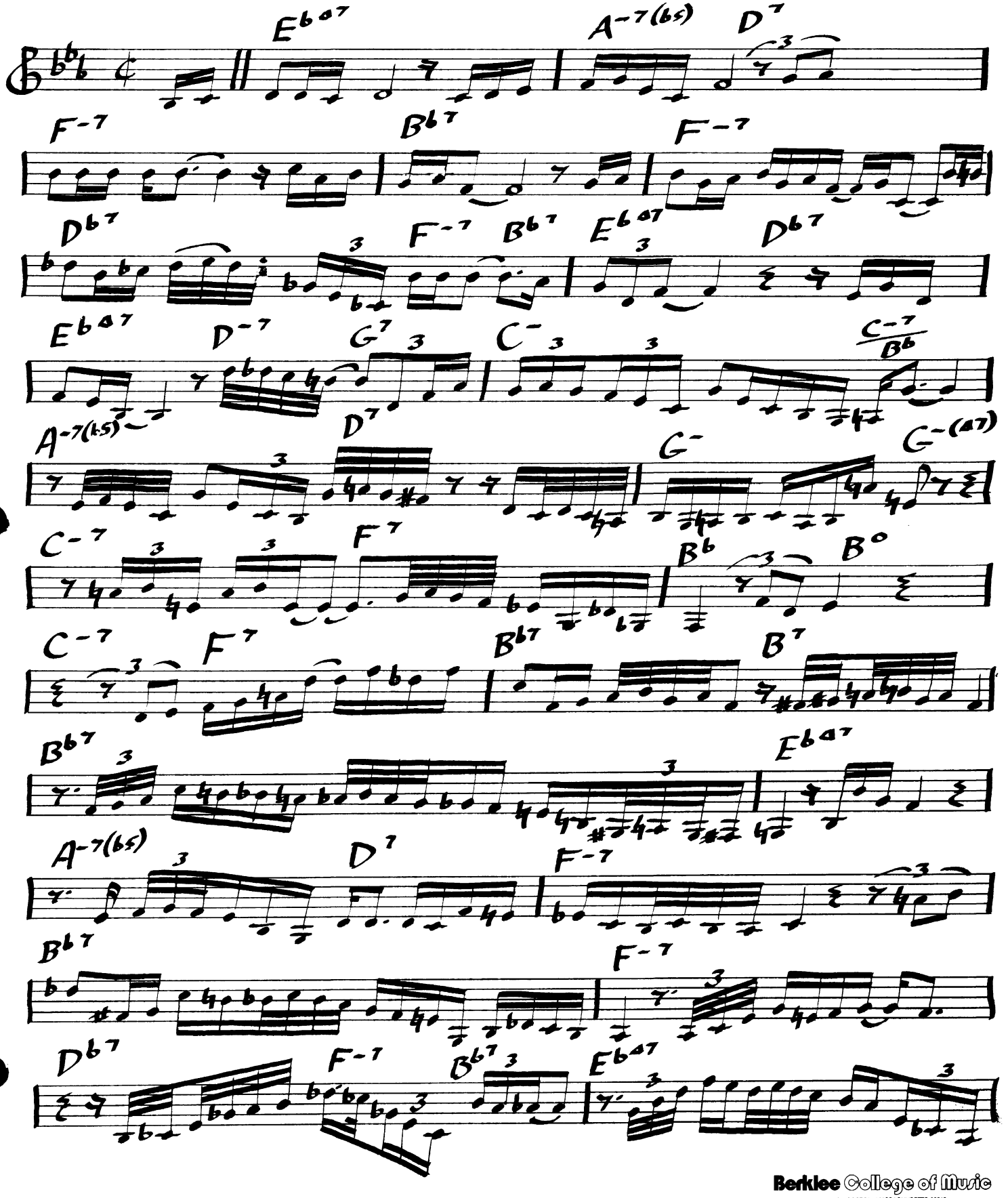
E♭ "Embraceable You"

# MEANDERING

11/26/45
SAVOY 5500

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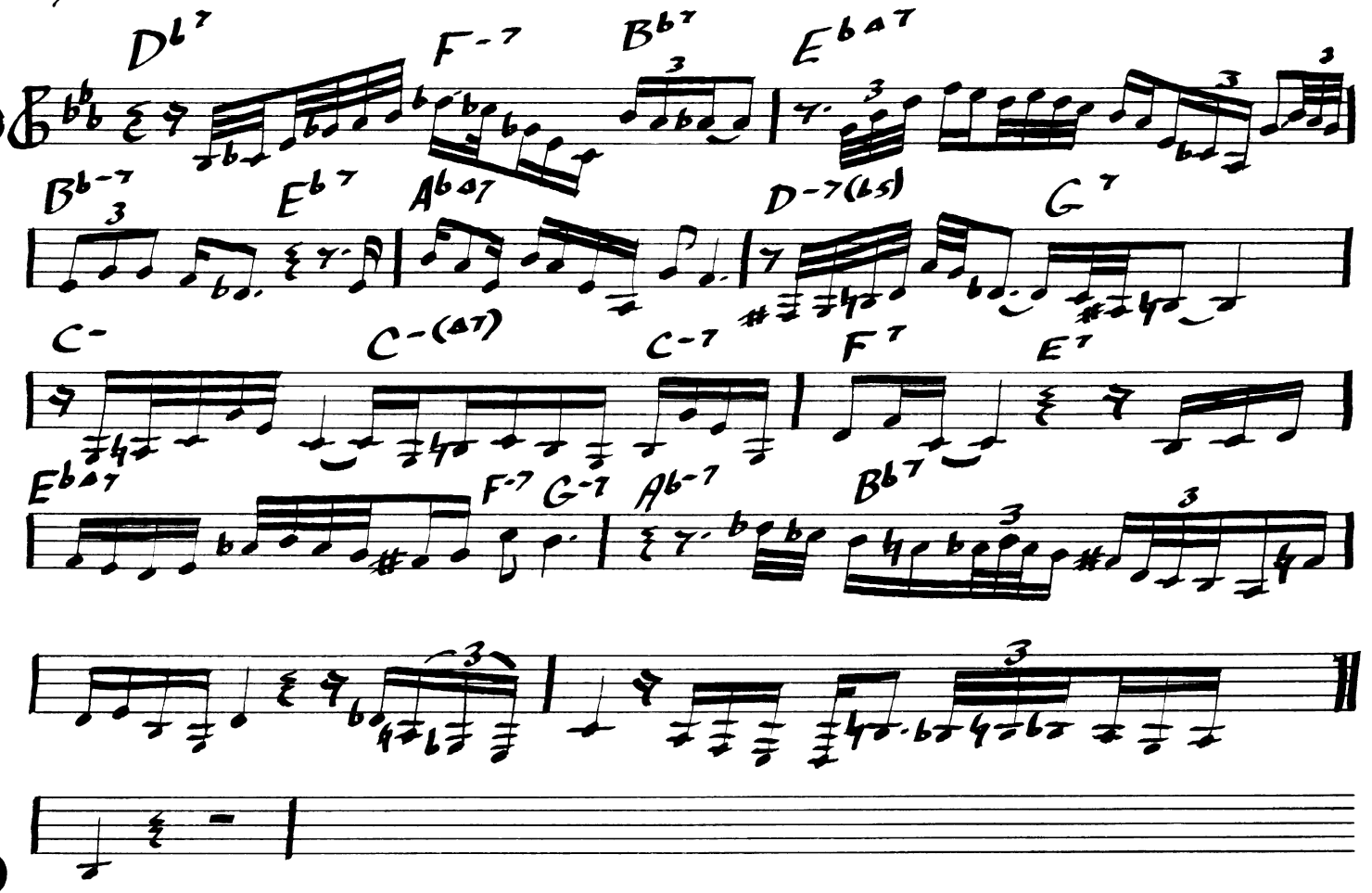
2)

# MEANDERING

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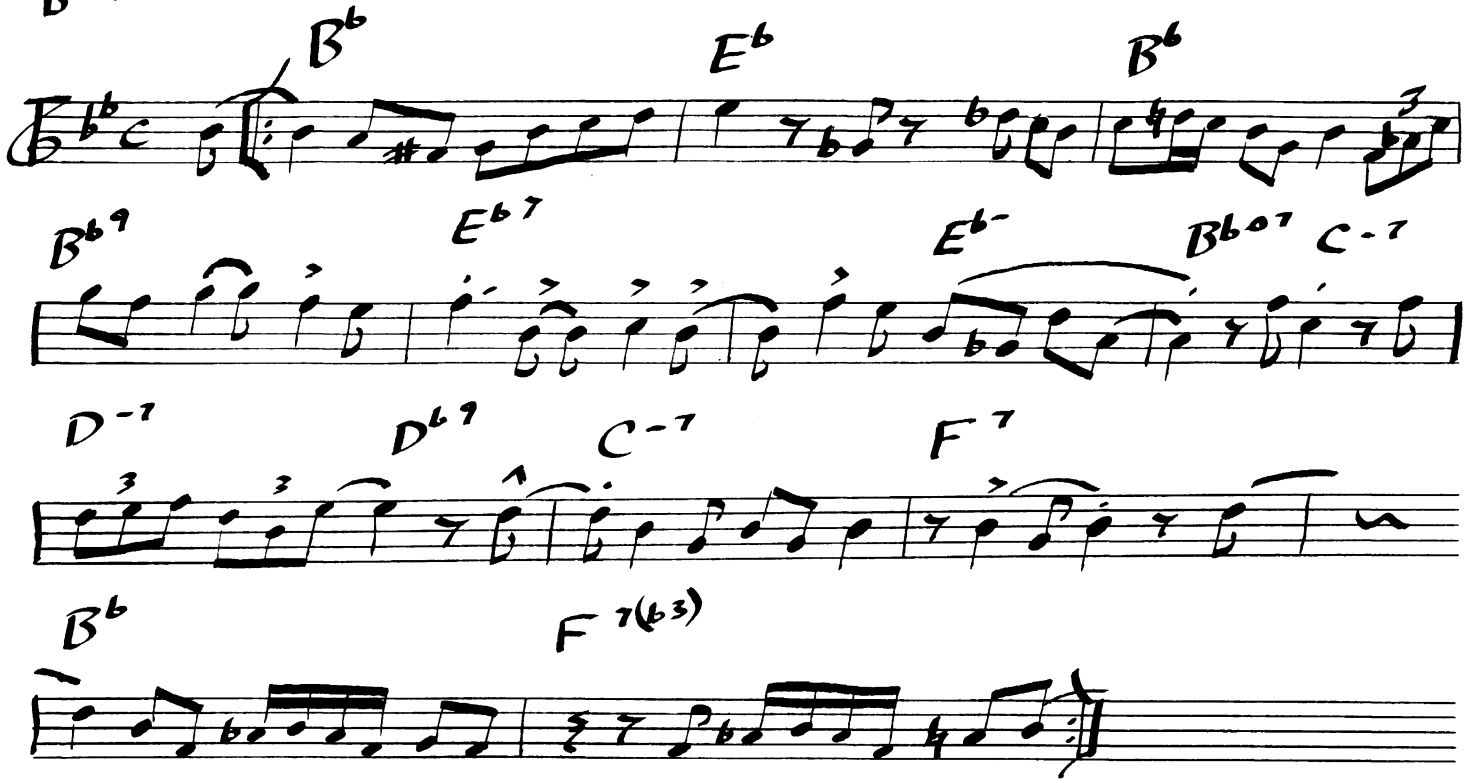
# MOHAWK

C. Parker
5/6/50
VERVE 2-2501

B♭ BLUES

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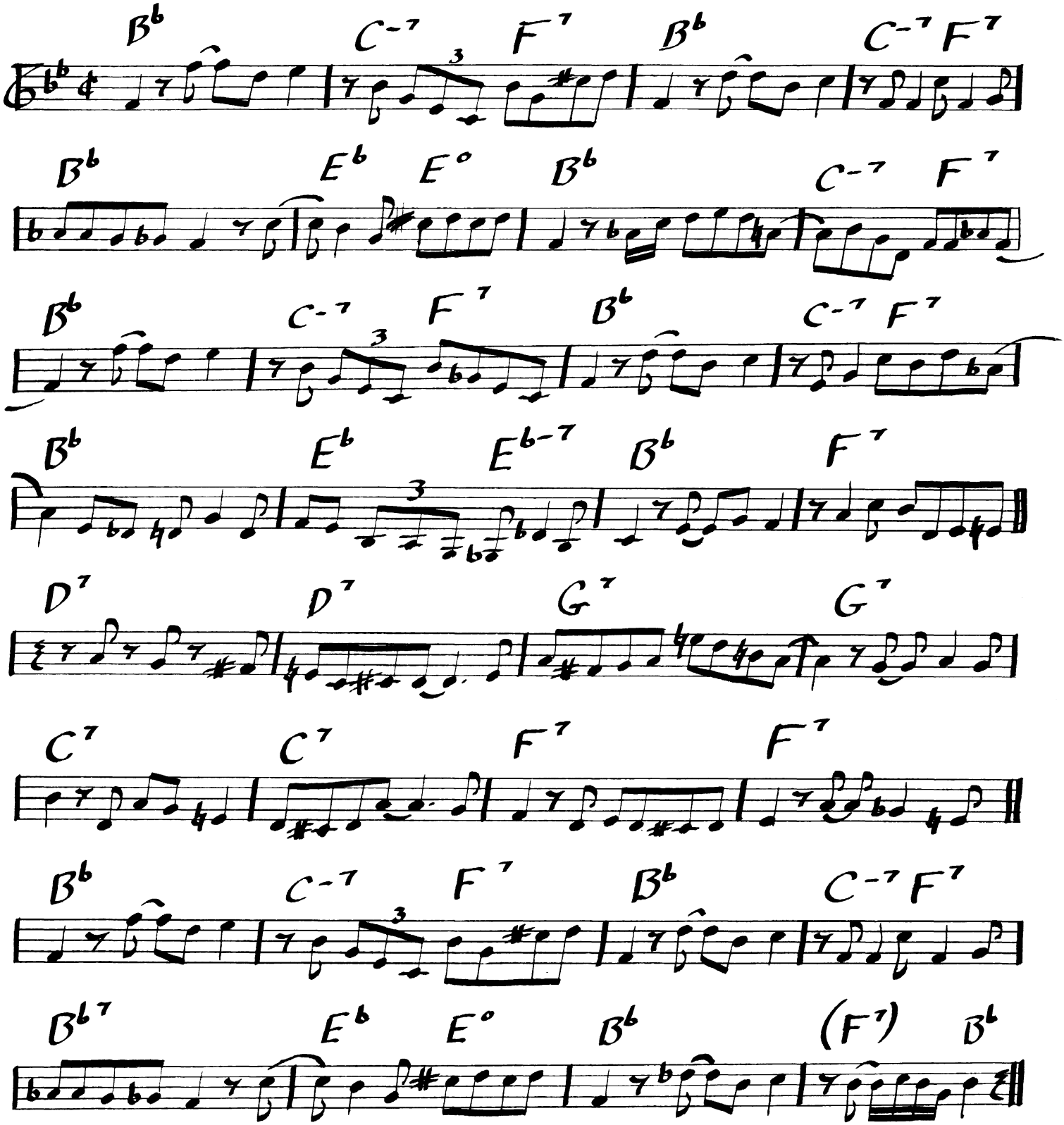
B♭ Rhy.

C. Parker

# MOOSE THE MOOCHE

3/28/46
SPOTLITE 101

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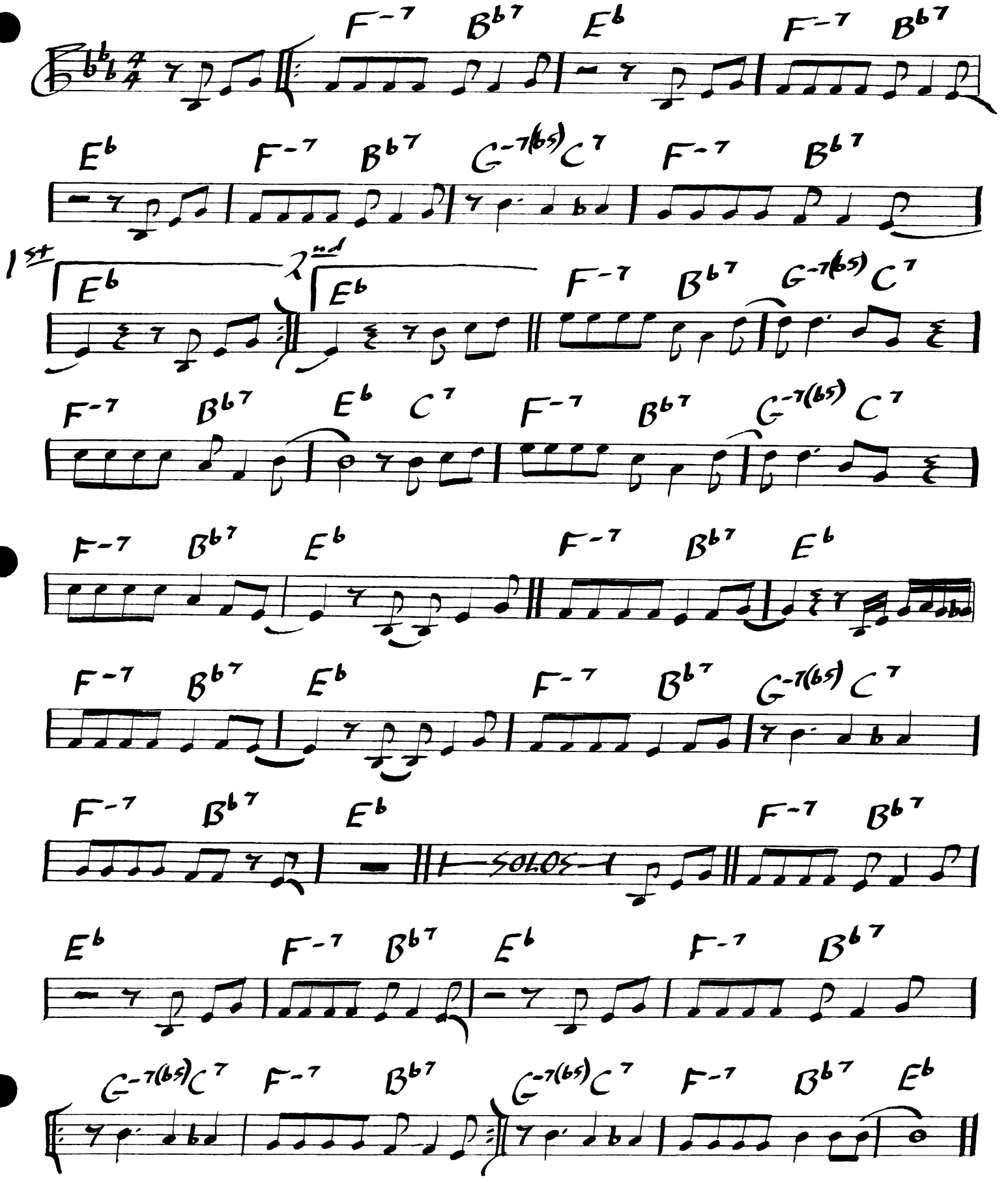
# MY LITTLE SUEDE SHOES

E♭ RHY.

C. Parker
3/12/51
VERVE 2-2512

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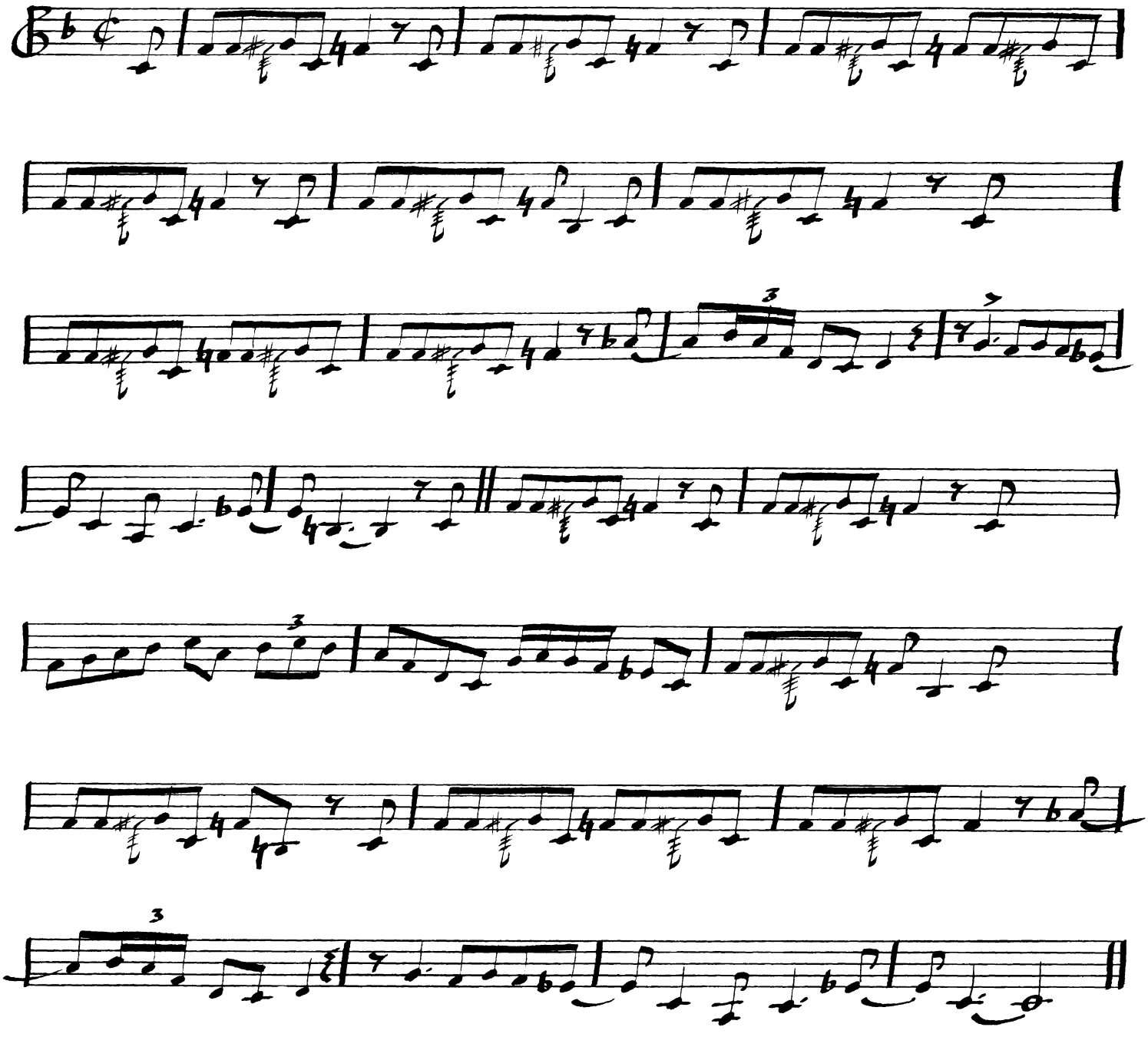
F BLUES

# NOW'S THE TIME

C. Parker
8/4/53
VERVE 2-2523



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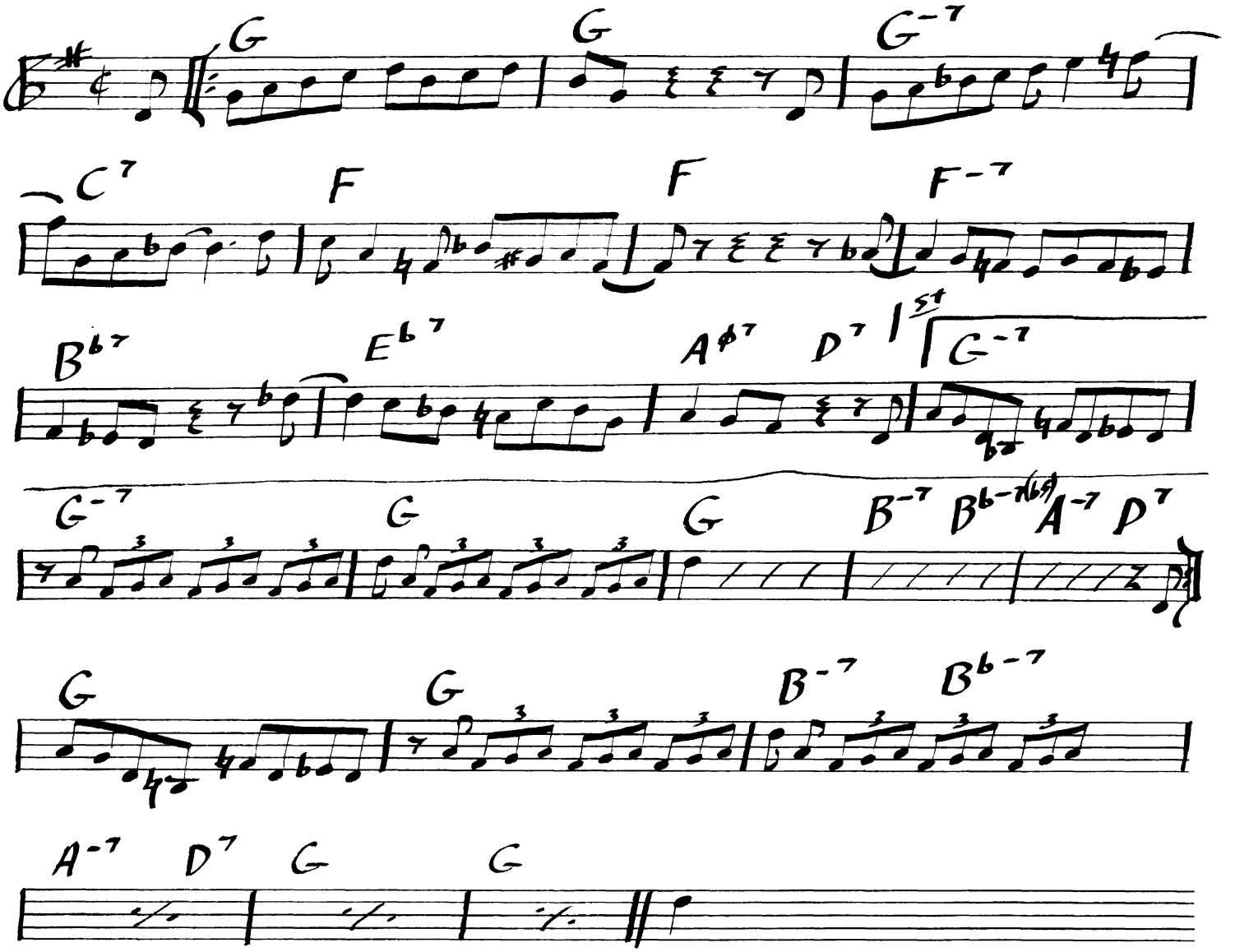
G "How High The Moon"

# ORNITHOLOGY

(First Version)

C. Parker
Benny Harris
3/28/46
SPOTLITE 101

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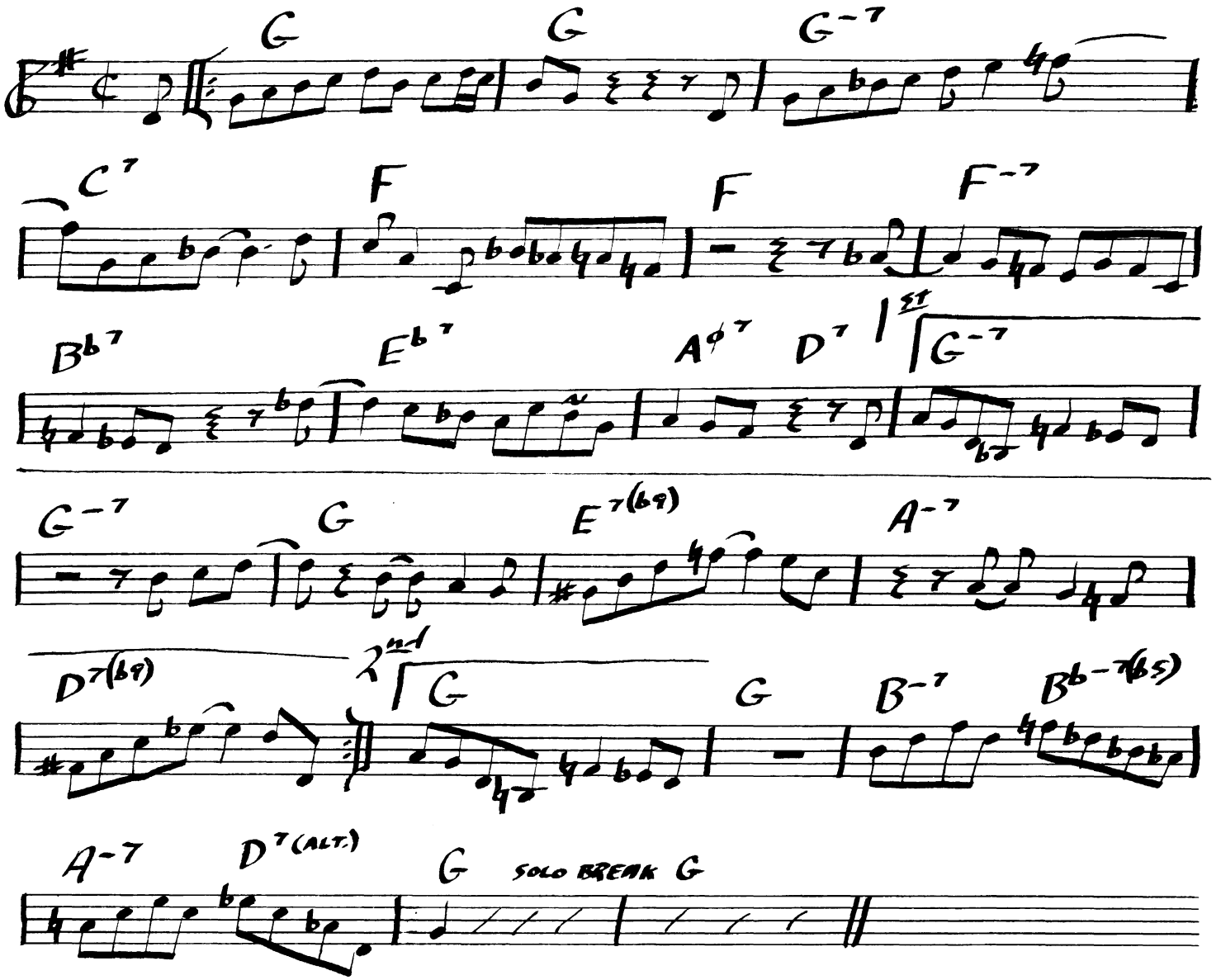
G "How High The Moon"

# ORNITHOLOGY
(second version)

C. Parker
Benny Harris
12/24/49
AR 701

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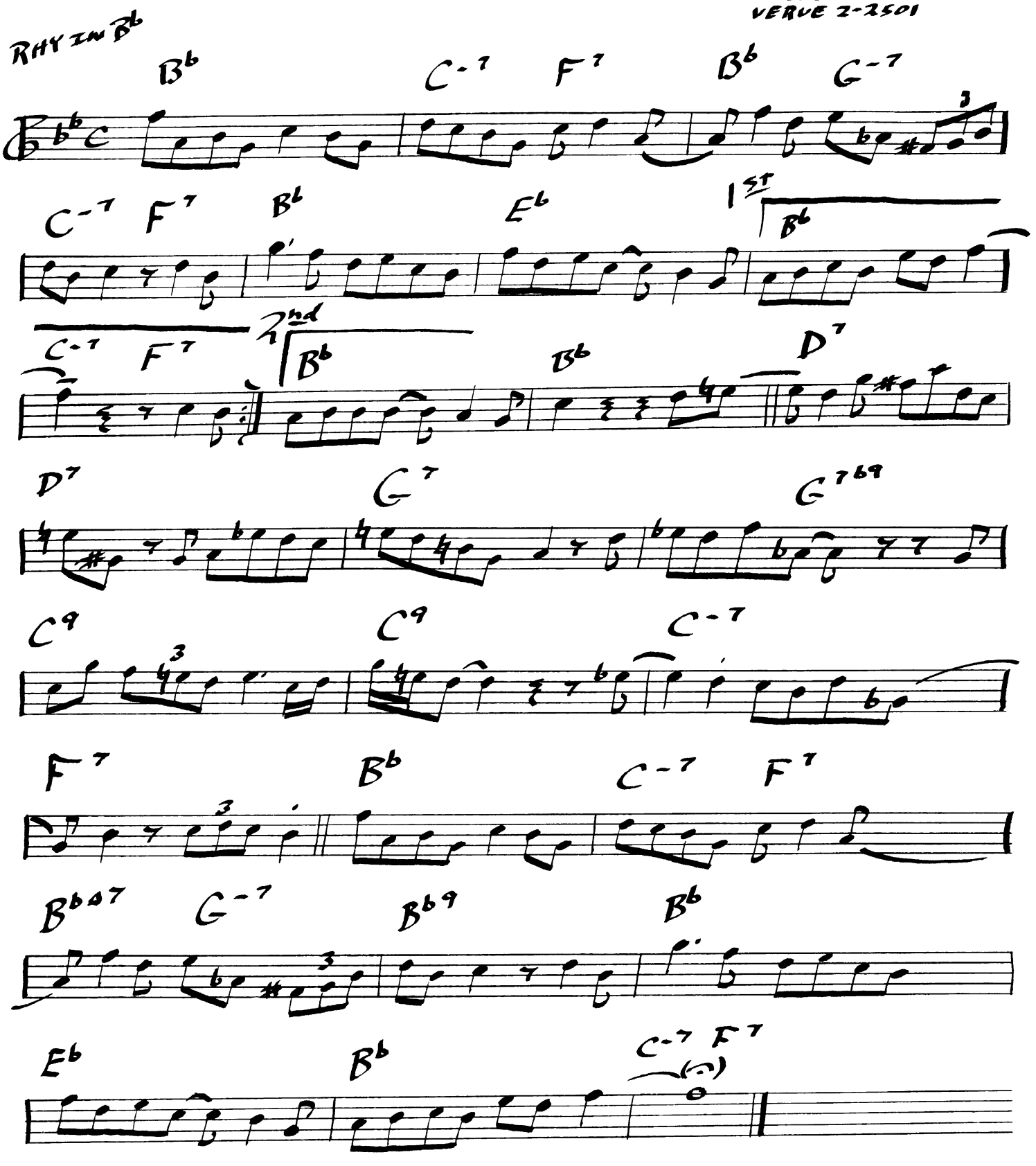
# PASSPORT

C. Parker
5/5/49
VERVE 2-2501

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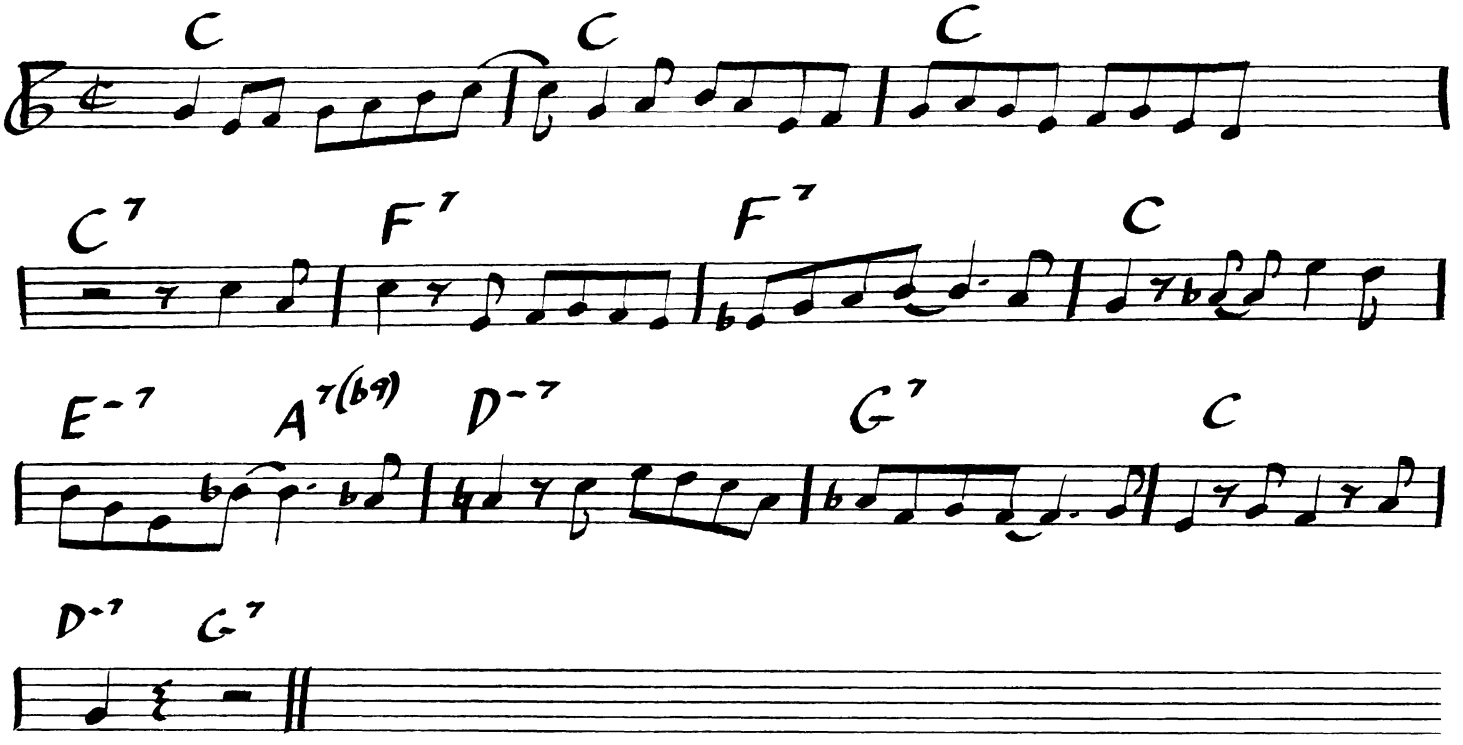
C BLUES

C. Parker

# PERHAPS

9/24/48
SAVOY 5500

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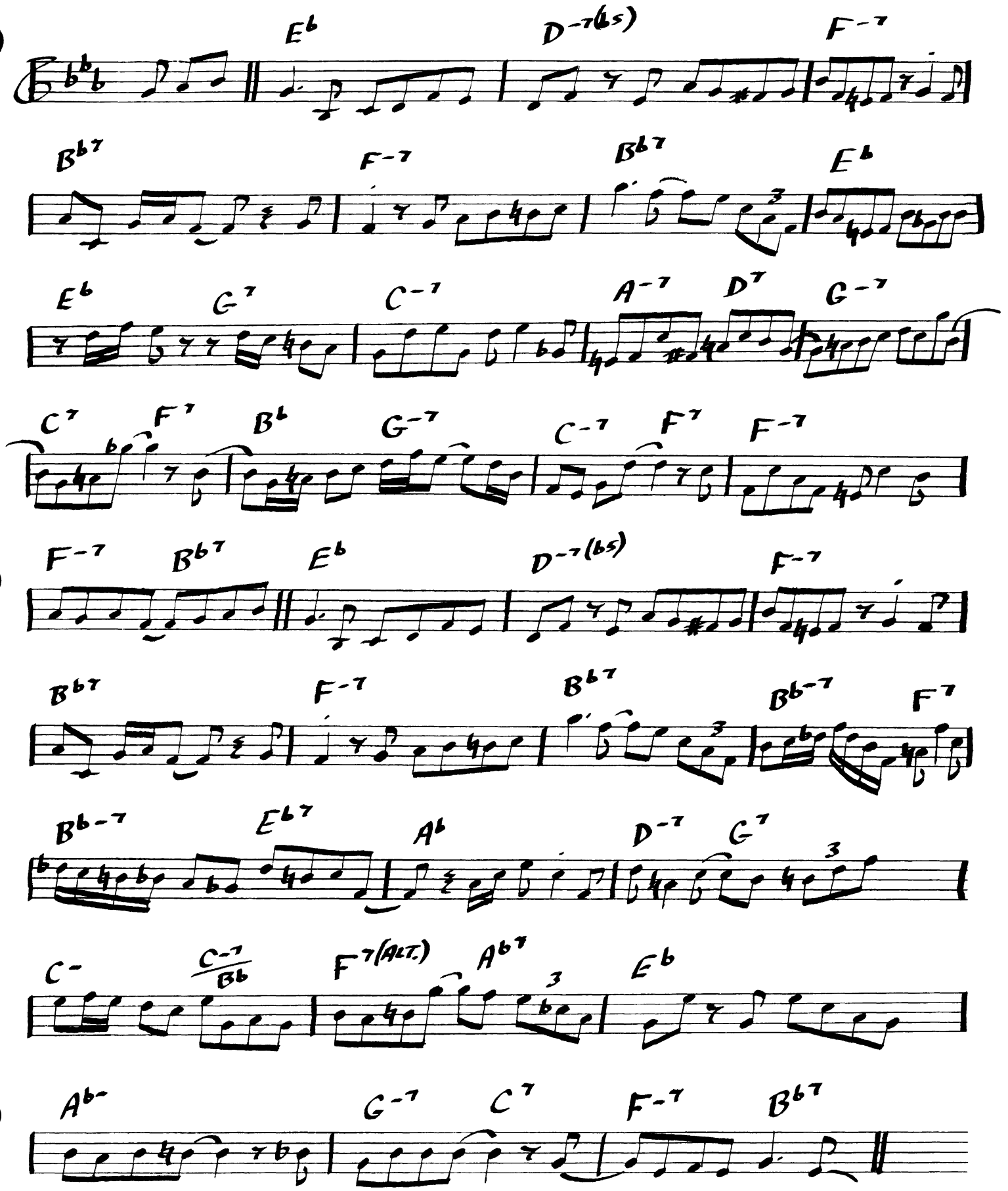
E♭ "Embraceable You"
ABAC

# Quasimado

C. Parker
12/17/47
SPOTLITE 106

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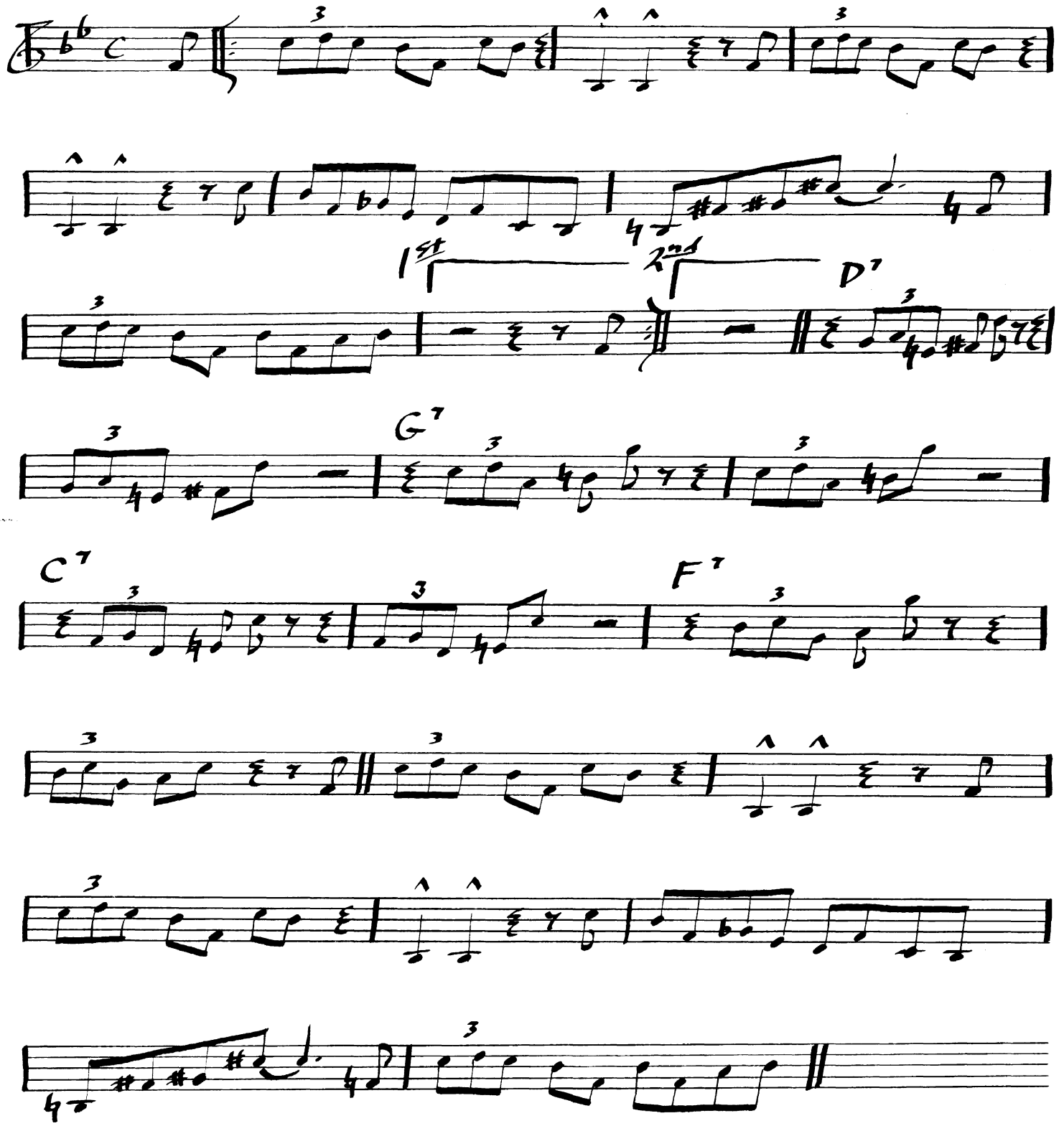
B♭ Key

# RED CROSS

C. Parker
9/15/44
SAVOY 5500

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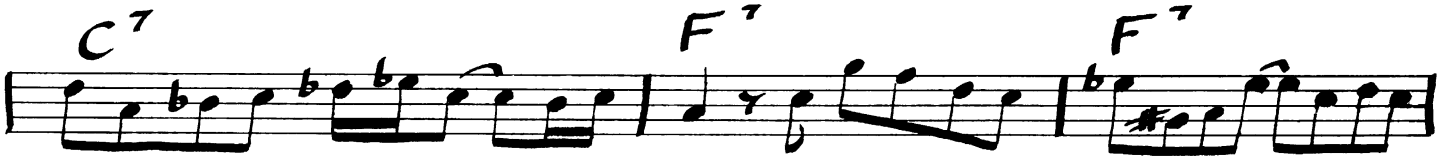
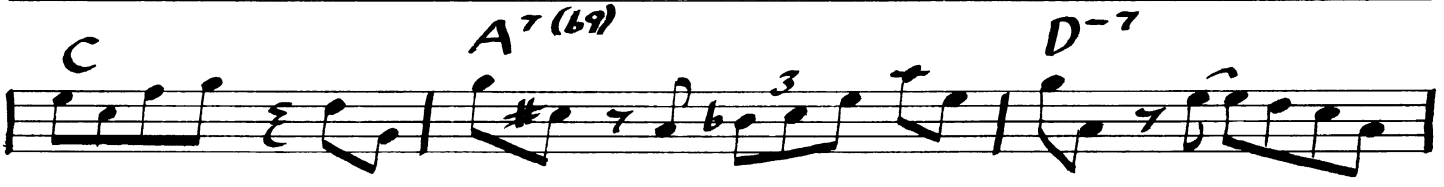
C. Parker

C BLUES

# RELAXIN' AT CAMARILLO

2/26/47
SPOTLITE 103



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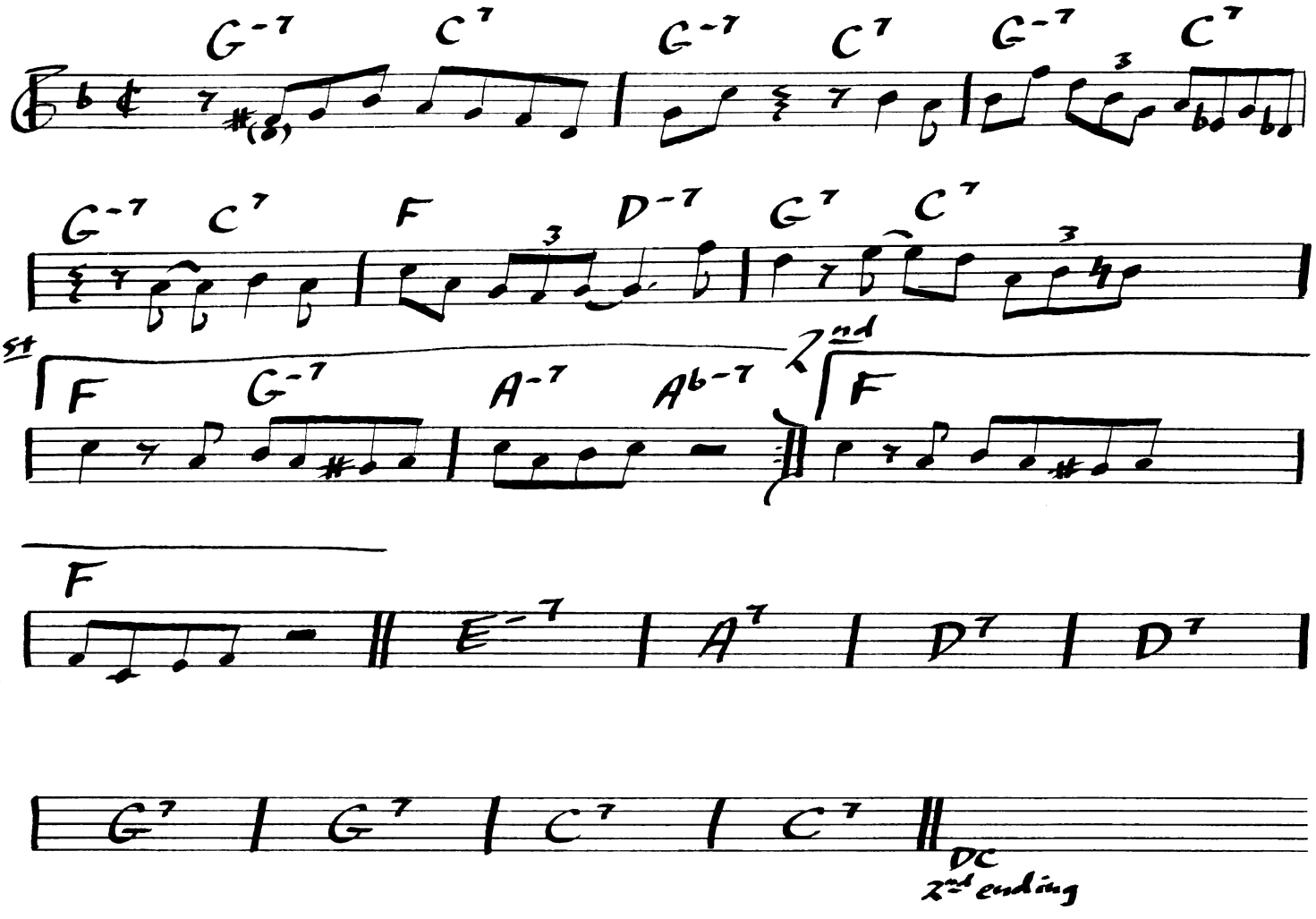
F RHY.

C. Parker
11/4/47
SPOTLETE 105

# SCRAPPLE FROM THE APPLE

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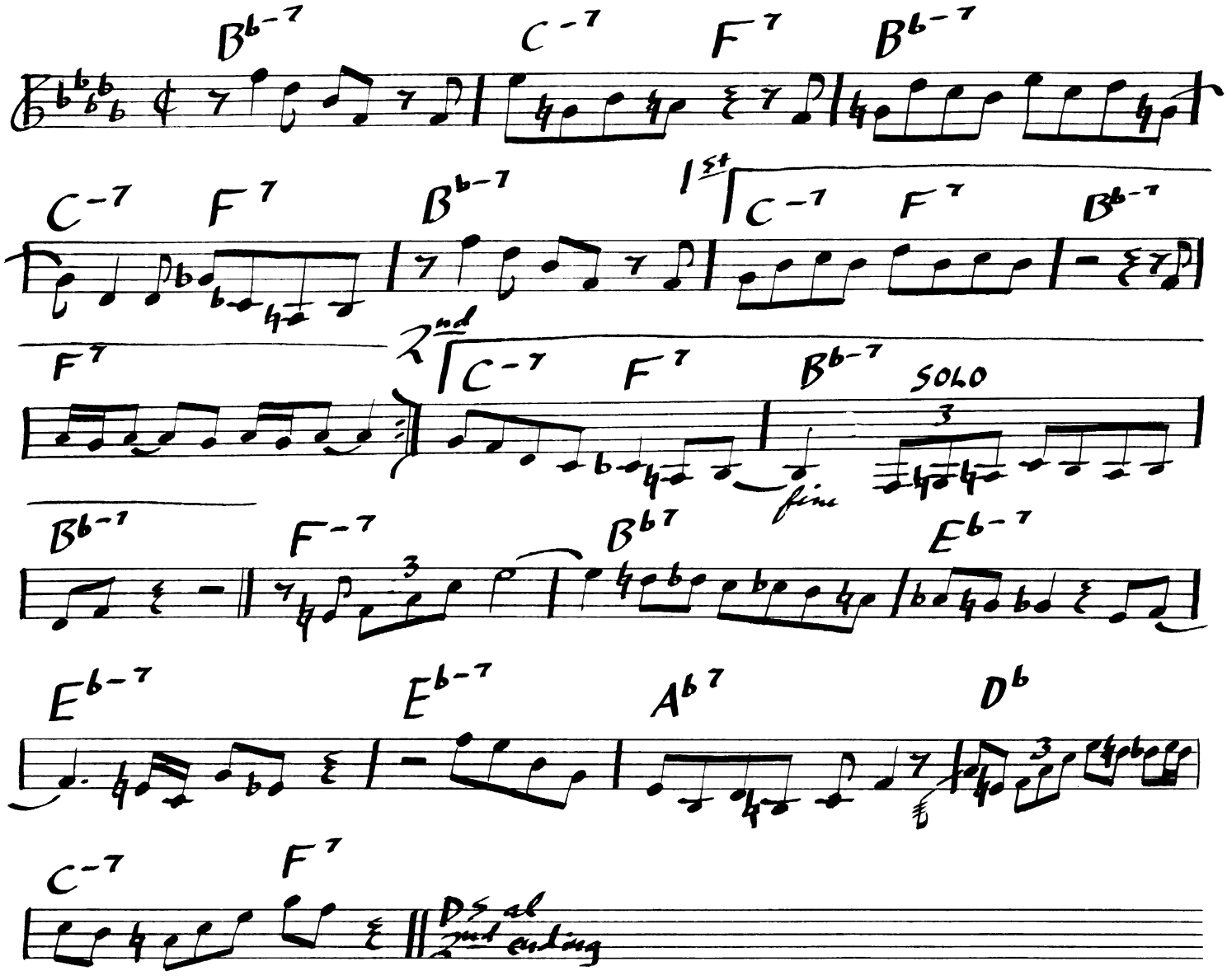
B♭ minor AABA

# SEGMENT

C. Parker
5/5/49
VERVE 2-2501

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B♭ RHY

# SHAW-NUFF

C. Parker

5/11/45
SAGA ERO 8035

INTRO

B♭-7 B7

B♭-7 B7

BREAK B♭-7 B7

B♭ PIANO BREAK

B♭ C-7 F7 B♭ G7

C-7 F7 1st F-7 B♭7 E♭7 E°

B♭ G7 C-7 F7 2nd F-7 B♭7

E♭7 E° B♭ F7 B♭ D7(b5)

D7(b5) G7(b5) G7(b5) C7(b5)

C7(b5) F7 F7 D.S. al ⊕
NO REPEAT

⊕ B♭ F7 B♭

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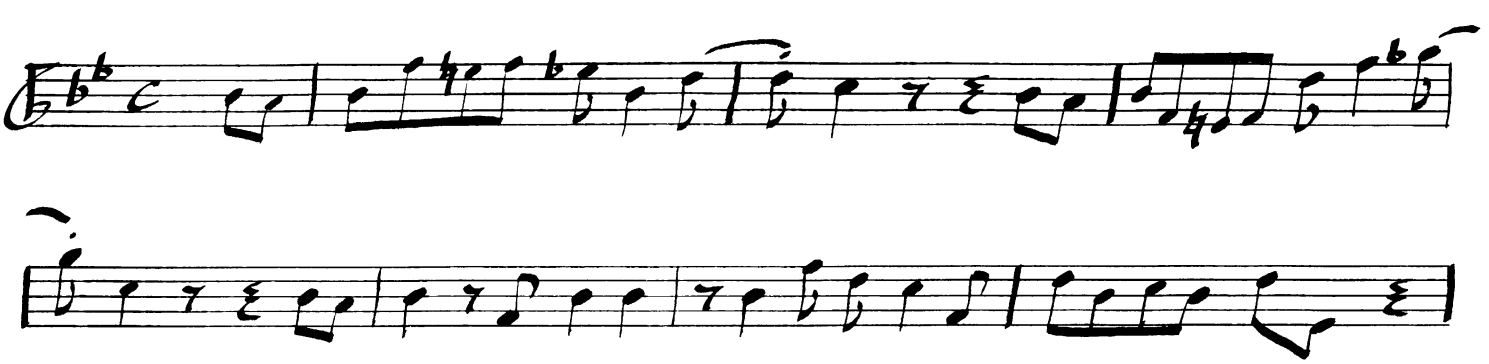
B♭ ABAC

She Rote

C. Parker
1/17/51
VERVE 2-2512

F pedal



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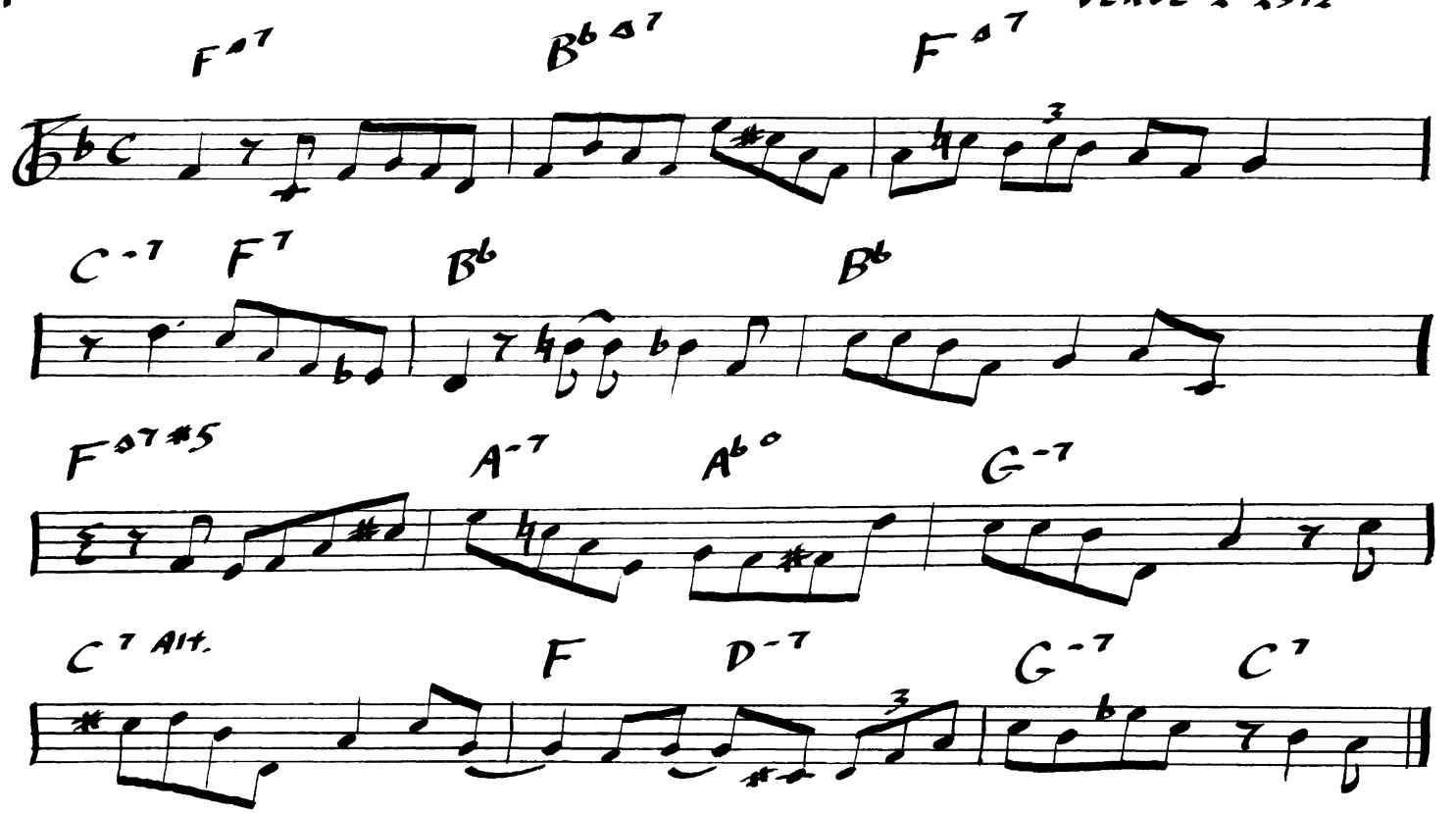
# Si Si

C. Parker
8/8/51
VERVE 2-2512

F Blues

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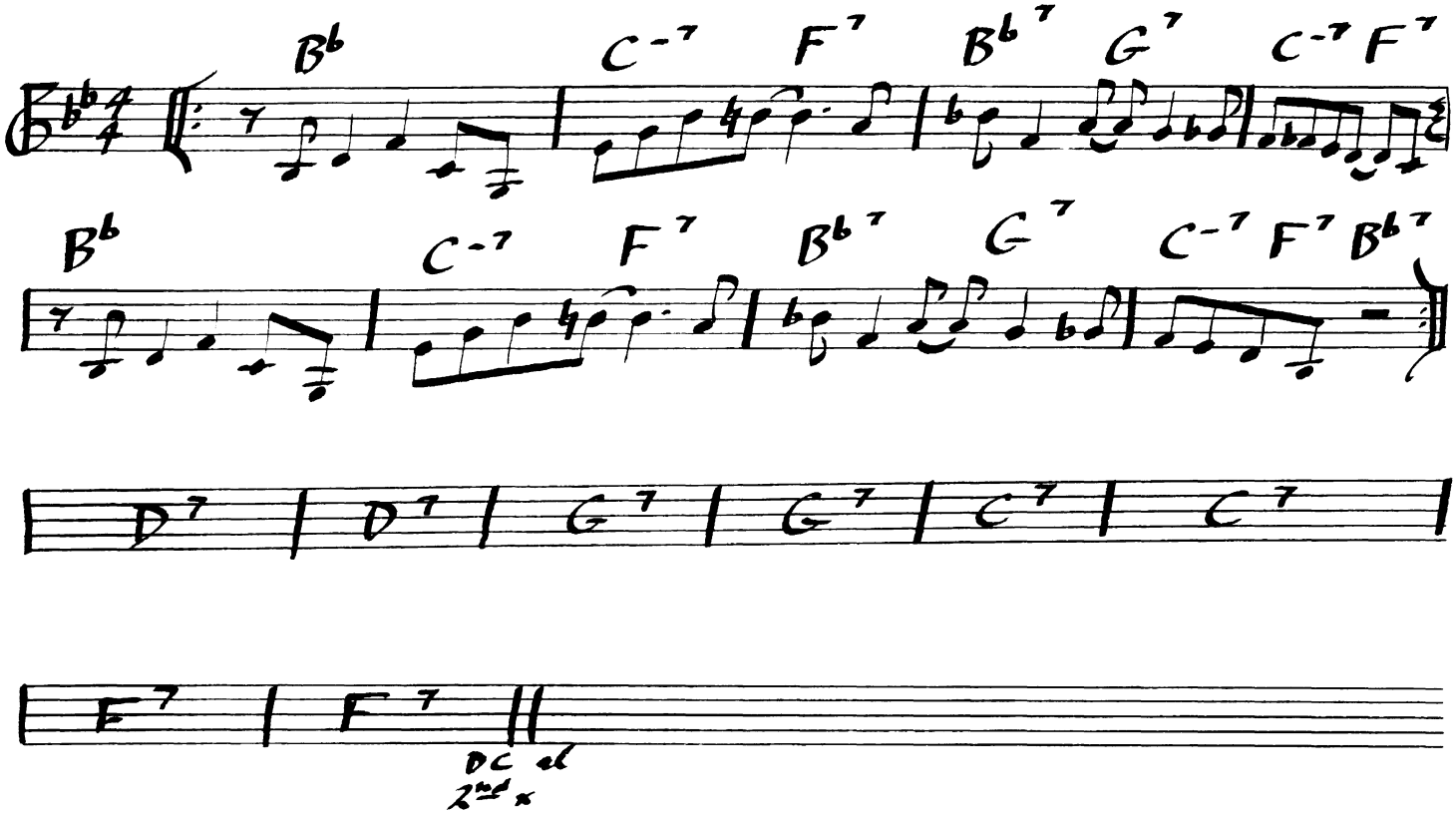
B♭ RHY.

# STEEPLECHASE

C. Parker
9/24/48
SAVOY 5500

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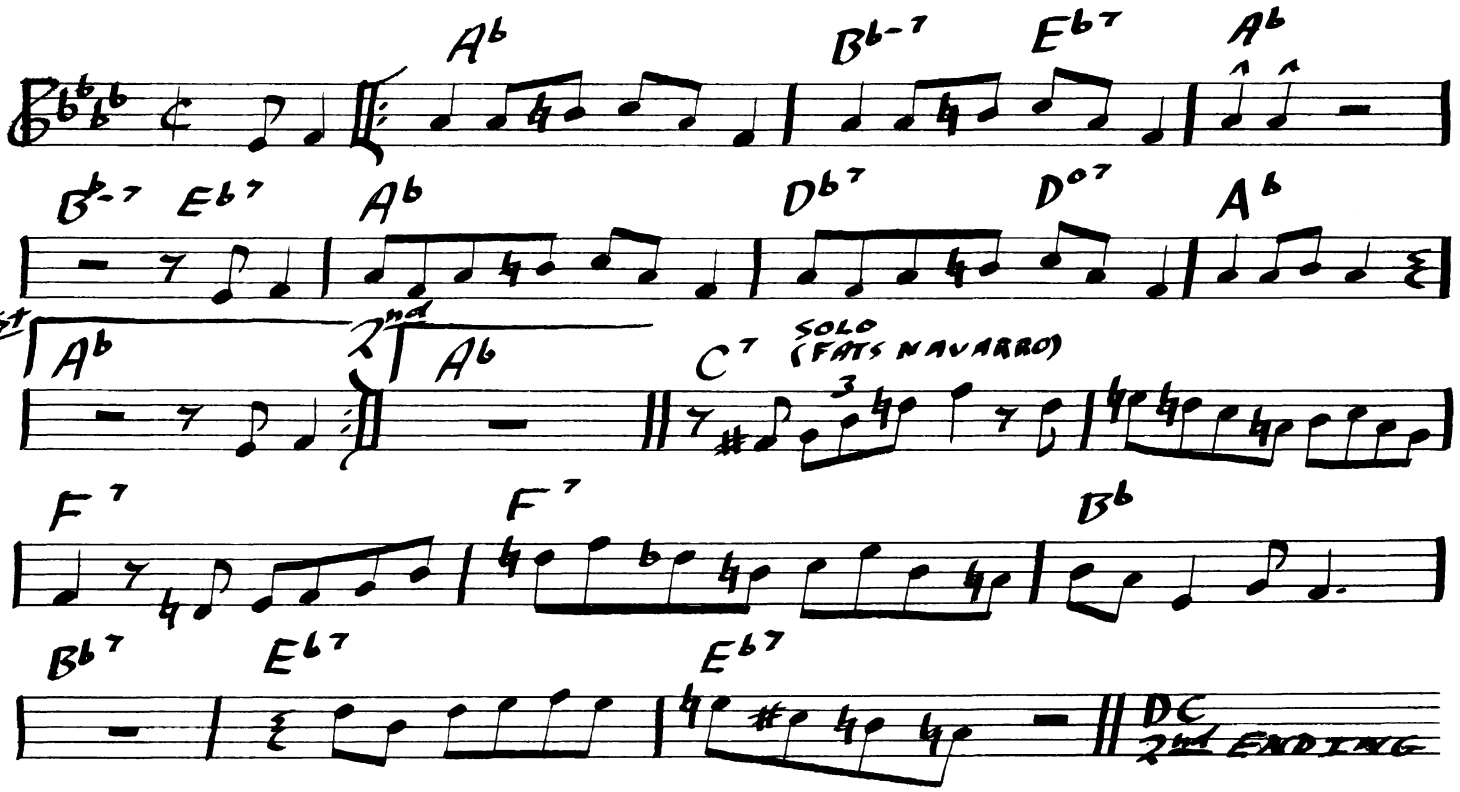
C. PARKER

A♭ RHY.

# THE STREET BEAT
## (RIFFTIDE)

6/30/50
BLS 8029

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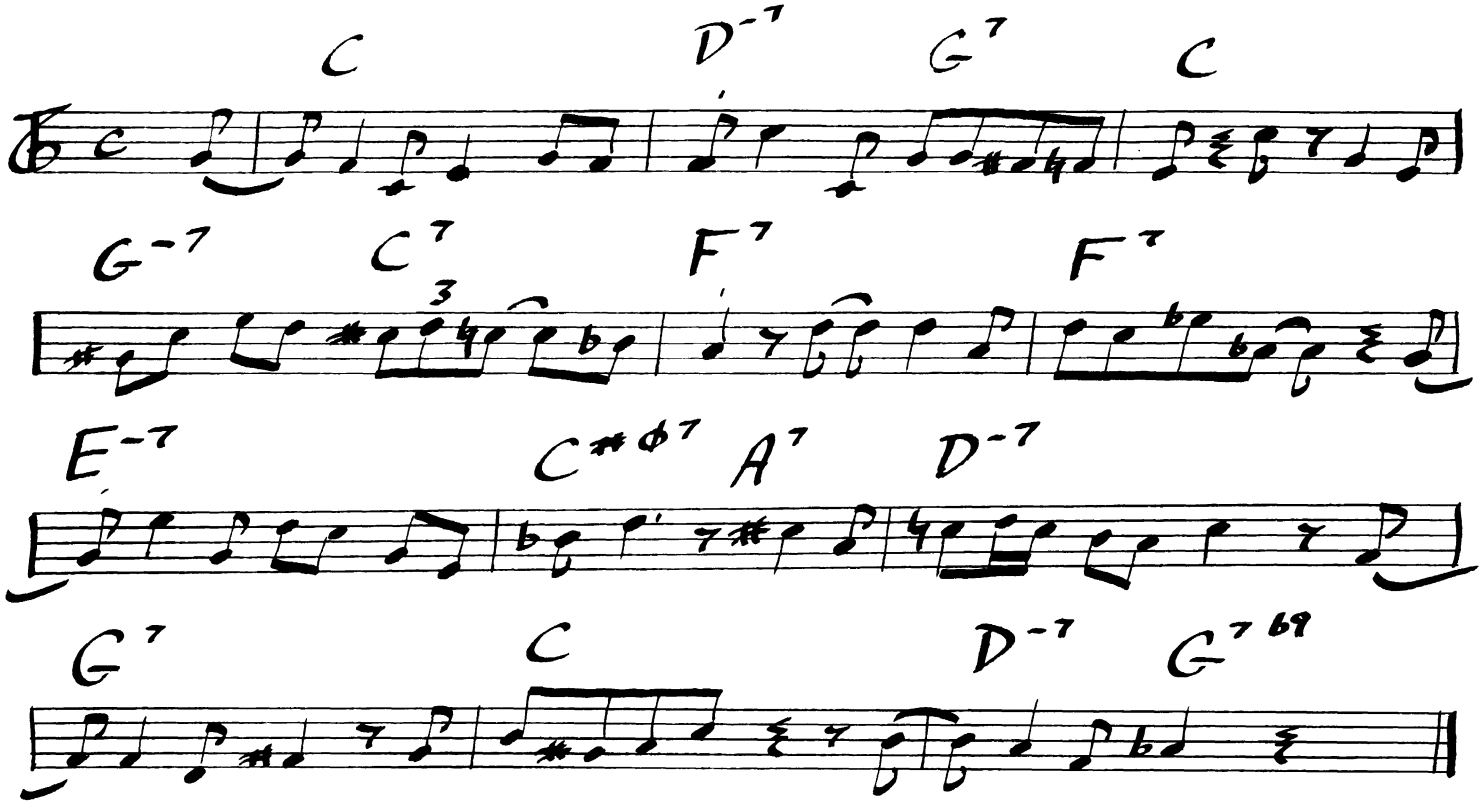
C BLUES

# VISA

C. Parker
4/49
VERVE 2-2501

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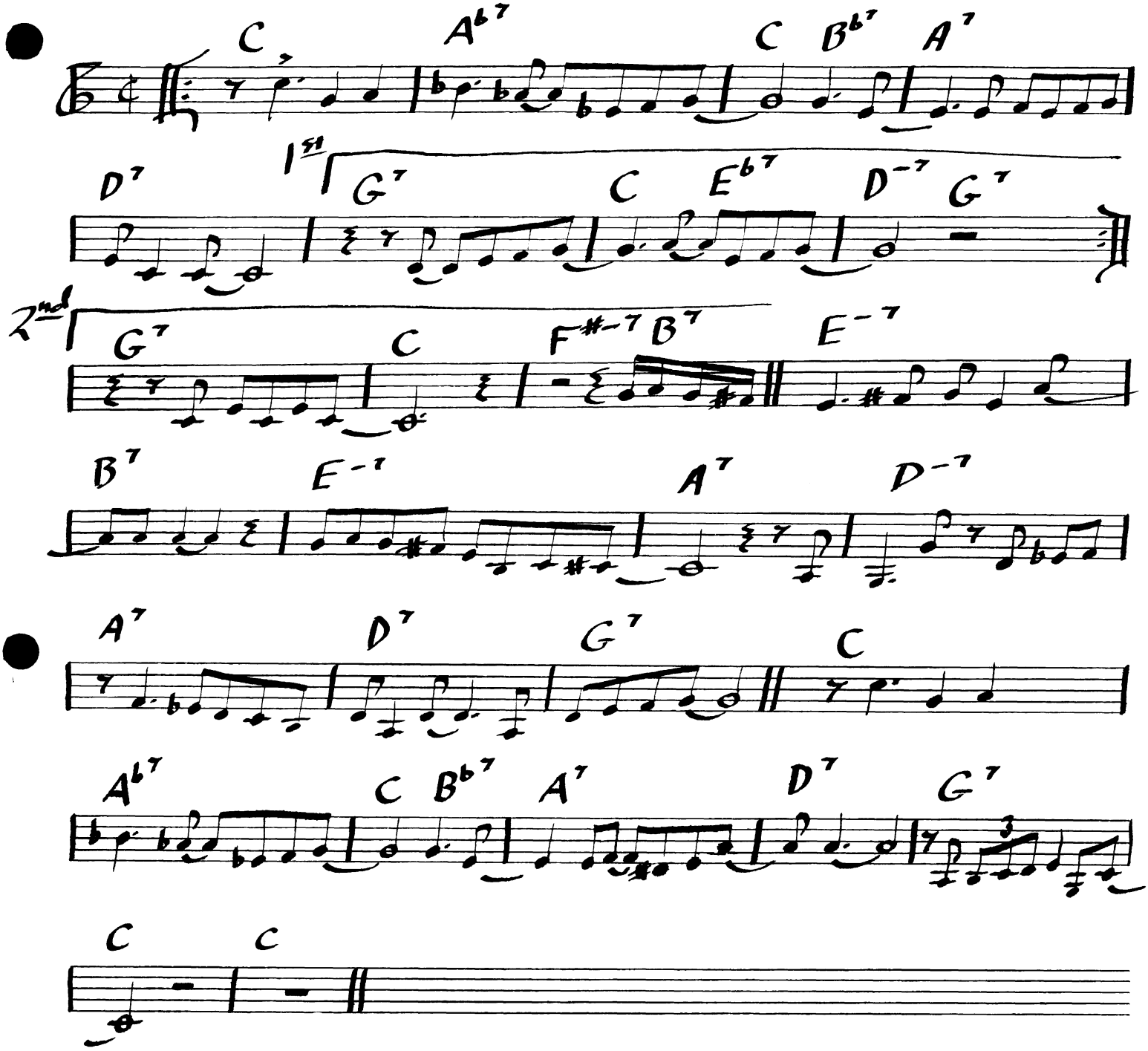
C AABA

# YARDBIRD SUITE

C. Parker
3/28/46
SPOTLITE 101

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