THE BLUES SCALE AND ITS USE

The blues scale consists of the following: Root, b3rd, 4th, #4th, 5th and b7th.
EXAMPLE: F blues Scale = F, Ab, Bb, B, C, Eb, F

When playing a twelve bar blues in the key of Bb, use the Bb blues scale: Bb, Db, Eb, E, F, Ab, Bb

The blues scale can also be used over minor chords when the minor chord is sounded for 2, 4, 8, or 16 measures or longer. EXAMPLE: If D minor is sounded for eight measures, you may use the D blues scale: D, F, G, Ab, A, C, D

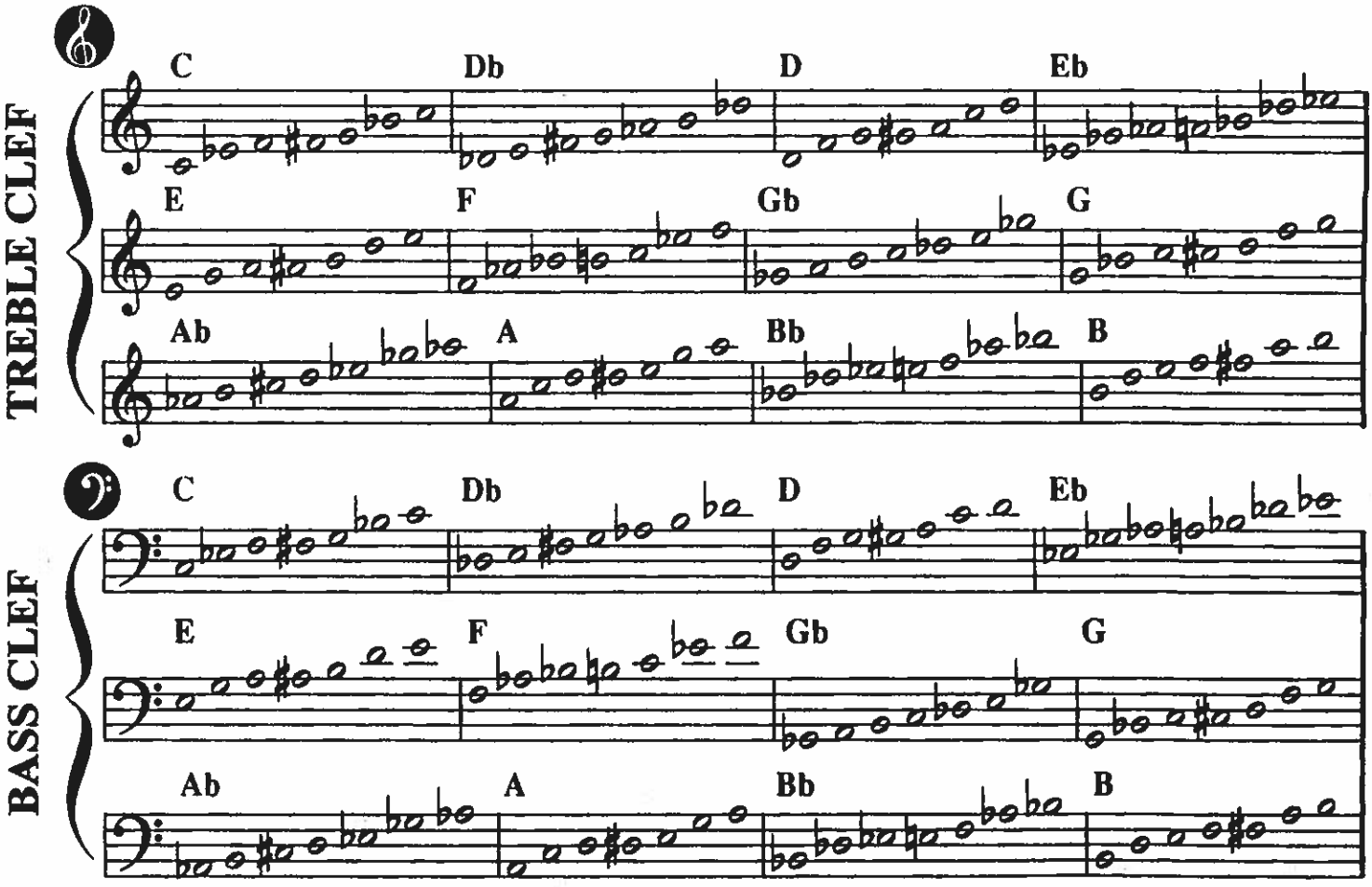
When playing in minor tonalities you may choose to alternate between the dorian minor and the blues scale, both having the same root tone. EXAMPLE: If D minor is sounded for eight measures, play D minor (dorian) or play D blues scale or alternate between the two scale sounds.

The blues scale is used to convey a "Funky," "Down-Home," "Earthy" or "Bluesy" sound/feel. Rhythm and blues players use this scale extensively. Don't run it into the ground by overuse! Experiment with the blues scales listed below and apply them to recorded tracks on your play-a-long recordings.

After you become familiar with the blues scale as I have it listed, you may want to add tones to the scale which give the scale sound more variety. *Added tones are underlined.* EXAMPLE: F blues scale = F, G, Ab, A, Bb, B, C, D, Eb, F

This scale sounds strange when played straight up or down. Jazz players usually play bits and pieces of the scale or make up licks utilizing certain notes of the scale. You will eventually want to transpose this scale to all twelve keys for practice. For now, learn it in Bb and F concert.

THE TWELVE BLUES SCALES (Treble & Bass Clef)



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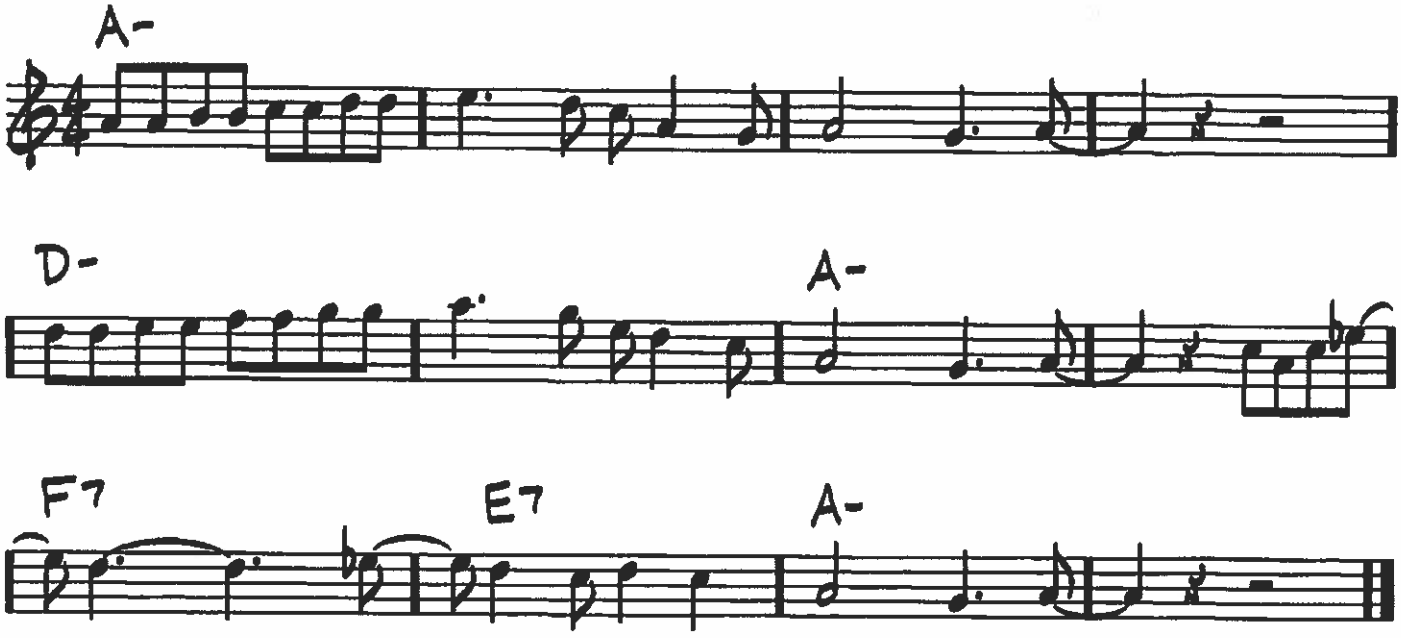
276 Alto/Bari

MR. P.C.

(BRIGHT JAZZ)

-JOHN COLTRANE



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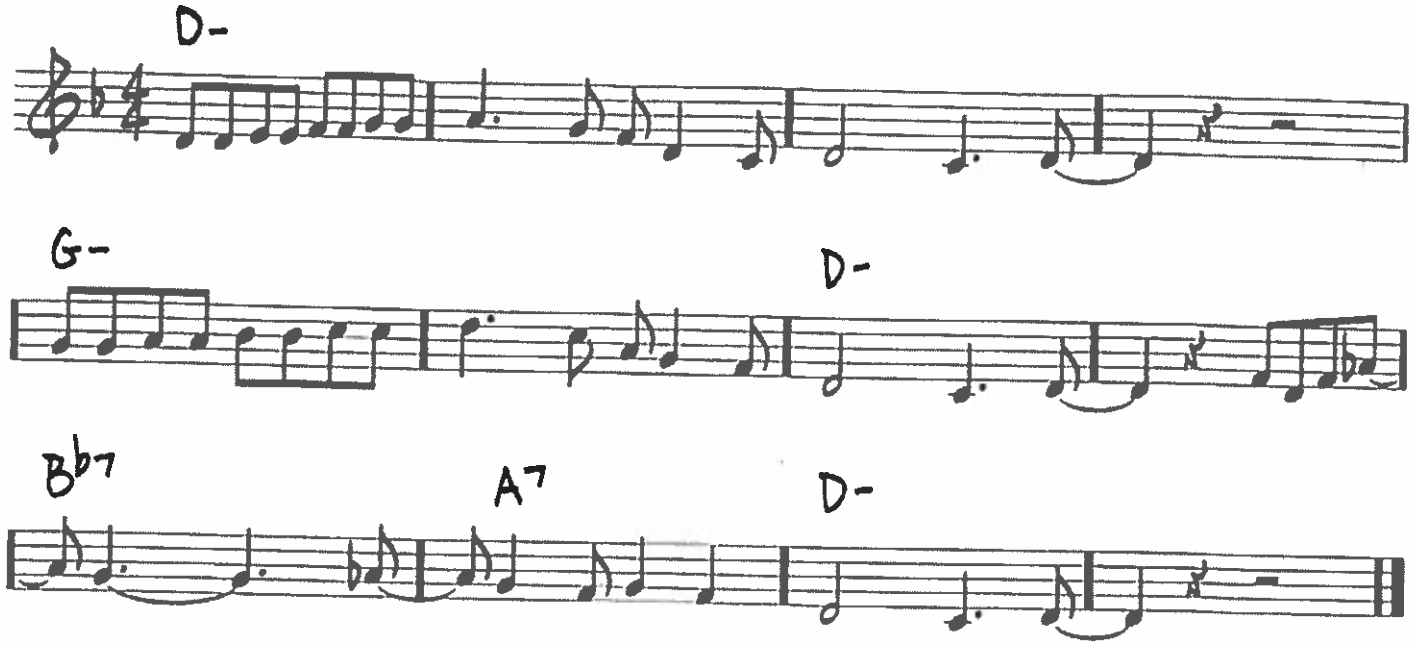
276 Trpt/Tenor

MR. P.C.

-JOHN COLTRANE

(BRIGHT SWING)



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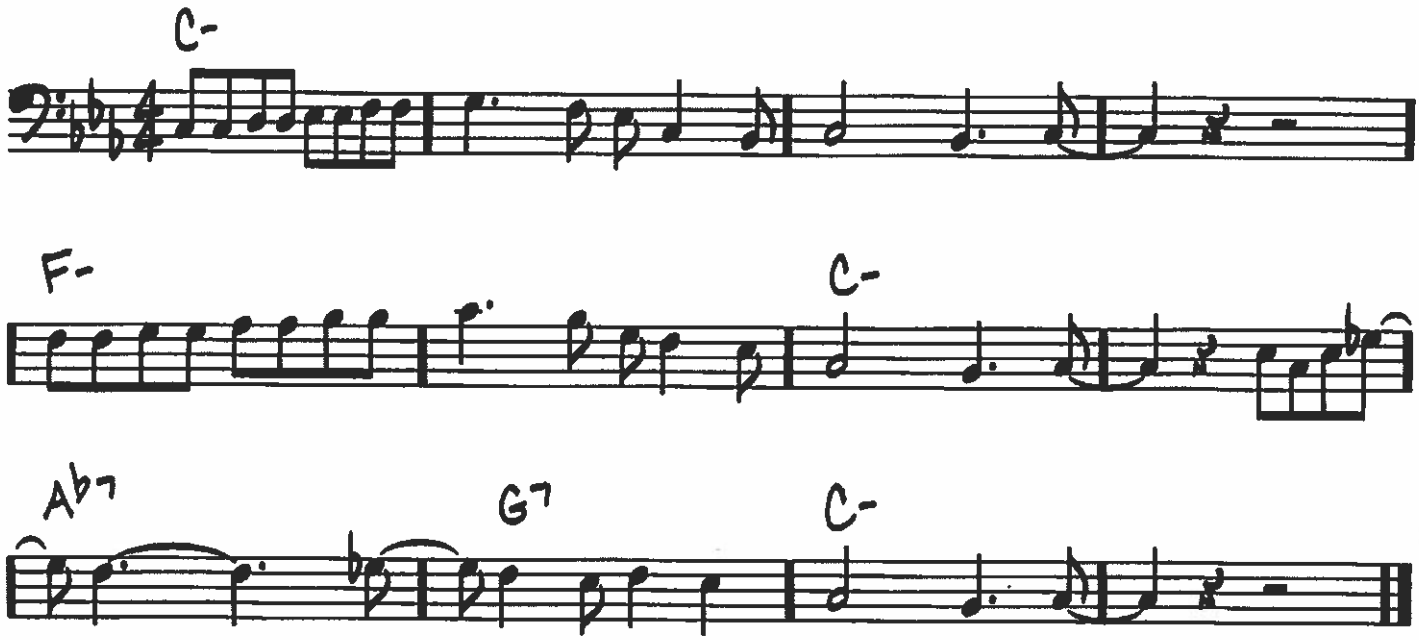
276 Trb/Bass

MR. P.C.

(BRIGHT JAZZ)

– JOHN COLTRANE



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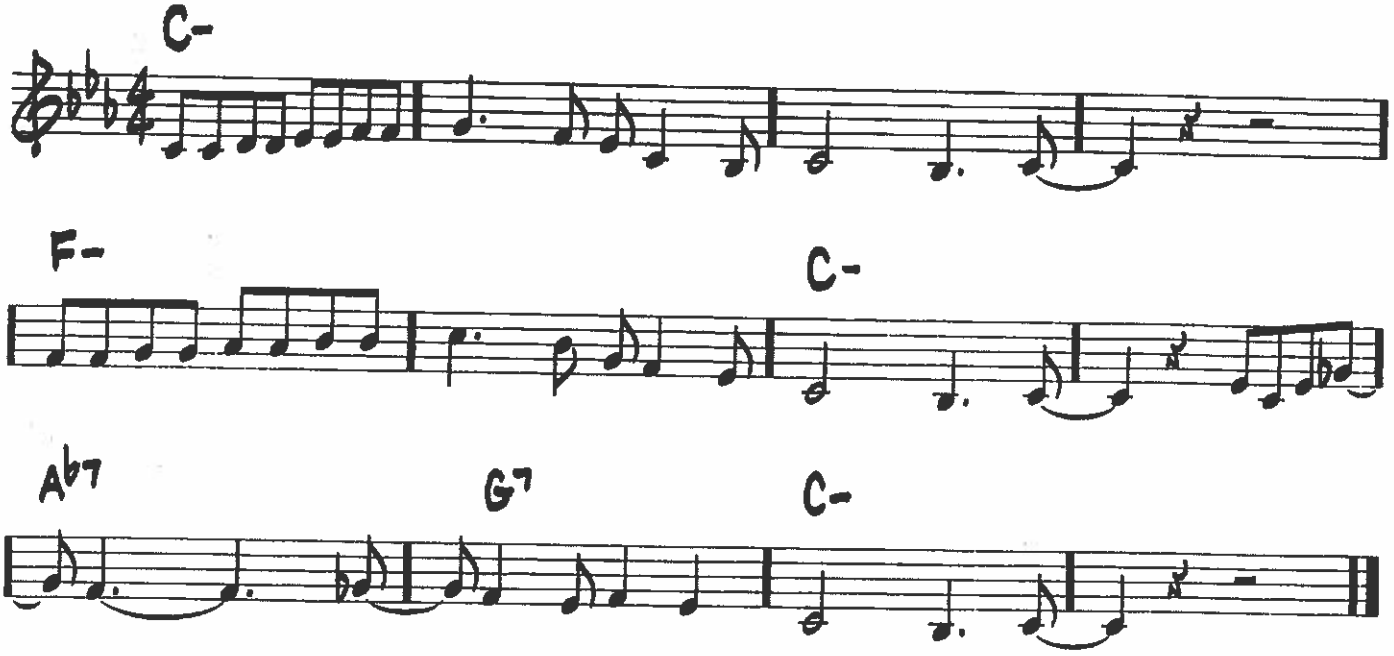
Vibes

276

MR. P.C.

(BRIGHT JAZZ)

—JOHN COLTRANE



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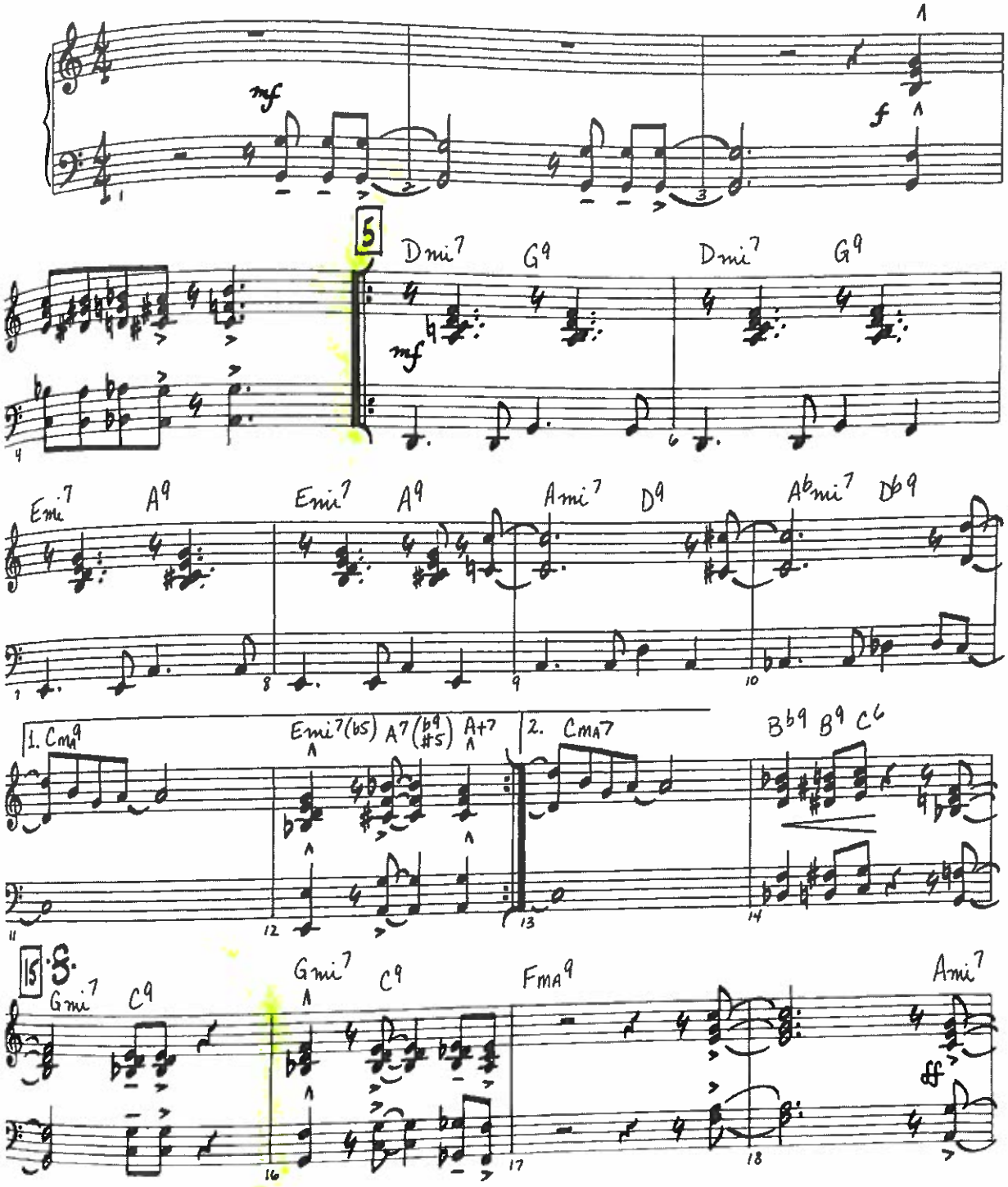
SATIN DOLL

Piano

By DUKE ELLINGTON
Arranged by MARK TAYLOR

MEDIUM SWING



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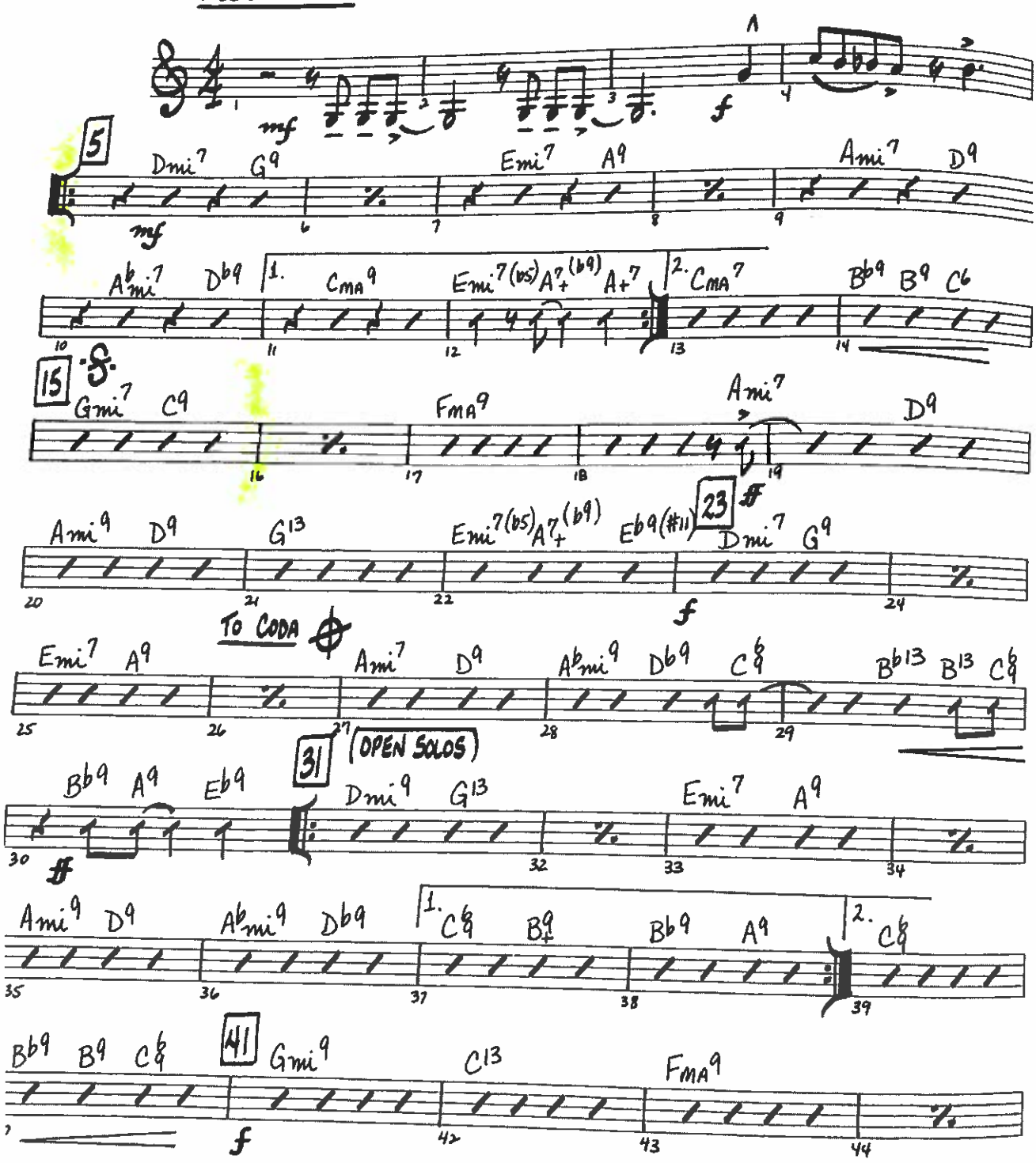
SATIN DOLL

GUITAR

By DUKE ELLINGTON
Arranged by MARK TAYLOR



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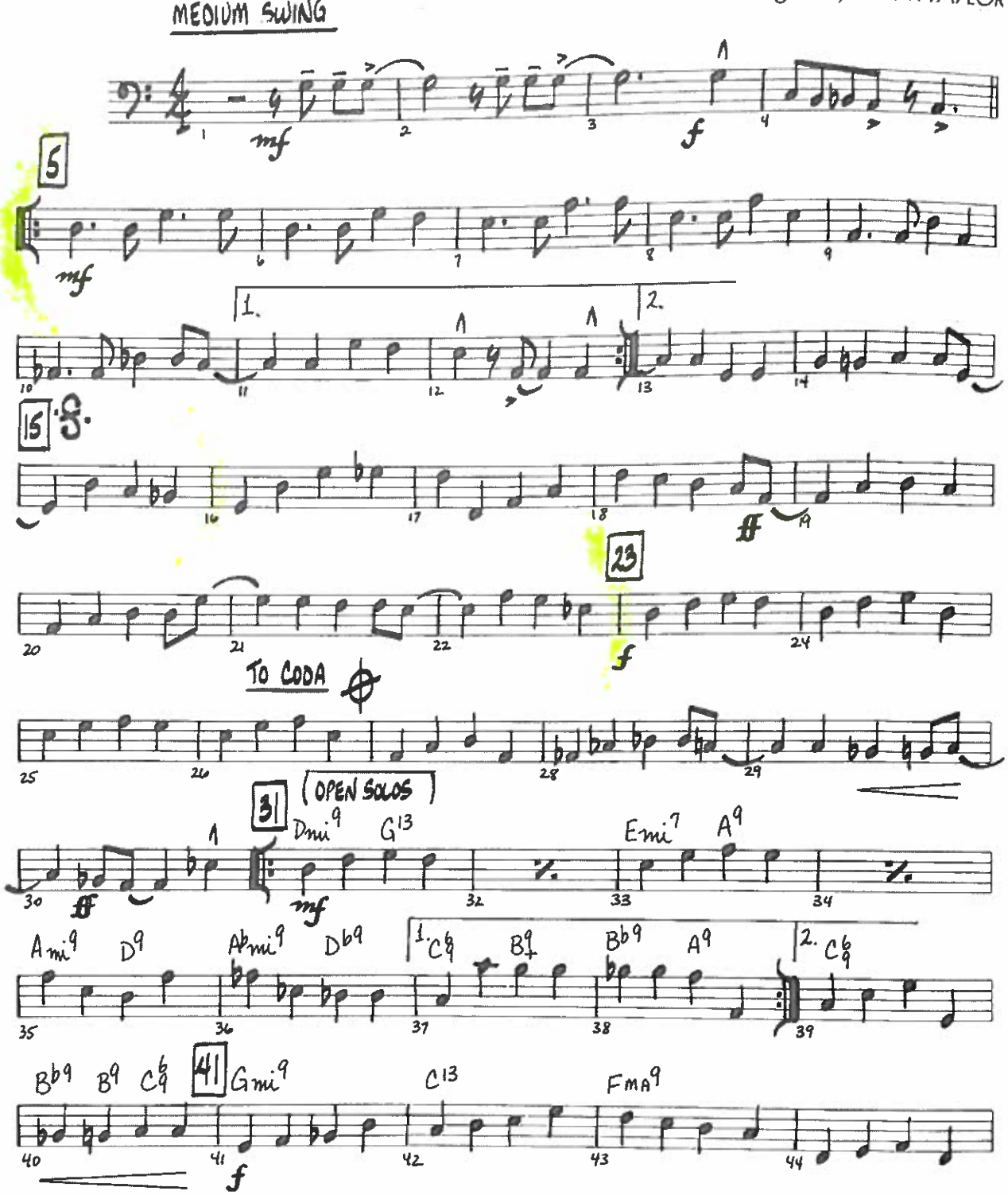
SATIN DOLL

BASS

By DUKE ELLINGTON
Arranged by MARK TAYLOR



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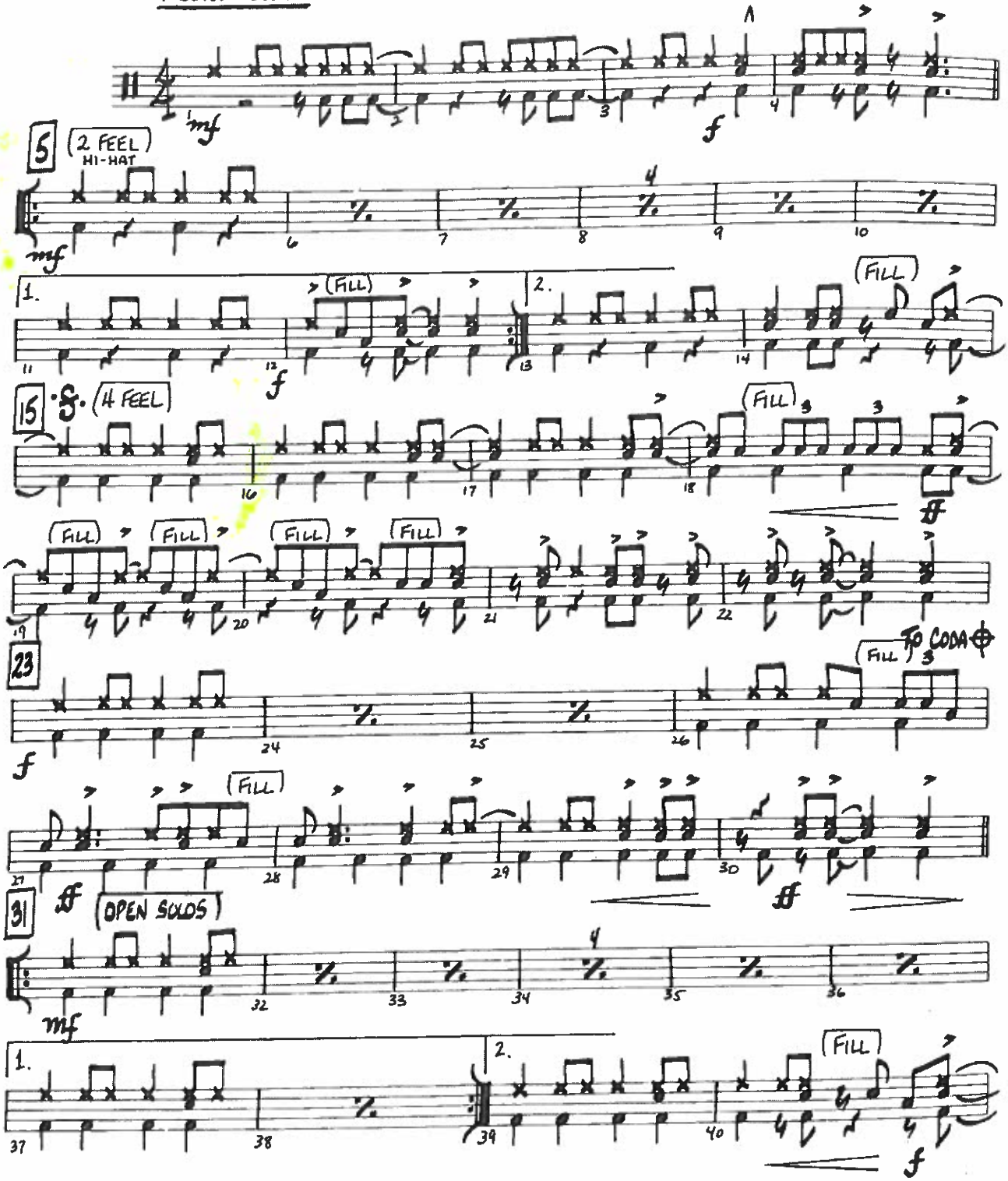
SATIN DOLL

DRUMS

By DUKE ELLINGTON
Arranged by MARK TAYLOR



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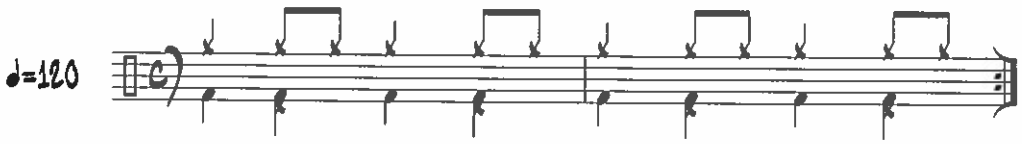
Drum Set

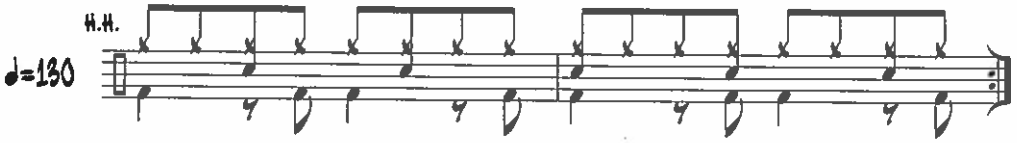
Styles

To be played from memory

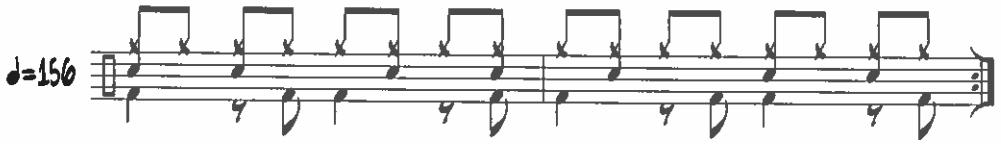
Swing (this pattern with varied snare & ride cymbal rhythms)



Bossa Nova (with cross-stick on snare)



Samba (on ride cymbal / cross-stick)



Funk