E♭ Alto Sax — Vol. 2

40 Advanced Modern Jazz Études

Original, CC0 1.0. Written pitch for E♭ alto; chord symbols in alto key. Letter size.
Thirds cycles, reharmonized ii–Vs, triad pairs, 4ths, side-slipping, odd meters, altissimo ossias.

Concepts p. 2

1. Cinder Grid	4/4 Up swing	p. 4	21. Overclock	4/4 Straight 16ths, angular	p. 24
2. Black Ice Run	4/4 Burnout swing	p. 5	22. Shatterline	4/4 Straight 16ths, angular	p. 25
3. Neon Ladder	4/4 Fast swing	p. 6	23. Wolf Interval	5/4 Even 8ths, 5/4	p. 26
4. Torque	4/4 Up swing	p. 7	24. Carbon Bloom	7/8 2+2+3 groove	p. 27
5. Glass Engine	4/4 Medium-up swing	p. 8	25. Smoke Geometry	9/8 3+3+3, driving	p. 28
6. Brushfire Math	4/4 Up swing	p. 9	26. Ironwood	11/8 3+3+3+2 groove	p. 29
7. Night Shift Dialect	4/4 Burnout swing	p. 10	27. Static Horizon	7/4 Even 8ths, 7/4	p. 30
8. Steel Origami	4/4 Fast swing	p. 11	28. Heatwave Grammar	5/4 Even 8ths, 5/4	p. 31
9. Crosswind	4/4 Up swing	p. 12	29. Northern Ledger	7/8 2+2+3 groove	p. 32
10. Pressure Front	4/4 Medium-up swing	p. 13	30. Switchyard	9/8 3+3+3, driving	p. 33
11. Hollow Point Blue	4/4 Up swing	p. 14	31. Phase Drift	11/8 3+3+3+2 groove	p. 34
12. Signal Chain	4/4 Burnout swing	p. 15	32. Thunder Ledger	7/4 Even 8ths, 7/4	p. 35
13. Riptide Theory	4/4 Fast swing	p. 16	33. Cobalt Run	5/4 Even 8ths, 5/4	p. 36
14. Graphite	4/4 Up swing	p. 17	34. Night Market	7/8 2+2+3 groove	p. 37
15. Lantern Code	4/4 Straight 16ths, angular	p. 18	35. Ember Logic	9/8 3+3+3, driving	p. 38
16. Fast Weather	4/4 Straight 16ths, angular	p. 19	36. Granite Tide	11/8 3+3+3+2 groove	p. 39
17. Vertigo Street	4/4 Straight 16ths, angular	p. 20	37. Skyline Fracture	7/4 Even 8ths, 7/4	p. 40
18. Basalt	4/4 Straight 16ths, angular	p. 21	38. Quicksilver	5/4 Even 8ths, 5/4	p. 41
19. Afterburn	4/4 Straight 16ths, angular	p. 22	39. Dust Devil	7/8 2+2+3 groove	p. 42
20. Jagged Halo	4/4 Straight 16ths, angular	p. 23	40. Last Exit East	9/8 3+3+3, driving	p. 43

Every line is generated from general modern-jazz devices over original changes. Nothing quotes, transcribes or paraphrases any recorded solo or composition. Tempos are targets: read at ~60% first. Small staves = optional altissimo.

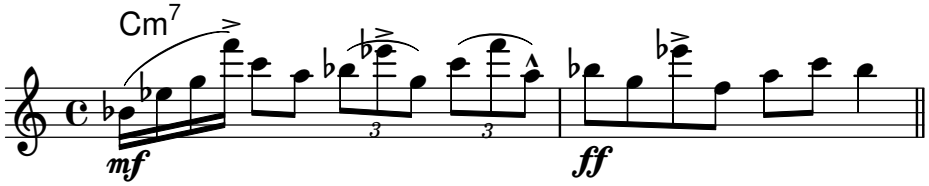
Vol. 2 — Concepts

Original text and examples — CC0

Every device here is general modern-jazz vocabulary. All lines in this volume are generated from these devices over original changes; none quotes, transcribes or paraphrases any recorded solo or composition.
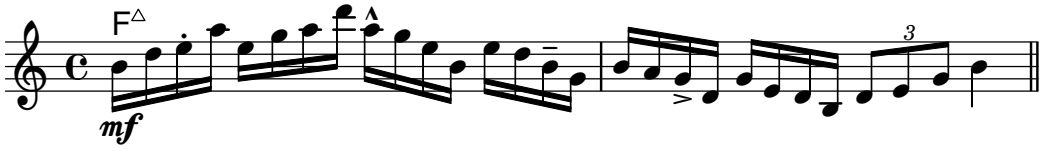
Triad pairs

Two major triads a whole step apart, taken from the chord-scale (e.g. ♭III and IV over a minor 7th, ♭VI and ♭V over an altered dominant, I and II over a Lydian major 7th). Alternating them in 3-note inversions gives a six-note hexatonic sound with no avoid notes and a strong, angular contour.
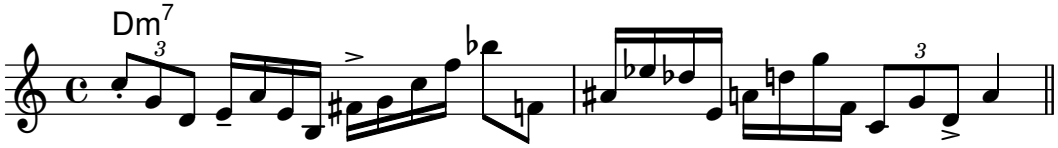


Pentatonic superimposition

A minor pentatonic placed on a non-root degree: on the 2nd of a minor 7th, the 3rd or 7th of a major 7th, the ♭3 of an altered dominant. Grouped in four-note cells (1-2-3-5, 3-2-1-5…) and sequenced through the range it sounds modern without leaving the harmony.
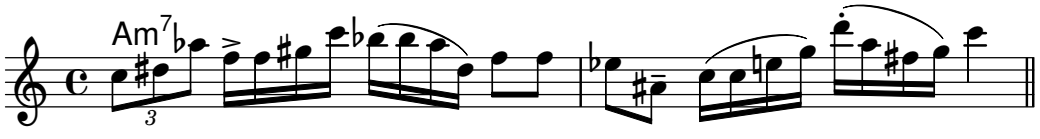


Intervallic 4ths

Stacks of perfect fourths started from chord-scale tones, often broken with a step at the end of each group. Fourth shapes are fingering-friendly on sax, sound open and unresolved, and let a line cross two octaves in a few notes.
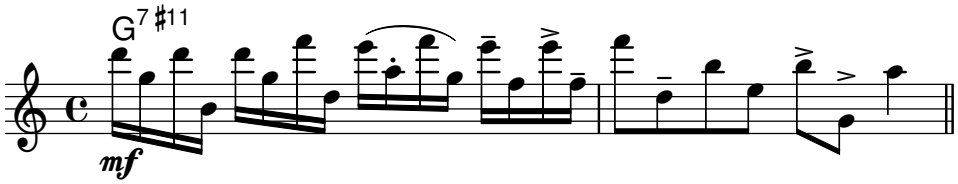


Side-slipping / outside-in-and-back

Play a clear shape a half step (or tritone) away from the harmony, then slide back to the same shape inside. The tension only works if both halves are rhythmically strong and the return lands on a guide tone (3rd or 7th).



Wide intervals & octave displacement
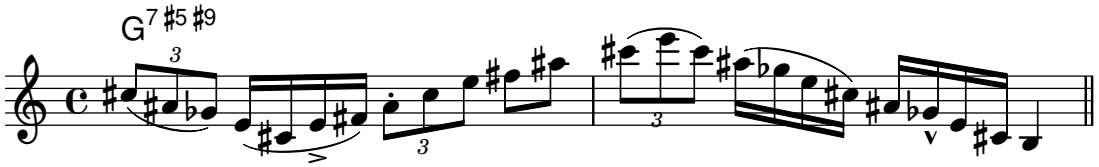
Chord tones and tensions with every other note displaced by an octave, producing 7ths, 9ths and 10ths. Keep the air column steady and the tone even in both registers; slur the leaps first, then tongue them.



E♭ alto sax (written pitch). Original material, CC0 1.0.

Superimposition (tritone / half-step)

An arpeggio of the dominant a tritone or half step away from the written chord, resolved by step to a guide tone. Over altered dominants and static vamps it creates a clear second layer of harmony.
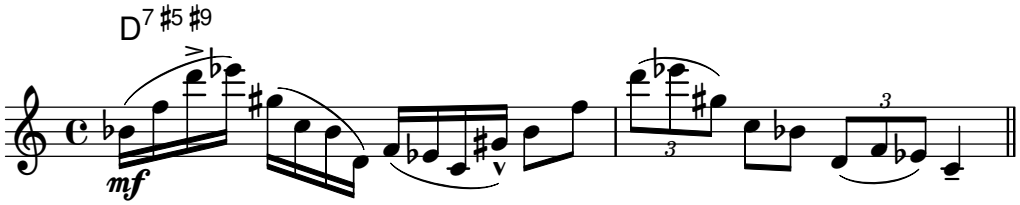


Thirds cycles

Tonal centers a major third apart (e.g. C – A♭ – E), each approached by its own dominant or ii–V. Changes go by every two beats at high tempo, so target guide tones and connect them by the nearest motion.
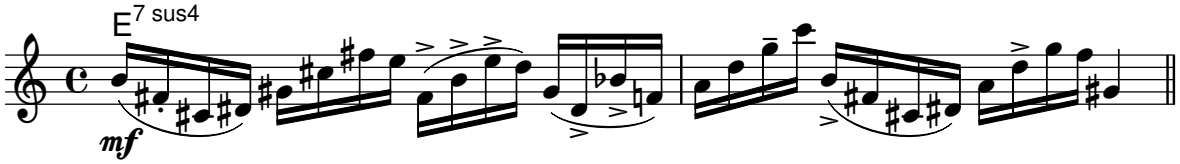


Modern ii–V reharmonization

Tritone-substitute dominants (ii – ♭II7♯11 – I), backdoor progressions (iv7 – ♭VII7 – I), ii–V chains descending by whole steps, and ii–Vs with an inserted thirds cycle. Read the chord symbols first, then the line.
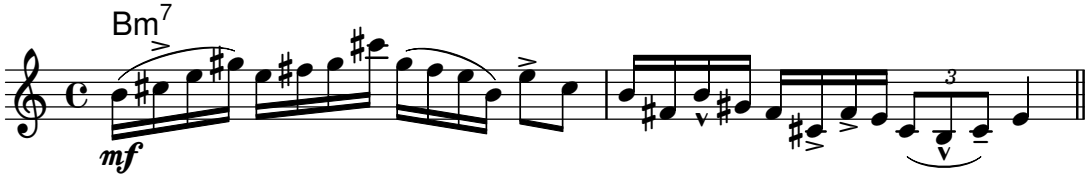


Odd meters

5/4, 7/8 (2+2+3), 9/8 (3+3+3), 11/8 (3+3+3+2) and 7/4. Beaming shows the grouping. Count the groups, not the eighth notes, and keep the long group relaxed.



How to practise these etudes
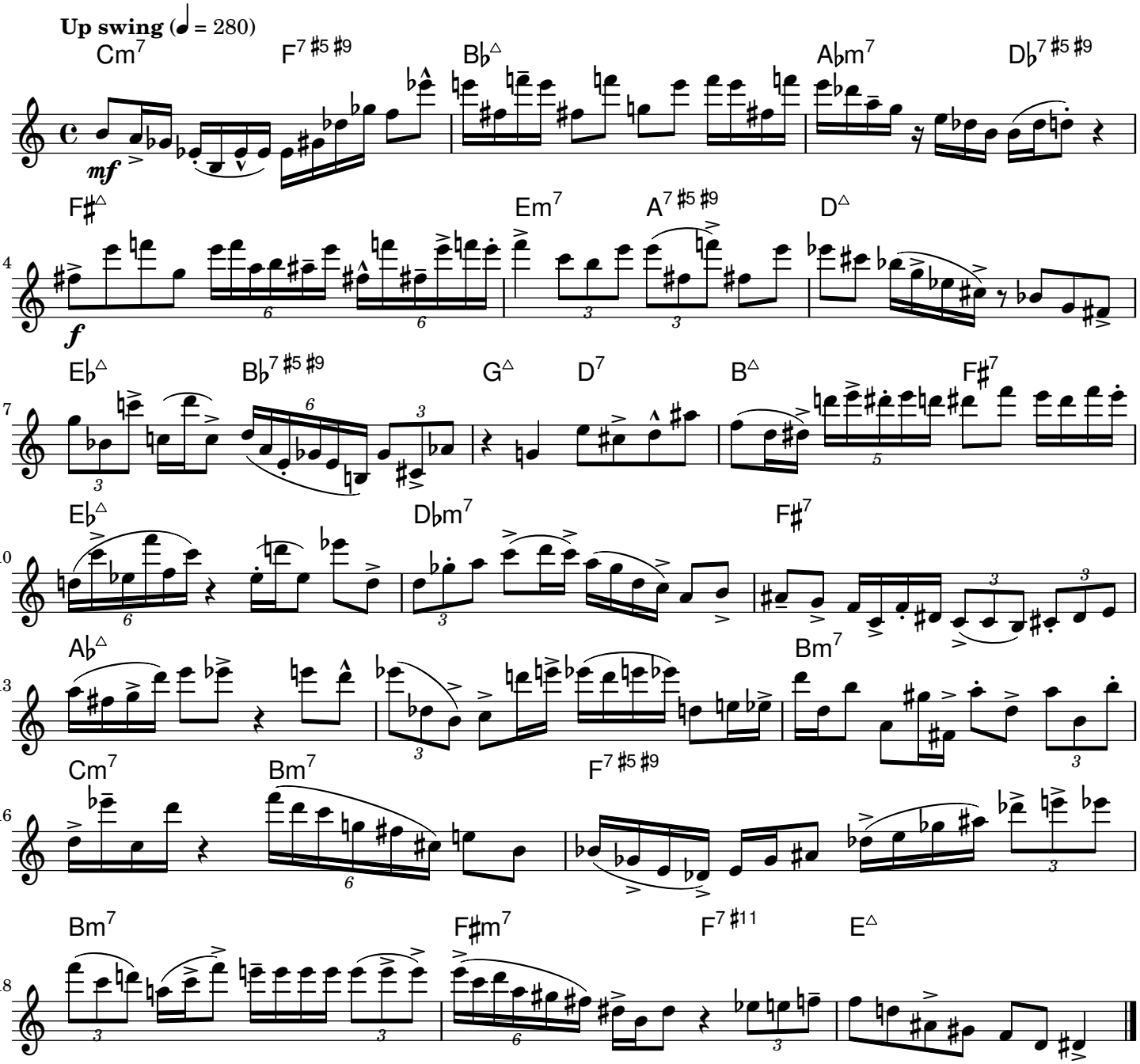
Sight-read first at about 60% of the marked tempo without stopping. Then mark the three hardest bars, loop them, and bring the whole page up to tempo. Ossia staves (small, above the main staff) are optional altissimo versions of the same bar.



1. Cinder Grid

Original etude — CC0
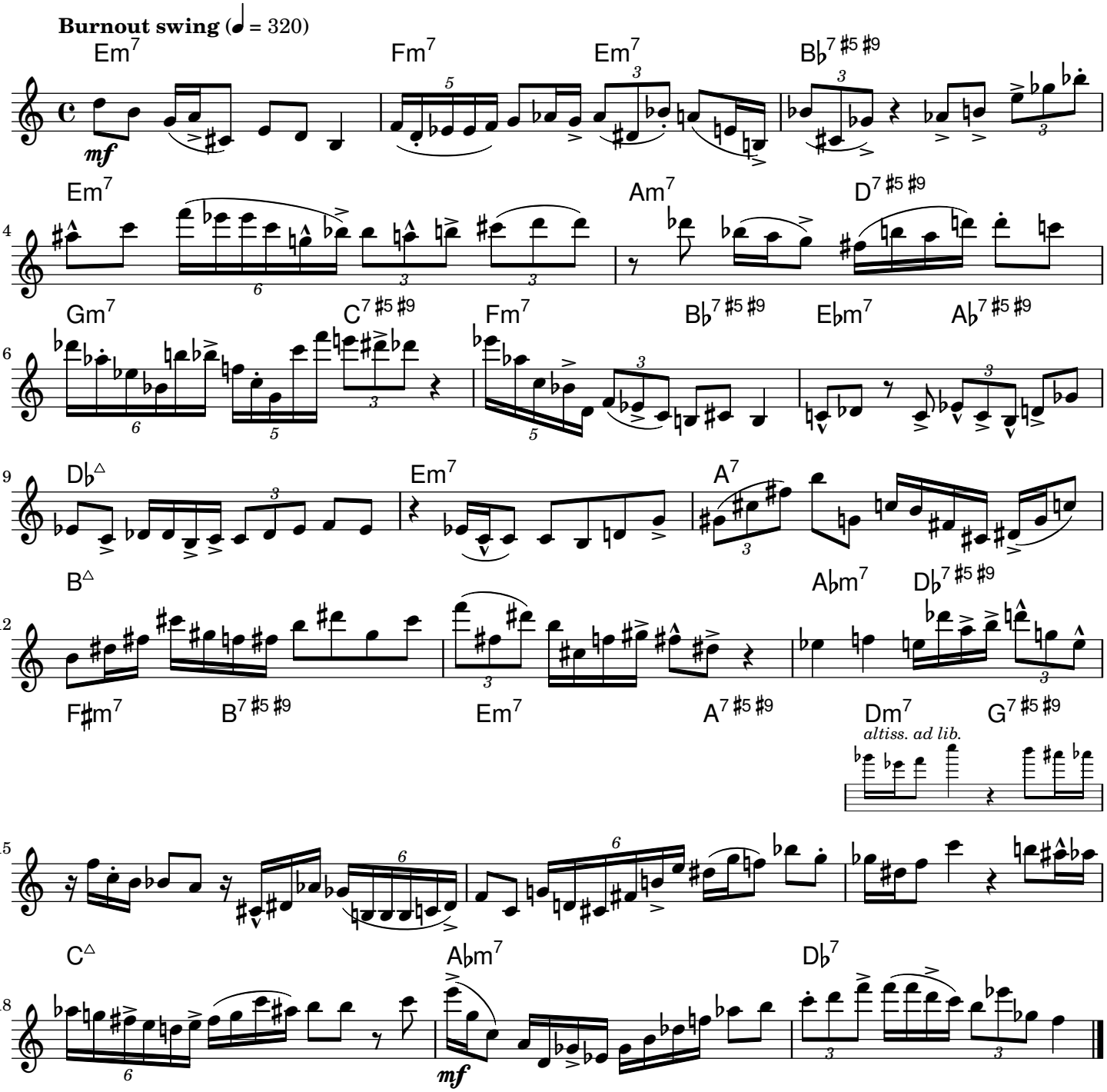
4/4 · Up swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: wide, superimposition, outside-in, side-slip, wide enclosures. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



2. Black Ice Run

Original etude — CC0
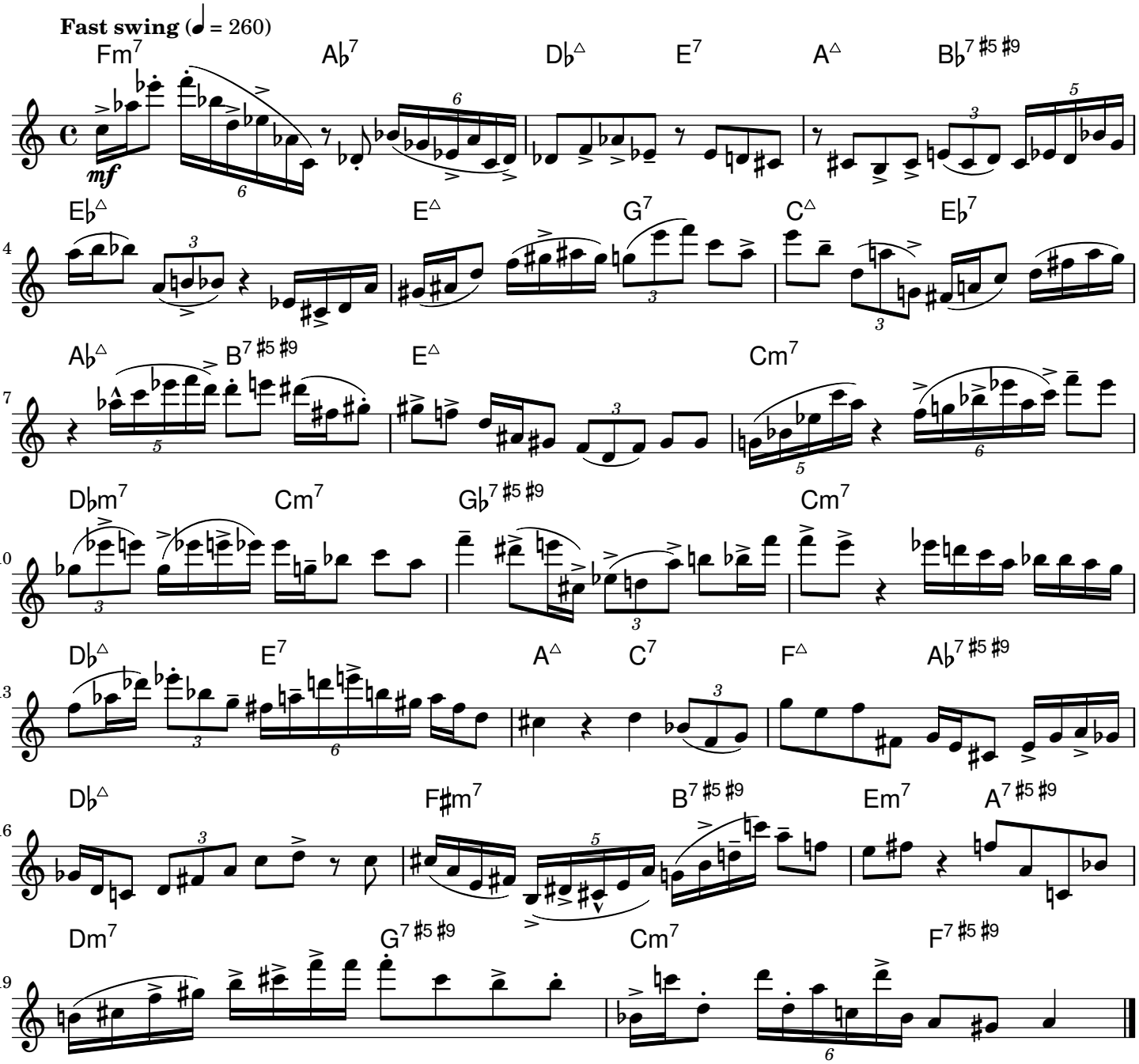
4/4 · Burnout swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: outside-in, bebop, triad pair, pentatonic, side-slip. Small staff = optional altissimo. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



3. Neon Ladder

Original etude — CC0
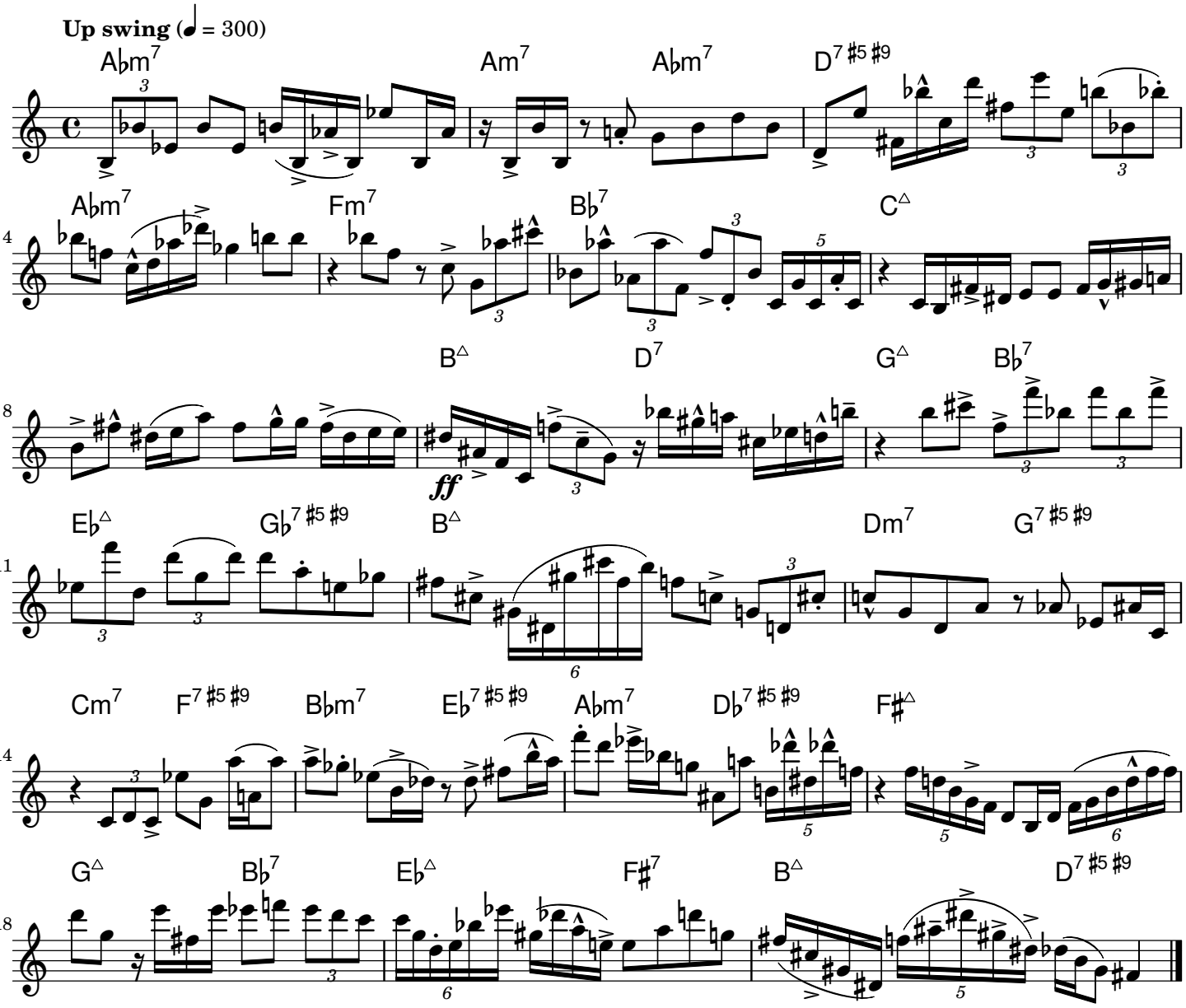
4/4 · Fast swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: bebop, wide, wide enclosures, superimposition, triad pair. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



4. Torque

Original etude — CC0

4/4 · Up swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: wide enclosures, wide, bebop, superimposition, 4ths. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).
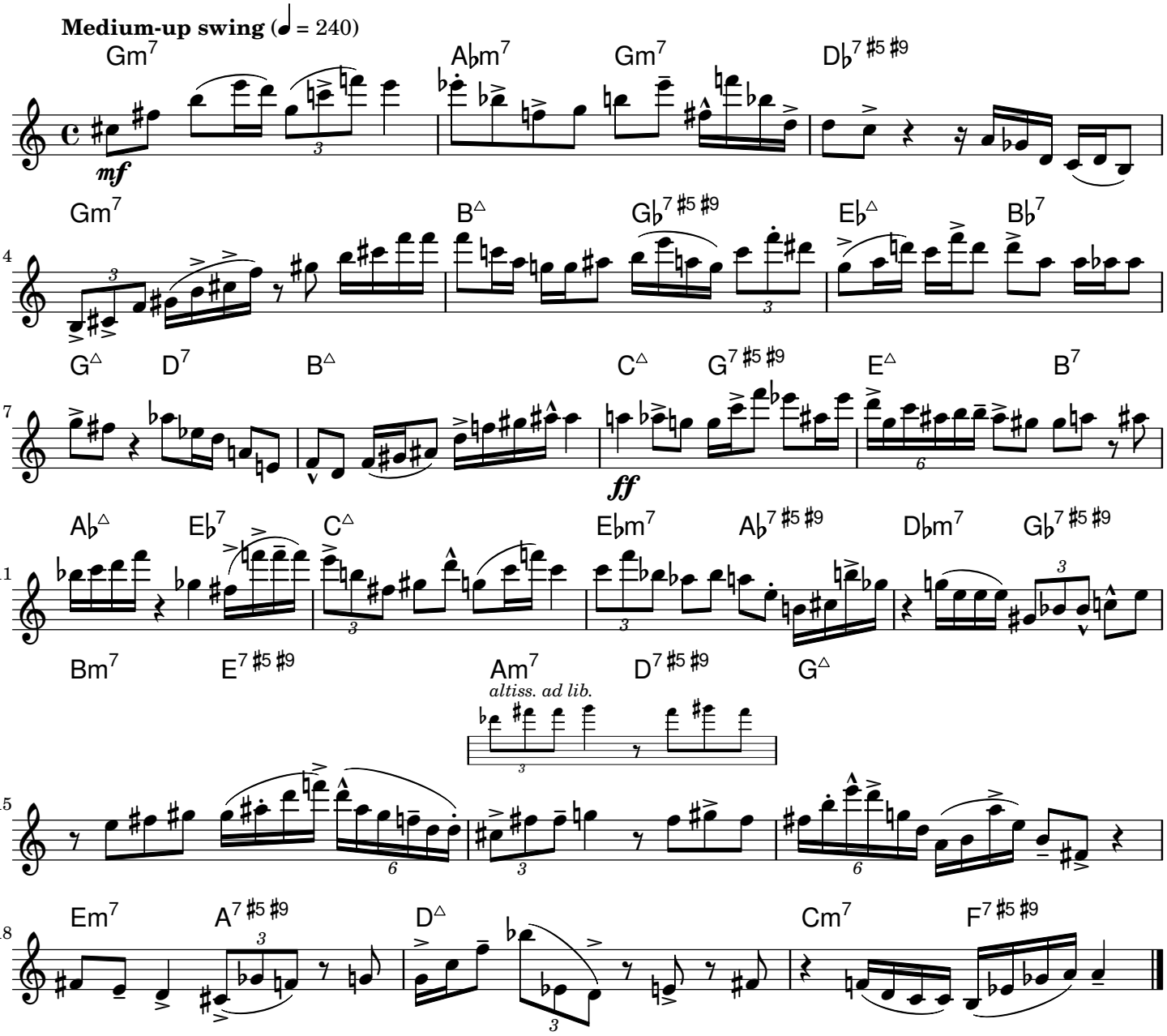


E♭ alto sax (written pitch). Original material by the pack authors, CC0 1.0 public domain dedication.

5. Glass Engine

Original etude — CC0
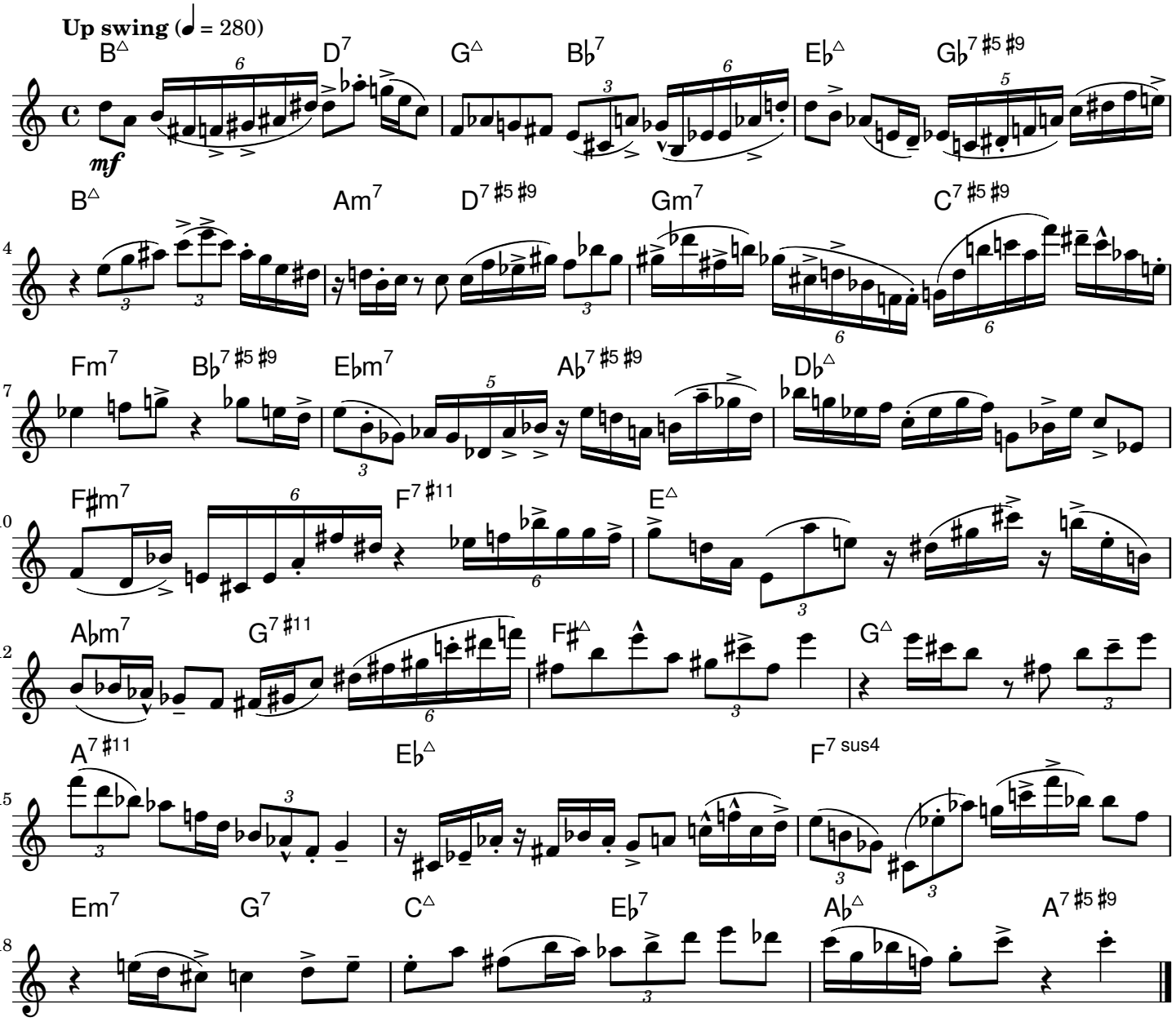
4/4 · Medium-up swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: side-slip, 4ths, superimposition, outside-in, pentatonic. Small staff = optional altissimo. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



6. Brushfire Math

Original etude — CC0
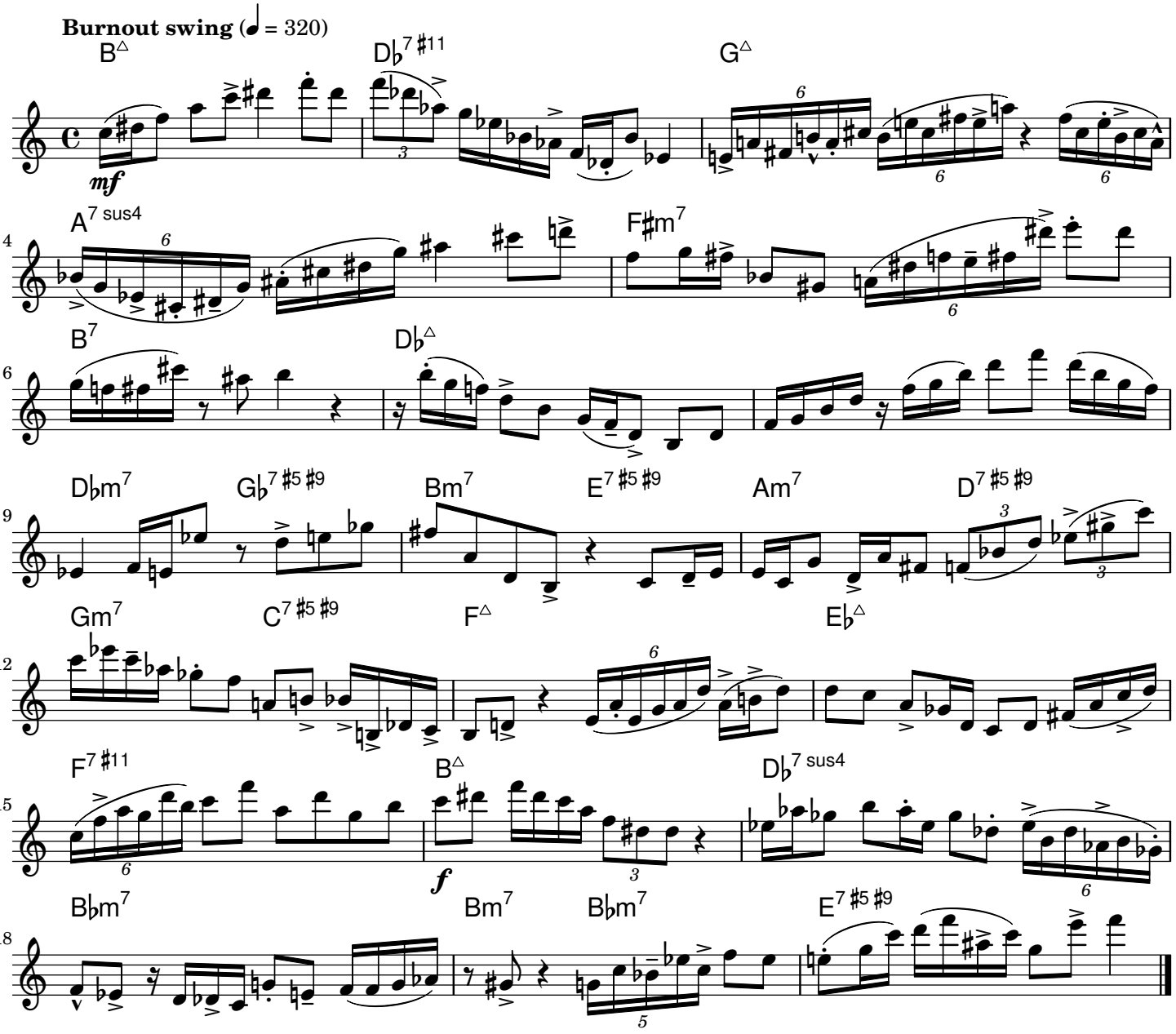
4/4 · Up swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: outside-in, side-slip, superimposition, bebop, pentatonic. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



7. Night Shift Dialect

Original etude — CC0

4/4 · Burnout swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: bebop, triad pair, superimposition, wide enclosures, pentatonic. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).
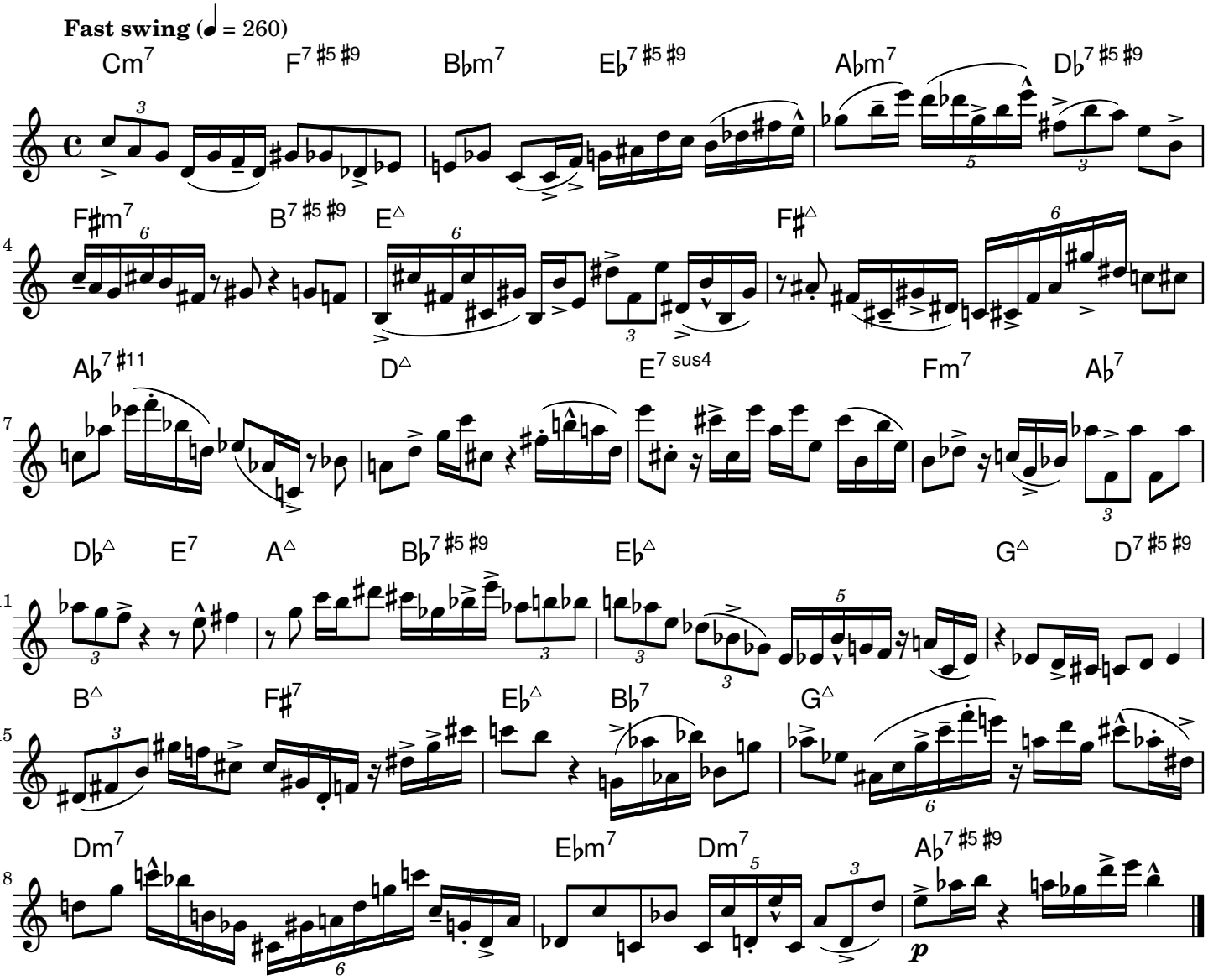


E♭ alto sax (written pitch). Original material by the pack authors, CC0 1.0 public domain dedication.

8. Steel Origami

Original etude — CC0

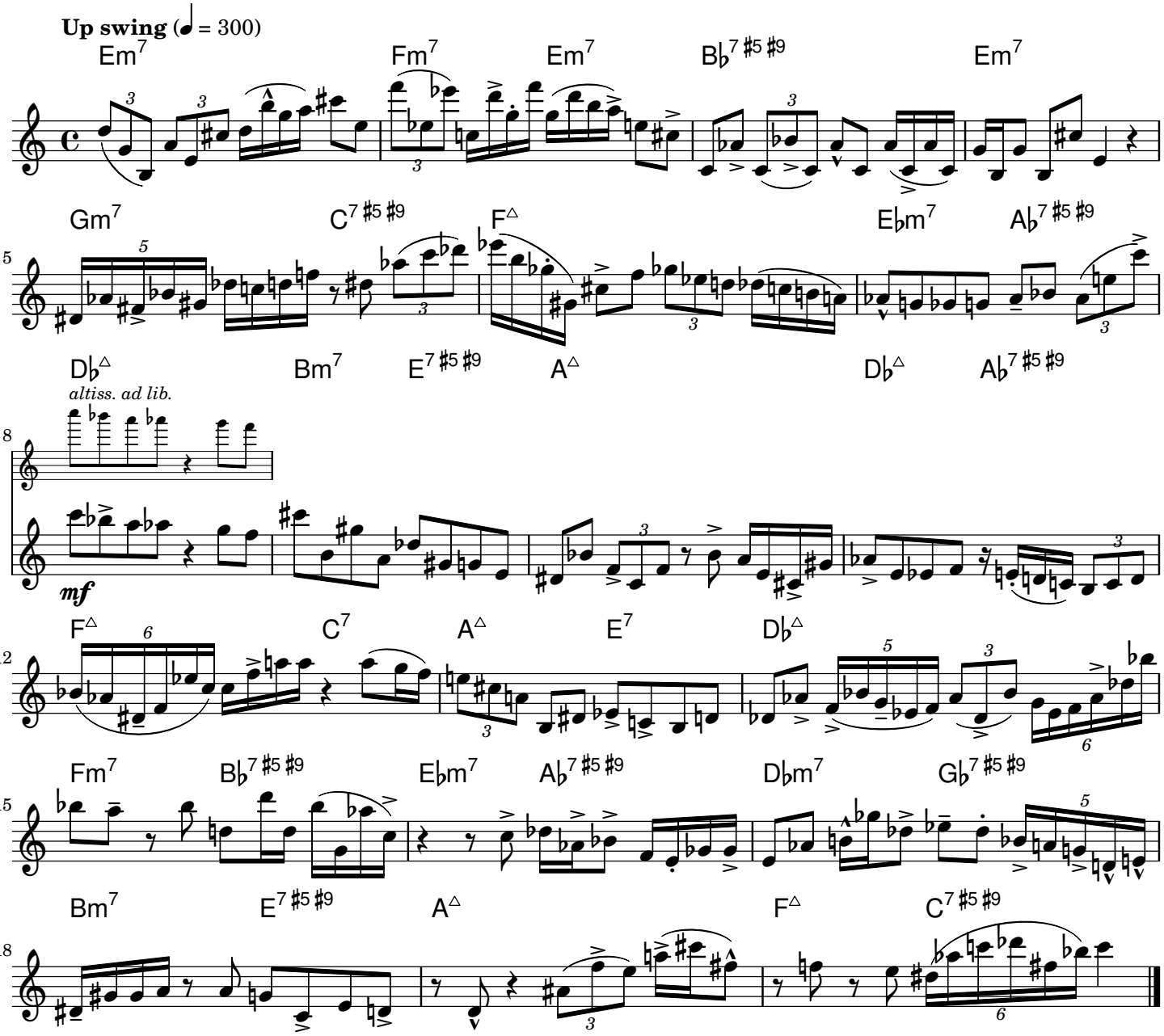
4/4 · Fast swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: pentatonic, side-slip, wide, triad pair, 4ths. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



9. Crosswind

Original etude — CC0
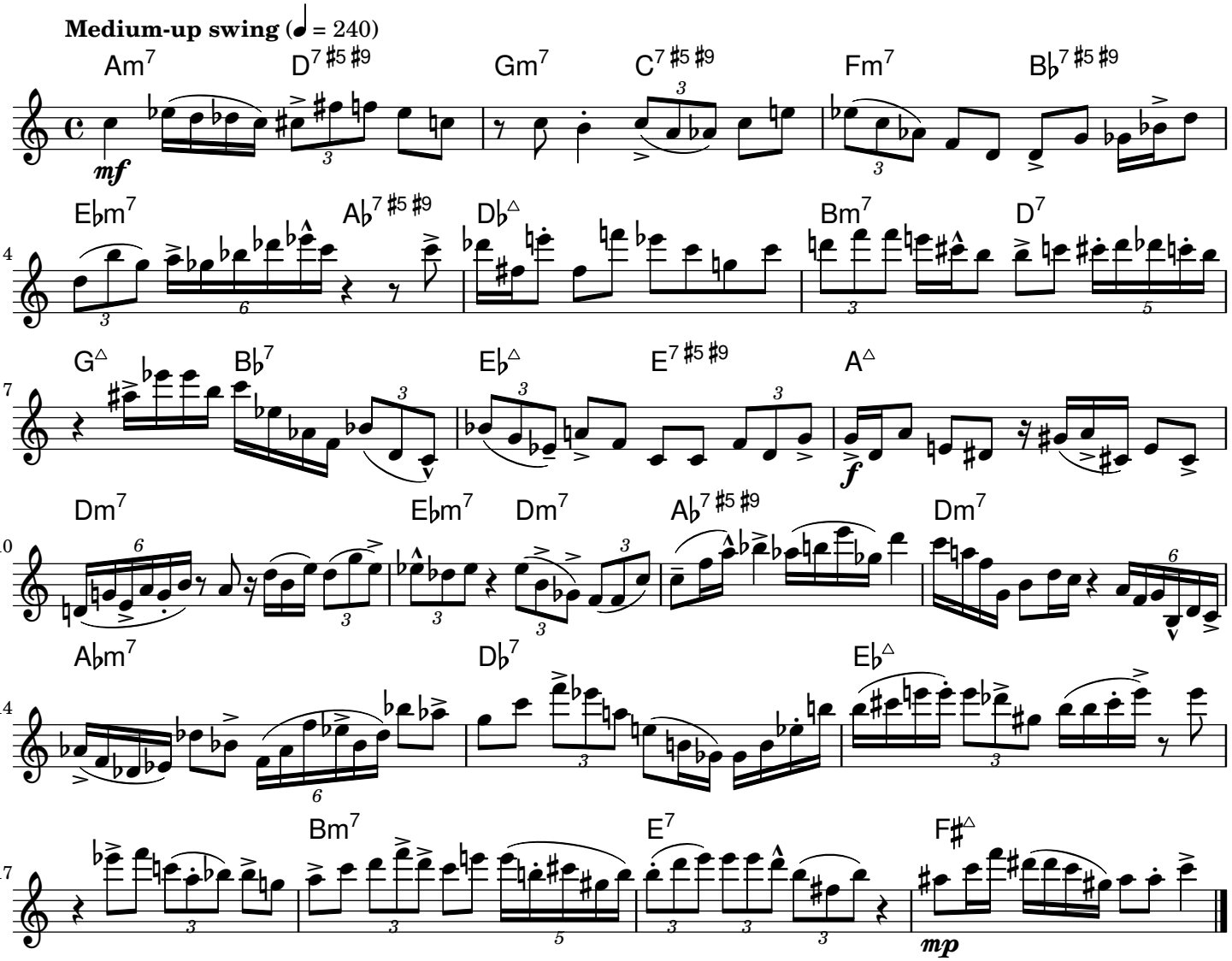
4/4 · Up swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: outside-in, triad pair, bebop, side-slip, wide. Small staff = optional altissimo. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



10. Pressure Front

Original etude — CC0
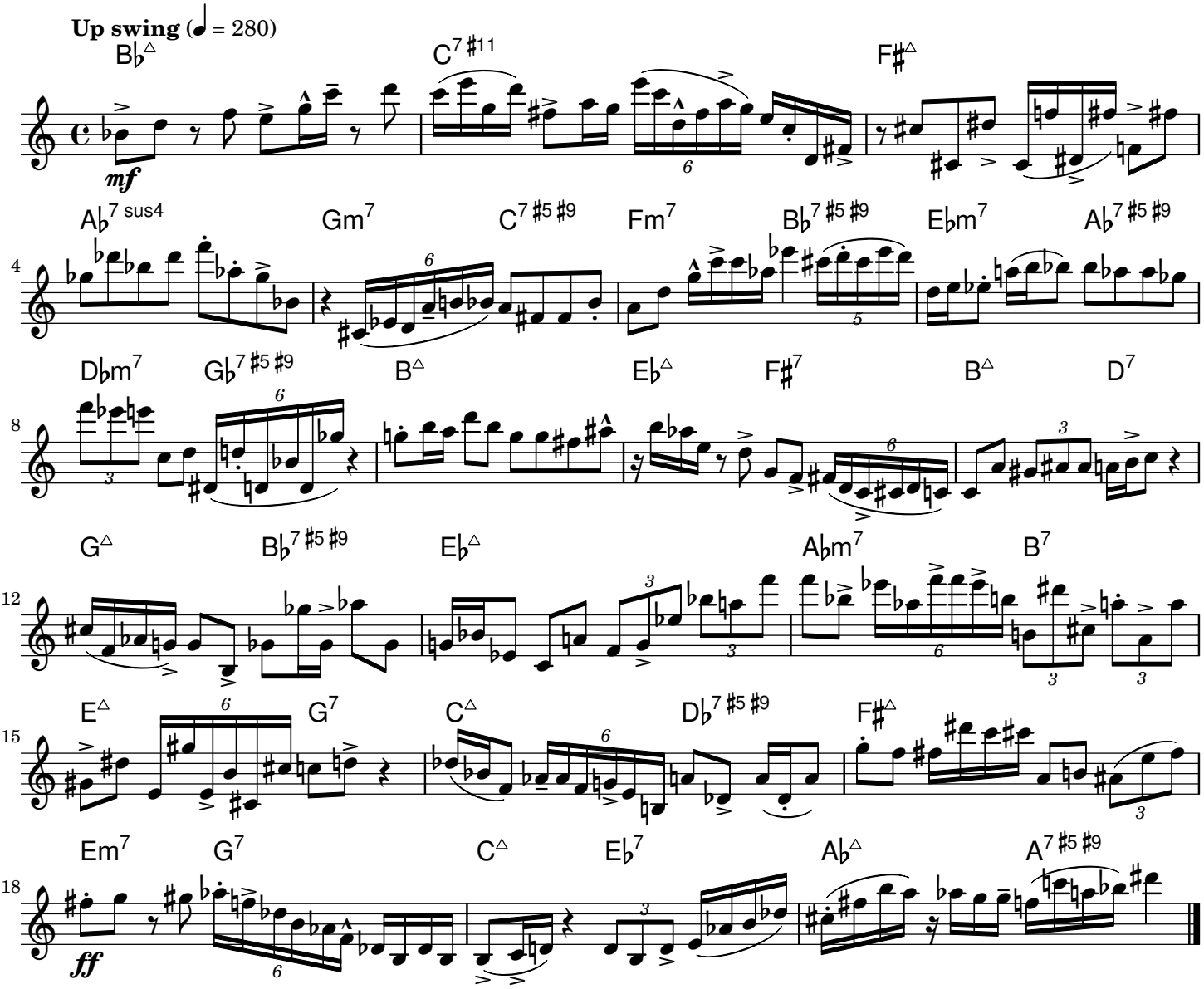
4/4 · Medium-up swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: outside-in, triad pair, side-slip, bebop, pentatonic. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



11. Hollow Point Blue

Original etude — CC0

4/4 · Up swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: superimposition, triad pair, outside-in, wide, wide enclosures. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).
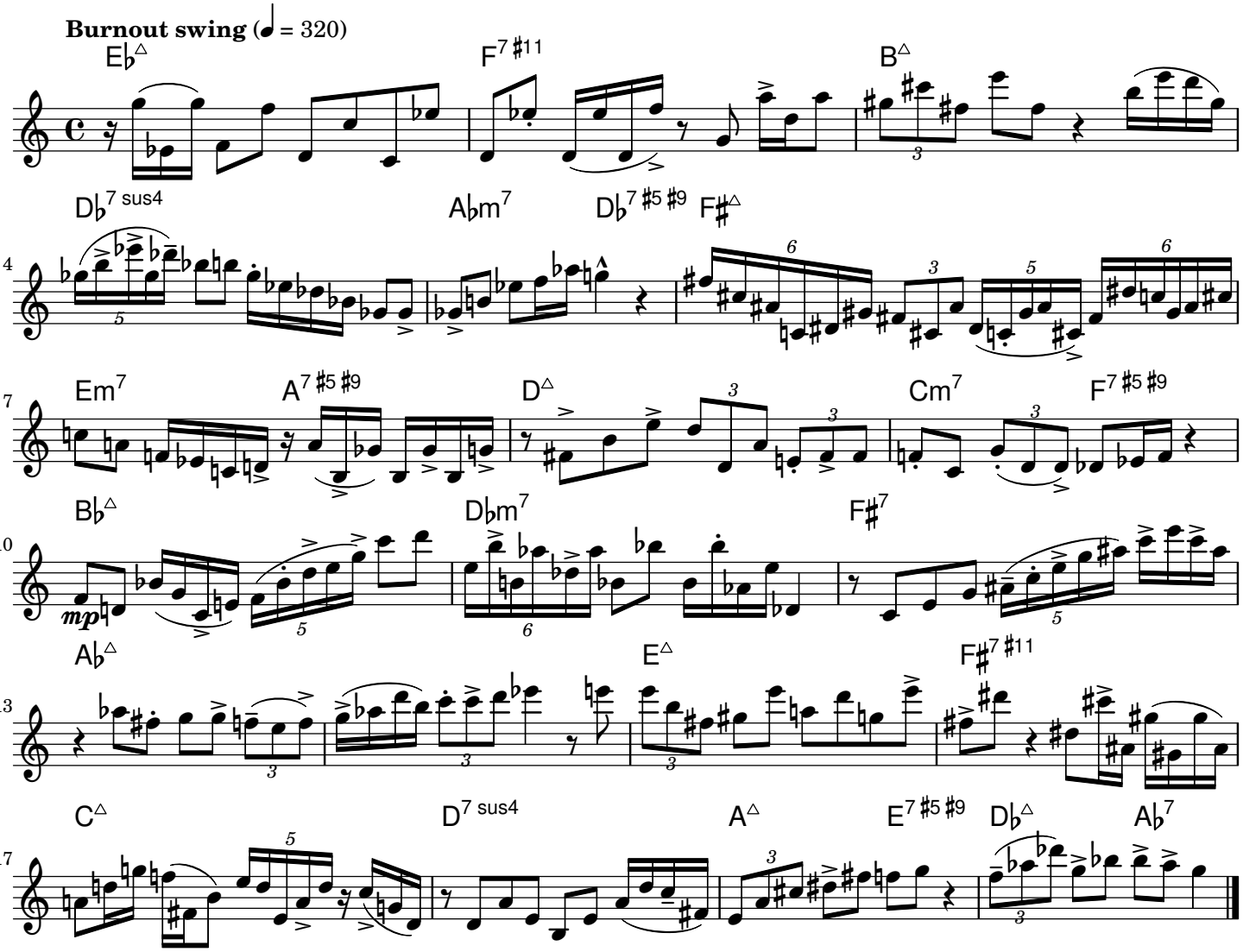


E♭ alto sax (written pitch). Original material by the pack authors, CC0 1.0 public domain dedication.

12. Signal Chain

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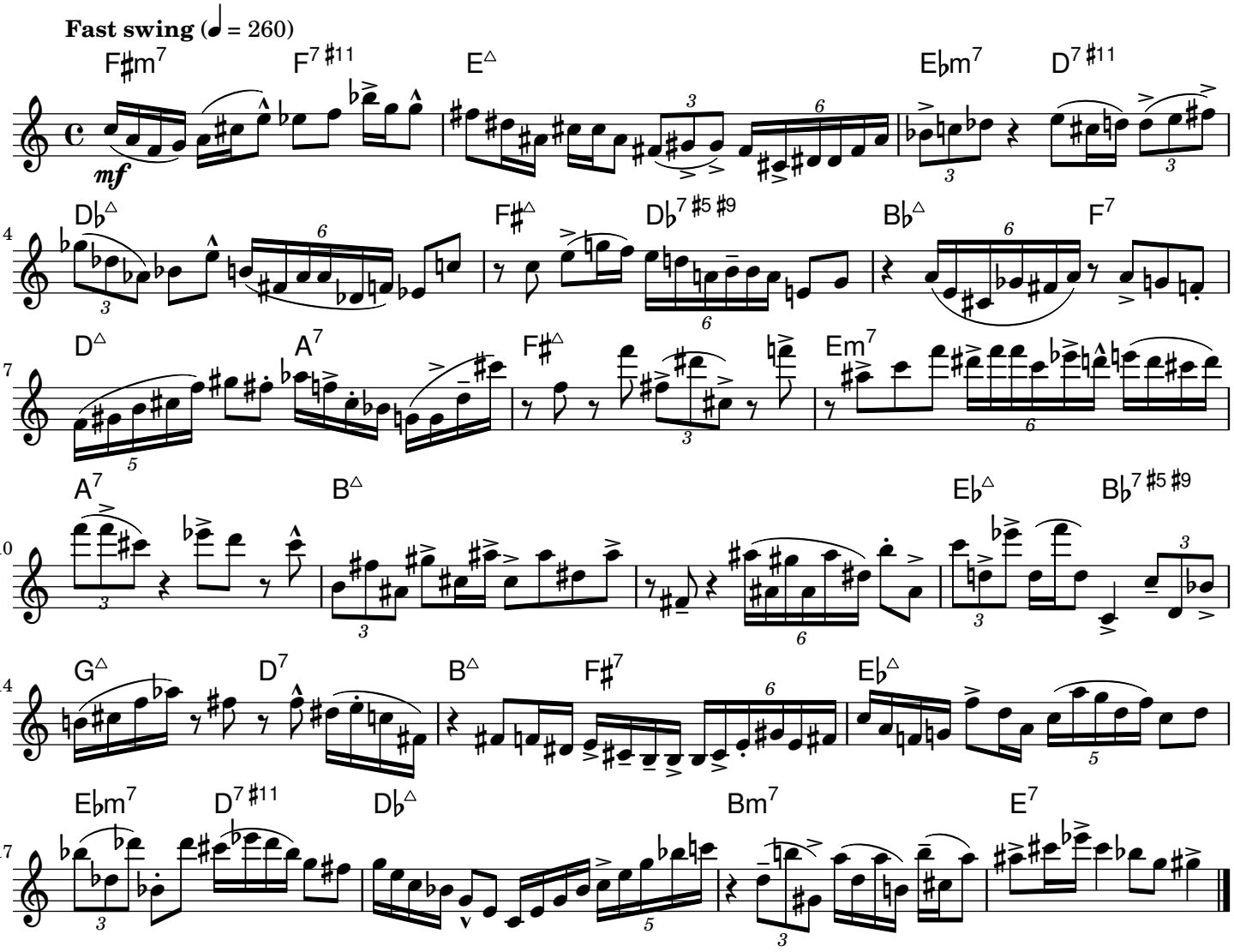
4/4 · Burnout swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: superimposition, 4ths, bebop, wide, triad pair. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



13. Riptide Theory

Original etude — CC0
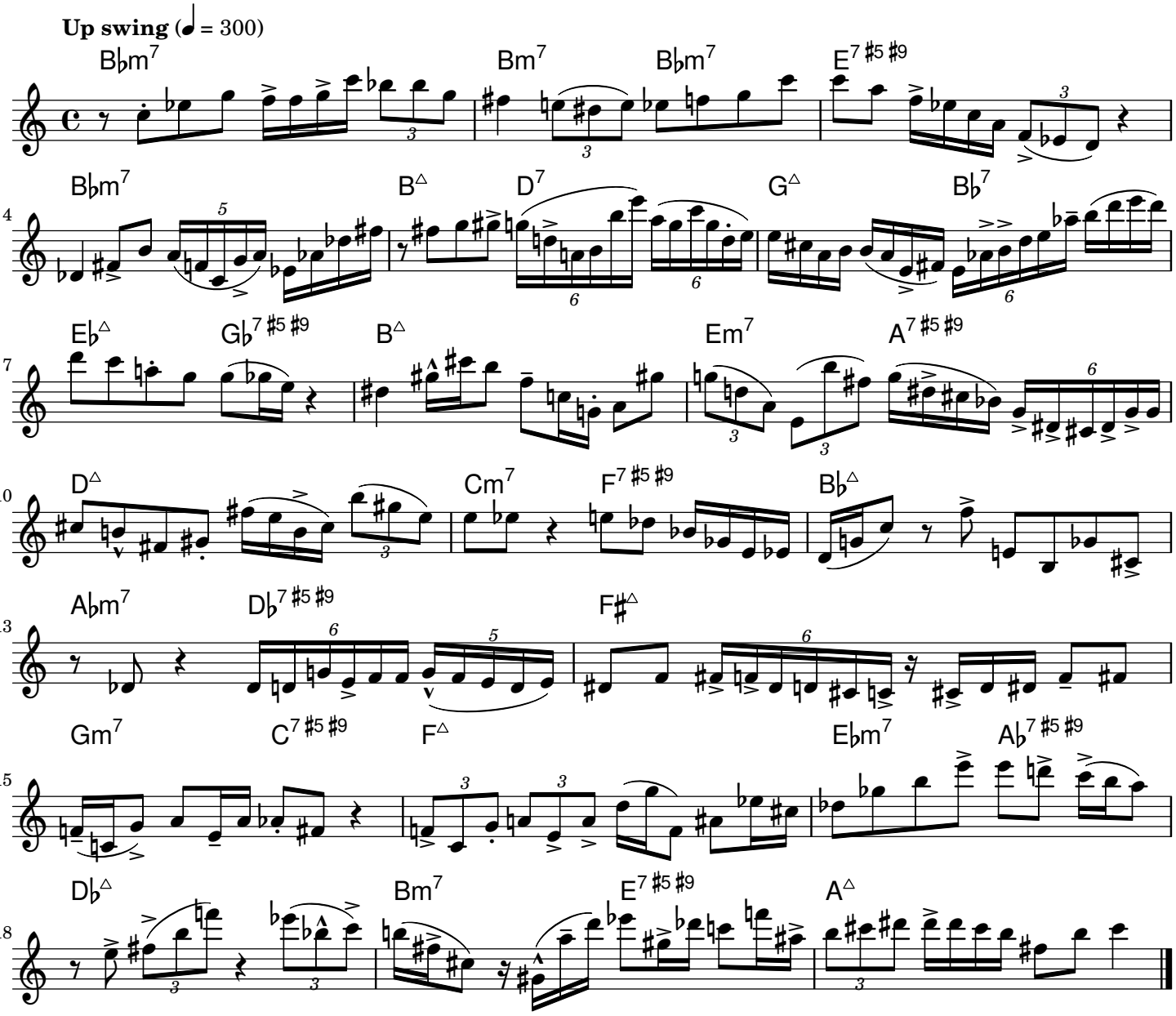
4/4 · Fast swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: wide, superimposition, bebop, pentatonic, outside-in. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



14. Graphite

Original etude — CC0

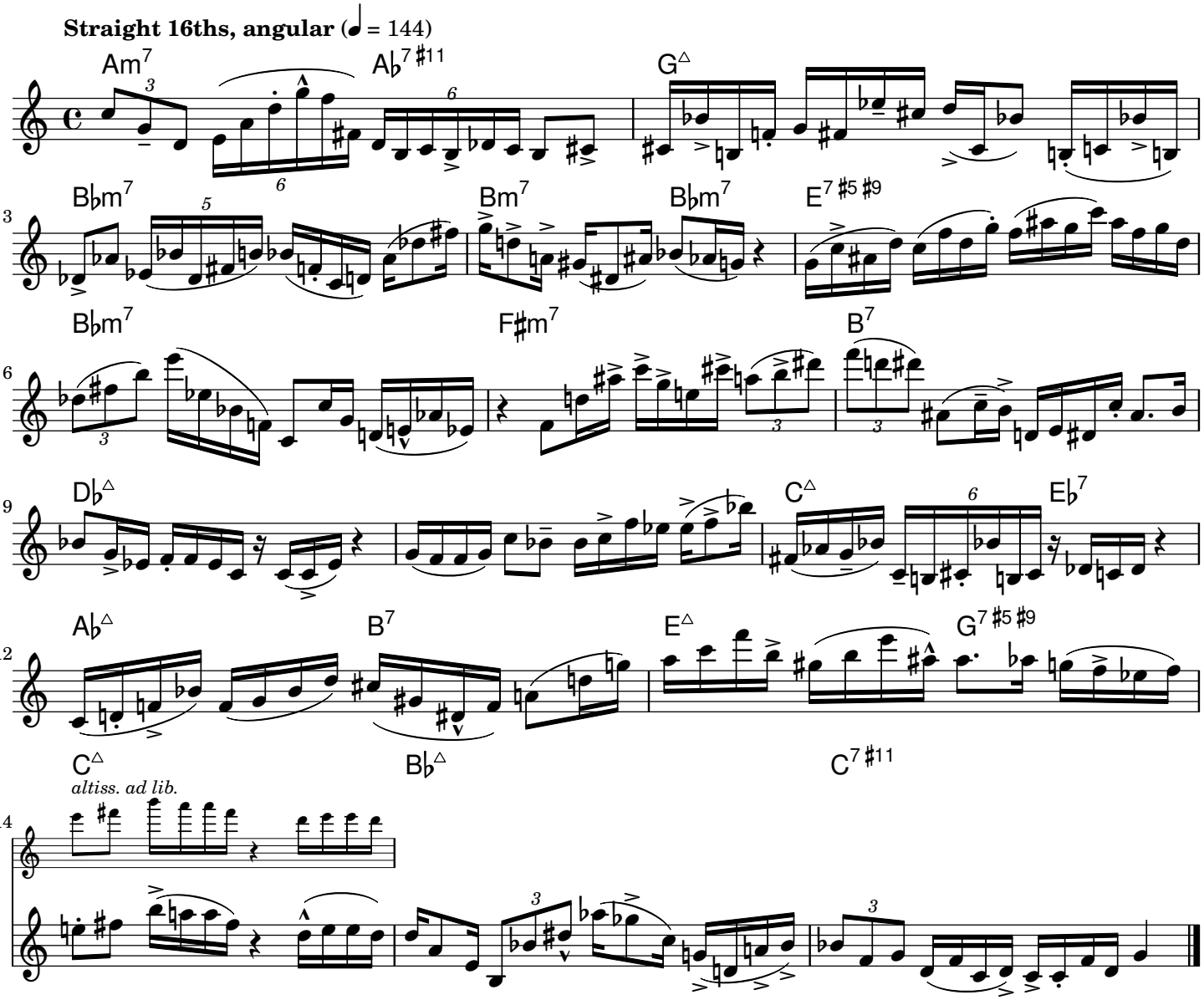
4/4 · Up swing · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: superimposition, bebop, 4ths, pentatonic, side-slip. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



15. Lantern Code

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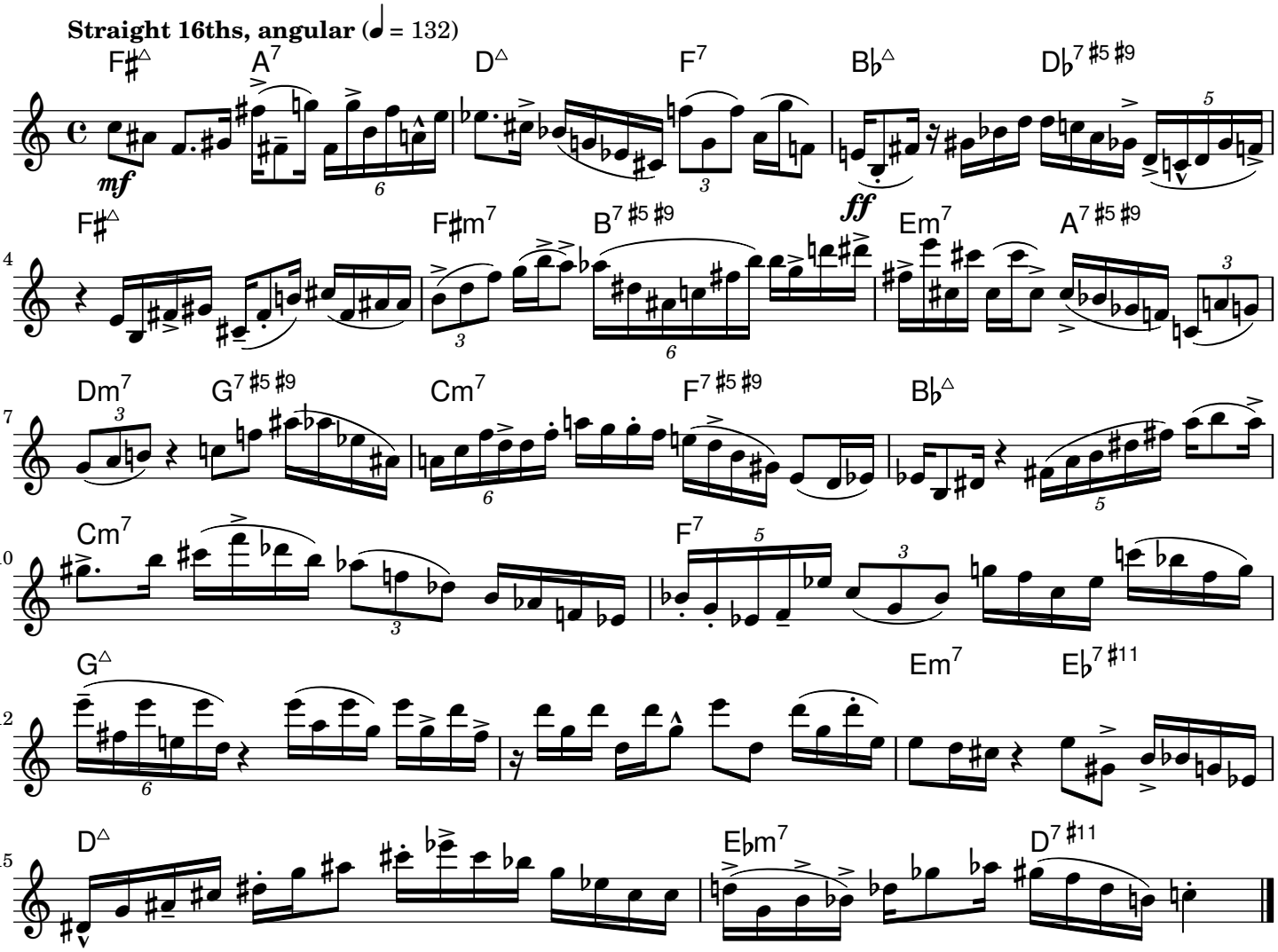
4/4 · Straight 16ths, angular · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: side-slip, 4ths, wide enclosures, pentatonic, bebop. Small staff = optional altissimo. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



16. Fast Weather

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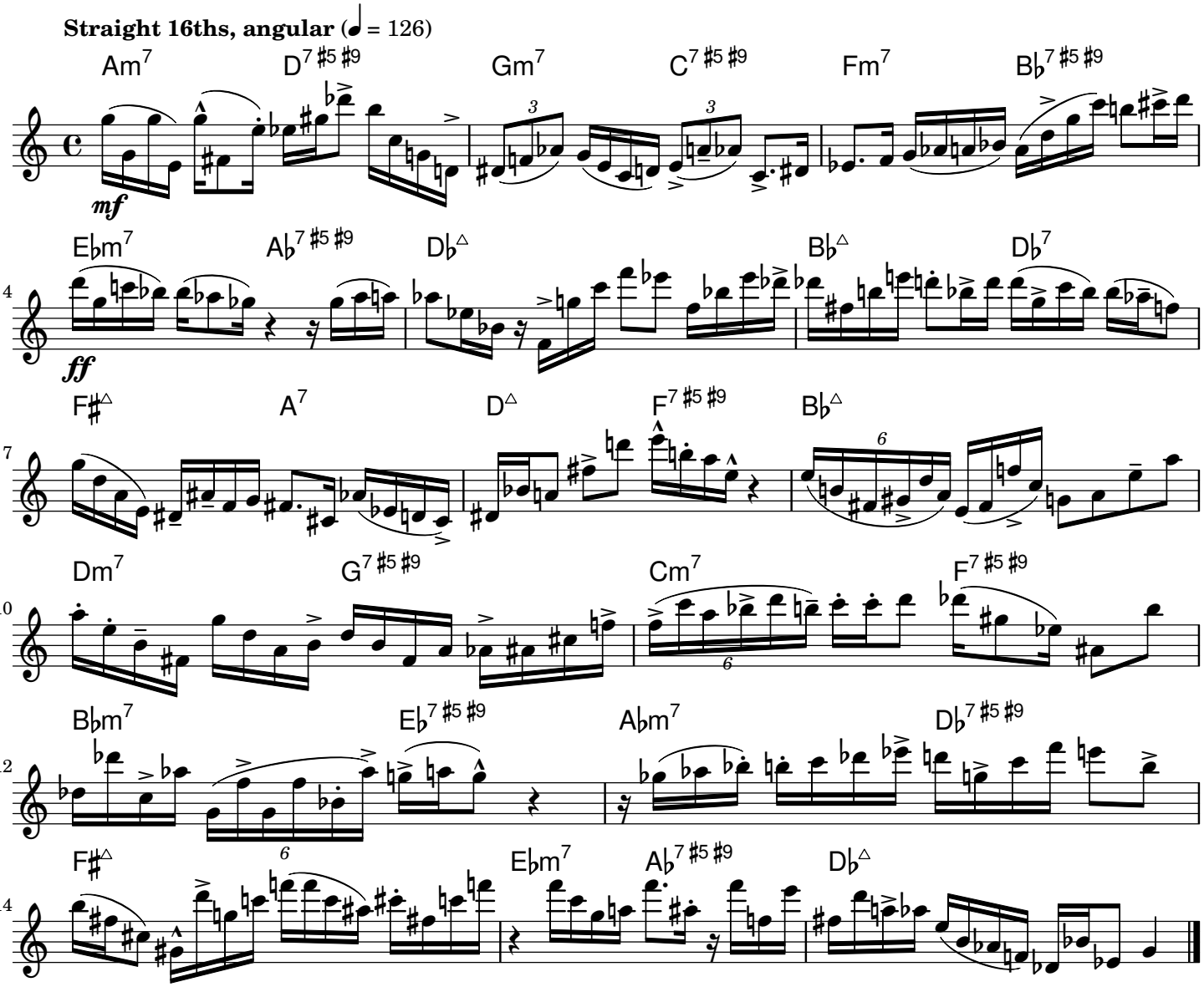
4/4 · Straight 16ths, angular · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: superimposition, outside-in, side-slip, wide, pentatonic. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



17. Vertigo Street

Original etude — CC0

4/4 · Straight 16ths, angular · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: 4ths, side-slip, bebop, wide, outside-in. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).
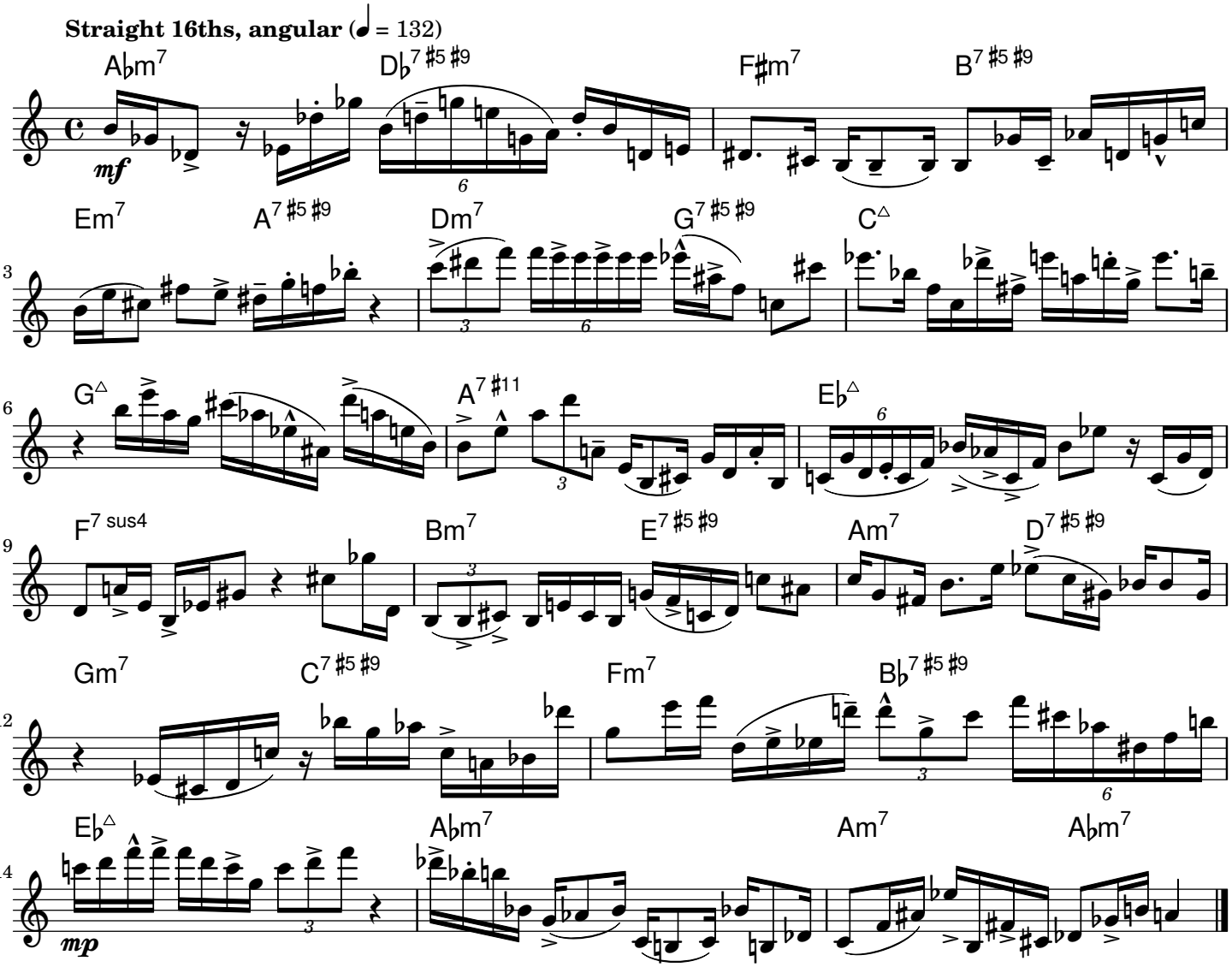


E♭ alto sax (written pitch). Original material by the pack authors, CC0 1.0 public domain dedication.

18. Basalt

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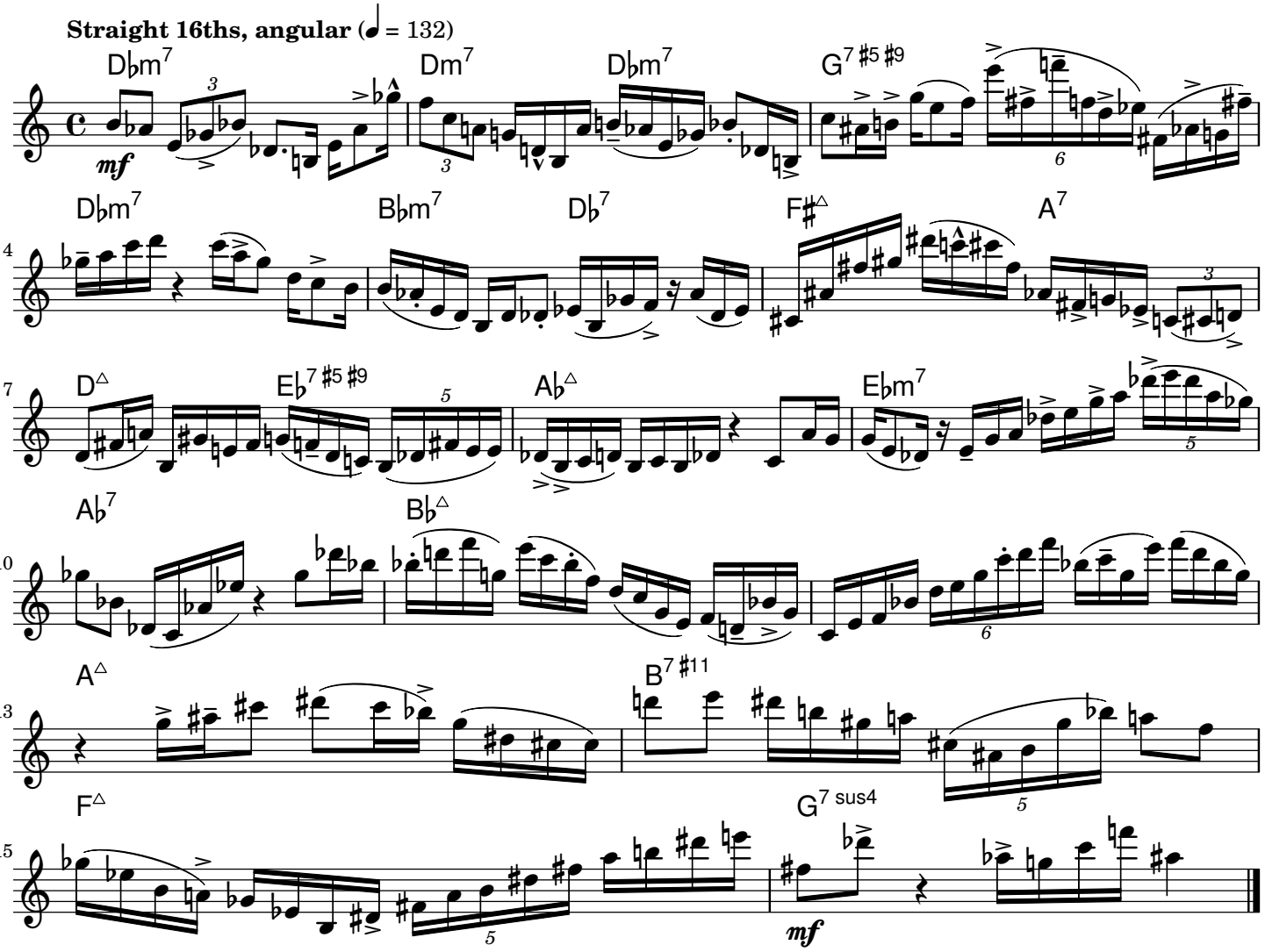
4/4 · Straight 16ths, angular · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: bebop, pentatonic, side-slip, wide enclosures, 4ths. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



19. Afterburn

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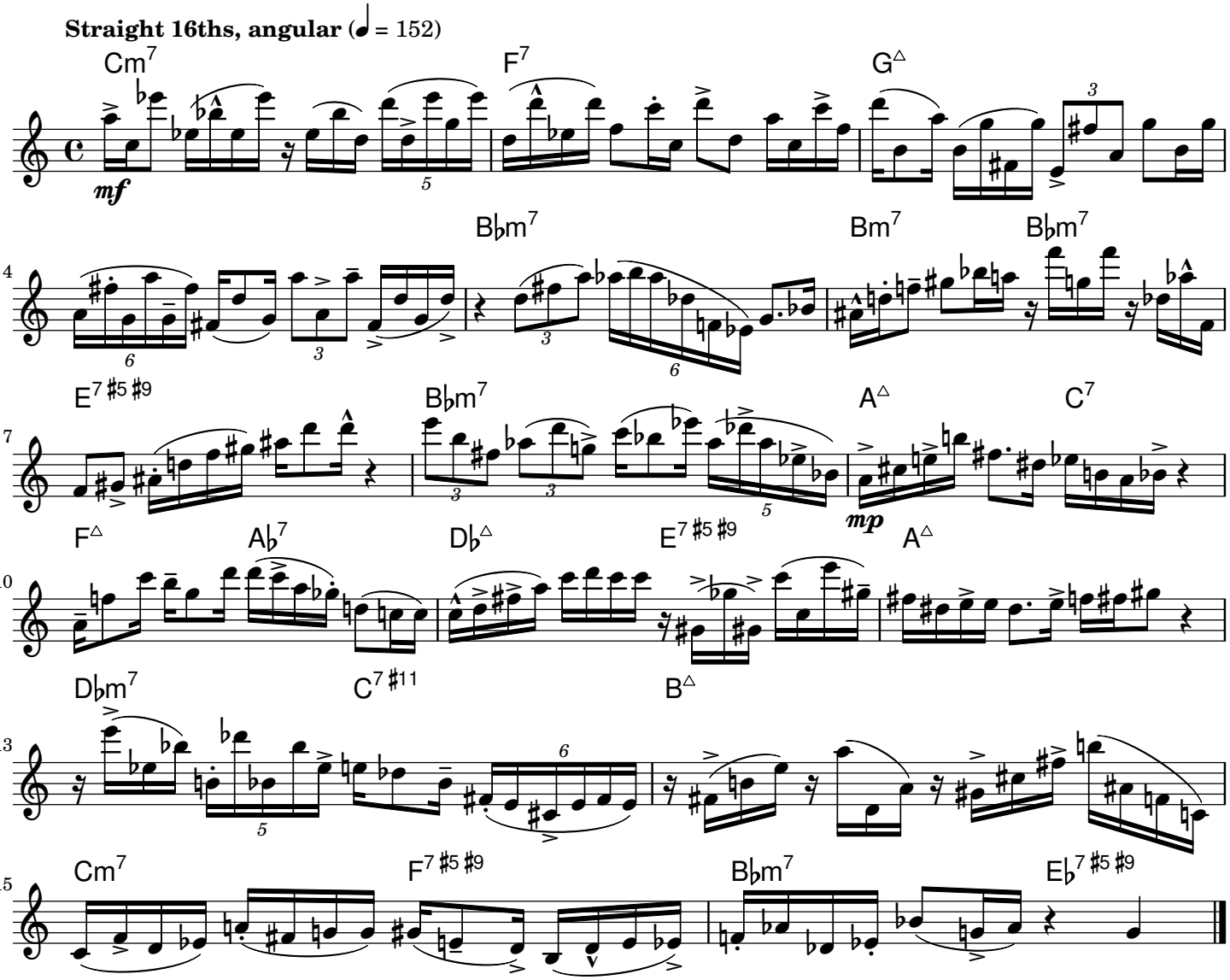
4/4 · Straight 16ths, angular · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: wide enclosures, superimposition, triad pair, side-slip, bebop. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



20. Jagged Halo

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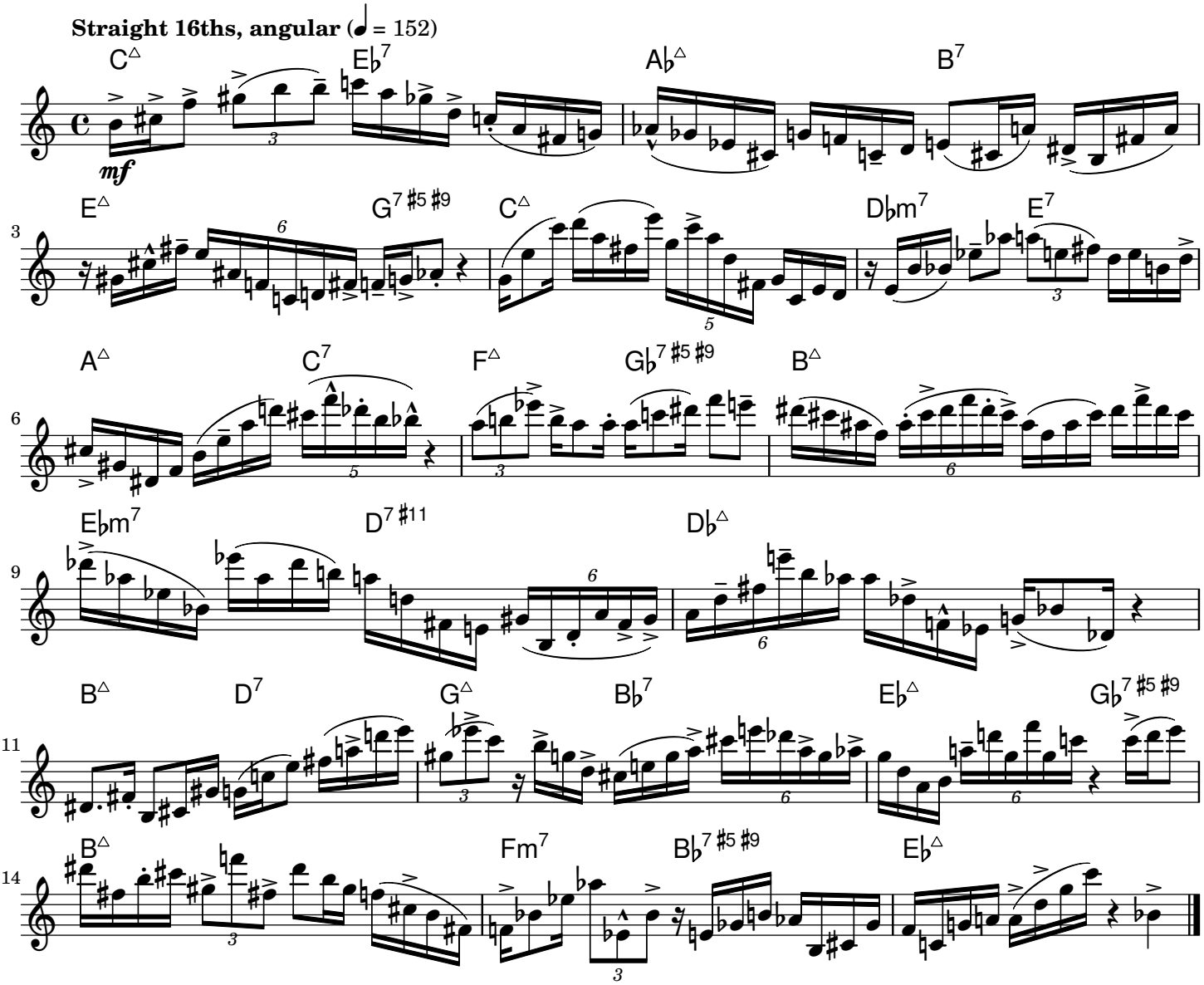
4/4 · Straight 16ths, angular · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: triad pair, bebop, side-slip, superimposition, wide. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



21. Overclock

Original etude — CC0

4/4 · Straight 16ths, angular · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: triad pair, superimposition, 4ths, side-slip, pentatonic. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).

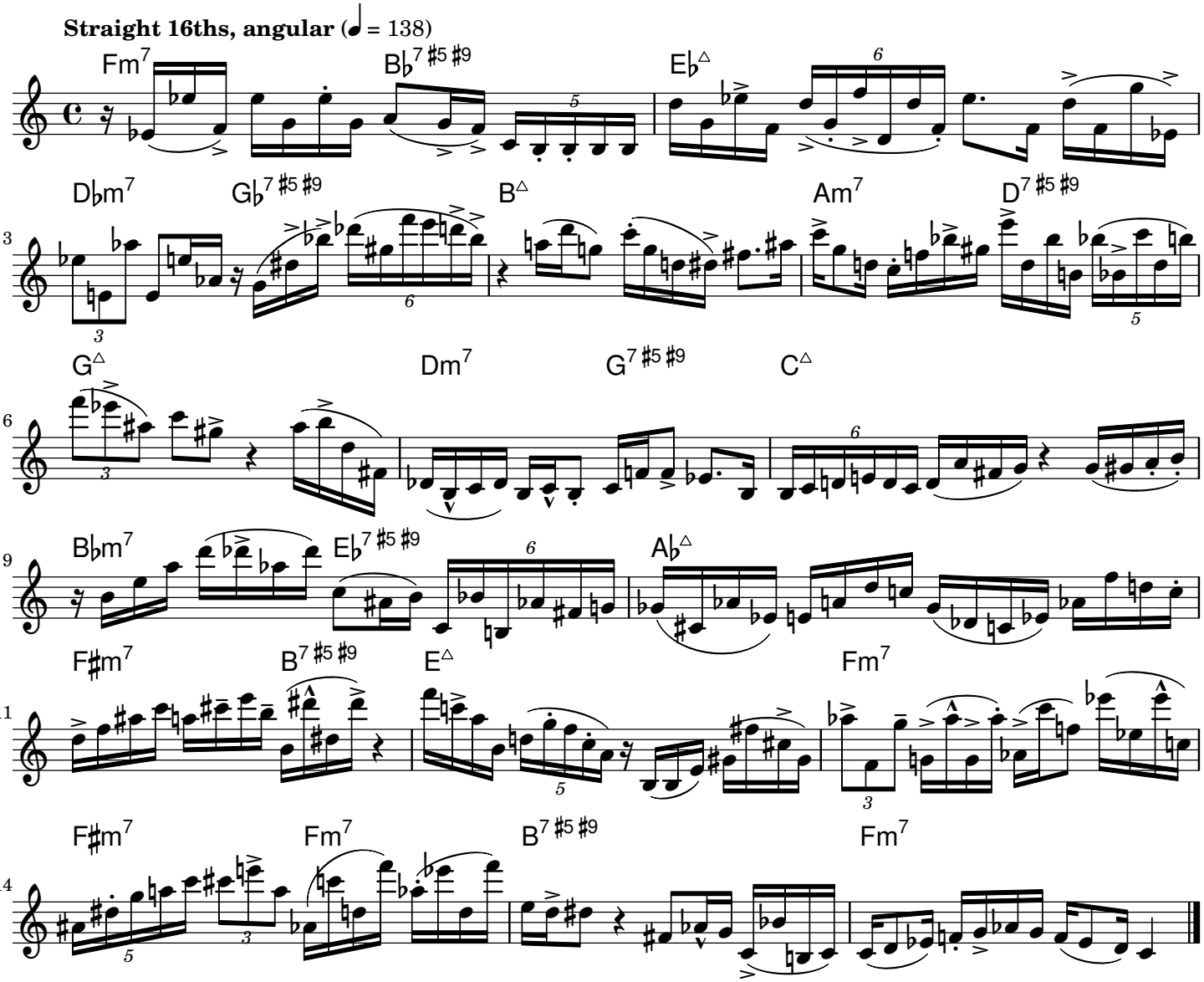


E♭ alto sax (written pitch). Original material by the pack authors, CC0 1.0 public domain dedication.

22. Shatterline

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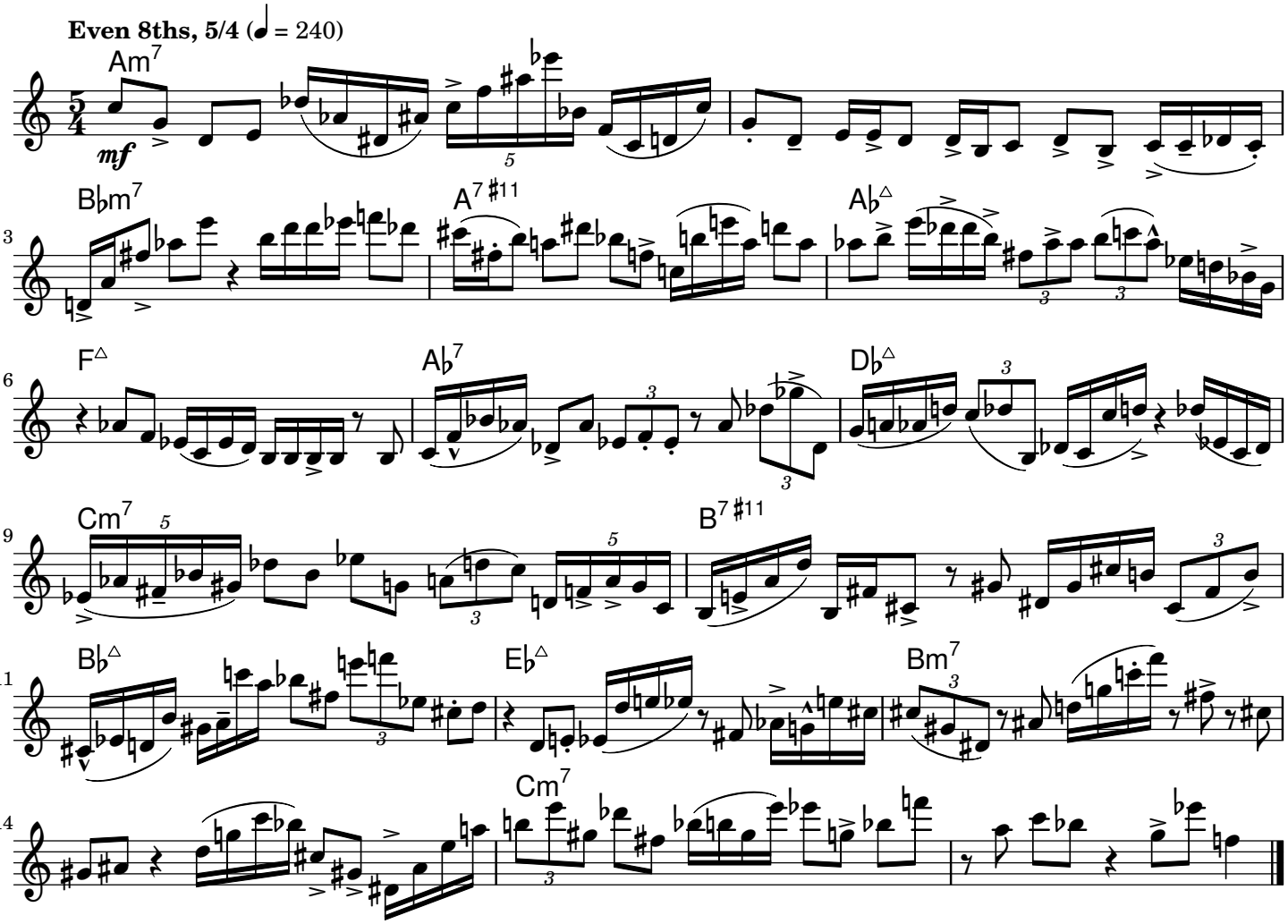
4/4 · Straight 16ths, angular · thirds cycles & reharmonized ii–Vs. Devices: side-slip, outside-in, bebop, wide enclosures, wide. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



23. Wolf Interval

Original etude — CC0

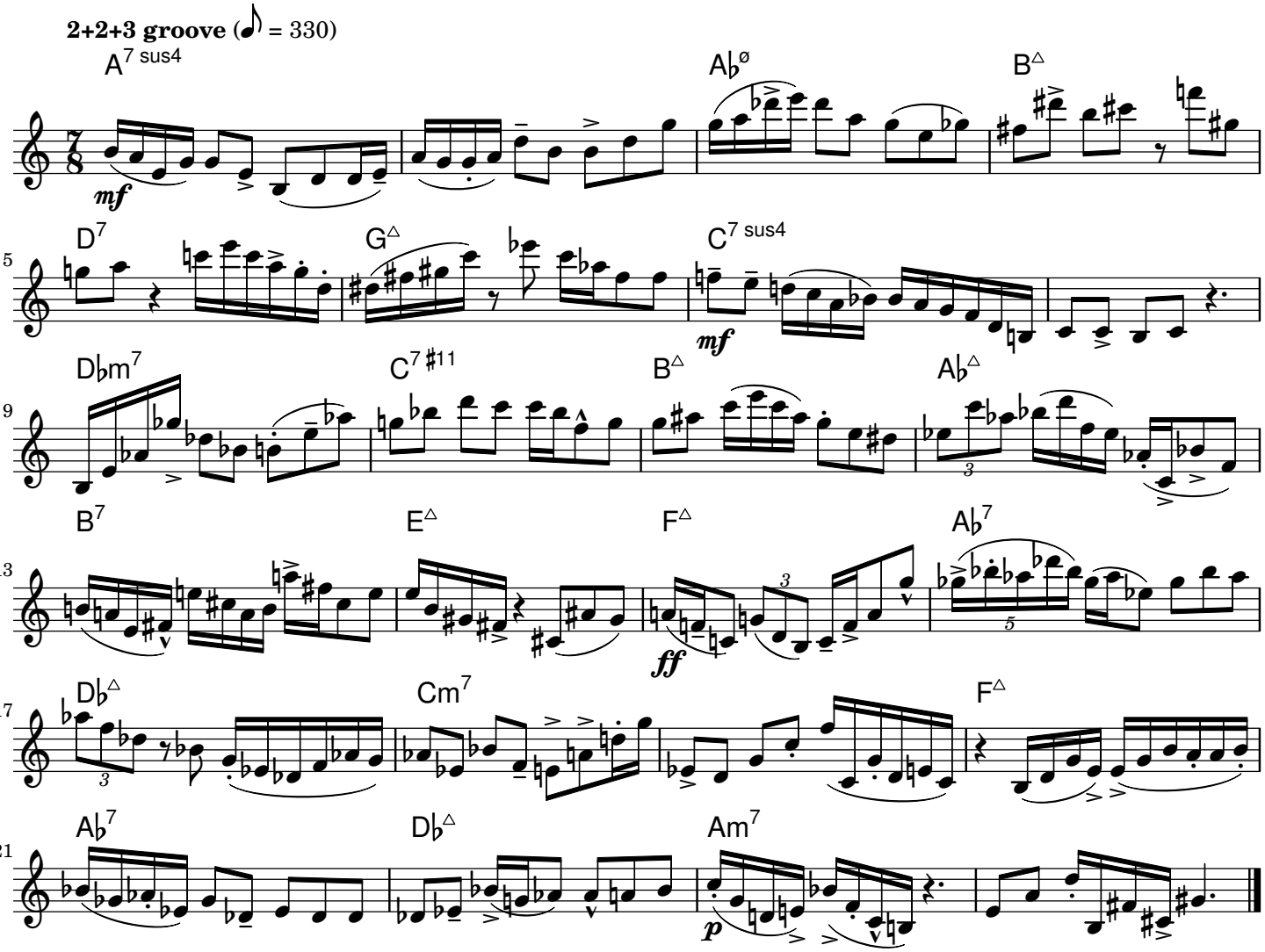
5/4 · Even 8ths, 5/4 · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: side-slip, outside-in, bebop, wide enclosures, 4ths. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



24. Carbon Bloom

Original etude — CC0
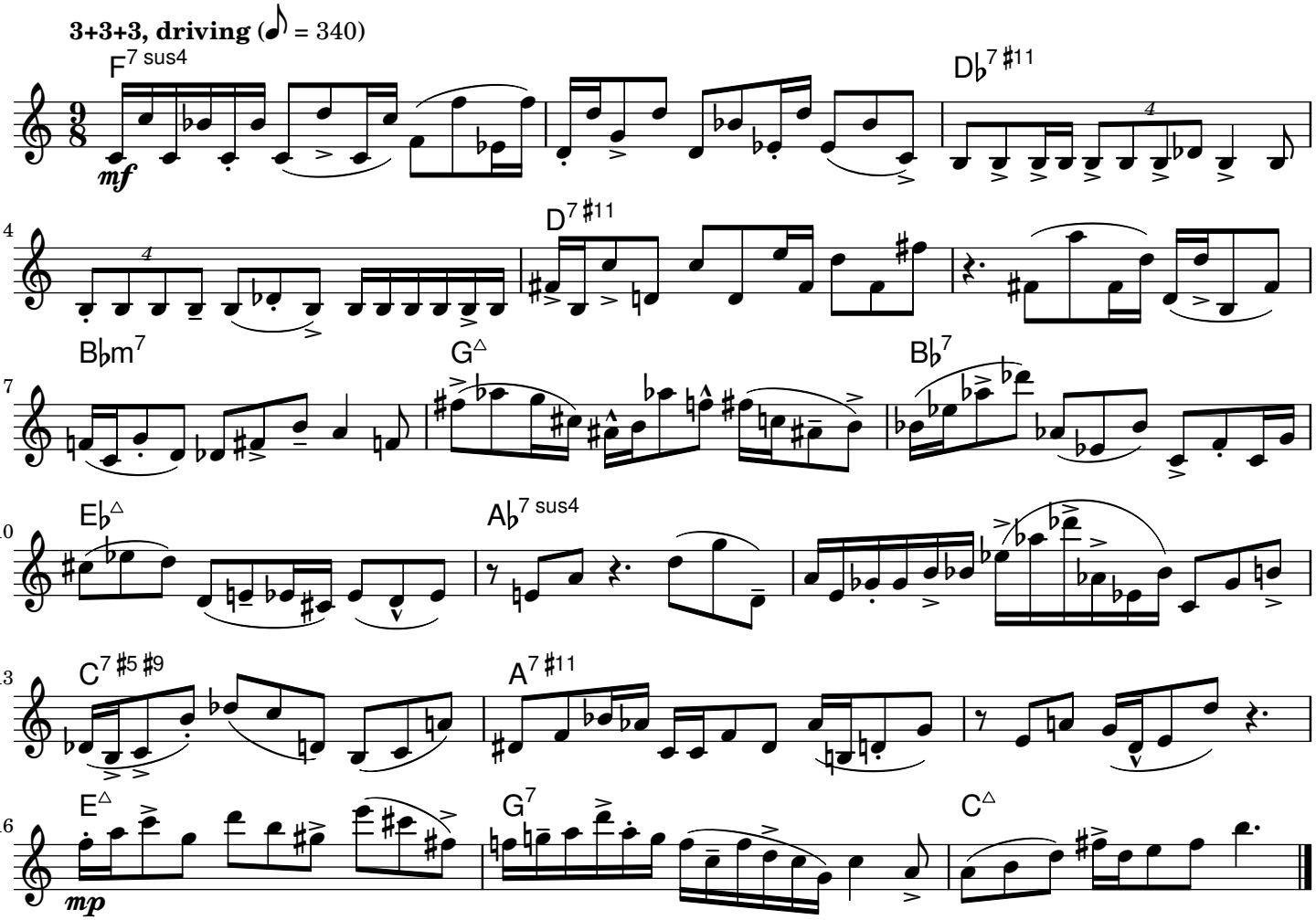
7/8 · 2+2+3 groove · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: triad pair, superimposition, pentatonic, side-slip, bebop. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



25. Smoke Geometry

Original etude — CC0
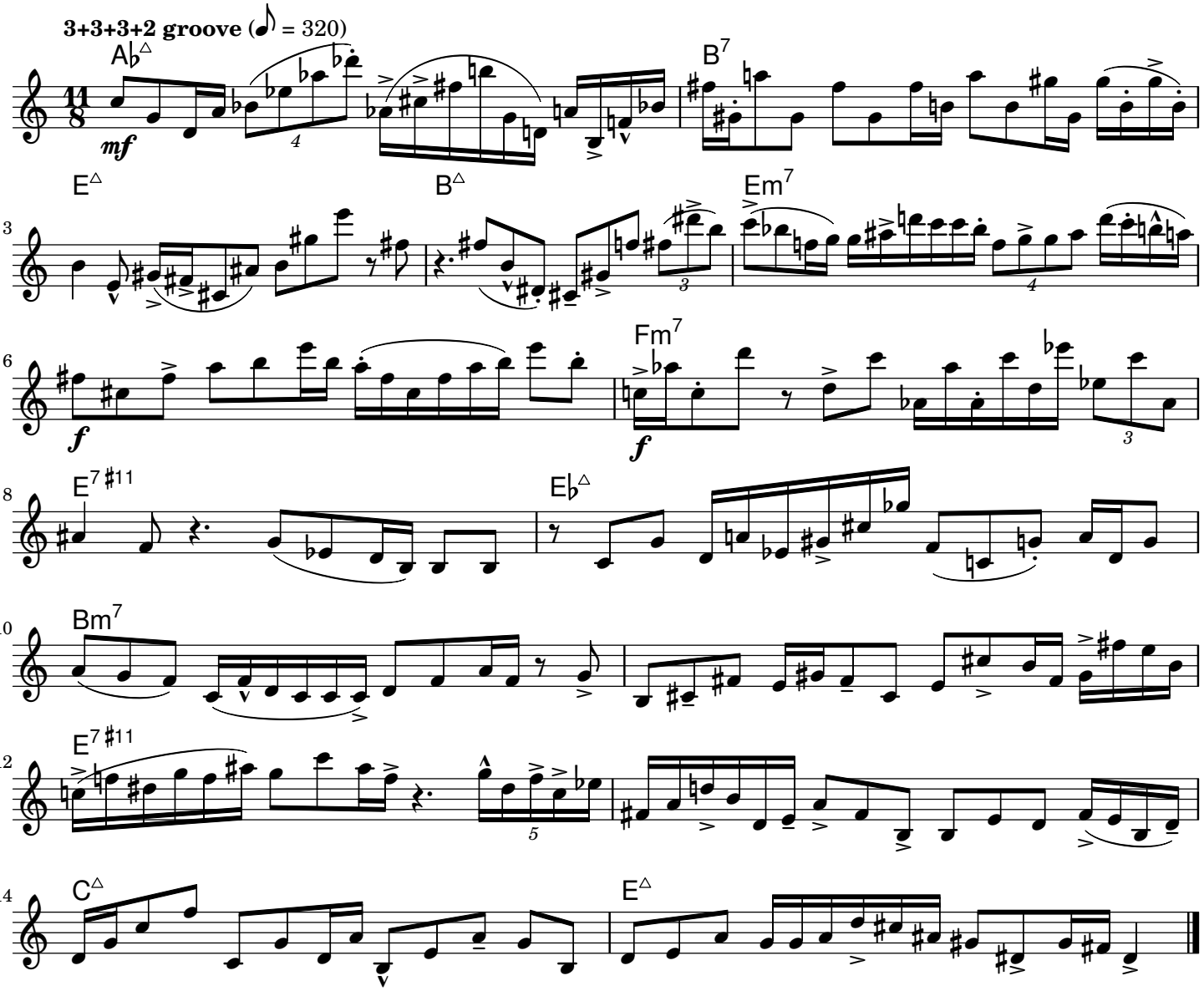
9/8 · 3+3+3, driving · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: 4ths, wide, pentatonic, side-slip, wide enclosures. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



26. Ironwood

Original etude — CC0
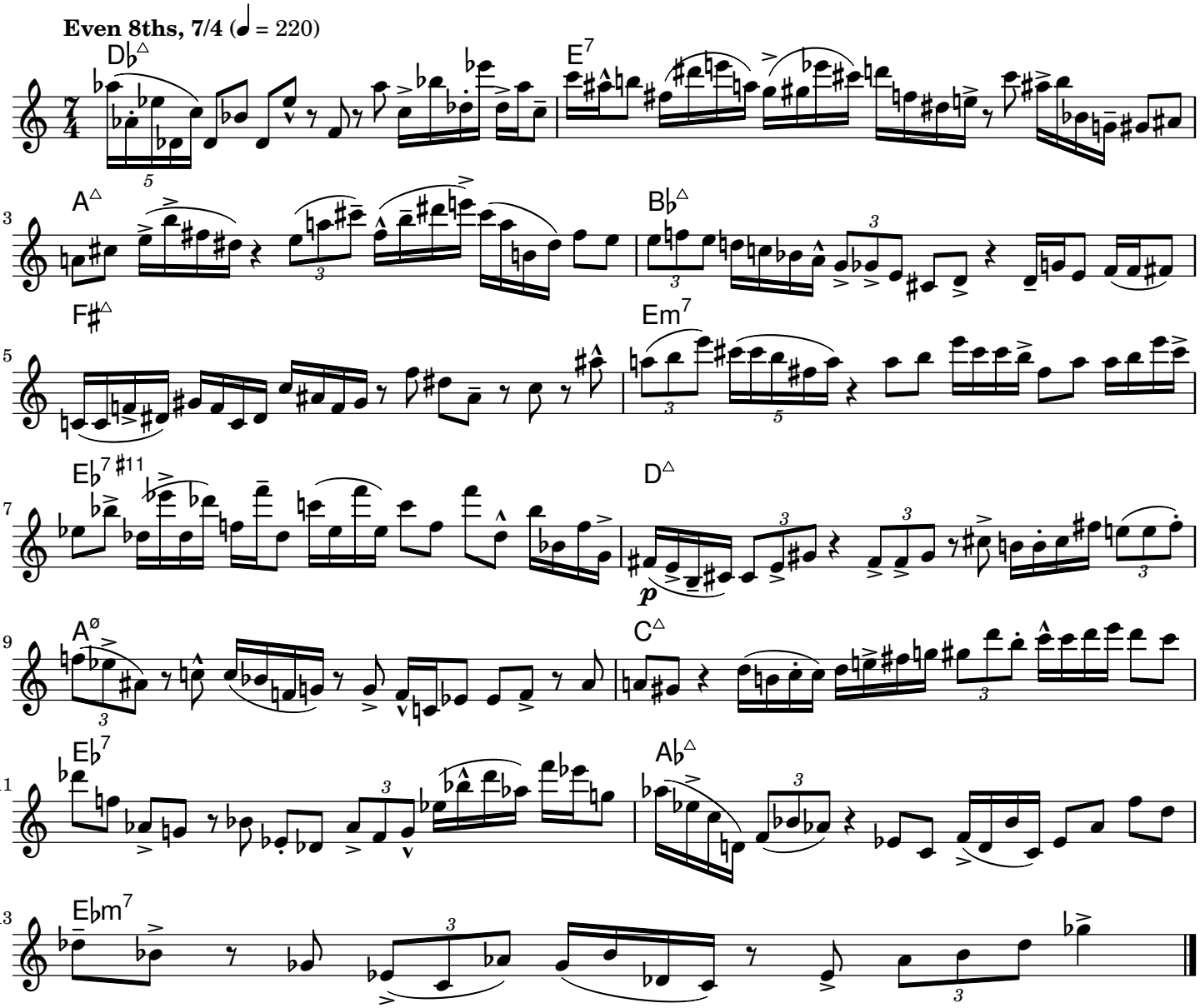
11/8 · 3+3+3+2 groove · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: side-slip, wide, 4ths, bebop, triad pair. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



27. Static Horizon

Original etude — CC0

7/4 · Even 8ths, 7/4 · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: triad pair, wide enclosures, bebop, wide, pentatonic. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).
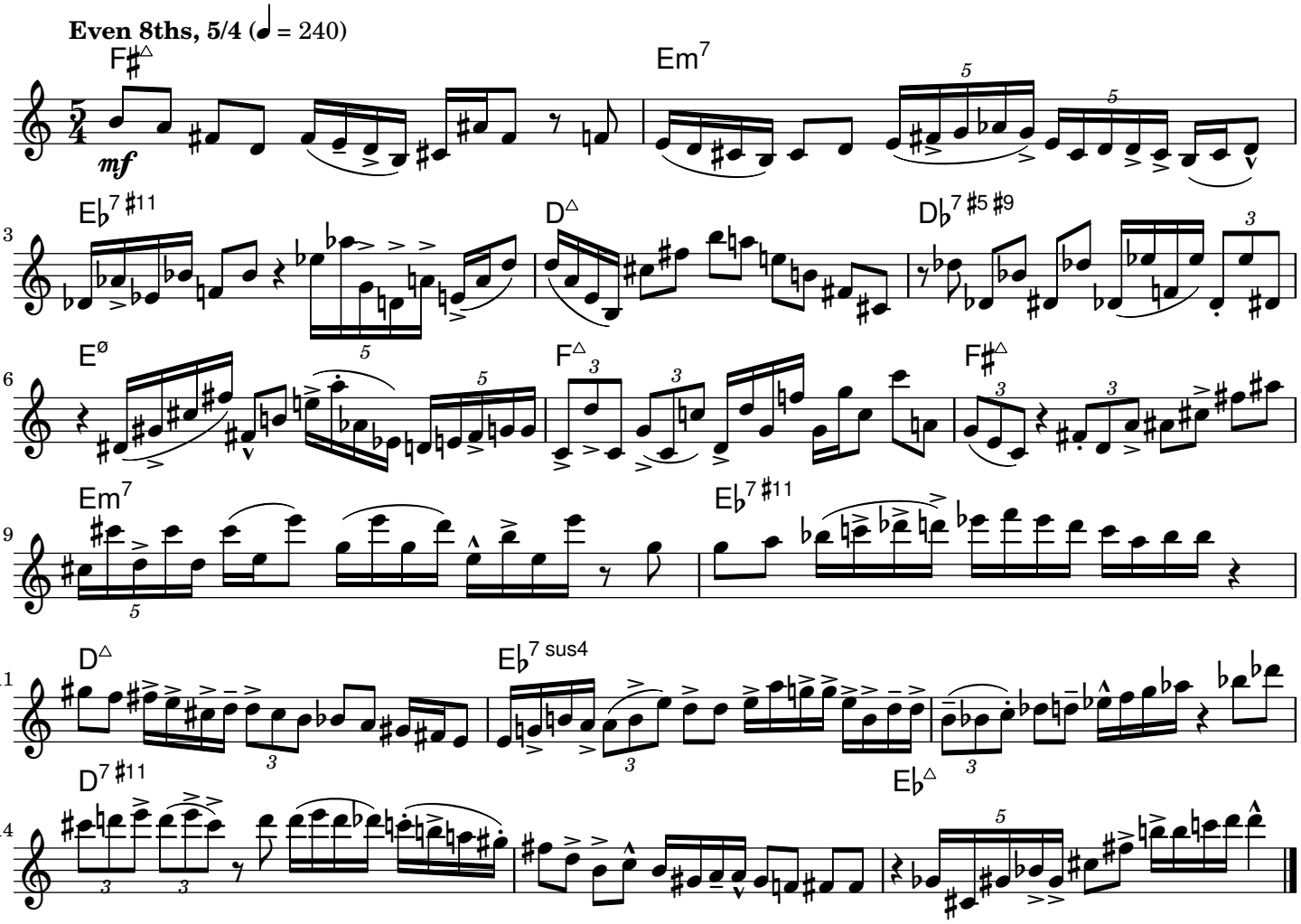


E♭ alto sax (written pitch). Original material by the pack authors, CC0 1.0 public domain dedication.

28. Heatwave Grammar

Original etude — CC0
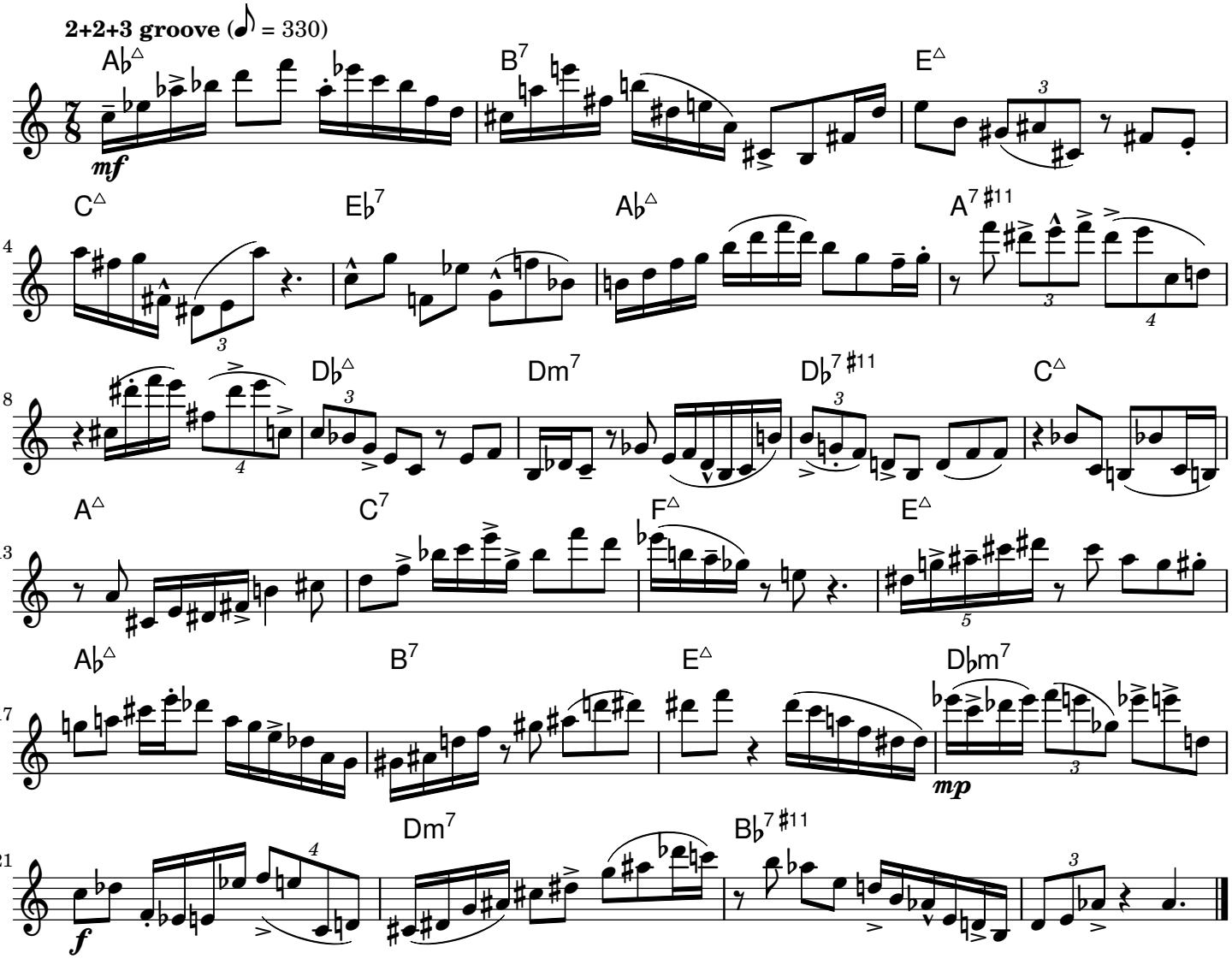
5/4 · Even 8ths, 5/4 · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: outside-in, 4ths, wide, pentatonic, bebop. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



29. Northern Ledger

Original etude — CC0
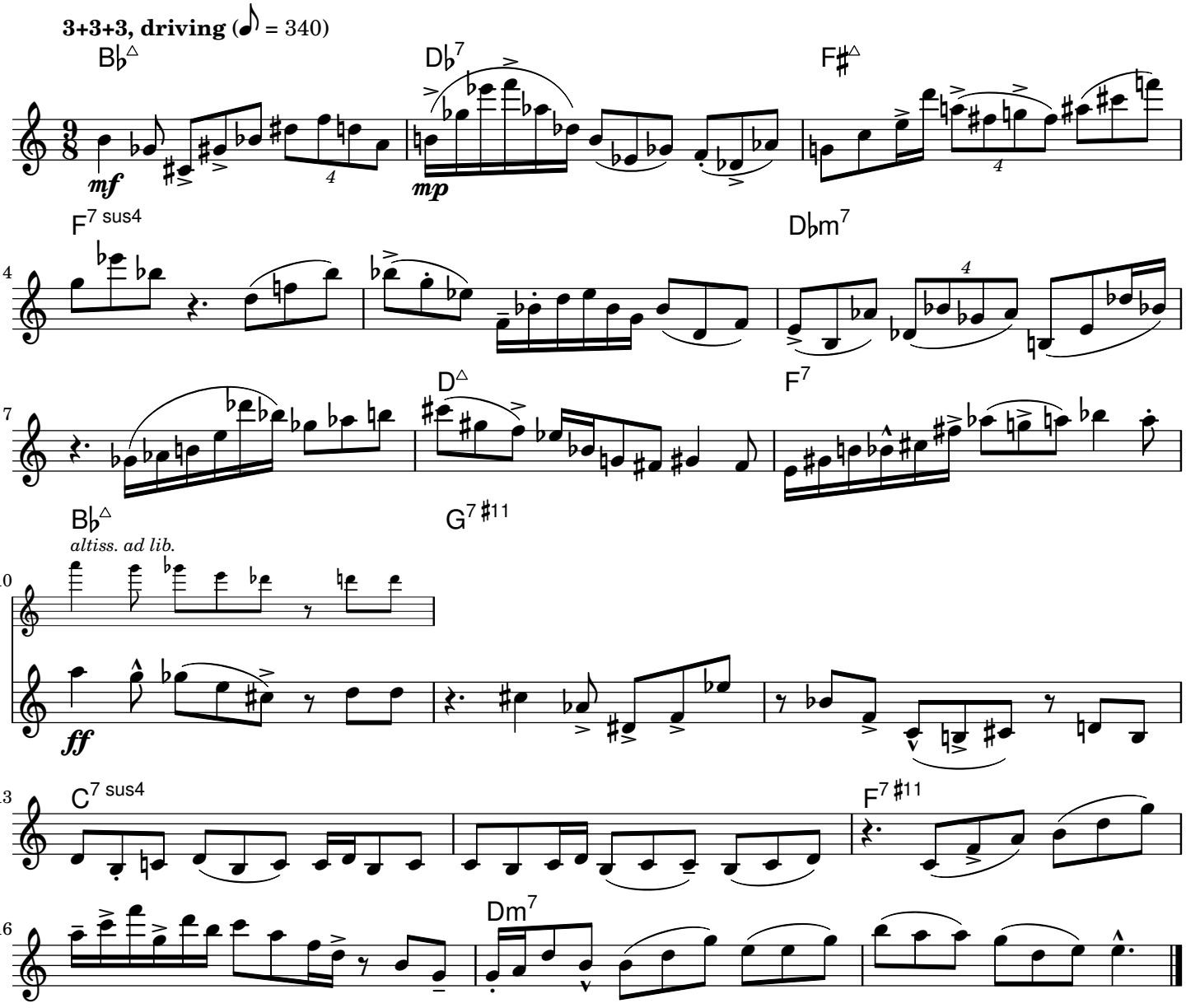
7/8 · 2+2+3 groove · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: wide enclosures, superimposition, bebop, triad pair, wide. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



30. Switchyard

Original etude — CC0
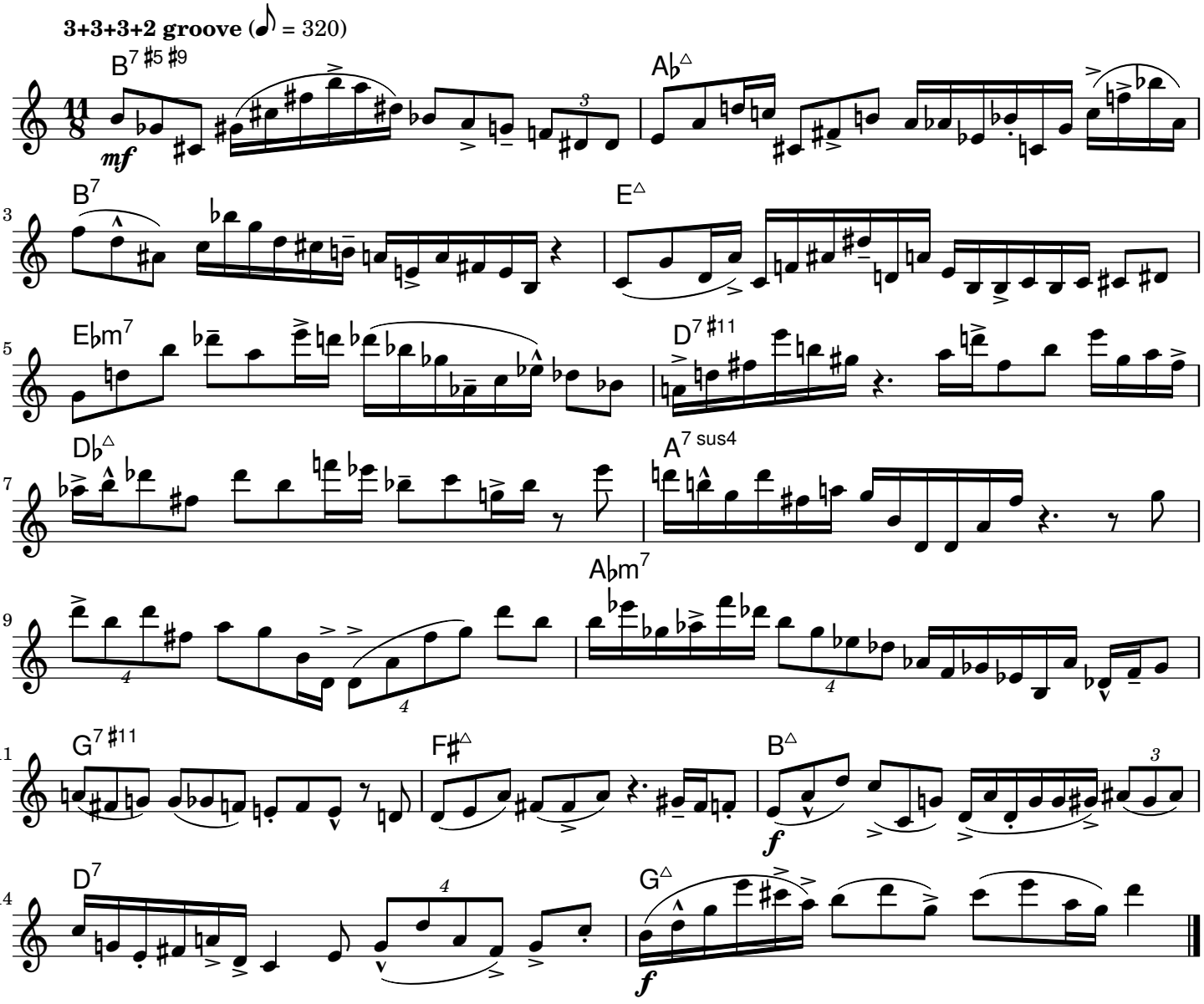
9/8 · 3+3+3, driving · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: outside-in, bebop, pentatonic, wide, triad pair. Small staff = optional altissimo. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



31. Phase Drift

Original etude — CC0
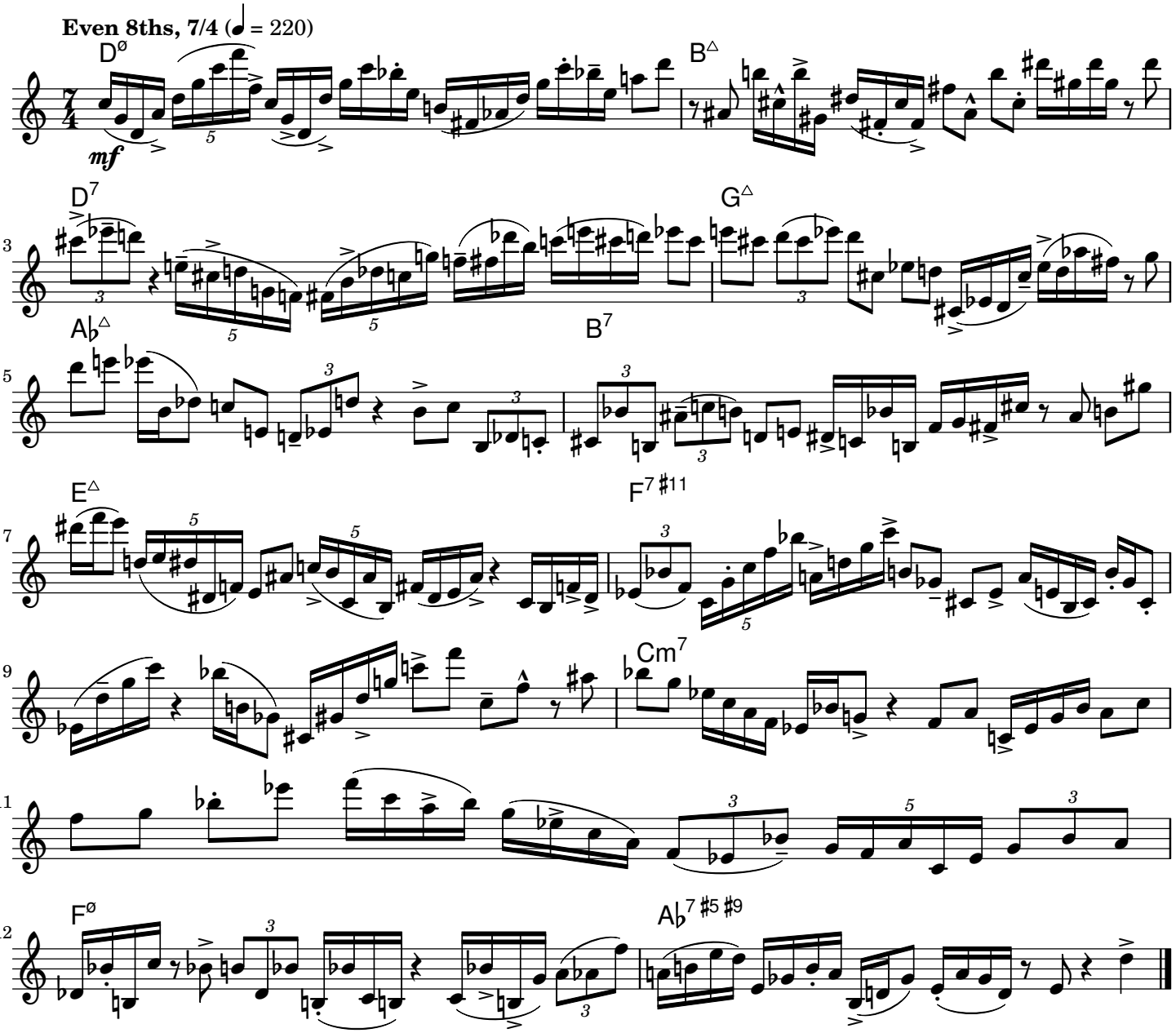
11/8 · 3+3+3+2 groove · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: triad pair, pentatonic, outside-in, bebop, side-slip. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



32. Thunder Ledger

Original etude — CC0

7/4 · Even 8ths, 7/4 · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: 4ths, wide enclosures, wide, triad pair, pentatonic. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).
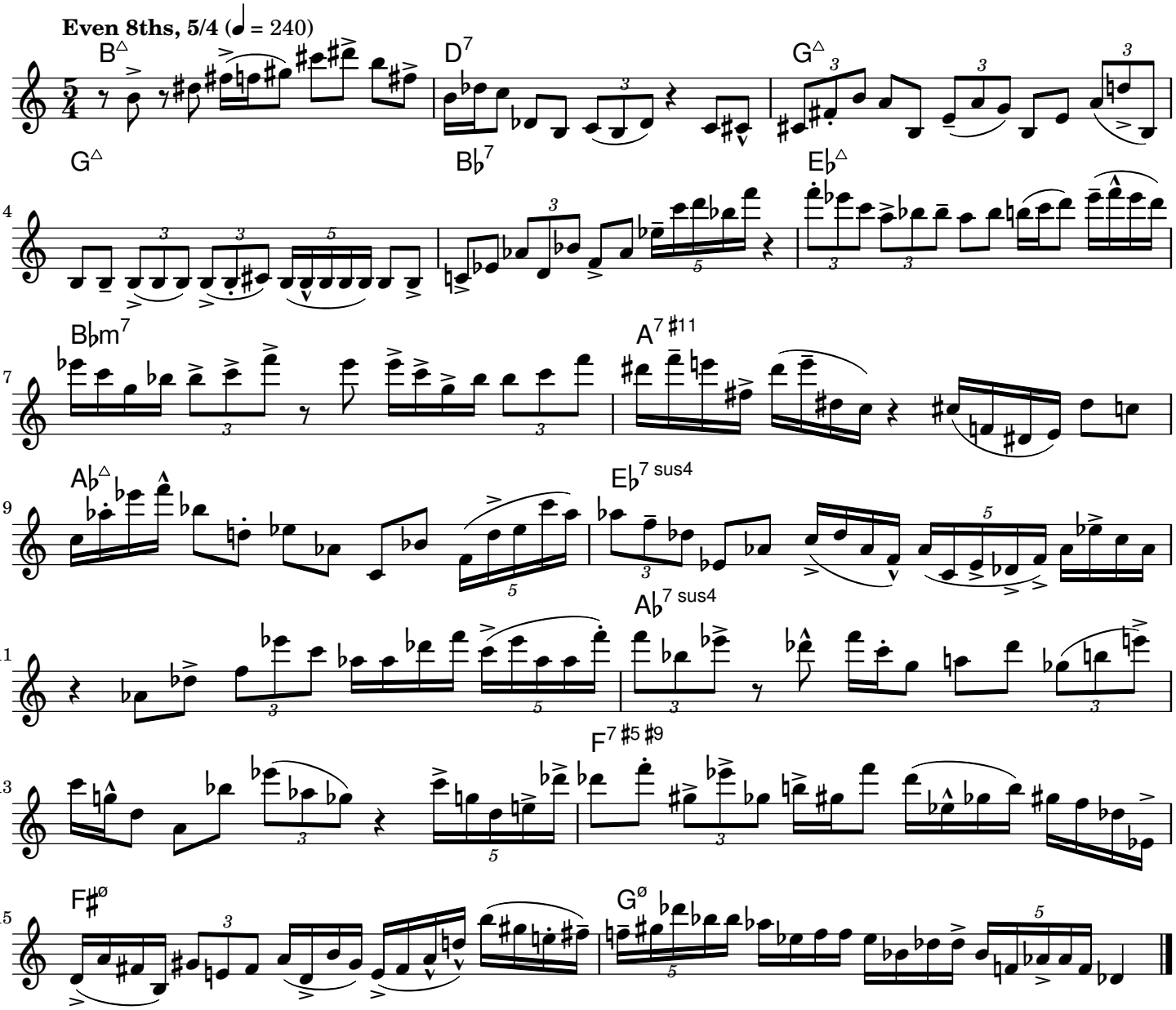


E♭ alto sax (written pitch). Original material by the pack authors, CC0 1.0 public domain dedication.

33. Cobalt Run

Original etude — CC0
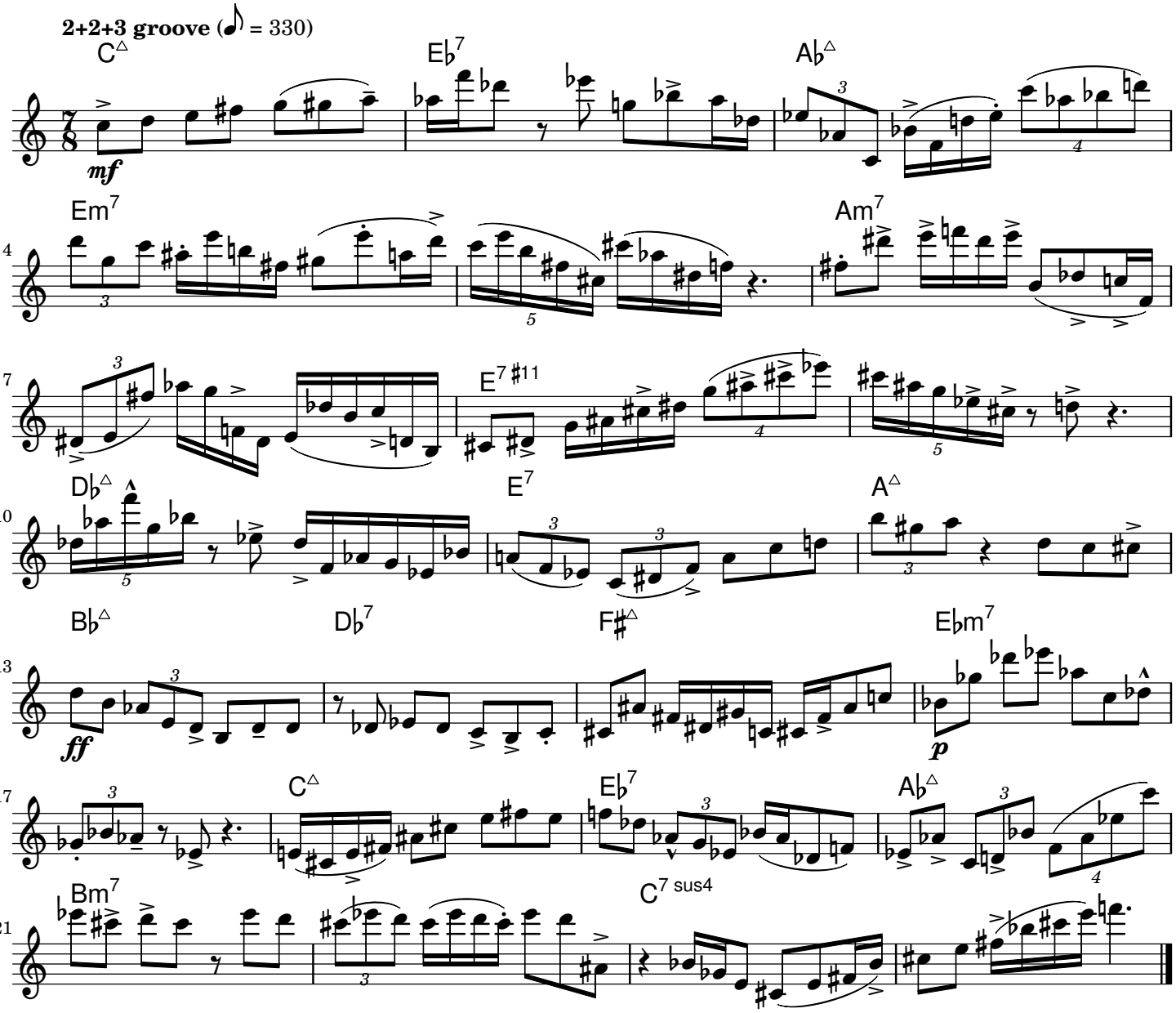
5/4 · Even 8ths, 5/4 · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: wide enclosures, 4ths, triad pair, pentatonic, bebop. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



34. Night Market

Original etude — CC0

7/8 · 2+2+3 groove · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: 4ths, triad pair, bebop, wide enclosures, superimposition. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).
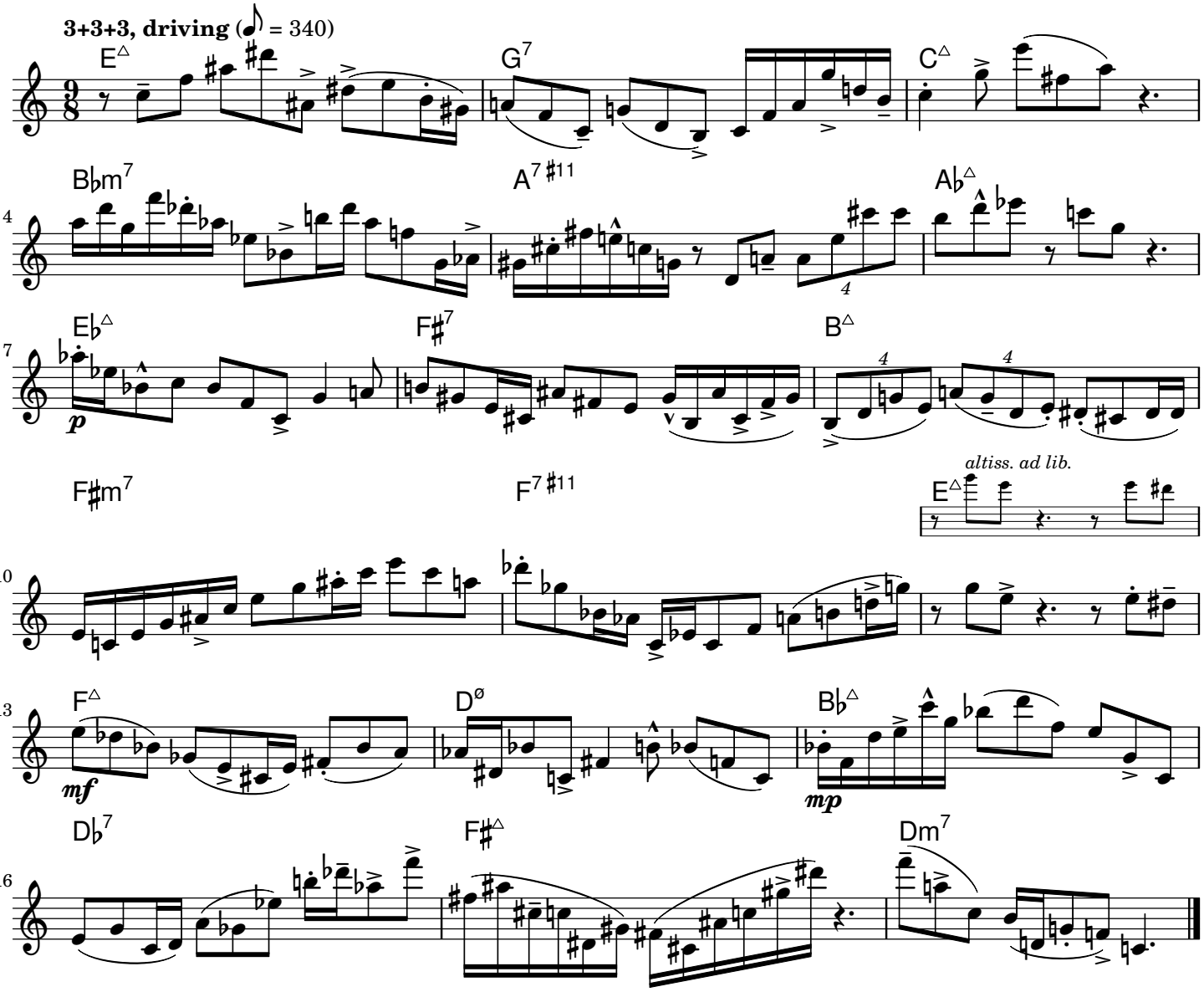


E♭ alto sax (written pitch). Original material by the pack authors, CC0 1.0 public domain dedication.

35. Ember Logic

Original etude — CC0
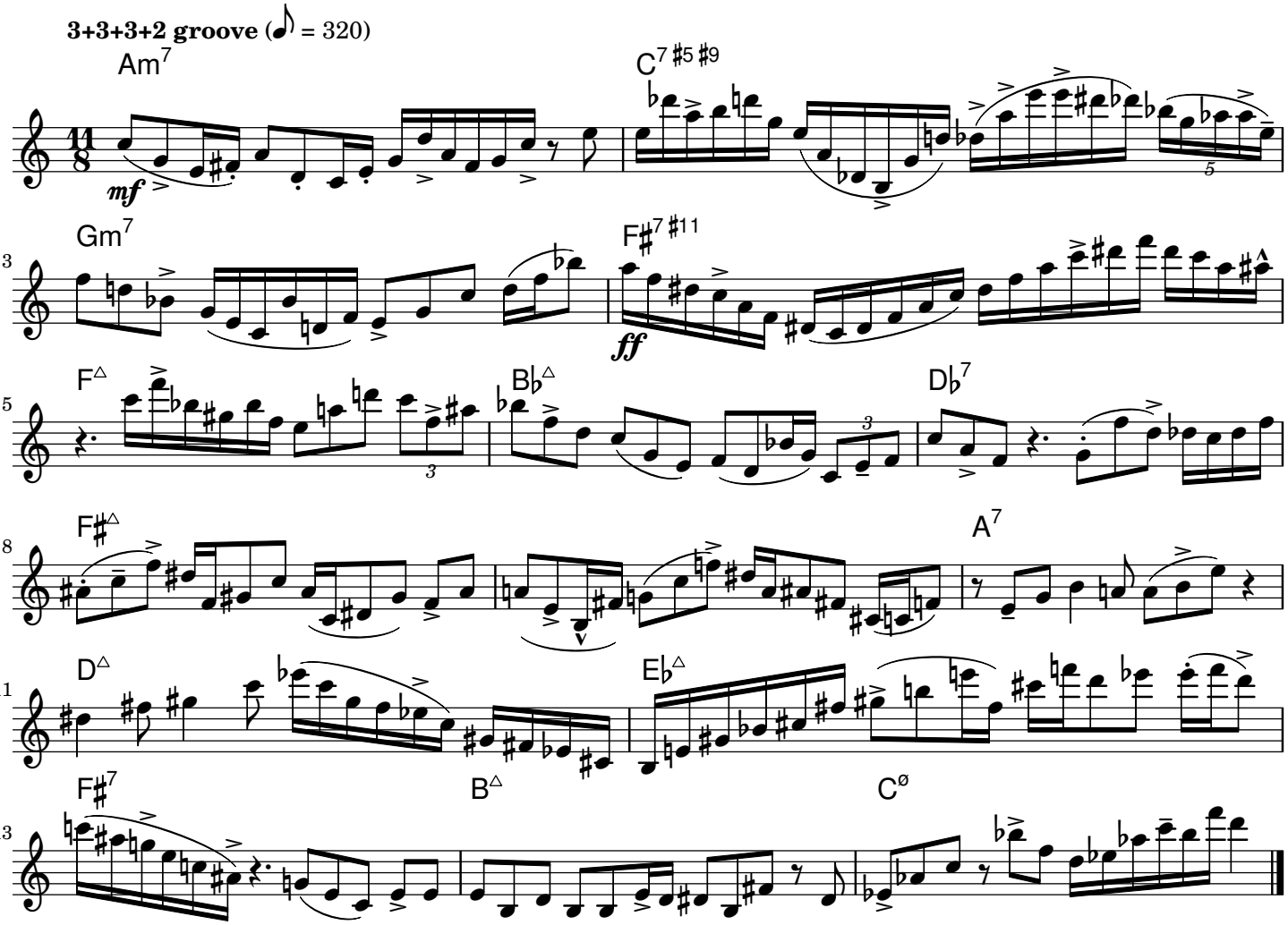
9/8 · 3+3+3, driving · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: superimposition, outside-in, bebop, side-slip, triad pair. Small staff = optional altissimo. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



36. Granite Tide

Original etude — CC0
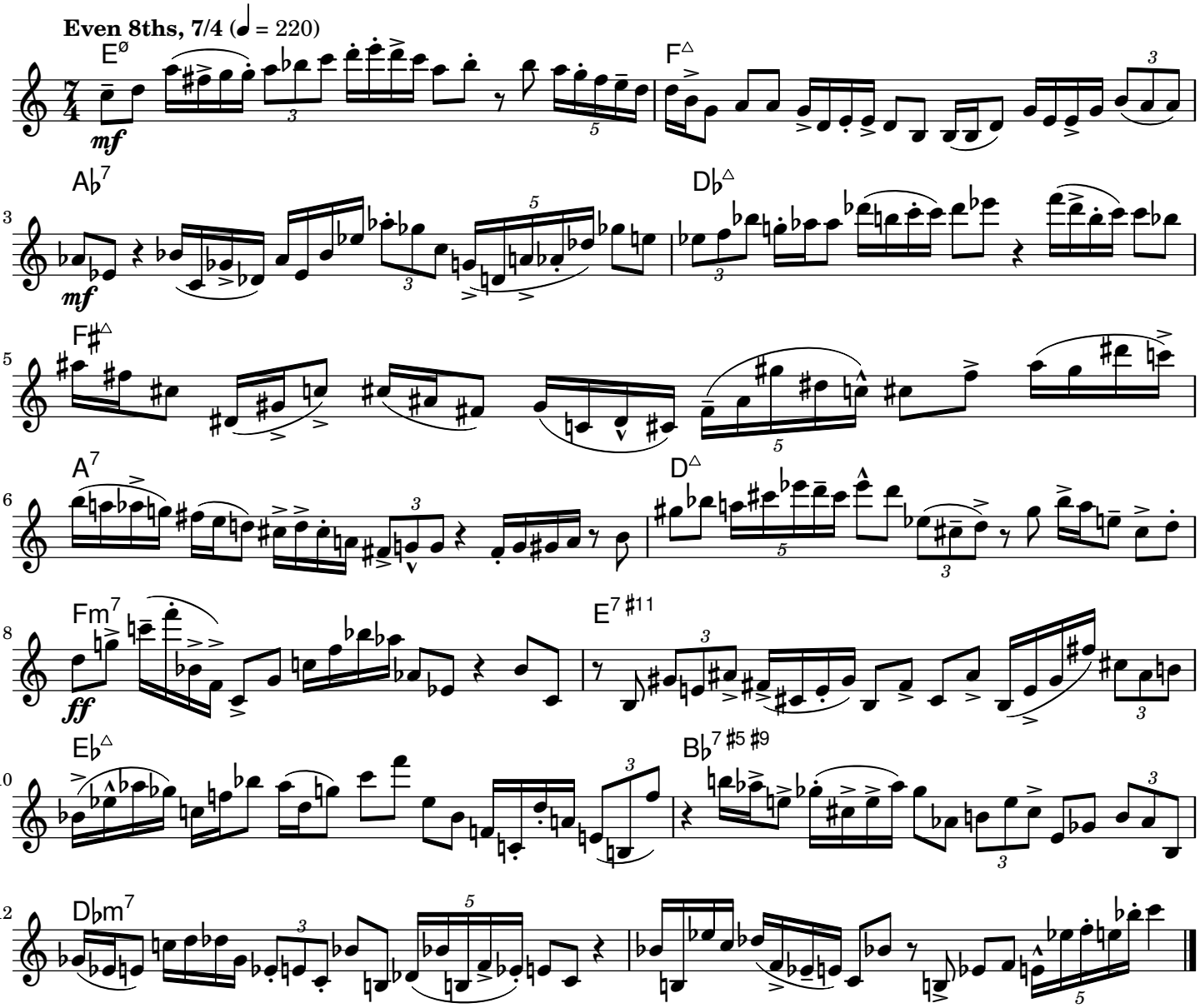
11/8 · 3+3+3+2 groove · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: side-slip, outside-in, pentatonic, superimposition, triad pair. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



37. Skyline Fracture

Original etude — CC0
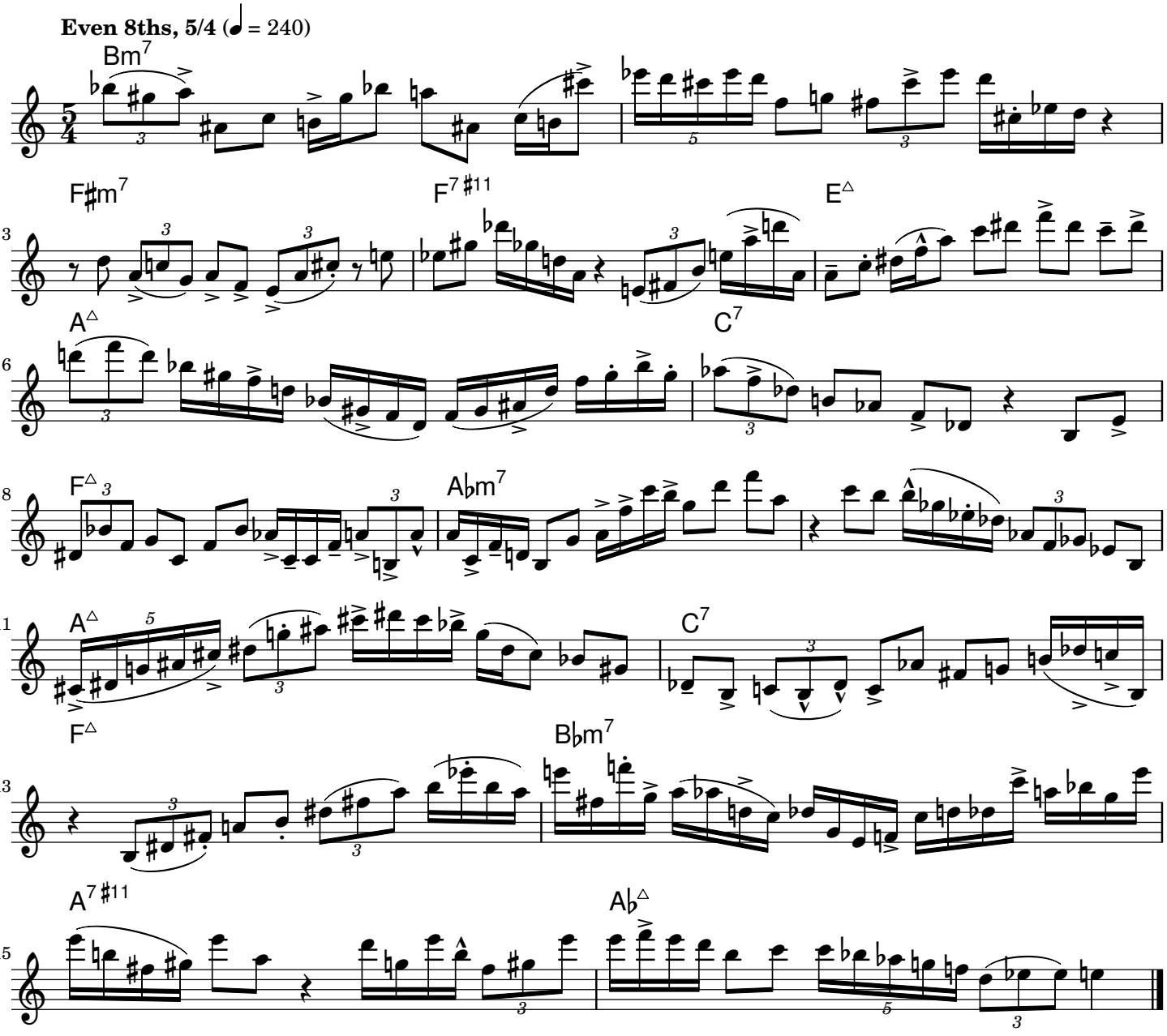
7/4 · Even 8ths, 7/4 · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: bebop, pentatonic, 4ths, wide enclosures, triad pair. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



38. Quicksilver

Original etude — CC0
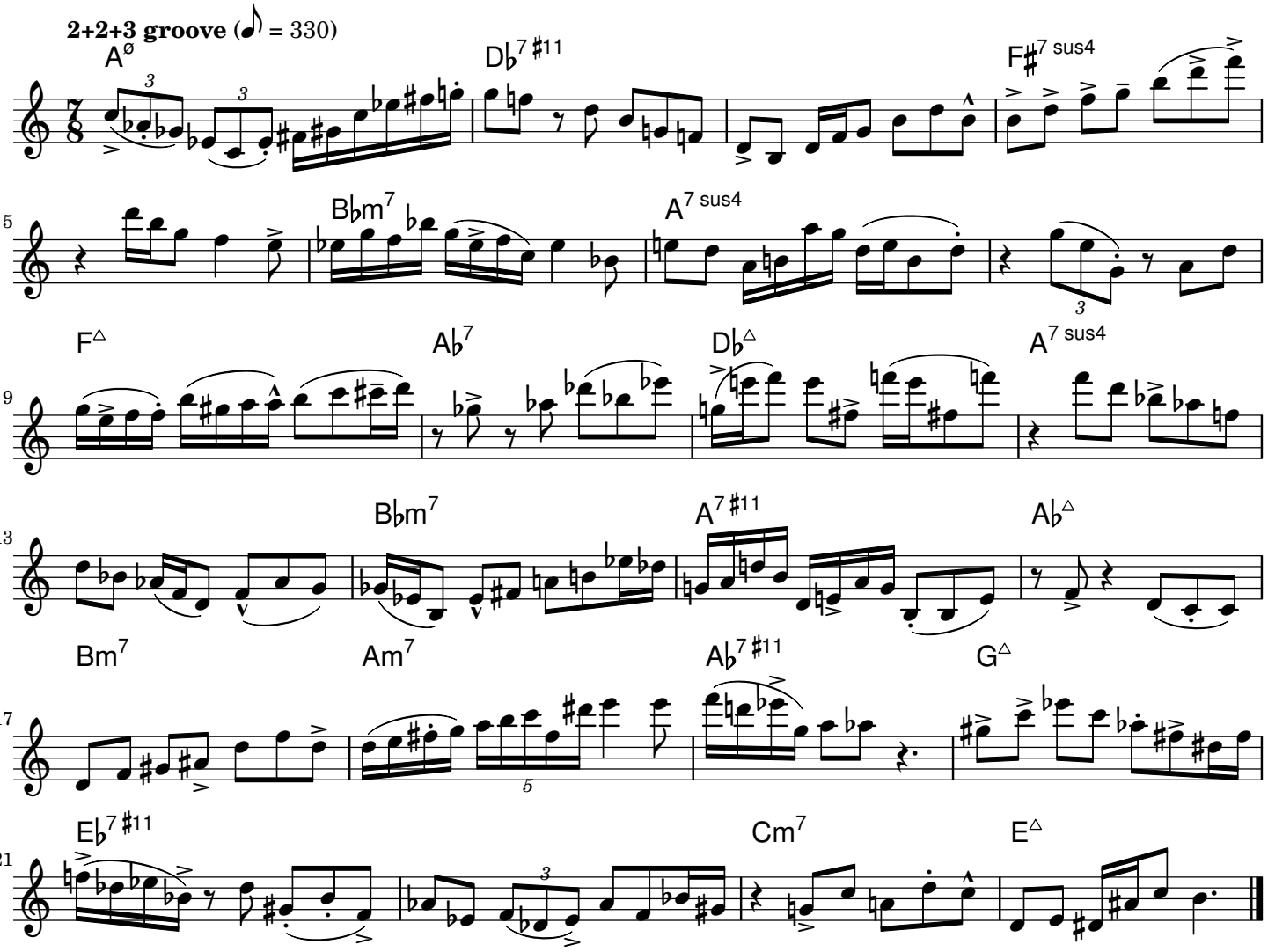
5/4 · Even 8ths, 5/4 · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: superimposition, 4ths, bebop, outside-in, wide enclosures. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



39. Dust Devil

Original etude — CC0

7/8 · 2+2+3 groove · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: bebop, superimposition, pentatonic, wide enclosures, wide. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).



40. Last Exit East

Original etude — CC0
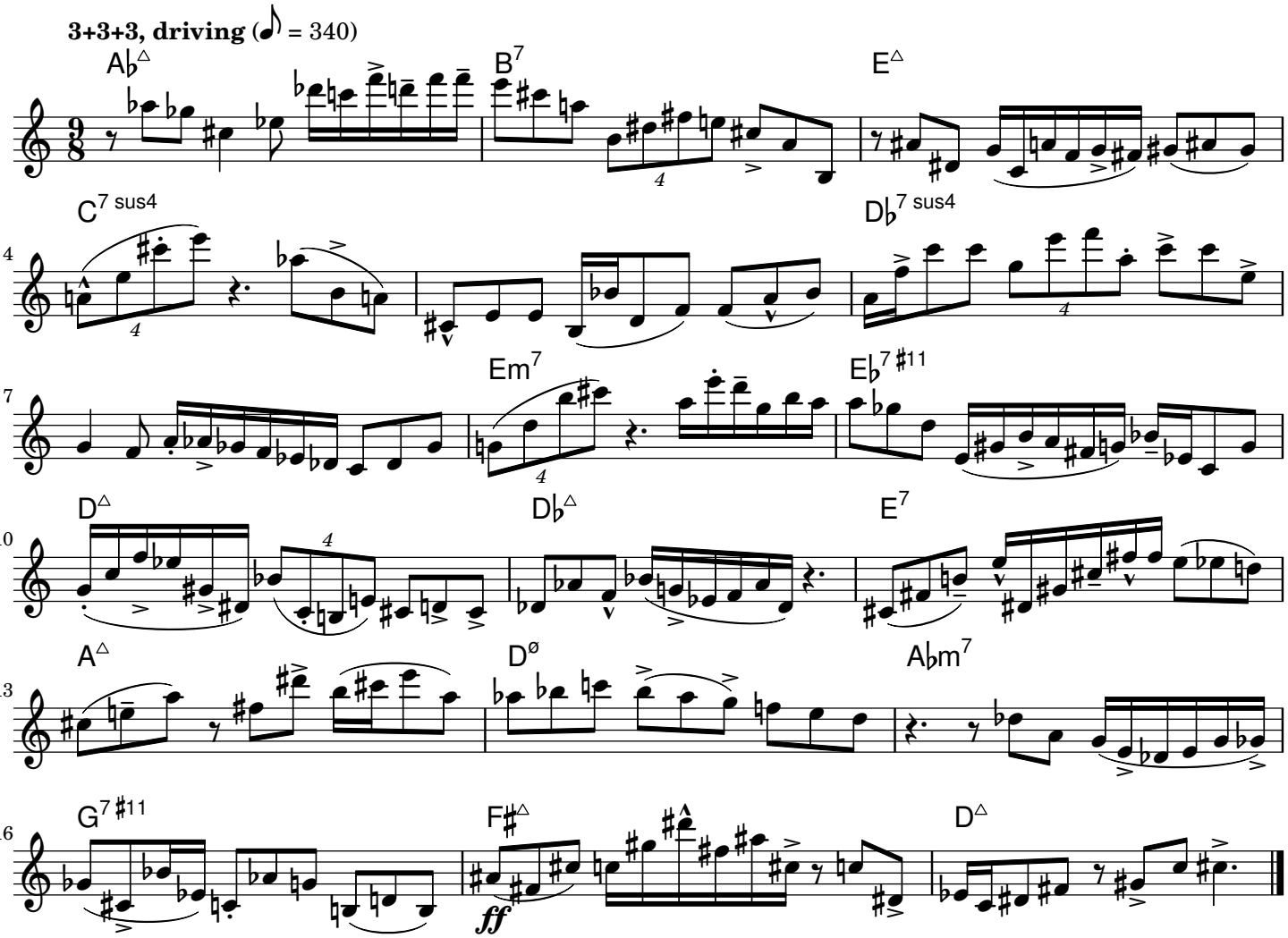
9/8 · 3+3+3, driving · odd-meter cycles & tritone-sub ii–Vs. Devices: side-slip, triad pair, superimposition, outside-in, bebop. Chord symbols are for E♭ alto (written key).

