Saxophone Colossus.

Rhythmical and harmonic aspects of Michael Brecker's and Chris Potter's improvisations

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Aims

1. Creative processes during improvising (similarities, differences and remarkable aspects; personal style)

2. Evaluation of computational analysis tools and identification of possible future approaches (e.g. 4-tone-groups)

Introduction

Michael Brecker
*1949 † 2007

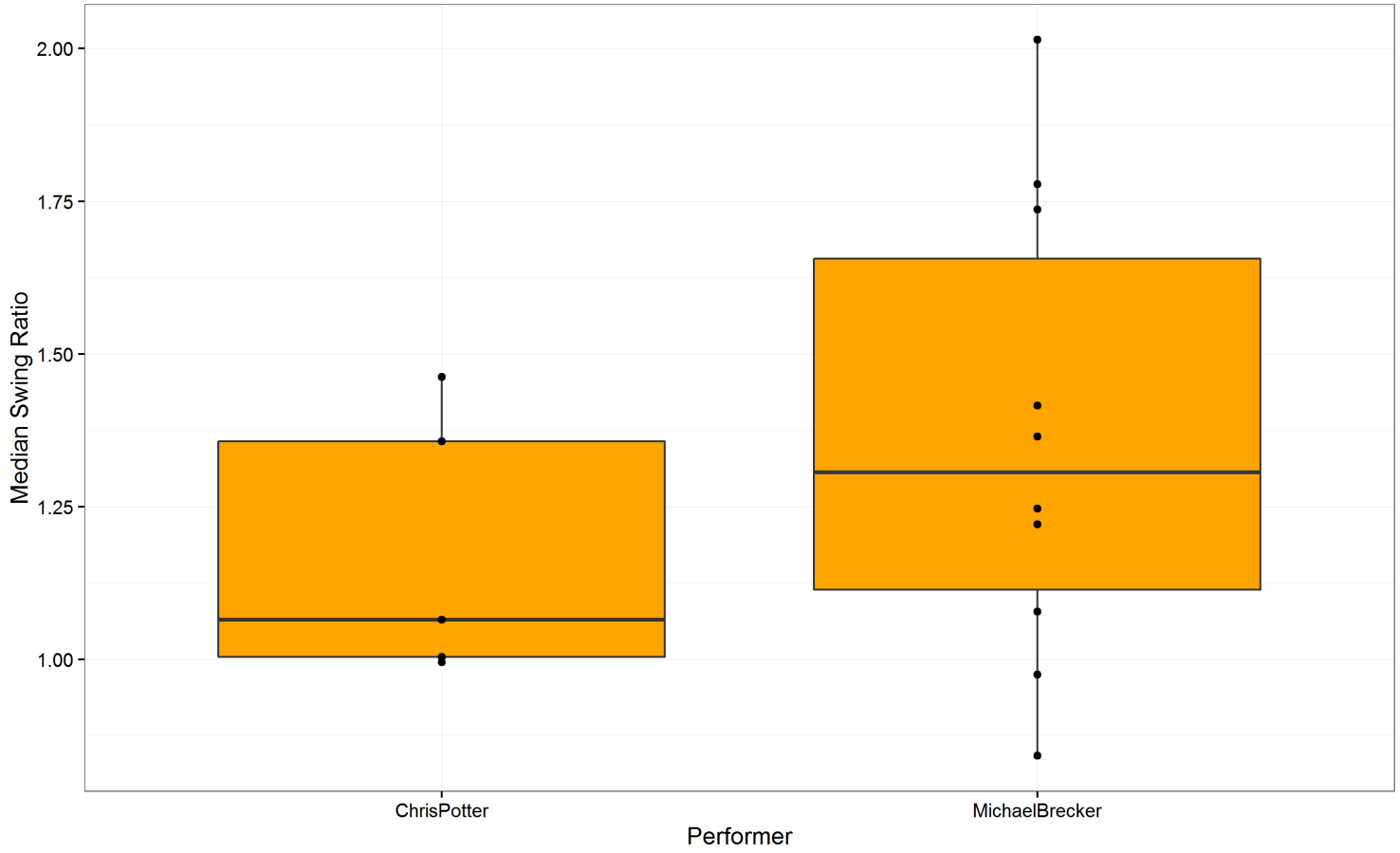
15 Grammy Awards, appears on more than 700 recordings

“widely regarded as the most influential tenor saxophonist since John Coltrane”
(Gans, Charles J., “Saxophonist Completes Final Pilgrimage”, in: *The San Francisco Chronicle*. May 24, 2007)

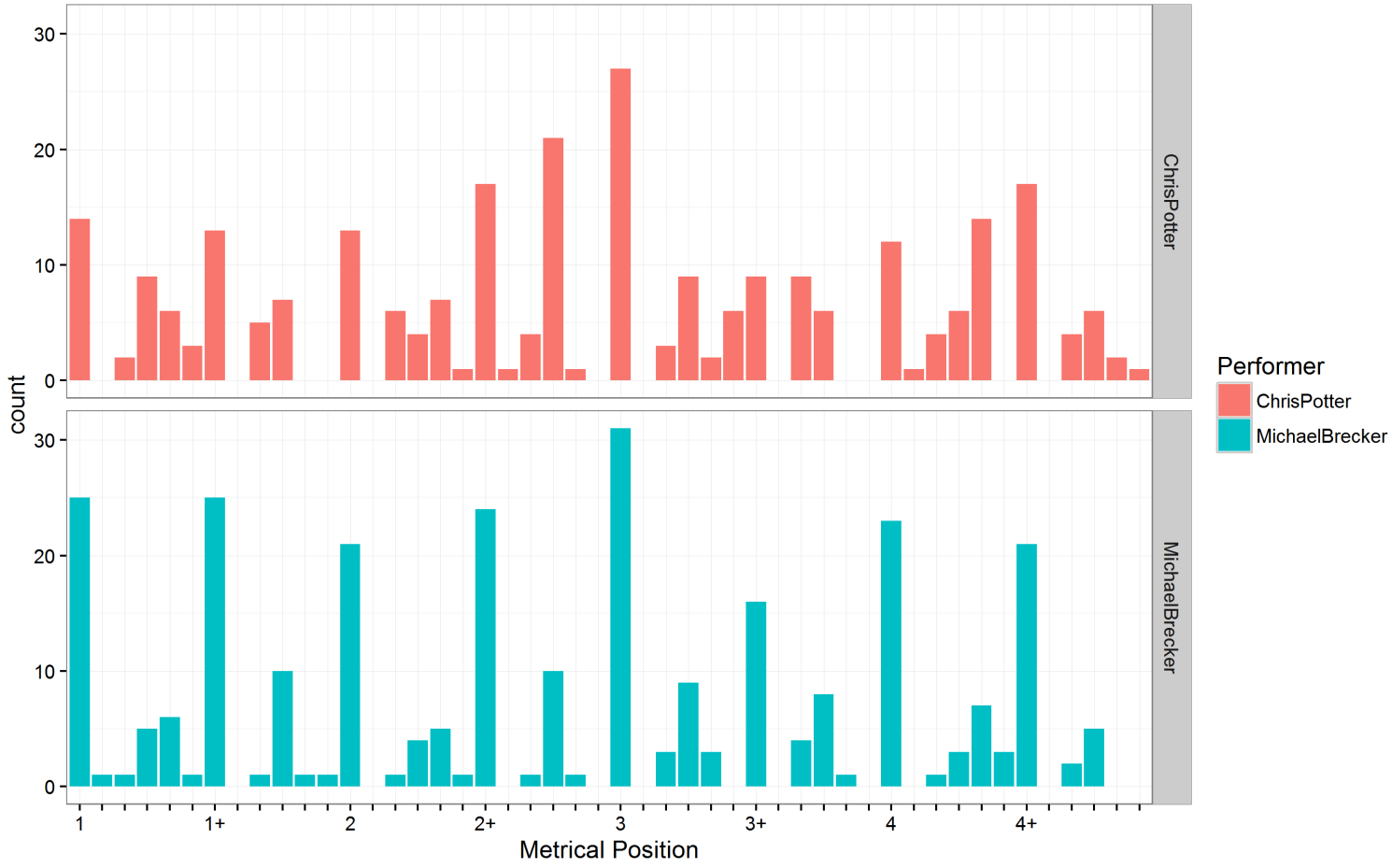
Chris Potter
*1971

Appears on more than 150 recordings, 15 albums as leader

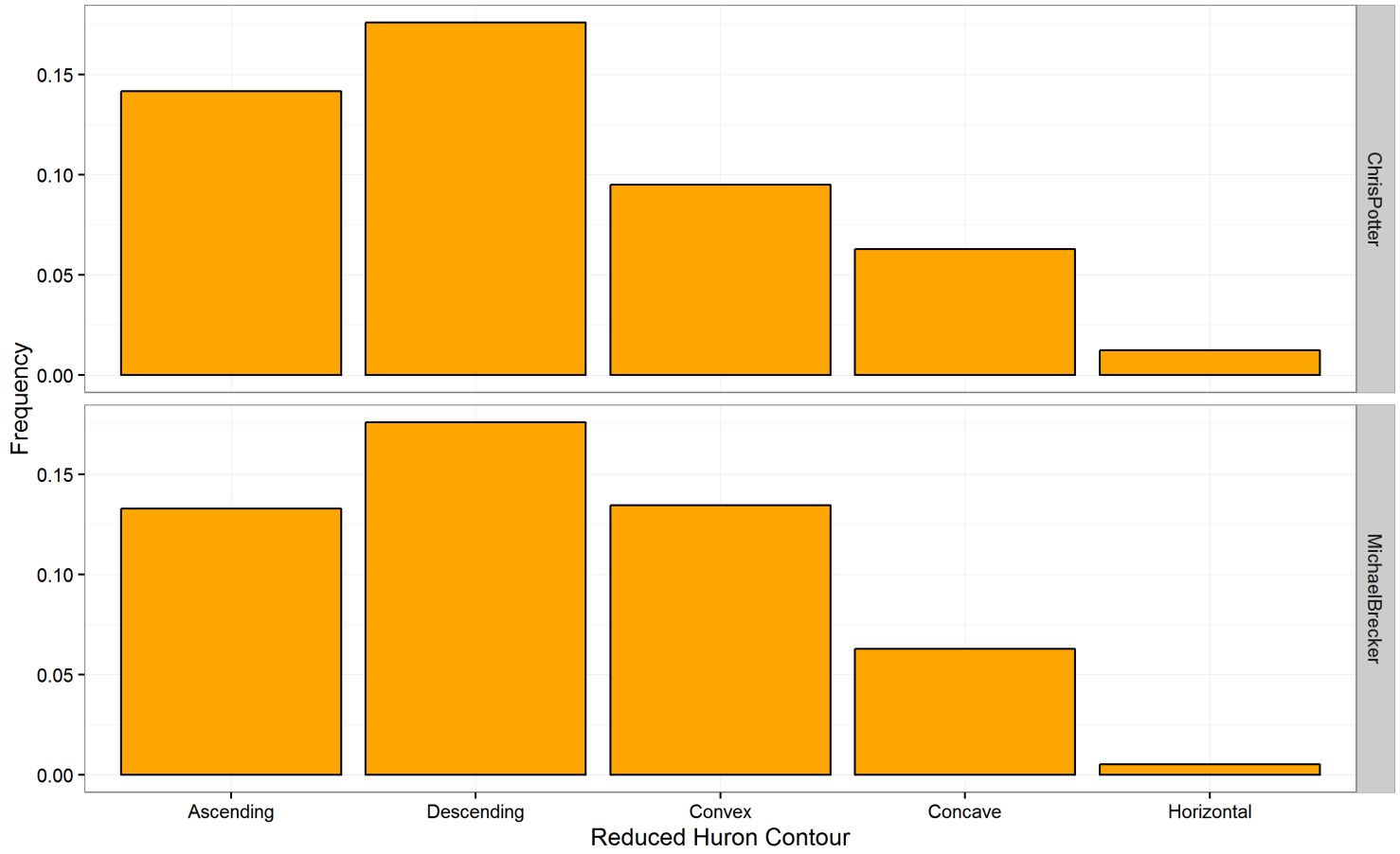
Comparison with MeloSpyGUI: Swing Ratio



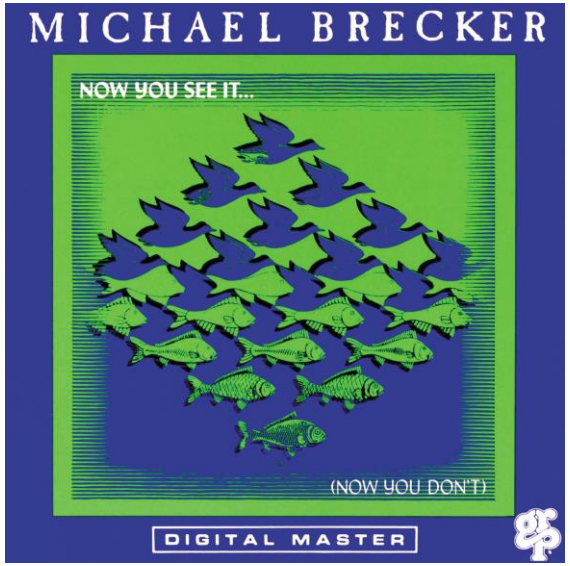
Comparison with MeloSpyGUI: begin of phrases (absolute)



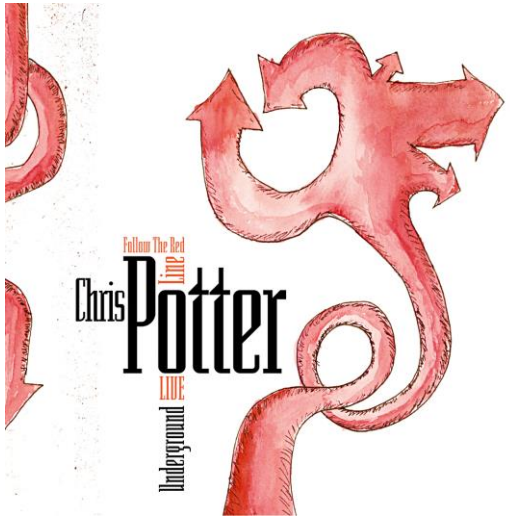
Comparison with MeloSpyGUI: contour of phrases



Strong sense and intuition for clear rhythm and harmony while improvising



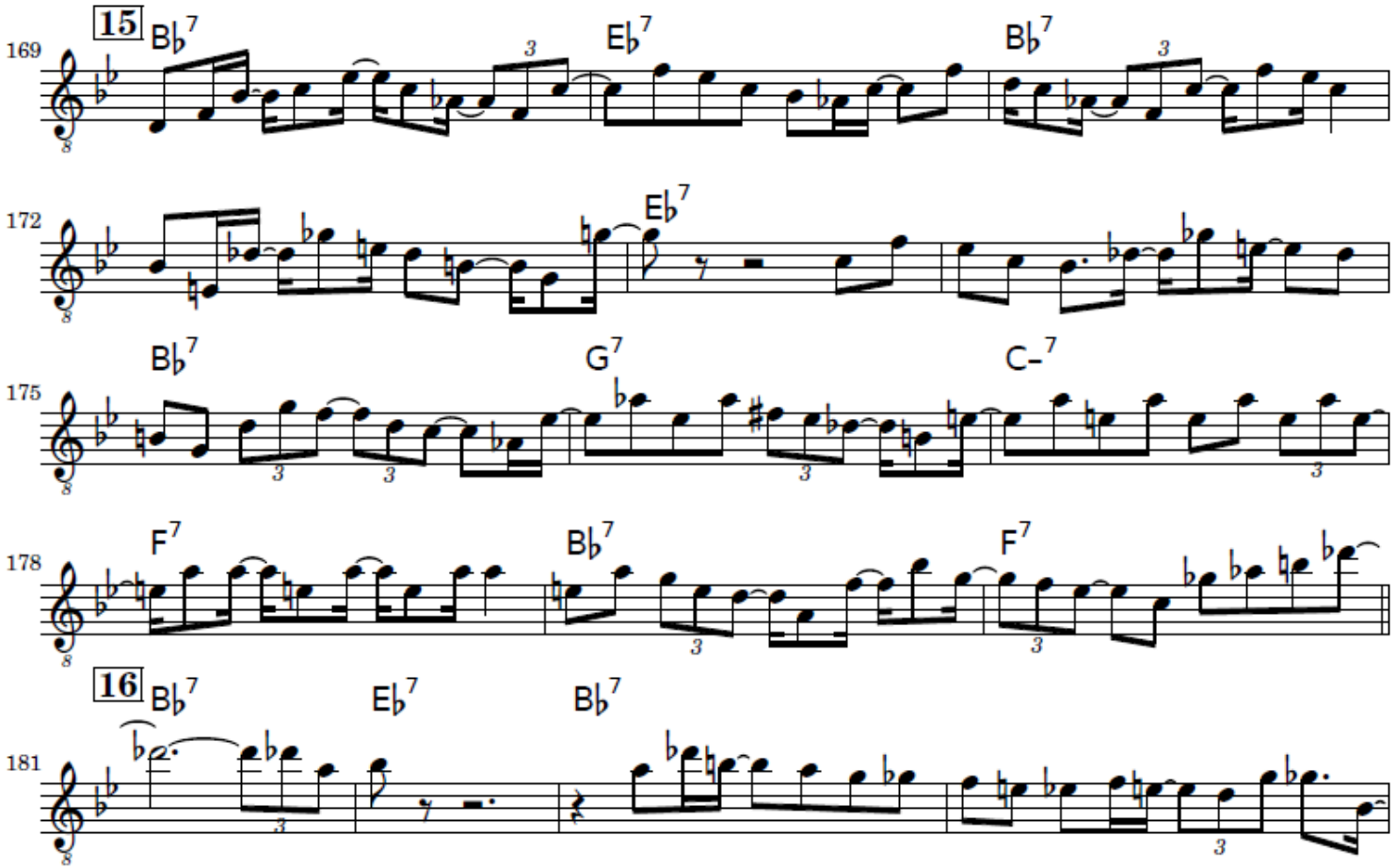
„Never Alone“ (Michael Brecker, *Now You See It… (Now You Don‘t)*, 1990)



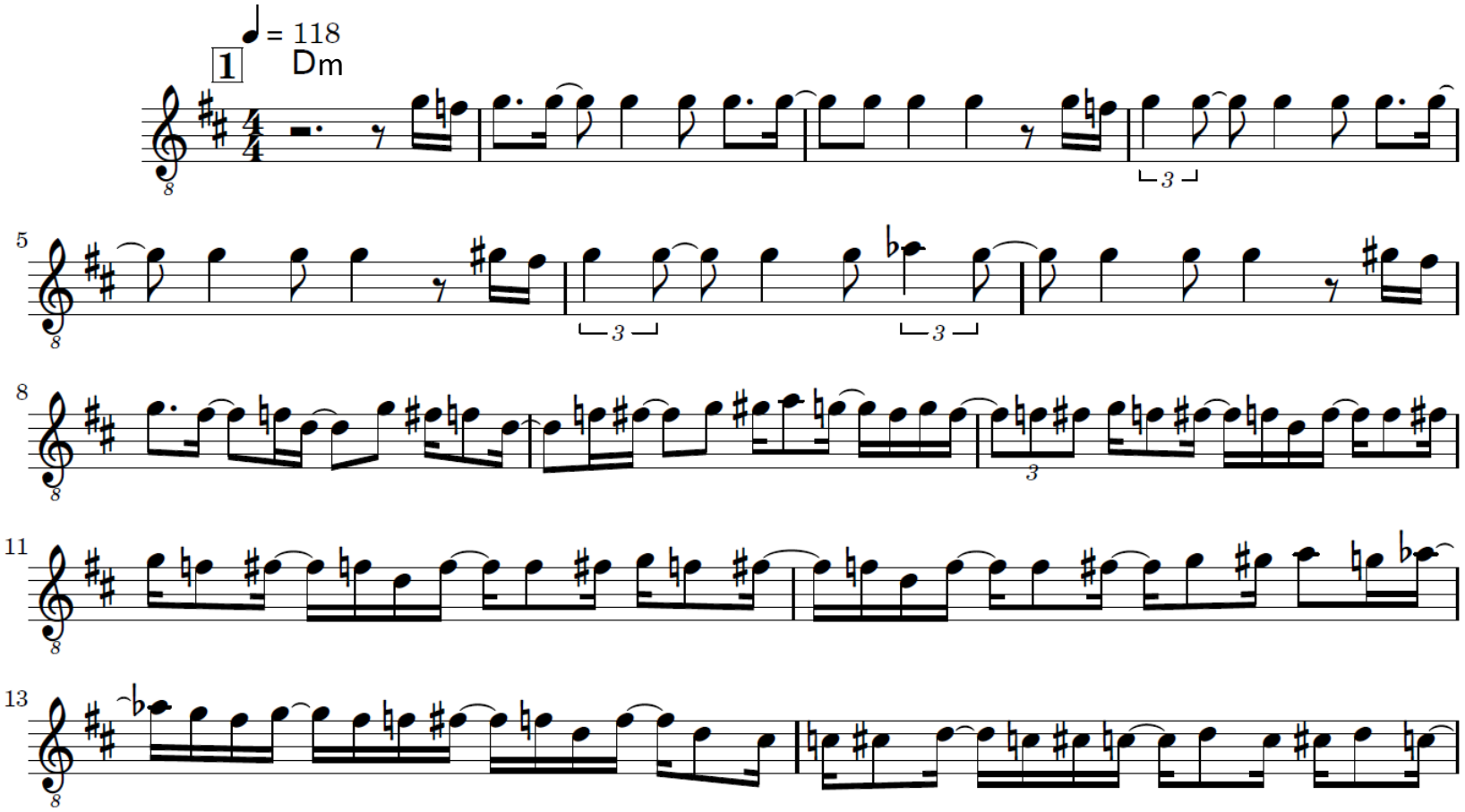
„Pop Tune #1“ (Chris Potter‘s Underground, *Follow The Red Line, Live At The Village Vanguard*, 2007)

Michael Brecker
Interrelation of harmonic and rhythmic ideas

„Cabin Fever“ (Michael Brecker, *Tales From The Hudson*, 1996)

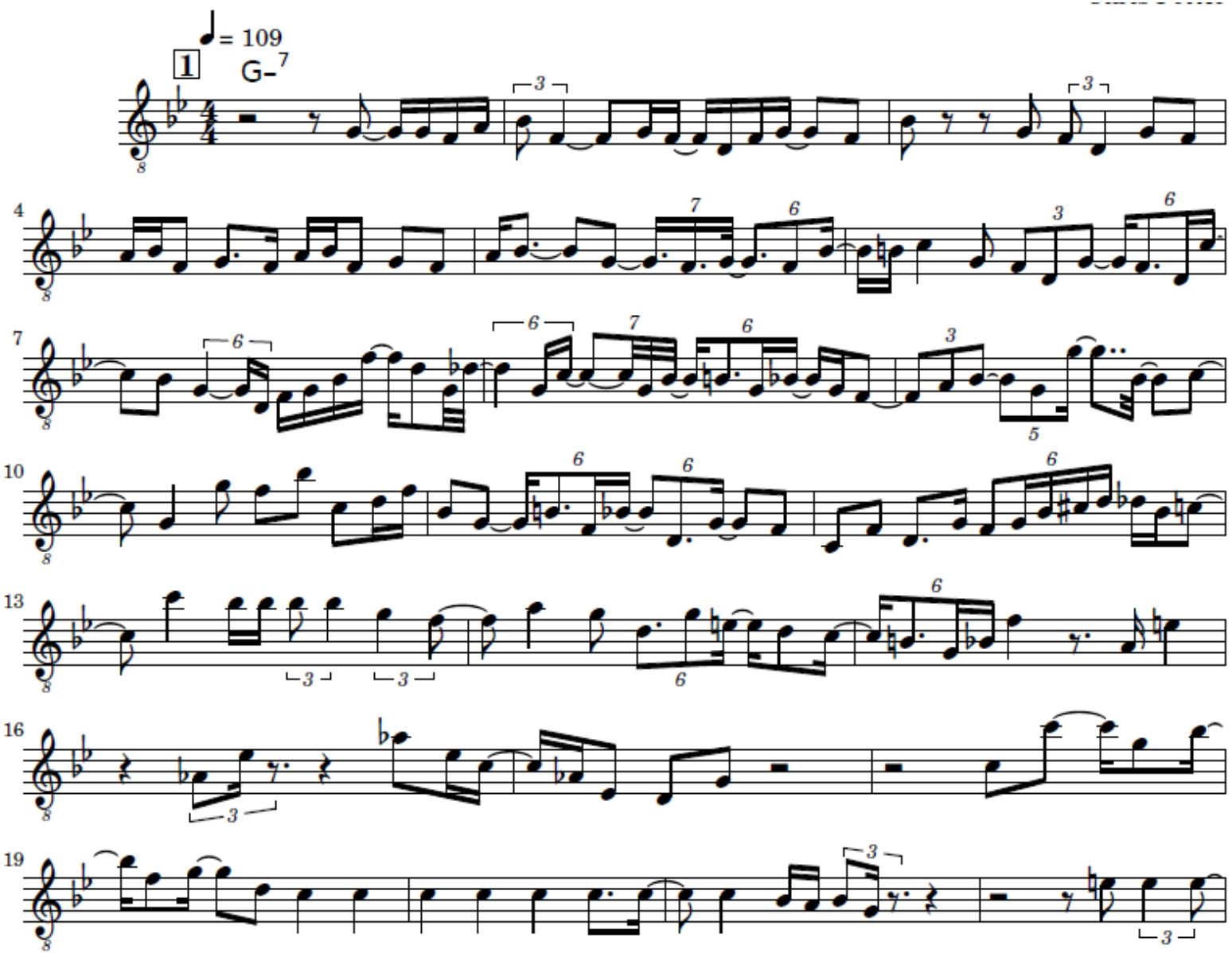


Chris Potter
Rhythmic agility and imaginativness



„Arjuna“ (Chris Potter‘s Underground, *Follow The Red Line, Live At The Village Vanguard*, 2007)

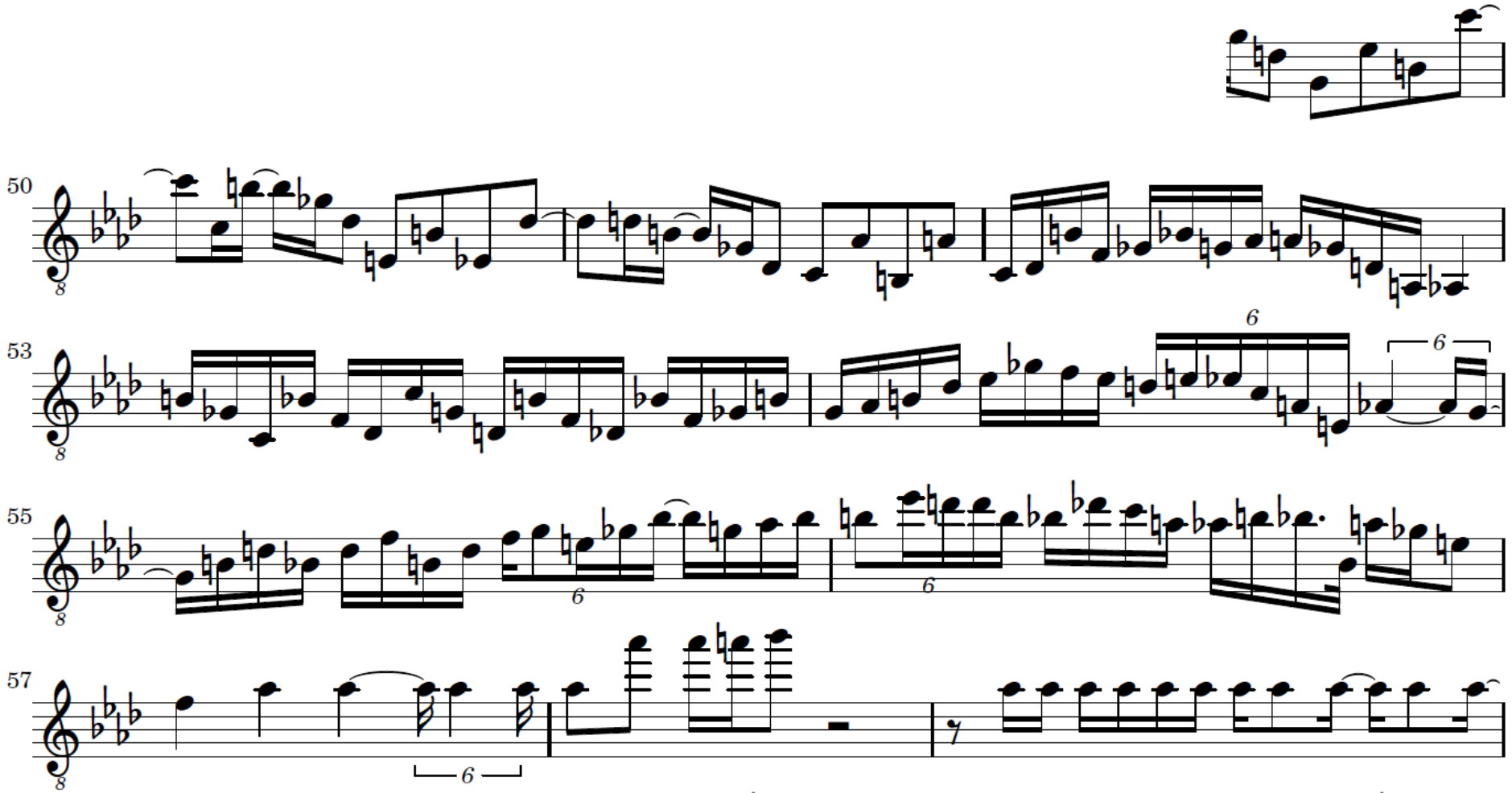
„Pop Tune #1“ (Chris Potter‘s Underground, *Follow The Red Line, Live At The Village Vanguard*, 2007)



Chris Potter

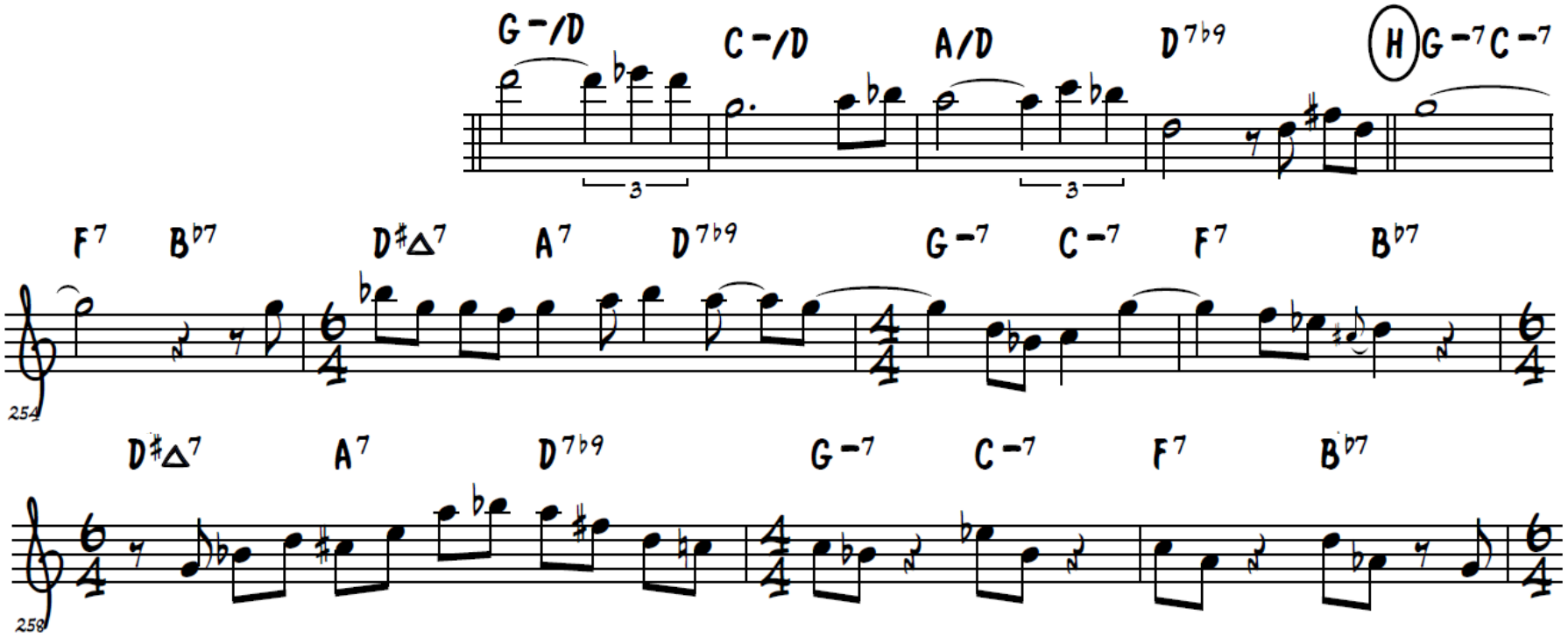
Inventiveness of rhythmic and melodic ideas

„Rumples“
(Chris Potter‘s
Underground,
Ultrahang, 2009)



Chris Potter

Rhythmic and metrical flexibility and agility



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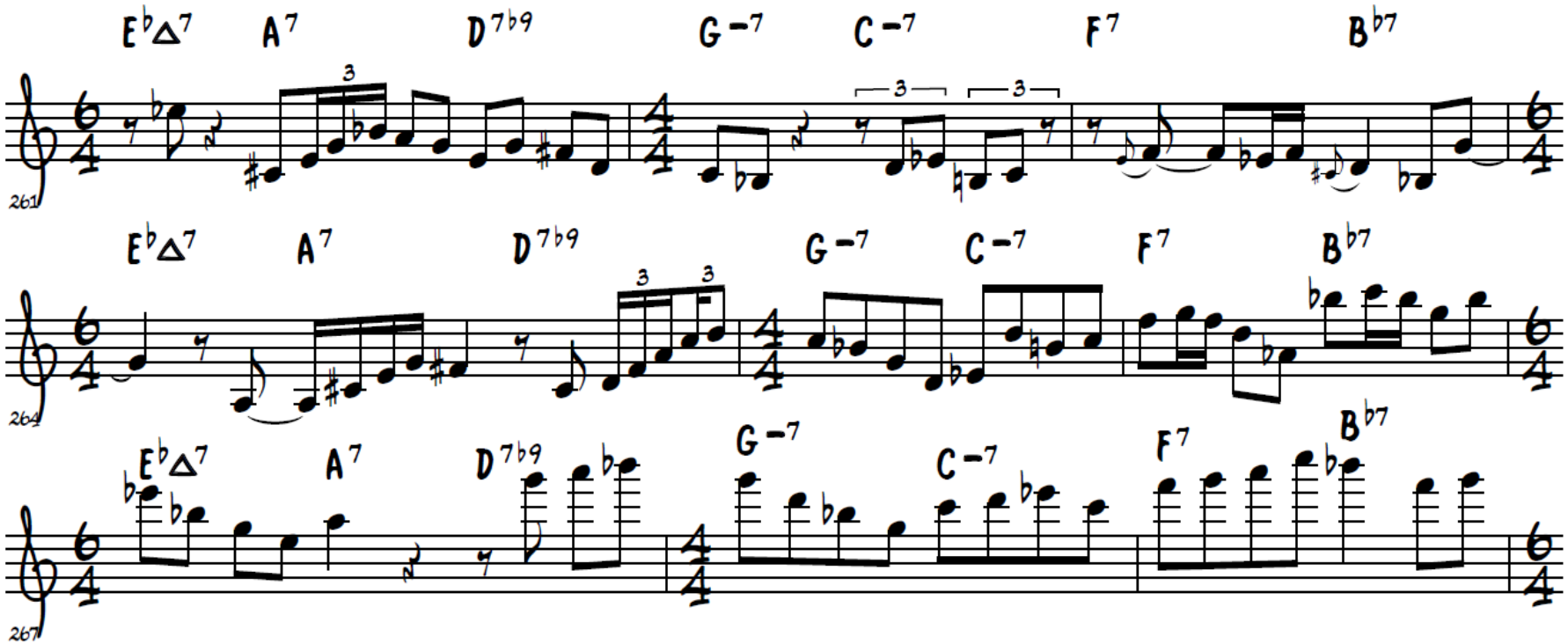

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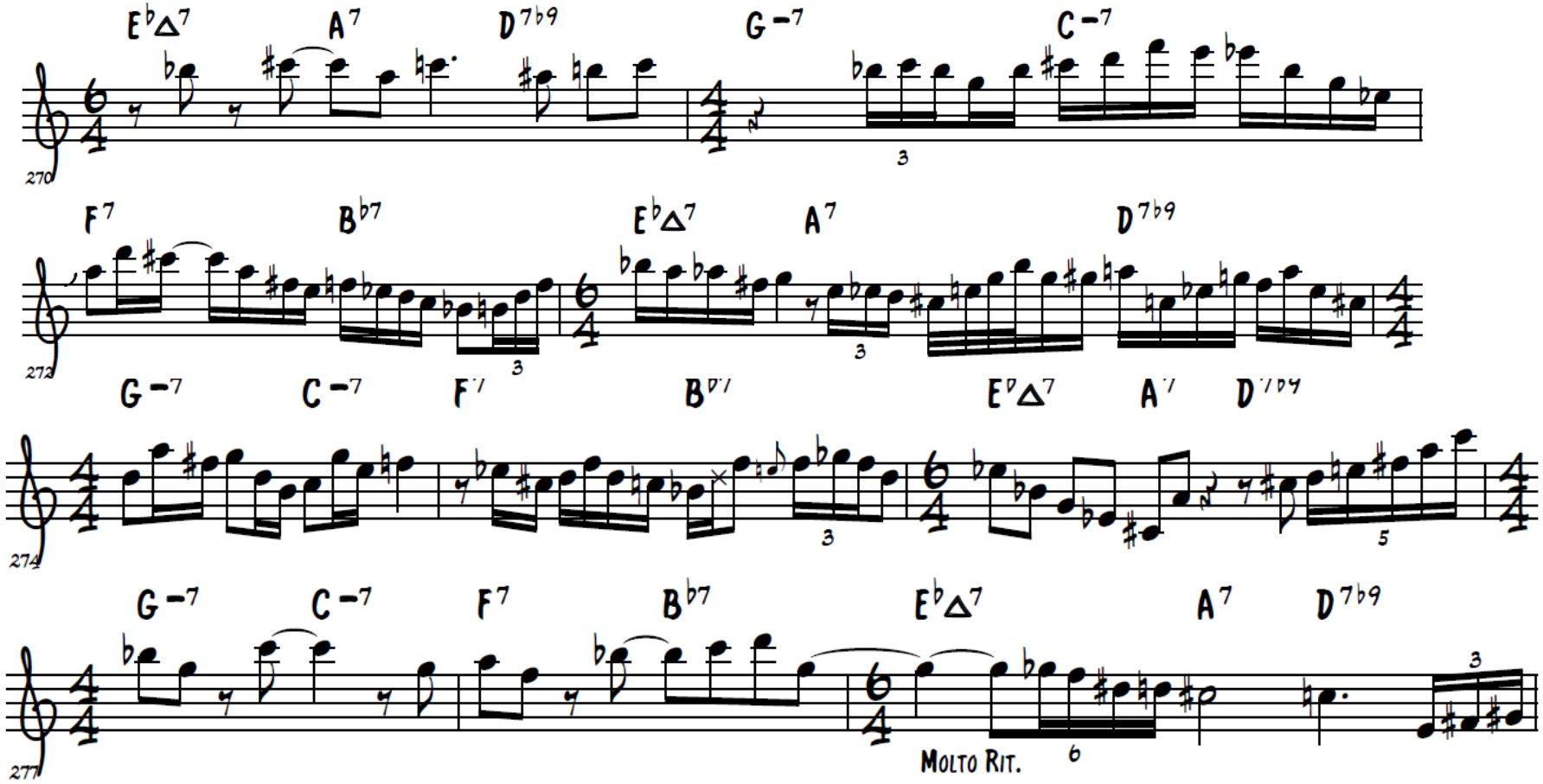

Conclusion

1. Combination of computational analysis (for rather global questions) and ‘classical’ analysis (for detailed observations) can be fruitful to detected similarities as well as personal style

2. Classical approach needed understand and interpret on the detailed as well as global level and to understand processes of creativity and interplay with the band

Thank you for your attention!

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