ORLANDO YOUTH CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

OYCE Jazz Bands

Orlando Youth Jazz Ensembles

2026–2027 Audition Packet

Questions?
Email: info@oyce.org | Instagram: @oyce_official

Welcome Letter

THANK YOU for your interest in our OYCE Jazz Bands!

We are ecstatic at the prospect of having you be part of our accomplished jazz program! We pride ourselves in upholding the highest standards of musicianship within our auditioned ensembles. Our jazz ensembles feature a variety of quality works of varying genres. Through your dedication, discipline, and artistry, we can accomplish great feats and help you grow — and take back what you learn to your band programs!

About Our Ensembles

We strive to create a unique jazz education experience. We hold our groups to professional standards and therefore rehearse professionally. We have frequent guest clinicians that help support our ensemble directors in giving you appropriate musical direction. We work on multiple concert programs simultaneously to plan for the many concert and performance opportunities offered by our partnering organizations.

During your tenure, we hope to aid in your progress in becoming more complete musicians, professionals, and people. We hope to continuously develop your appreciation of the arts and help you become better versions of yourselves through music. We want to create an environment where you create fond memories and most importantly — **Have Fun!**

Welcome to the Orlando Youth Chamber Ensembles!

Jesus Lopez

Executive Director / Founder

Director, Orlando Youth Chamber Ensembles Jazz Orchestra

Audition Guidelines

Placement, Not Rejection	This audition is for **placement** into individual ensembles, not for entry. OYCE firmly believes that no student — regardless of ability — should be turned away. We strive to place every student in a positive environment where they can succeed and grow as musicians.
Play Your Best	Play to the best of your ability. We are interested in knowing where you are on the day of the audition — play what you can. We know the sky is the limit for everyone!
Questions Welcome	Please send all questions to **info@oyce.org** with your name and instrument in the subject line.
Final Results	All results are final for jazz group placements.
Emergency / Conflict	In the event of an emergency or conflict, students may request to submit a **virtual audition**. Approval falls to the ensemble directors and that decision is final.
Late / Missing Auditions	Failure to audition or submit a recording on time will result in placement being determined by one of the ensemble directors.
Membership Requirements	Membership is granted upon fulfillment of your audition AND completion of your member packet, registration fee payment, and membership fees (or an emailed notice of intent to pay in installments). **Financial hardship will not prevent you from participating**, but failure to communicate professionally will. Let us know if you need help with membership costs.

For audition tips, follow @oyce_official on Instagram

Judging Rubric

Auditions are scored across five categories, each worth up to 10 points (50 points total):

Category	1–3 Beginning	4–6 Developing	7–9 Proficient	10 Excellent
Intonation	Many significant pitch problems	Pitch issues but not pervasive	Virtually all pitches correct and in tune	Entire performance tuned beautifully
Rhythm Accuracy	Significant rhythm problems throughout	Several unclear rhythmic passages	Most rhythms correct with minor inaccuracies	Rhythms precise; attacks and releases exact
Technical Facility	Poor fundamentals inhibit performance	Good technique, but jazz style incomplete	Proficient technique; jazz style evident	Excellent command of technique in jazz style
Improvisation	Poor or no concept of form; limited jazz vocabulary	Shows proficiency with rhythmic/melodic ideas	Excellent grasp of form and jazz language	Develops melodic ideas through full song form in jazz style
Phrasing, Dynamics & Articulation	Musical expression absent or ineffective	Expression present but too subtle	Musical expression evident throughout	Performance clearly expresses composer's intent
Total Score			**_____ / 50**	

Audition Requirements by Instrument

Saxophone, Trumpet & Trombone

Scales

- Concert G, C, F, B♭ , E♭ , A♭ , D♭
- Chromatic Scale (in your instrument's specific pitch):

Trumpet: 2 octaves from G | Trombone: 2 octaves from F
Alto Sax: 2 octaves from B♭ | Tenor Sax: 2 octaves from B♭ |
Baritone Sax: 2 octaves from A

Prepared Pieces

- "Blue N Boogie" by Dizzy Gillespie — Melody and Solo
- "Half Nelson" by Miles Davis — Melody (soloing optional but highly recommended for Jazz 1 consideration)
- "Blue Bossa" by Kenny Dorham — Melody TWICE ONLY

** Optional doubling for saxophones on flute and/or clarinet (highly recommended but not mandatory). Please play the scales and melody to Half Nelson on doubles.*

** Saxophonists: audition on one saxophone only — you may be assigned a particular saxophone based on ensemble needs.*

** Bass Trombone: In addition to your tenor trombone audition, play the scales and melody to Blue Bossa 8vb.*

(This does NOT substitute the tenor trombone audition.)

Drums / Percussion

Prepared Pieces

- Songo groove — half note = 92 (15–30 seconds)
- Jazz Shuffle — quarter note = 120 (15–30 seconds)
- "Blue Bossa" by Kenny Dorham — Melody emulated on kit + 2 choruses of comping
- "Half Nelson" by Miles Davis — Melody emulated on kit + 2 choruses of comping
- "Shiny Stockings" — Shout section from measure 112 to end

** IMPORTANT: Play all grooves with a metronome clearly heard in your recording.*

** Optional doubling on Vibraphone and/or auxiliary percussion. For vibraphone: play the melody to "Half Nelson" then comp over the chord changes.*

Guitar

Scales

- All 12 major scales (2 octaves)
- Chromatic scale from middle C (2 octaves)

Prepared Pieces

- "Blue N Boogie" — Comp & Solo
- "Half Nelson" by Miles Davis — Comp (soloing optional but highly recommended for Jazz 1)
- "Blue Bossa" by Kenny Dorham — Melody once + 2 choruses of comping

Bass (Electric and/or String)

Scales

- All 12 major scales (2 octaves)
- Chromatic scale from low C (2 octaves)

Prepared Pieces

- "Blue N Boogie" by Dizzy Gillespie — Comp & Solo
- "Half Nelson" by Miles Davis — Melody, Comp (soloing optional but highly recommended for Jazz 1)
- "Blue Bossa" by Kenny Dorham — Melody once + 2 choruses of comping

Piano

Scales

- All 12 major scales (3 octaves)
- Chromatic scale from low C (3 octaves)

Prepared Pieces

- "Blue N Boogie" — Comp & Solo
- "Half Nelson" by Miles Davis — Melody, Comp (soloing optional but highly recommended for Jazz 1)
- "Blue Bossa" by Kenny Dorham — Melody once + 2 choruses of comping

Submission Details

Please record your videos and splice them into **ONE video**. Upload to **YouTube** and mark as **UNLISTED**, then submit via the Google Form:

Submit your video here:
JAZZ AUDITION SUBMISSION FORM

Reference Recordings

Listen to these recordings and take inspiration! You cannot learn how to improvise without studying the legends.

Half Nelson

- Original recording with Miles Davis — youtu.be/UFYIFVxIDcQ
- Charlie Parker and Chet Baker version — youtu.be/PssbhwCftUQ
- Live recording of Miles Davis (fast) — youtu.be/LvtWt9ymbtI

Blue N Boogie

- Original on Dizzy's 'Groovin High' album — youtu.be/OEdMOjNWwRw
- Miles Davis Group on 'Walkin'' — youtu.be/poE4N3rj3J8

Blue Bossa

- Original with Kenny Dorham and Joe Henderson — youtu.be/EUxv3AAaK_Y
- Dexter Gordon's version — youtu.be/zdR7v0WbZbA

Shiny Stockings

- Count Basie Orchestra (drummers skip to 3:35 for excerpt) — youtu.be/OEdMOjNWwRw
- Live Basie Orchestra with Butch Miles on drums — youtu.be/-g0gdXpnEN8

Backing Tracks

Half Nelson

Blue N Boogie

C Instruments(Piano, Guitar, Flute, Percussion)

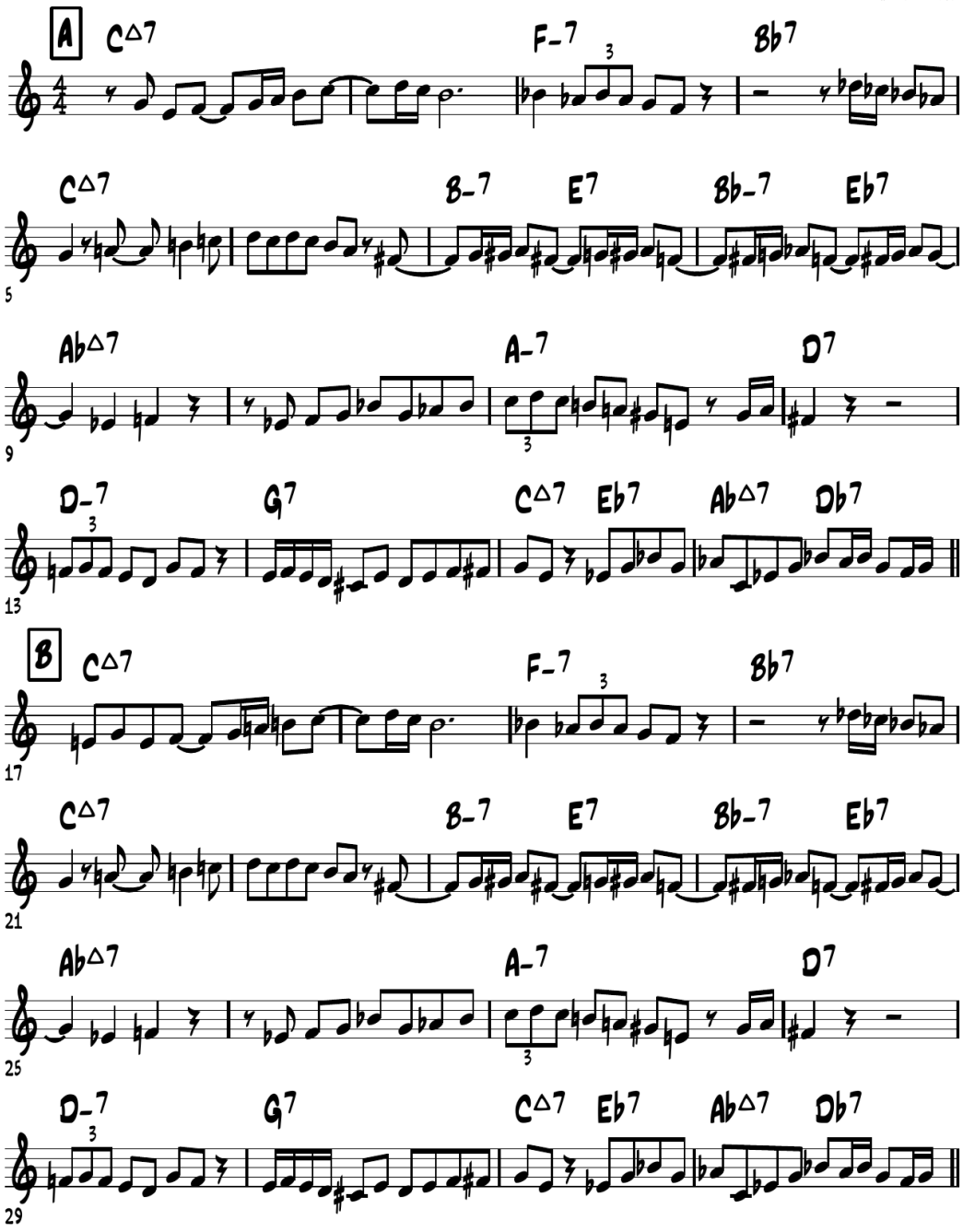
Audition Excerpts

SCROLL DOWN

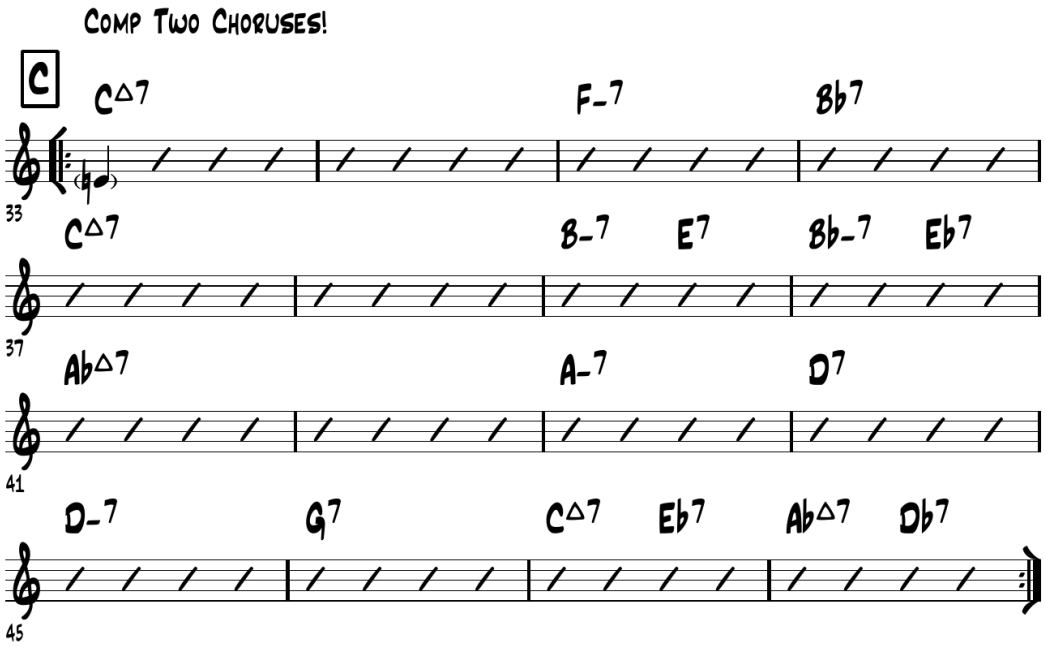
Guitar/Piano

Half Nelson

Miles Davis

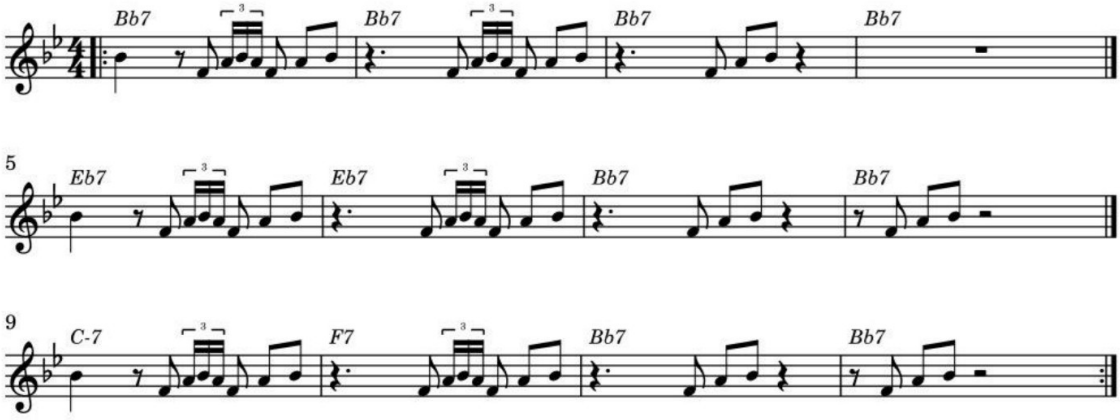


2


Comp Two Choruses!
C
C△7
F-7
Bb7
33
C△7
B-7
E7
Bb-7
Eb7
37
Ab△7
A-7
D7
41
D-7
G7
C△7
Eb7
Ab△7
Db7
45

Blue N Boogie

Dizzy Gillespie

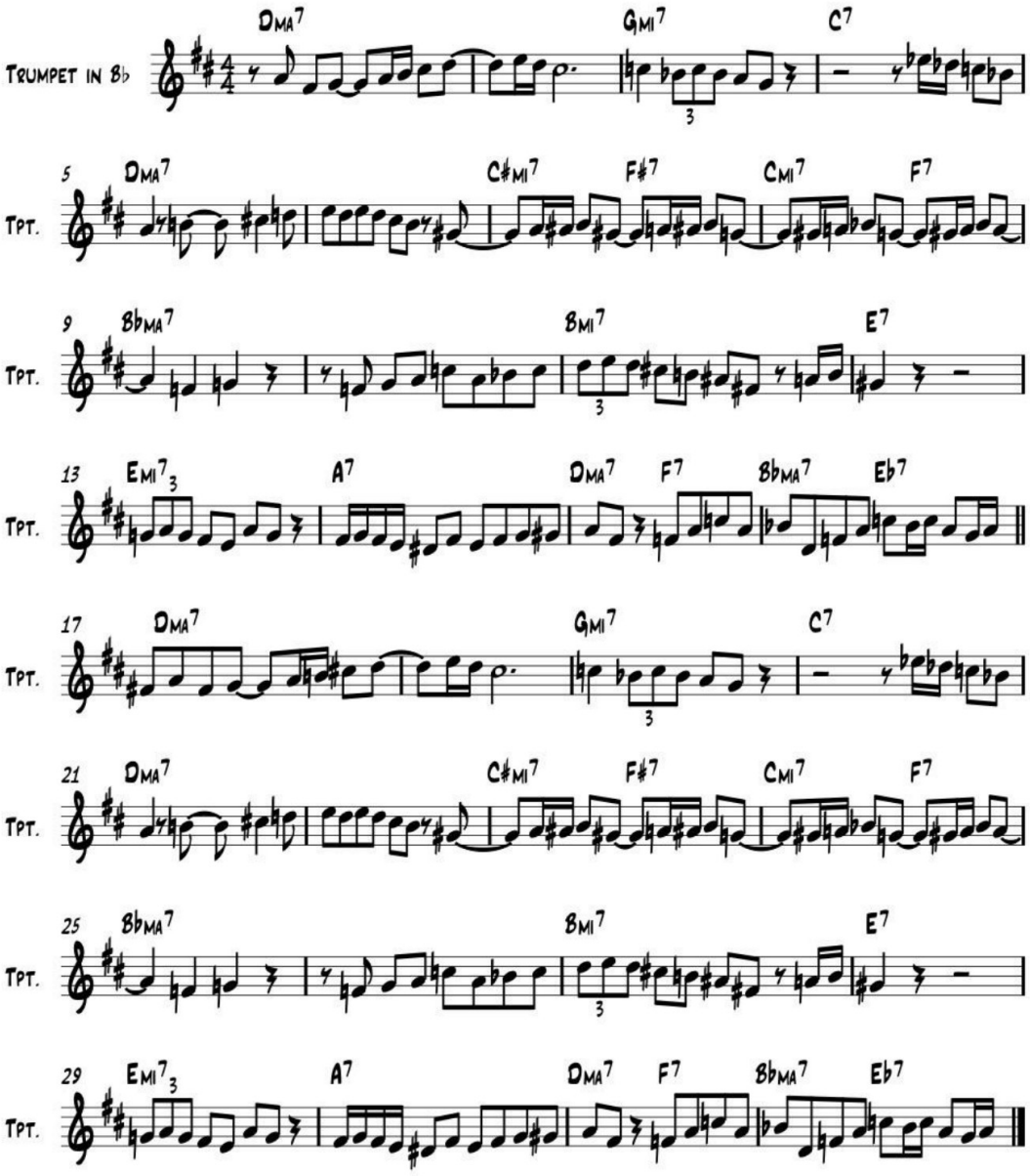


B♭ Instruments(Trumpet, Tenor Saxophone)

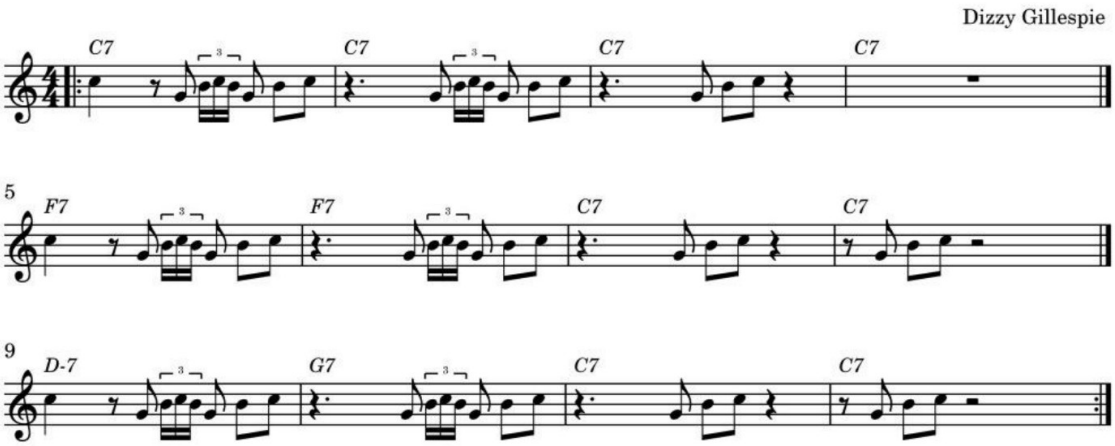
Audition Excerpts

Half Nelson

Miles Davis



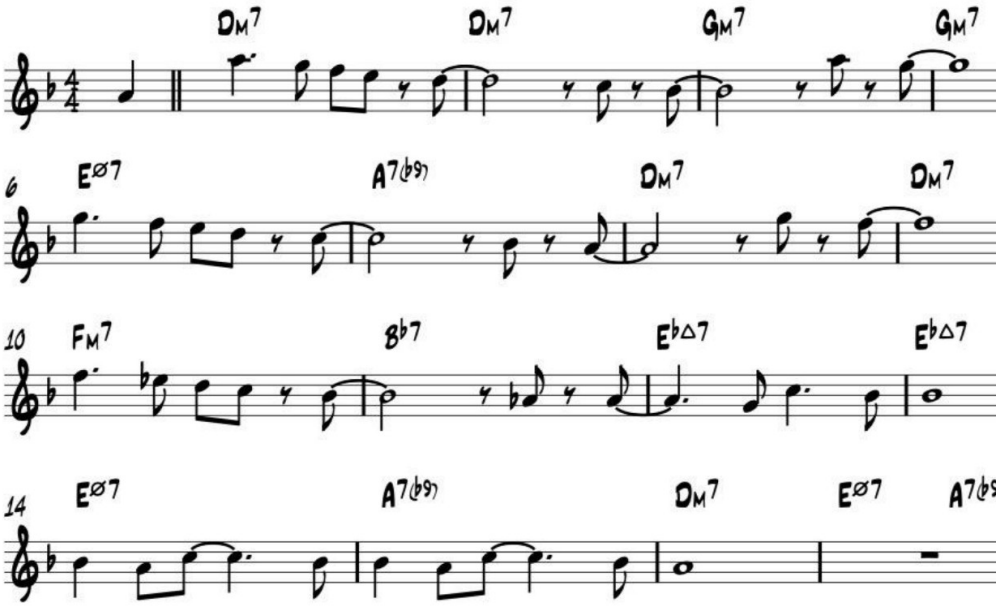
Blue N Boogie



TRUMPET/TENOR

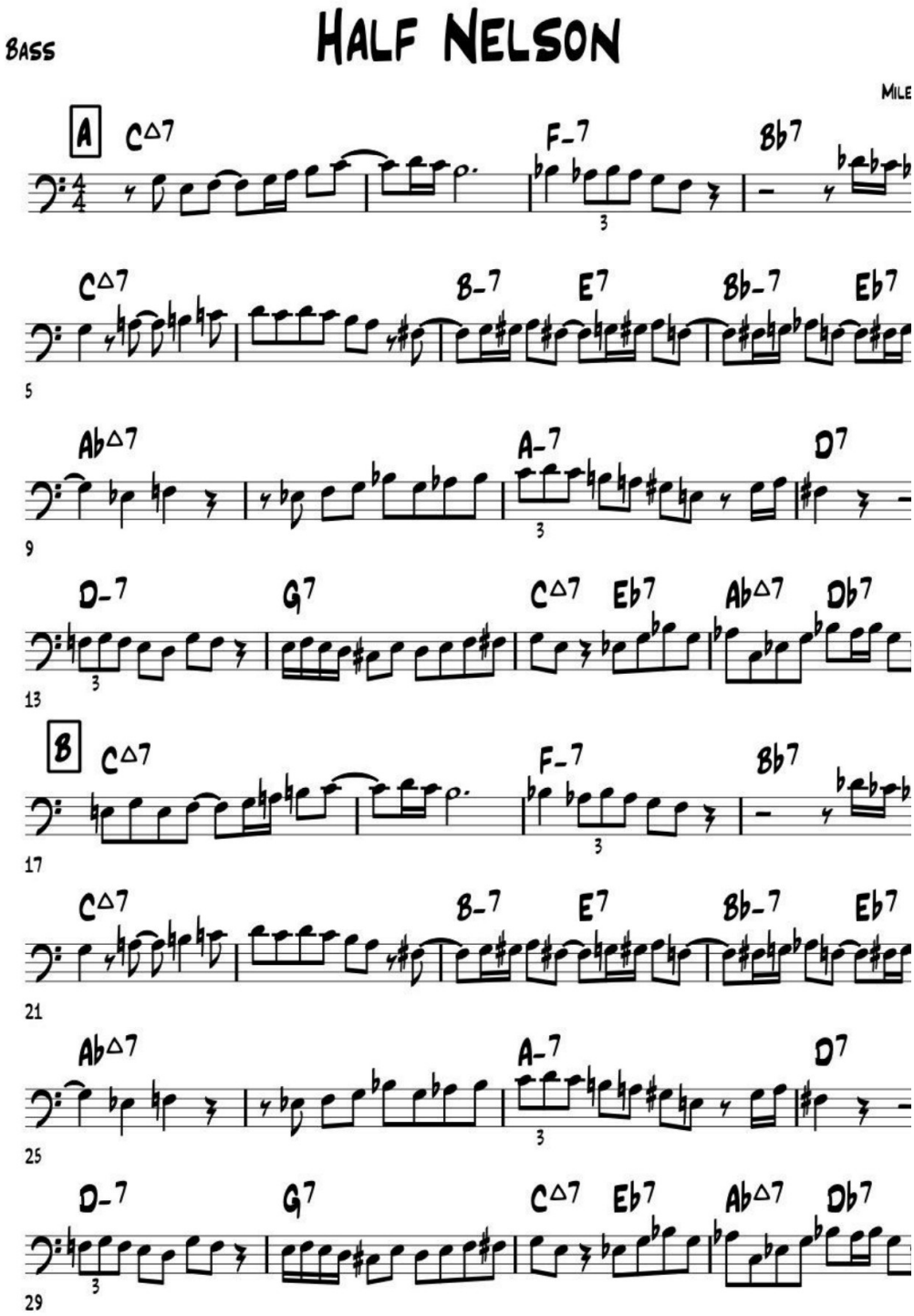
COMP. KENNY

BLUE BOSSA



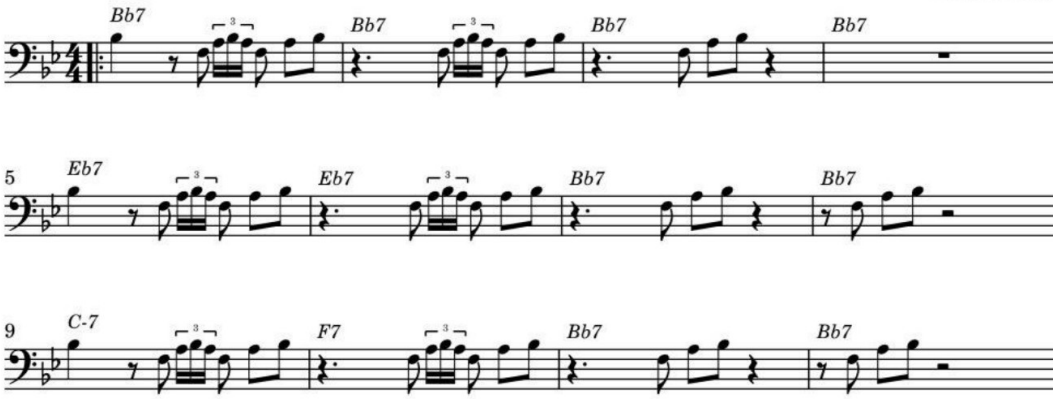
Bass Clef Instruments(Trombone, Bass)

Audition Excerpts


BASS
HALF NELSON
MILE
A
B

Blue N Boogie

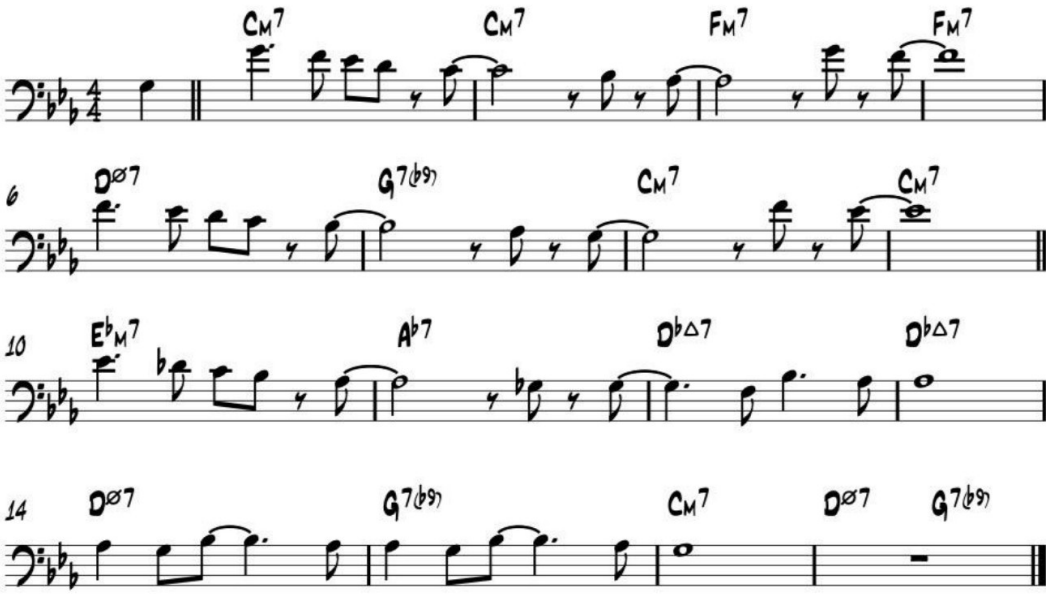
Dizzy Gillesp



Bass Leadsheet

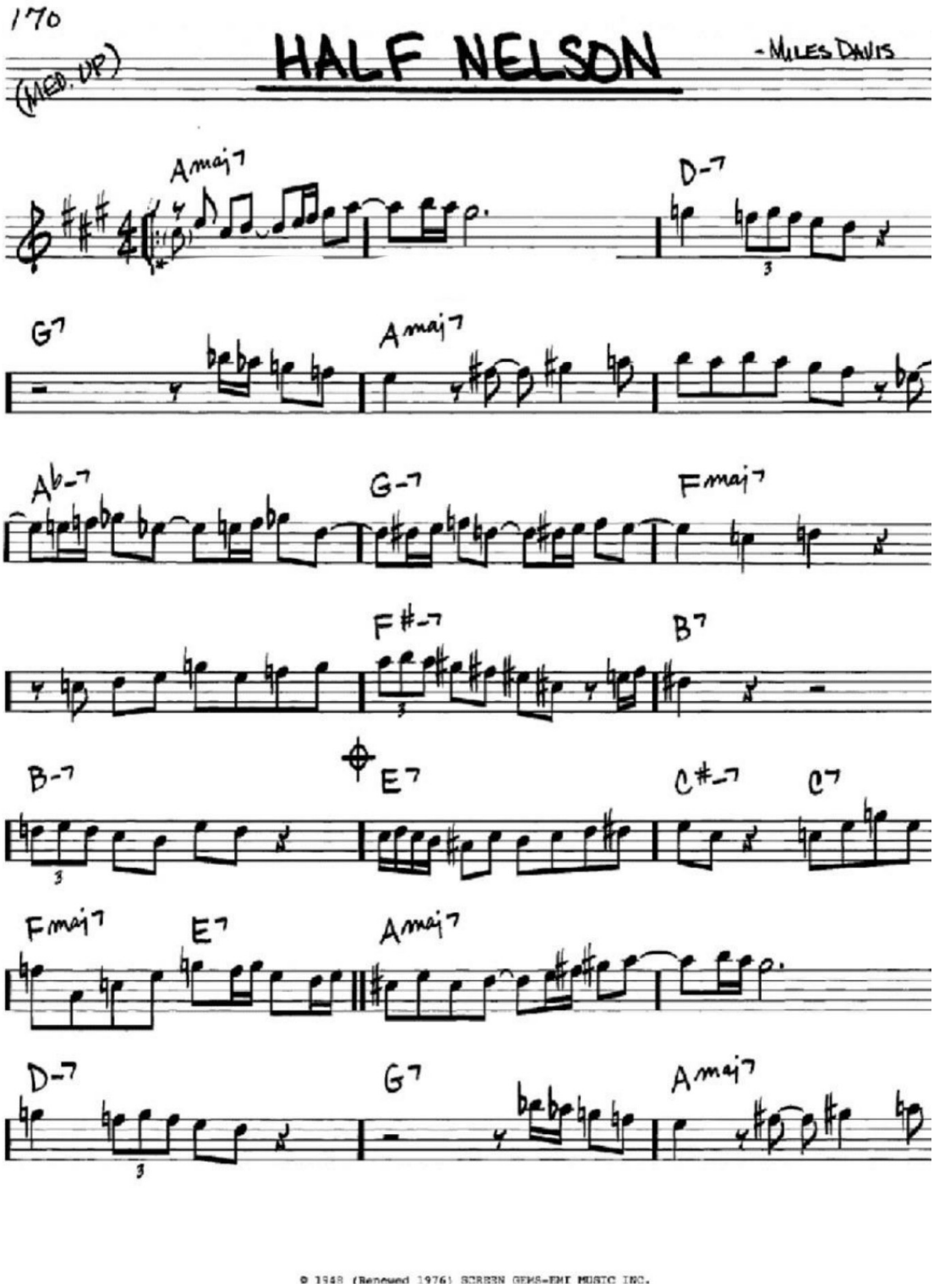
comp. Kenny Dorham

Blue Bossa



E♭ Instruments(Alto Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone)

Audition Excerpts



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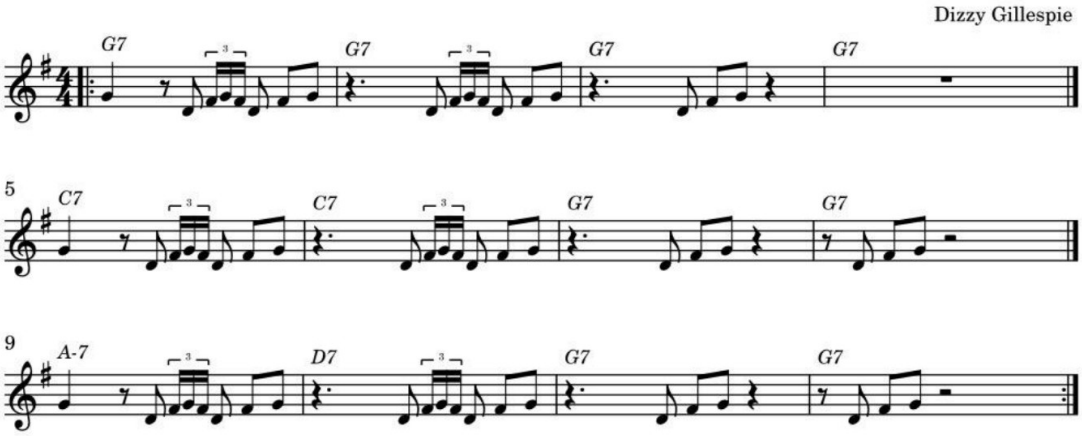
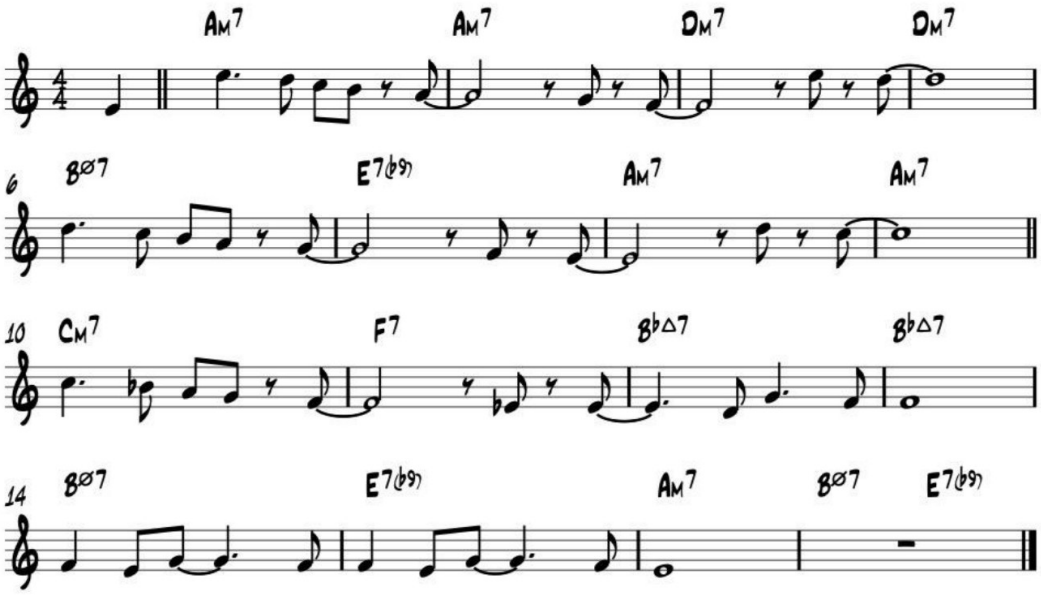
Blue N Boogie



Alto Sax

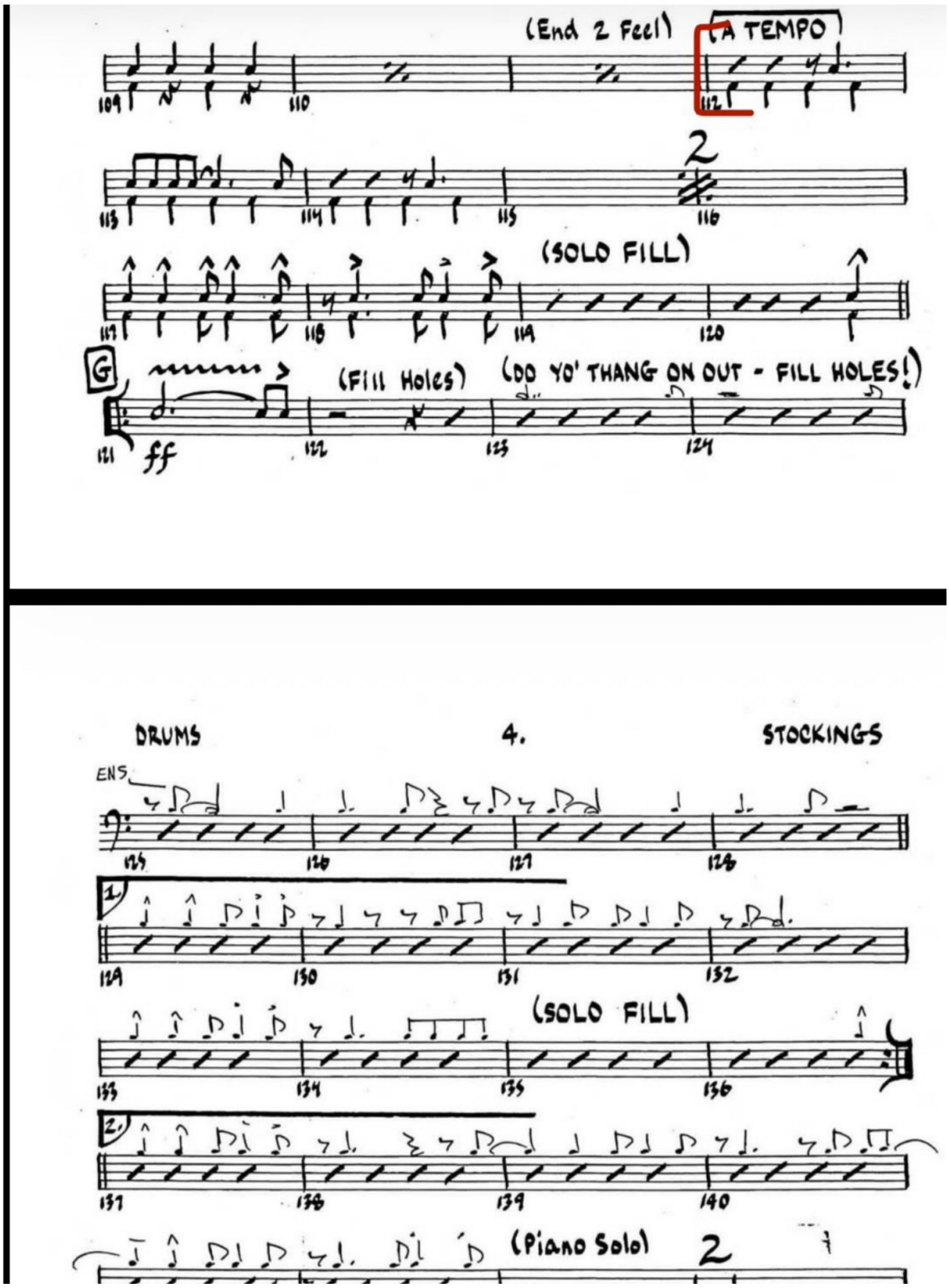
comp. Kenny Dorham

Blue Bossa



Drums

Audition Excerpts


(End 2 Feel)
(A TEMPO)
2
(SOLO FILL)
G
(Fill Holes)
(DO YO' THANG ON OUT - FILL HOLES!)
ff
DRUMS
4.
STOCKINGS
ENS.
1.
(SOLO FILL)
2.
(Piano Solo)
2