All About The Blues

Correlated with *JAZZ BASICS*, Unit 7

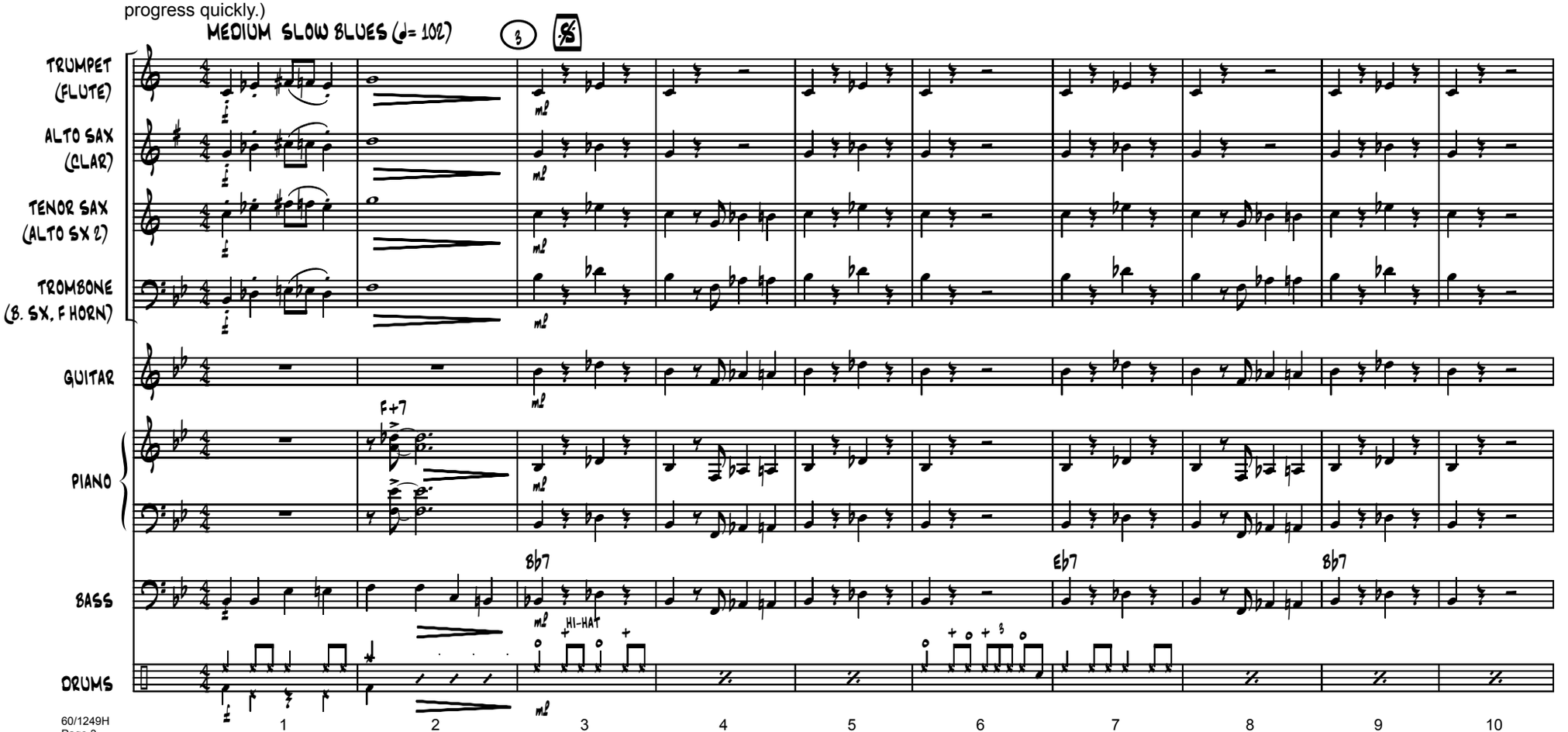
Peter Blair

NOTES TO THE DIRECTOR

The quarter notes in the melody at measure 3 (and other similar passages) should be played full value. Your drummer needs to play the hi-hat pattern in the first section crisply and in strict tempo. At measure 14, have them play their fill with a crescendo to lead the ensemble into the *forte* section at measure 15. The change from hi-hat to ride cymbal is one of the most important timbre changes in the jazz drummers "bag of tricks" so be sure your percussionist(s) understand how, when and why to do this. Bring the dynamic level down to *mezzo piano* at measure 27 and insist the rhythm section phrases together and the winds phrase together.

The solo section can be opened up for any number of players. Encourage your students to use patterns based upon the first three notes of the melody (Bb - Db - Bb) or have them create one and two measure phrases derived from the blues chorus beginning at 27. All the licks in this passage use the blues scale, so your students can try improvising just by "mixing up" the order of these phrases.

If the walking lines are too difficult for your bass player, have them start by playing quarter notes on the root of each chord. Once they can play that with confidence, give them the 1 - 2 - 1 - 2 pattern to try with each chord, and then move to the 1 - 2 - 3 - 5 pattern. Once they have mastered these patterns, they should be ready to play the written part. (The *JAZZ BASICS* bass book includes many blues lines written out like this, and quite a few of these examples include bass guitar TAB notation to help the student progress quickly.)



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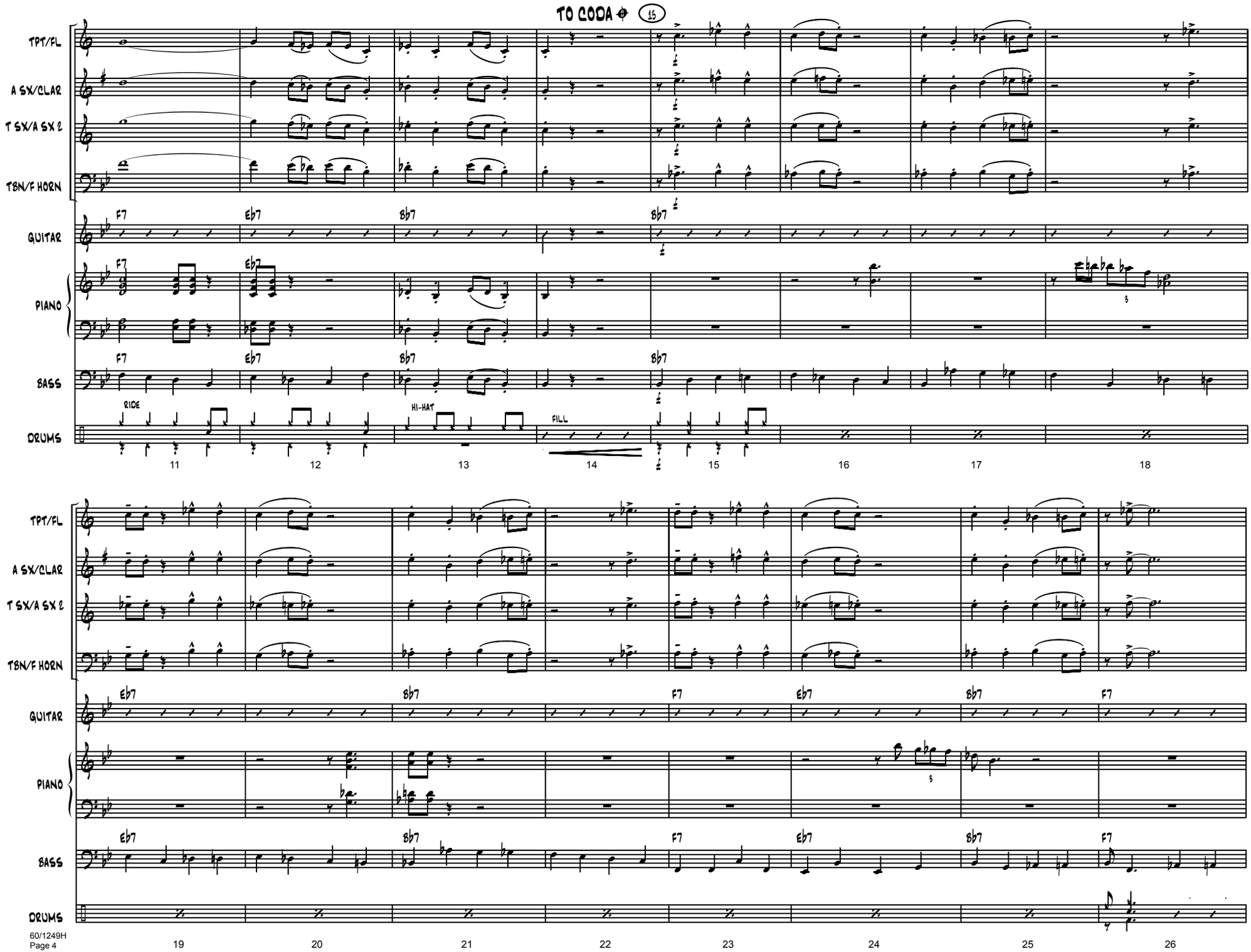
TO CODA
15
TPT/FL
A SX/CLAR
T SX/A SX 2
TBN/F HORN
GUITAR
PIANO
BASS
DRUMS
F7
Eb7
Bb7
RIDE
HI-HAT
FILL
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
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22
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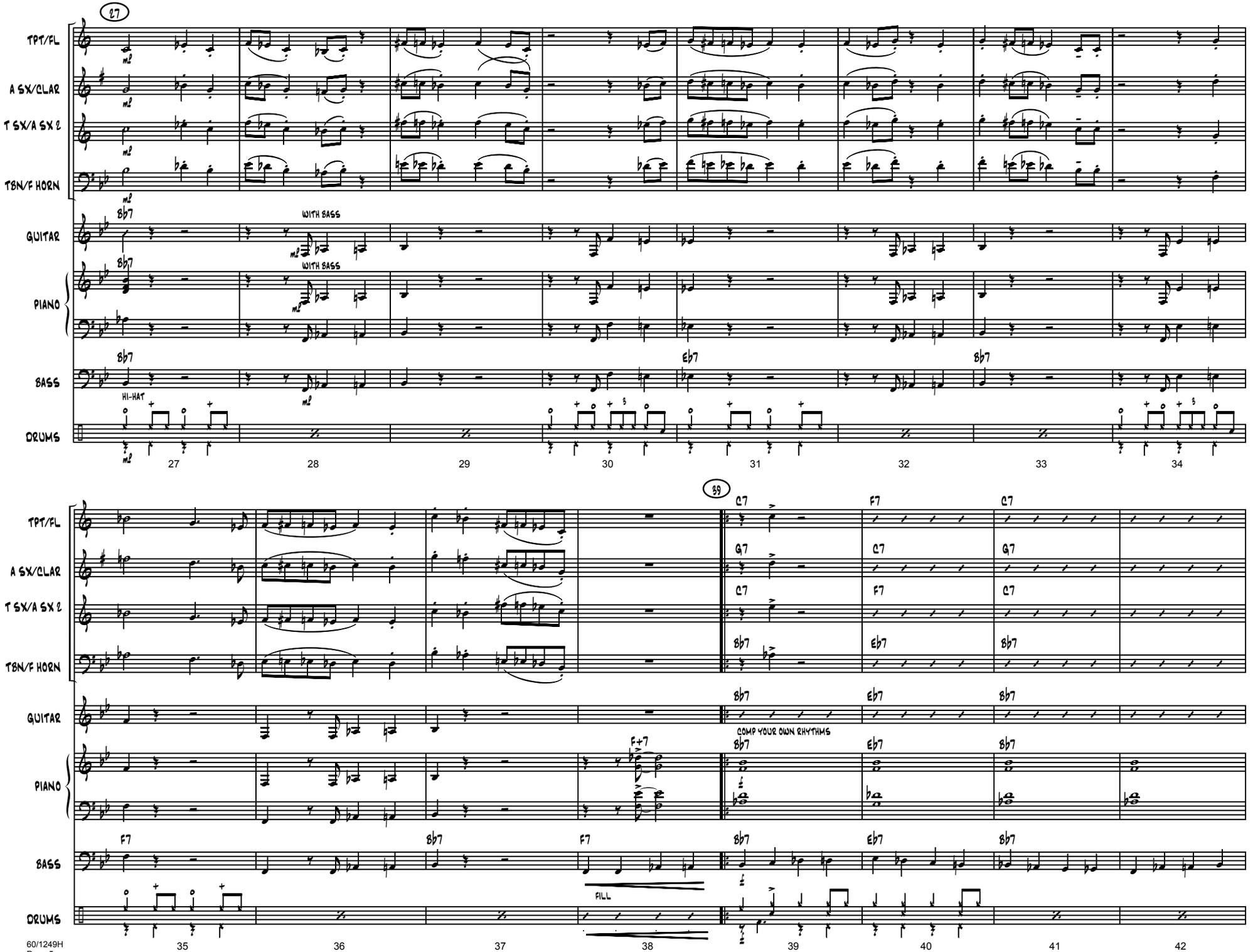
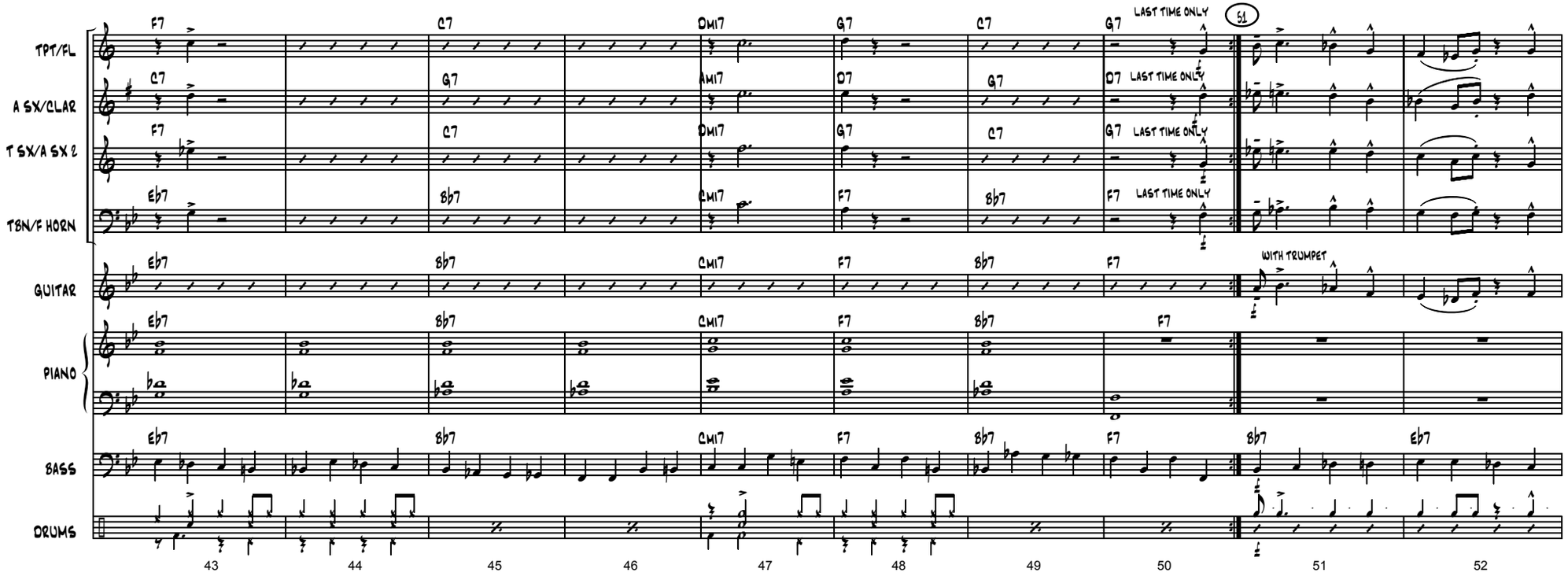
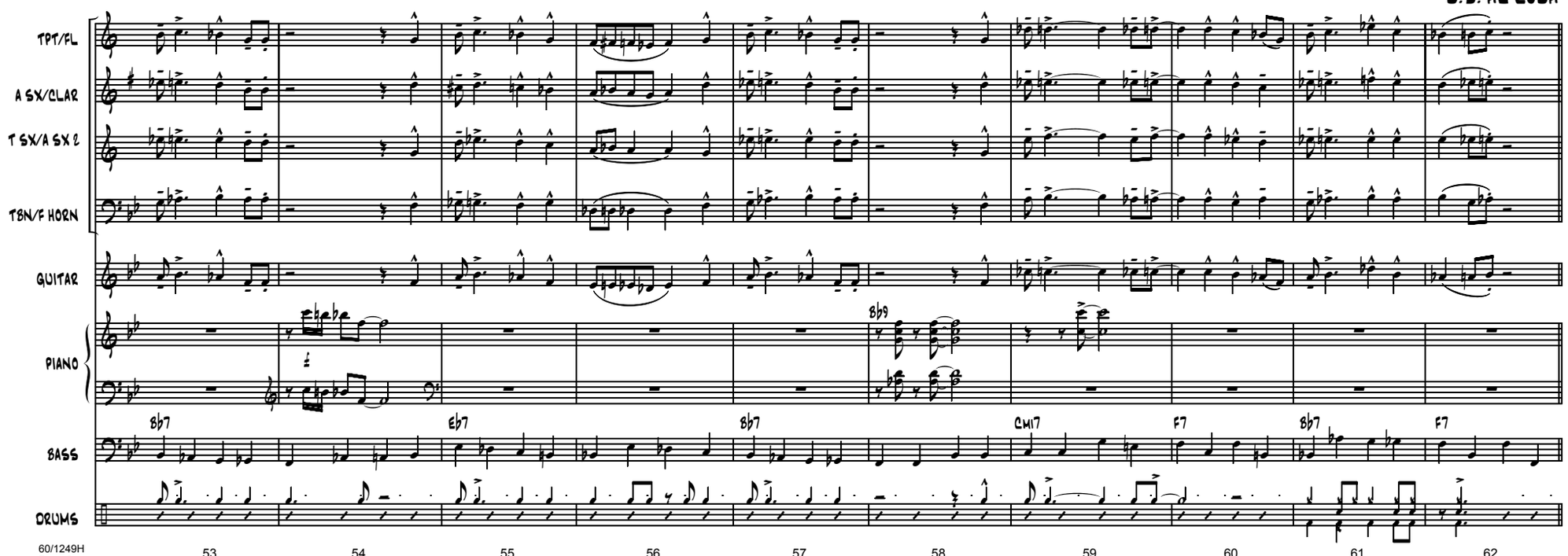
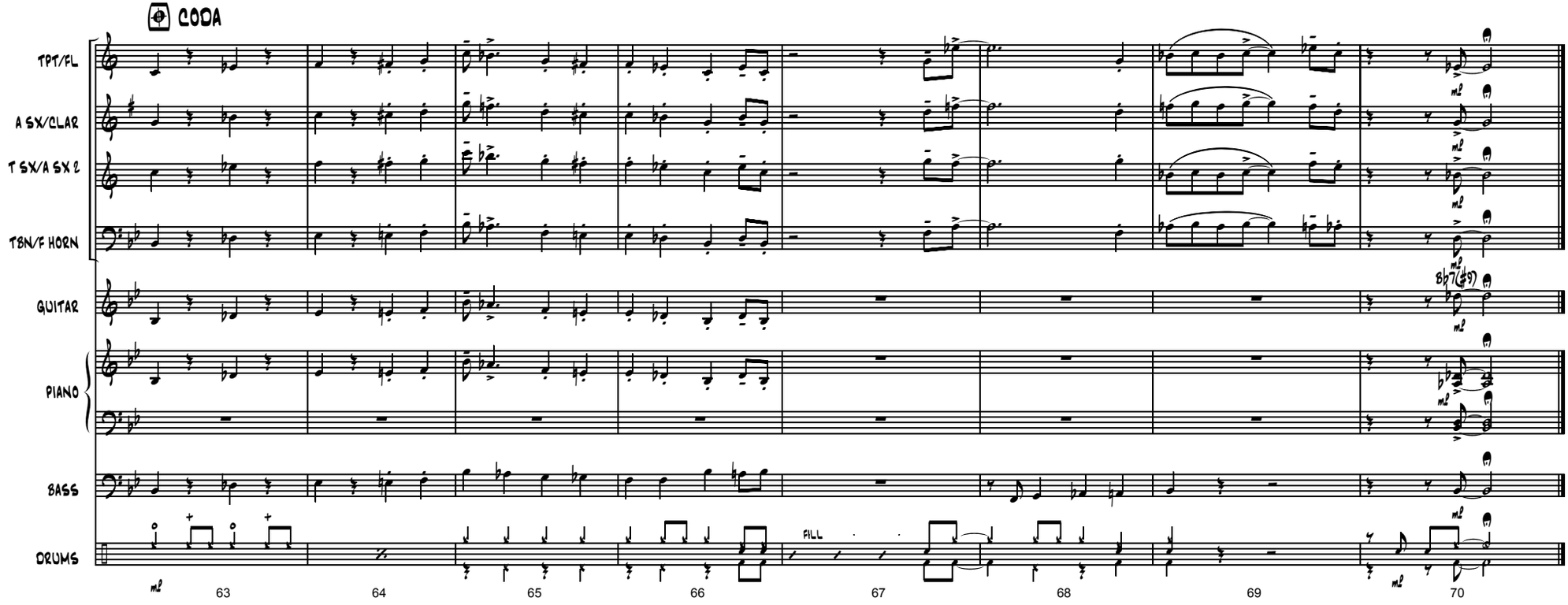
25
26


27
TPT/FL
A SX/CLAR
T SX/A SX 2
TBN/F HORN
GUITAR
PIANO
BASS
DRUMS
WITH BASS
HI-HAT
Bb7
Eb7
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
39
C7
F7
G7
F+7
COMP YOUR OWN RHYTHMS
FILL
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42


TPT/FL
A SX/CLAR
T SX/A SX 2
TBN/F HORN
GUITAR
PIANO
BASS
DRUMS
LAST TIME ONLY
WITH TRUMPET
51
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52


D.S. AL CODA
TPT/FL
A SX/CLAR
T SX/A SX 2
TBN/F HORN
GUITAR
PIANO
BASS
DRUMS
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62


CODA
TPT/FL
A SX/CLAR
T SX/A SX 2
TBN/F HORN
GUITAR
PIANO
BASS
DRUMS
FILL
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70