# The Jazz Style Primer

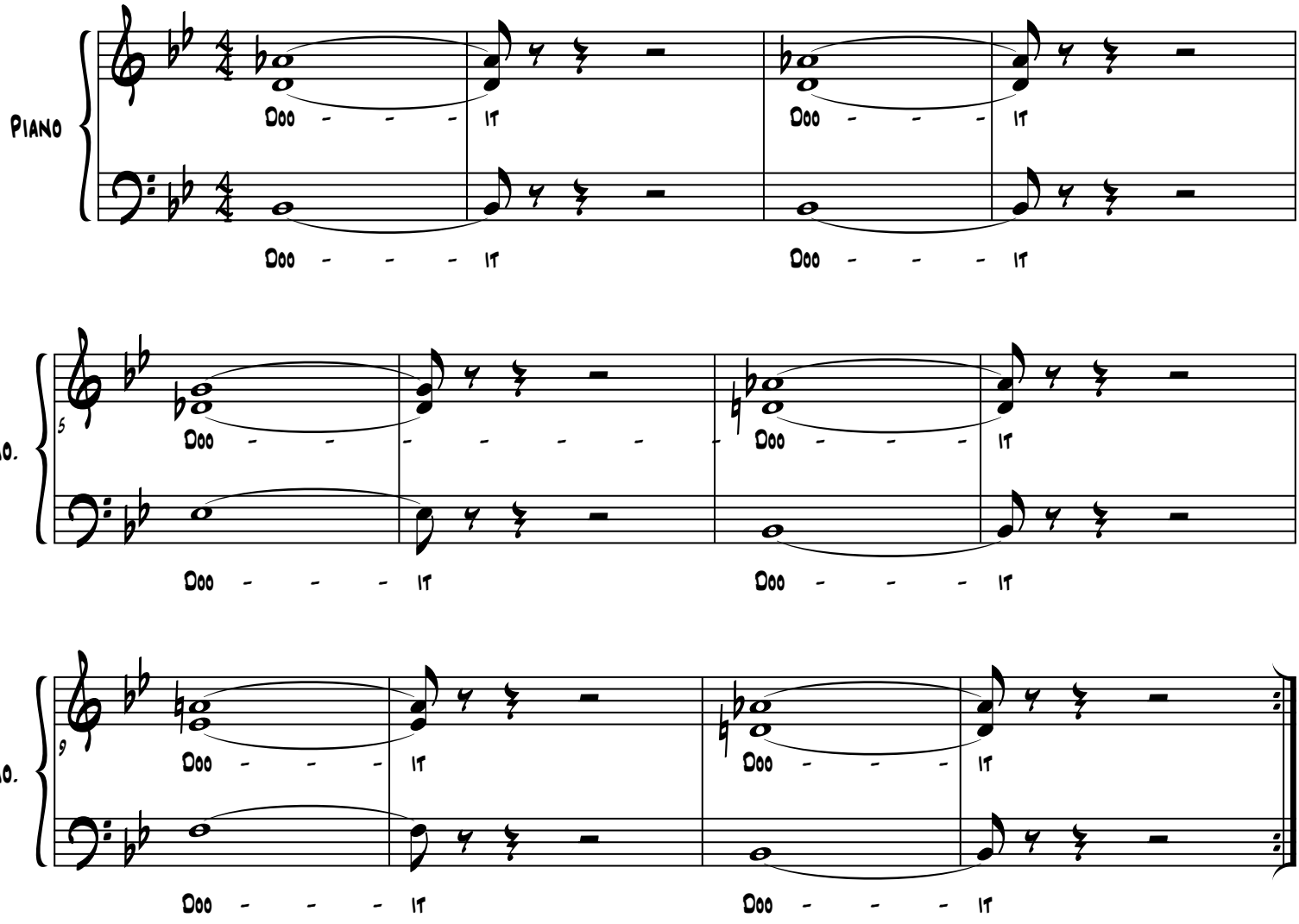
Piano

A blues based approach to jazz style and improvisation

William Rank

In jazz music use a tongued cut-off
to articulate the end of the note,
giving the end of the note a rhythmic feeling.

## 1. The Tongued Cut-off

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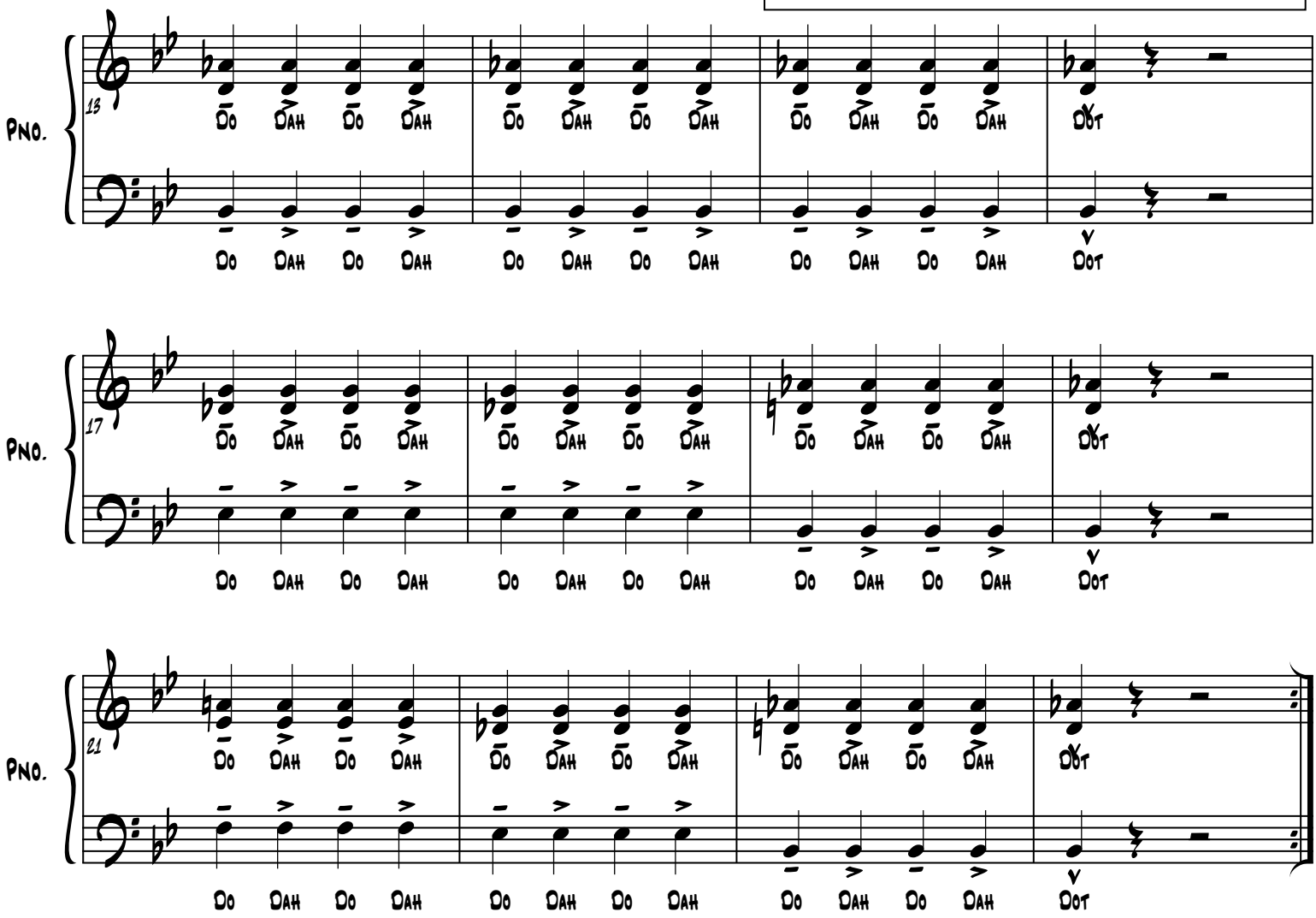
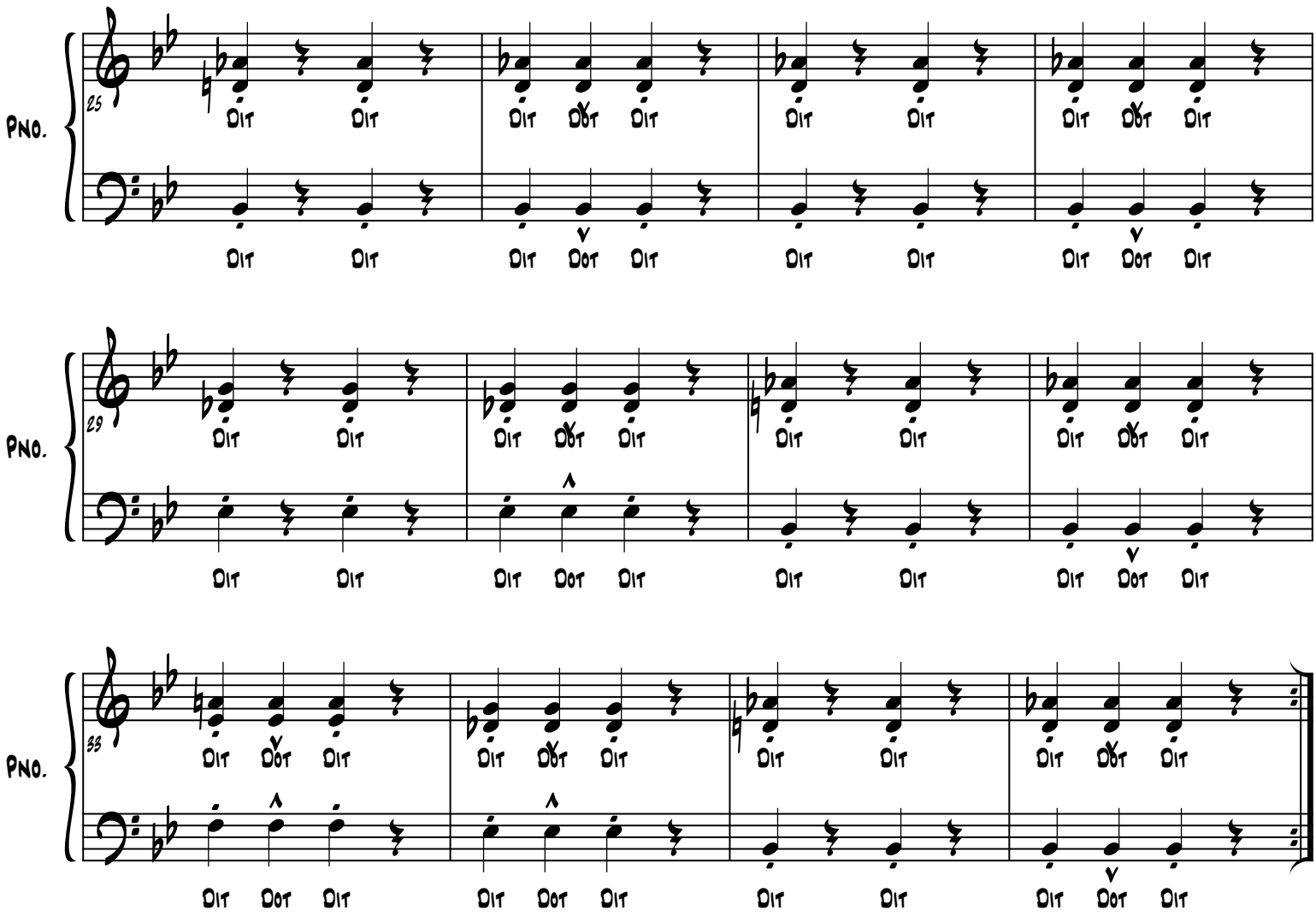
## 2. Accenting Beats 2 & 4

The accent in most jazz music is on beats 2 & 4, whereas classical music generally emphasizes beats 1 & 3.

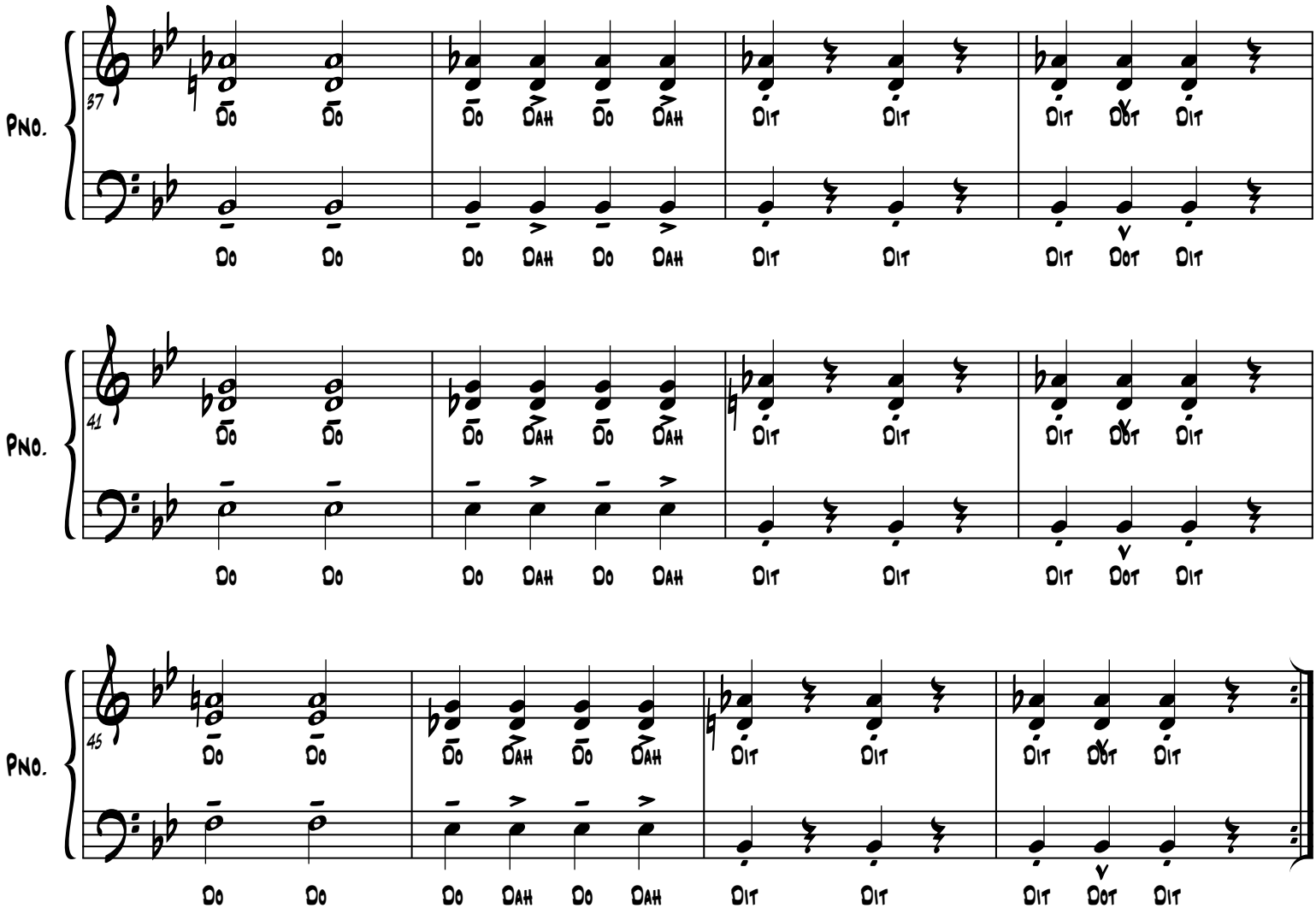


Many quarter notes are played short in jazz. Short un-accented notesare Dit and short accented notes are Dot.

## 3. Dit and Dot

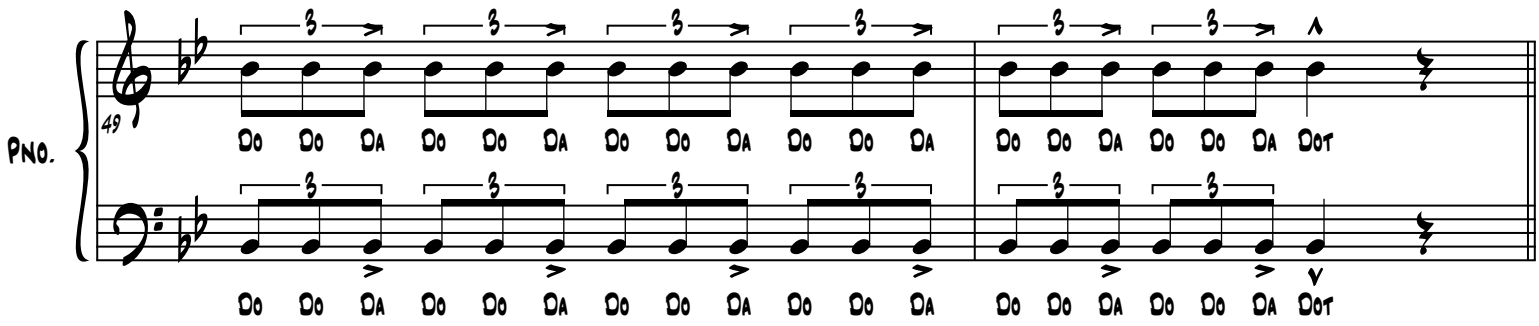


## 4. Do Dah Dit Dot



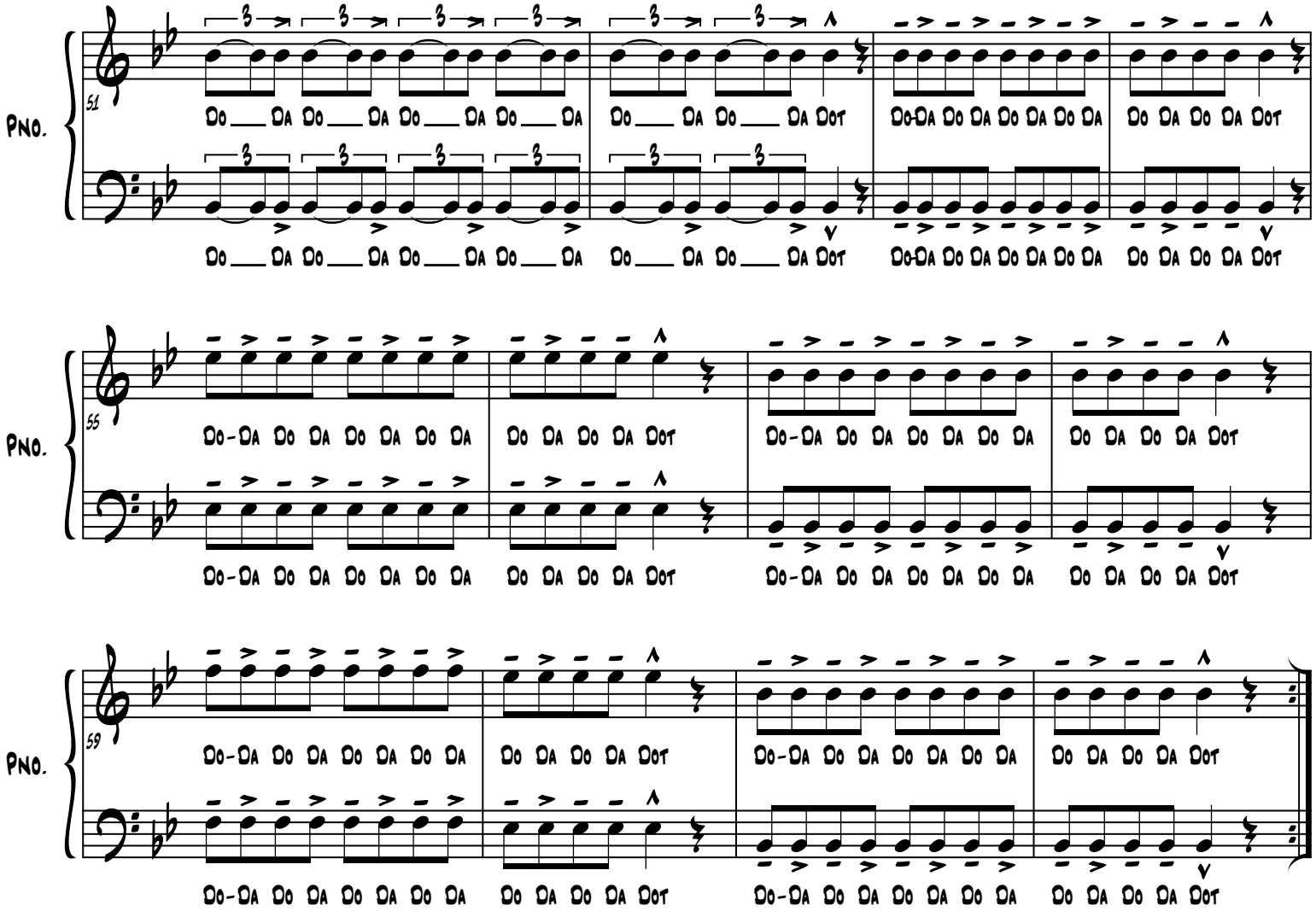

Swing has an underlying triplet feel. Put a slight accent on the last third of the beat.

## 5. Triplet Feel

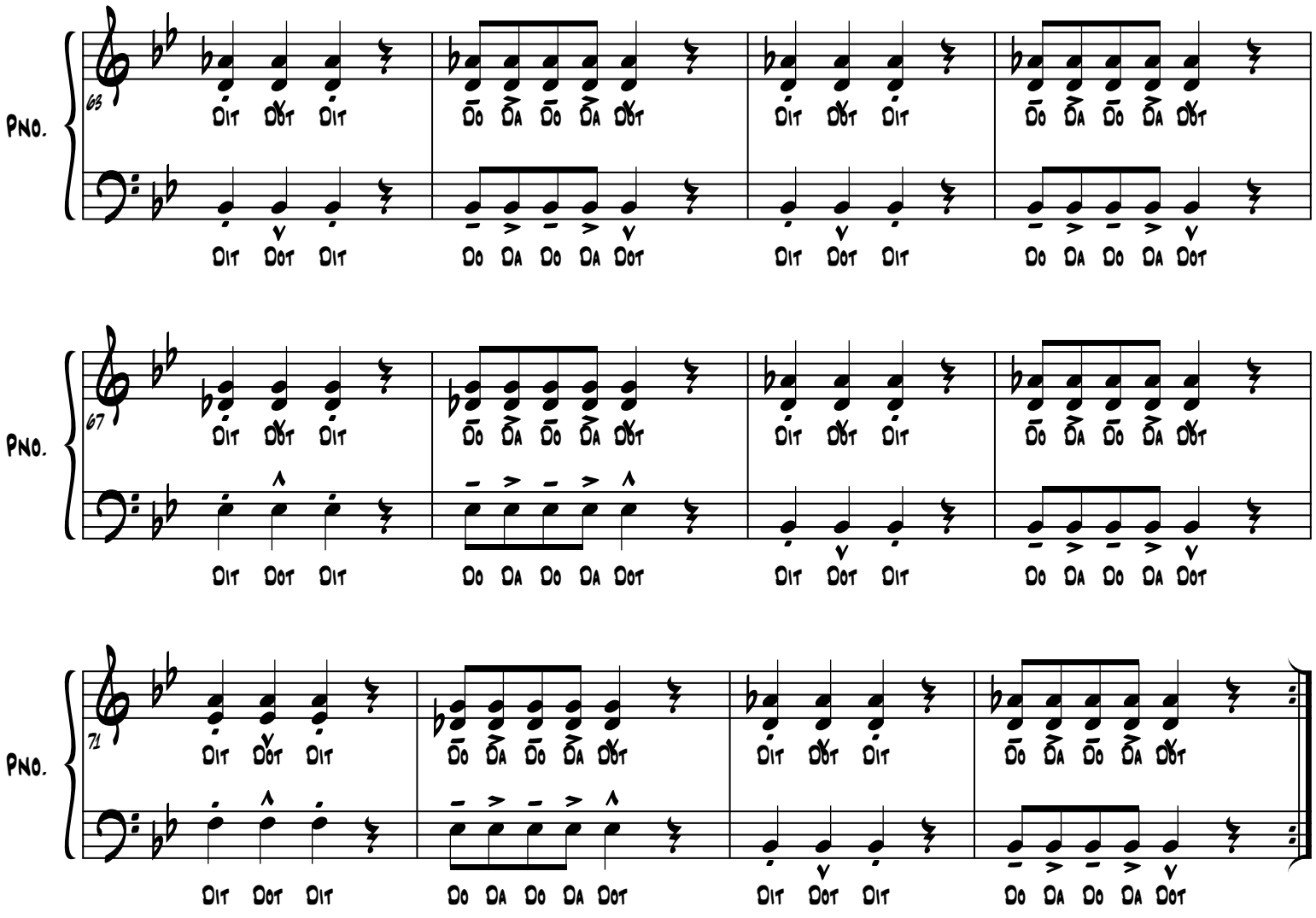


In measures 1 & 2, the first two triplets are tied together to make a quarter note triplet. The rhythm is consistent throughout the entire exercise. Generally this is written as eighth notes, with the last third of the beat slightly accented.

## 6. Eighth Notes

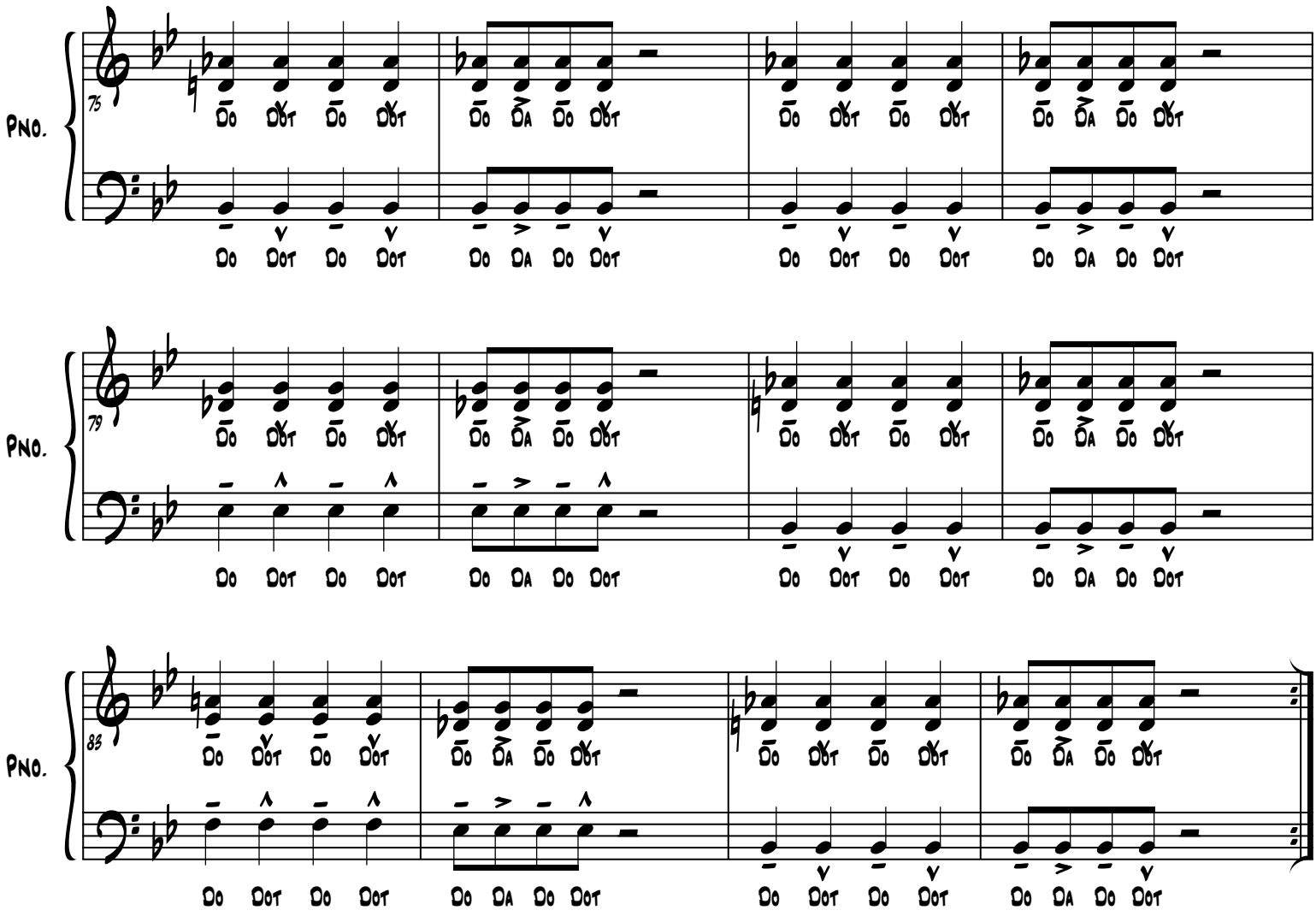


## 7. Quarters and Eighths



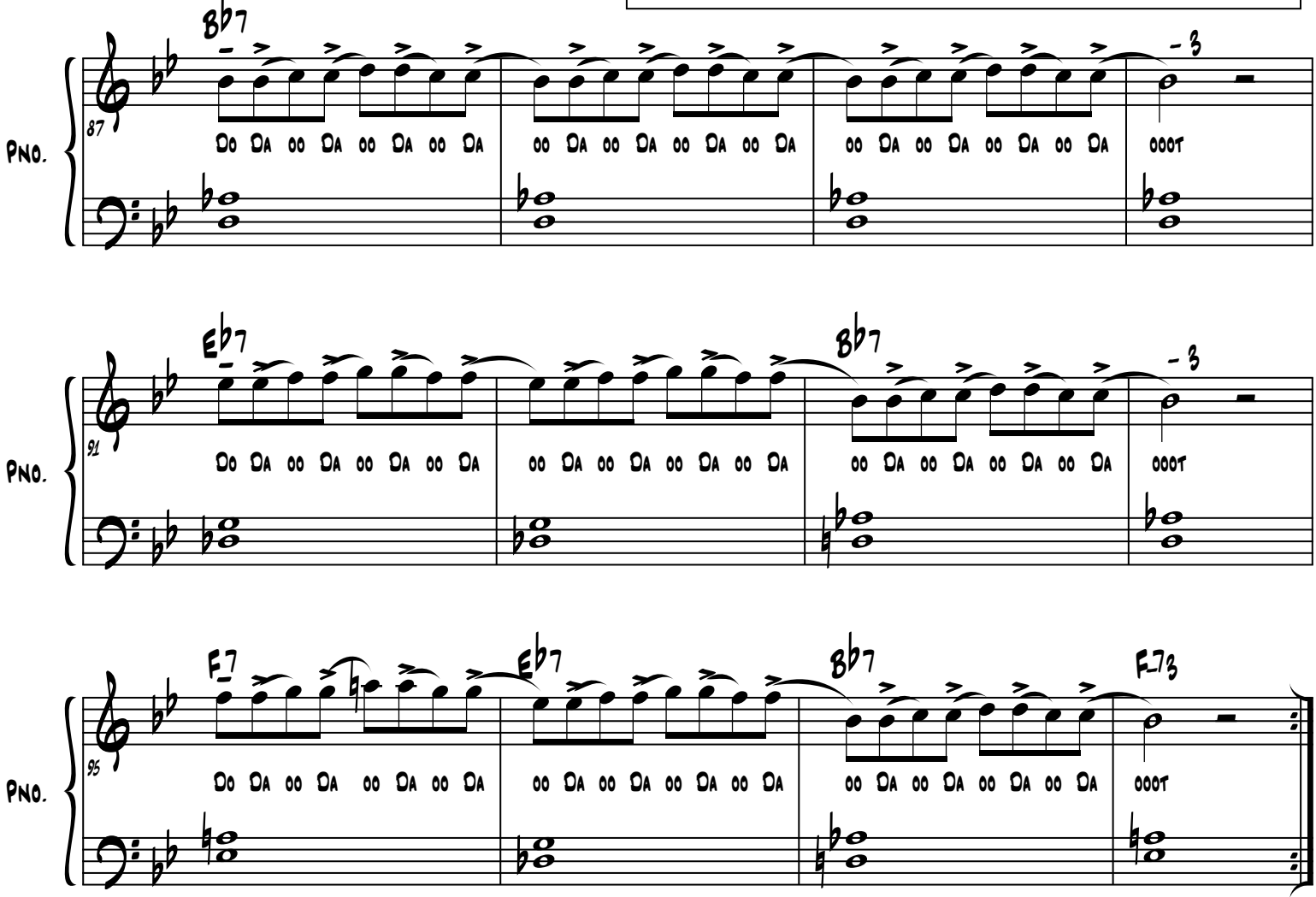
Jazz Rules: Eighth Notes followed by rests are played short!

## 8. More Quarters and Eighths



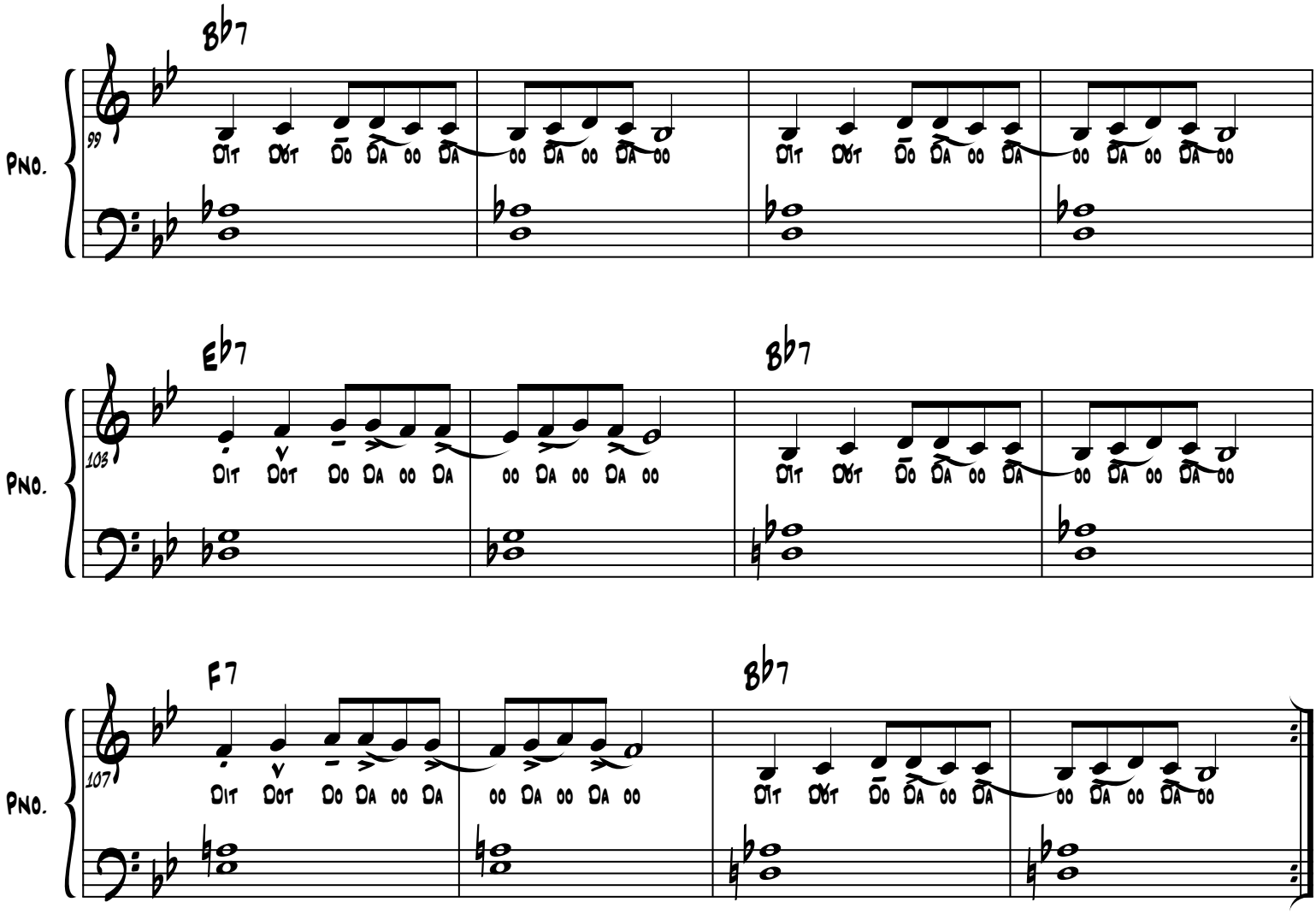
To create a more fluid style, jazzers use a technique called "back accent tonguing". Legato tongue the downbeat if it's articulated, and slur the off beats into the downbeat.

## 9. Back-Accent Tonguing

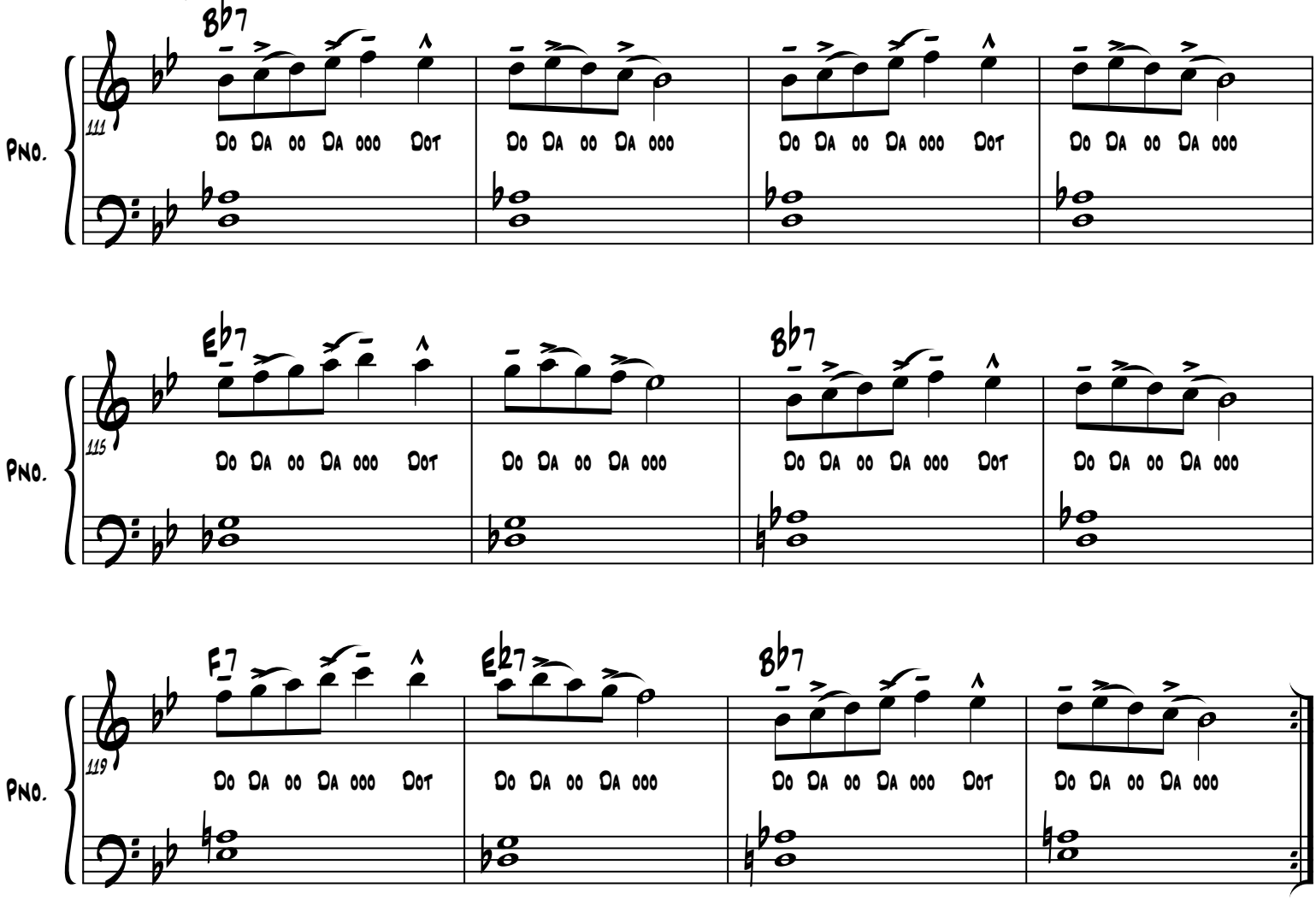



Comp Chords for the Left Hand. Melody will be in the right hand.

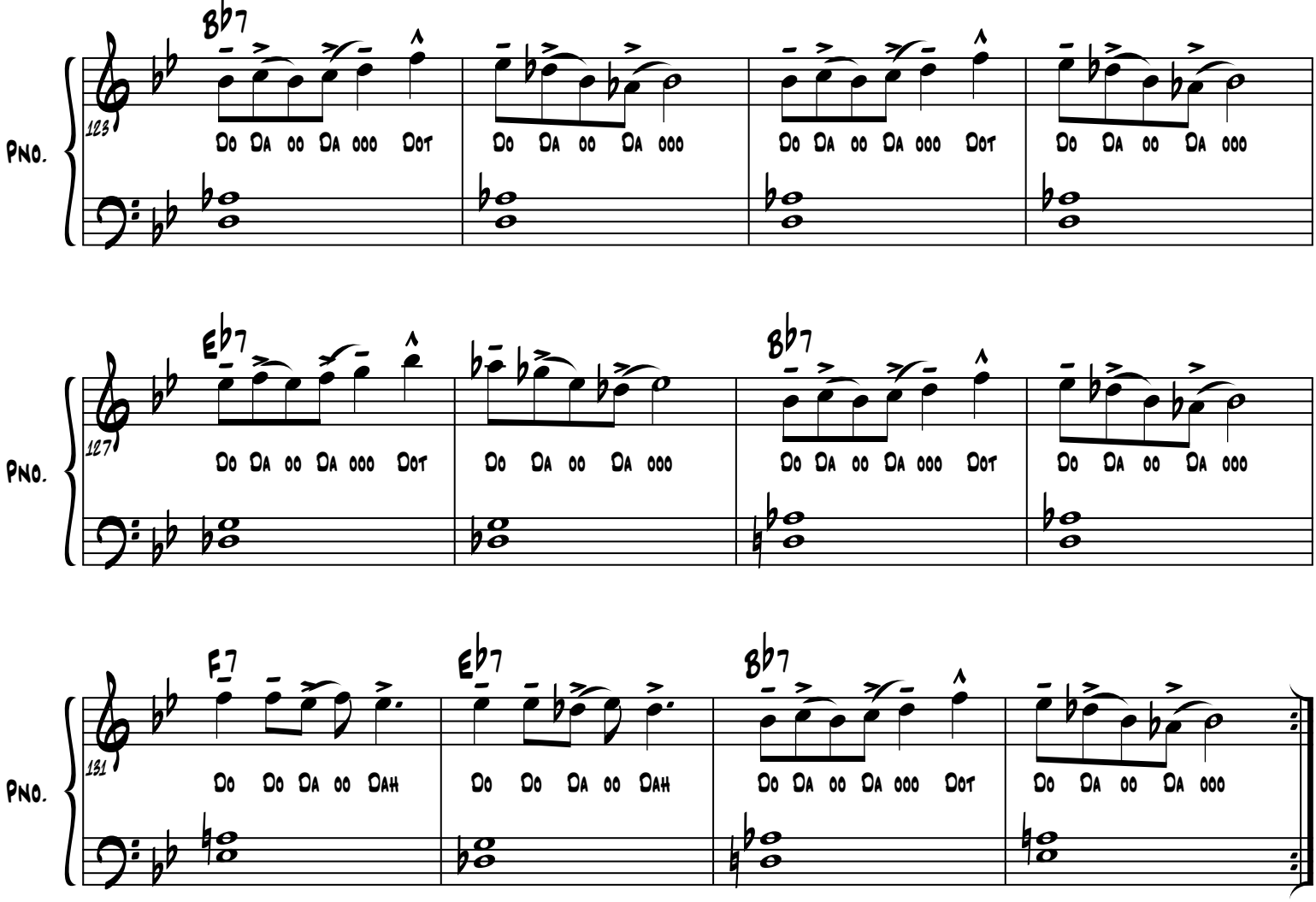
## 10. Moving Around



## 11. Swinging Free

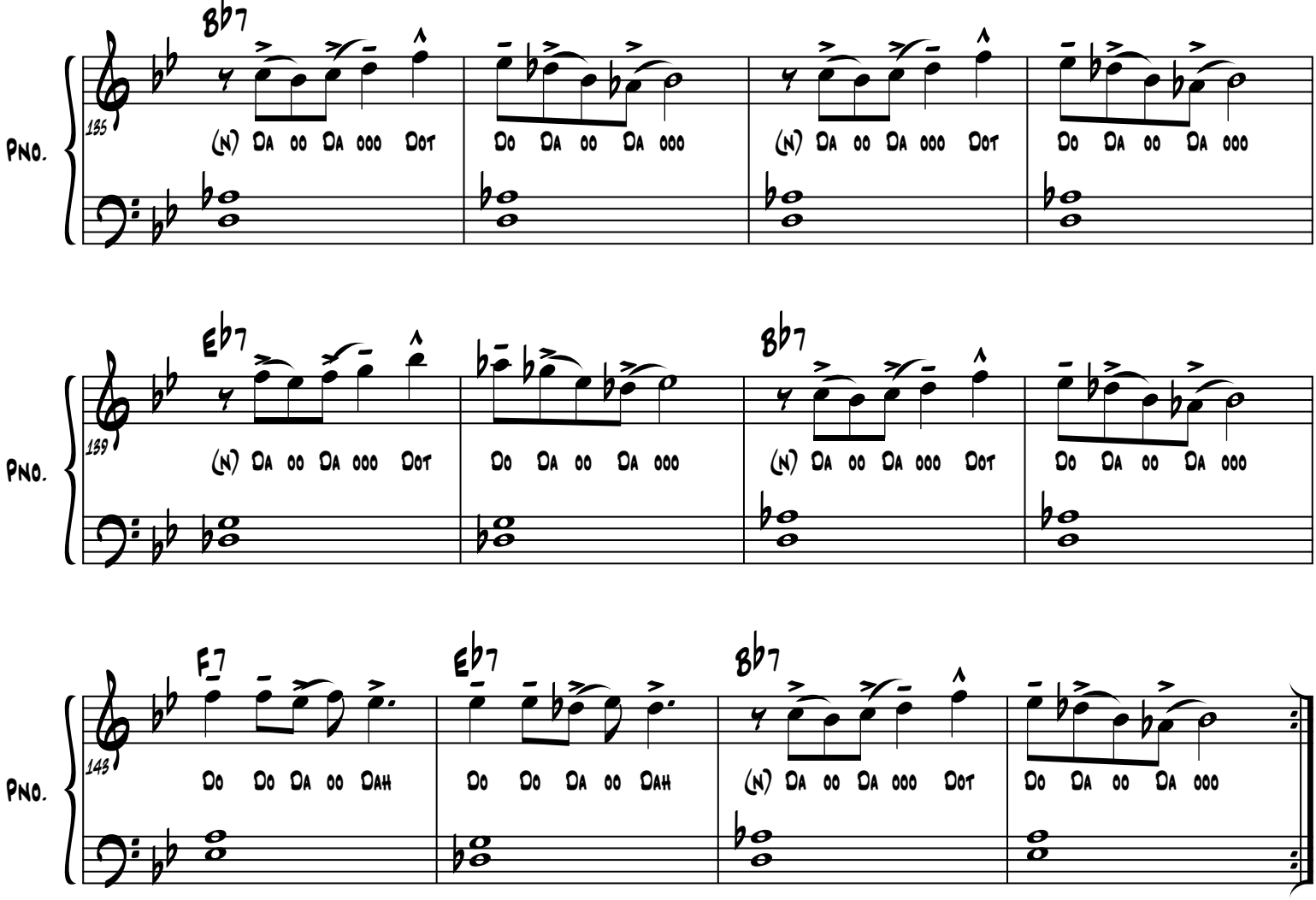


## 12. Before Thirteen

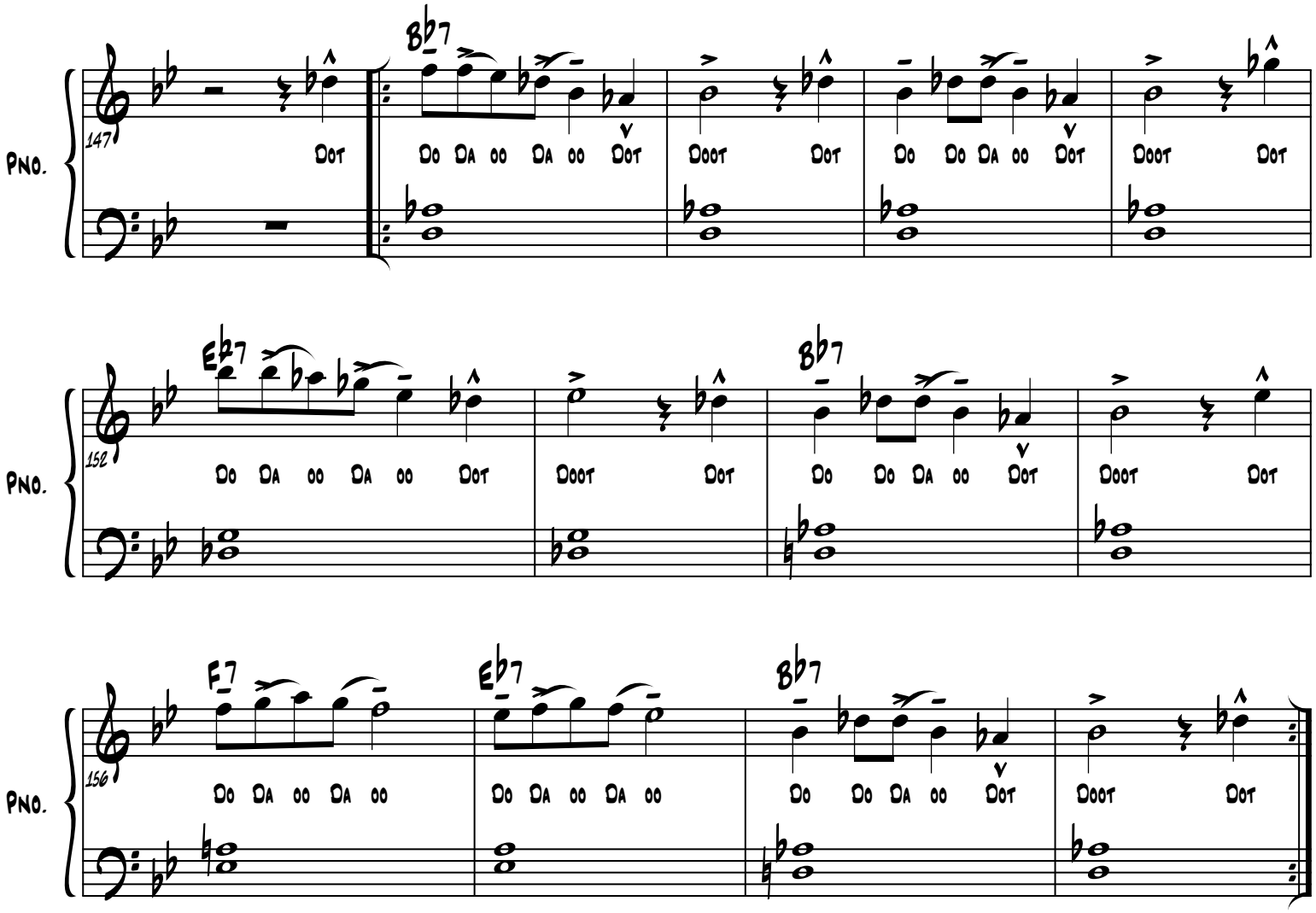


Entering on the And of the beat is a little confusing. If you have a rest on the downbeat, think "n".

## 13. And of One

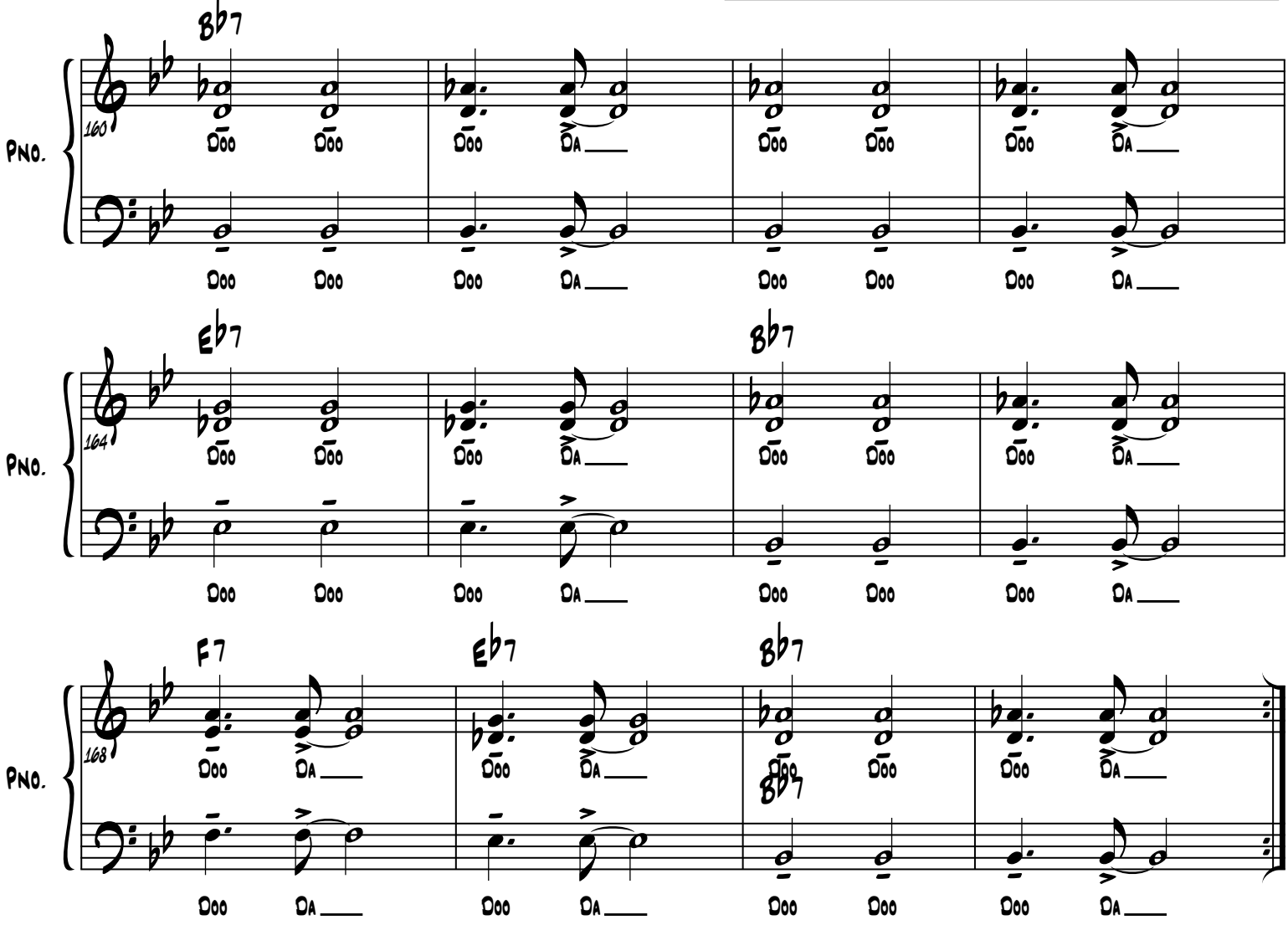


## 14. Quarter Til One



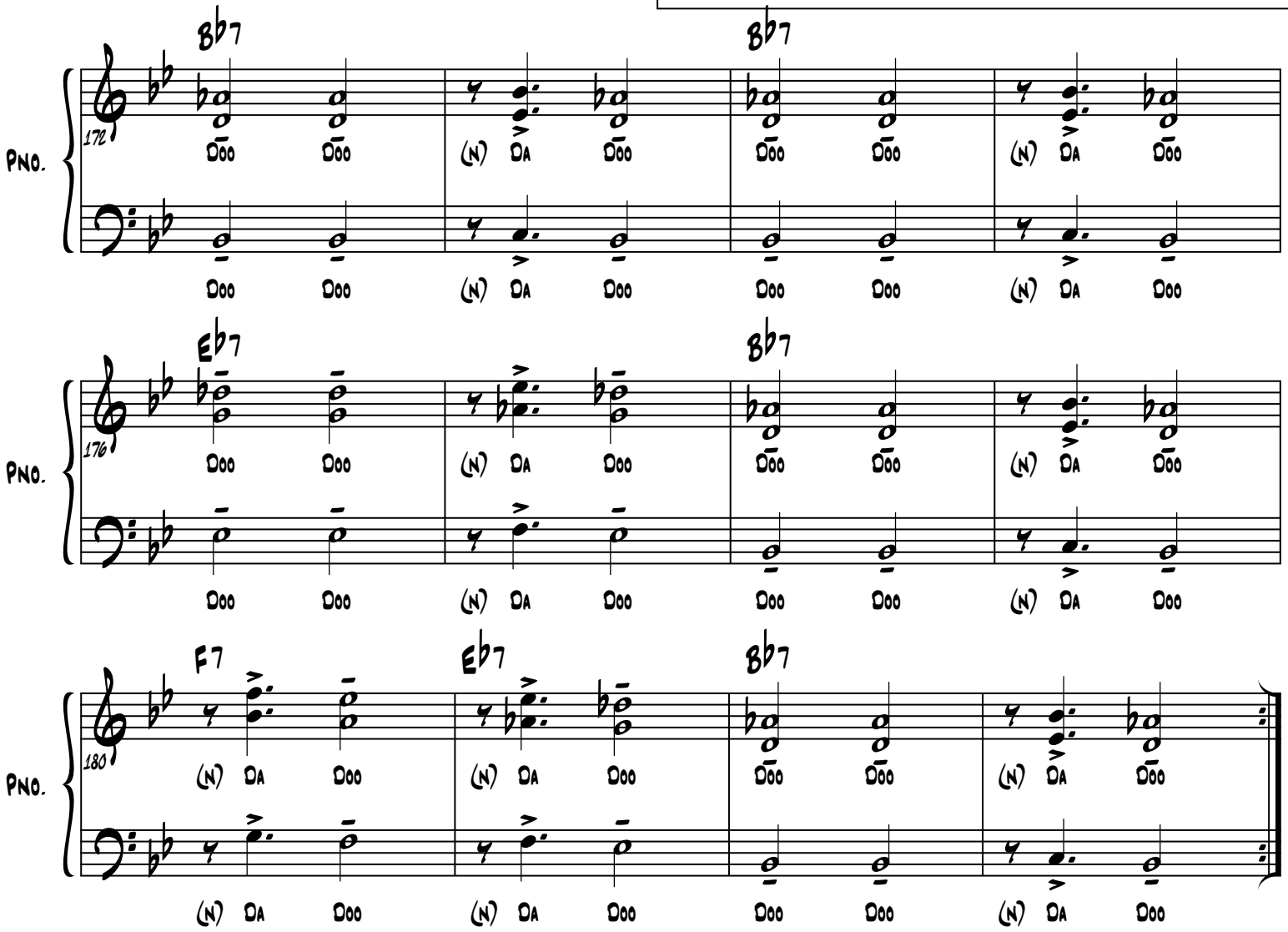
To create syncopation, one method that jazzers tend to use is anticipation. Keep the "doo-dle-da" triplet feel in your head to be sure that you don't rush the anticipation.

## 15. Syncopation by Anticipation

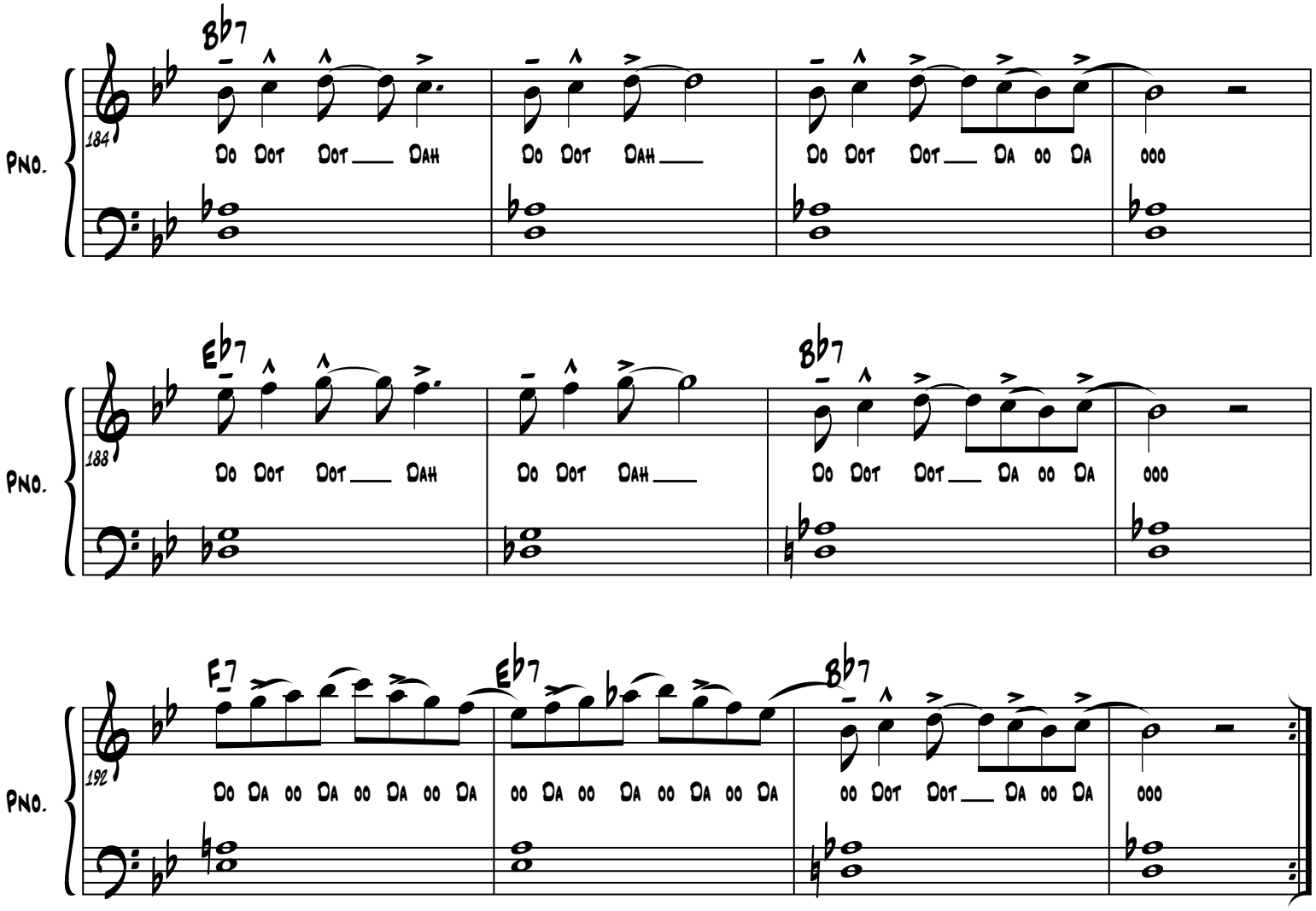


## 16. Syncopation by Delay

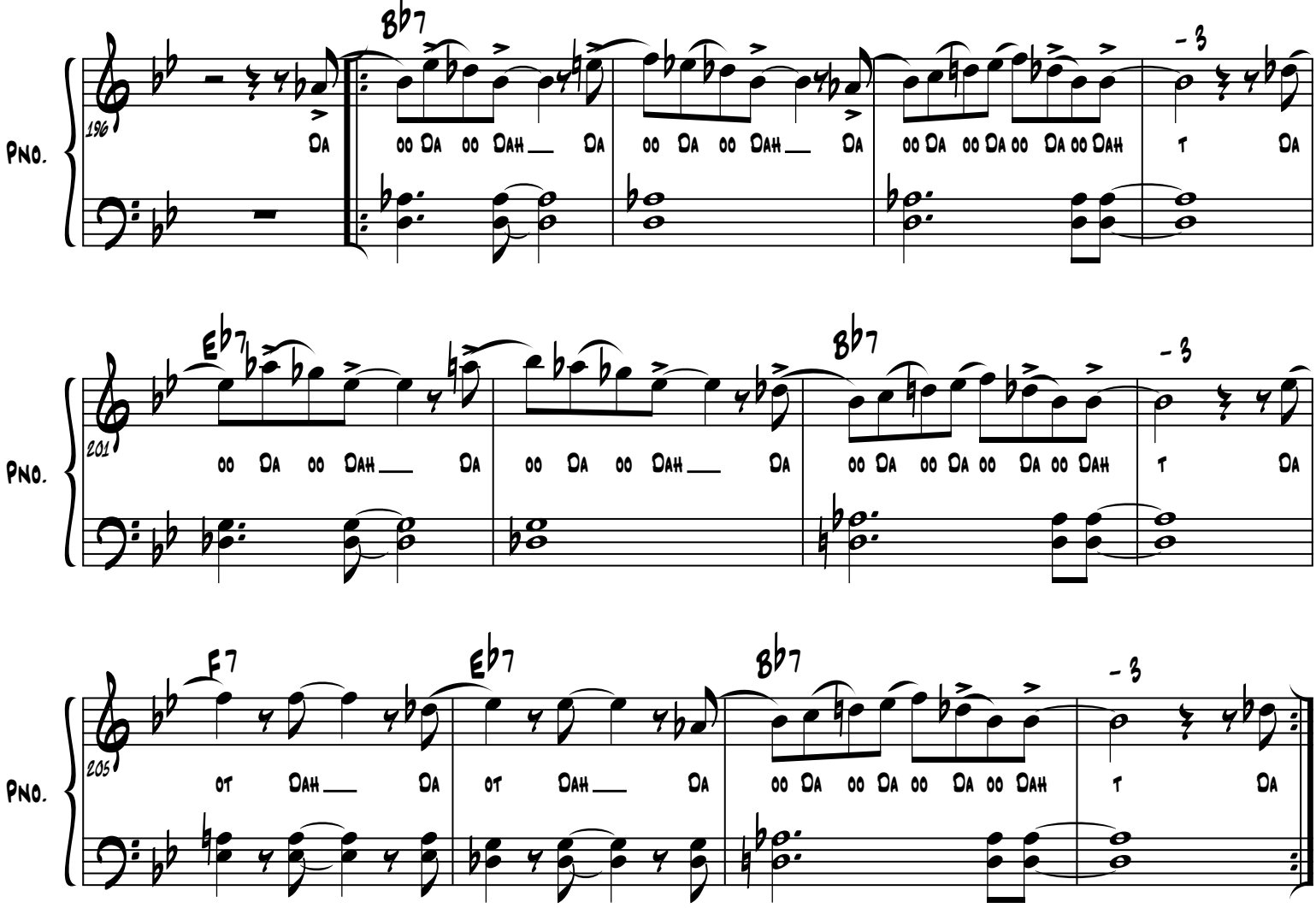
Another method of syncopation is to delay an entrance.
This is usually accomplished by adding a rest on the downbeat.

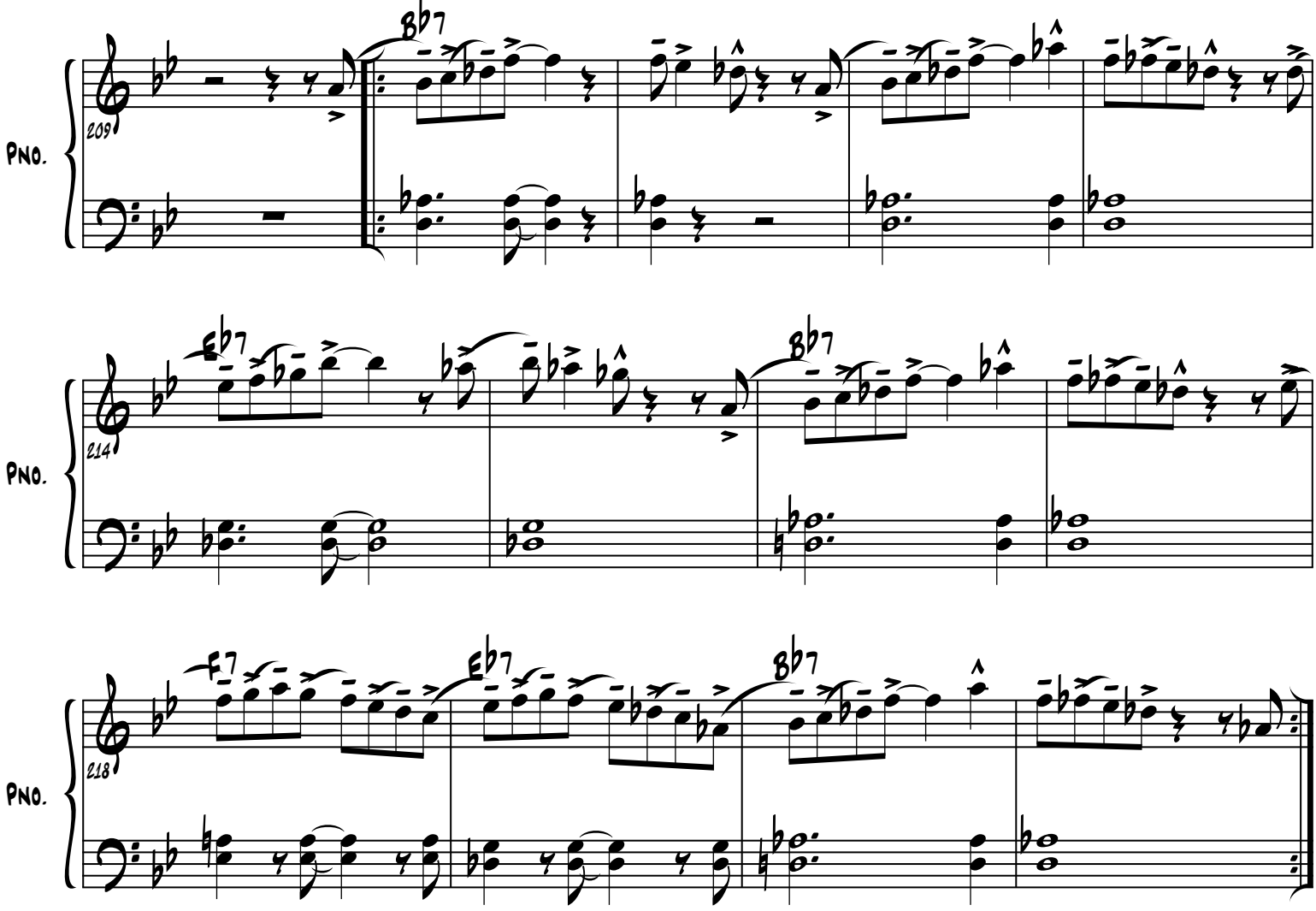


## 17. Repetitive Syncopation



## 18. Pick-up Game



Apply ALL the style rules covered so far.
Write in your syllables, Sing and Play!

## 19. GREEN LIGHT GO!