The art of bass playing

Culminating Experience

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Berklee College of Music – Valencia Campus

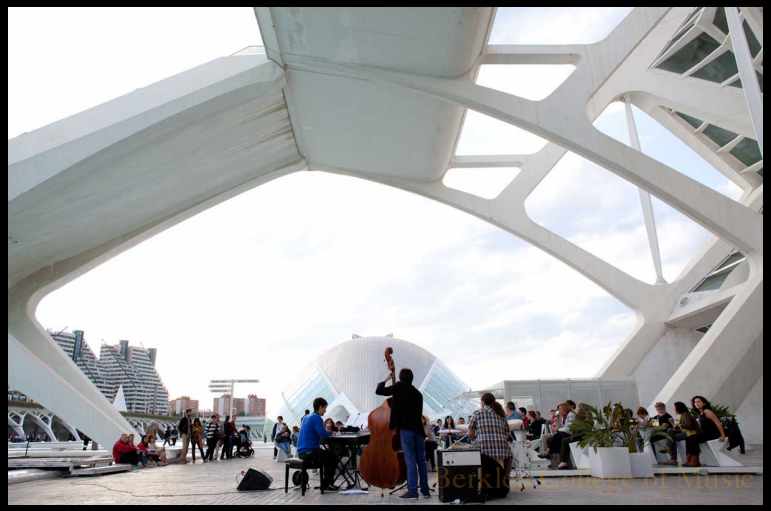
Introduction

- Musical Background

Background

- Influences
- Musical journey
- Connection with music

Berklee Valencia



Berklee Valencia

- New perspective
- Exploration
- Artistic identity
- Generate material

Identifying my sound

- Exploring different orchestration

Experience in the studio:

- Over 250 hours this year.
- Collaborations playing Electric and Acoustic Bass.
- Variety of projects/styles/approaches.

Piano Trio

- Centering my music for piano trio format.
- More possibilities for the instrument.
- Understanding the role of the bass.

History of contemporary bass

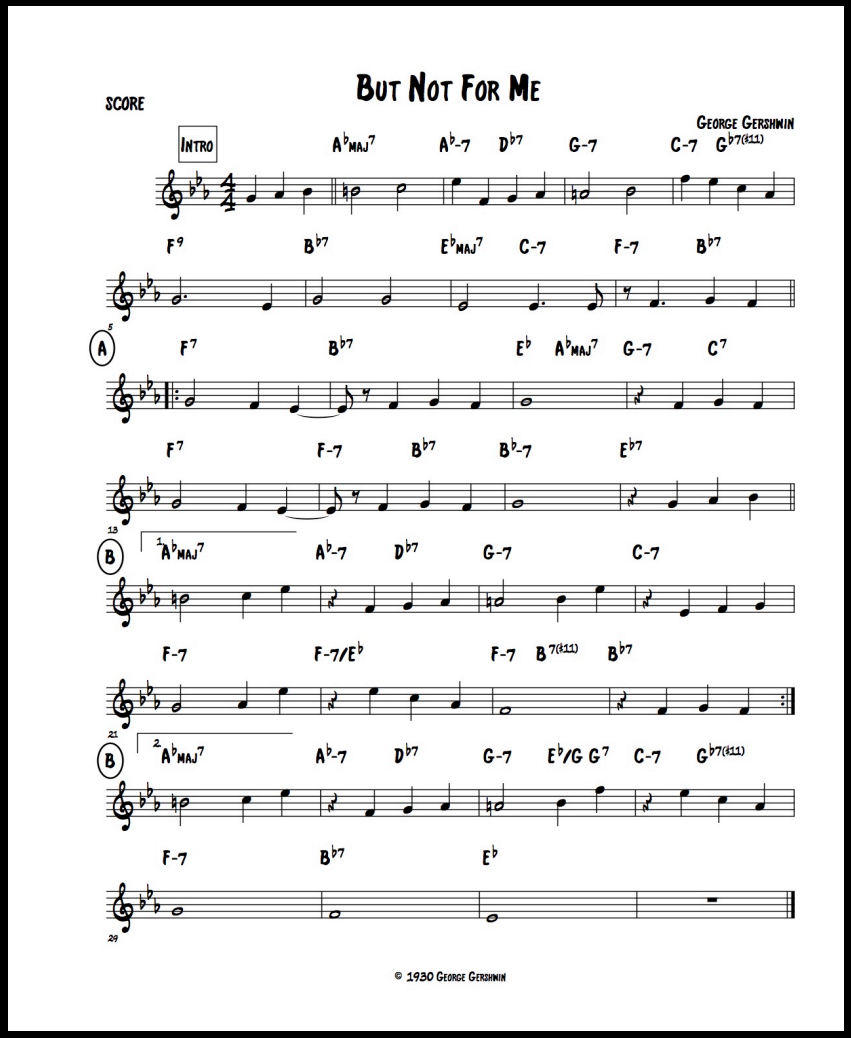
- Second half of the twentieth century to see the real boom of contemporary double bass.
- Supportive instrument of the rhythm section.
- 1939, Jimmy Blanton.
- In the fifties piano trios were well received, led to the bassists also expand their skills.
- Maintaining the role, resources that have been developed to provide a broader scope of it.

Analysis of influential bassists

Paul Chambers

Israel Crosby

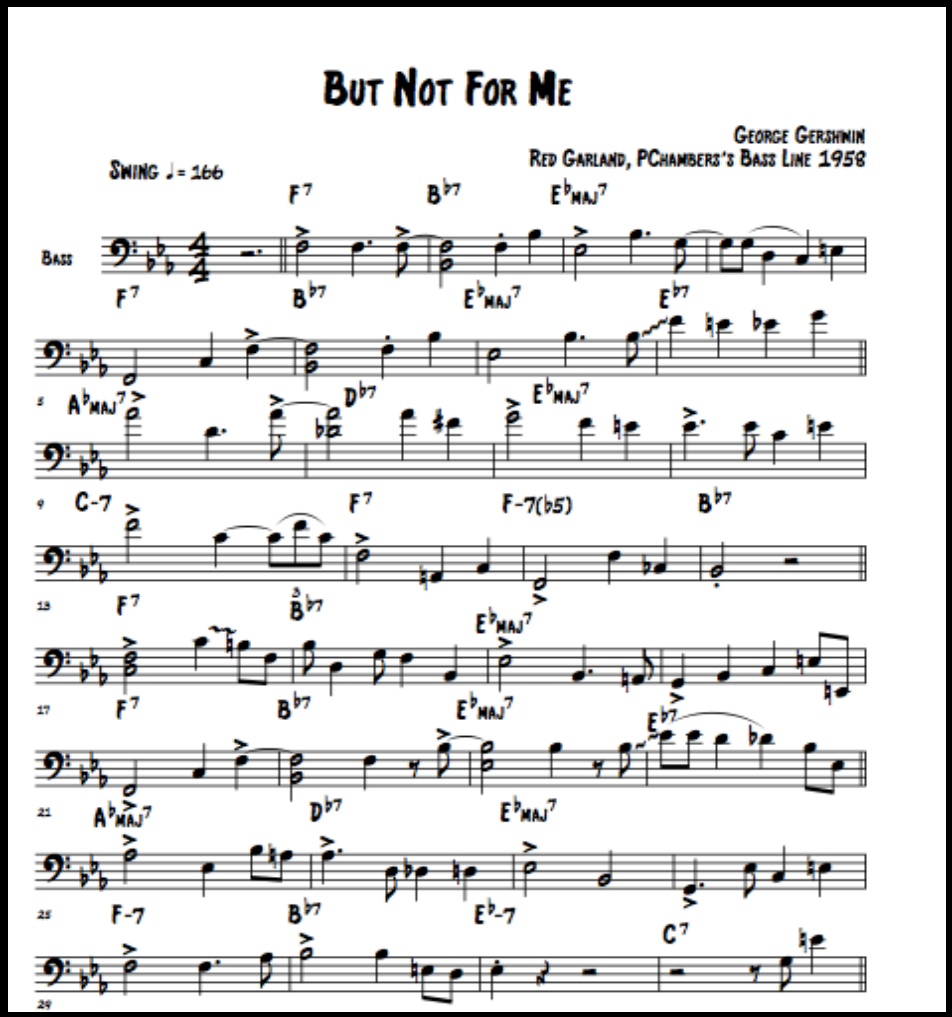
But Not for Me



Paul Chambers on **But Not For Me (1957)**

- Red Garland trio, distinctive chord voicings, melodic ideas, and solid sense of swing.
- Paul Chambers on bass and drummer Art Taylor.
- year 1957 important in the career of Paul Chambers, 380 recordings, the most demanded bass player of the time.

Paul Chambers on **But Not For Me (1957)**

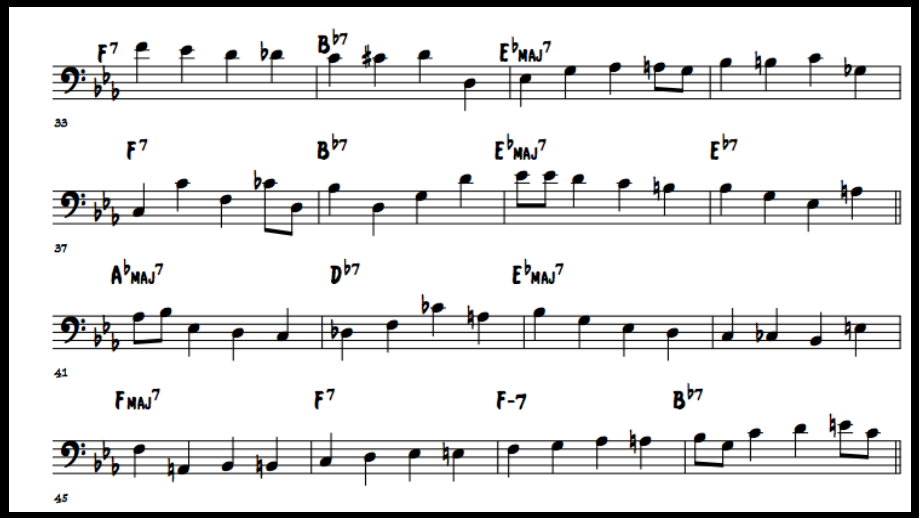


Paul Chambers on **But Not For Me (1957)**

- Different resources when accompany the melody.
- Two feel gives momentum to the band.
- Rhythmic movement is essential when playing in a piano trio format.
- Roots of the chords are usually found on beat one.

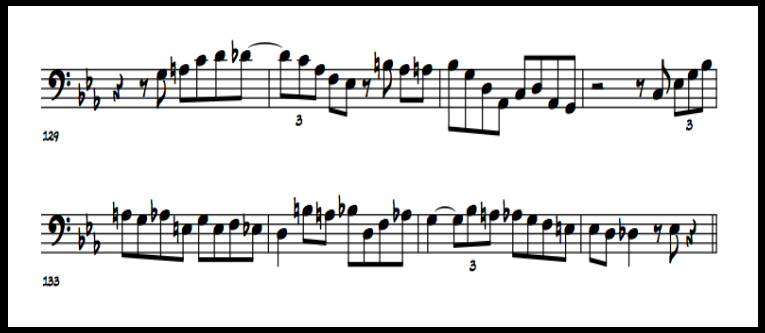
Paul Chambers (Piano Solo)

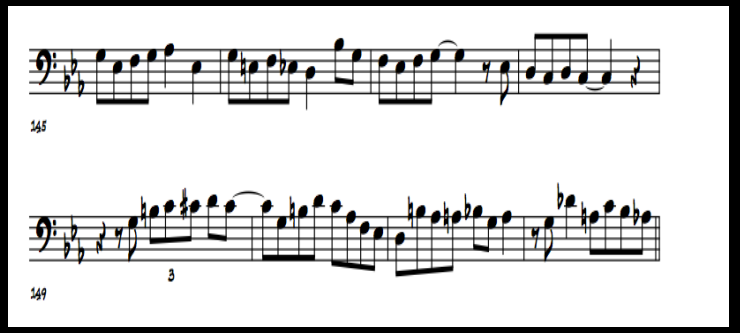
- Scalar type of line.
- melodic contour in this section is linear.
- Melody and solo, there is a clear difference

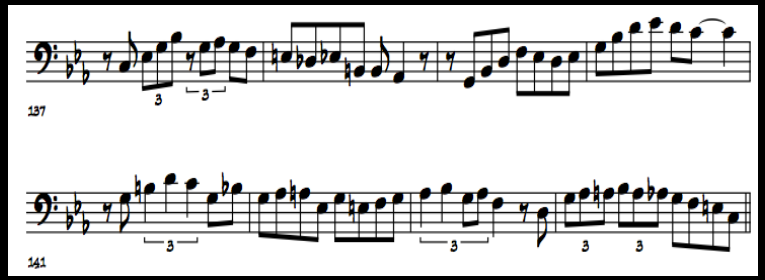


Paul Chambers (Bass Solo)

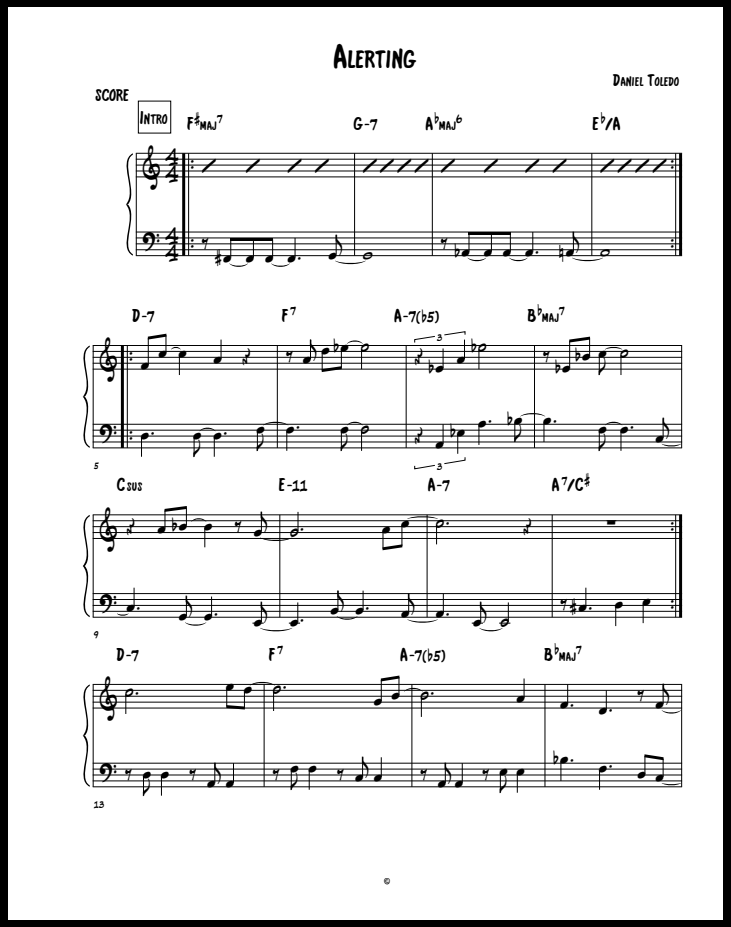
- Rhythmic characteristics.
- Soloing is to stay in the middle and low register of the instrument.

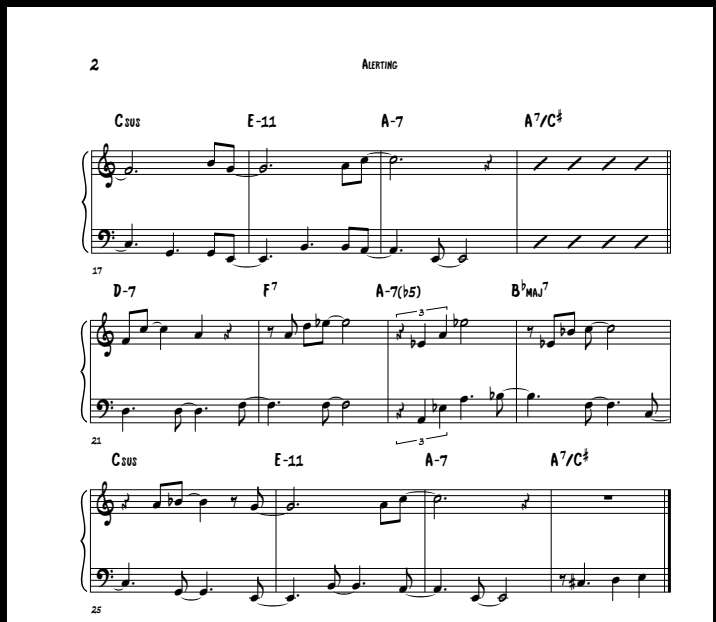






Alerting


ALERTING
DANIEL TOLEDO
SCORE
INTRO
F♯MAJ7
G-7
A♭MAJ6
E♭/A
D-7
F7
A-7(♭5)
B♭MAJ7
5
C8US
E-11
A-7
A7/C♯
9
D-7
F7
A-7(♭5)
B♭MAJ7
13


2
ALERTING
C8US
E-11
A-7
A7/C♯
17
D-7
F7
A-7(♭5)
B♭MAJ7
21
C8US
E-11
A-7
A7/C♯
25

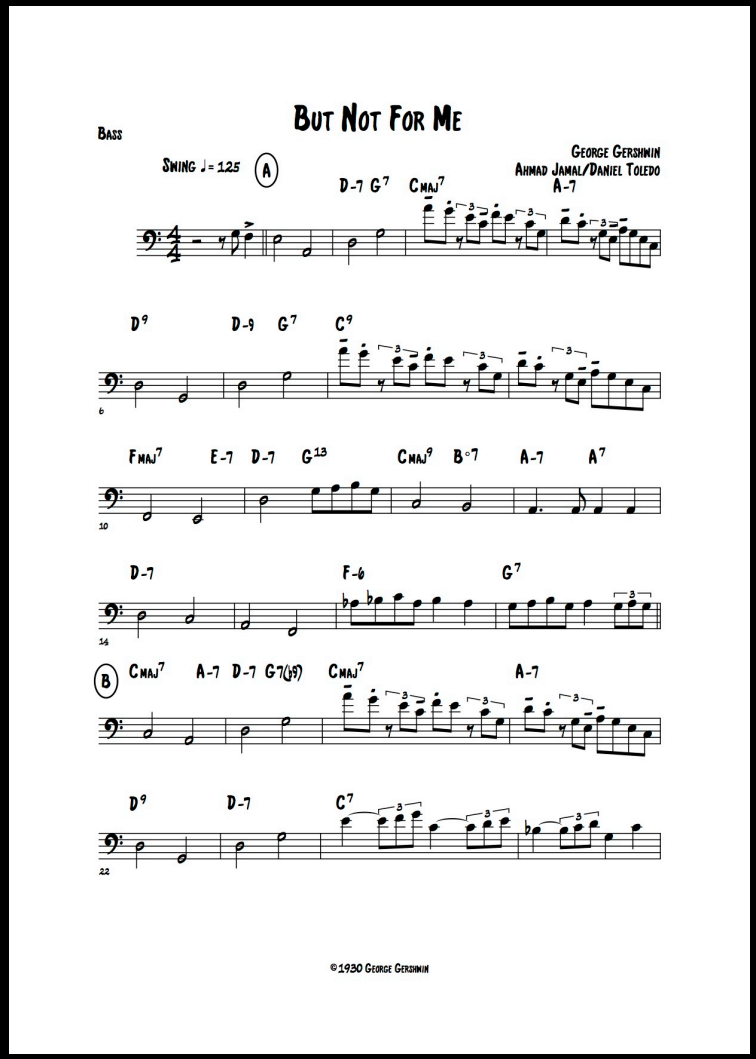
Alerting

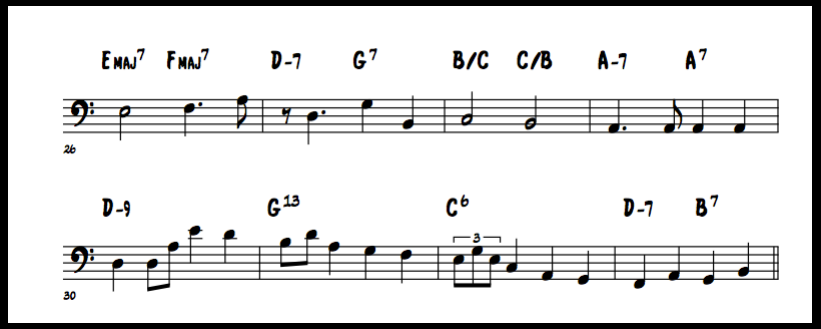
- Basis of composition.
- Bass line and melody.
- Harmonic concept.
- Inspiration on Paul Chambers.

Israel Crosby on **But Not For Me (1958)**

- Best known for his work with the famous Ahmad Jamal's trio in the late fifties and early sixties.
- This trio has characteristic, carefully planned trio arrangements that demonstrate the power that can be achieved with few well-executed notes.

Israel Crosby



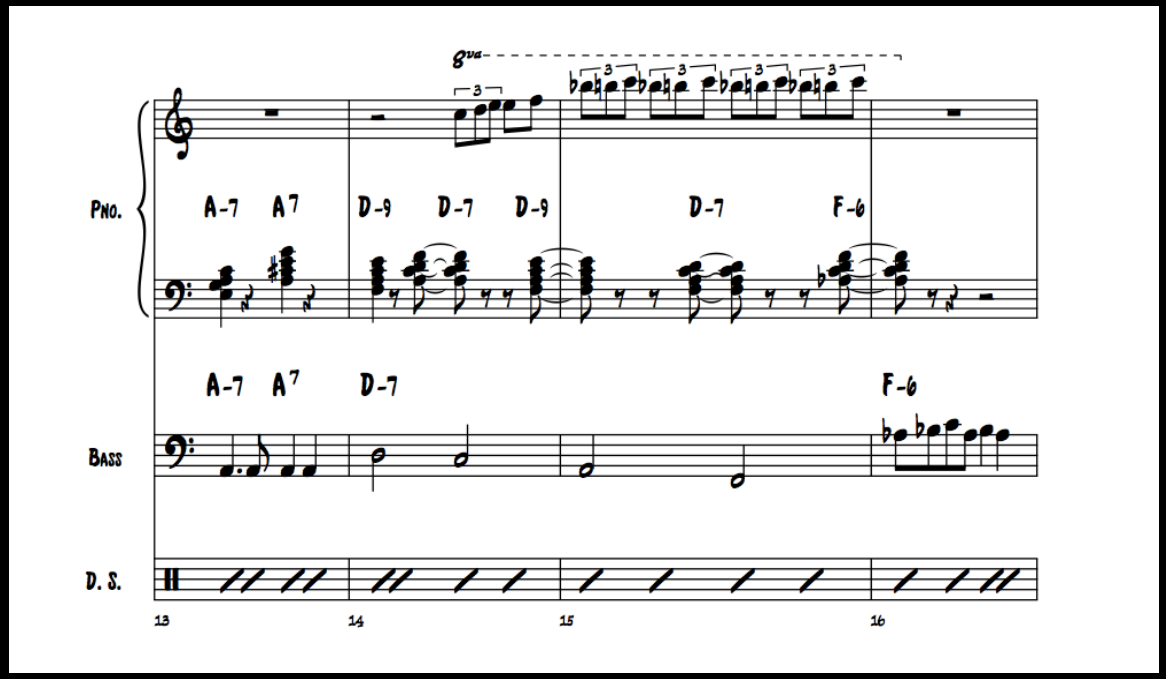


Israel Crosby on **But Not For Me (1958)**

- Melodic response.
- two-measure melodic cell.
- The way to accompany by Crosby is rhythmically consistent in relationship to the piano.

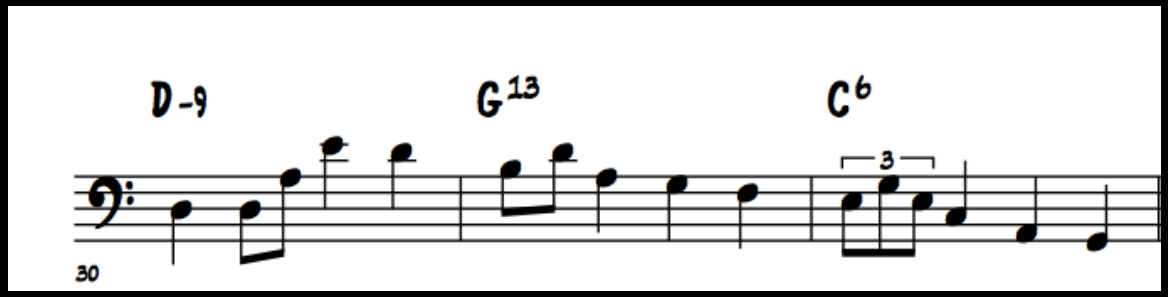
Israel Crosby on **But Not For Me (1958)**

- Filling the space left by the piano.



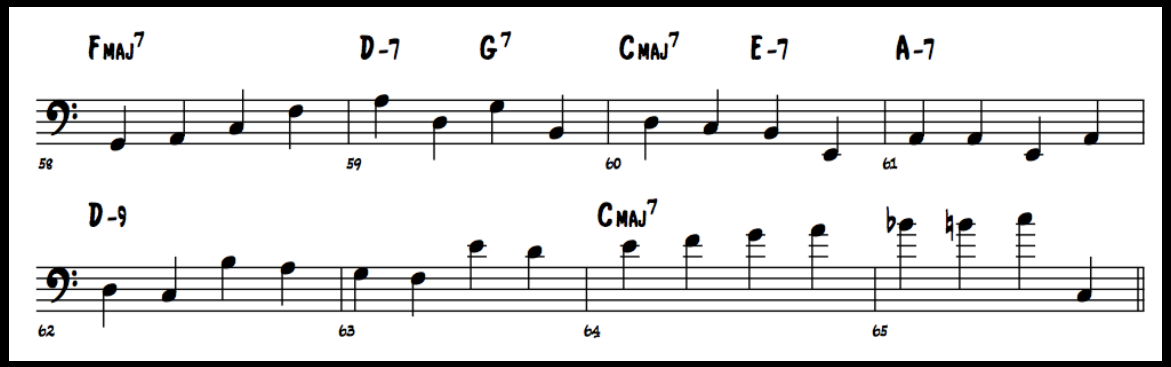
Israel Crosby on **But Not For Me (1958)**

- Melodic construction is also applied in his walking bass lines.
- Uses suspensions.

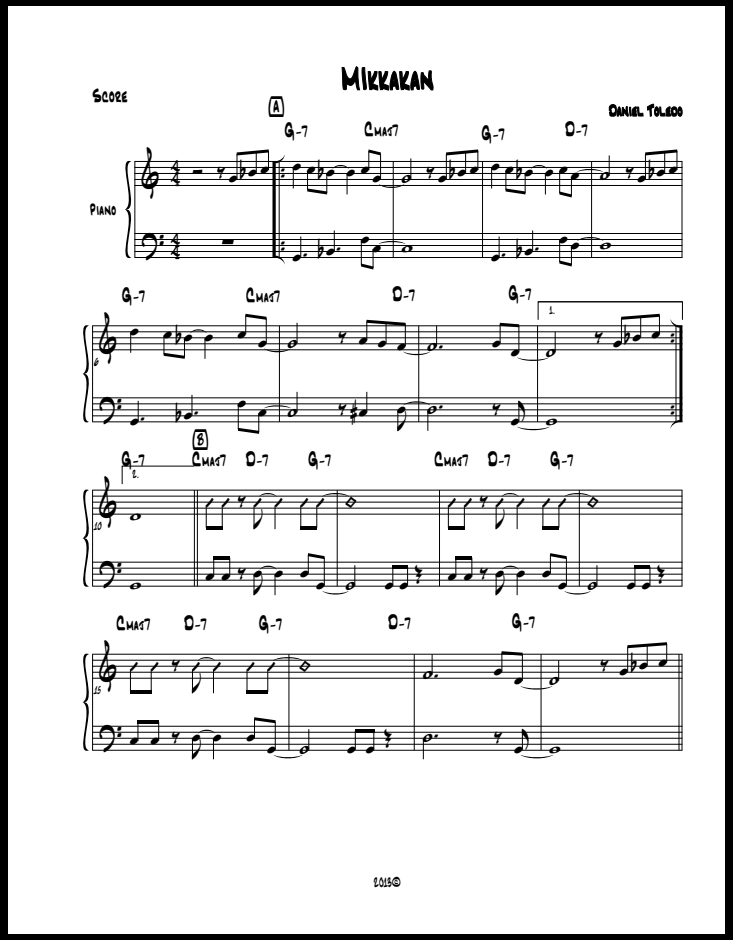


Israel Crosby on **But Not For Me (1958)**

- Use of chromatic notes is not very common.
- Characteristic chord tones.



Mikkakan


Mikkakan
Score
Daniel Toledo
Piano
A
B
G-7
Cmaj7
D-7
1.
2.
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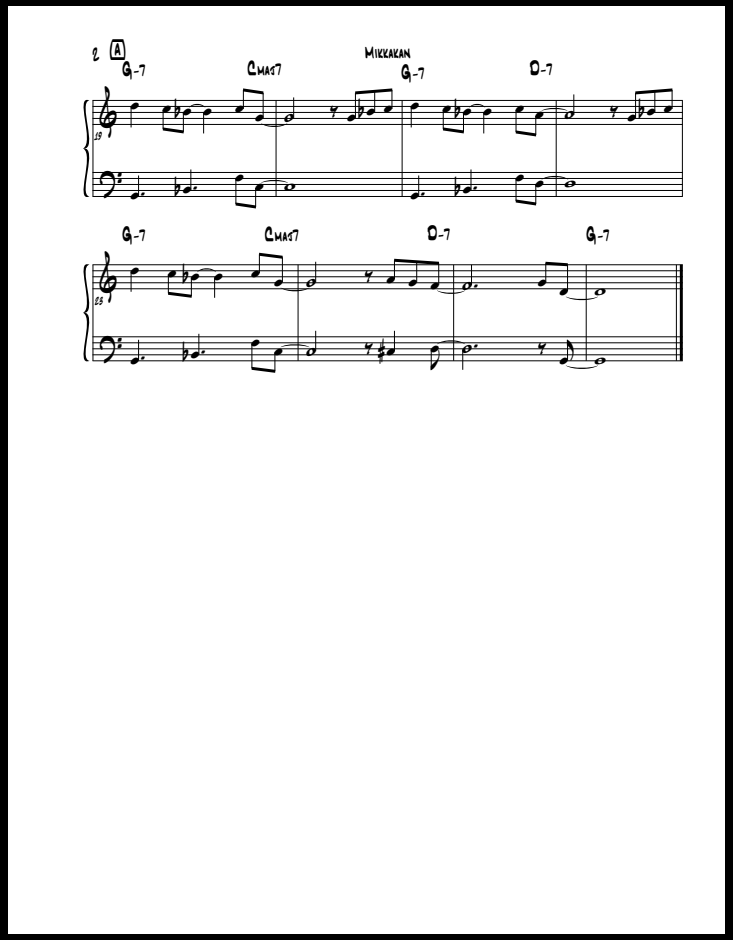
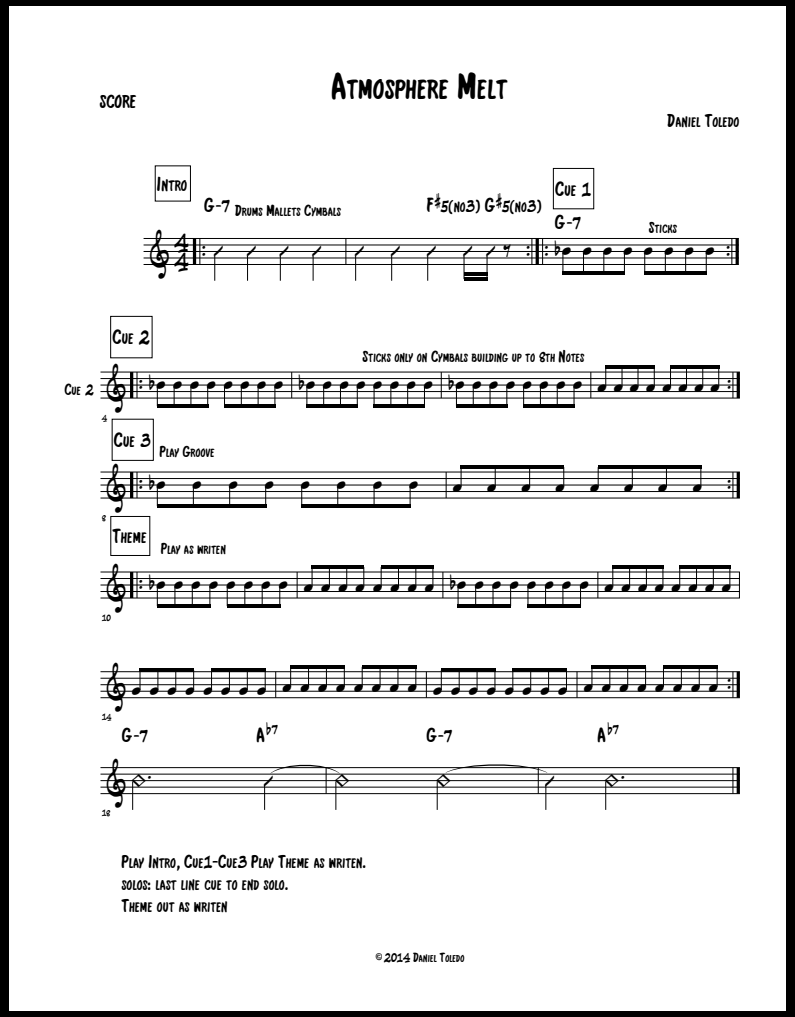

2
A
Mikkakan
G-7
Cmaj7
D-7

Mikkakan

- Basis of the composition.
- Concepts of bass line and melody.
- Harmony.
- Relationship with Israel Crosby.

Other Compositions: Atmosphere Melt



SCORE

ATMOSPHERE MELT

DANIEL TOLEDO

INTRO

G-7 DRUMS MALLETS CYMBALS

F♯5(NO3) G♯5(NO3)

CUE 1

G-7

STICKS

CUE 2

STICKS ONLY ON CYMBALS BUILDING UP TO 8TH NOTES

CUE 2

CUE 3

PLAY GROOVE

THEME

PLAY AS WRITEN

G-7 A♭7 G-7 A♭7

PLAY INTRO, CUE1-CUE3 PLAY THEME AS WRITEN.
SOLOS: LAST LINE CUE TO END SOLO.
THEME OUT AS WRITEN

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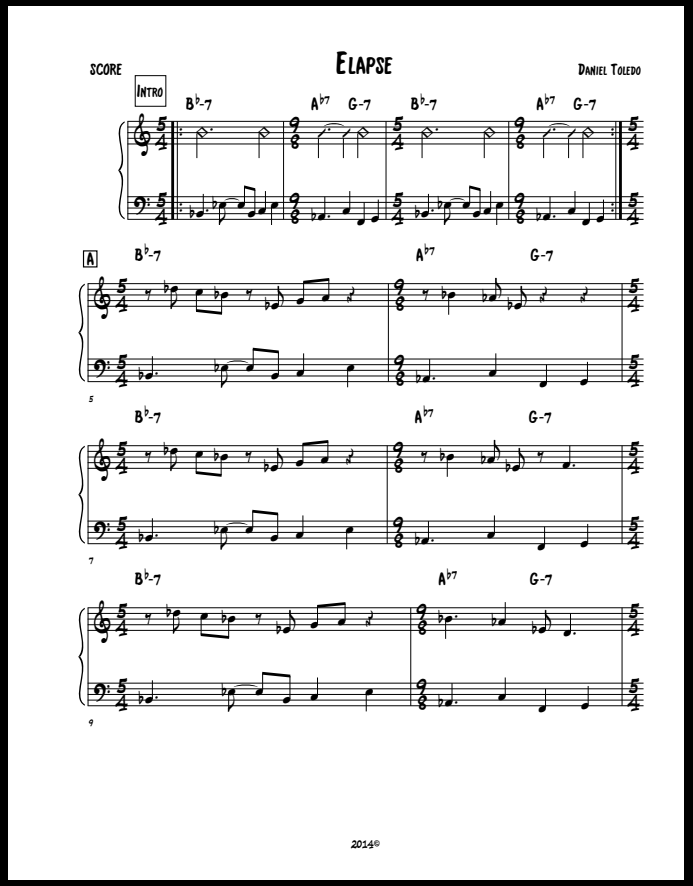
Elapse


SCORE
ELAPSE
DANIEL TOLEDO
INTRO
A
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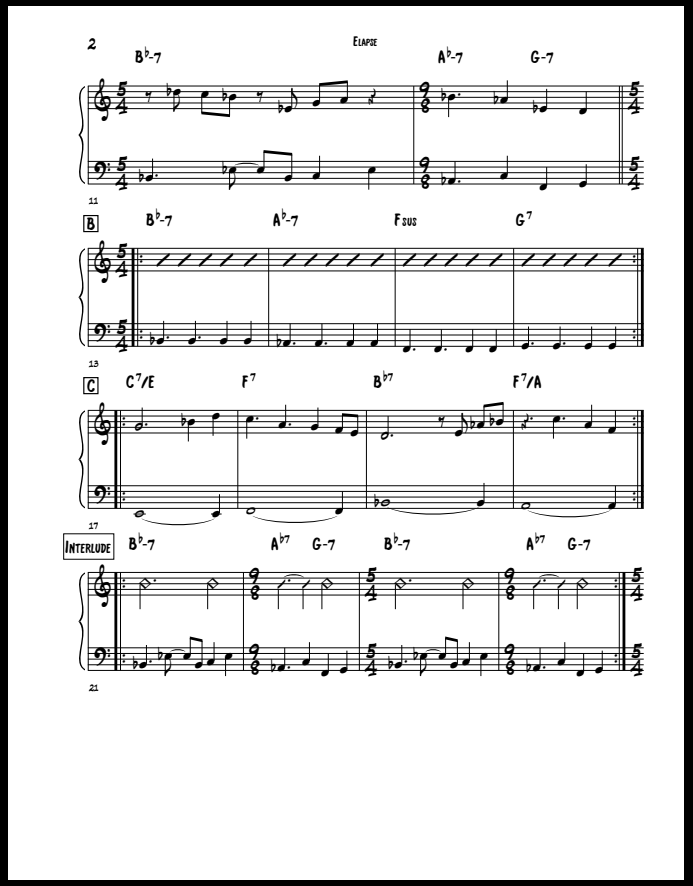
ELAPSE
B
C
INTERLUDE

Conclusion

- Way to accompany of the two bassists, the use of intervals in their lines.
- Voice leading.
- Bass line movement focused on outlining the chord.
- Resolving the bass line.

Thanks

- Trio Album coming up.
- More music and videos: www.dantbass.com

- Daniel Toledo.