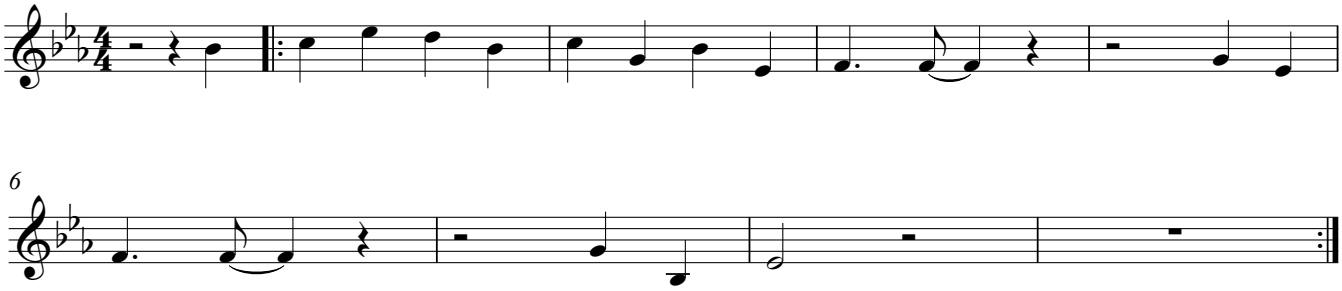
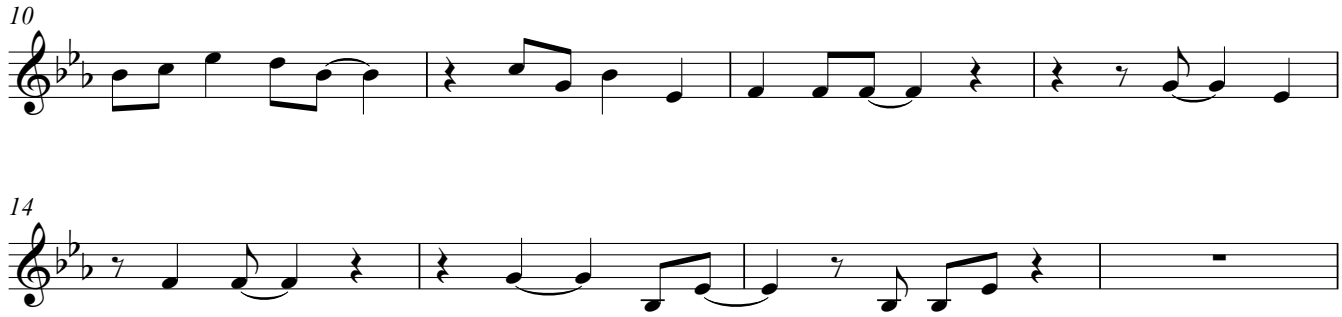
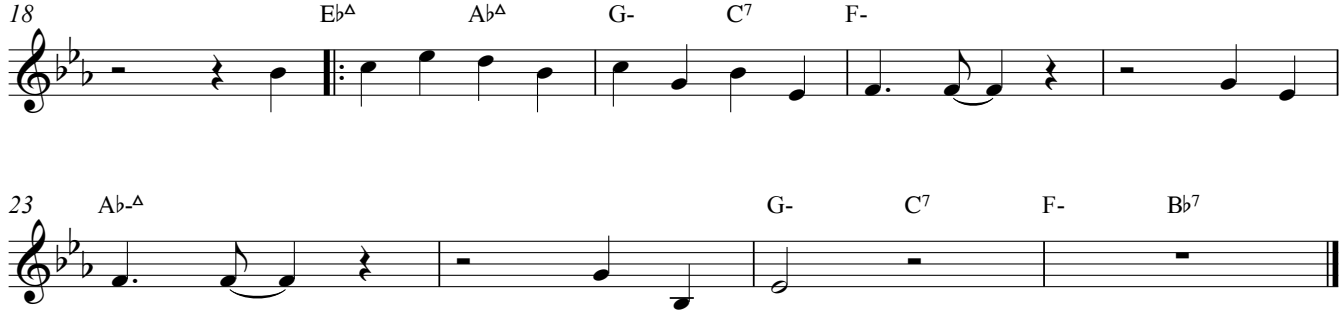
September In The Rain - Session 1 (Concert)

Session 1 focuses on the A section of the piece. The song follows a typical AABA form. The melody is notated below. Note that I have opted for the most simple rhythmic notation as a starting point - learning a melody in this way gives us the most freedom when we come to our personal interpretation of it.



Once this is internalised, it's useful to practice improvising without deviating from the melodic material, but altering the rhythm. Repeating notes or small sections of a phrase can have a great impact, as well as delaying and/or anticipating phrases.
An example is notated below:



The harmony in this section is typical of the functional movement found in Jazz standard compositons of this era.
One helpful way to think of it is a collection of common cadences or movements. In the order in which they appear, they are: (Imaj IVmaj III- VI7), (II- IV-) and (III- VI7 II- V7). The staffs below show the melody with chord symbols above. I recommend practicing the root movement along side the melody, keeping track of where the changes come in relation to the tune.