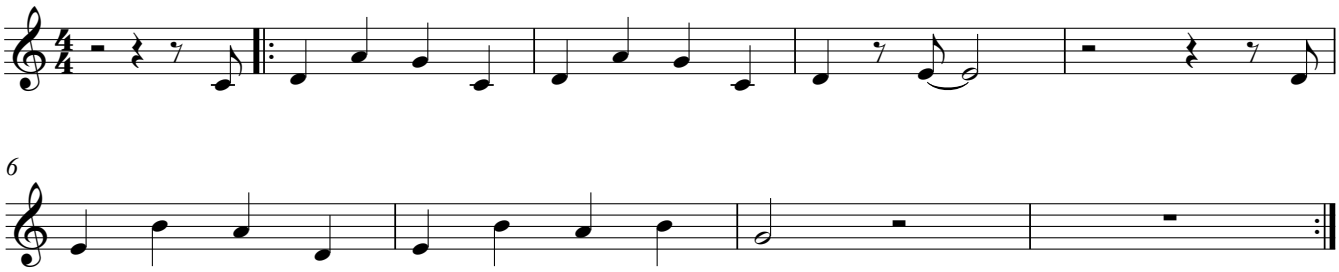
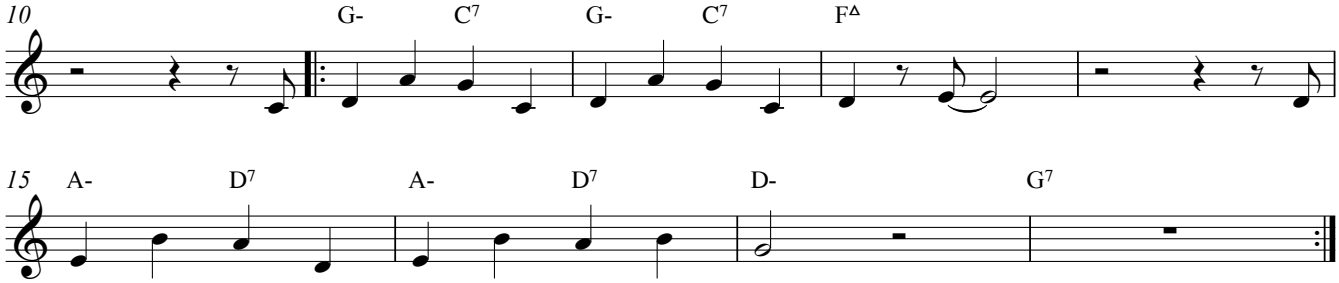
September In The Rain - Session 3 (Eb)

Session 3 is on the B section, or 'Bridge' of the piece. I suggest learning the melody first, as shown below:

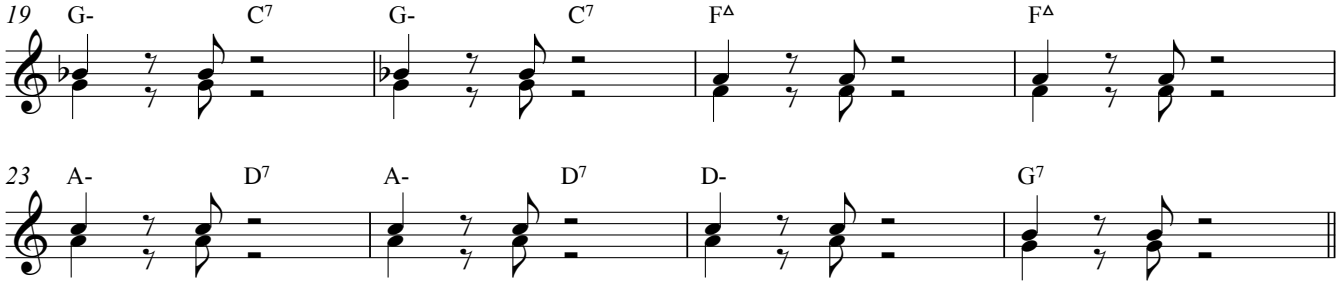
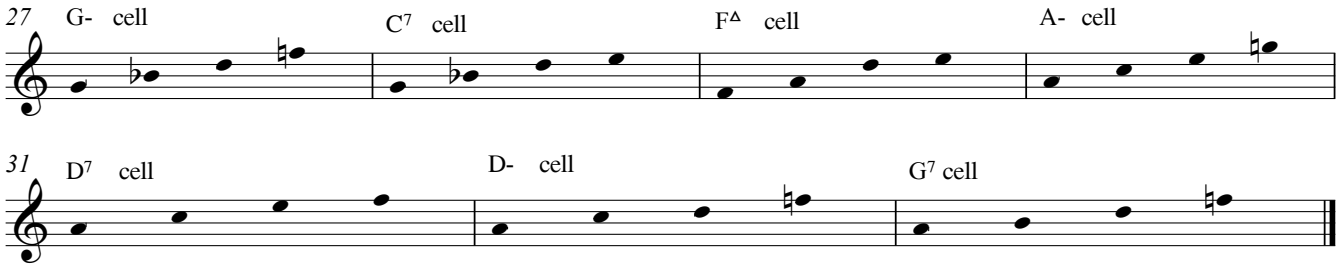


The way the melody transposes and repeats itself is a tool we can use while improvising. You will notice that by transposing a melodic idea and repeating it creates tension which is then released as you introduce a new idea.

Below is the section again, this time with the harmony marked on:



One way to help familiarise yourself with the sound of this root movement and the quality of each chord is to devise a 'guide tone' excercise or backing. The example below has a line made up of Roots and 5ths on the bottom and a line of 3rds and 7ths on the top. I have opted for minimal movement here, to help find smooth changes between the chords. Try recording yourself playing both these parts, or practice in a group and improvise over the top. As with all similar exercises, singing these parts will be very useful in developing your aural skills



Finally, I have suggested some 4 note cells which can be applied to this section. In this example I have chosen notes which outline the harmony, but also hint slightly at the melody. Try writing your own 4 note cells for each chord, you could focus solely on the harmonic movement - making use of the major 3rds on secondary dominant chords, or more specifically on the melody, making use of 9ths and 11ths on the minor chords.