LED ZEPPELIN

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

by Jimmy Page/Robert Plant
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STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

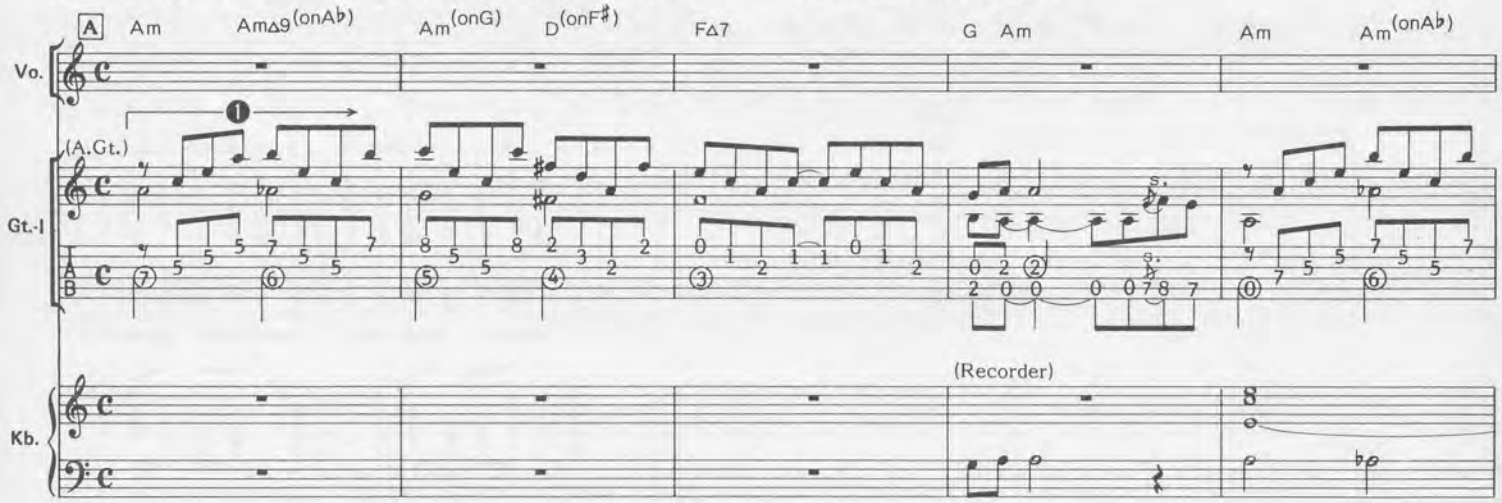
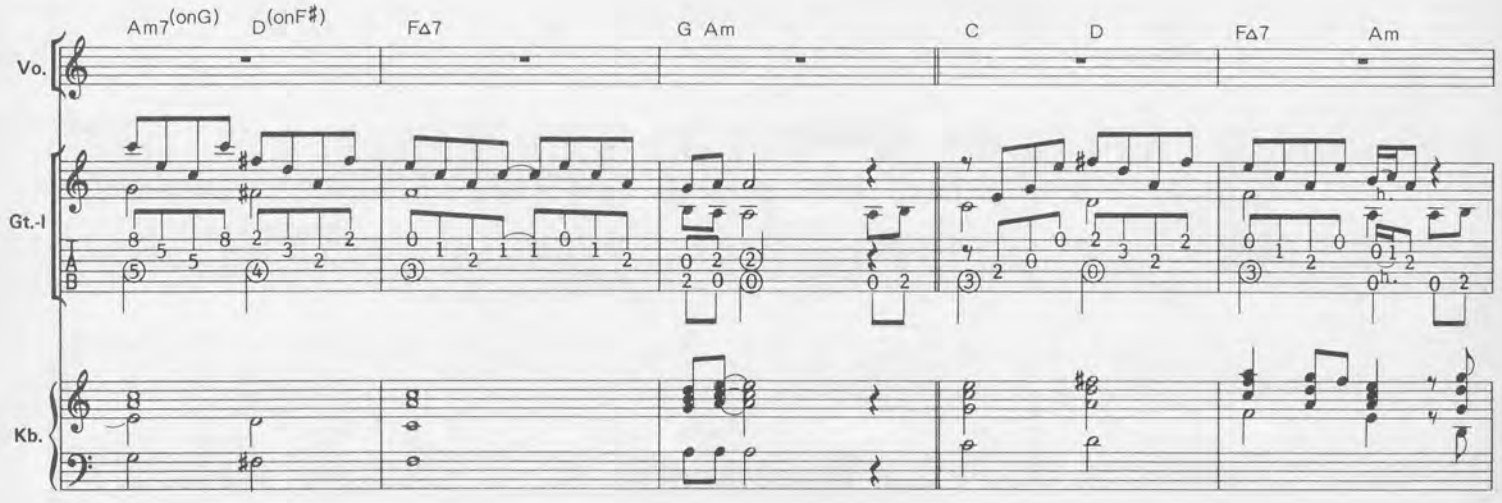
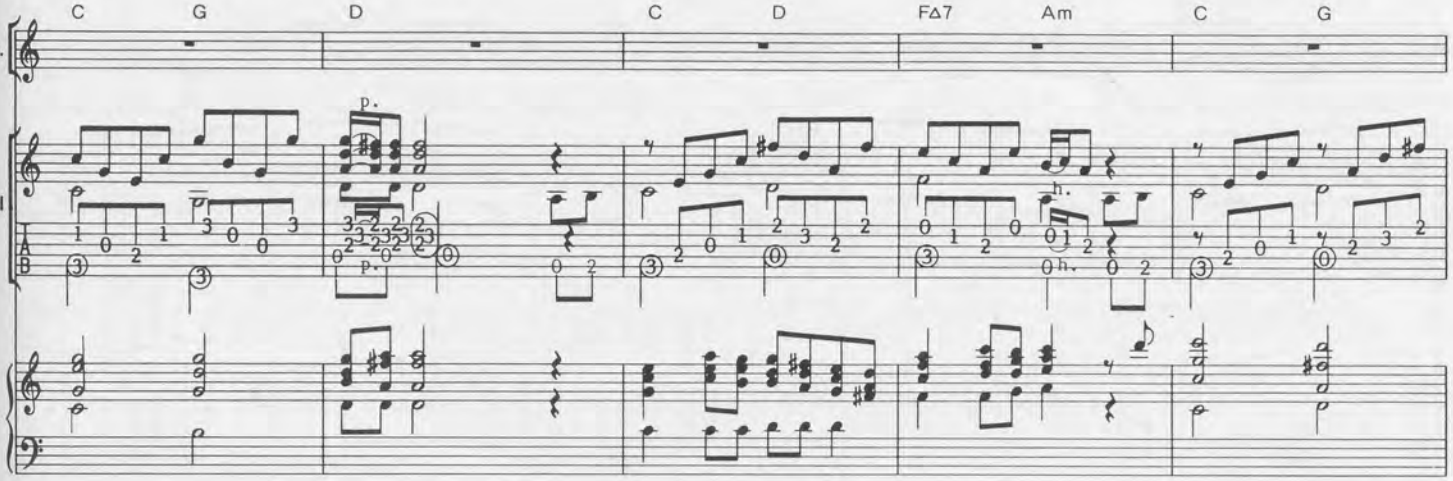
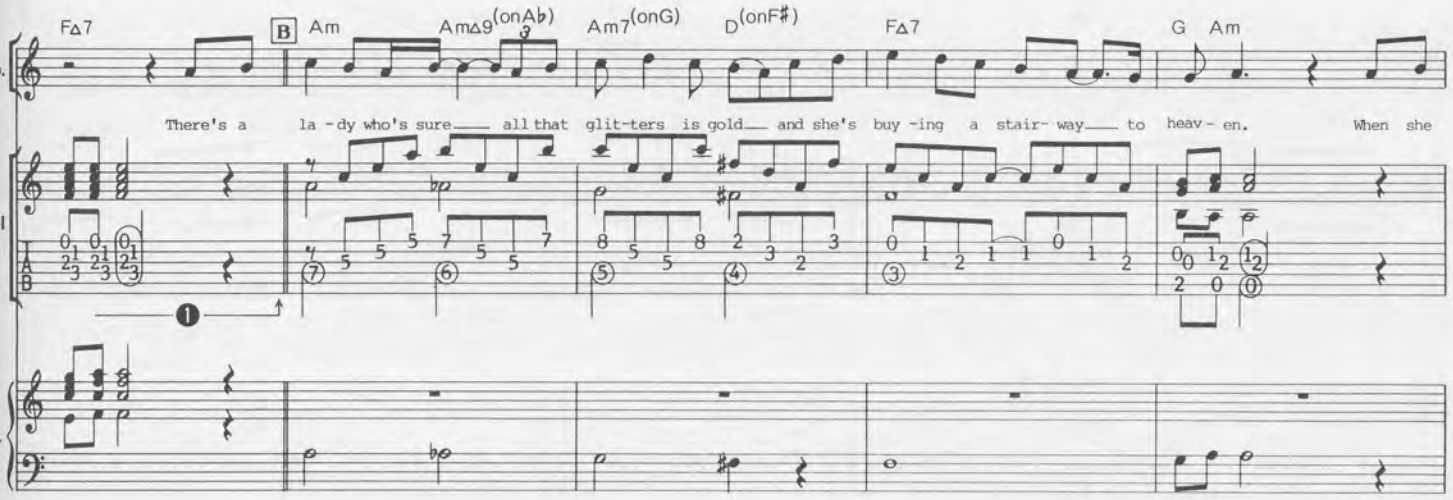
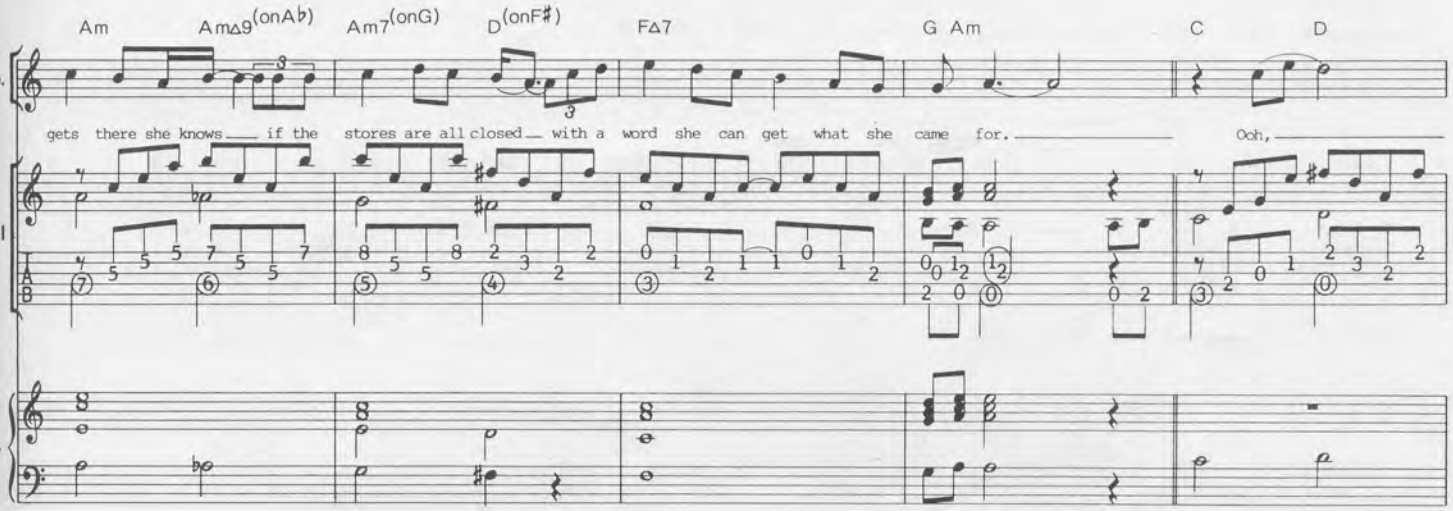
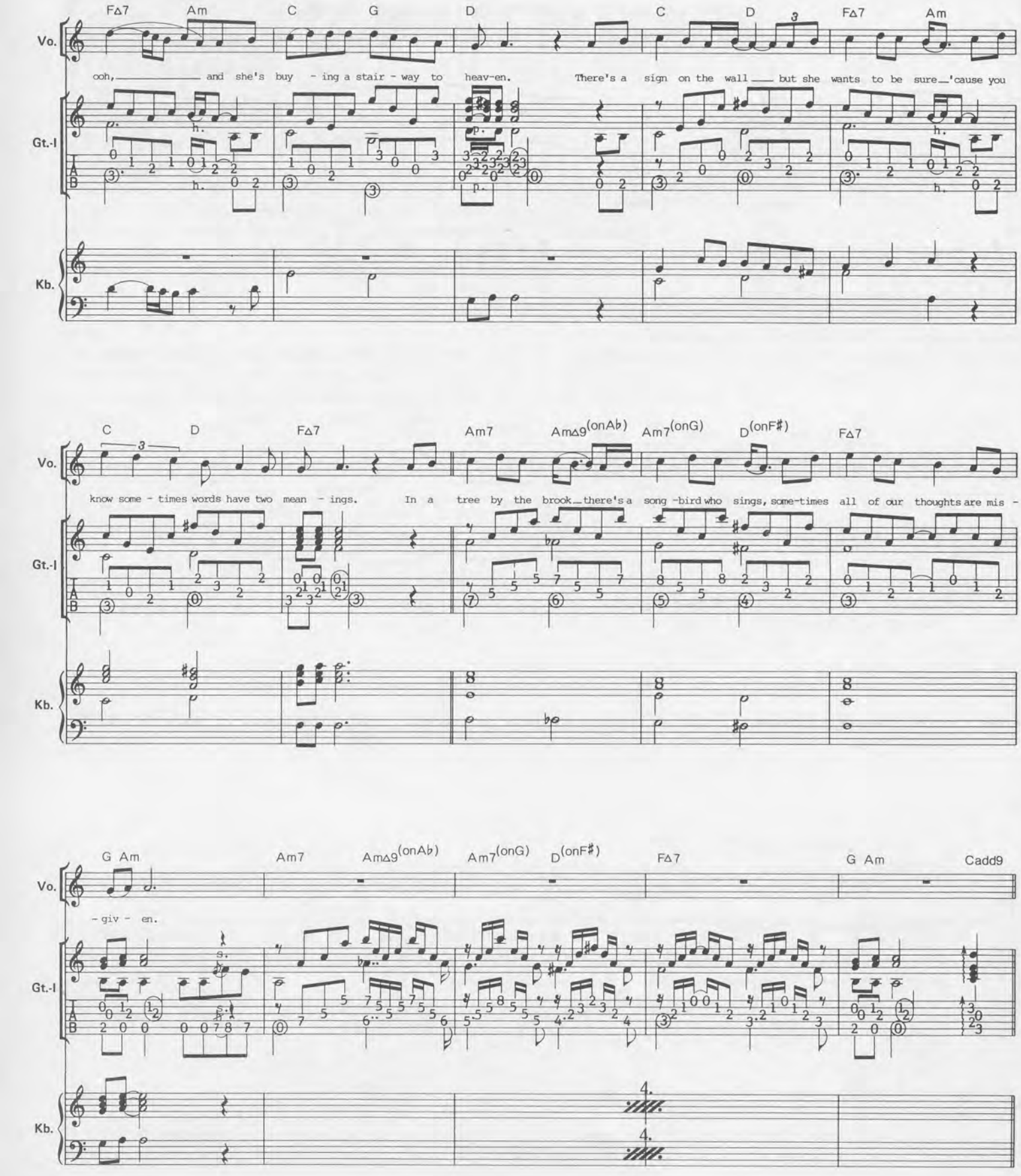
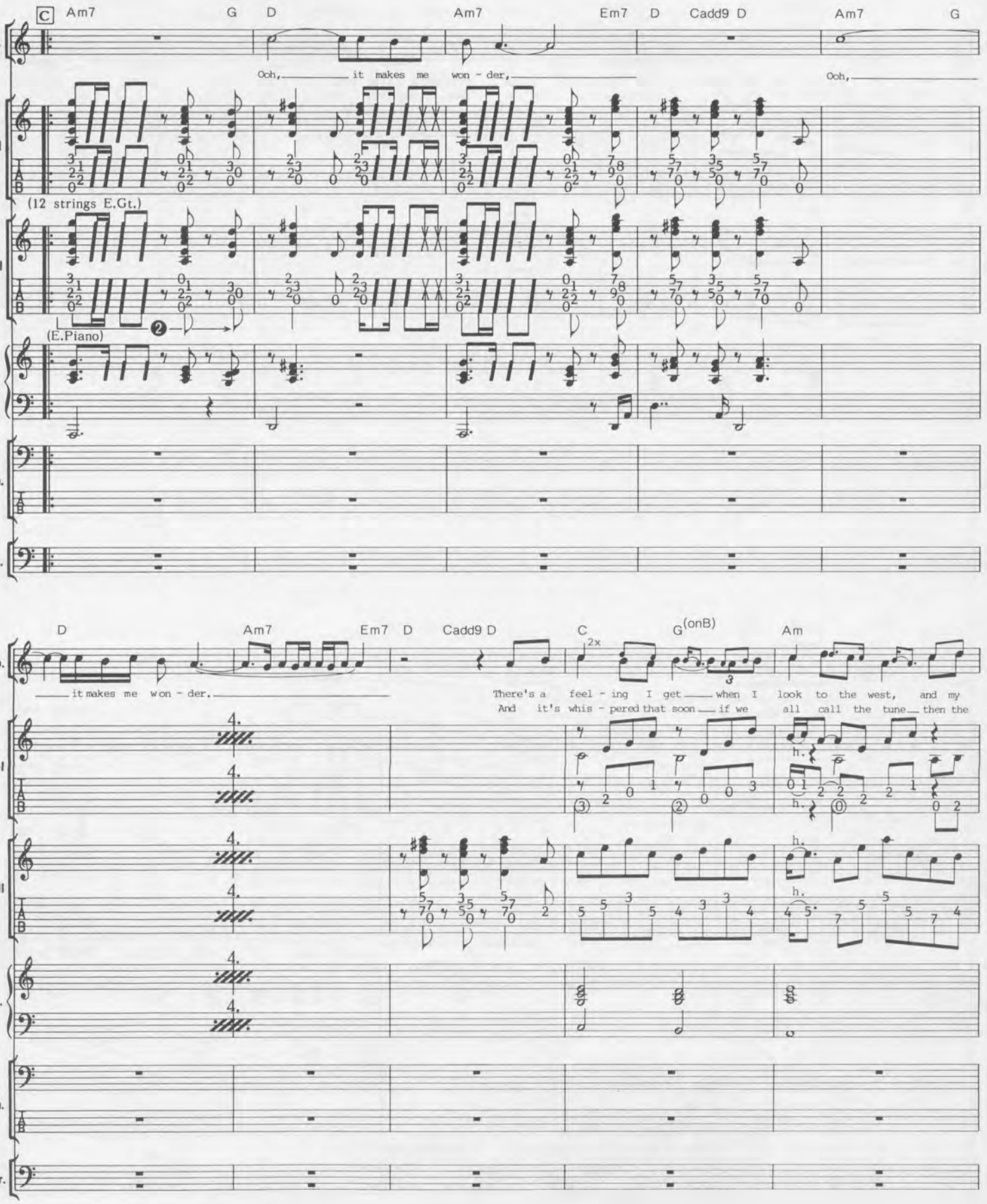
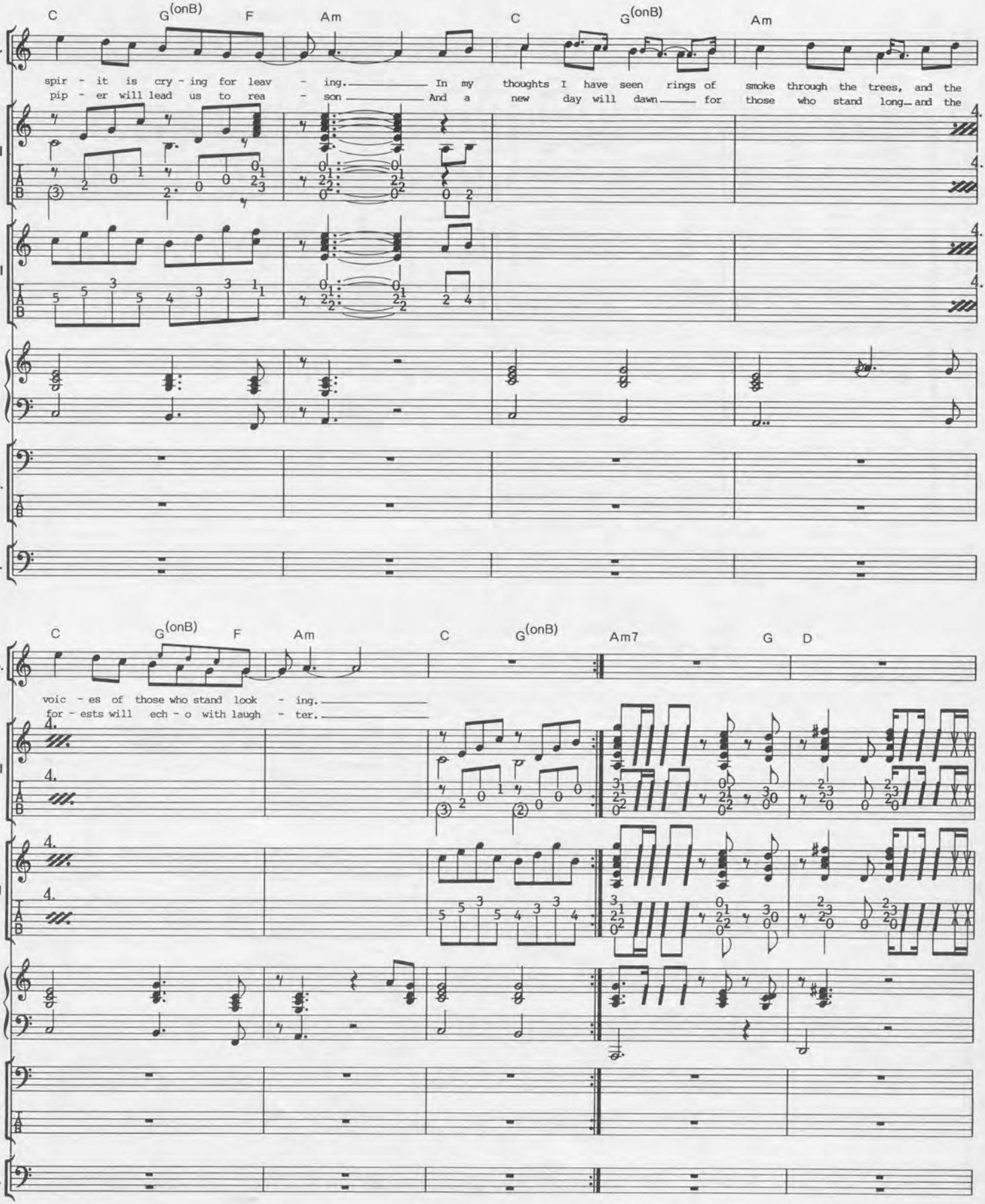
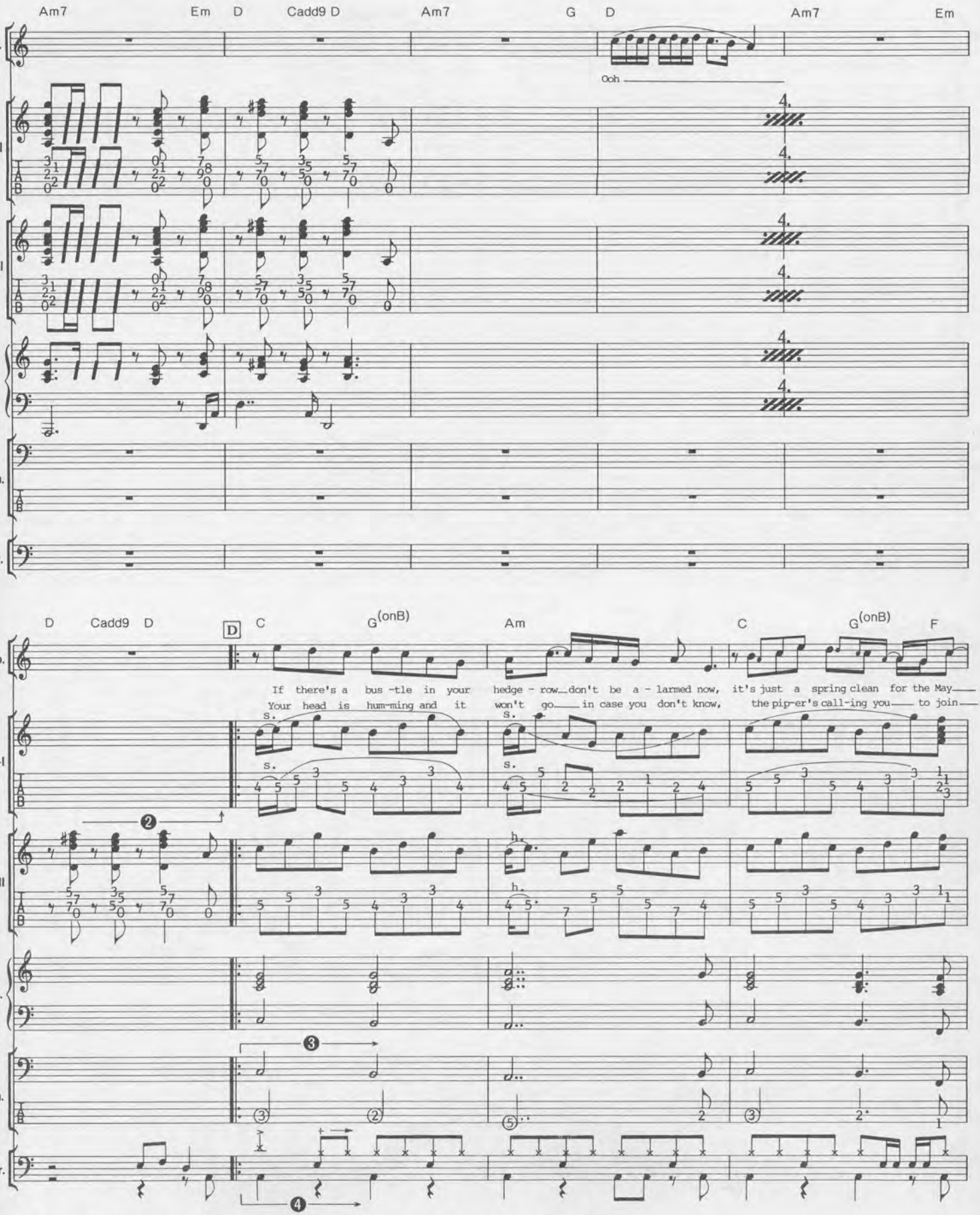
GUITAR

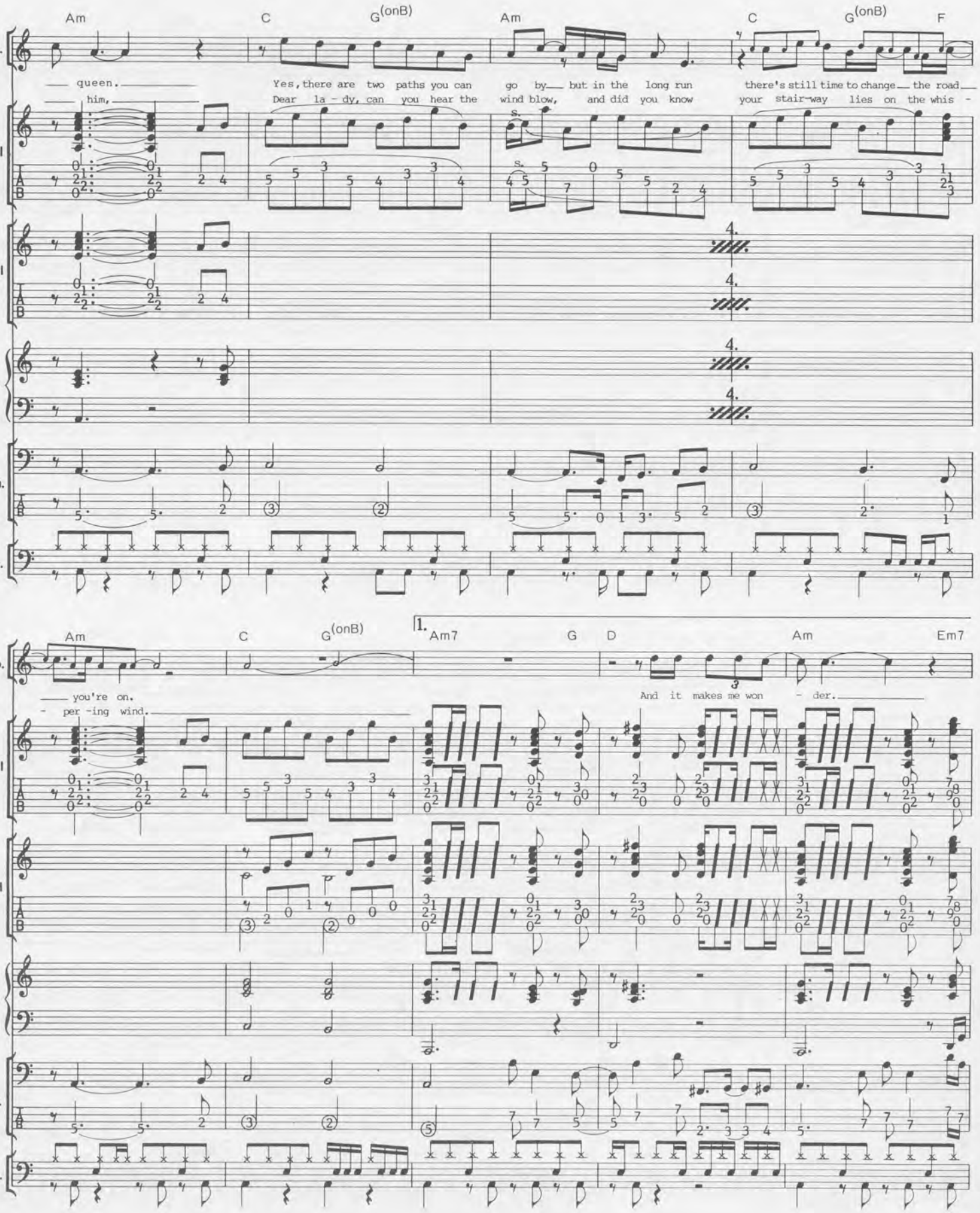
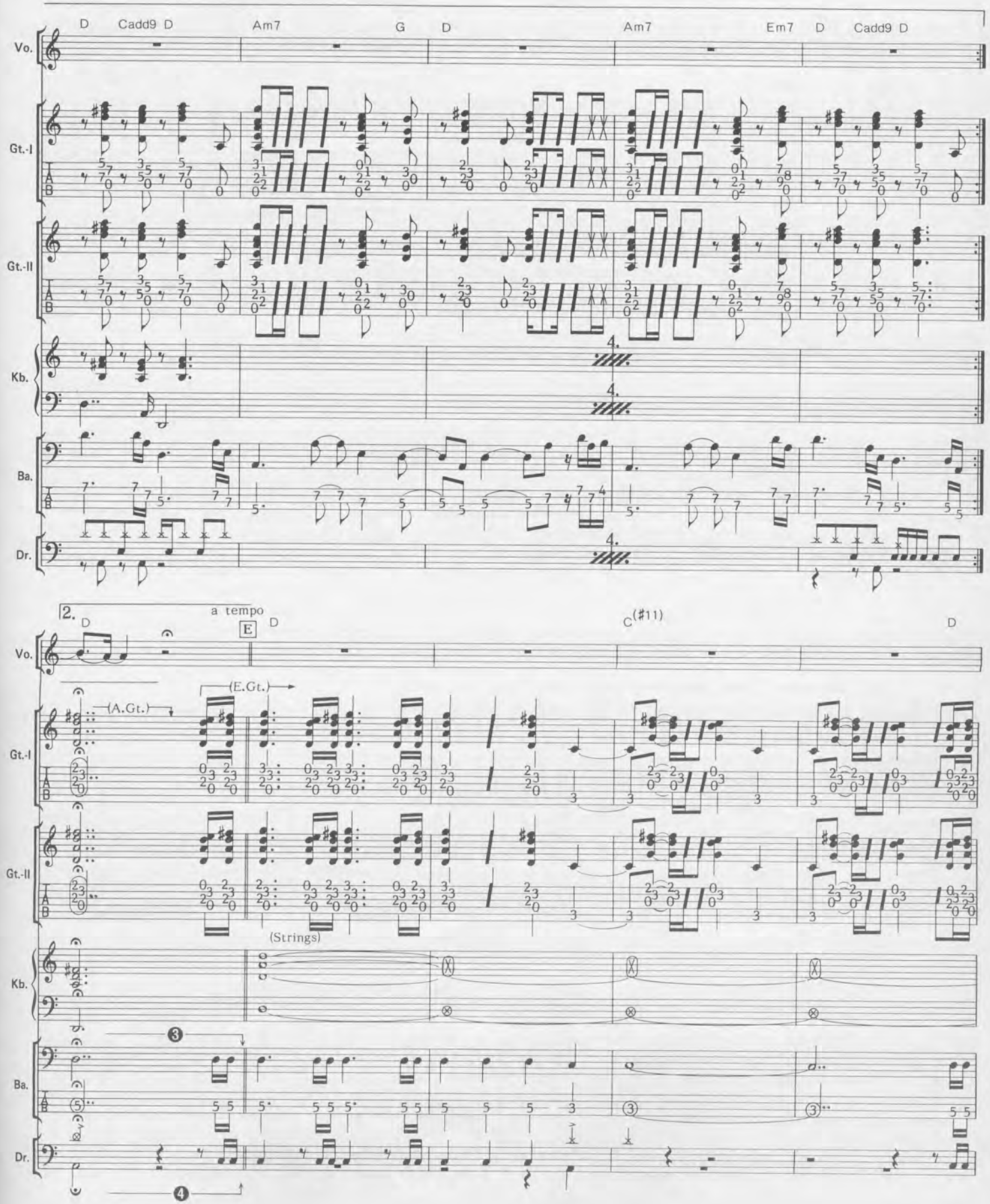
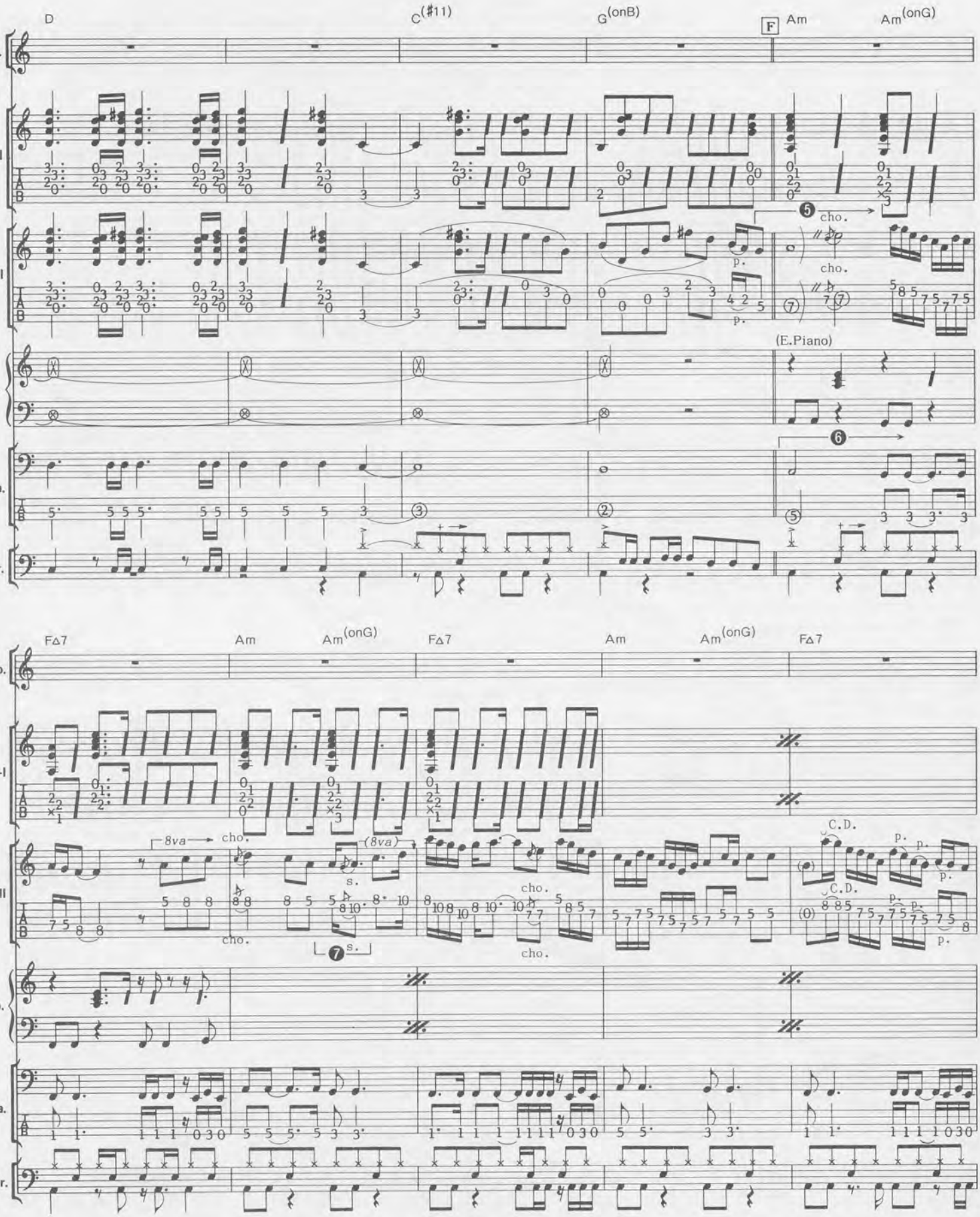
This famous song is a veritable compendium of the rock guitarist's skills. Perfect pickwork and subtle shading are what give the song its character. You will need to work carefully through each section, regarding each as equally important. If you do so, you will find that this one song can teach you a great deal.

BASS

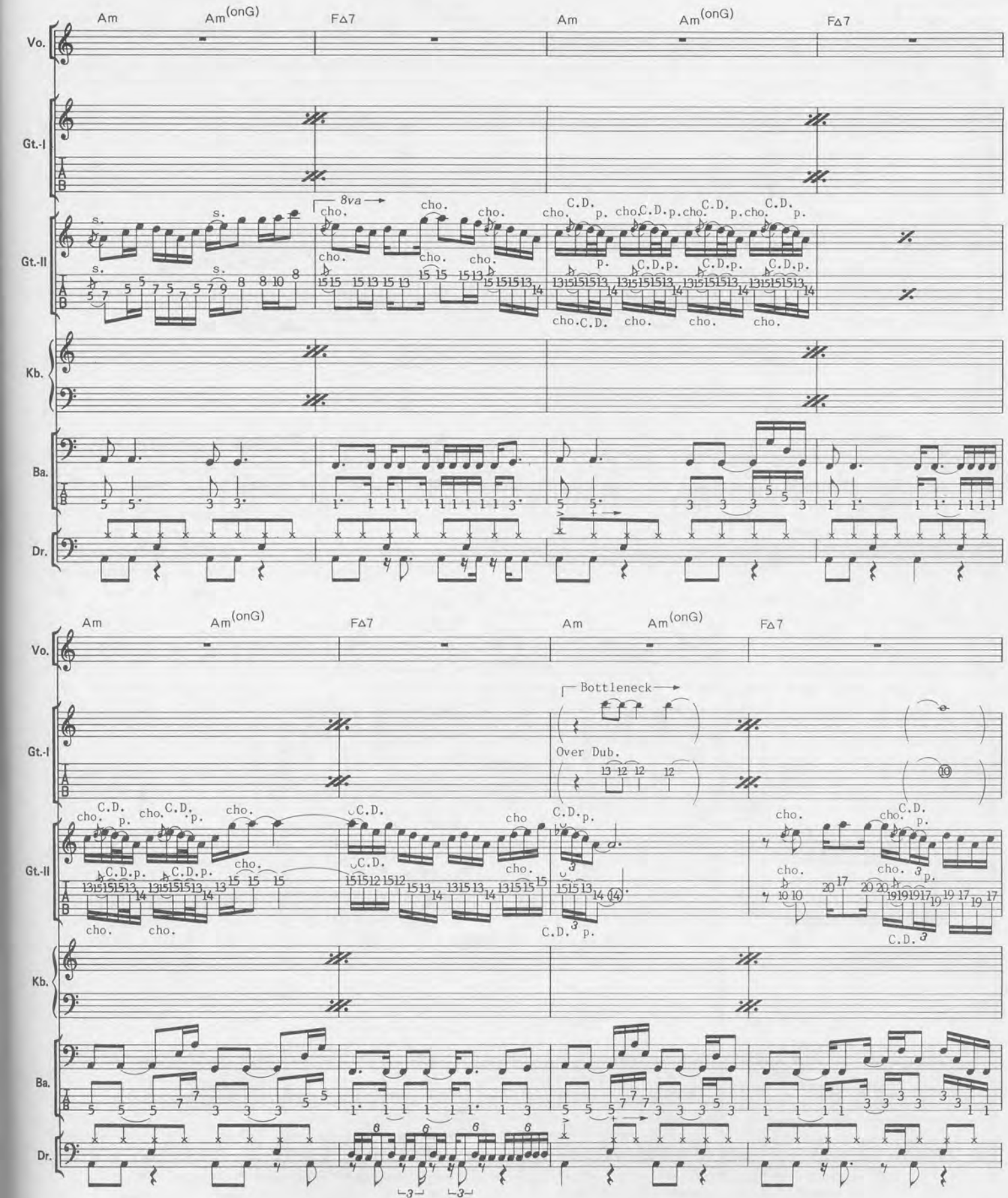
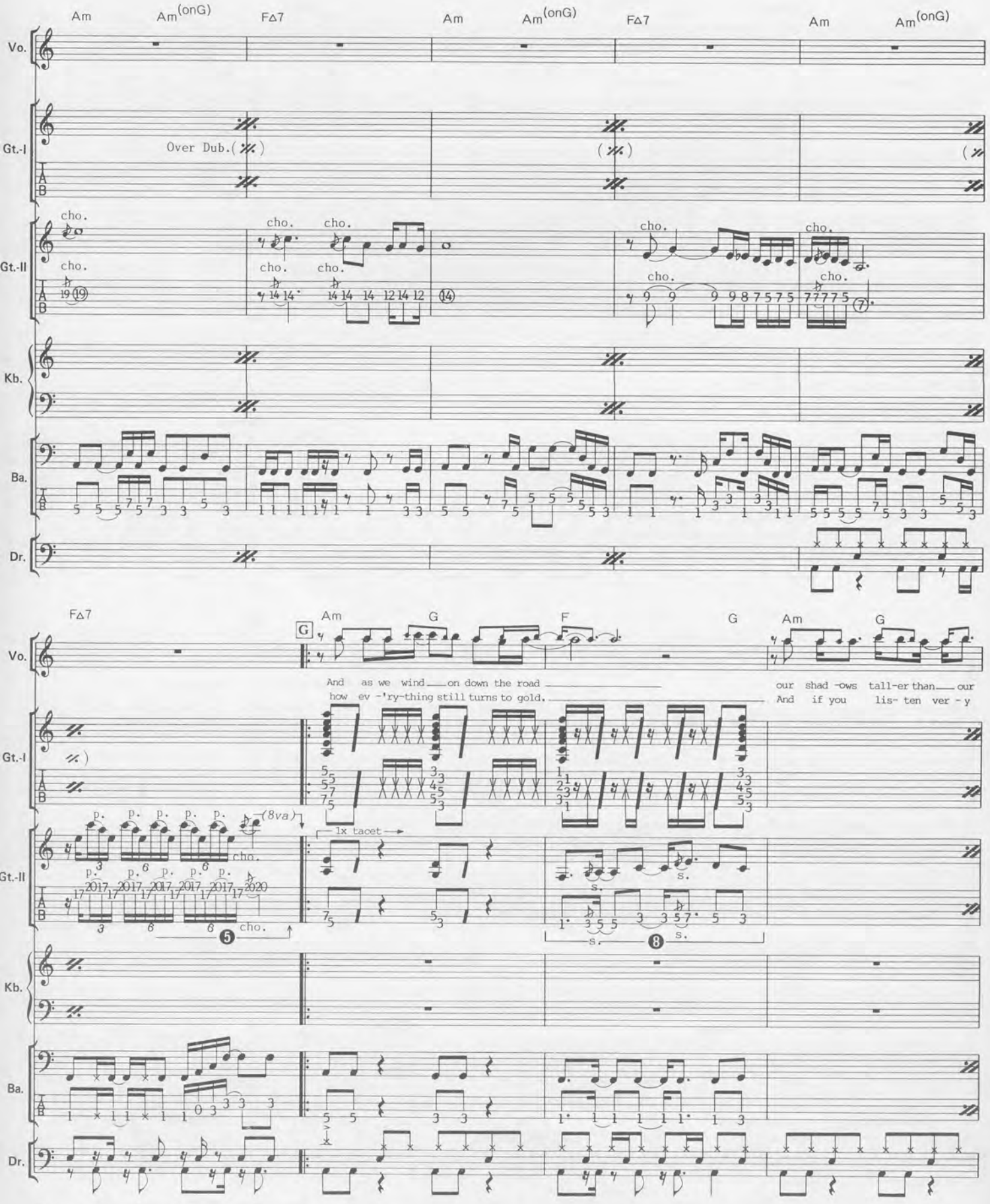
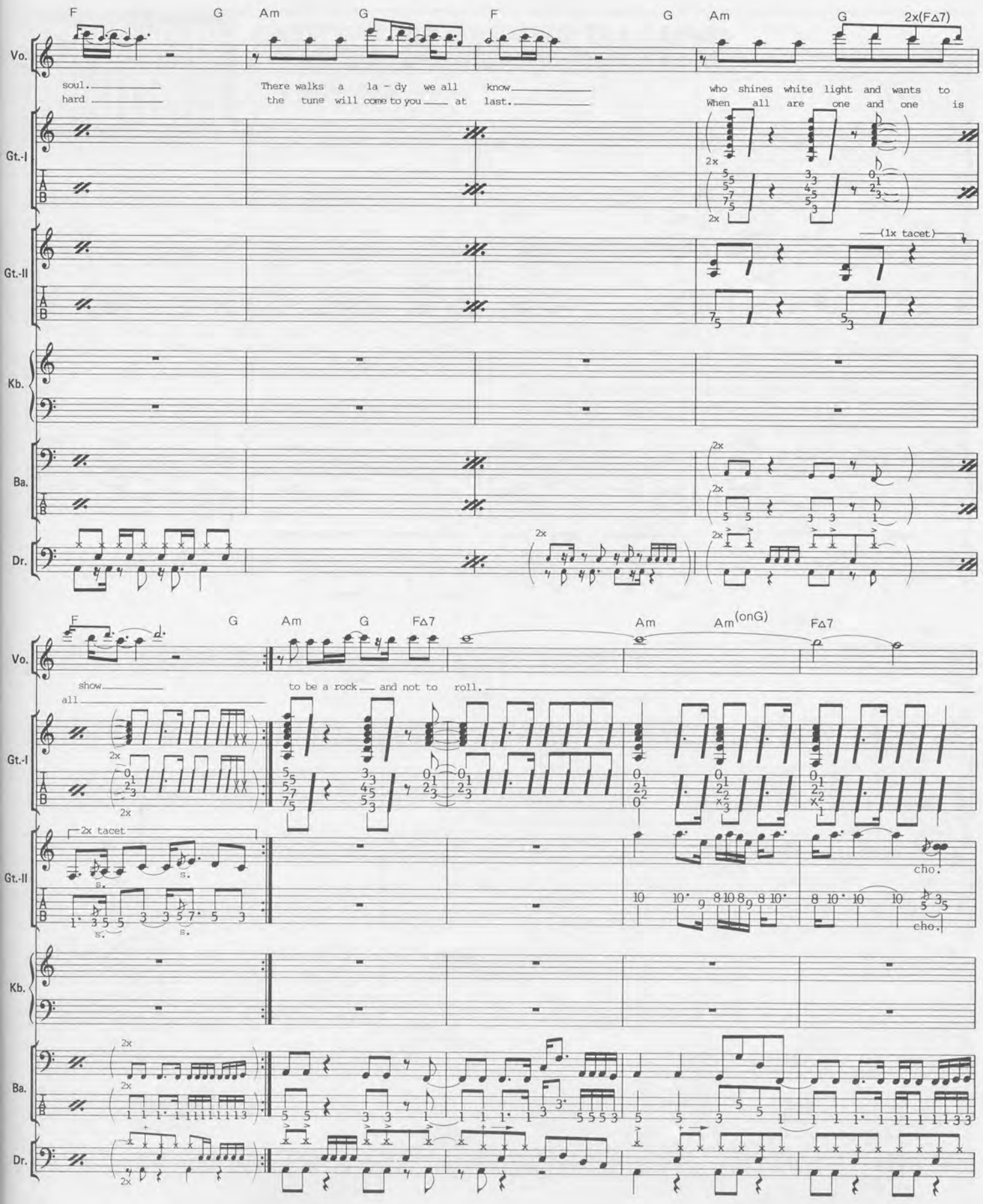
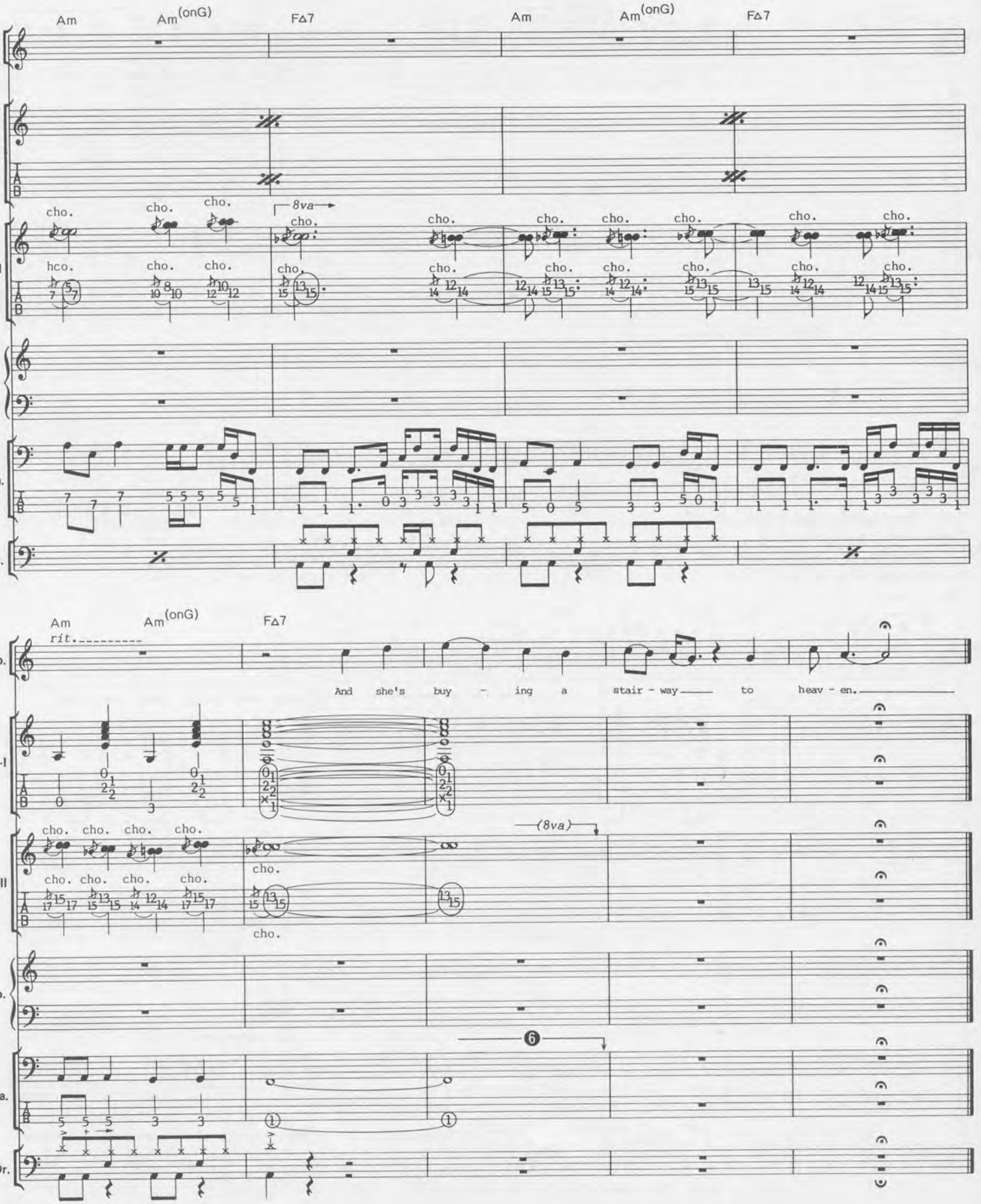
The gentle picking and relaxed feel of the first half followed by the dynamic attacking style of the second makes for quite a contrast. Melodious songs like this are very much affected by the rhythm of the bass playing, so all unevenness must be avoided to provide the right backing for the melody and the solo.

DRUMS

As with the bass, the first and second halves of the song contrast strongly with each other. The key is to get the feel of the whole before you begin, and get that into your head in order to be able to bring out the mood of the song. In particular, pay attention to the length of each individual beat and stay right with the guitar riff. The bass drum playing also calls for some technical skill, and must be clear at all times.

❶(Gt.) : It would be best to play these arpeggios with both pick and fingers together, but if you choose to use your fingers only, make sure you bring out the root note.

C G D C D F△7 Am C G
Vo.
Gt.-I
Kb.

F△7 B Am Am△9(onA♭) Am7(onG) D(onF♯) F△7 G Am
There's a la - dy who's sure all that glit-ters is gold and she's buy - ing a stair- way to heav - en. When she
Vo.
Gt.-I
Kb.

Am Am△9(onA♭) Am7(onG) D(onF♯) F△7 G Am C D
gets there she knows if the stores are all closed with a word she can get what she came for. Ooh,
Vo.
Gt.-I
Kb.

F△7 Am C G D C D F△7 Am
Vo.
ooh, and she's buy - ing a stair - way to heav-en. There's a sign on the wall but she wants to be sure 'cause you
Gt.-I
Kb.
C D F△7 Am7 Am△9(onA♭) Am7(onG) D(onF♯) F△7
Vo.
know some - times words have two mean - ings. In a tree by the brook there's a song -bird who sings, some-times all of our thoughts are mis -
Gt.-I
Kb.
G Am Am7 Am△9(onA♭) Am7(onG) D(onF♯) F△7 G Am Cadd9
Vo.
- giv - en.
Gt.-I
Kb.

❷(Gt.) : Jimmy is playing a 12 string electric here. If you have only a six string, add on a chorus box which will help you get close to the 12 string sound.

C
G(onB)
F
Am
C
G(onB)
Am
Vo.
spir - it is cry - ing for leav - ing. In my thoughts I have seen rings of smoke through the trees, and the
pip - er will lead us to rea - son And a new day will dawn for those who stand long and the
Gt.-I
Gt.-II
Kb.
Ba.
Dr.
C
G(onB)
F
Am
C
G(onB)
Am7
G
D
Vo.
voic - es of those who stand look - ing.
for - ests will ech - o with laugh - ter.
Gt.-I
Gt.-II
Kb.
Ba.
Dr.

❸(Ba.) : The sound should be big and broad. Watch the timing of the syncopation.

❹(Dr.) : A simple eight beat rhythm pattern. Take your time and let the rhythm swing easily.

Am C G(onB) Am C G(onB) F
Vo.
queen.
him.
Yes, there are two paths you can go by but in the long run there's still time to change the road
Dear la - dy, can you hear the wind blow, and did you know your stair-way lies on the whis -
Gt.-I
Gt.-II
Kb.
Ba.
Dr.
Am C G(onB) 1. Am7 G D Am Em7
you're on.
- per -ing wind.
And it makes me won - der.

D Cadd9 D Am7 G D Am7 Em7 D Cadd9 D
Vo.
Gt.-I
Gt.-II
Kb.
Ba.
Dr.
4.
2.
D
a tempo
E
D
C(♯11)
D
(A.Gt.)
(E.Gt.)
(Strings)
❸
❹

❺(Gt.) : 16th note phrasing; watch the accents on the bends.

❻(Ba.) : Make the most of the lightness of the 16th note phrases and stay right with the bass drum.

❼(Gt.) : A slide technique on the same note used when changing phrases - practise this until you can manage it in any position.

Am
Am(onG)
F△7
Vo.
Gt.-I
Gt.-II
Kb.
Ba.
Dr.
8va
cho.
C.D.
p.
s.
Bottleneck
Over Dub.

❽(Gt.) : The timing of the syncopation needs to be spot on here in order to fill the gaps in the vocal line precisely.

F G Am G F G Am G 2x(FΔ7)
Vo.
soul. There walks a la - dy we all know
hard the tune will come to you at last.
who shines white light and wants to
When all are one and one is
Gt.-I
Gt.-II
(1x tacet)
Kb.
Ba.
Dr.
2x
F G Am G FΔ7 Am Am(onG) FΔ7
show to be a rock and not to roll.
all
2x tacet
cho.

Am
Am(onG)
F△7
Am
Am(onG)
F△7
Vo.
Gt.-I
Gt.-II
Kb.
Ba.
Dr.
cho.
8va
Am
Am(onG)
F△7
rit.
And she's buy - ing a stair - way to heav - en.
(8va)
6