Deciphering an Arrangement from Ted Greene

Copied by David Oakes

A note from David Oakes: I was very fortunate to have been able to study the guitar with Ted Greene. My lesson was usually on the 4th Thursday of every month at 12:00 between 1987 and 1992. I don't think that I ever walked out of a lesson without being very inspired to work hard and develop my knowledge of the fingerboard and how harmony works in music. Ted, as with most of his students, enjoyed the time we spent together. He was very appreciative of the fact that I would always walk in with some work in progress that he could have some direct input on. I spent most of 1991 working on incorporating walking bass lines into chord melody arrangements. This is an arrangement that Ted shared with me. I don't know if this arrangement is on Ted's tribute page, but if it isn't, I have included the page he shared with me.

I understand why Ted wrote out his arrangements in chord box notation, but I always needed to decipher his boxes into musical notation. That made it easier for me to see how he made his arrangement, find moving voices and better understand the chord voicing as well as the resolution of the voicing that he was using.

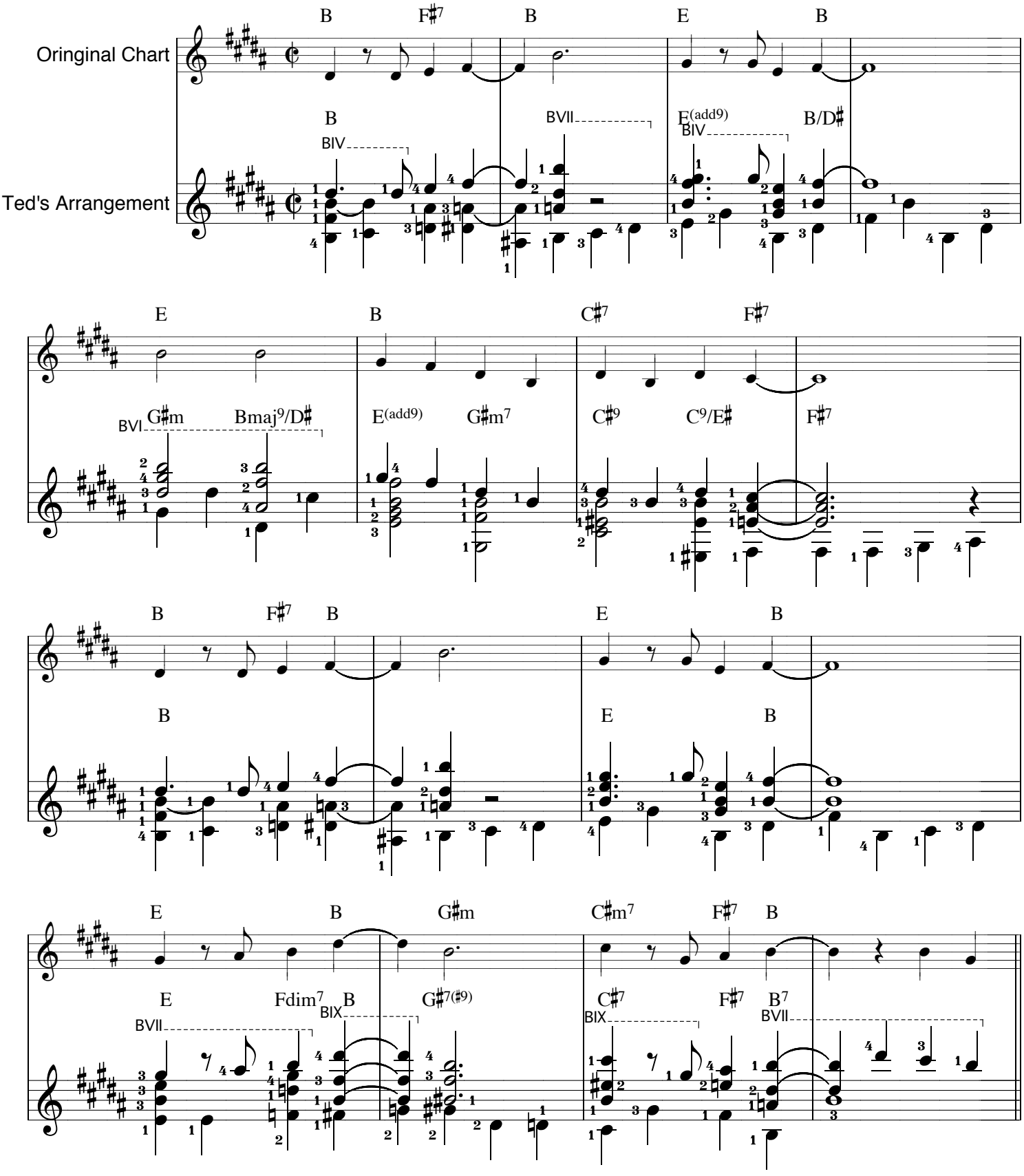
This arrangement incorporates the use of fill progressions quite often. The phrasing on the original song seems a little irregular and chords change in unusual spots. Still Ted is able to keep a bass line walking throughout the arrangement. The original harmony of the song is very simple and Ted's arrangement also adds some beautiful extensions, voice leading and in some phrases, reharmonization of the progression. This particular arrangement is notated as he wrote it. Ted played this arrangement very quickly and thought of the chord boxes moving in eighth notes. I turned the eighth notes into quarter notes and put the arrangement into cut time. That allowed his arrangement to match up with the original music. It also in my mind makes his arrangement more understandable. Now that I have done this work, it is very easy for me to go back and work from his paper if needed.

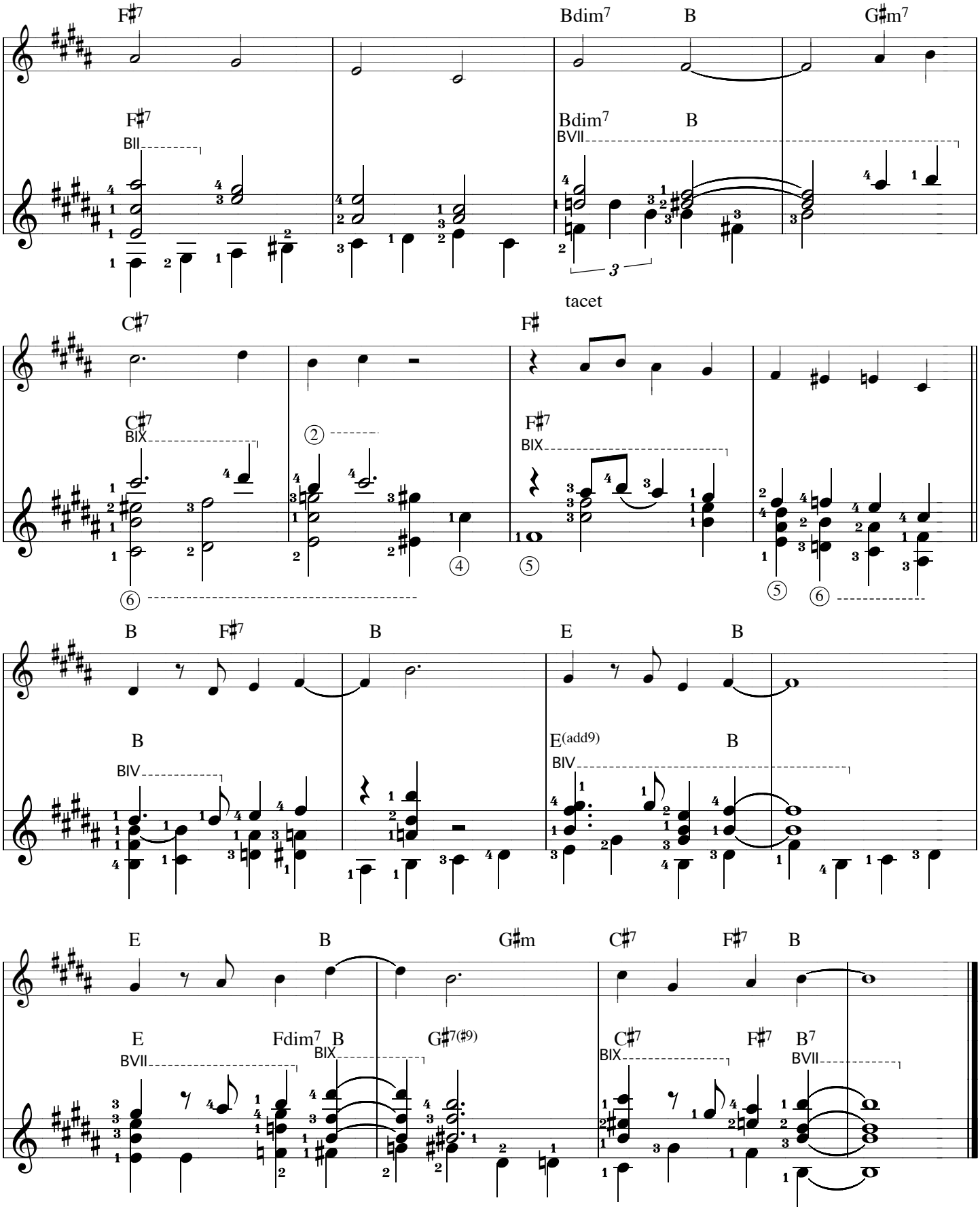
I hope that you enjoy this post,

David Oakes
March 28, 2010

ZIP-A-DEE-DOO-DAH

Ray Gilbert & Allie Wrubel
Arrangement by Ted Greene




F♯7
Bdim7
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E(add9)
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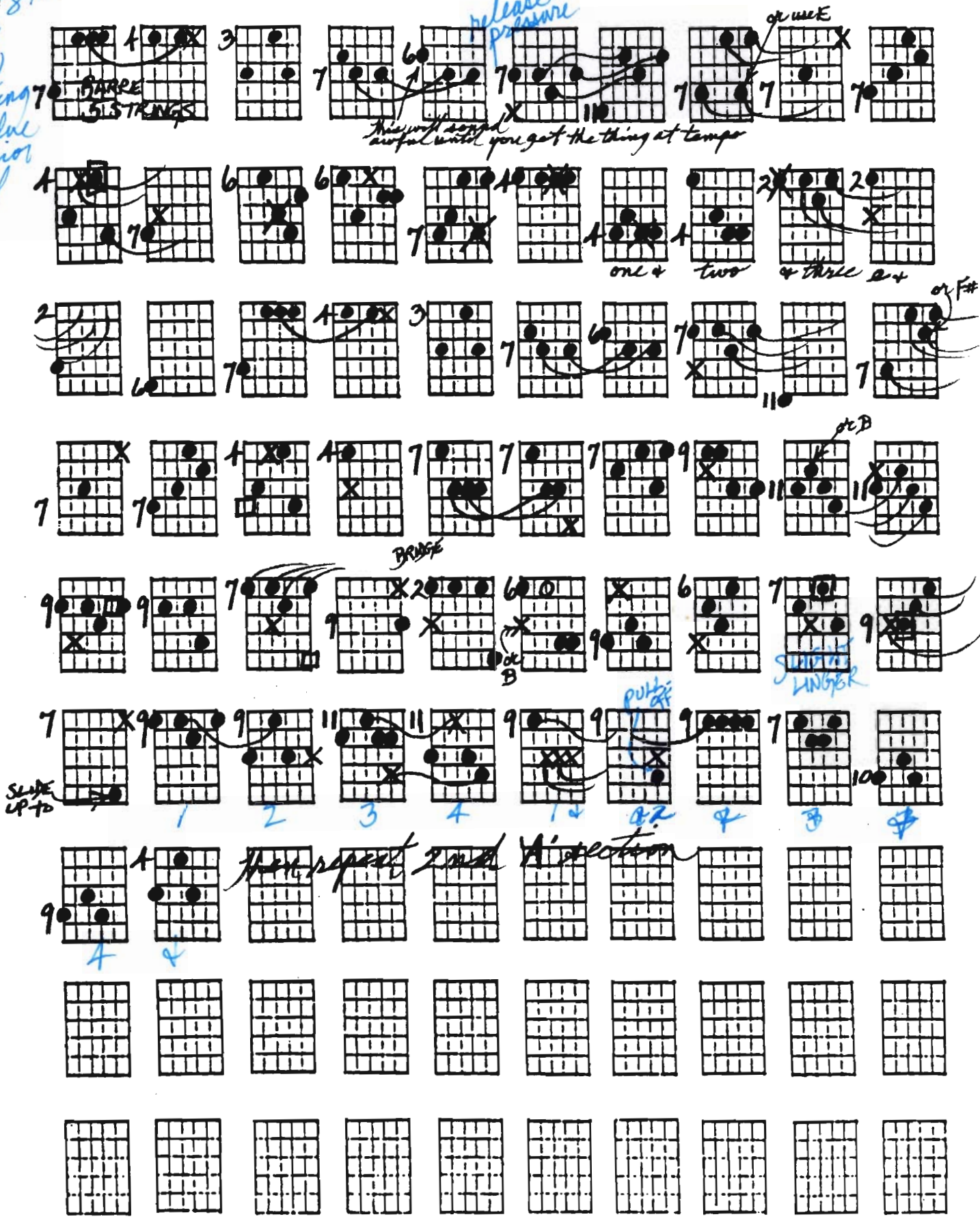
F♯7
Fdim7
G♯7(♯9)
B7

9-19-91
OCT. 17 Thurs. 12:00

ZIP A DEE DOO DAH

©6-16-90
Ted Greene

generally very B
8ths
with a few hopping 16ths due to prior dotted 8ths