

The background is a light blue-grey color, decorated with large, expressive brushstrokes in blue and orange. These strokes are located in the corners and along the sides, creating a dynamic, artistic frame for the text.

PIANO PICNIC

LET'S PLAY!

RIFFING IN
DIFFERENT
STYLES

RIFFING

In this package you will find:

- 6 backing tracks of different styles and tempos (individual tracks listed on following pages).
- a 60 minute video lesson outlining 15 new riffs (in three musical styles) for you to try.
- Extension exercises (within the video) to challenge your skill and creativity.
- This cheatsheet.
- A bonus extra tip to help soup up your chords (at the very end of the video lesson).



HOW TO

Here is a breakdown of how to use this course:

1. **Watch** through the video until you come to the first riff. Pause the video and practise this riff on your piano.
 2. Once you feel comfortable, **continue** the video until the next extension of that same riff (usually there are several options of playing the same riff pattern) and pause to practise.
 3. Continue through **each of the 5 riffs** of the style, then when you see that a NEW style is being explained pause the video and head to the **backing tracks**.
 4. Start with the **slow tempo track** of the style and practise the riffs you've learned.
 5. Try the **fast tempo track** with the same riffs, then mix up some of the riff patterns together.
 6. **Continue this process** with the remaining styles.
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TRACK LISTING



1. Jazz slow tempo - key of G major - using chords I, IV, V.

2. Jazz fast tempo - key of G major - using chords I, IV, V.

3. Pop ballad slow tempo - key of G major - using chords I, IV, ii, V.

4. Pop blues fast tempo - key of F major - using chords V, IV, I.

5. Classical new age slow - key of G major - using chords I, IV, V.

6. Classical new age slow - key of E minor - descending bassline with E minor chord.



If you prefer notation to check you are playing the patterns correctly, they are in the remaining pages.

JAZZ RIFF 1

Jazz Riff Pattern 1 - Stride bass

G C D Em

Musical notation for Jazz Riff Pattern 1 - Stride bass. The notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four measures. The treble clef part has whole rests in all measures. The bass clef part shows a stride bass pattern: Measure 1 (G4, G3), Measure 2 (A4, G3), Measure 3 (B4, A3), and Measure 4 (C5, B2).

JAZZ RIFF 1

Jazz Riff Pattern 2 - Stride treble

G

Musical notation for Jazz Riff Pattern 2 - Stride treble. The notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four measures. The treble clef part shows a stride treble pattern: Measure 1 (G4, G3), Measure 2 (A4, G3), Measure 3 (B4, A3), and Measure 4 (C5, B2). The bass clef part has whole rests in all measures.



JAZZ RIFF 3

Jazz Riff Pattern 3 - Ripple chords

The musical notation for Jazz Riff Pattern 3 is presented in a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The pattern consists of three measures, each ending with a repeat sign. In the first measure, the treble staff features a sequence of three chords: a triad of F#4, A4, and C#5, followed by a dyad of F#4 and A4, and then a dyad of A4 and C#5. The bass staff has a single note of F#2. The second measure follows a similar structure with a triad of A4, C#5, and E5, followed by a dyad of A4 and C#5, and then a dyad of C#5 and E5. The bass staff has a single note of A2. The third measure features a triad of C#5, E5, and G5, followed by a dyad of C#5 and E5, and then a dyad of E5 and G5. The bass staff has a single note of C#3. Above the treble staff, there are three groups of notes, each marked with an '8' and a dashed line, indicating an eighth-note triplet. The notes in these groups are F#4, A4, and C#5 in the first measure; A4, C#5, and E5 in the second measure; and C#5, E5, and G5 in the third measure.

JAZZ RIFF 4

Jazz Riff Pattern 4 - Crushed notes.

The musical notation for Jazz Riff Pattern 4 is presented in a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The pattern consists of two measures, each ending with a repeat sign. In the first measure, the treble staff has a sequence of four notes: F#4, A4, C#5, and E5. The bass staff has a sequence of four notes: F#2, A2, C#3, and E3. The second measure follows a similar structure with a sequence of four notes in the treble staff: A4, C#5, E5, and G5. The bass staff has a sequence of four notes: A2, C#3, E3, and G3.

JAZZ RIFF 5

Jazz Riff Pattern 5 - Chromatic chords.

The musical notation is presented on a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece consists of two measures. In the first measure, the treble staff contains a descending chromatic line of eighth notes: F#5, E5, D5, C5. The bass staff contains a descending chromatic line of eighth notes: F#4, E4, D4, C4. In the second measure, the treble staff contains a descending chromatic line of eighth notes: E5, D5, C5, B4. The bass staff contains a descending chromatic line of eighth notes: D4, C4, B3, A3. The notation uses eighth notes with stems, and the chords are indicated by the notes themselves.



POP RIFF 1

Pop Riff Pattern 1 - Octave + 5th.

Idea 1

Idea 2

Musical notation for two ideas. Idea 1 (left) features a treble clef with a whole rest on the fifth line and a bass clef with a whole note chord of G2 and B2. Idea 2 (right) features a treble clef with a whole rest on the fifth line and a bass clef with a sequence of notes: G2 (half), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), C3 (half), and D3 (quarter).

Idea 3

Idea 4

Musical notation for two ideas in the key of D major. Idea 3 (left) features a treble clef with a whole rest on the fifth line and a bass clef with a sequence of notes: D2 (half), E2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), and A2 (half). Idea 4 (right) features a treble clef with a whole rest on the fifth line and a bass clef with a sequence of notes: D2 (half), E2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), and A2 (half).



POP RIFF 2

Pop Riff Pattern 2 - Arpeggios.
Idea 1

E♭

B♭

The first system of music consists of two measures. The first measure is in E-flat major (E♭) and the second measure is in B-flat major (B♭). The melody consists of eighth-note arpeggios. The bass line has a single eighth-note chord in each measure.

Fm

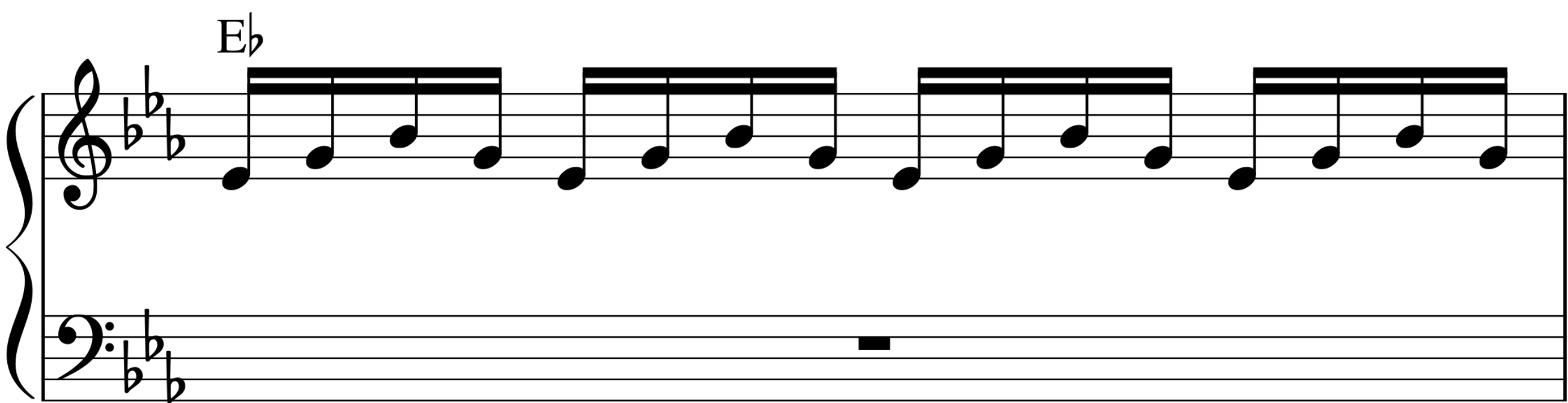
The second system of music consists of two measures. The first measure is in F minor (Fm) and the second measure is in F minor (Fm). The melody consists of eighth-note arpeggios. The bass line has a single eighth-note chord in each measure.



POP RIFF 2B

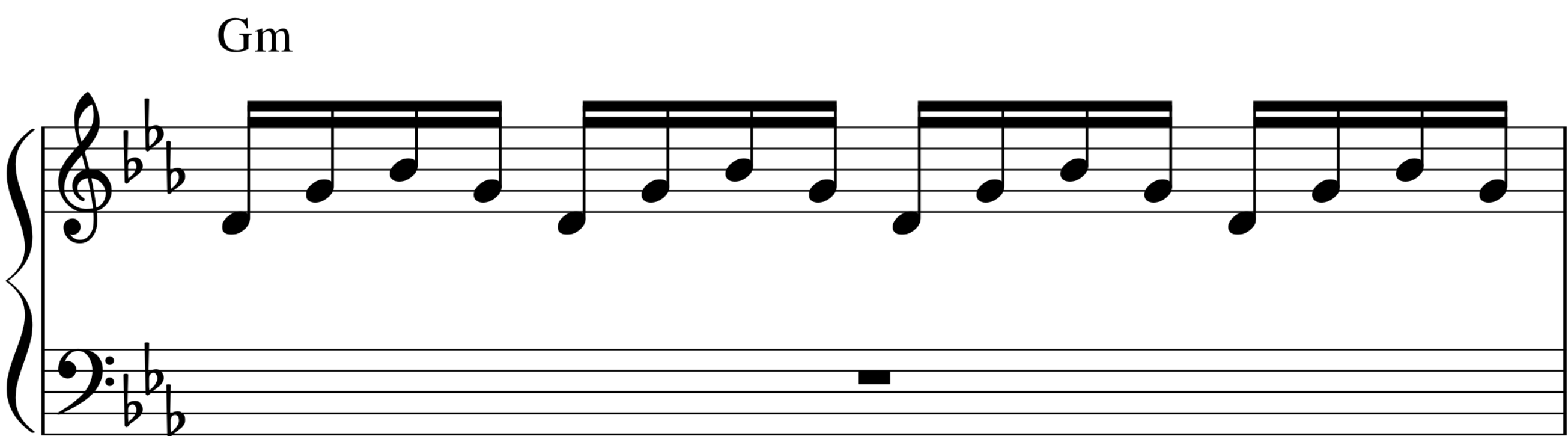
Pop Riff Pattern 2 - Arpeggios.
Idea 2

E \flat



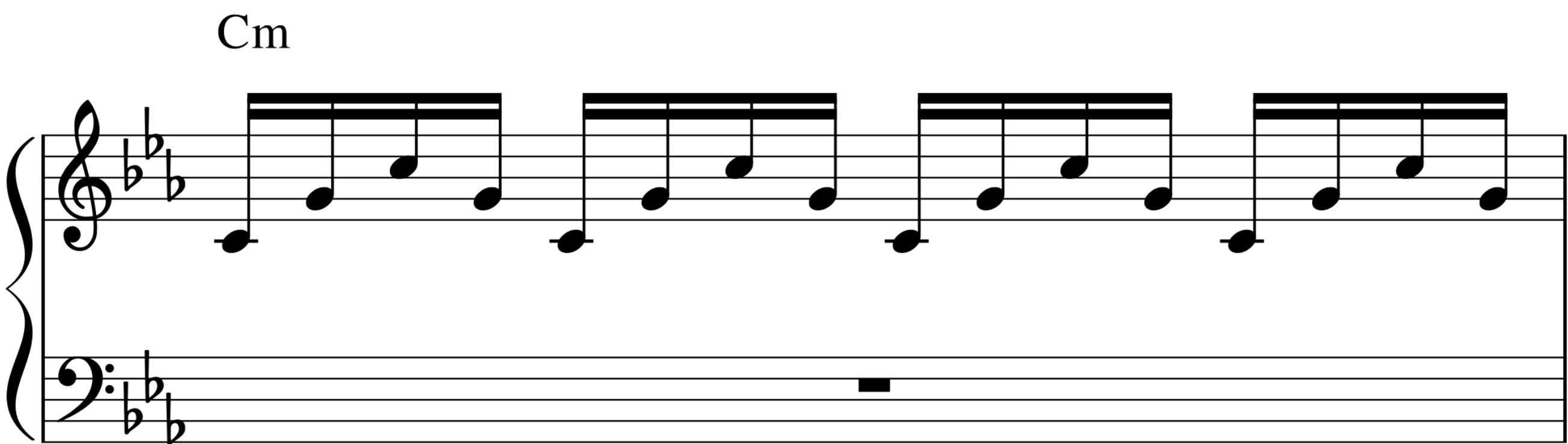
This system shows the Eb arpeggio pattern. The treble clef staff contains four groups of beamed eighth notes, each group consisting of three notes (Eb3, F3, G3) followed by a quarter rest. The bass clef staff contains a single Eb3 note followed by a quarter rest.

Gm



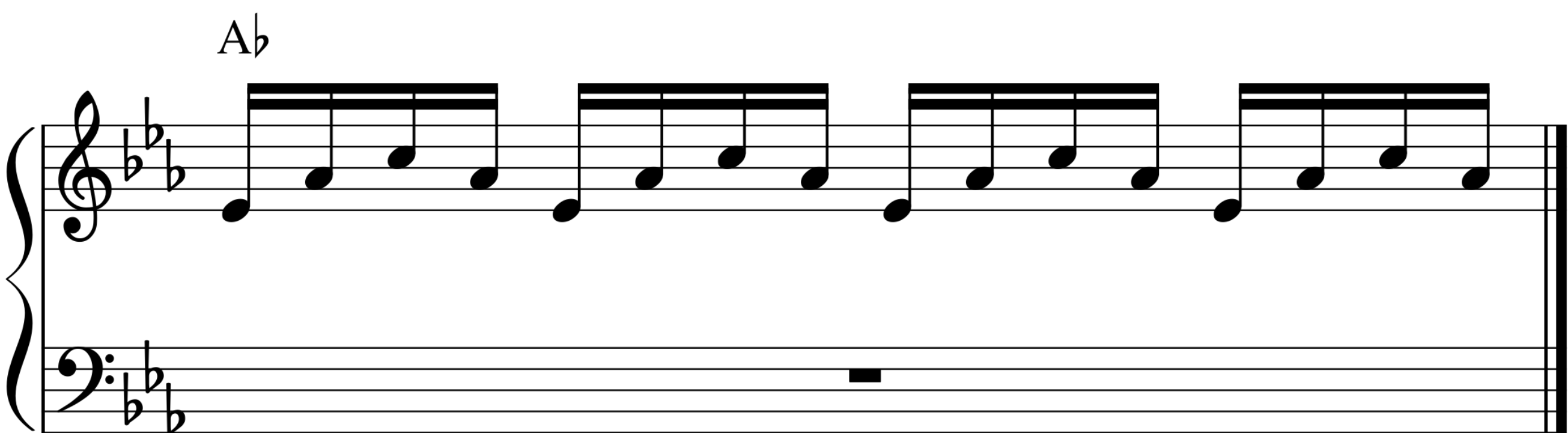
This system shows the Gm arpeggio pattern. The treble clef staff contains four groups of beamed eighth notes, each group consisting of three notes (G3, Ab3, Bb3) followed by a quarter rest. The bass clef staff contains a single G3 note followed by a quarter rest.

Cm



This system shows the Cm arpeggio pattern. The treble clef staff contains four groups of beamed eighth notes, each group consisting of three notes (C4, Db4, Eb4) followed by a quarter rest. The bass clef staff contains a single C4 note followed by a quarter rest.

A \flat



This system shows the Ab arpeggio pattern. The treble clef staff contains four groups of beamed eighth notes, each group consisting of three notes (Ab3, Bb3, C4) followed by a quarter rest. The bass clef staff contains a single Ab3 note followed by a quarter rest. The system concludes with a double bar line.



POP RIFF 3

Pop Riff Pattern 3 - Alternating the pinky.

G

C

D

C



POP RIFF 4

Pop Riff Pattern 4 - Driving bass preceding chord.

C

Am

Measures 1-2 of Pop Riff Pattern 4. The key signature is C major. The melody in the treble clef consists of a series of chords: C4-E4-G4 (quarter), C4-E4-G4 (quarter), C4-E4-G4 (quarter), C4-E4-G4 (quarter), C4-E4-G4 (quarter), C4-E4-G4 (quarter), C4-E4-G4 (quarter), C4-E4-G4 (quarter), C4-E4-G4 (quarter), C4-E4-G4 (quarter). The bass line in the bass clef consists of a series of notes: C3 (half), C3 (half), C3 (half), C3 (half), C3 (half), C3 (half), C3 (half), C3 (half), C3 (half), C3 (half).

F

G

Measures 3-4 of Pop Riff Pattern 4. The key signature is C major. The melody in the treble clef consists of a series of chords: F4-A4-C5 (quarter), F4-A4-C5 (quarter), F4-A4-C5 (quarter), F4-A4-C5 (quarter), F4-A4-C5 (quarter), F4-A4-C5 (quarter), F4-A4-C5 (quarter), F4-A4-C5 (quarter), F4-A4-C5 (quarter), F4-A4-C5 (quarter). The bass line in the bass clef consists of a series of notes: F3 (half), F3 (half), F3 (half), F3 (half), F3 (half), F3 (half), F3 (half), F3 (half), F3 (half), F3 (half).

POP RIFF 5

Pop Riff Pattern 5 - Chord alternating melody.

E♭

Gm

Cm

A♭

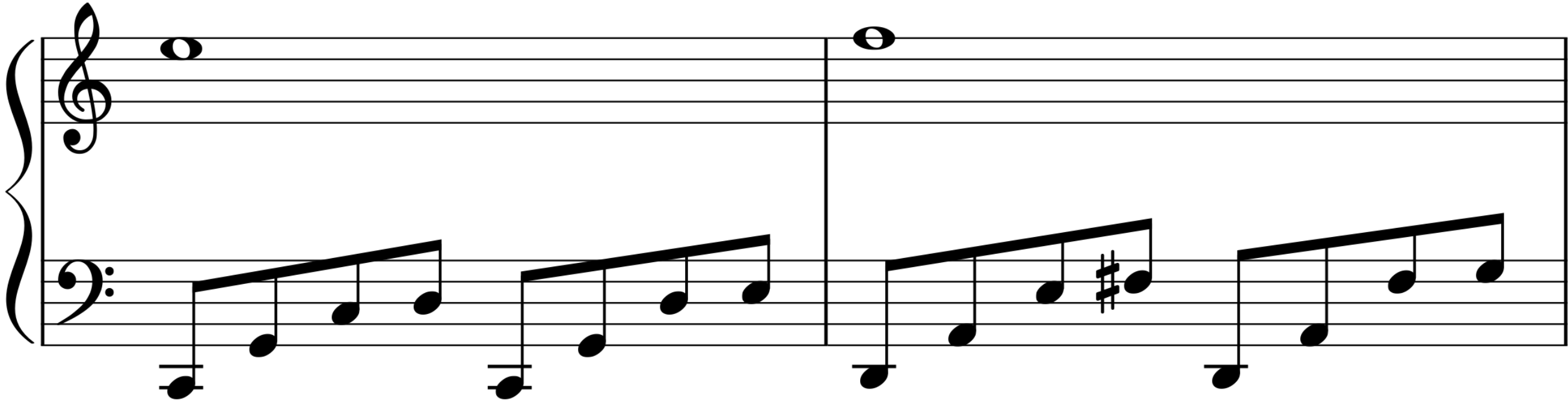
Measures 1-4 of Pop Riff Pattern 5. The key signature is E-flat major (three flats). The melody in the treble clef consists of a series of notes: E♭4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A♭4 (quarter), B♭4 (quarter), E♭4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A♭4 (quarter), B♭4 (quarter), E♭4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A♭4 (quarter), B♭4 (quarter), E♭4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A♭4 (quarter), B♭4 (quarter). The bass line in the bass clef consists of a series of chords: E♭4-G4 (half), Gm4 (half), Cm4 (half), A♭4 (half).

CLASSICAL RIFF 1

Classical Riff Pattern 1 - Bass arpeggios with top note stepwise movement

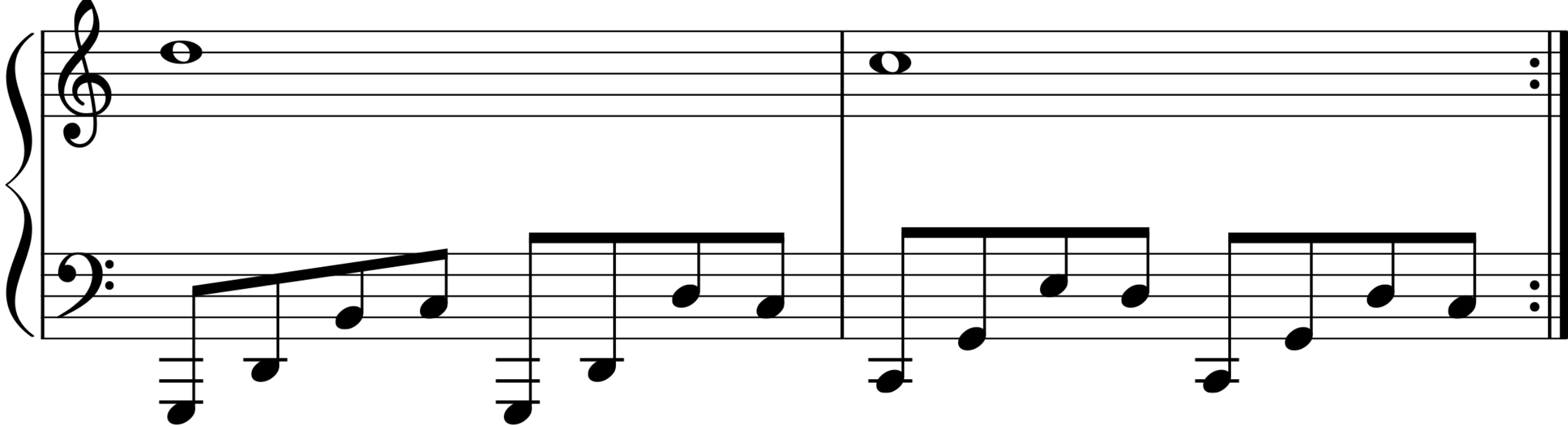
C

D



G

C





CLASSICAL RIFF 2

Classical Riff Pattern 2 - repeating riffs at different octaves.

GEm

The first system of music contains two measures. Measure 1, labeled 'G', features a treble clef with a descending eighth-note riff (G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4) and a bass clef with a sustained G2 octave pedal point. Measure 2, labeled 'Em', features a treble clef with an ascending eighth-note riff (C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4) and a bass clef with a sustained E2 octave pedal point.

D5C

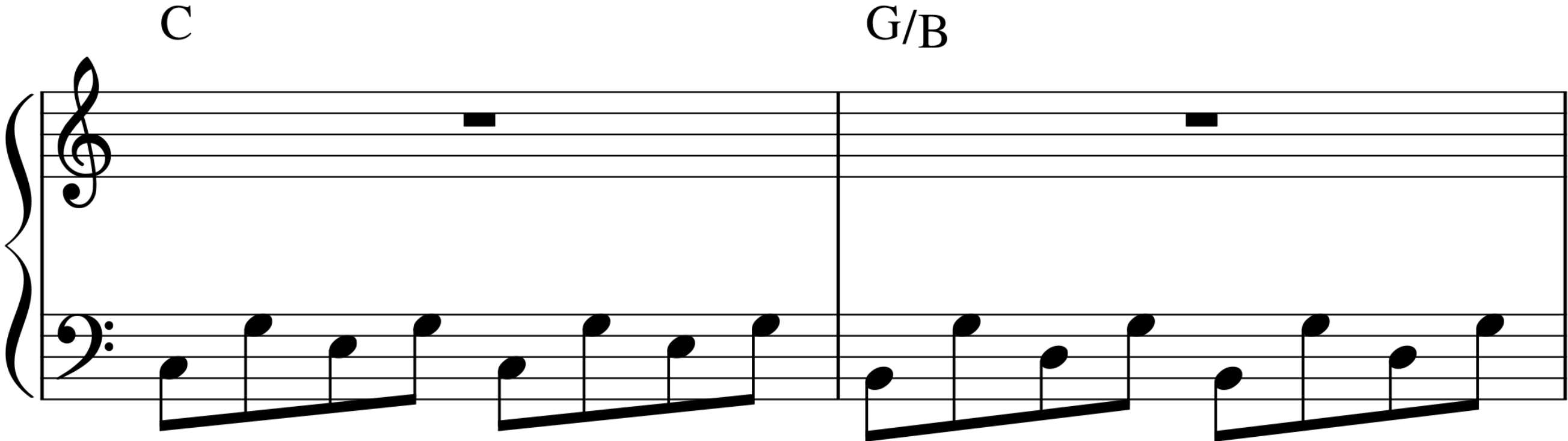
The second system of music contains two measures. Measure 3, labeled 'D5', features a treble clef with a sustained D5 octave pedal point and a bass clef with a descending eighth-note riff (D4, C4, B3, A3, G3). Measure 4, labeled 'C', features a treble clef with an ascending eighth-note riff (G3, A3, B3, C4, D4) and a bass clef with a sustained C2 octave pedal point. The system concludes with a double bar line.

CLASSICAL RIFF 3

Classical Riff Pattern 3 - Bass 5 - 1 - 3- 1 with voiceleading.

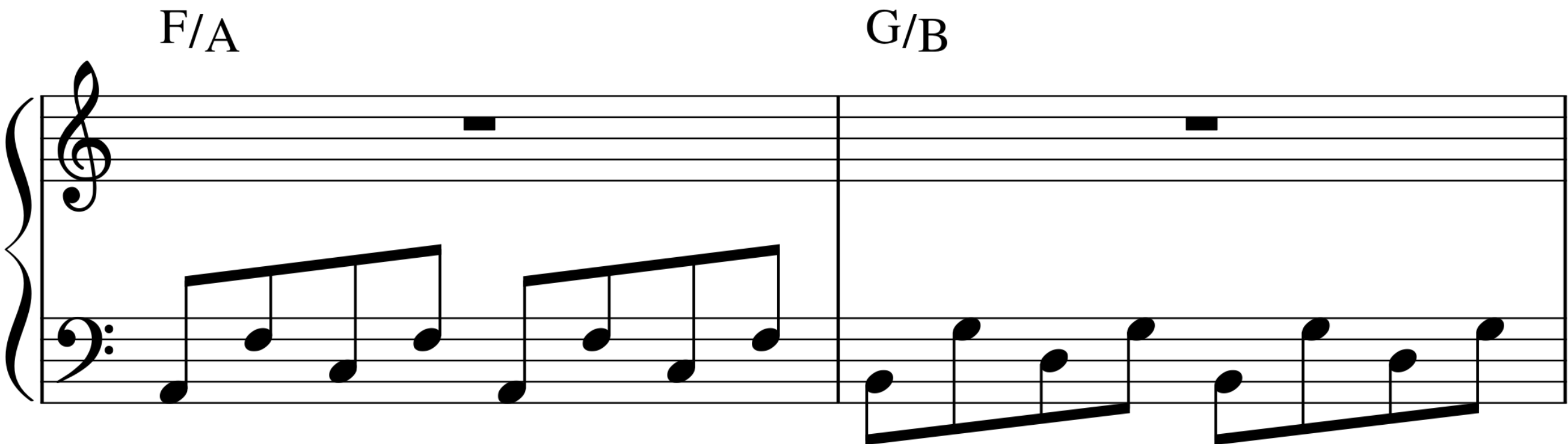
C

G/B



F/A

G/B



CLASSICAL RIFF 4

Classical Riff Pattern 4 - static chord tone on top.

G

C

D

E

CLASSICAL RIFF 5

Classical Riff Pattern 5 - static bass note (pedal note).

G

C/G

D/G

E/G

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forth and
riff!

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keys & love

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