The Harmonic-Bass Divorce in Rock:
A Method for Conceptualizing the Organization of Chord Extensions

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University of Arkansas

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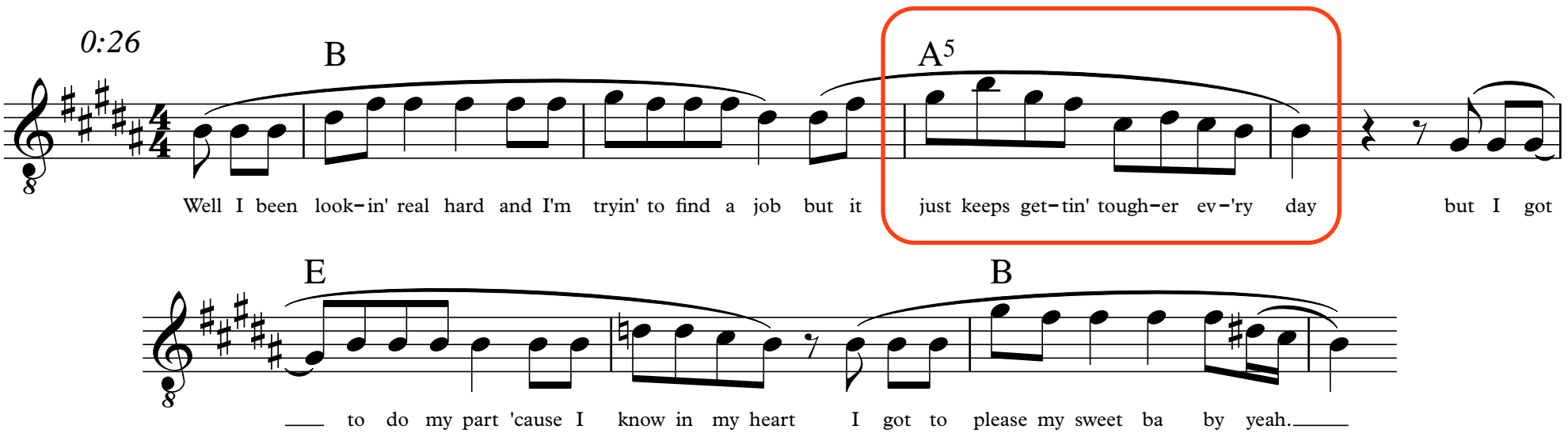
“Rock’n Me” (The Steve Miller Band, 1976), opening verse



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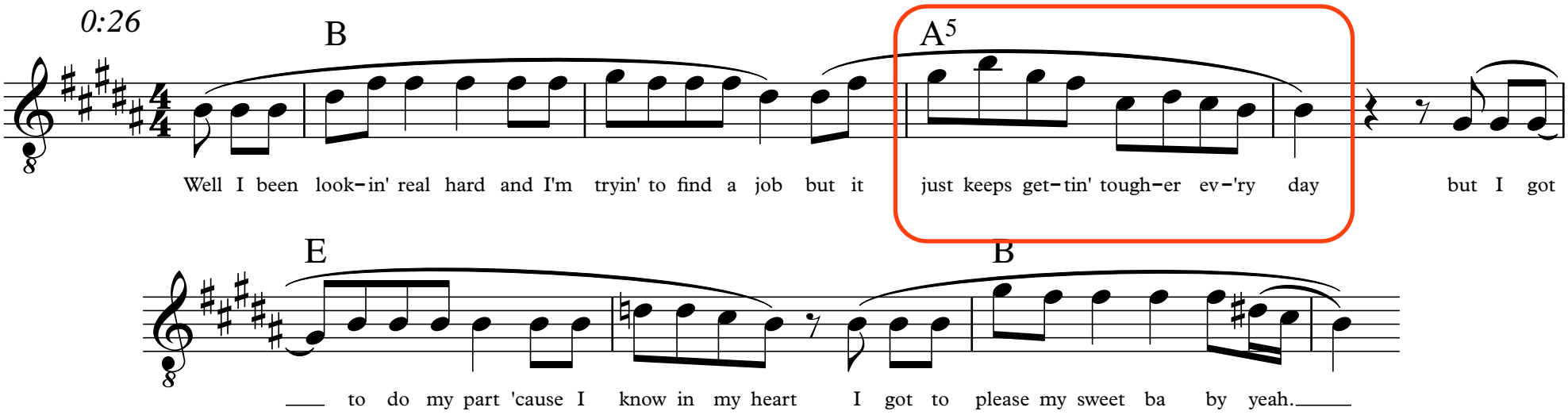
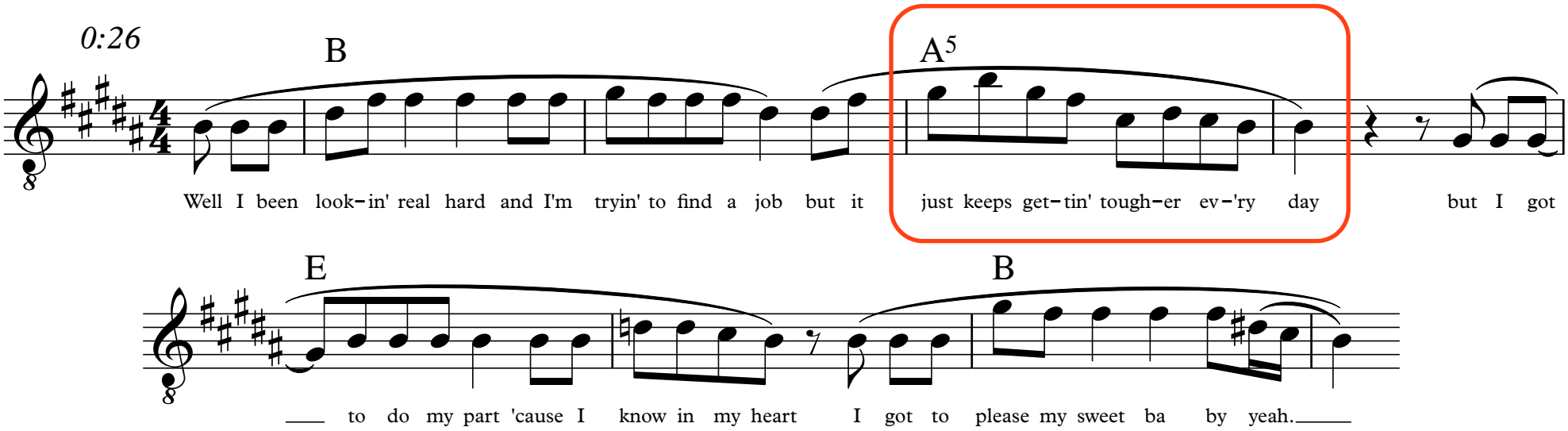
"Rock'n Me" (The Steve Miller Band, 1976), opening verse



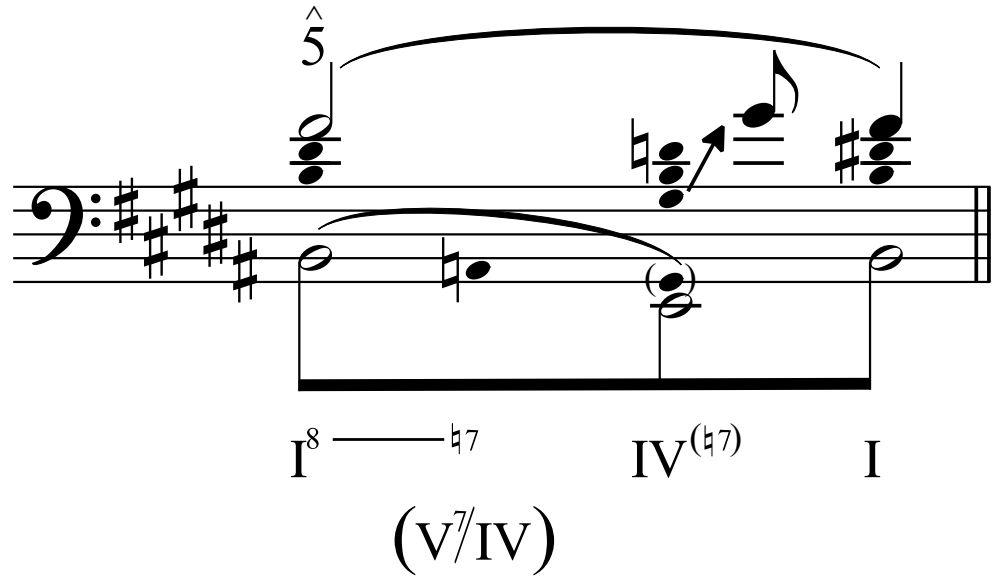
Types of Harmonic-Bass Divorce

- Hierarchy
- Loop
- Syntax

“Rock’n Me” (The Steve Miller Band, 1976), opening verse

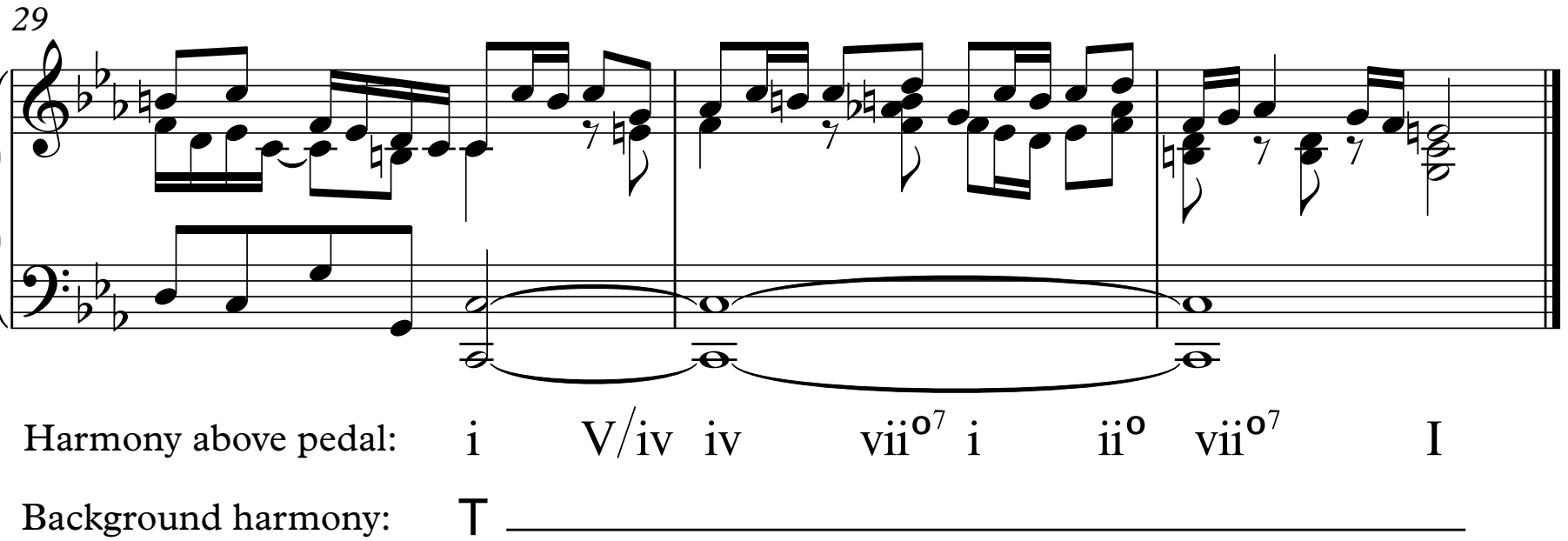


Reduction by Nobile (2015): “Hierarchy Divorce”



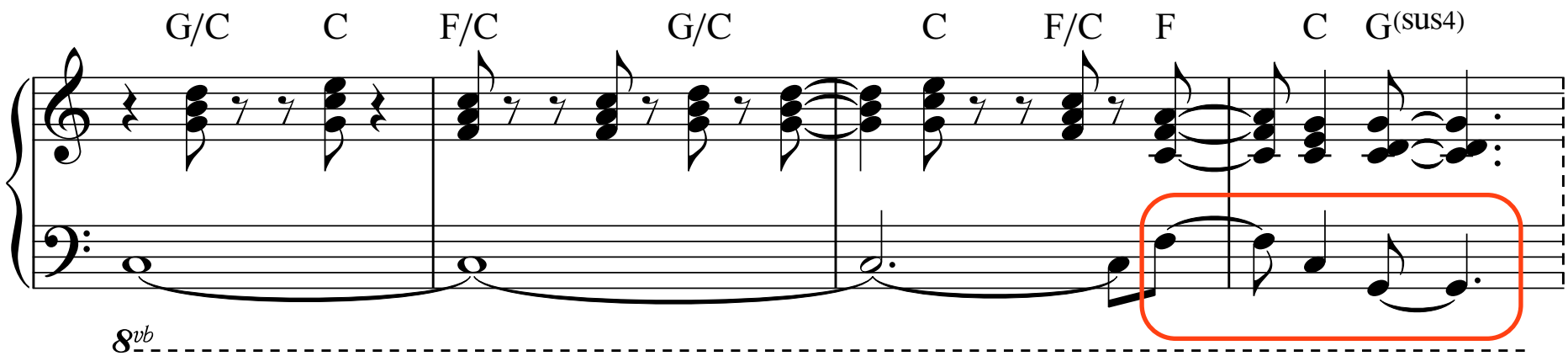
• Hierarchy Divorce

J. S. Bach, Fugue in C minor,
The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1, BWV 847



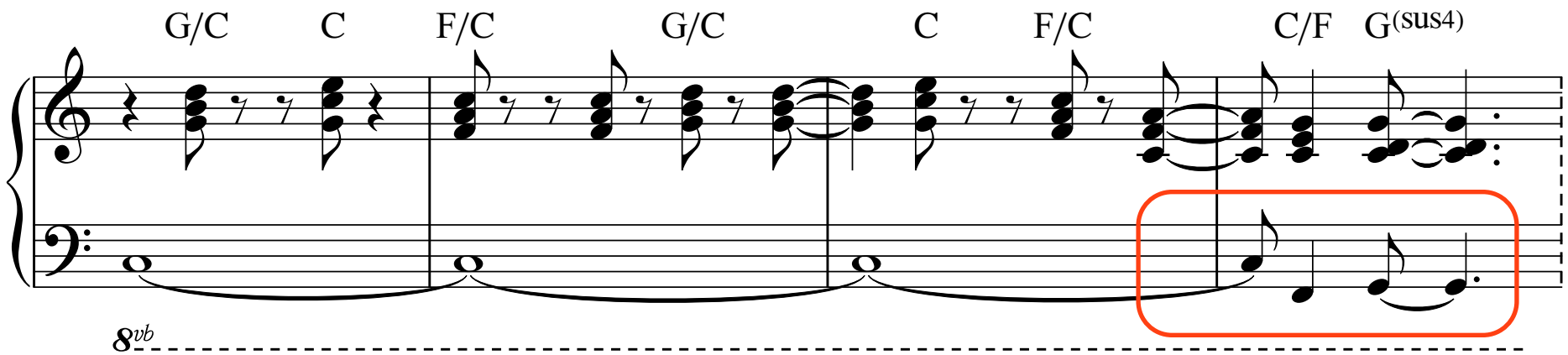
• Hierarchy Divorce

Opening keyboard part for “Jump” (Van Halen, 1984); recomposed



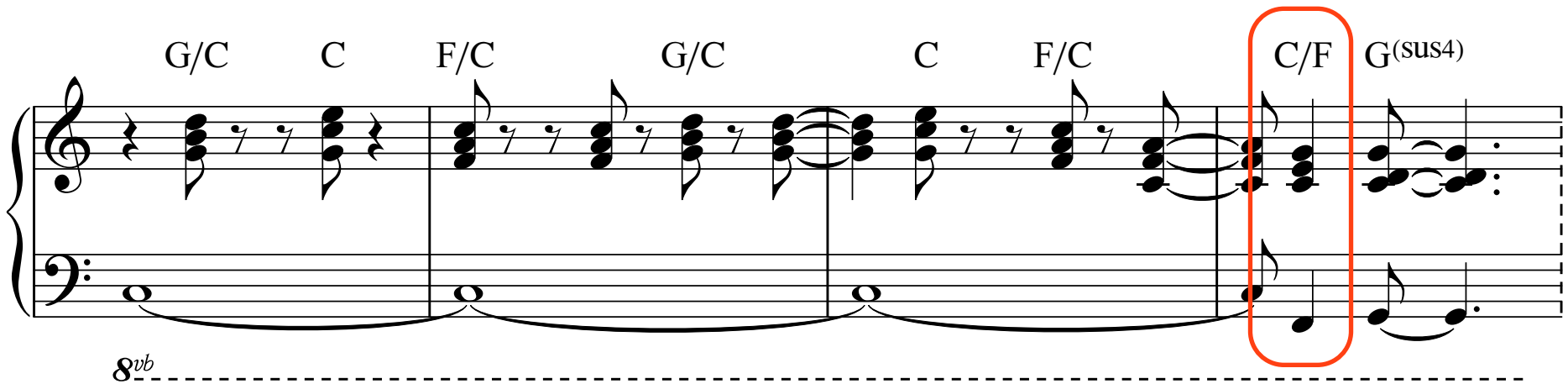
• Syntax Divorce

Opening keyboard part for “Jump” (Van Halen, 1984)



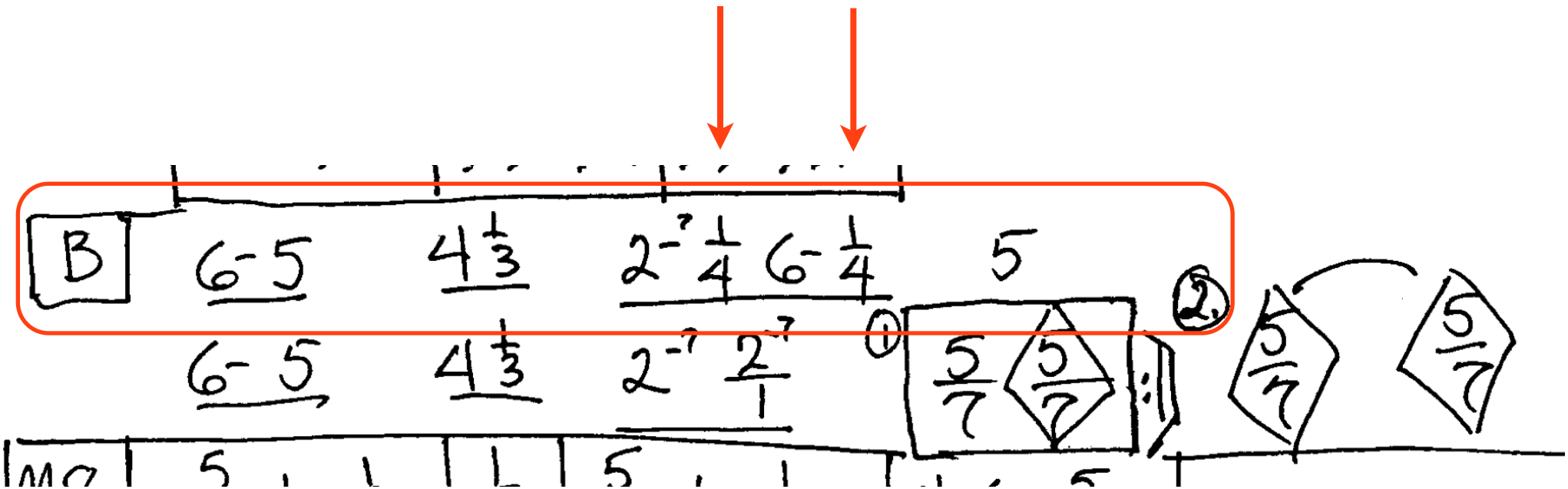
• Syntax Divorce

Opening keyboard part for “Jump” (Van Halen, 1984)

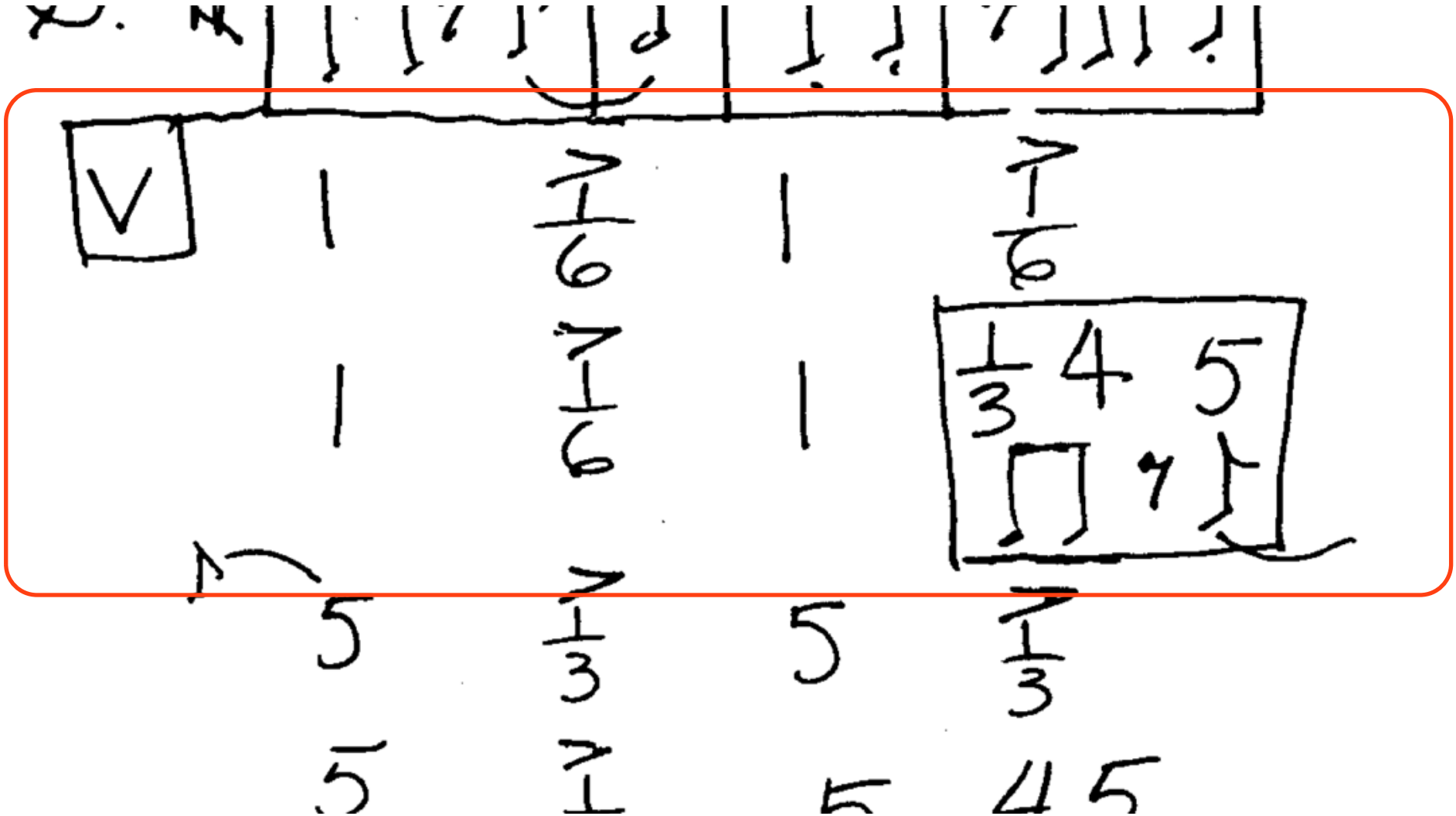


- **Syntax Divorce**

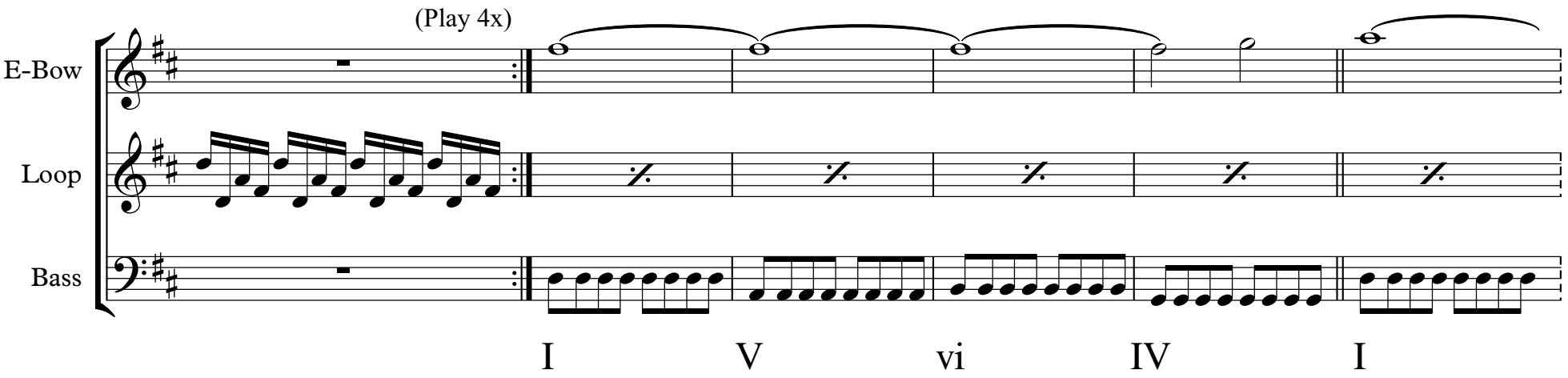
“Perfume & Bubblegum” (Chas Williams, 2005)



“White Hardware” (Chas Williams, 2005); verse

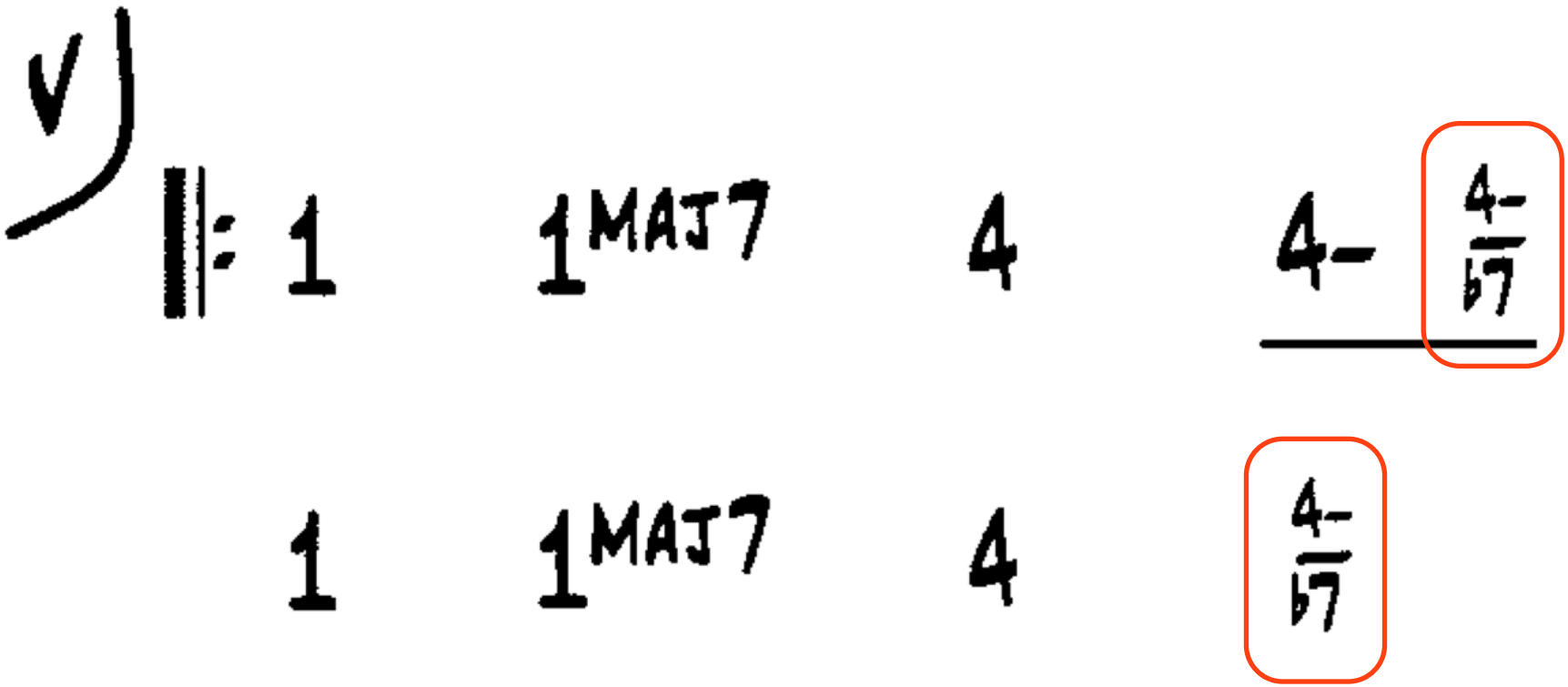


“With or Without You” (U2, 1987); intro



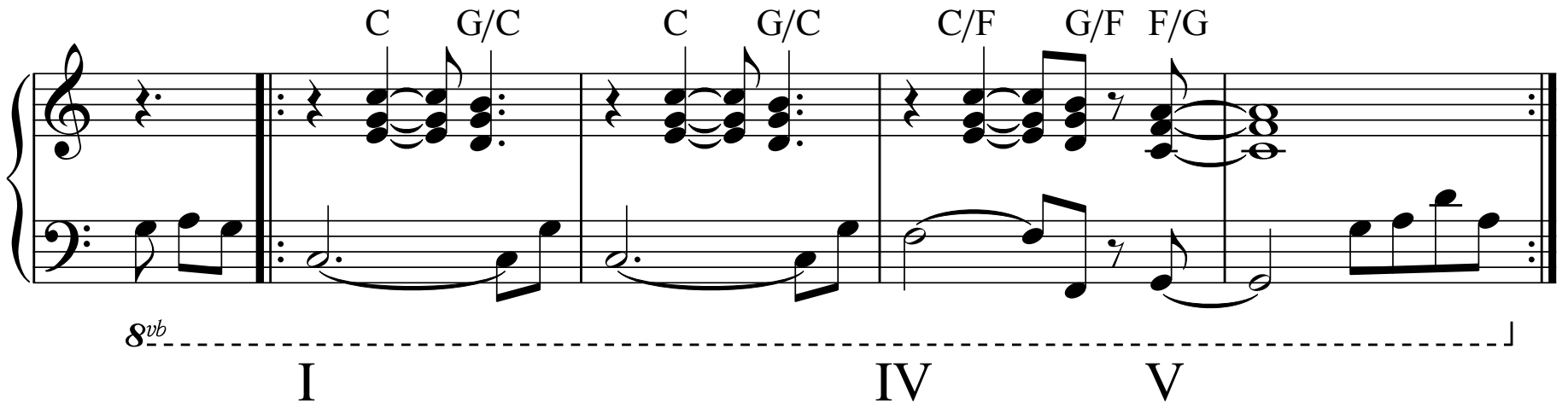
- **Hierarchy or Syntax Divorce?**

“My Life Without You” (Jim Riley, 2010); verse



• Loop Divorce

“I Really Got the Feeling” (Dolly Parton, 1978); intro

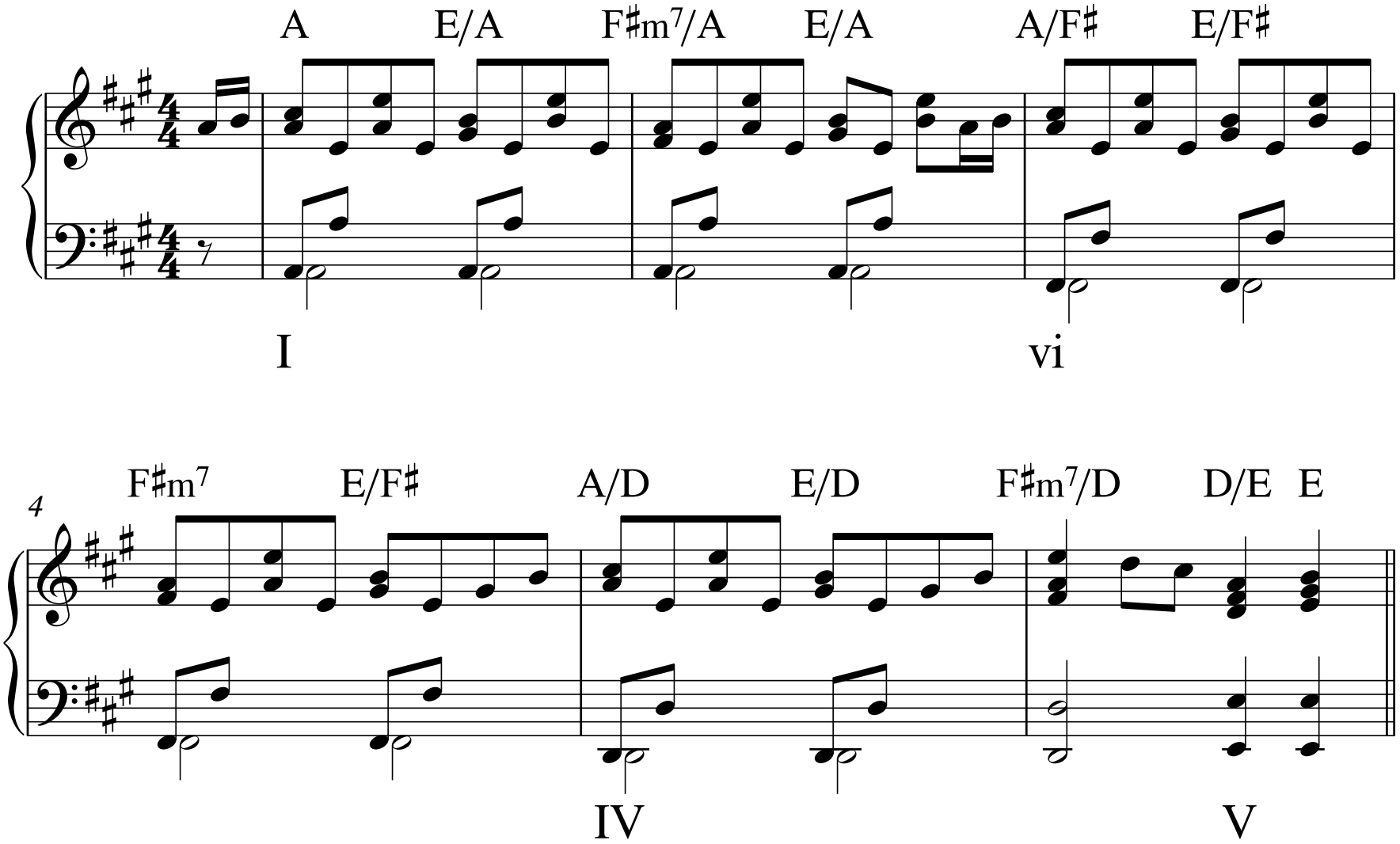


The “Soul Dominant”

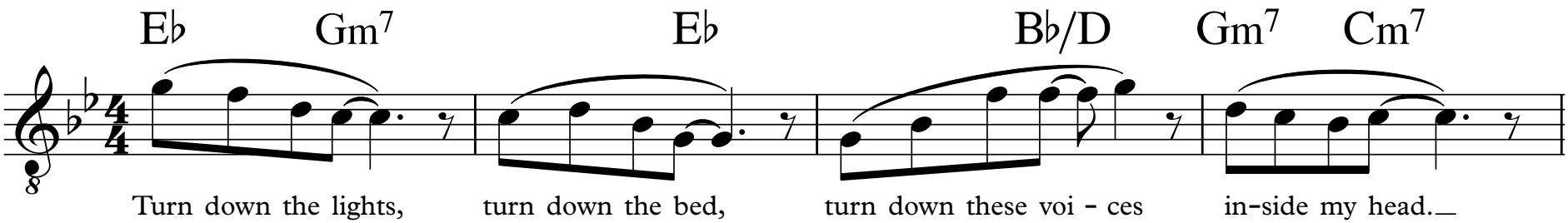
$$V_4^9 = \frac{IV}{5}$$

• Hierarchy—Loop—Syntax

“I Can’t Fight This Feeling” (REO Speedwagon, 1984); intro



“I Can’t Make You Love Me” (Bonnie Raitt, 1991); verse



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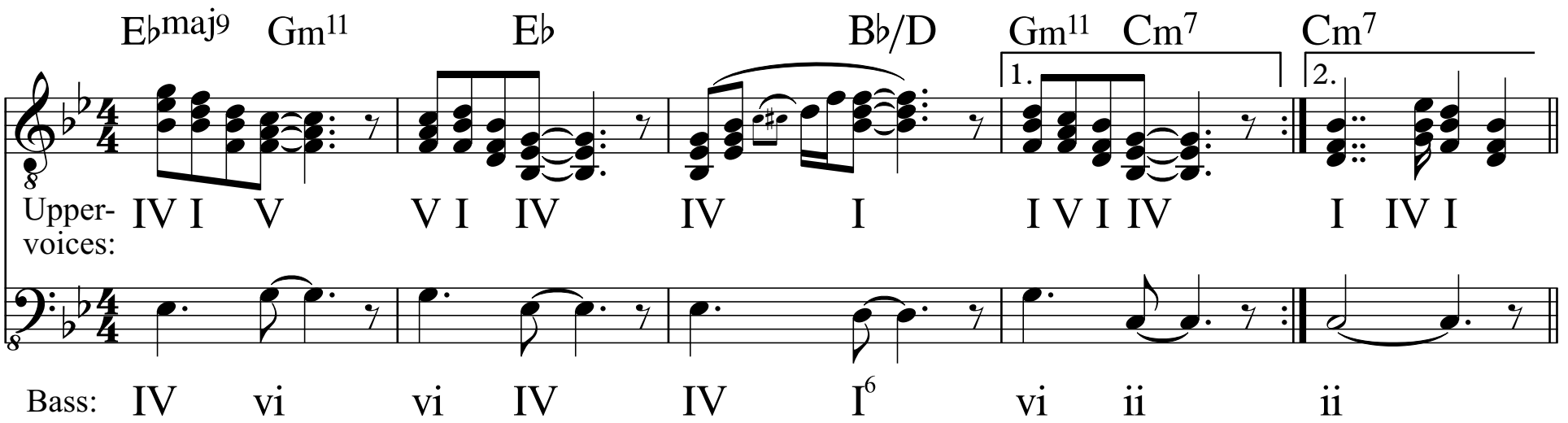
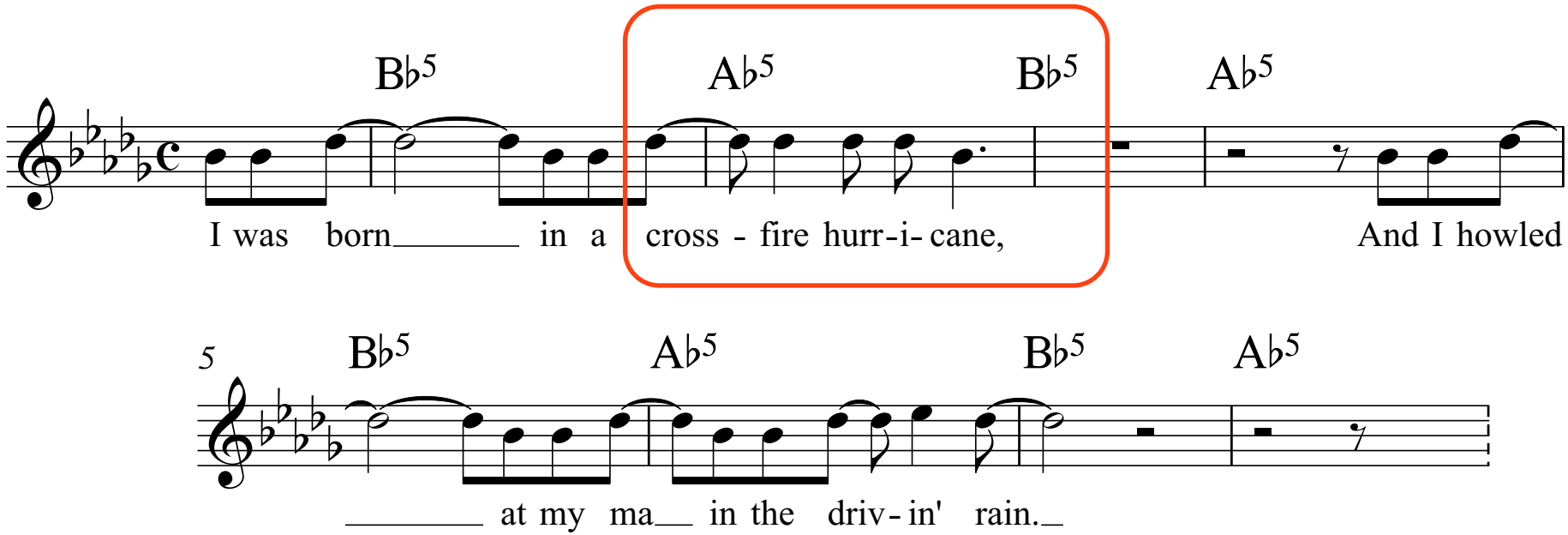


“Jumpin’ Jack Flash” (The Rolling Stones, 1968); verse



THANK YOU!

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