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WOODSHED

TRANSCRIPTION

Charlie Parker's Sax Solo  
On 'Parker's Mood'

by Remo Palmier

Charlie Parker may be remembered as one of the most skilled and innovative jazz soloists. But the blues came first, and his command of the genre was essential to his supreme sense of rhythm and harmony.

This solo of Bird's, from the 1948 recording of the blue ballad "Parker's Mood" (available on *Charlie Parker Memorial Vol. 2*—Savoy 0103), begins with a strong blues statement on bars 1-2. This articulation is duplicated in bars 3-4. In bars 5-6 (a IV-7 chord), Parker uses a notation characteristic of blues lines: a Bbm7 superimposed on an Eb7. He repeats this phrase four times, which adds great intensity to the solo.

Over the Eb7 in bar 2 of the second chorus, Parker plays another strong blues statement, implying an Eb7dim9 on beats 1 and 2, Bbm7 on beat 3 and back to Eb7 on beat 4.

On the third chorus, following John Lewis' lyrical piano solo (marked as 12 bars of rest here), Parker enters with a double-time feeling while the rhythm section remains at a slow four. In bar 5, he plays an unusual double-time syncopation that was unique to his rhythmic sense. At bar 6 (an



Charlie Parker

Eb7 chord), Parker superimposes a Bbm7 on beats 3 and 4.

I consider this transcription and analysis a labor of love. I believe this is one of the most prolific blues solos ever recorded. **DB**

Remo Palmier, jazz guitarist, has performed and recorded with Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and other jazz masters. Palmier studied harmony and theory with Tibor Serly, and also played and arranged music on the CBS staff for 27 years.

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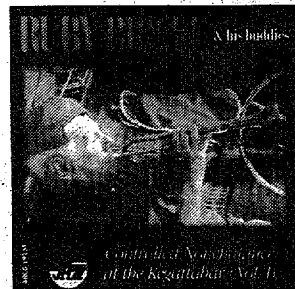
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Handwritten musical notation for saxophone, featuring 12 numbered measures. Chord symbols include Bb, Cm7, F7, Bb, F9sus, Eb7, Bb7, Eb7, Cm7, Dm7, G7, F13, Bb7, Bb7+5, Eb, Cm7-5, Bb, Cm7, F9sus, Bb, (PIANO SOLO) 10, Bb, Cm7, F9sus, Bb, Eb7, Eb7, Fm7, Bb7-13, Eb7, Eb7, Bb, Cm7, Dm7, Dbm7, Cm7, Cm7, F13, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Cm7-5, Bb, and Bb. Performance instructions include 'FALL OFF', 'CHROMATIC FALL OFF', and 'ALTO'. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, triplets, and slurs.