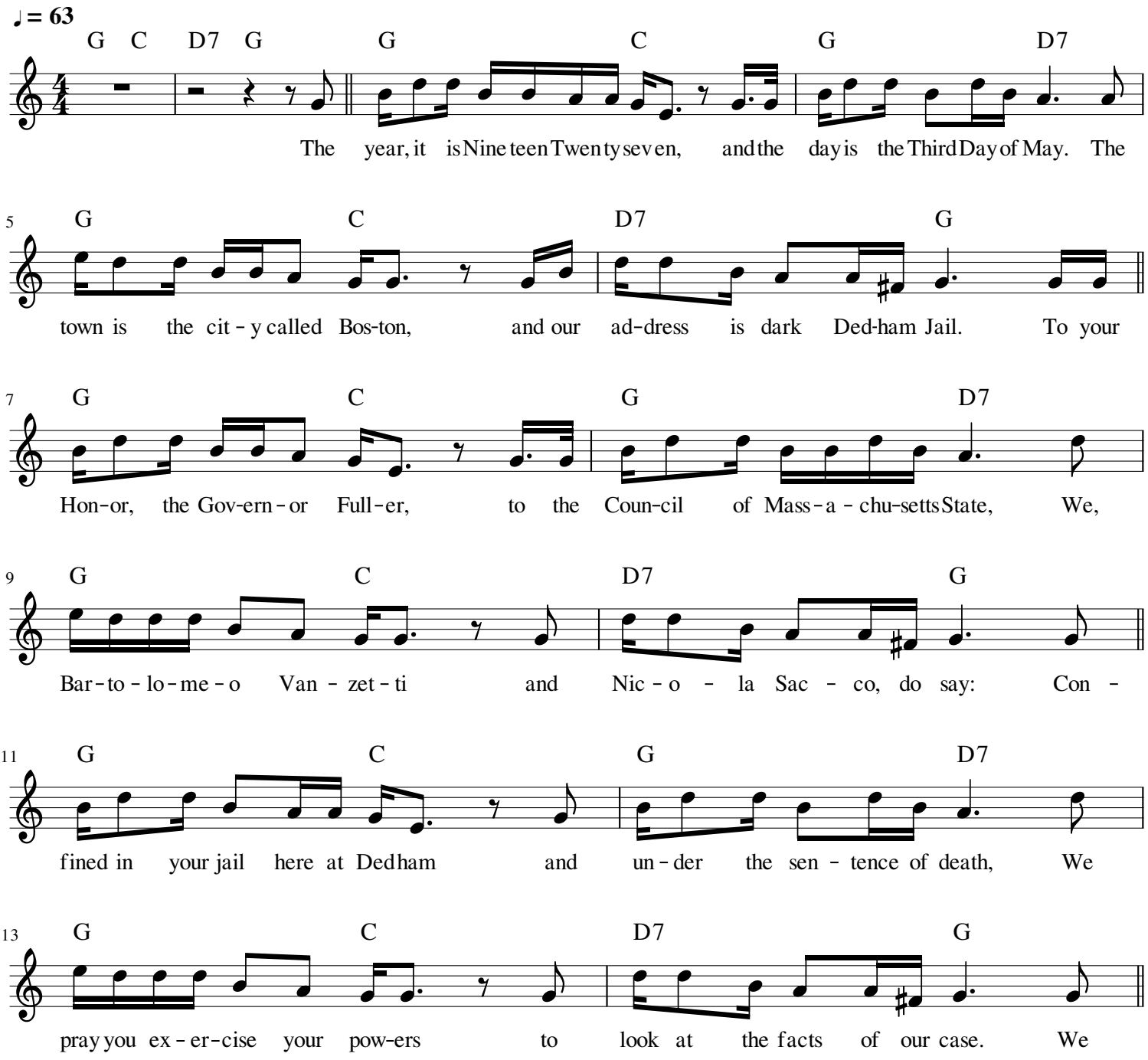
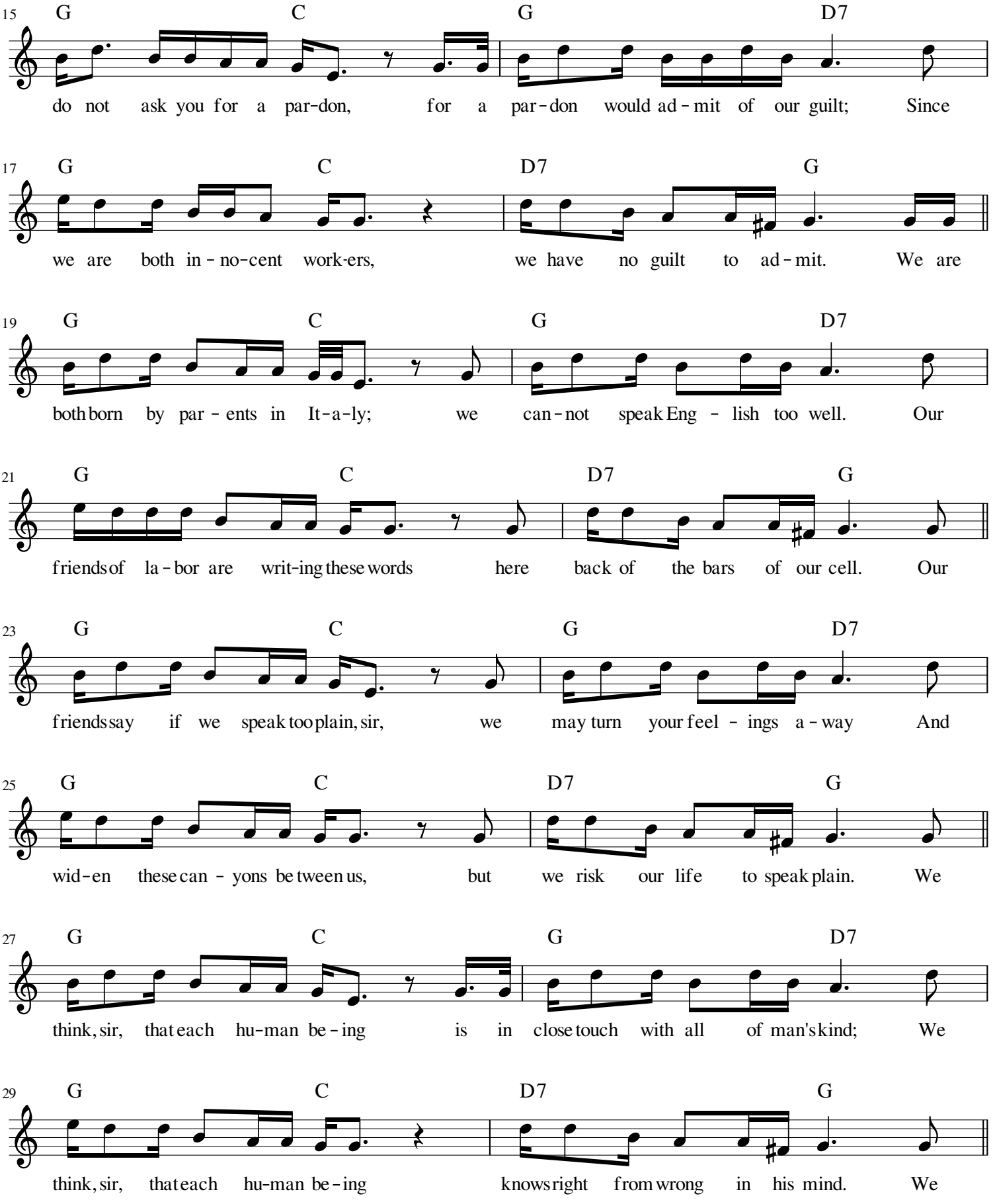
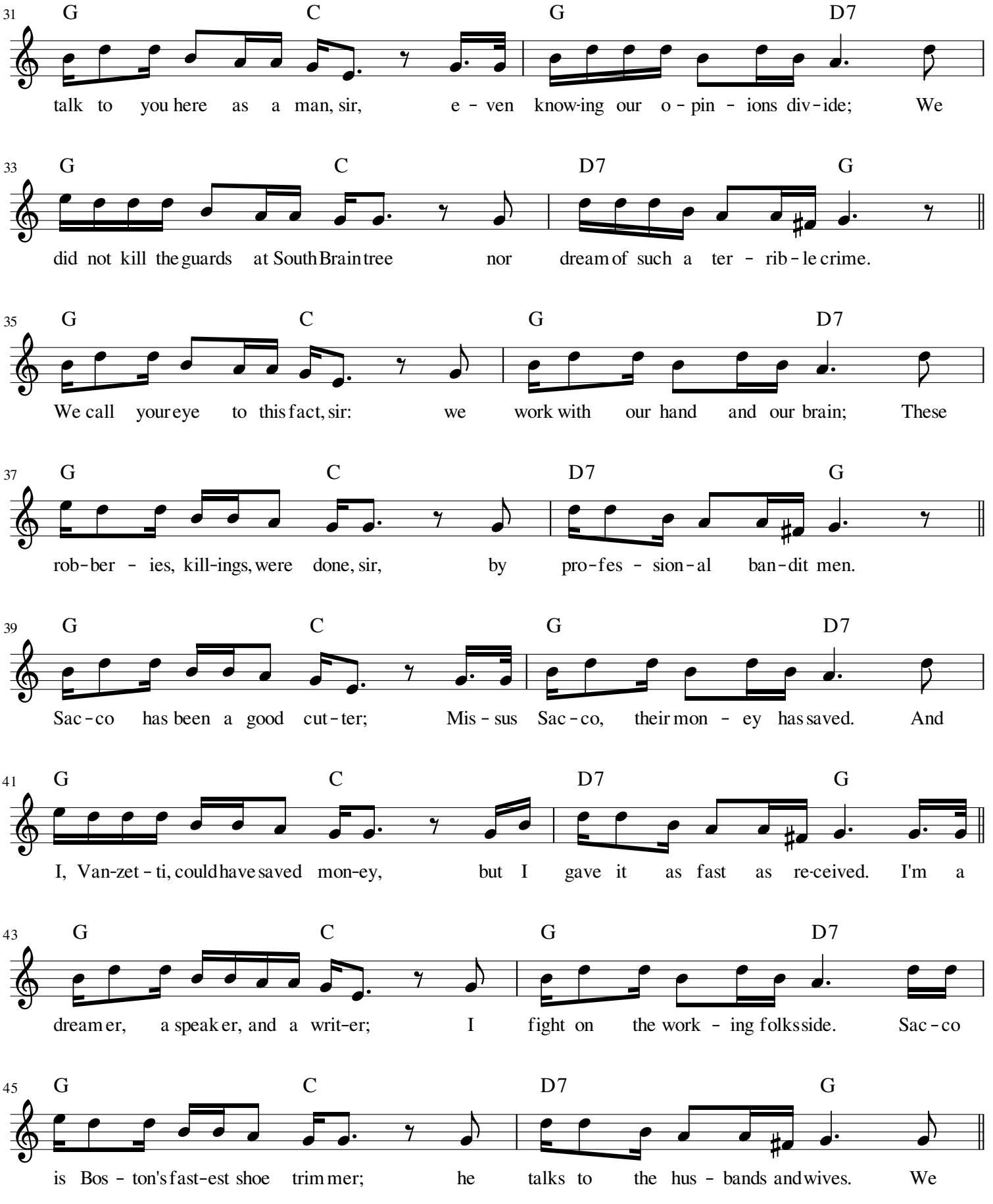
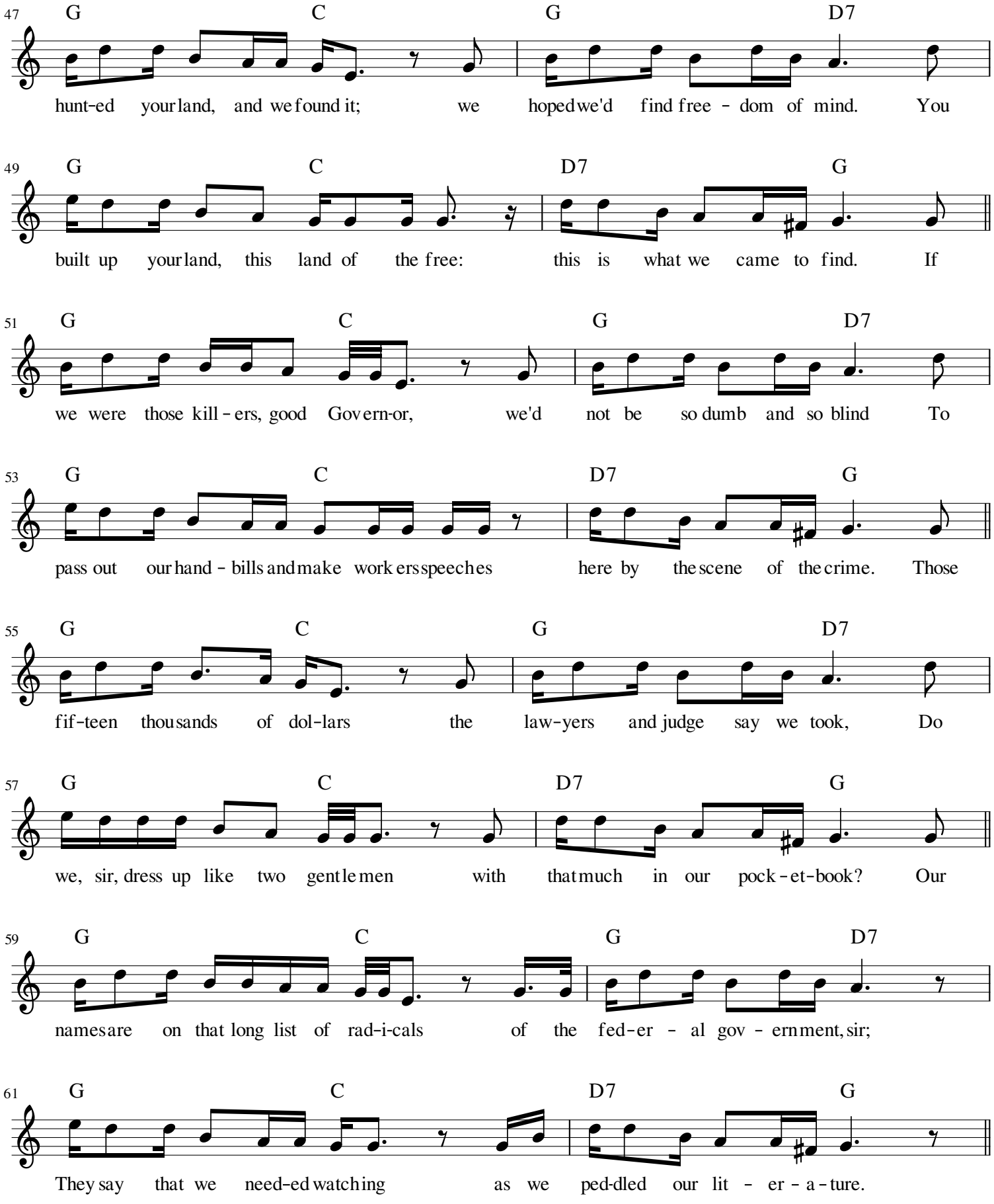
Vanzetti's Letter

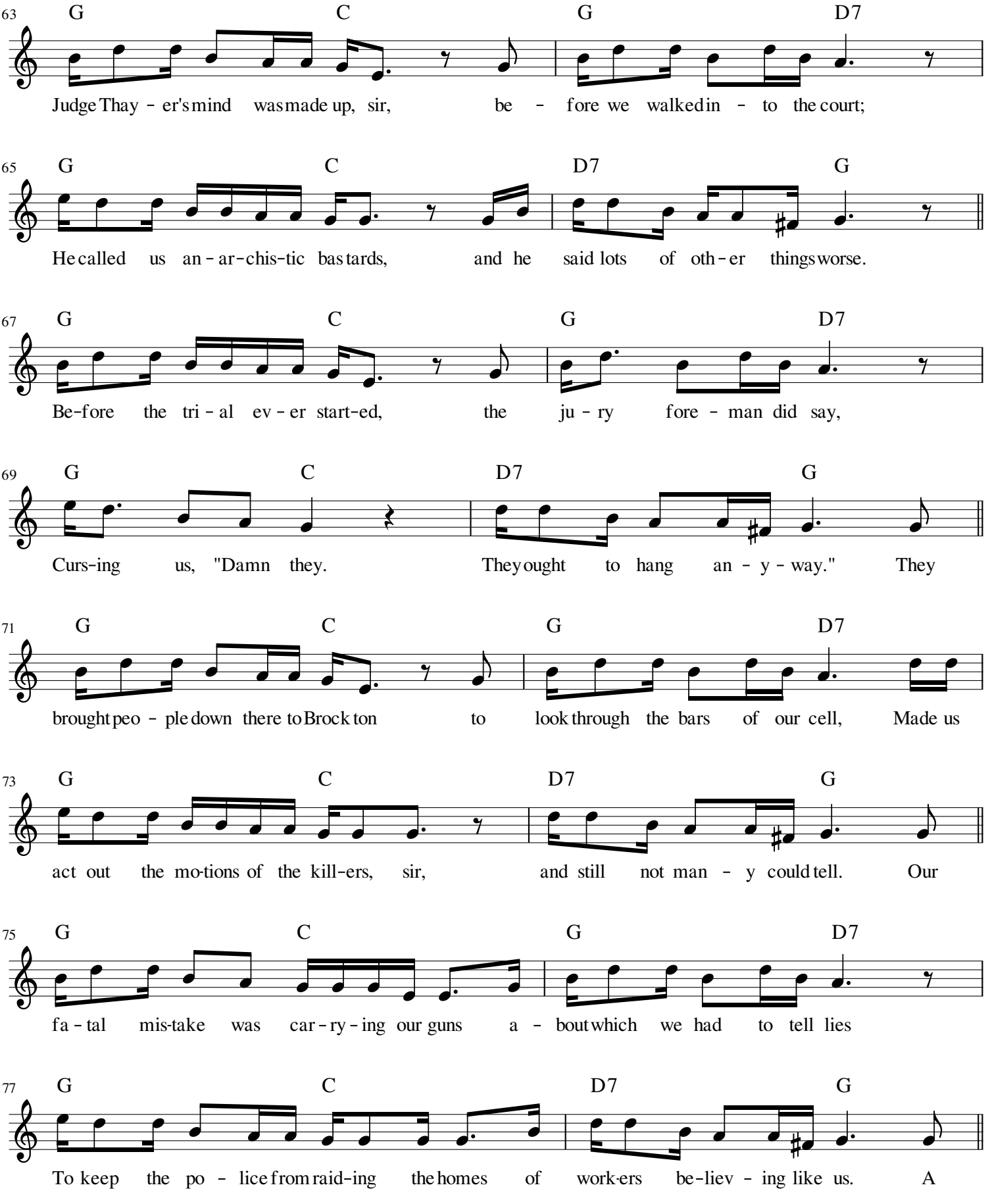
Woody Guthrie

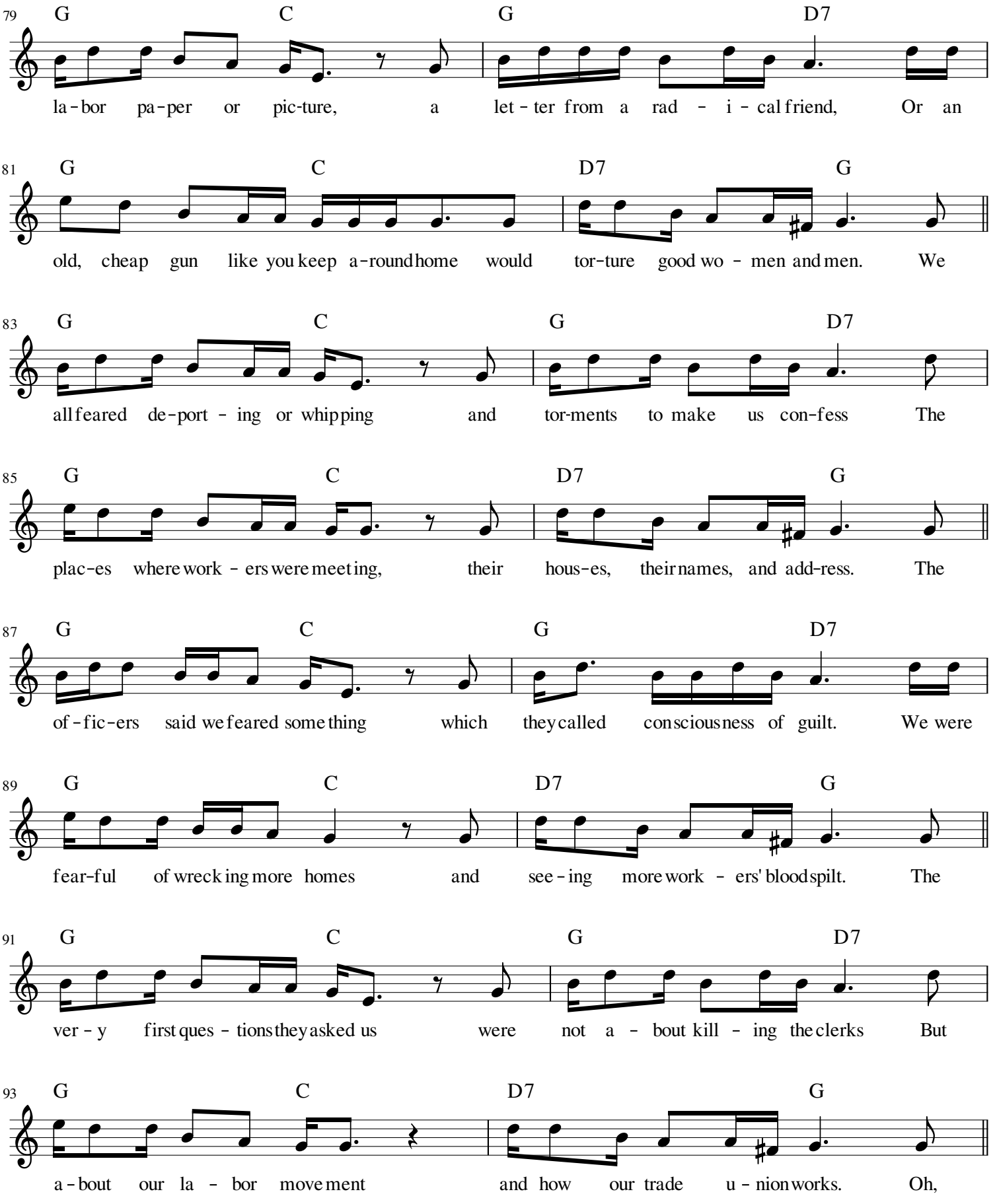


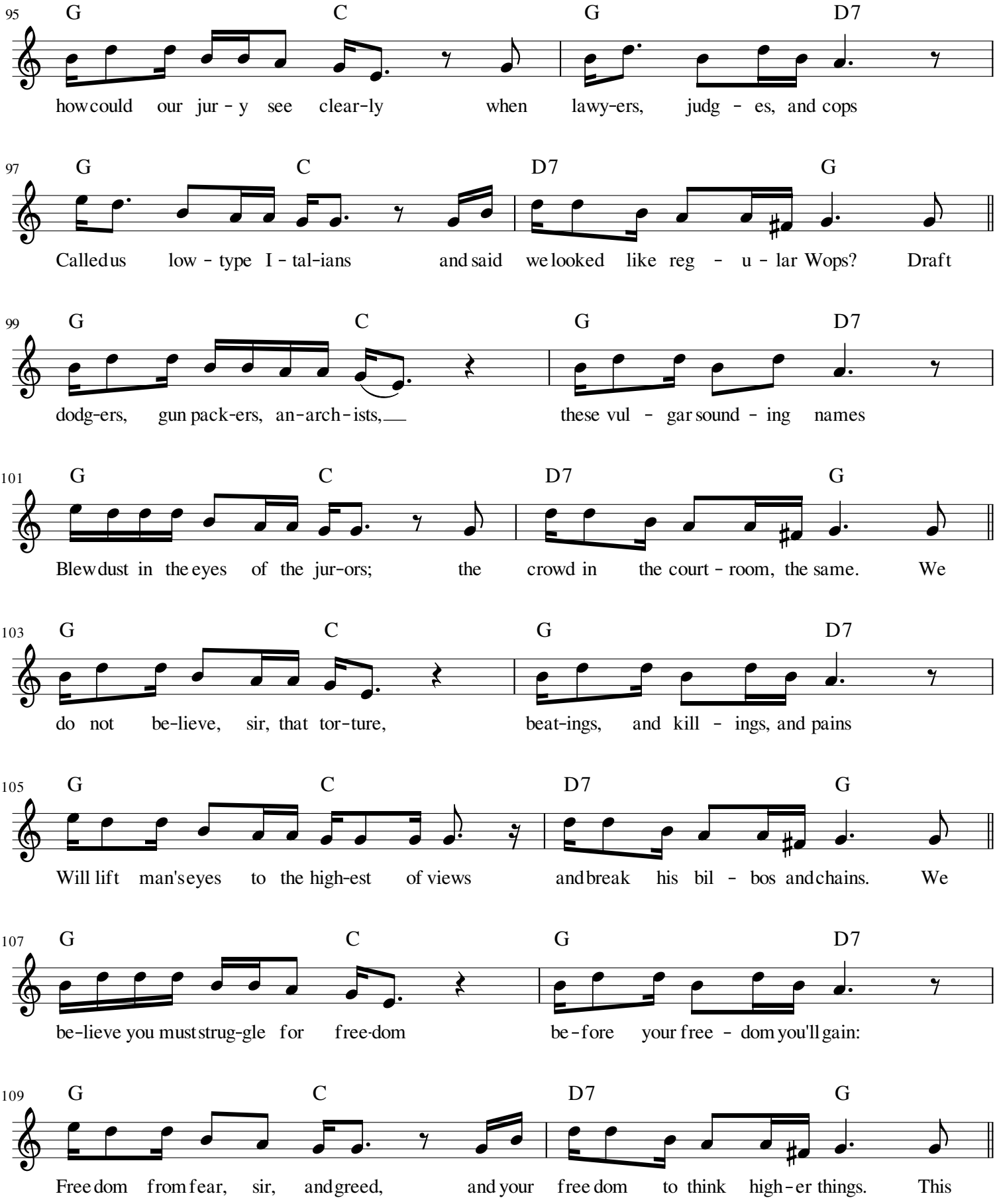

15 G C G D7
do not ask you for a par-don, for a par-don would ad-mit of our guilt; Since
17 G C D7 G
we are both in-no-cent work-ers, we have no guilt to ad-mit. We are
19 G C G D7
both born by par-ents in It-a-ly; we can-not speak Eng-lish too well. Our
21 G C D7 G
friends of la-bor are writ-ing these words here back of the bars of our cell. Our
23 G C G D7
friends say if we speak too plain, sir, we may turn your feel-ings a-way And
25 G C D7 G
wid-en these can-yons be tween us, but we risk our life to speak plain. We
27 G C G D7
think, sir, that each hu-man be-ing is in close touch with all of man's kind; We
29 G C D7 G
think, sir, that each hu-man be-ing knows right from wrong in his mind. We

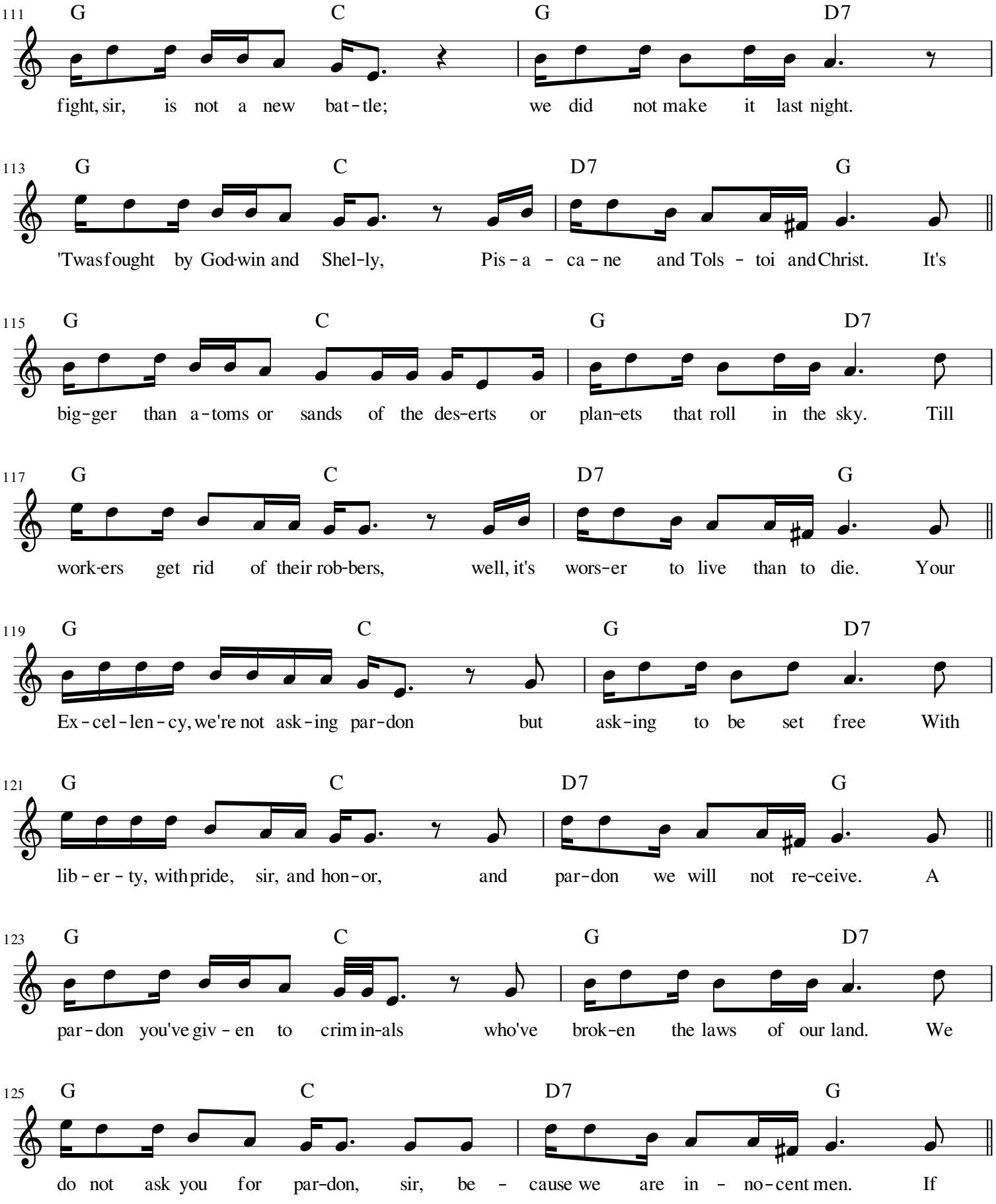

31
G C G D7
talk to you here as a man, sir, e - ven know-ing our o - pin - ions div-ide; We
33
G C D7 G
did not kill the guards at South Brain tree nor dream of such a ter - rib - le crime.
35
G C G D7
We call your eye to this fact, sir: we work with our hand and our brain; These
37
G C D7 G
rob-ber - ies, kill-ings, were done, sir, by pro-fes - sion-al ban-dit men.
39
G C G D7
Sac-co has been a good cut-ter; Mis - sus Sac-co, their mon - ey has saved. And
41
G C D7 G
I, Van-zet - ti, could have saved mon-ey, but I gave it as fast as re-ceived. I'm a
43
G C G D7
dream er, a speak er, and a writ-er; I fight on the work - ing folks side. Sac-co
45
G C D7 G
is Bos - ton's fast-est shoe trim mer; he talks to the hus - bands and wives. We

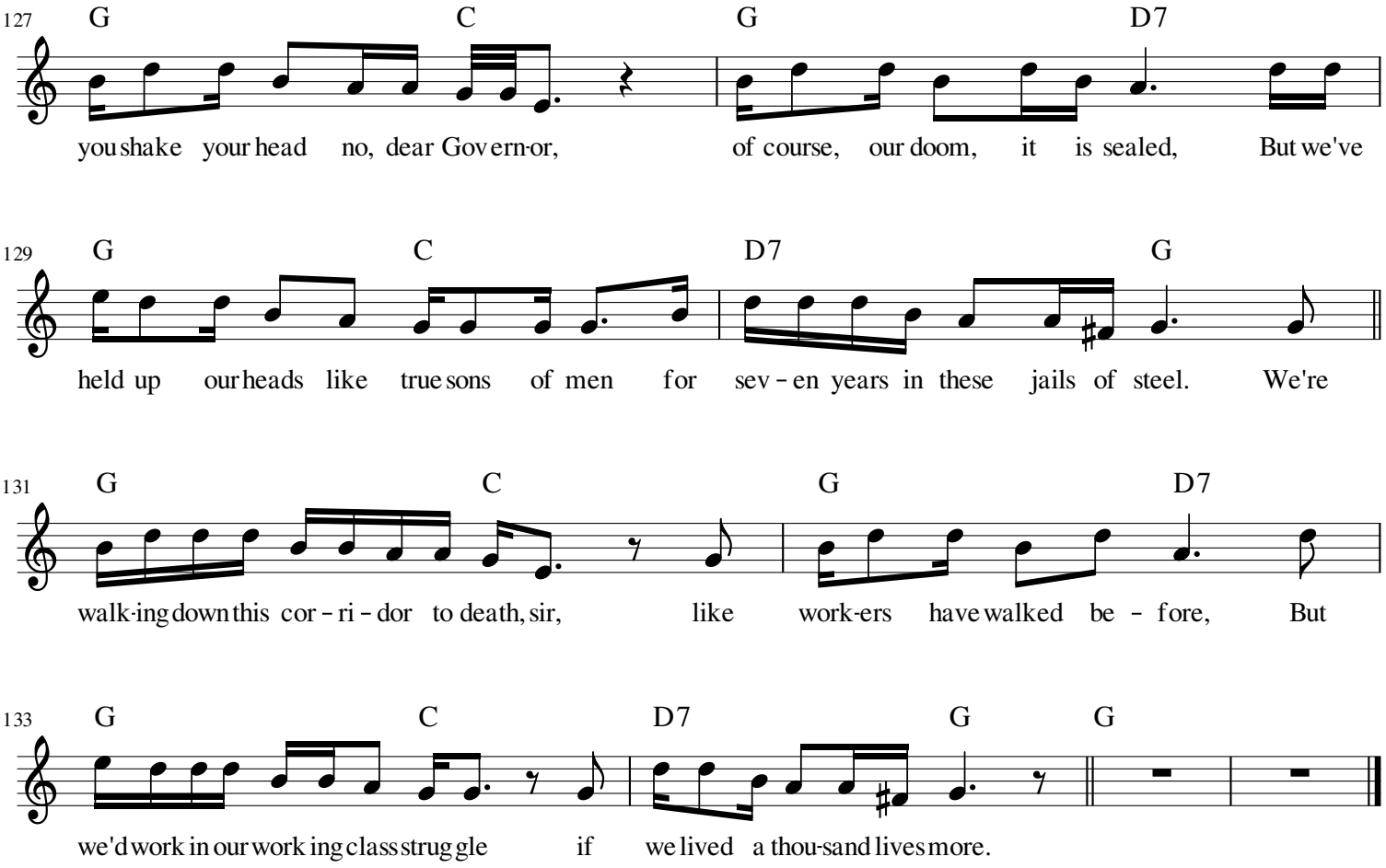

47
G C G D7
hunt-ed your land, and we found it; we hoped we'd find free - dom of mind. You
49
G C D7 G
built up your land, this land of the free: this is what we came to find. If
51
G C G D7
we were those kill - ers, good Gov ern-or, we'd not be so dumb and so blind To
53
G C D7 G
pass out our hand - bills and make work ers speeches here by the scene of the crime. Those
55
G C G D7
fif-teen thou sands of dol-lars the law-yers and judge say we took, Do
57
G C D7 G
we, sir, dress up like two gent le men with that much in our pock - et-book? Our
59
G C G D7
names are on that long list of rad-i-cals of the fed-er - al gov - ern ment, sir;
61
G C D7 G
They say that we need-ed watch ing as we ped-dled our lit - er - a - ture.


63 G C G D7
Judge Thay - er's mind was made up, sir, be - fore we walked in - to the court;
65 G C D7 G
He called us an - ar - chis - tic bas tards, and he said lots of oth - er things worse.
67 G C G D7
Be - fore the tri - al ev - er start - ed, the ju - ry fore - man did say,
69 G C D7 G
Curs - ing us, "Damn they. They ought to hang an - y - way." They
71 G C G D7
brought peo - ple down there to Brock ton to look through the bars of our cell, Made us
73 G C D7 G
act out the mo - tions of the kill - ers, sir, and still not man - y could tell. Our
75 G C G D7
fa - tal mis - take was car - ry - ing our guns a - bout which we had to tell lies
77 G C D7 G
To keep the po - lice from raid - ing the homes of work - ers be - liev - ing like us. A


79 G C G D7
la-bor pa-per or pic-ture, a let-ter from a rad - i - cal friend, Or an
81 G C D7 G
old, cheap gun like you keep a-round home would tor-ture good wo - men and men. We
83 G C G D7
all feared de-port - ing or whip ping and tor-ments to make us con-fess The
85 G C D7 G
plac-es where work - ers were meet ing, their hous-es, their names, and add-ress. The
87 G C G D7
of-fic-ers said we feared some thing which they called con scious ness of guilt. We were
89 G C D7 G
fear-ful of wreck ing more homes and see-ing more work - ers' blood spilt. The
91 G C G D7
ver-y first ques - tions they asked us were not a - bout kill - ing the clerks But
93 G C D7 G
a-bout our la - bor move ment and how our trade u - nion works. Oh,

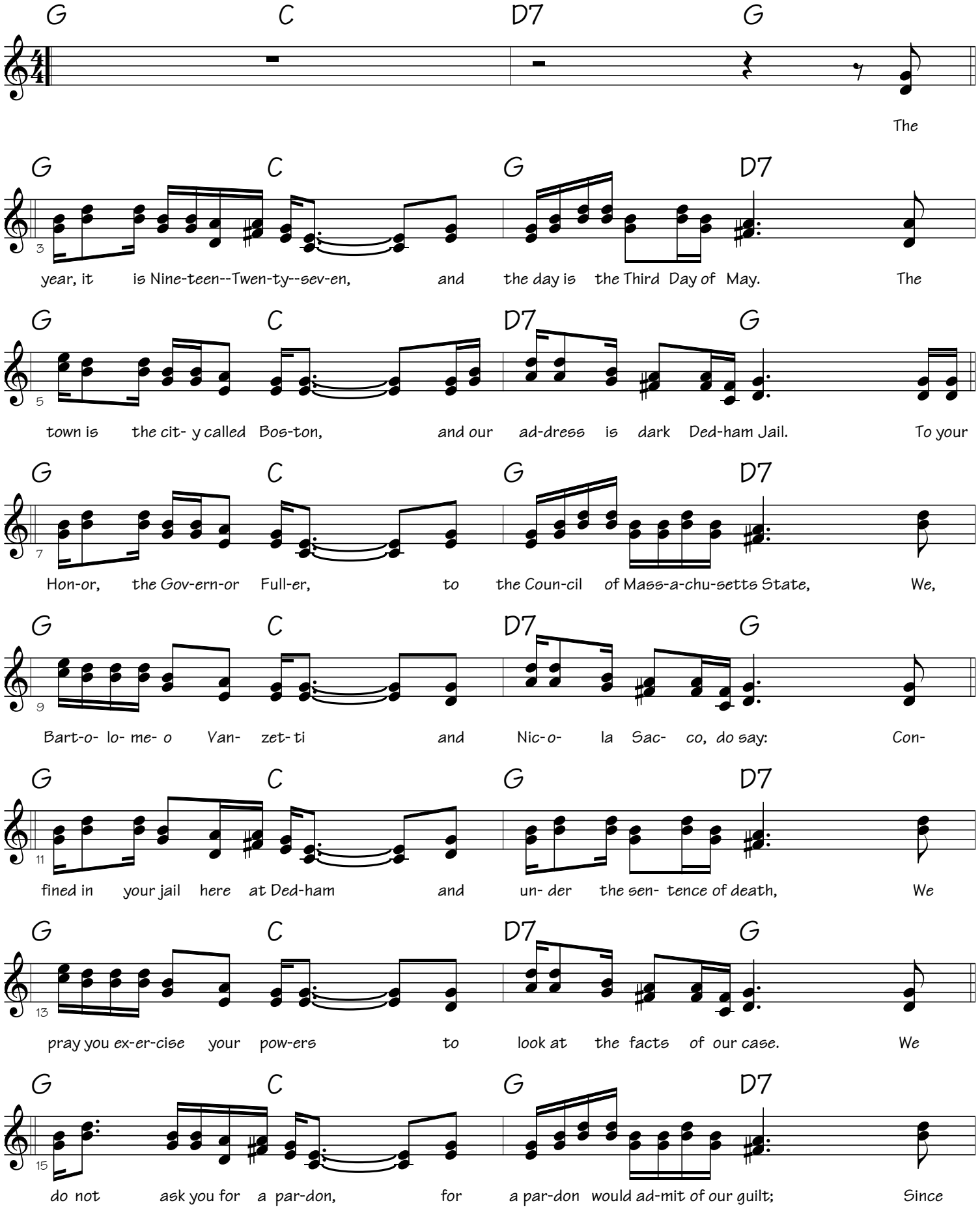

95 G C G D7
how could our jur - y see clear-ly when lawy-ers, judg - es, and cops
97 G C D7 G
Called us low - type I - tal-ians and said we looked like reg - u - lar Wops? Draft
99 G C G D7
dodg-ers, gun pack-ers, an-arch-ists, these vul - gar sound - ing names
101 G C D7 G
Blew dust in the eyes of the jur-ors; the crowd in the court - room, the same. We
103 G C G D7
do not be-lieve, sir, that tor-ture, beat-ings, and kill - ings, and pains
105 G C D7 G
Will lift man's eyes to the high-est of views and break his bil - bos and chains. We
107 G C G D7
be-lieve you must strug-gle for free-dom be-fore your free - dom you'll gain:
109 G C D7 G
Free dom from fear, sir, and greed, and your free dom to think high-er things. This

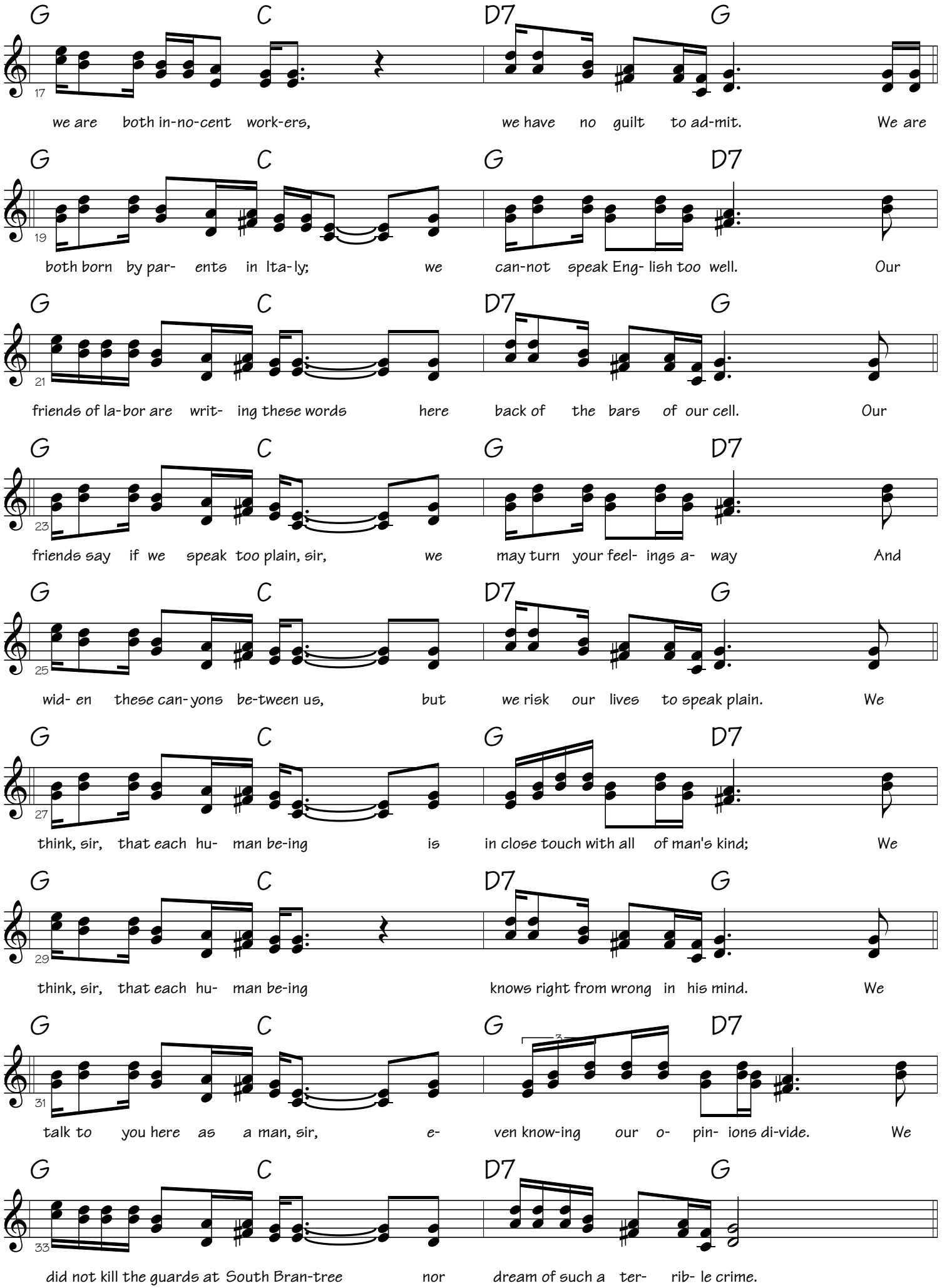

111
G C G D7
fight, sir, is not a new bat-tle; we did not make it last night.
113
G C D7 G
'Twas fought by God-win and Shel-ly, Pis-a-ca-ne and Tols-toi and Christ. It's
115
G C G D7
big-ger than a-toms or sands of the des-erts or plan-ets that roll in the sky. Till
117
G C D7 G
work-ers get rid of their rob-bers, well, it's wors-er to live than to die. Your
119
G C G D7
Ex-cel-len-cy, we're not ask-ing par-don but ask-ing to be set free With
121
G C D7 G
lib-er-ty, with pride, sir, and hon-or, and par-don we will not re-ceive. A
123
G C G D7
par-don you've giv-en to crim in-als who've brok-en the laws of our land. We
125
G C D7 G
do not ask you for par-don, sir, be-cause we are in-no-cent men. If


127
G C G D7
you shake your head no, dear Gov ern-or, of course, our doom, it is sealed, But we've
129
G C D7 G
held up our heads like true sons of men for sev - en years in these jails of steel. We're
131
G C G D7
walk-ing down this cor - ri - dor to death, sir, like work-ers have walked be - fore, But
133
G C D7 G G
we'd work in our work ing class strug gle if we lived a thou-sand lives more.

Vanzetti's Letter - Vocals

Woody Guthrie

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both born by par- ents in Ita-ly; we can-not speak Eng- lish too well. Our
G C D7 G
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friends of la-bor are writ- ing these words here back of the bars of our cell. Our
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friends say if we speak too plain, sir, we may turn your feel- ings a- way And
G C D7 G
25
wid- en these can-yons be-tween us, but we risk our lives to speak plain. We
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think, sir, that each hu- man be-ing is in close touch with all of man's kind; We
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29
think, sir, that each hu- man be-ing knows right from wrong in his mind. We
G C G D7
31
talk to you here as a man, sir, e- ven know-ing our o- pin- ions di-vide. We
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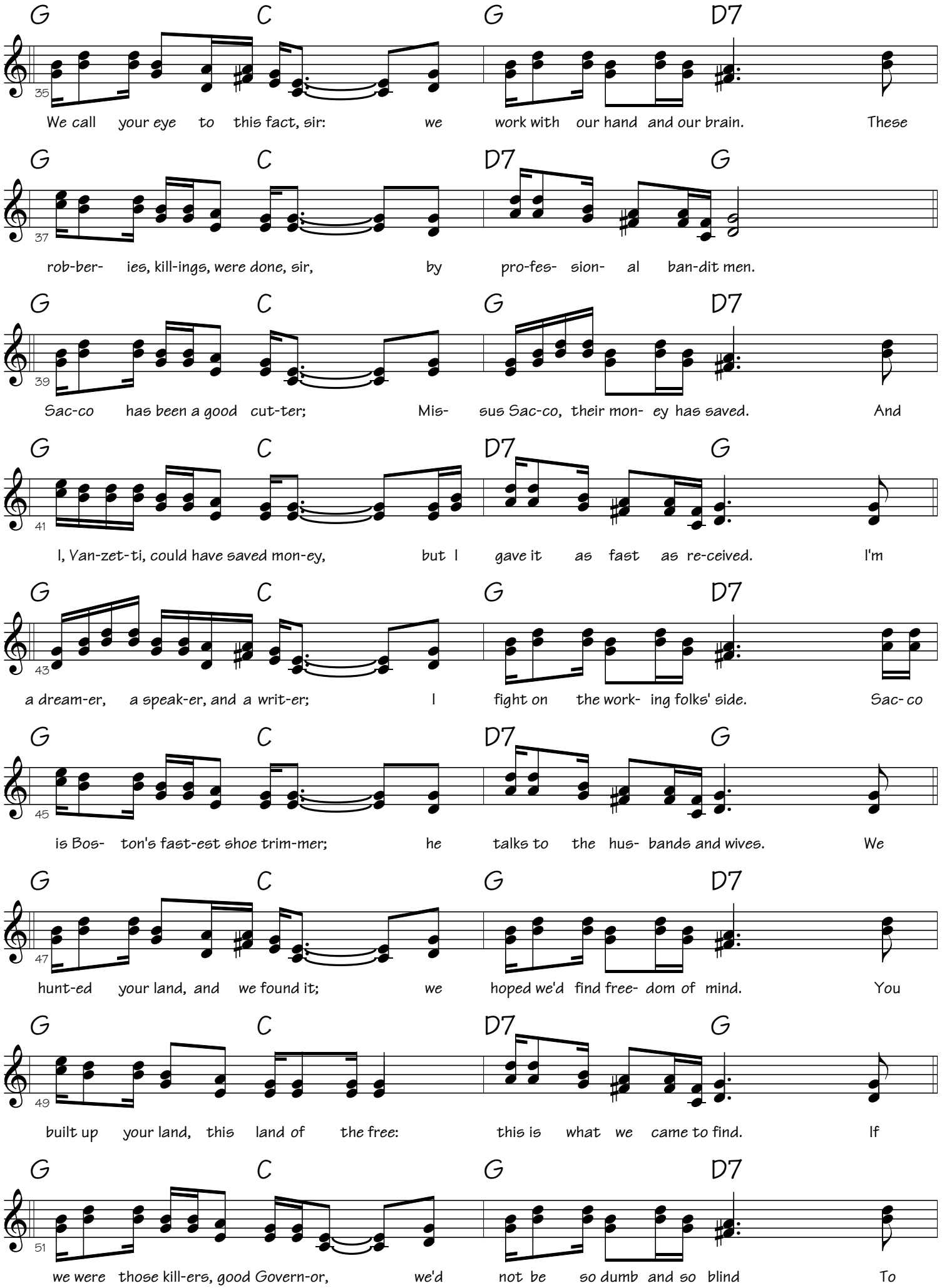
did not kill the guards at South Bran-tree nor dream of such a ter- rib- le crime.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built up your land, this land of the free: this is what we came to find. If
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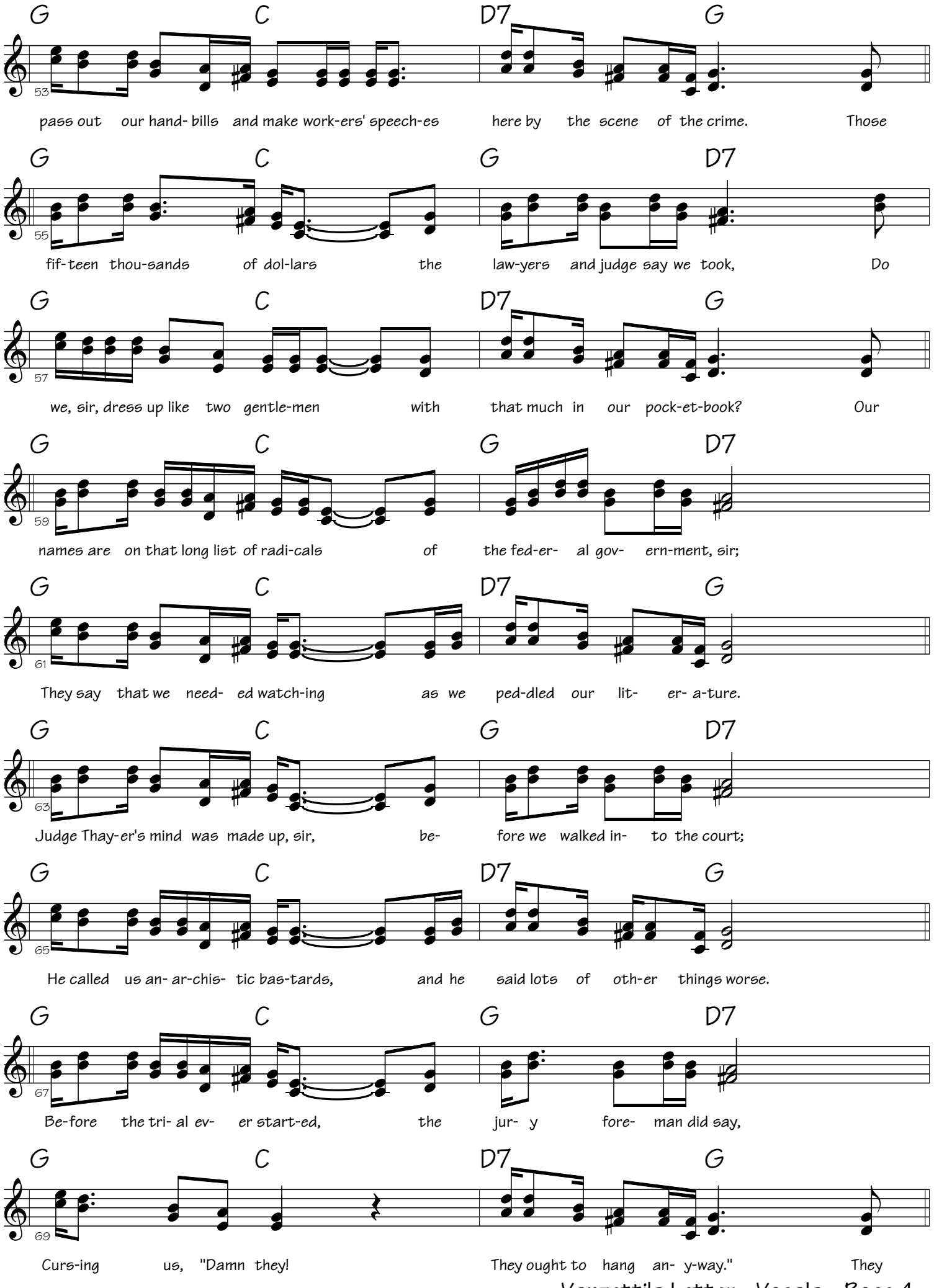
we were those kill-ers, good Govern-or, we'd not be so dumb and so blind To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we, sir, dress up like two gentle-men with that much in our pock-et-book? Our
G C G D7
59
names are on that long list of radi-cals of the fed-er- al gov- ern-ment, sir;
G C D7 G
61
They say that we need- ed watch-ing as we ped-dled our lit- er- a-ture.
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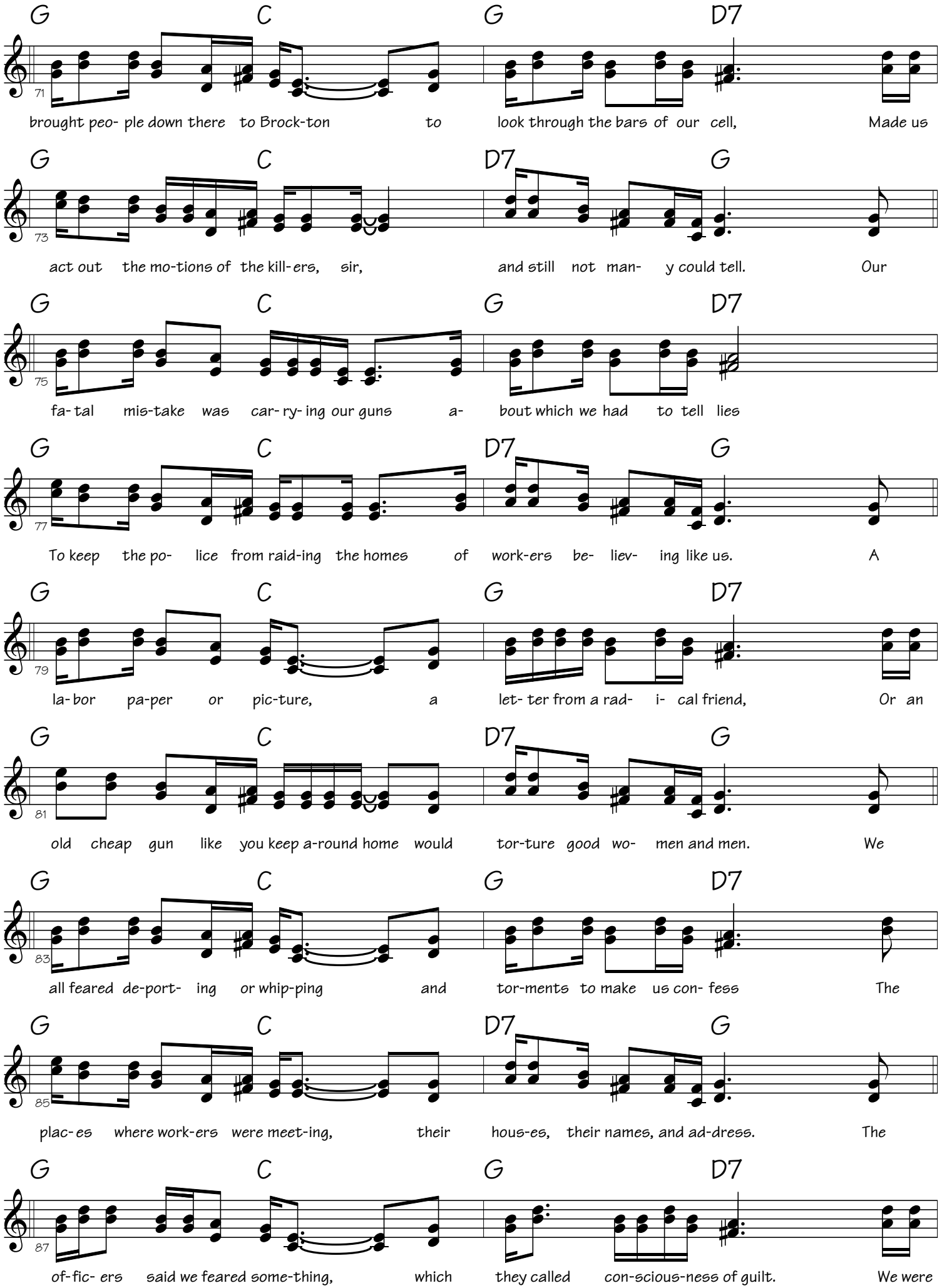
Judge Thay-er's mind was made up, sir, be- fore we walked in- to the court;
G C D7 G
65
He called us an- ar-chis- tic bas-tards, and he said lots of oth-er things worse.
G C G D7
67
Be-fore the tri- al ev- er start-ed, the jur- y fore- man did say,
G C D7 G
69
Curs-ing us, "Damn they! They ought to hang an- y-way." They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brought peo- ple down there to Brock-ton to look through the bars of our cell, Made us
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73
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G C G D7
75
fa- tal mis-take was car- ry- ing our guns a- bout which we had to tell lies
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77
To keep the po- lice from raid-ing the homes of work-ers be- liev- ing like us. A
G C G D7
79
la- bor pa-per or pic-ture, a let- ter from a rad- i- cal friend, Or an
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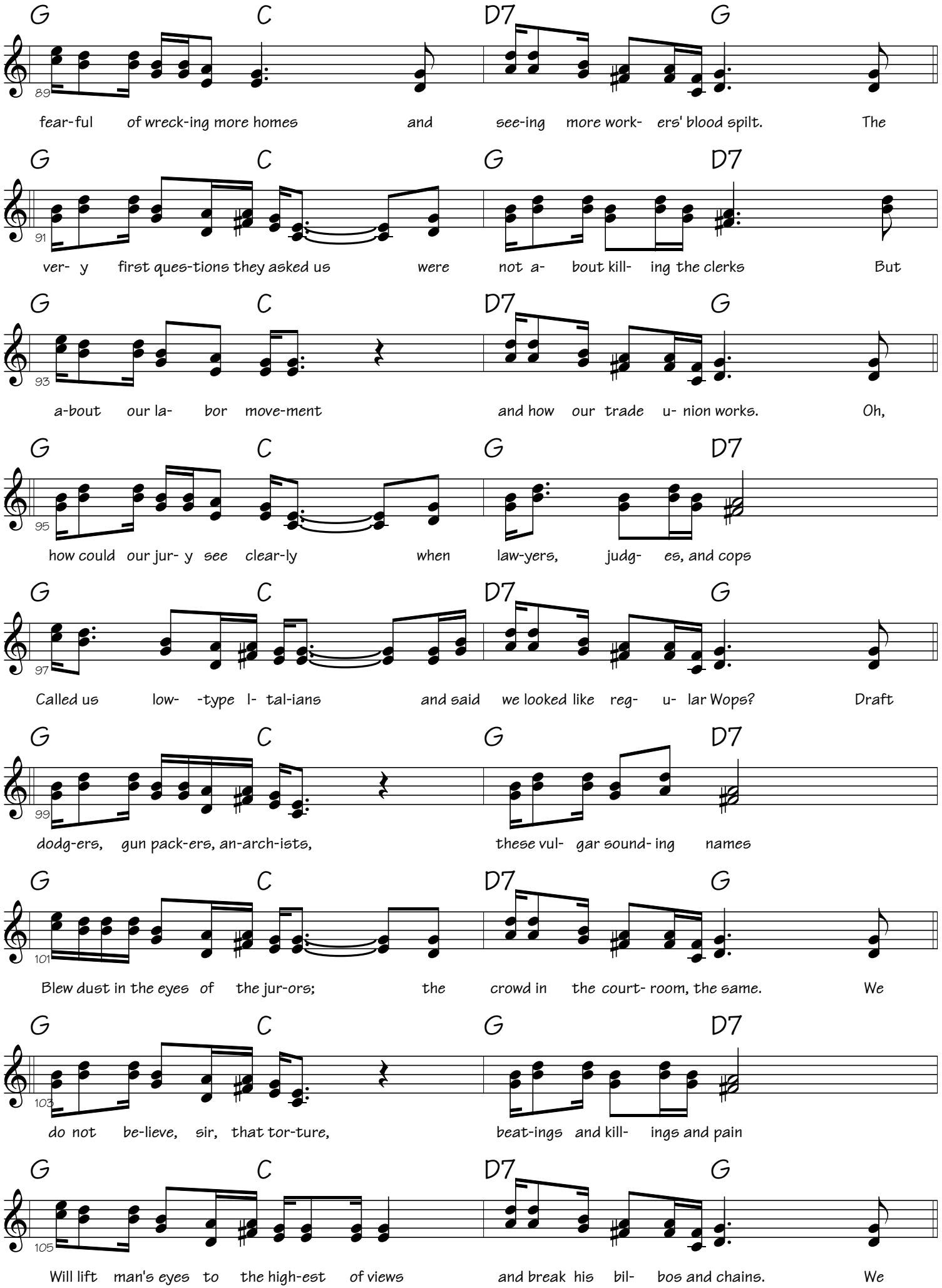
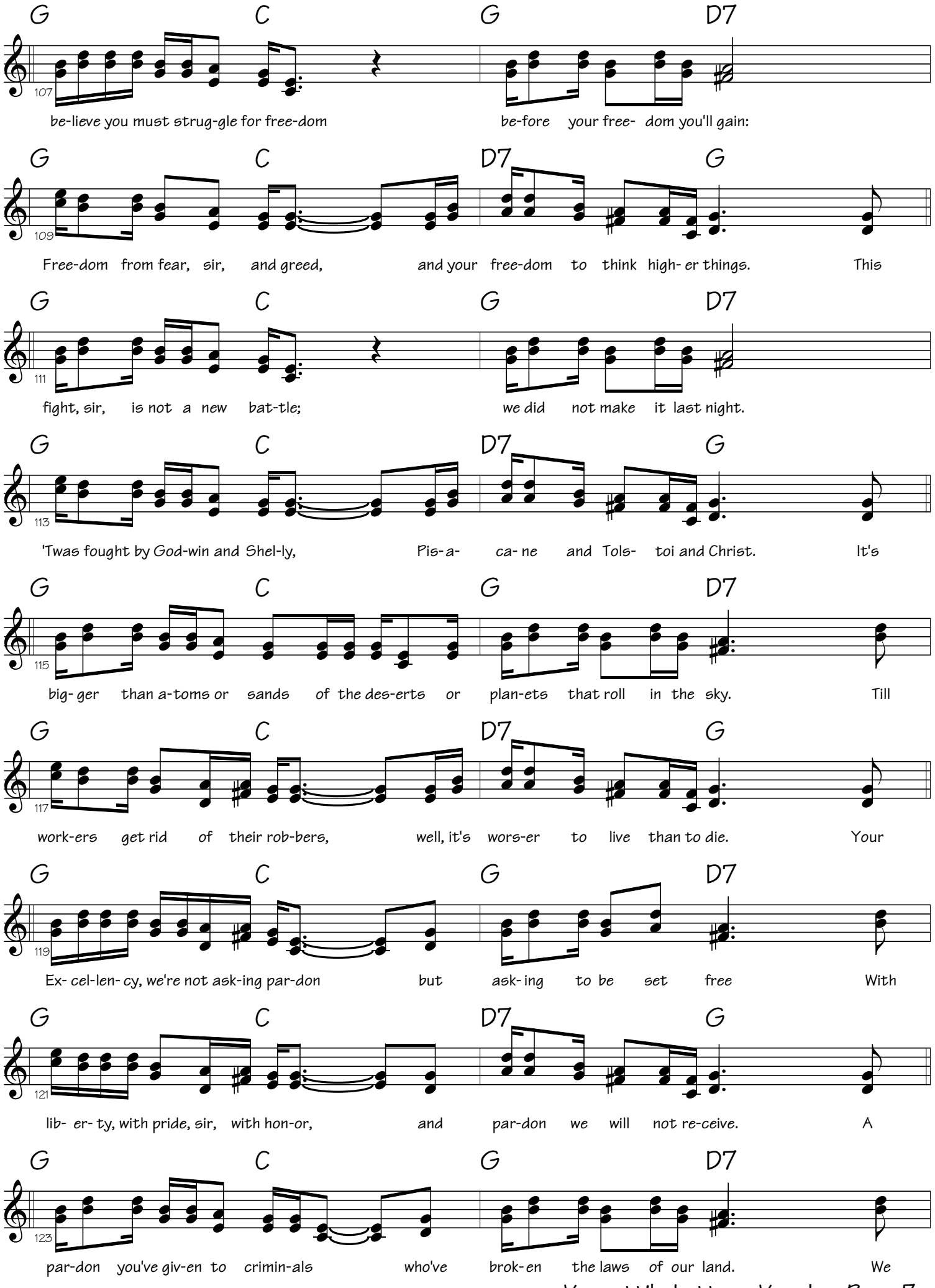
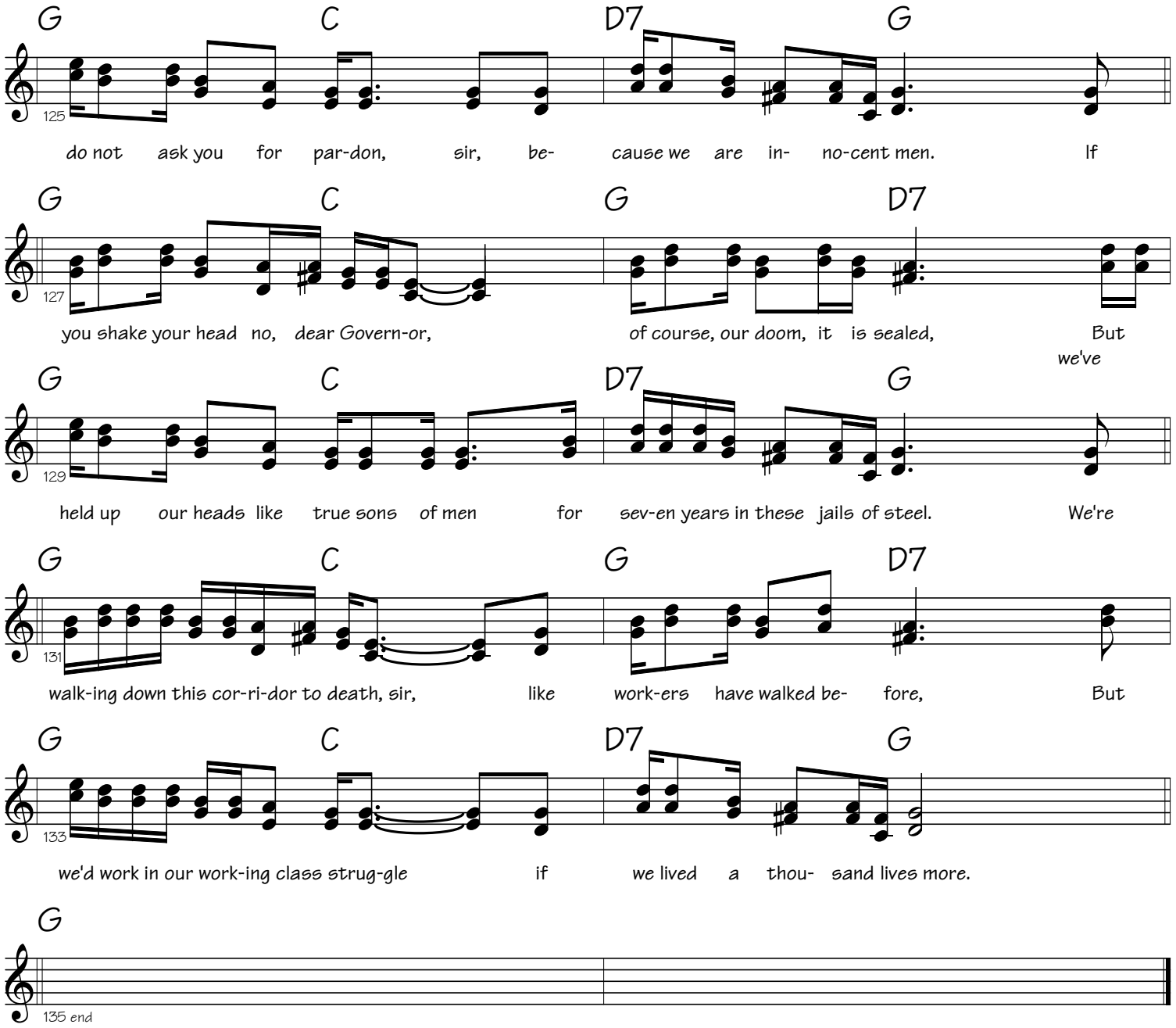
81
old cheap gun like you keep a-round home would tor-ture good wo- men and men. We
G C G D7
83
all feared de-port- ing or whip-ping and tor-ments to make us con- fess The
G C D7 G
85
plac- es where work-ers were meet-ing, their hous-es, their names, and ad-dress. The
G C G D7
87
of-fic- ers said we feared some-thing, which they called con-scious-ness of guilt. We were

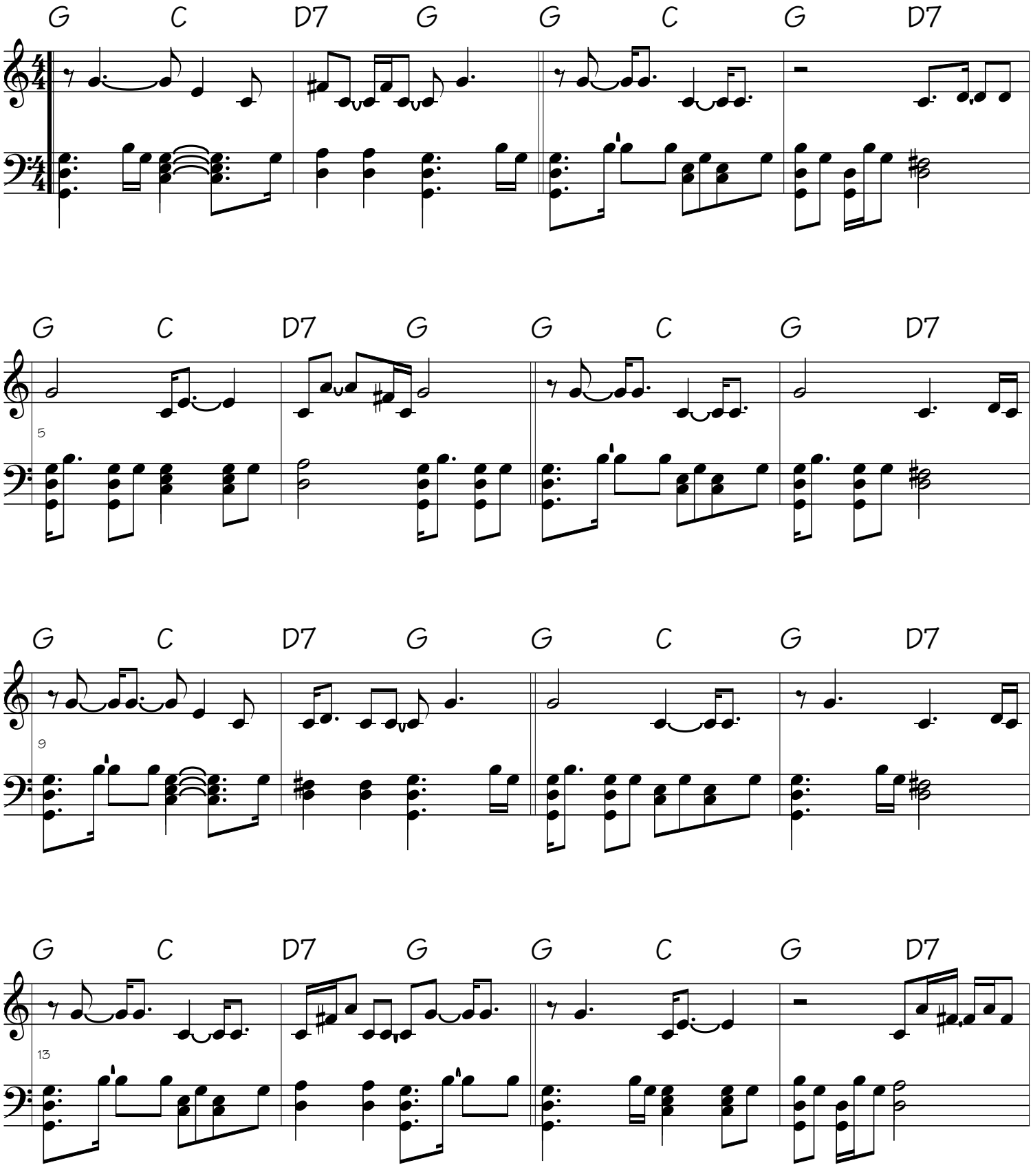

G C D7 G
89
fear-ful of wreck-ing more homes and see-ing more work- ers' blood spilt. The
G C G D7
91
ver- y first ques-tions they asked us were not a- bout kill- ing the clerks But
G C D7 G
93
a-bout our la- bor move-ment and how our trade u- nion works. Oh,
G C G D7
95
how could our jur- y see clear-ly when law-yers, judg- es, and cops
G C D7 G
97
Called us low- -type I- tal-ians and said we looked like reg- u- lar Wops? Draft
G C G D7
99
dodg-ers, gun pack-ers, an-arch-ists, these vul- gar sound- ing names
G C D7 G
101
Blew dust in the eyes of the jur-ors; the crowd in the court- room, the same. We
G C G D7
103
do not be-lieve, sir, that tor-ture, beat-ings and kill- ings and pain
G C D7 G
105
Will lift man's eyes to the high-est of views and break his bil- bos and chains. We

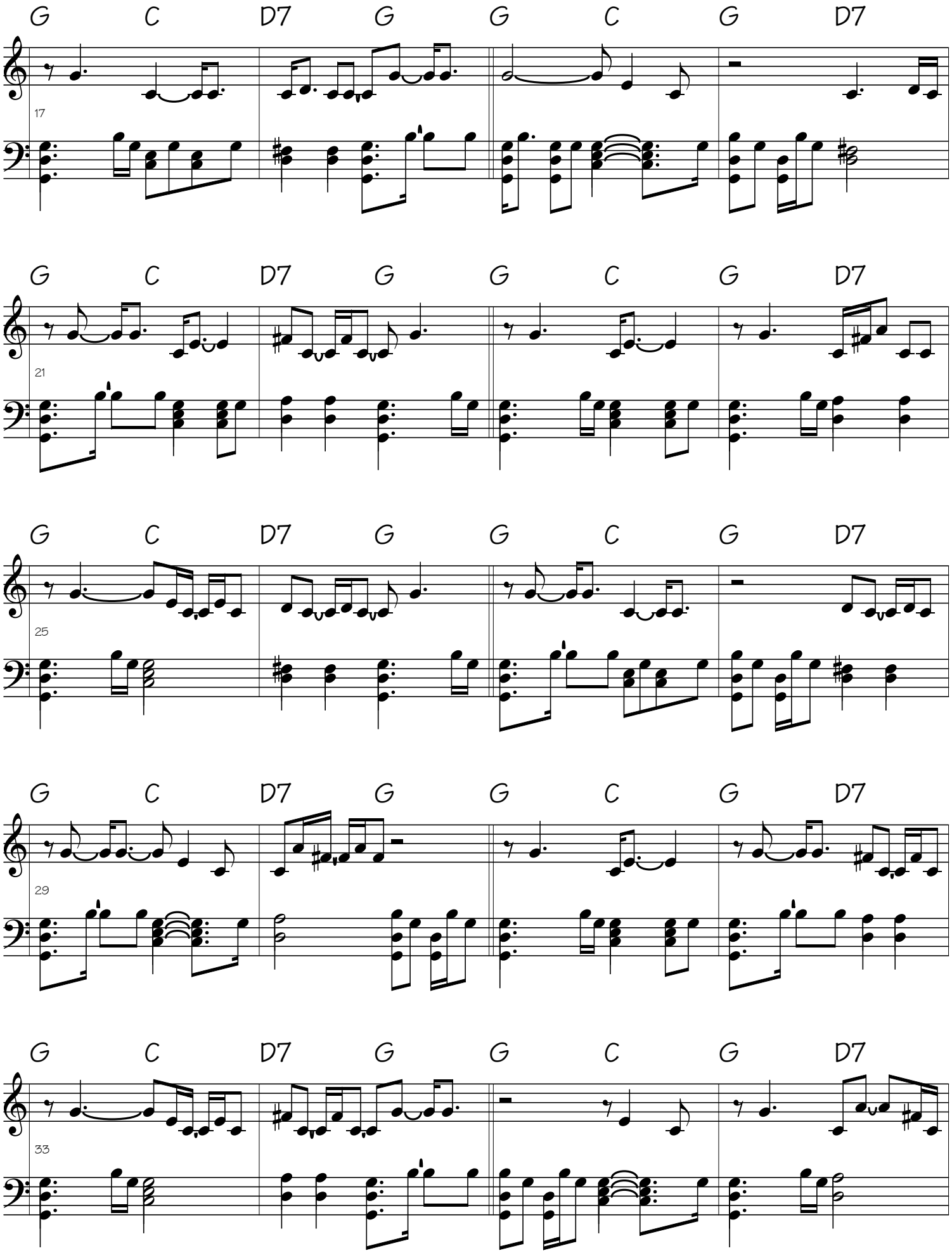

G C G D7
107
be-lieve you must strug-gle for free-dom be-fore your free- dom you'll gain:
G C D7 G
109
Free-dom from fear, sir, and greed, and your free-dom to think high- er things. This
G C G D7
111
fight, sir, is not a new bat-tle; we did not make it last night.
G C D7 G
113
'Twas fought by God-win and Shel-ly, Pis-a- ca- ne and Tols- toi and Christ. It's
G C G D7
115
big- ger than a-toms or sands of the des-erts or plan-ets that roll in the sky. Till
G C D7 G
117
work-ers get rid of their rob-bers, well, it's wors-er to live than to die. Your
G C G D7
119
Ex- cel-len- cy, we're not ask-ing par-don but ask- ing to be set free With
G C D7 G
121
lib- er- ty, with pride, sir, with hon-or, and par-don we will not re-ceive. A
G C G D7
123
par-don you've giv-en to crimin-als who've brok-en the laws of our land. We

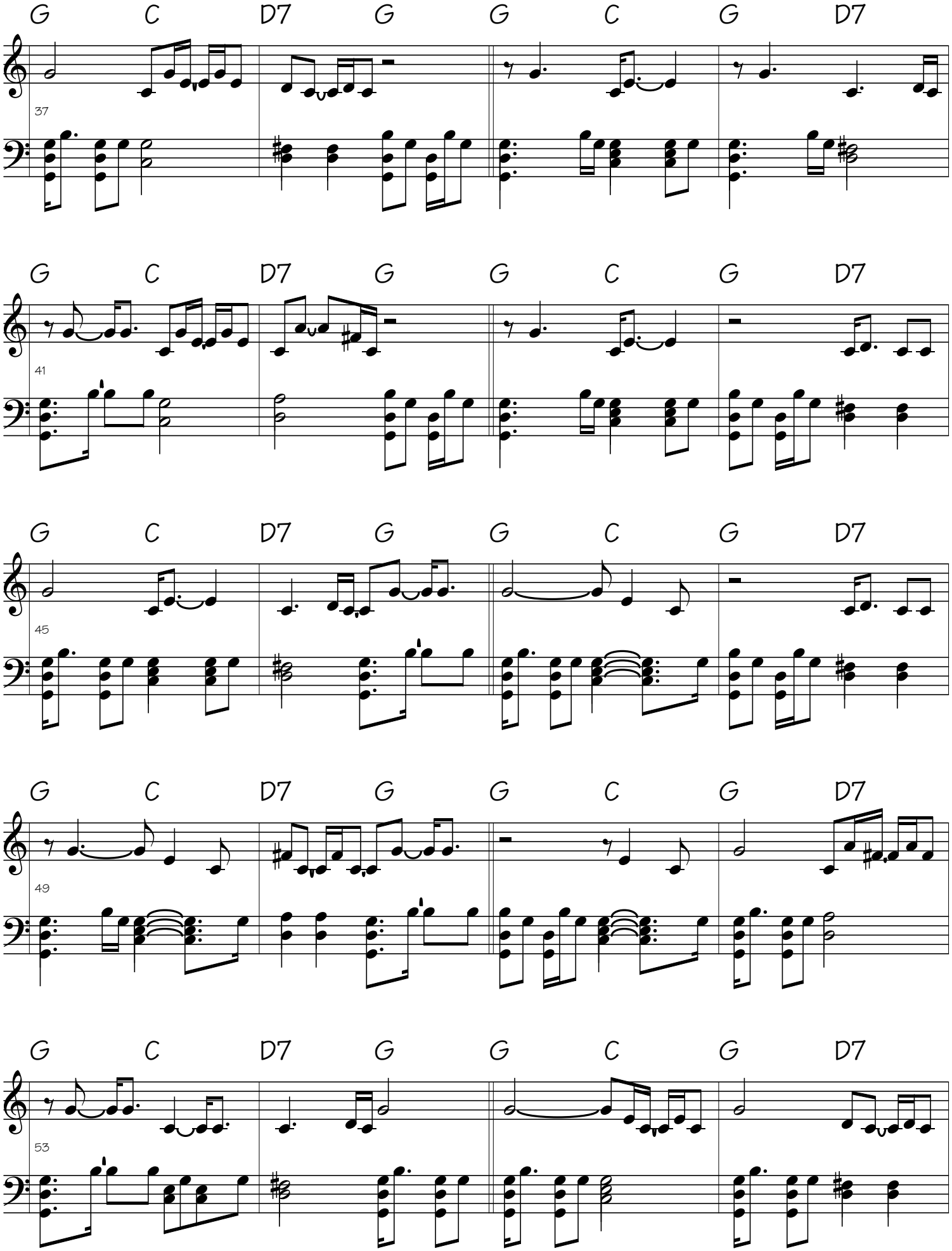

G C D7 G
125
do not ask you for par-don, sir, be- cause we are in- no-cent men. If
G C G D7
127
you shake your head no, dear Govern-or, of course, our doom, it is sealed, But
we've
G C D7 G
129
held up our heads like true sons of men for sev-en years in these jails of steel. We're
G C G D7
131
walk-ing down this cor-ri-dor to death, sir, like work-ers have walked be- fore, But
G C D7 G
133
we'd work in our work-ing class strug-gle if we lived a thou- sand lives more.
G
135 end

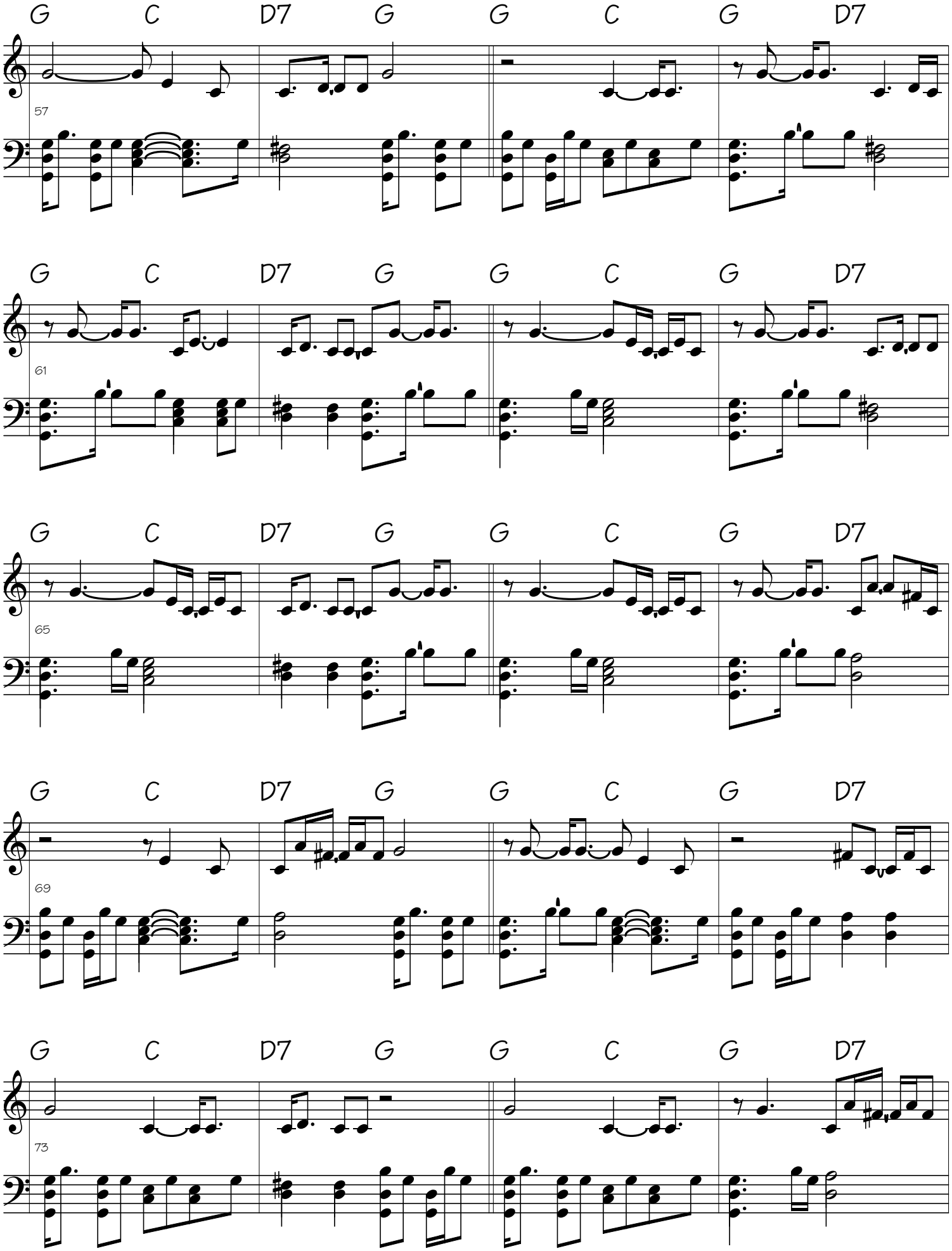
Vanzetti's Letter - Guitar #1

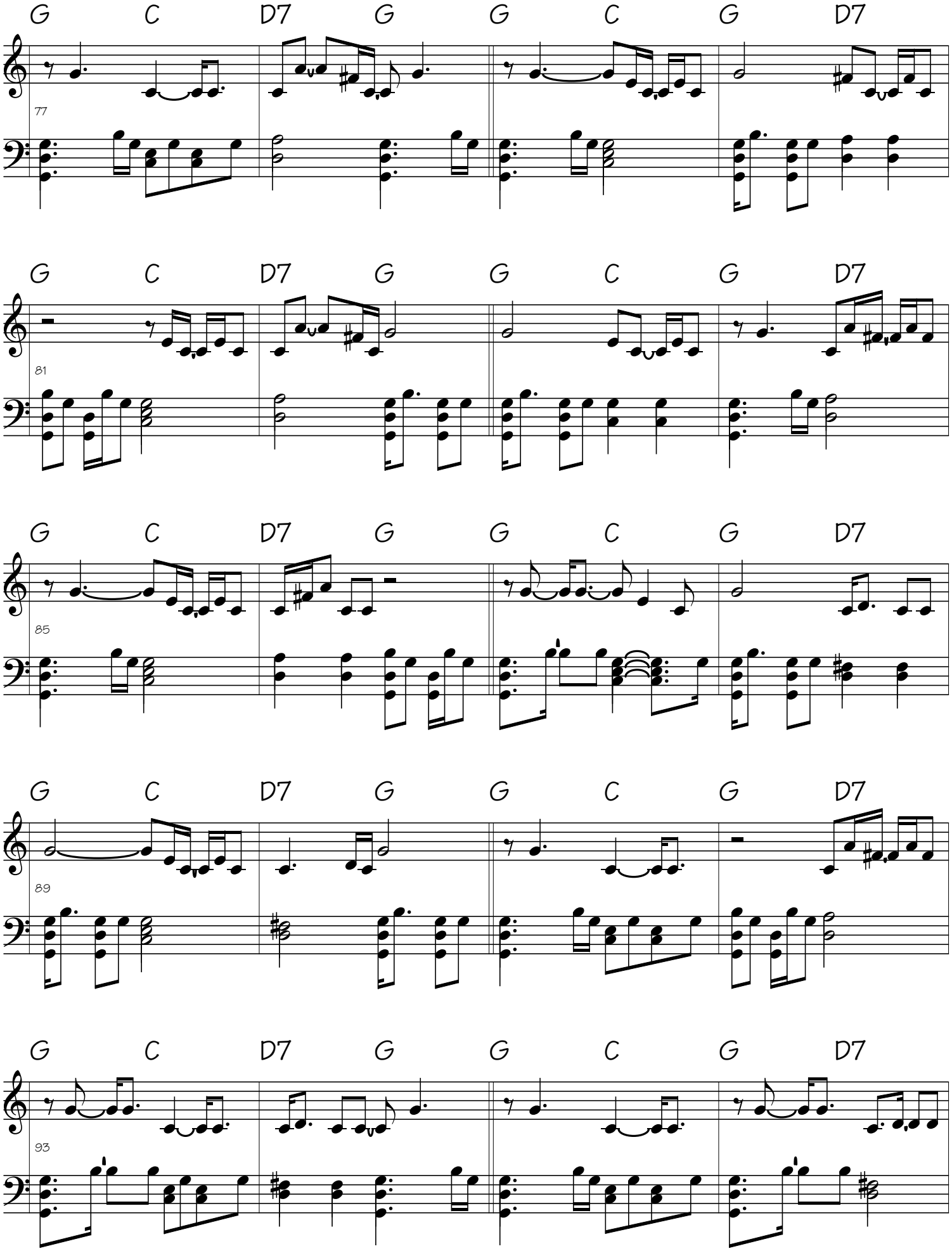
Woody Guthrie

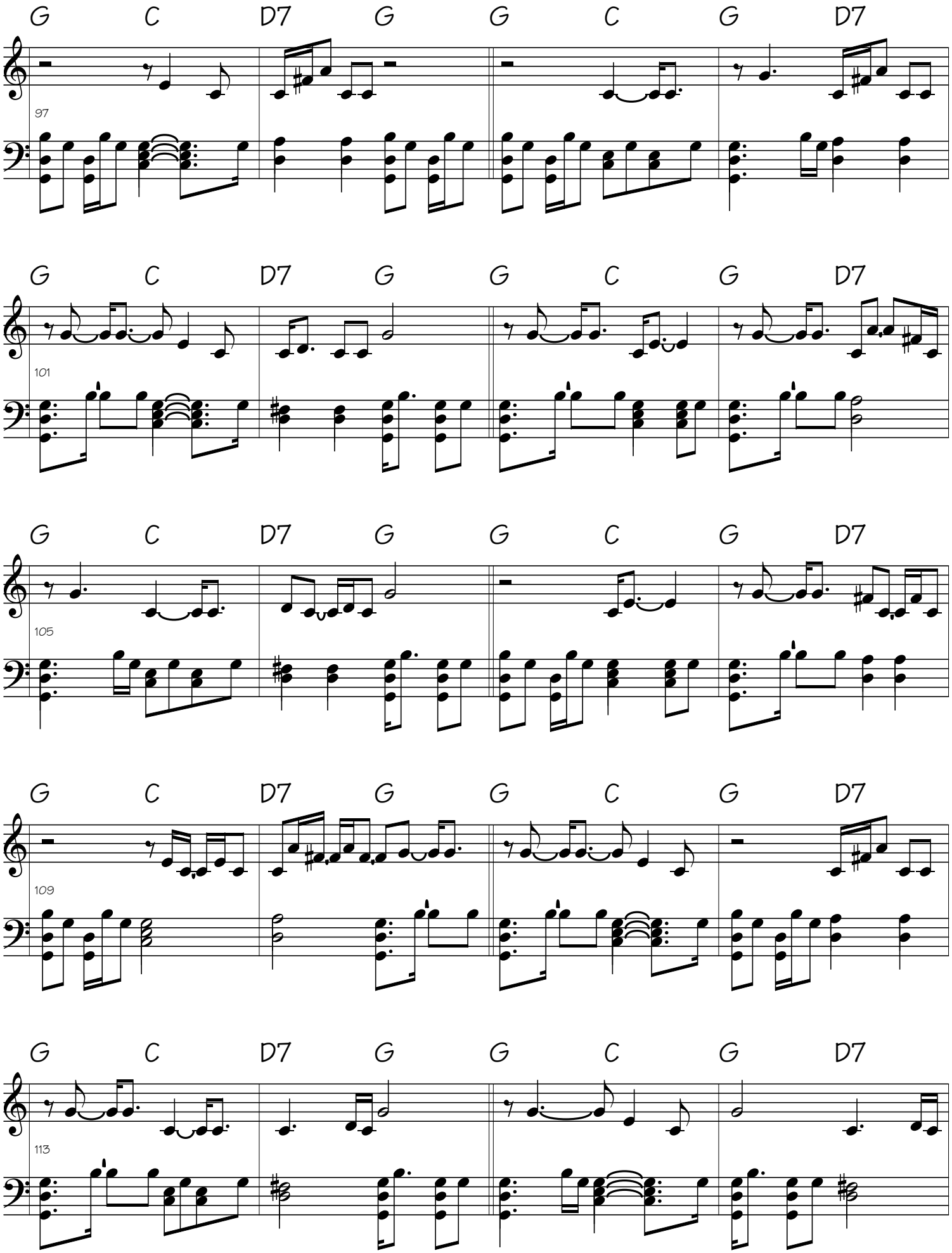



G C D7 G G C G D7
17
G C D7 G G C G D7
21
G C D7 G G C G D7
25
G C D7 G G C G D7
29
G C D7 G G C G D7
33


G C D7 G G C G D7
37
G C D7 G G C G D7
41
G C D7 G G C G D7
45
G C D7 G G C G D7
49
G C D7 G G C G D7
53


G C D7 G G C G D7
57
G C D7 G G C G D7
61
G C D7 G G C G D7
65
G C D7 G G C G D7
69
G C D7 G G C G D7
73


G C D7 G G C G D7
77
G C D7 G G C G D7
81
G C D7 G G C G D7
85
G C D7 G G C G D7
89
G C D7 G G C G D7
93


G C D7 G G C G D7
97
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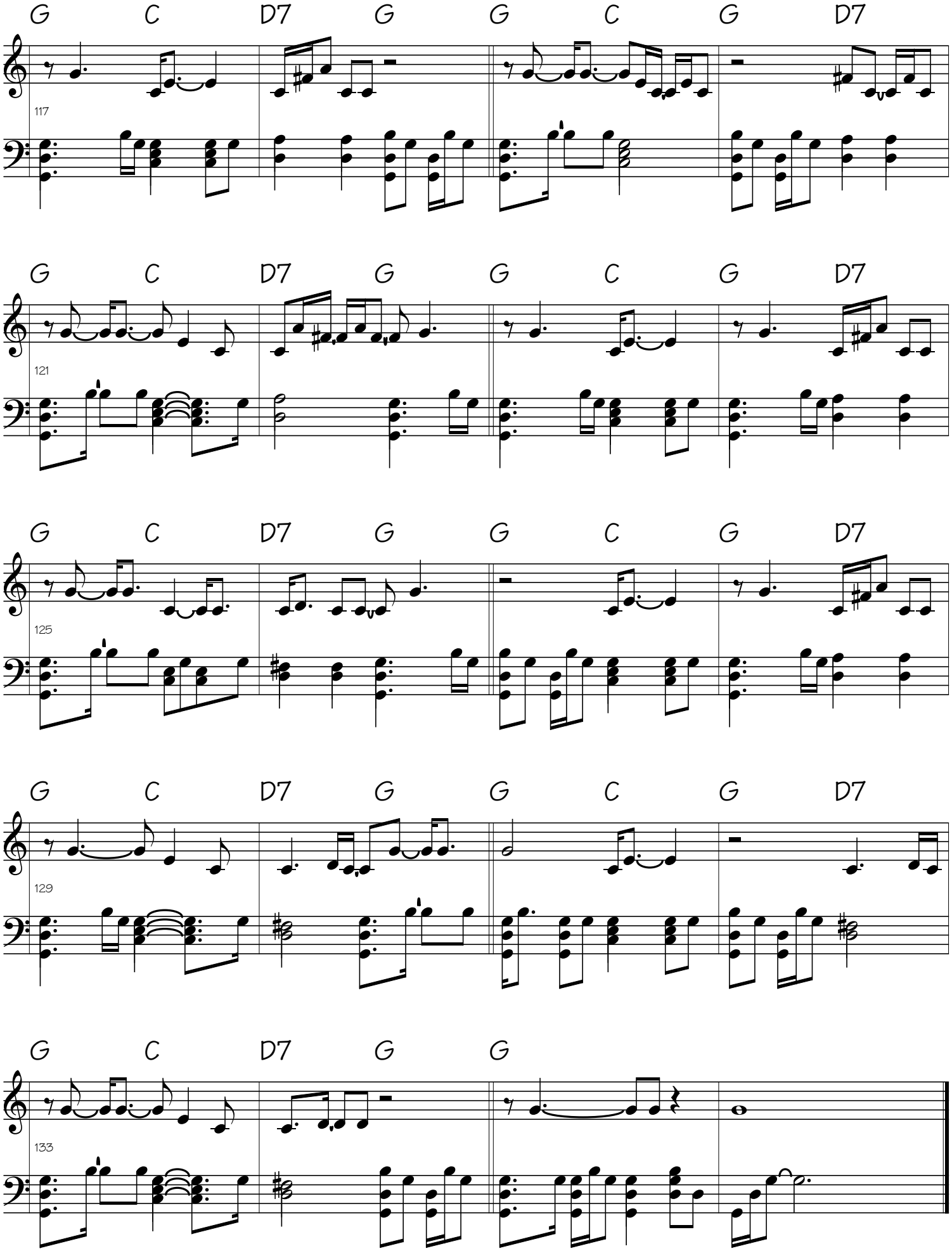
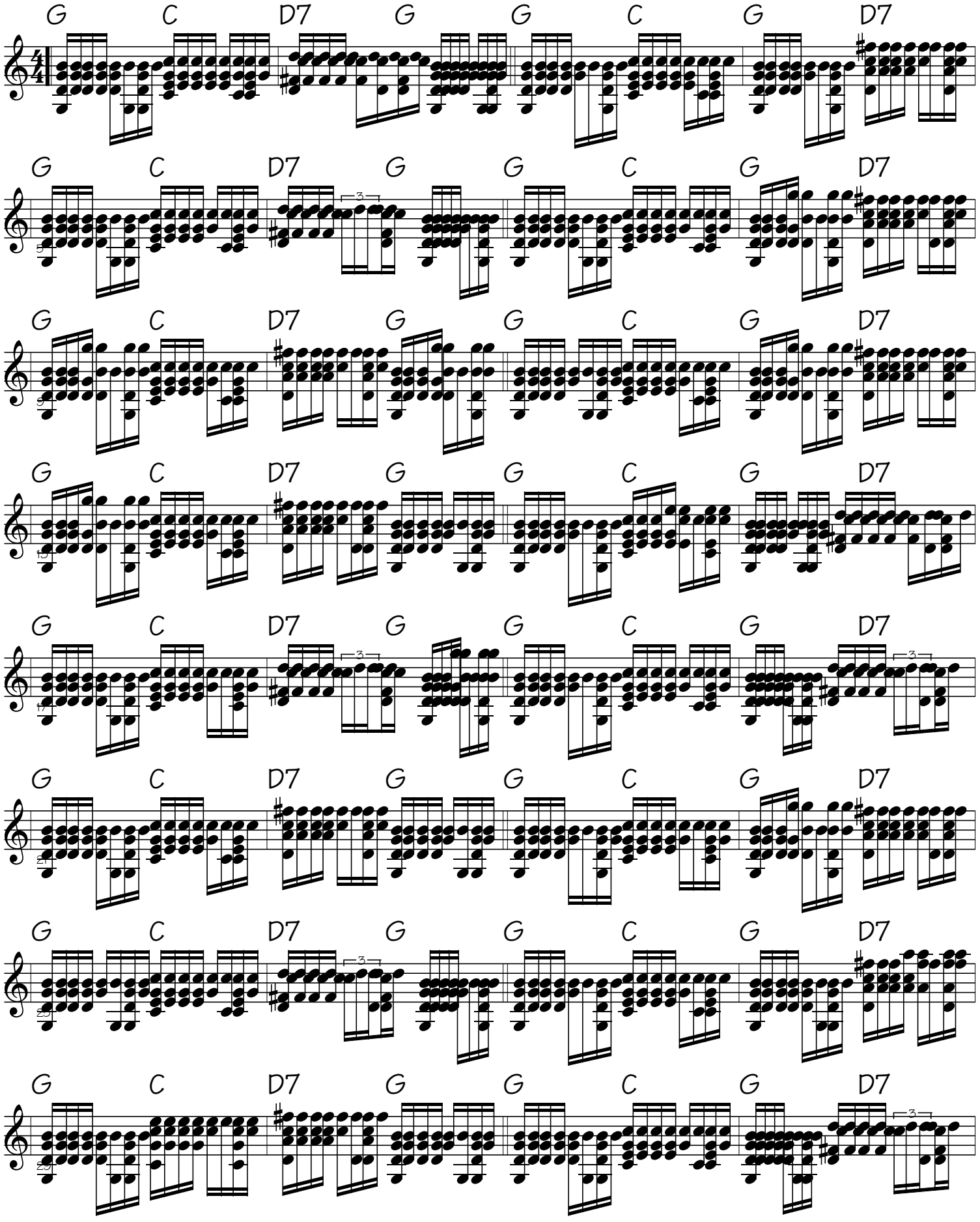
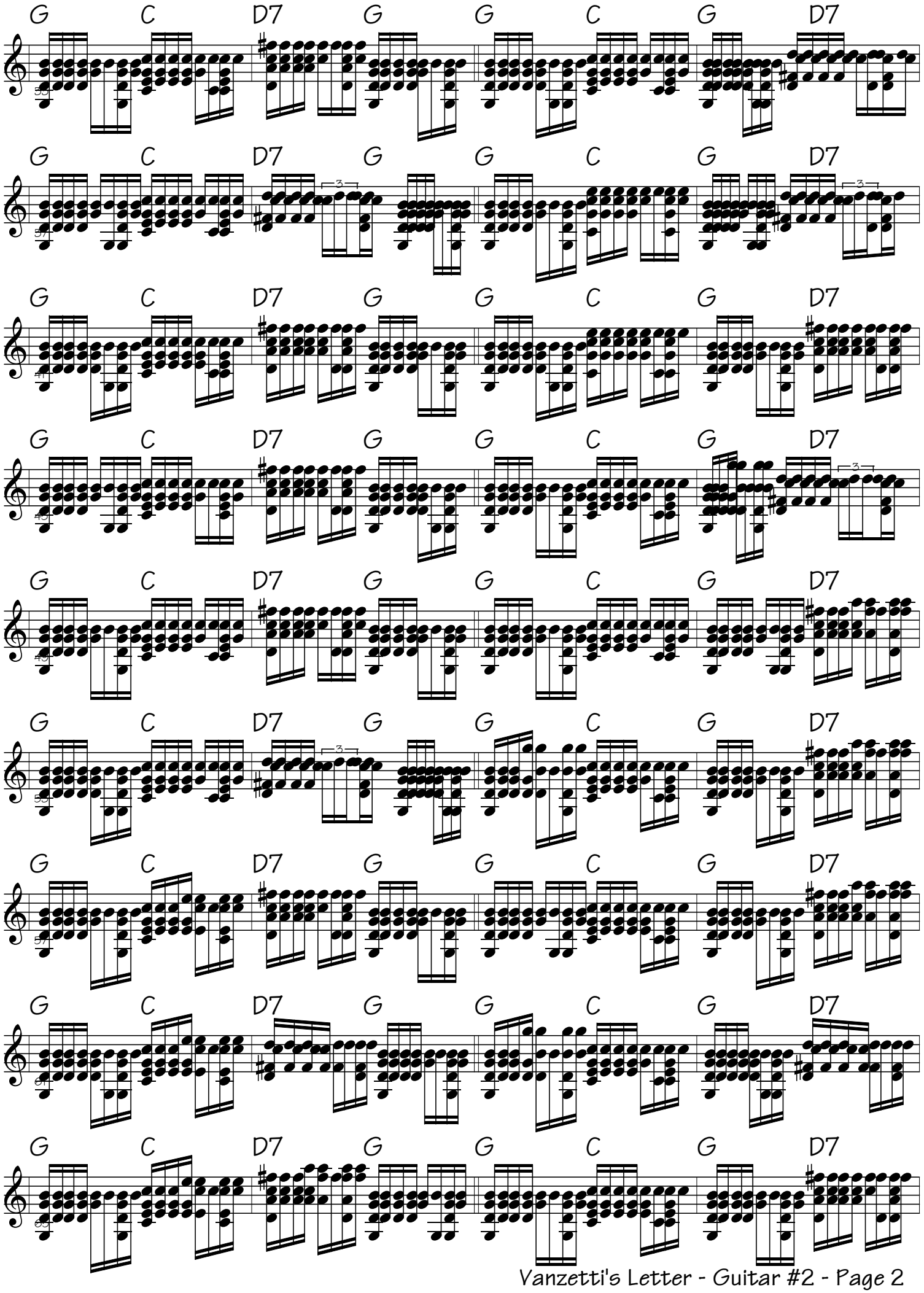

G C D7 G G C G D7
117
G C D7 G G C G D7
121
G C D7 G G C G D7
125
G C D7 G G C G D7
129
G C D7 G G
133

Vanzetti's Letter - Guitar #2

Woody Guthrie

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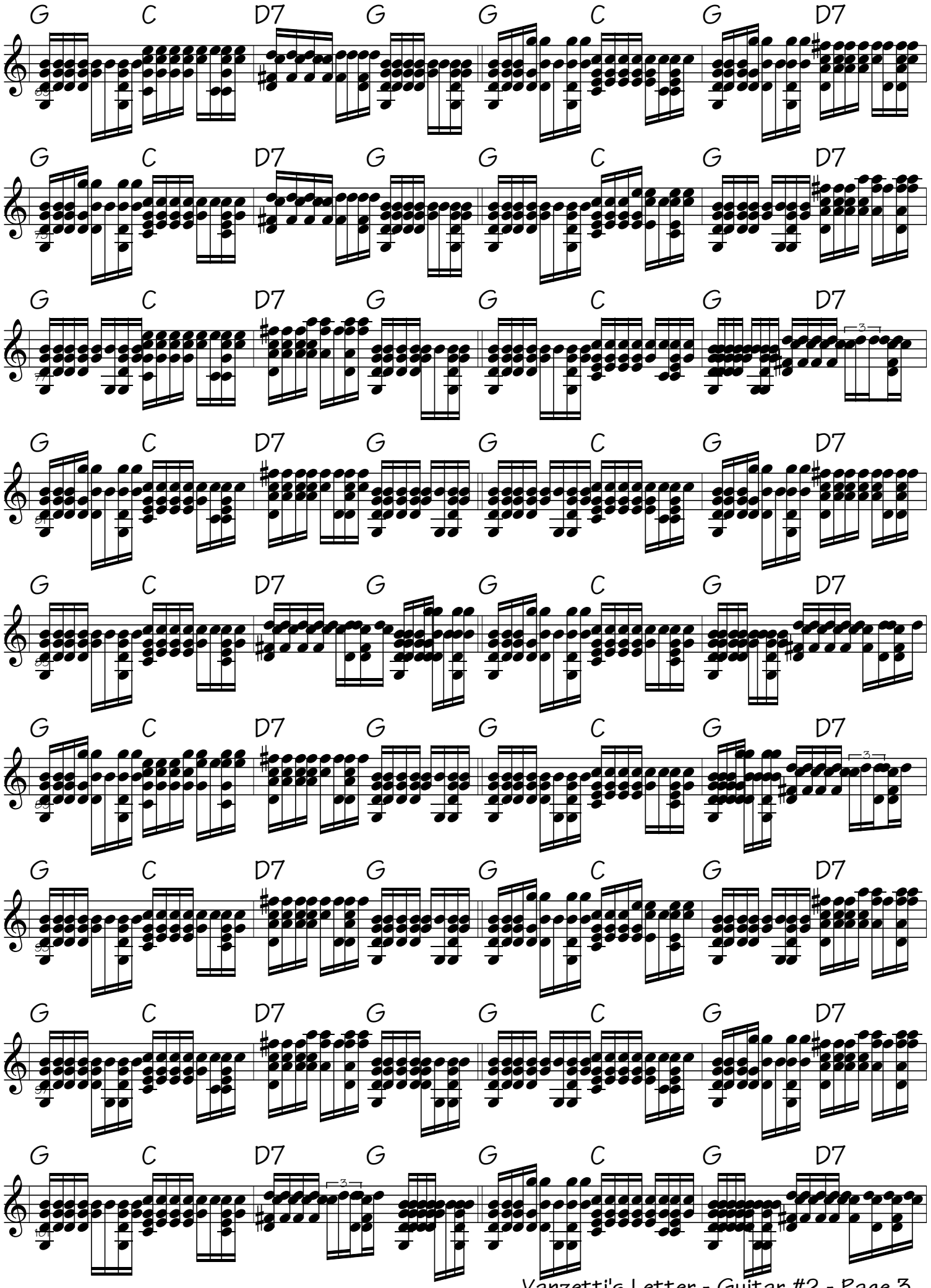
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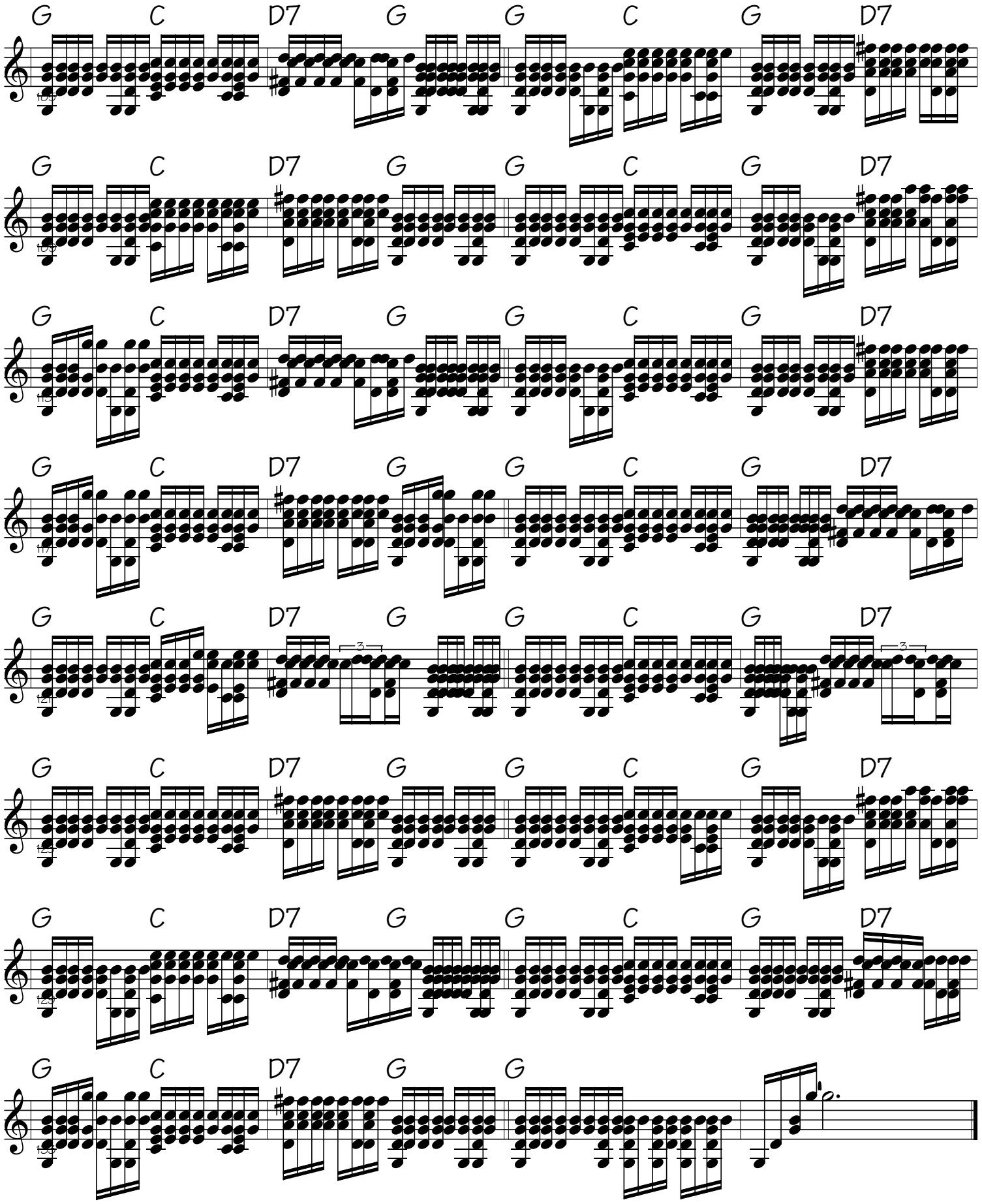
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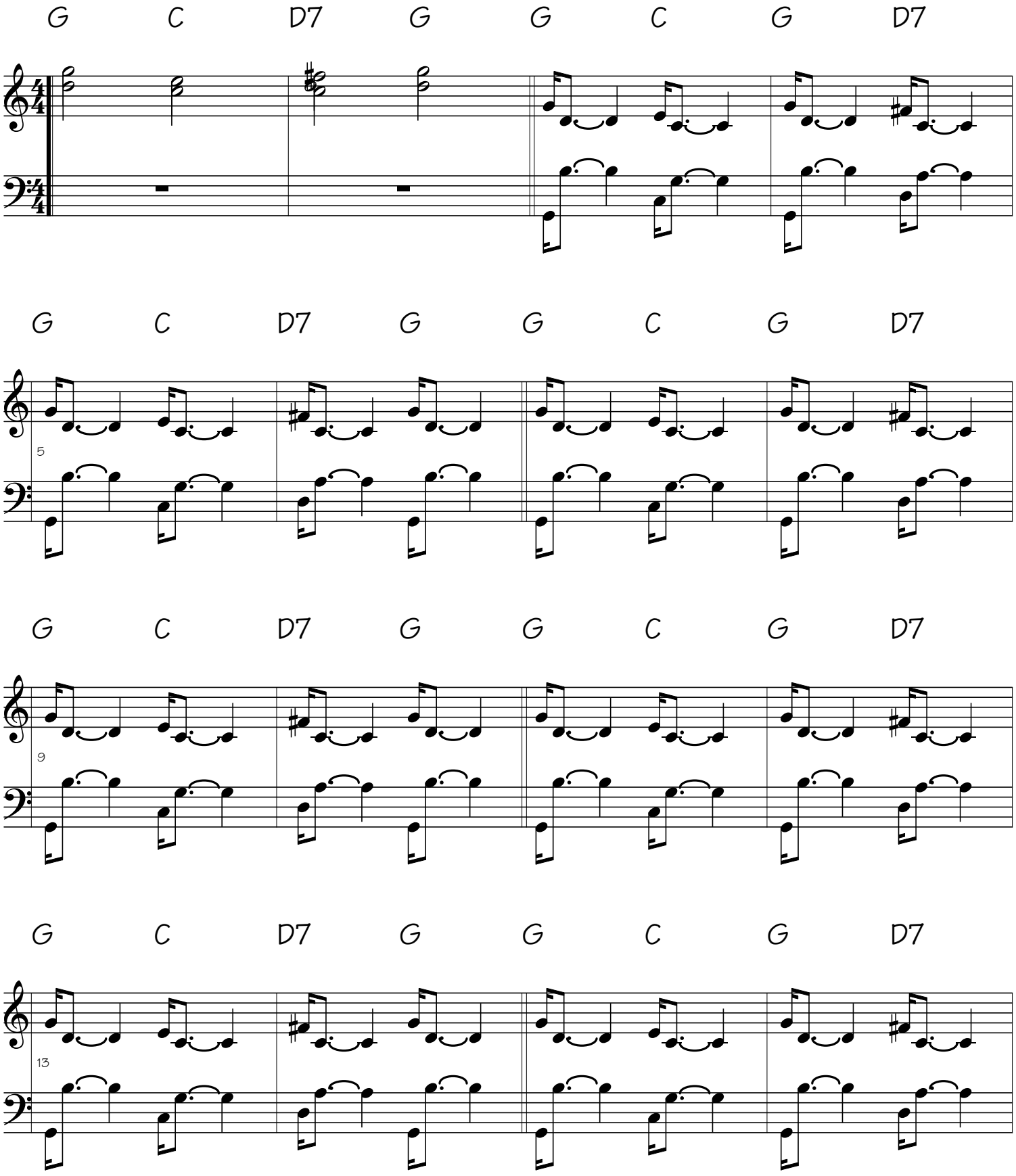
Vanzetti's Letter - Strings

Woody Guthrie



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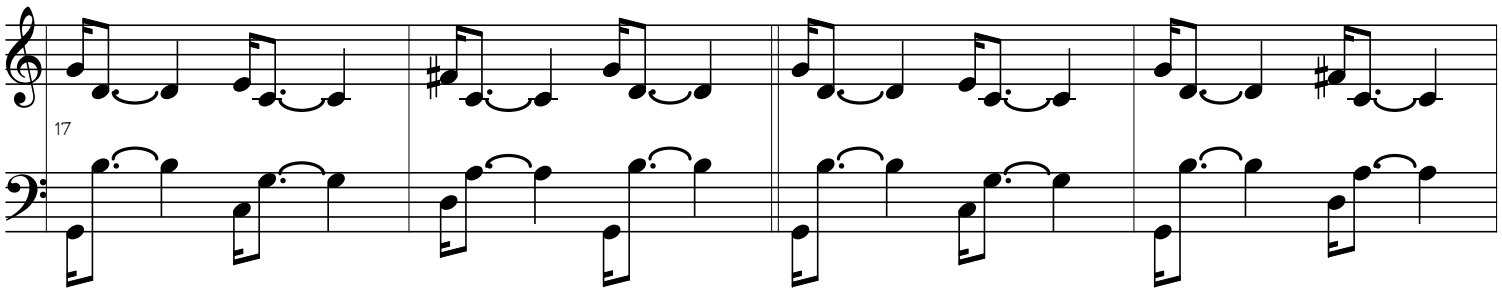

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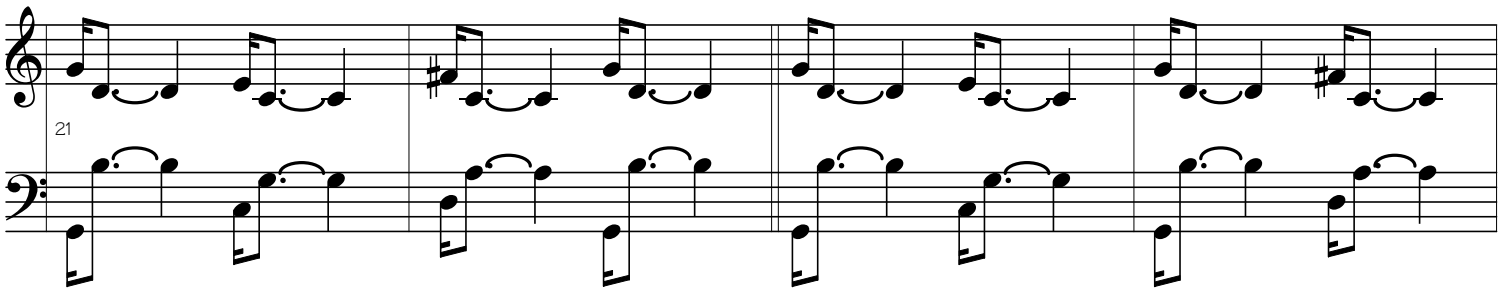

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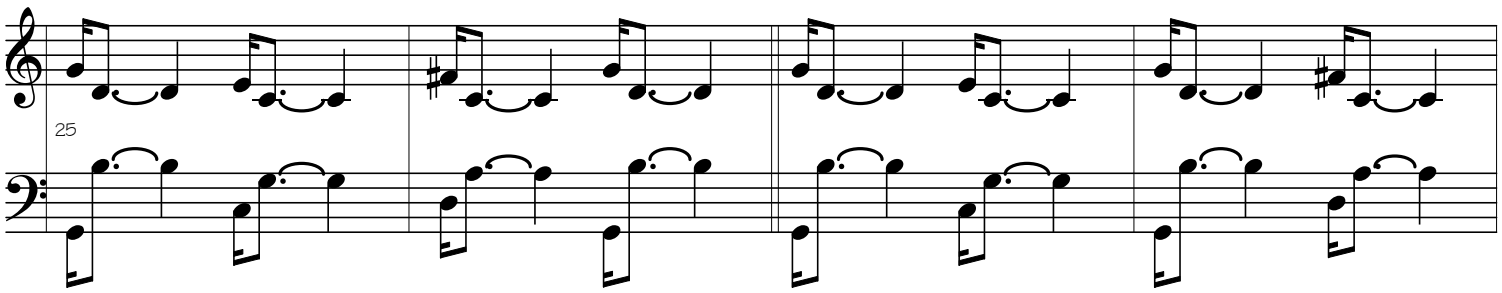

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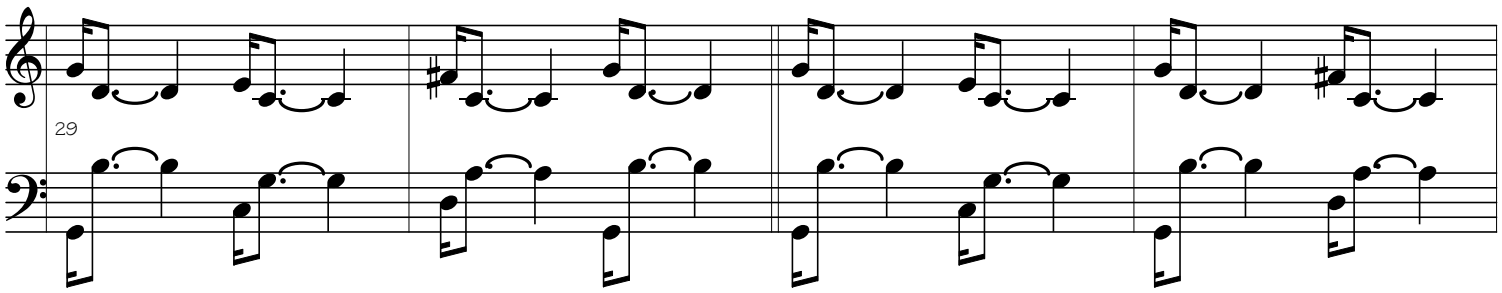

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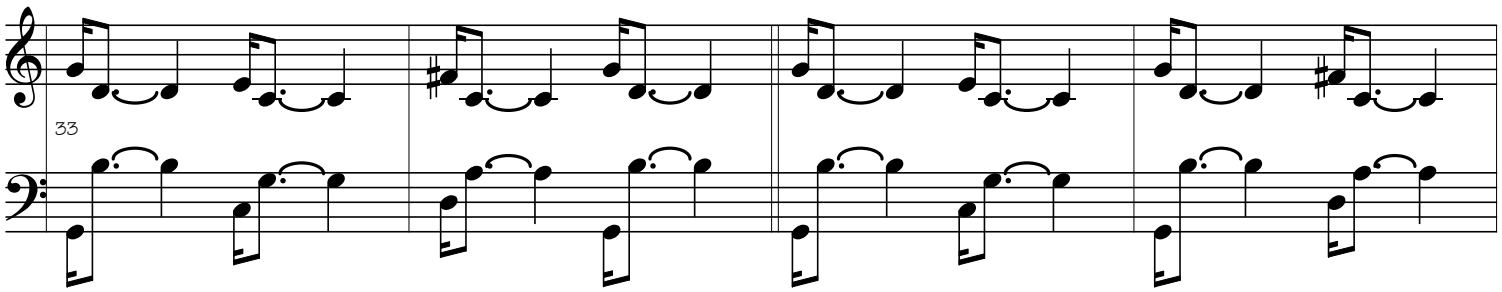

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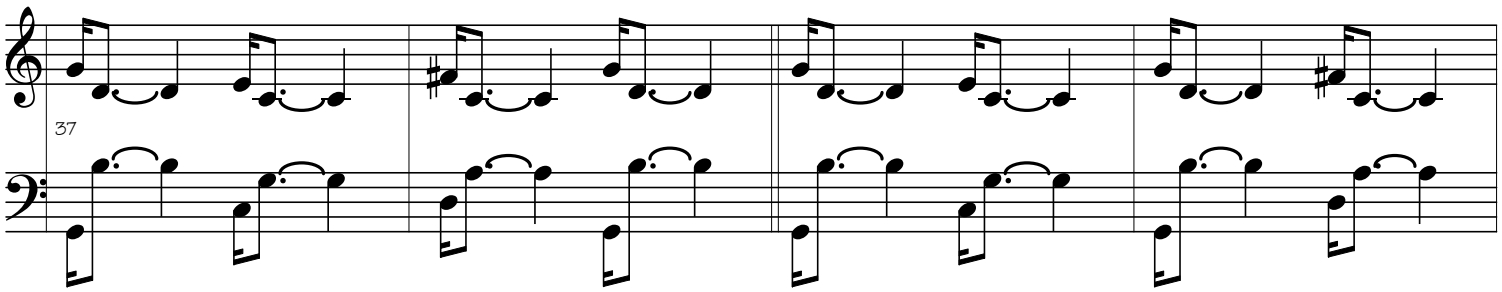

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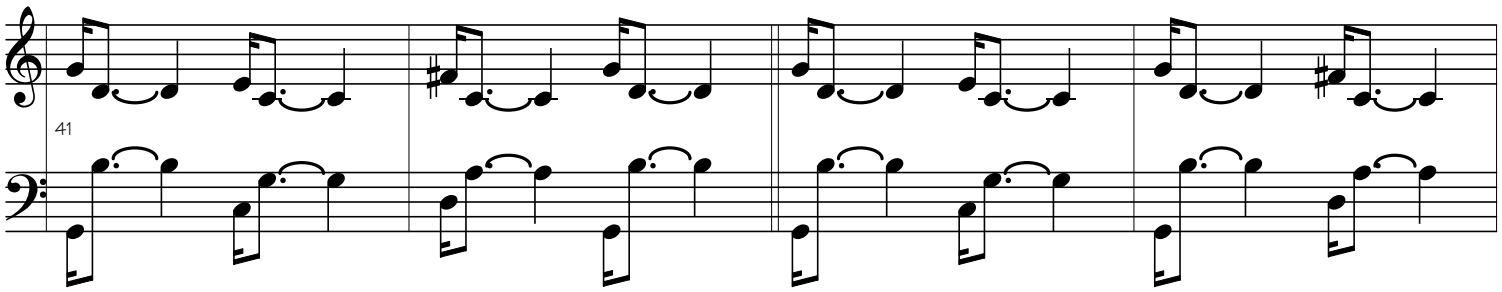

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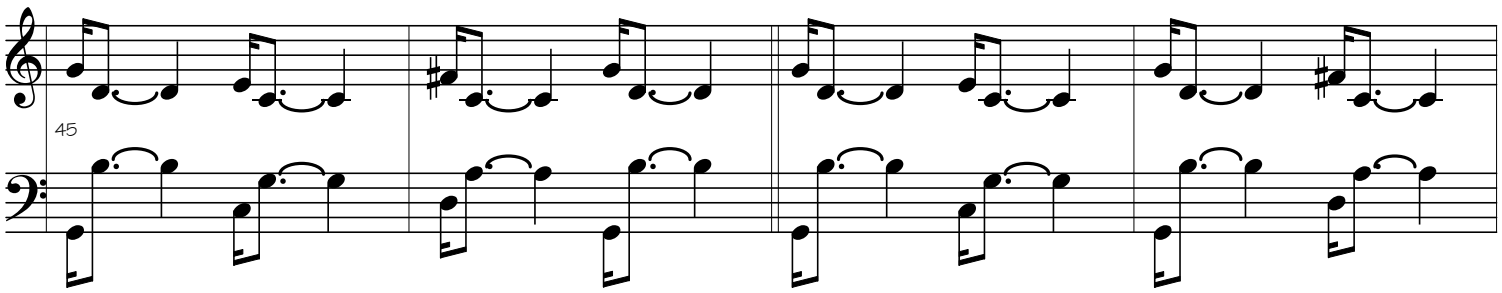

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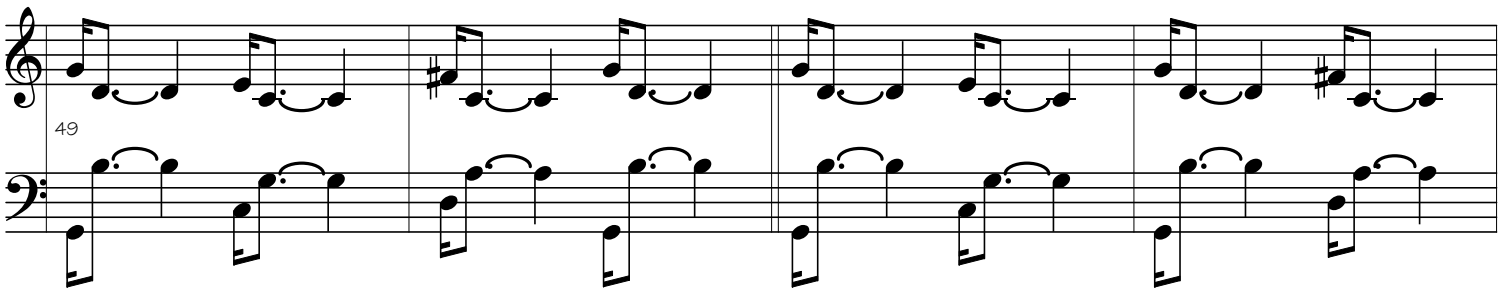

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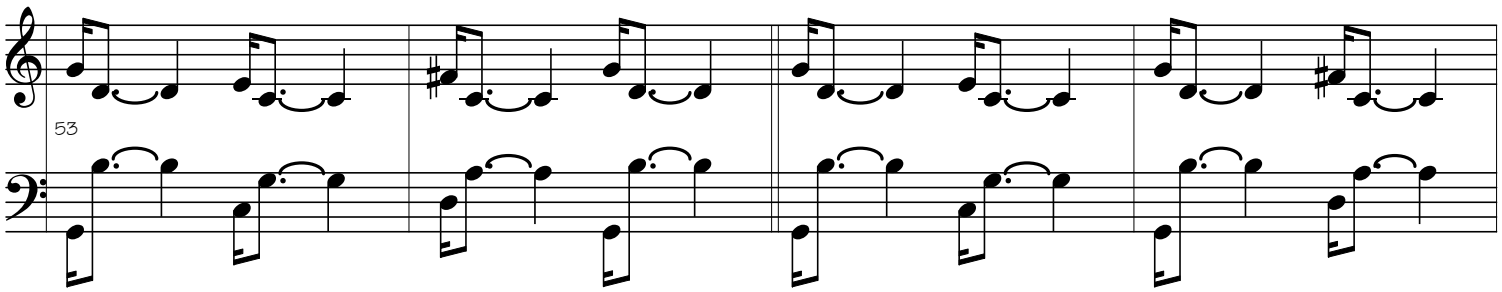

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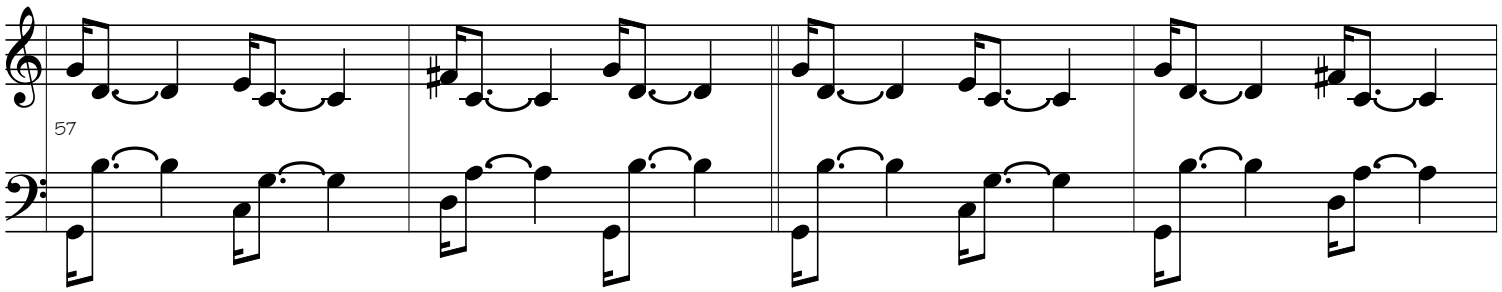

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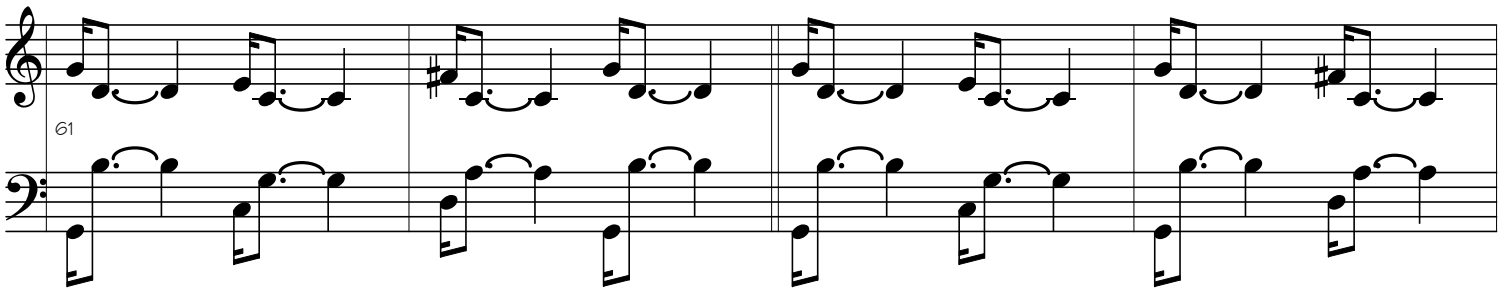

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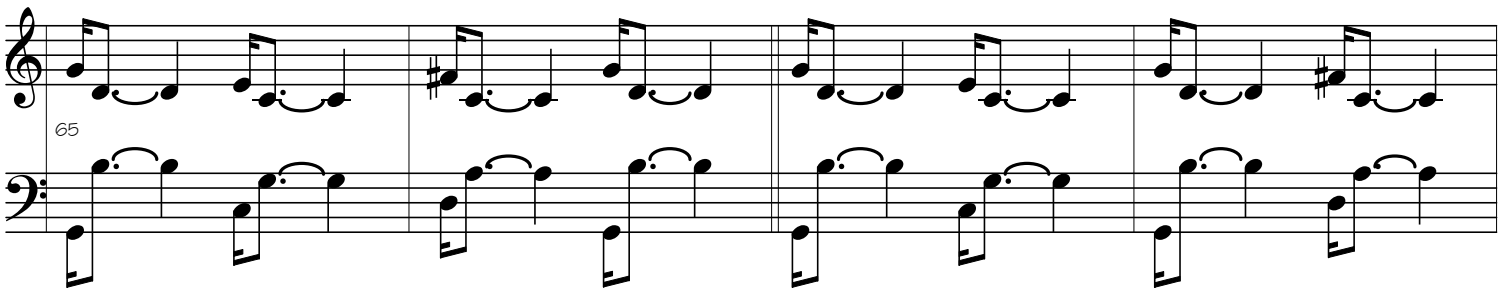

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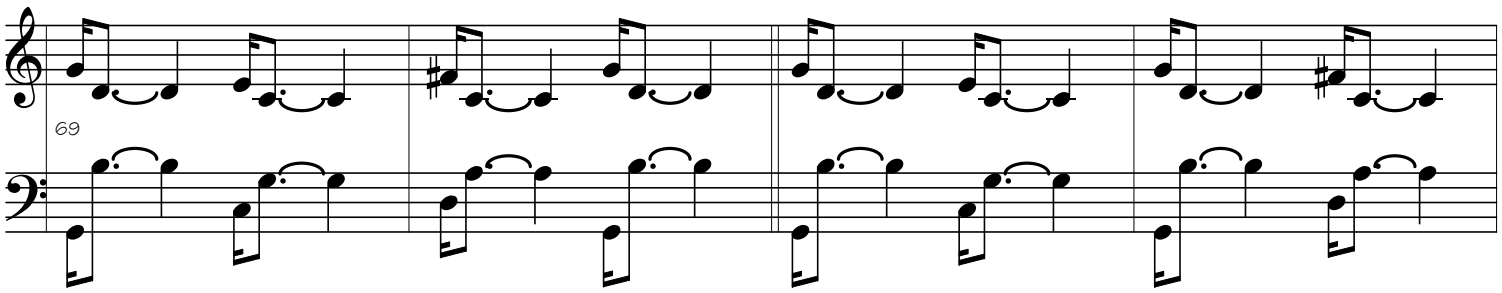

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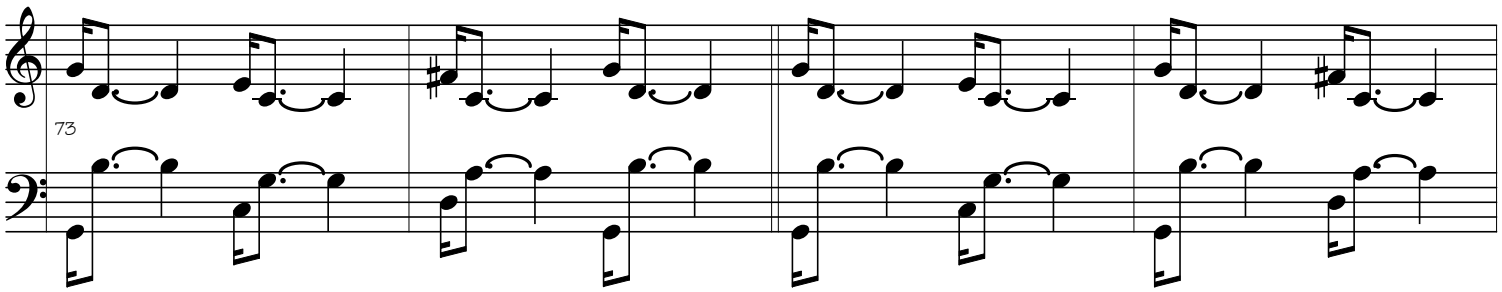

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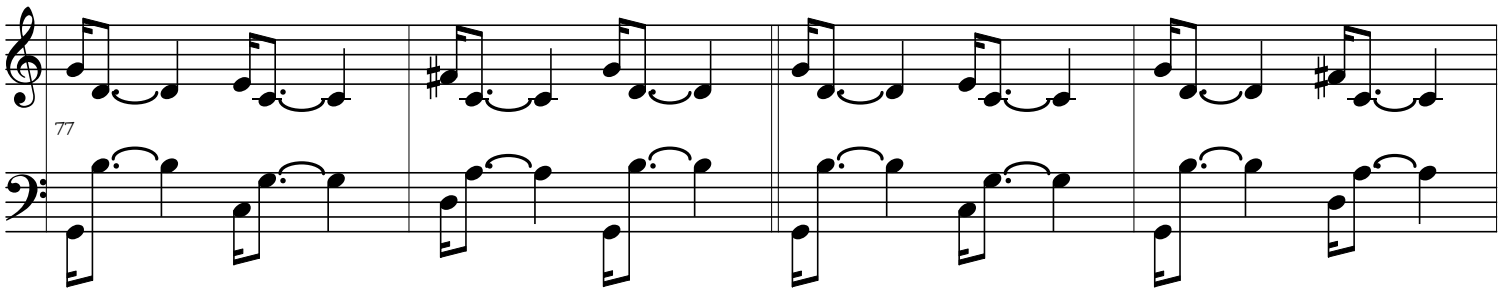

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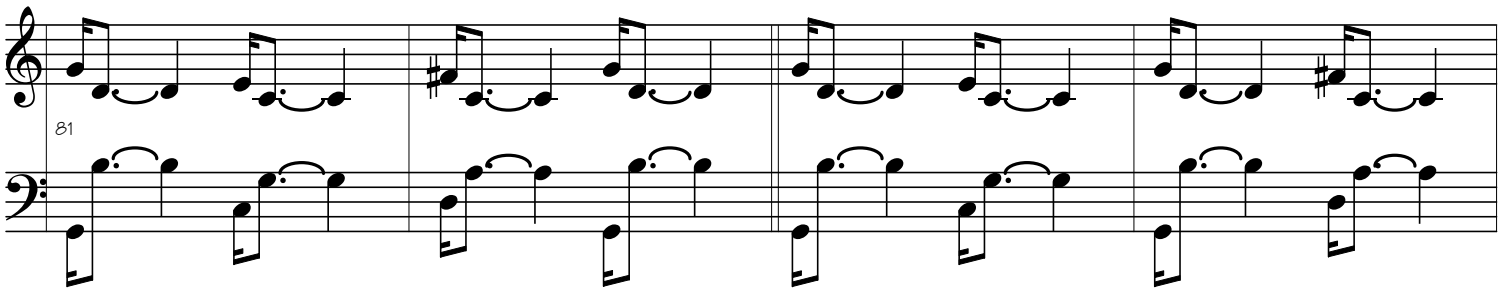

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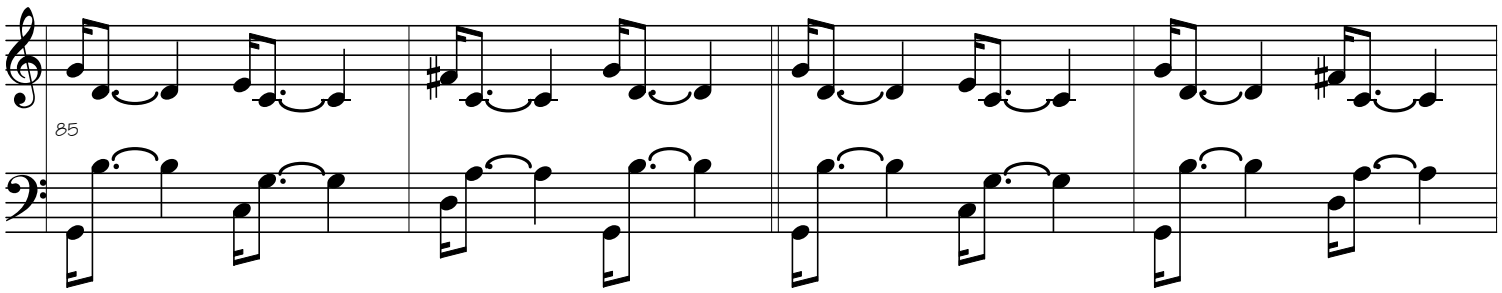

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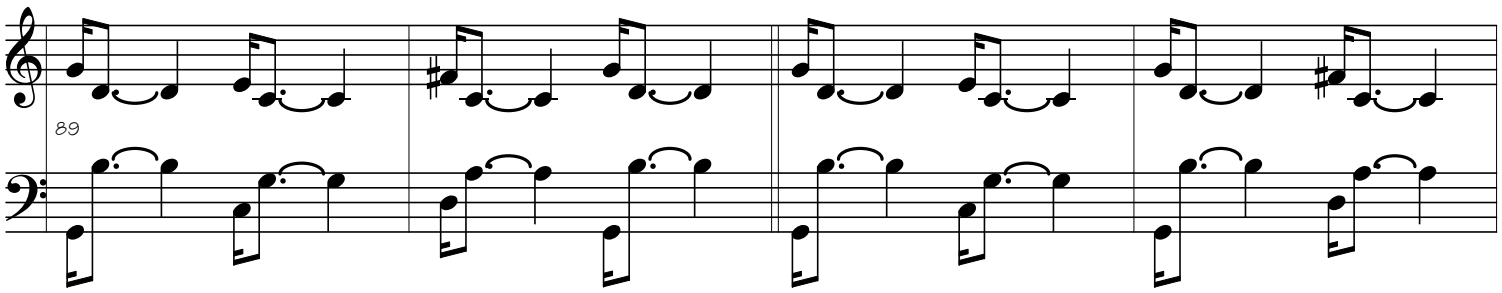

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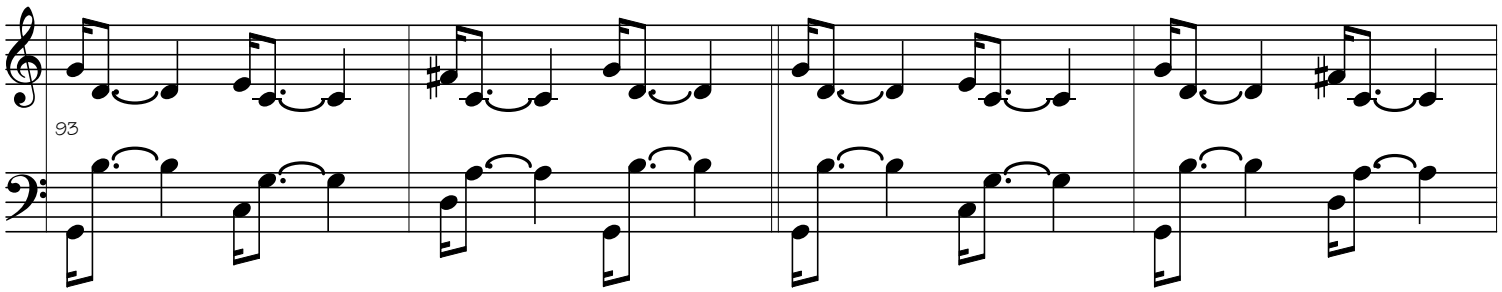

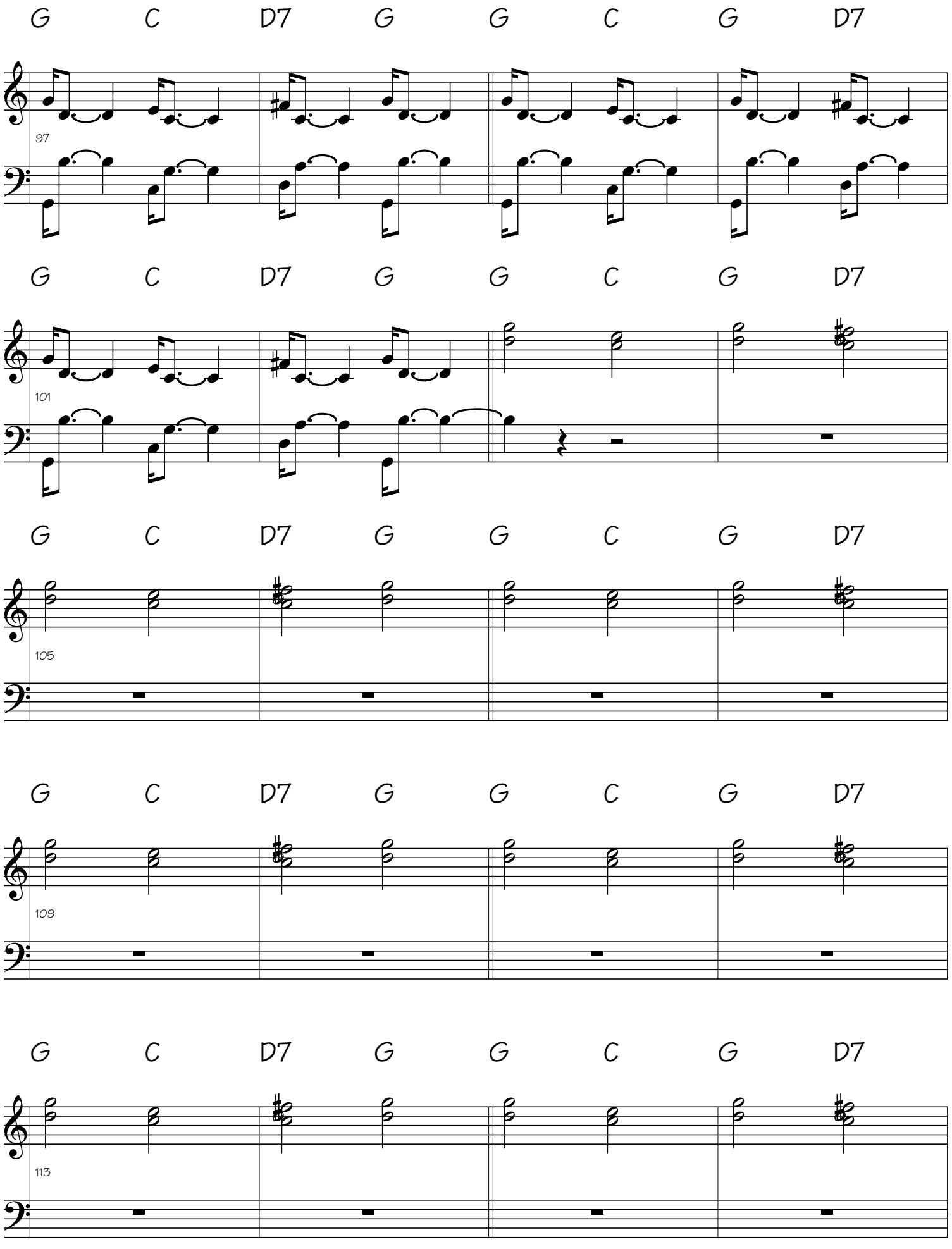
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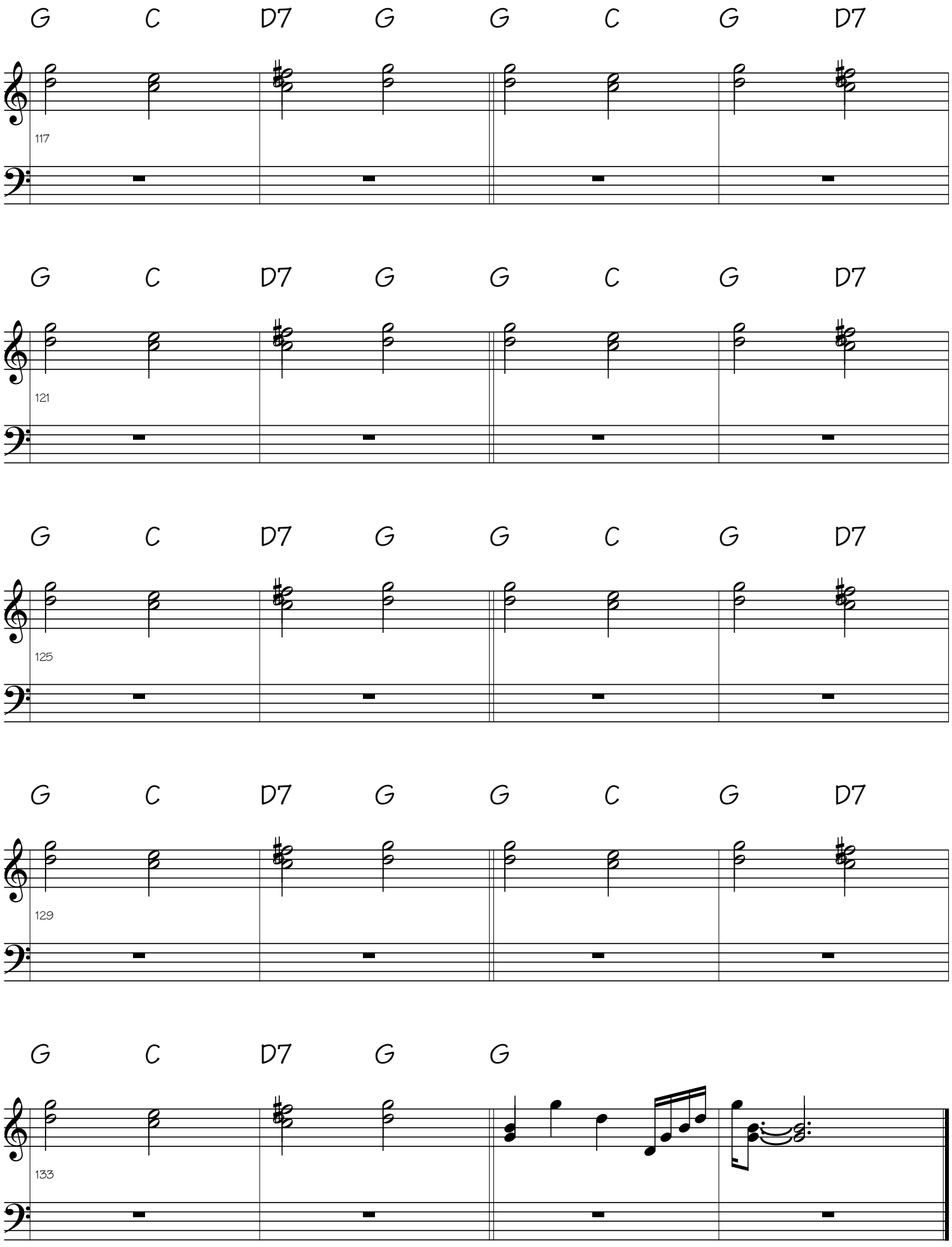
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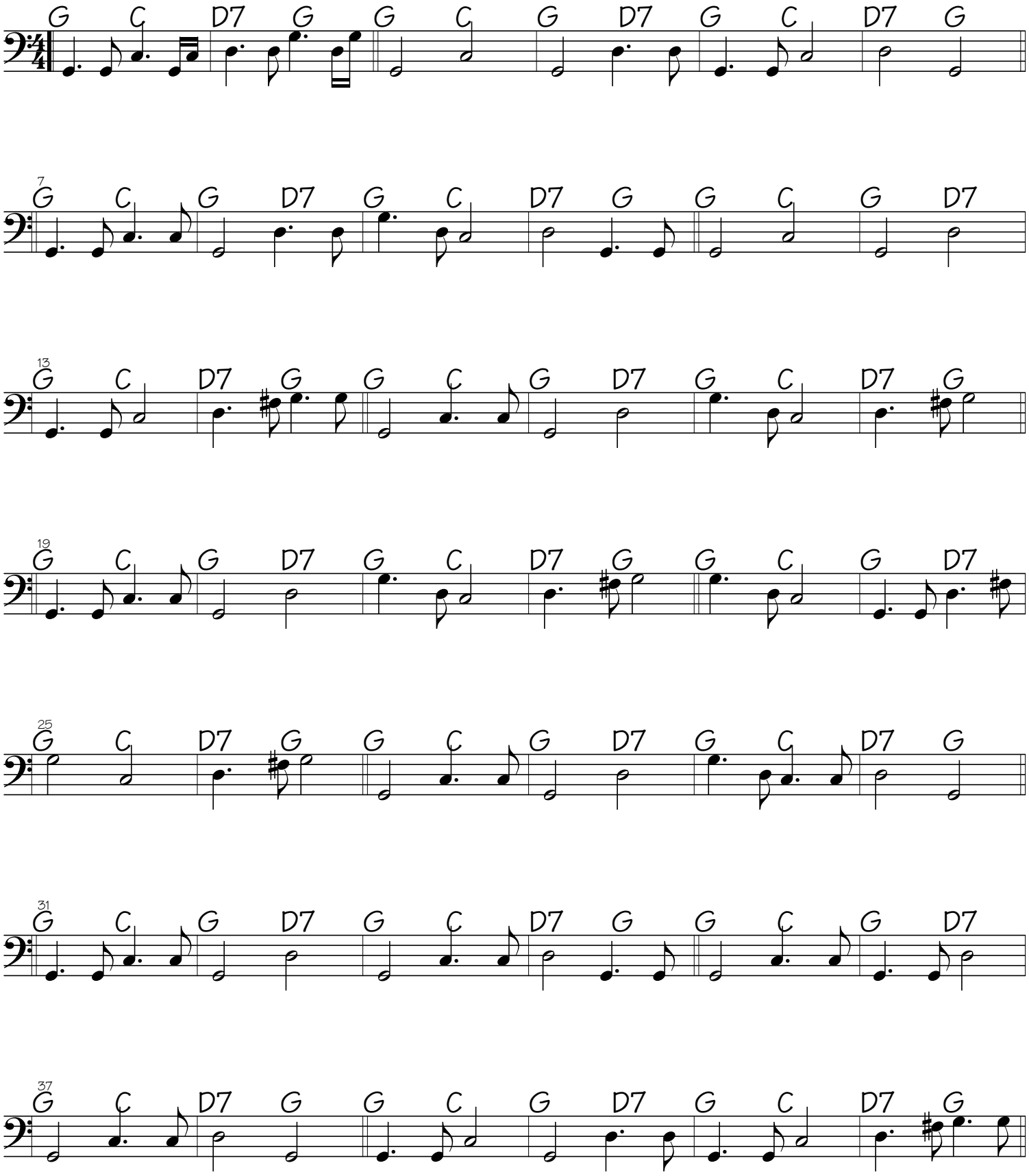
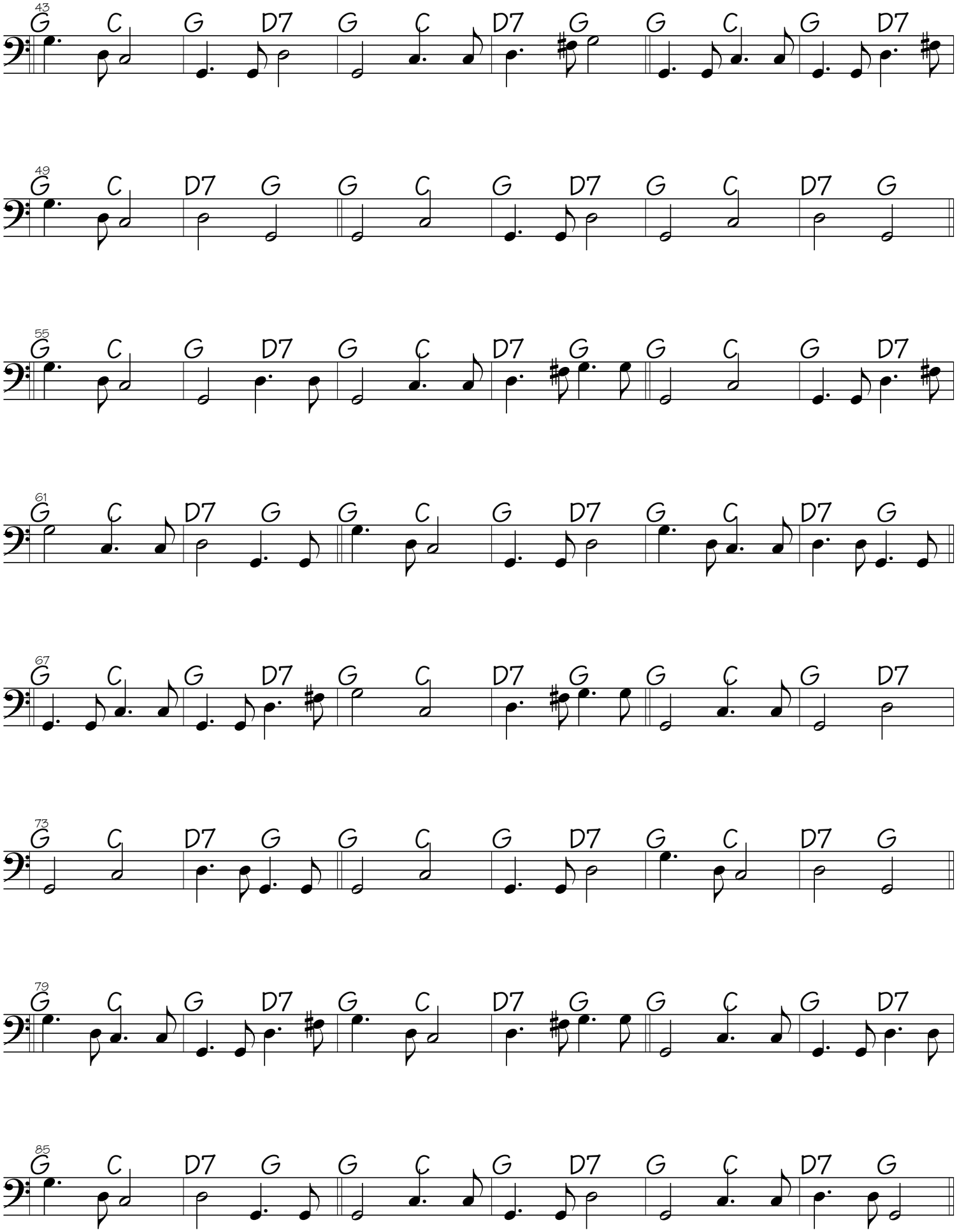
133

Vanzetti's Letter - Bass

Woody Guthrie

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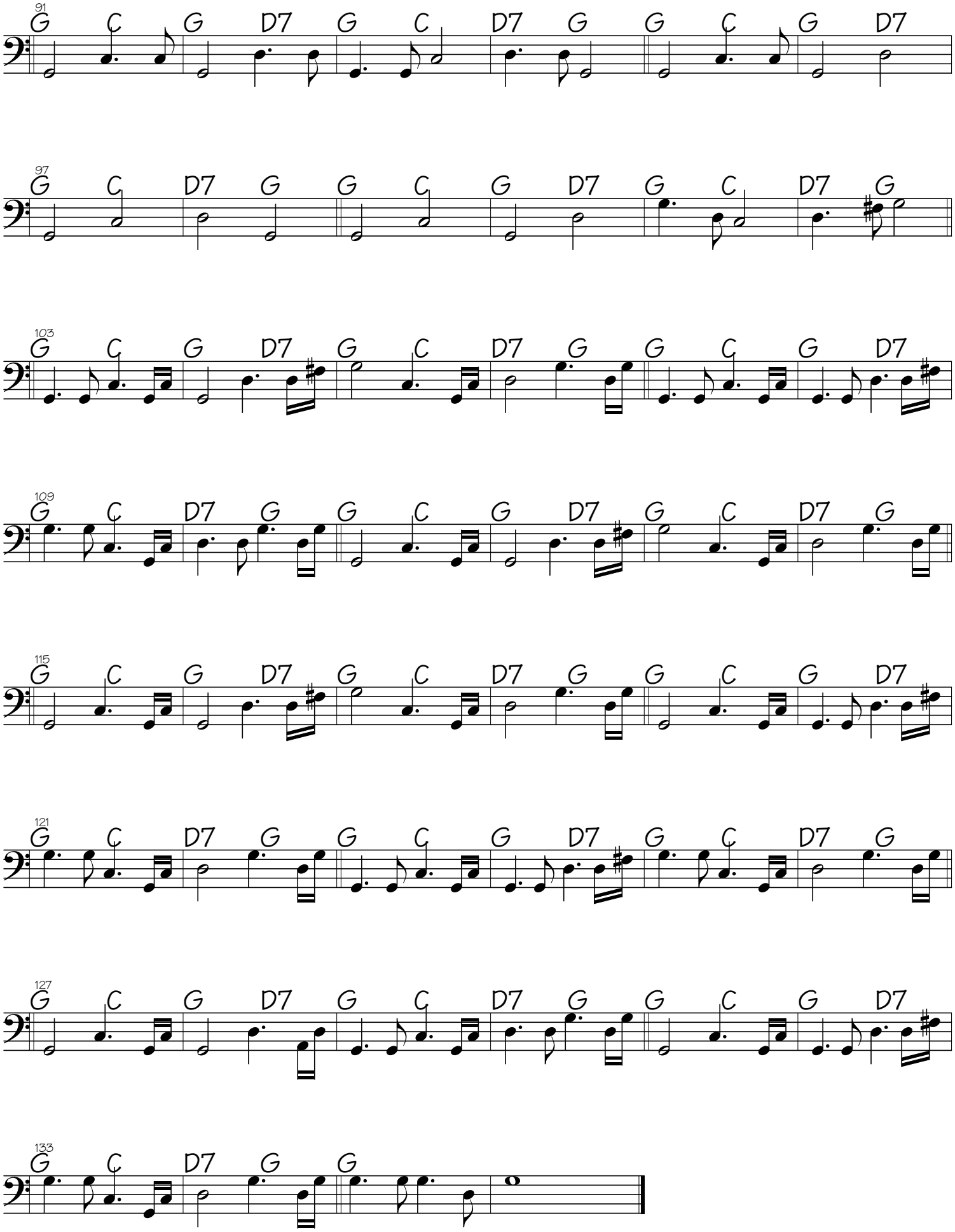
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