PHRASE MODULE THEORY

Who's Afraid of TaMs and CaMs?

An Introduction to Phrase Module Theory

Walther Stuhlmacher



Phrase Module Theory — The Core Concept

Conceptual Triad

Harmony is Rhythmic

Harmonic meaning depends not only on *what* the harmonic events are,
but on *when* they occur — that is, on their position within the hypermetrical framework.

Harmony is Reduced to Two Event Types: Tonic / Non-Tonic

1. Tonic = 0 event
2. Non-Tonic = 1 event

Harmonic Motion is Reduced to Two Vectorial Orientations: Tonic-Diverging / Tonic-Directed

- **Tonic-diverging** → away from the tonic → centrifugal
- •. **Tonic-directed** → toward the tonic → centripetal

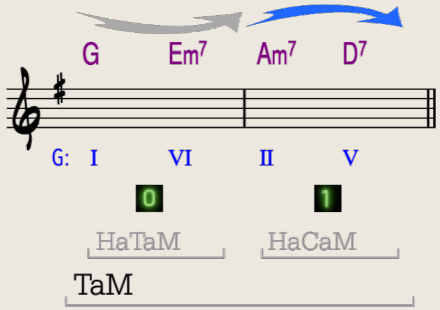


Phrase Module Theory — Elementary Building Blocks

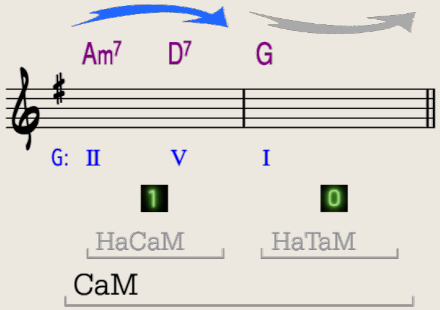
TaMs & CaMs — HaTaMs & HaCaMs

Binary Phrase Modules

- **TaM** (‘Turnaround Module’)

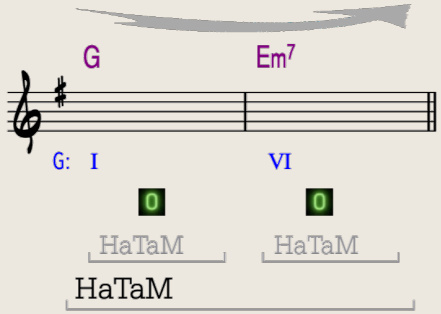


- **CaM** (‘Cadential Module’)

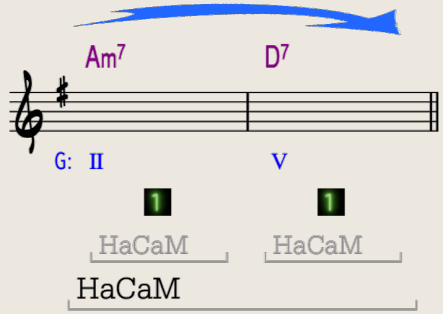


Unary Phrase Modules

- **HaTaM** (1st ‘Half’ of TaM)



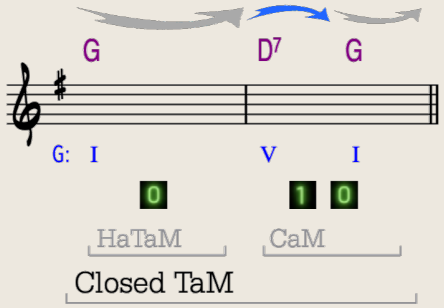
- **HaCaM** (1st ‘Half’ of CaM)



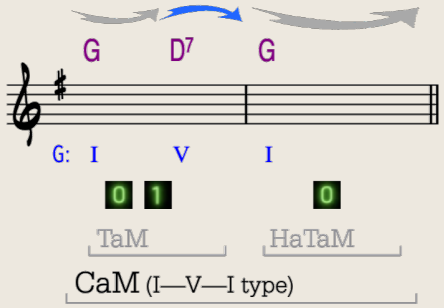
Phrase Module Theory — Combinations Binary—Unary

Closed TaM, CaM (I-V—I), Extended TaM, Extended CaM

- **Closed TaM**

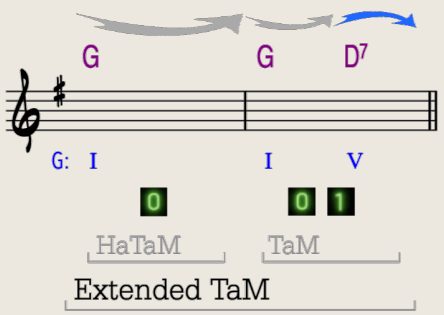


- **CaM** (I-V—I type)

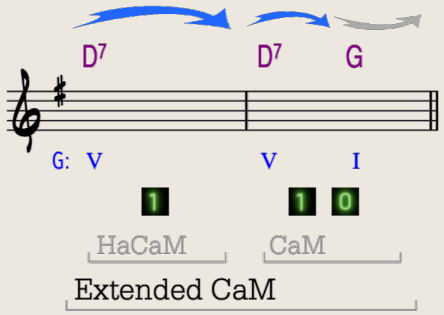


Extended Modules

- **Extended TaM**



- **Extended CaM**

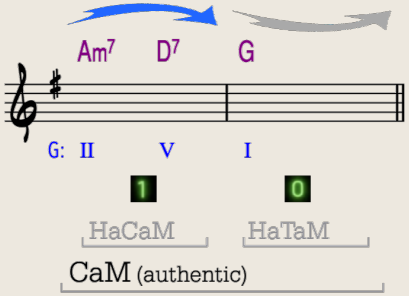


Phrase Module Theory — Cadential Types

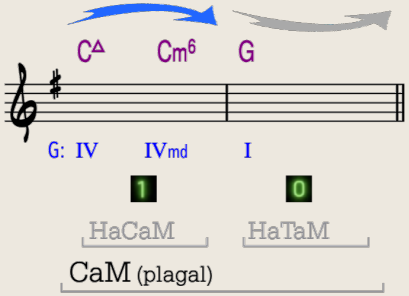
CaM — CaMpl — CaM (evaded) — CaM (deceptive)

Authentic & Plagal

- (Authentic) **CaM**

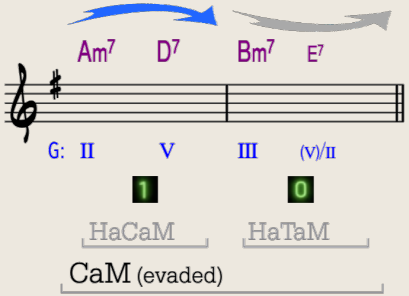


- Plagal **CaM**

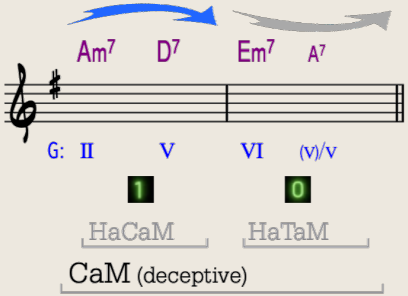


Evaded & Deceptive

- Evaded **CaM**



- Deceptive **CaM**



Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

(Ah, vous dirai-je, maman)

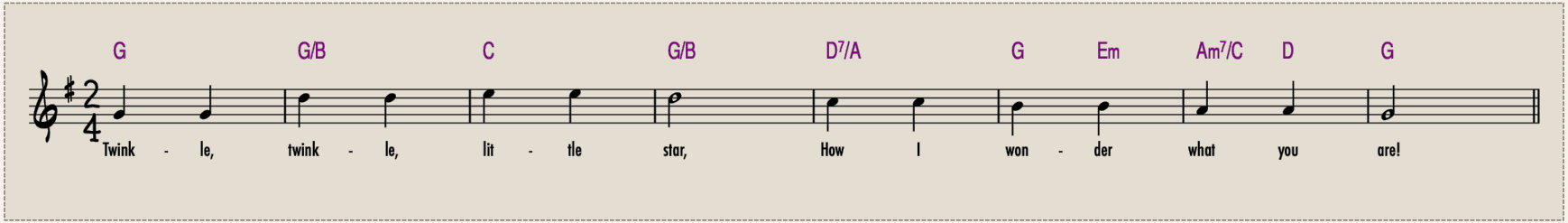
Building up the modular framework, step by step

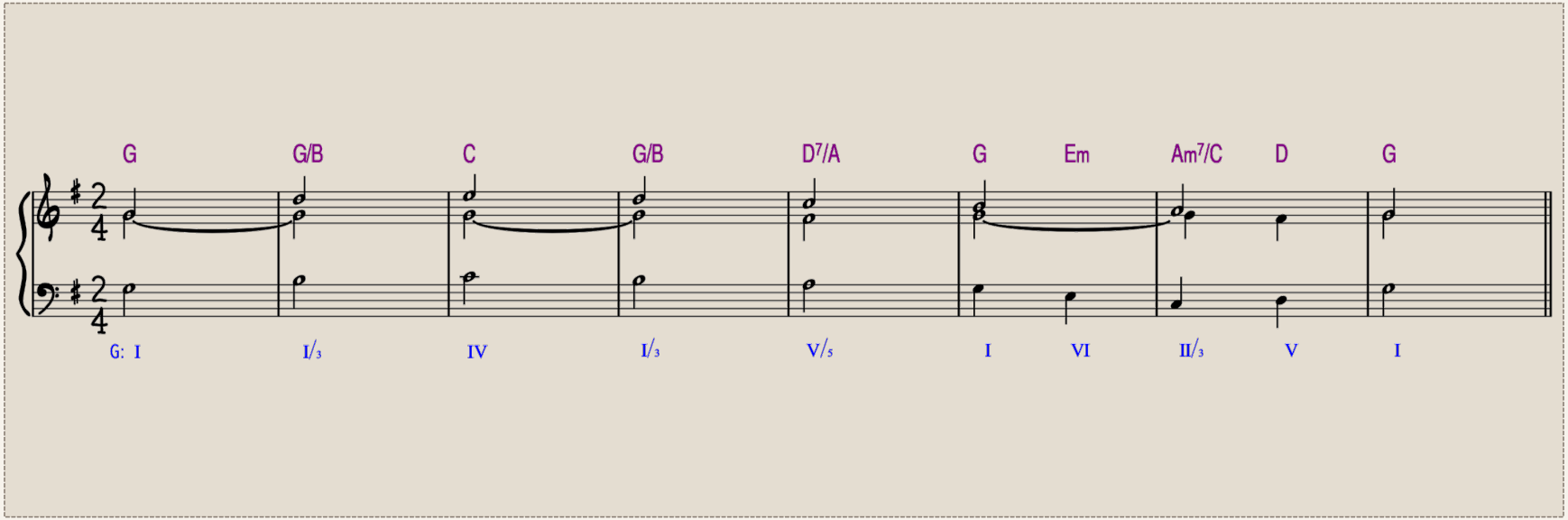


Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star (Ah, vous dirai-je, maman)

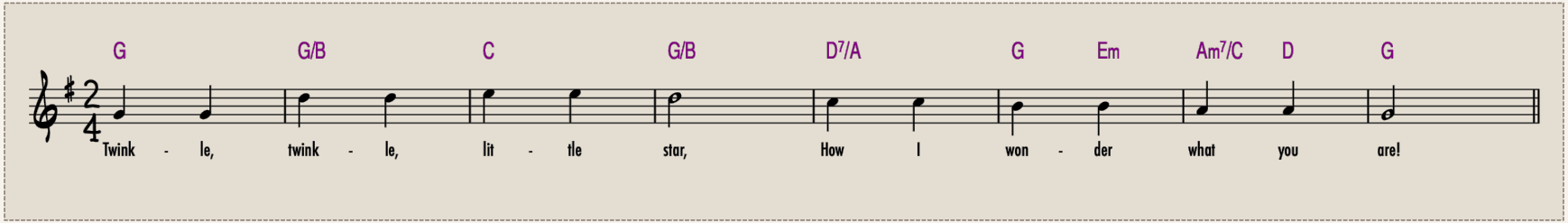


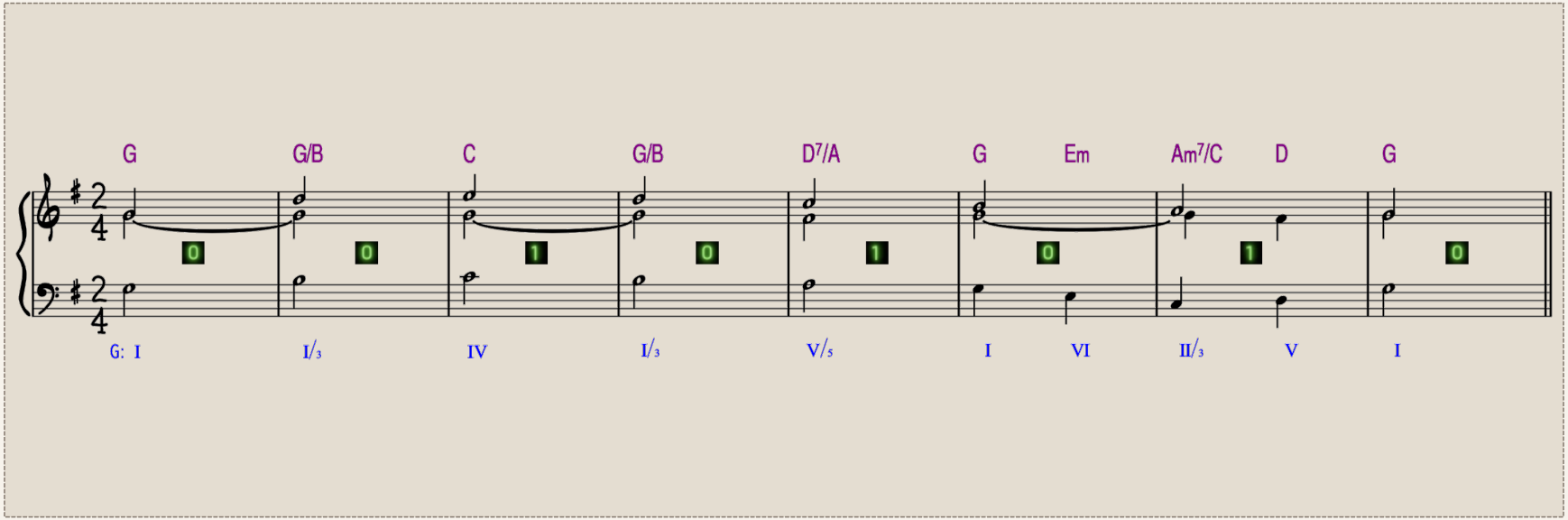
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star (Ah, vous dirai-je, maman)



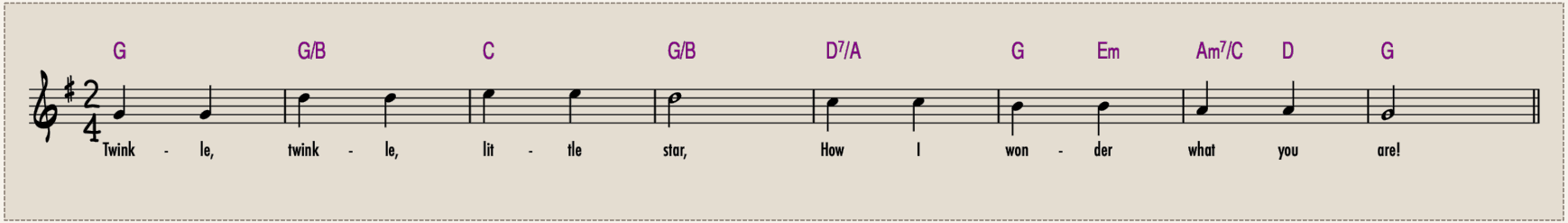


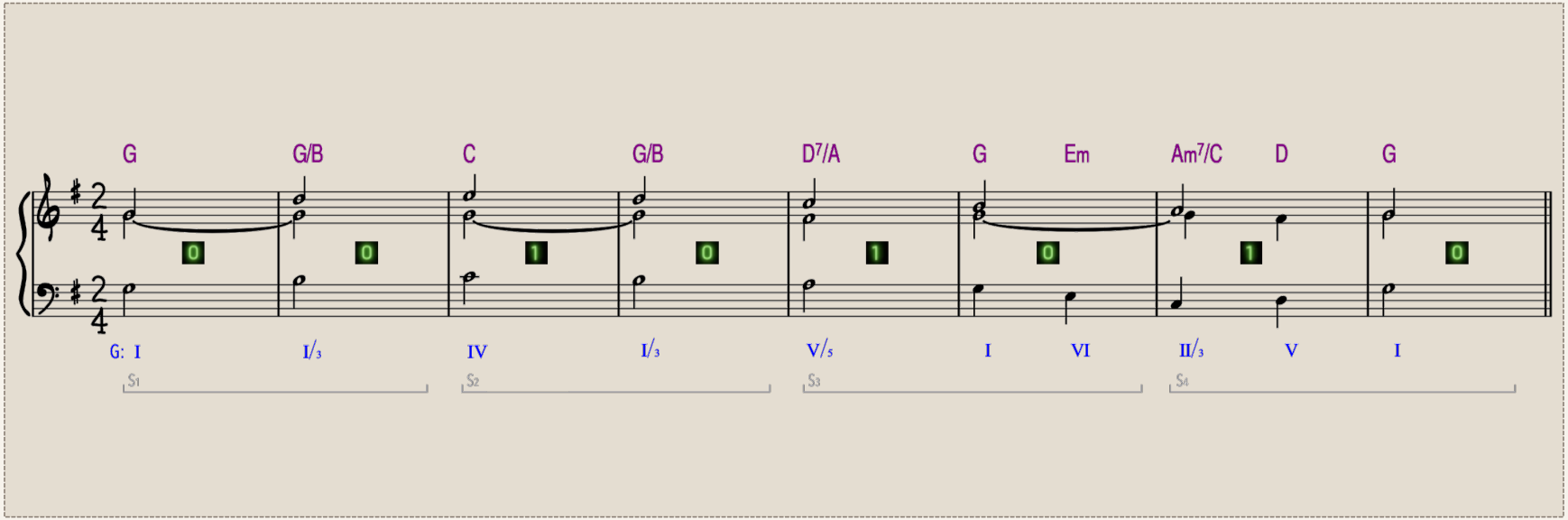
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star (Ah, vous dirai-je, maman)



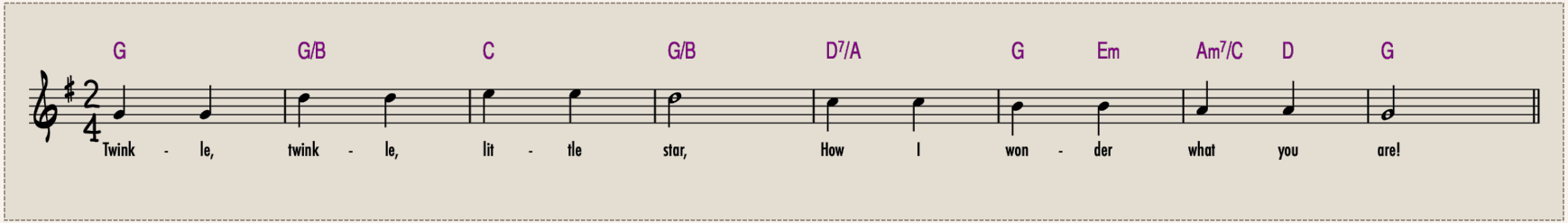


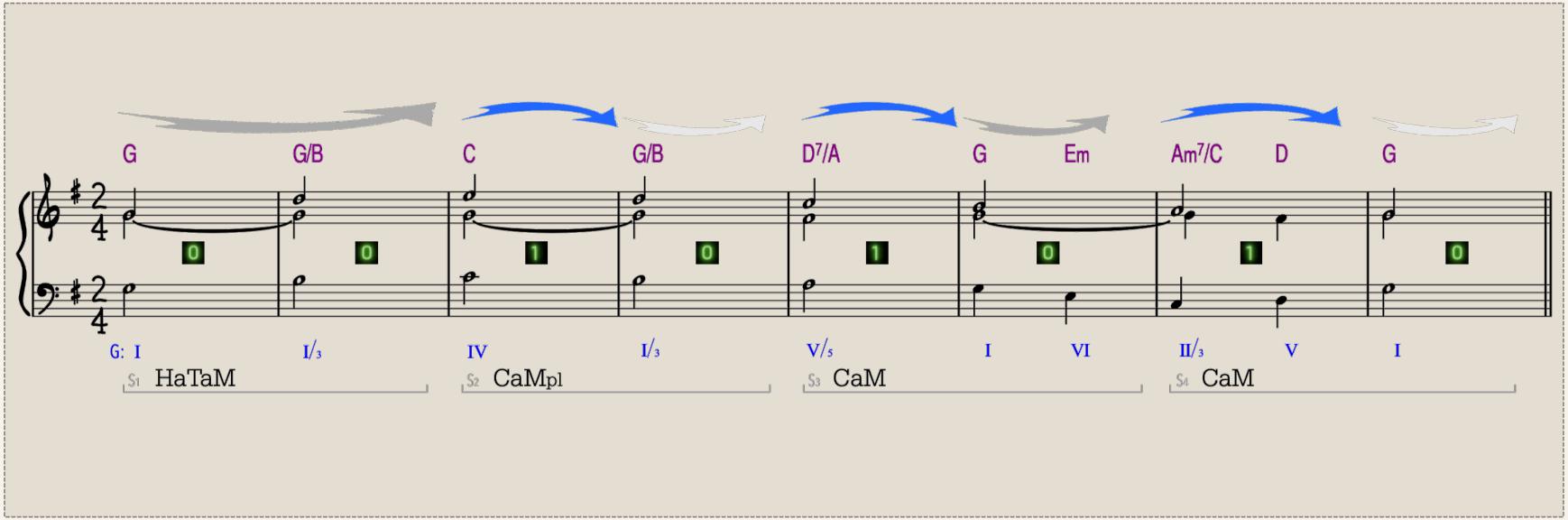
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star (Ah, vous dirai-je, maman)



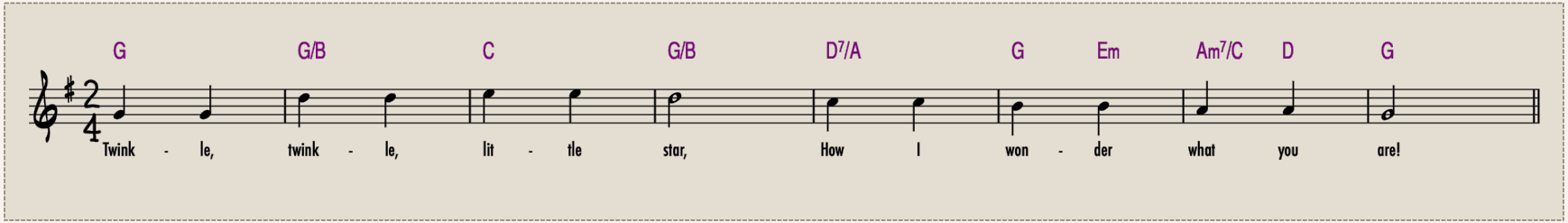


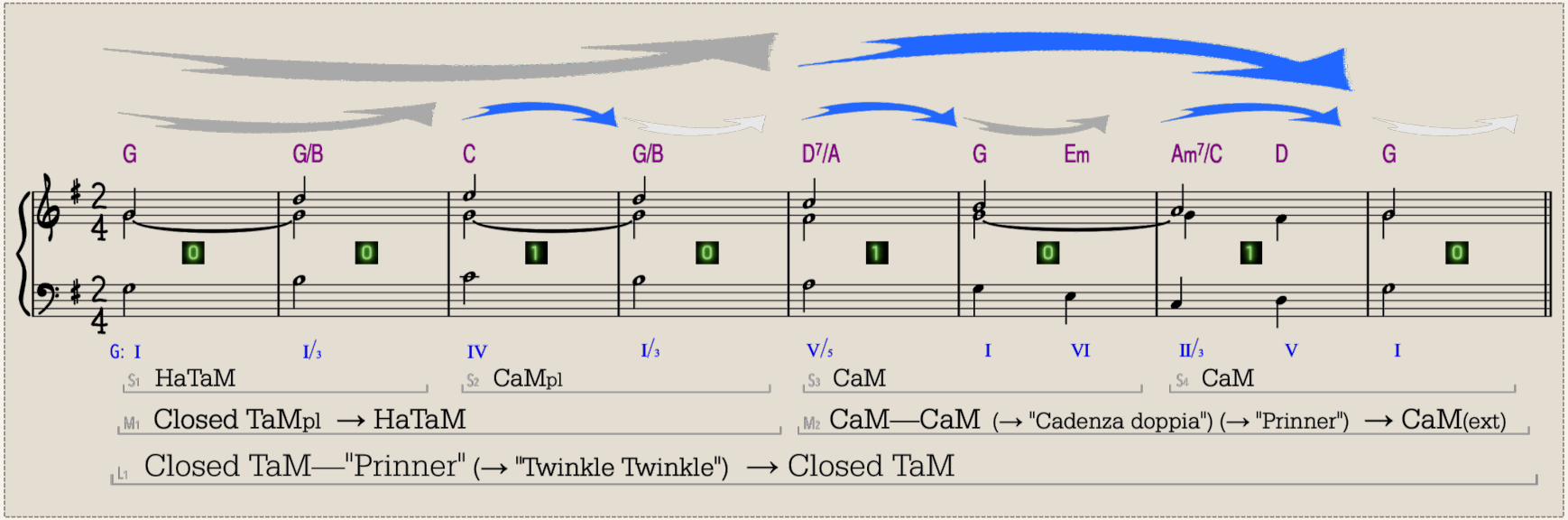
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star (Ah, vous dirai-je, maman)



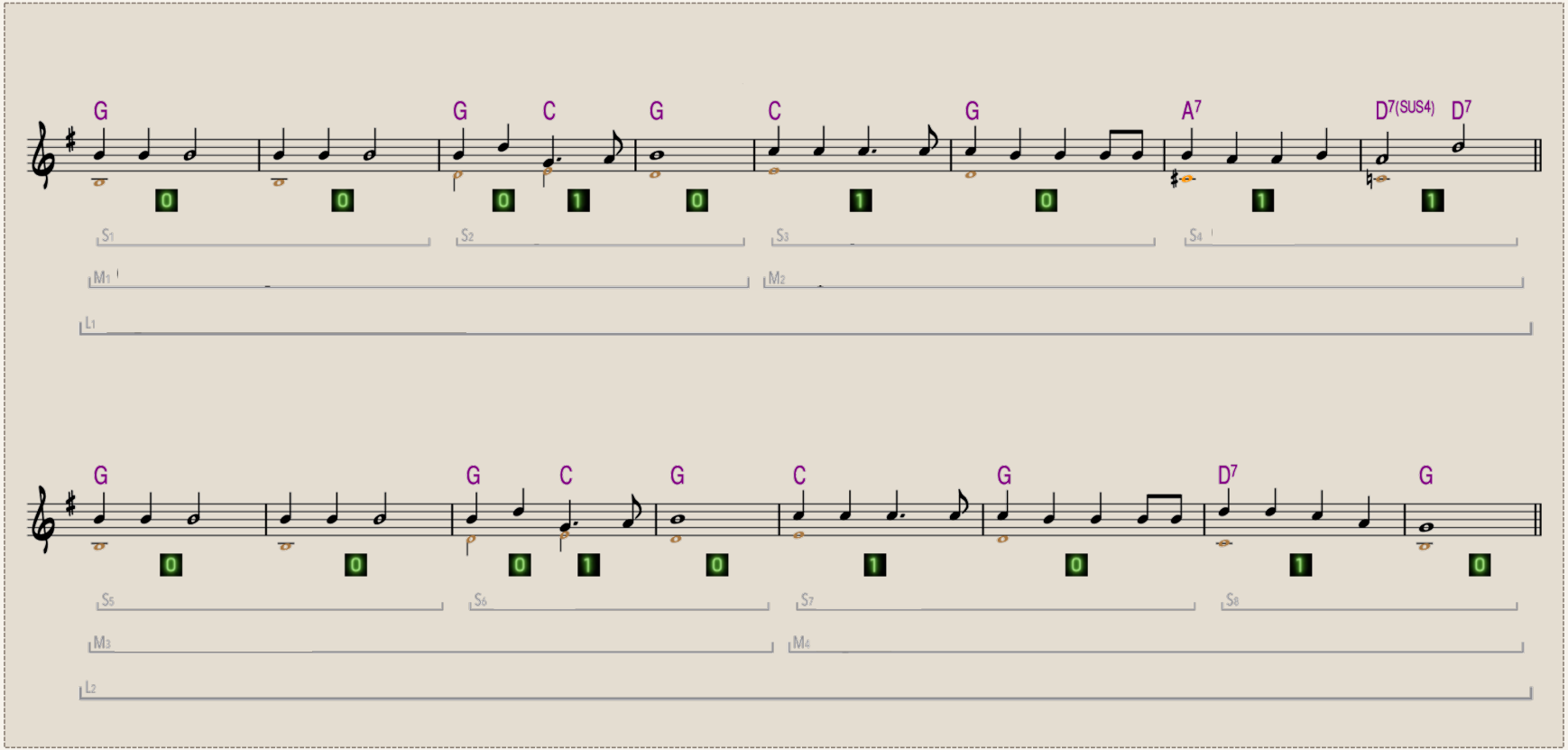


Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star (Ah, vous dirai-je, maman)

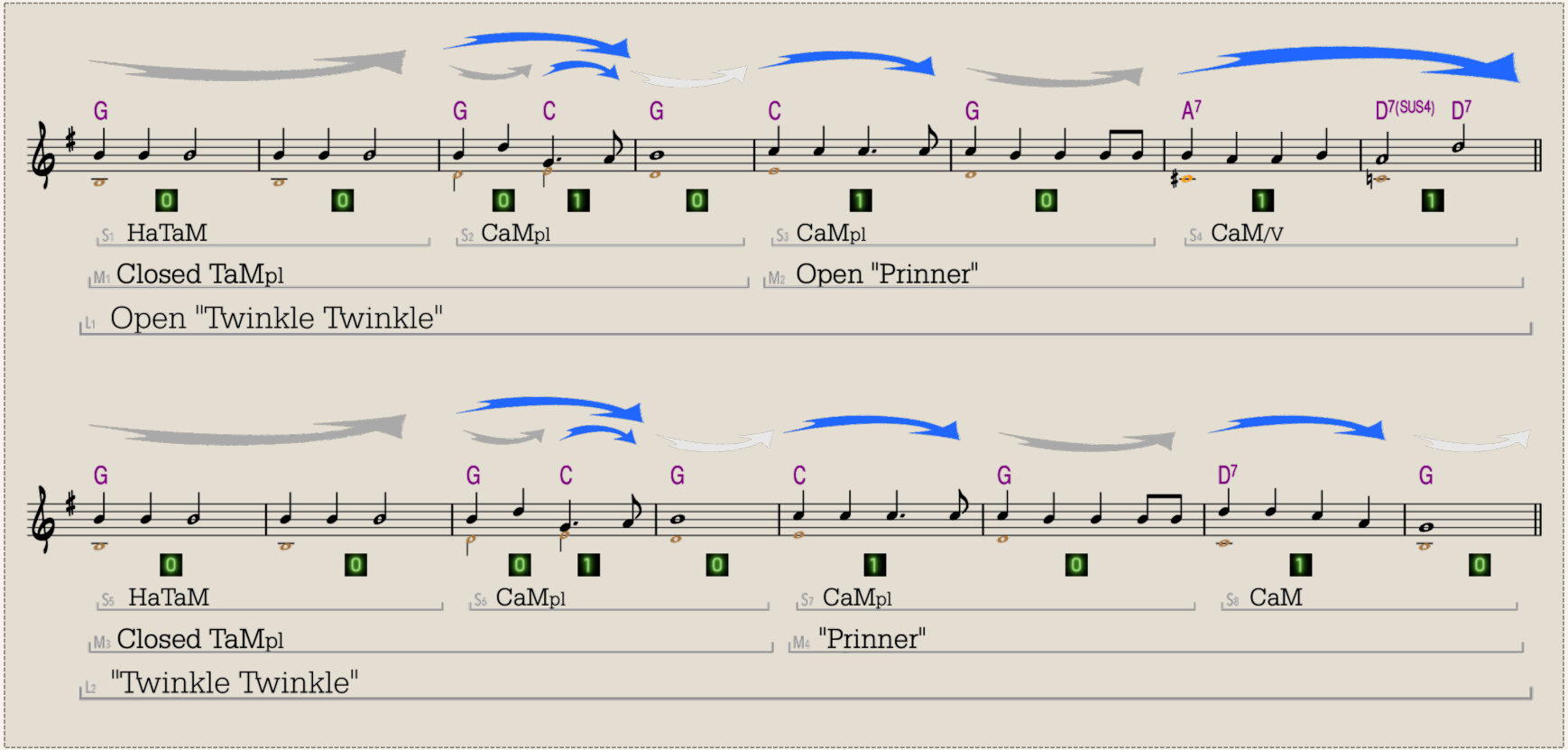




Jingle Bells



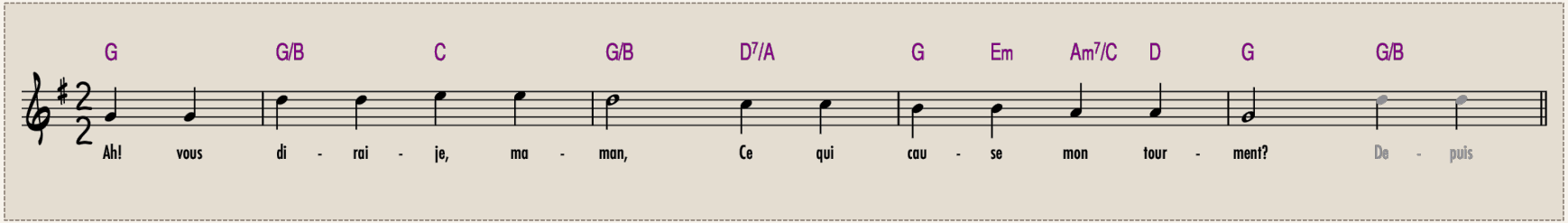
Jingle Bells

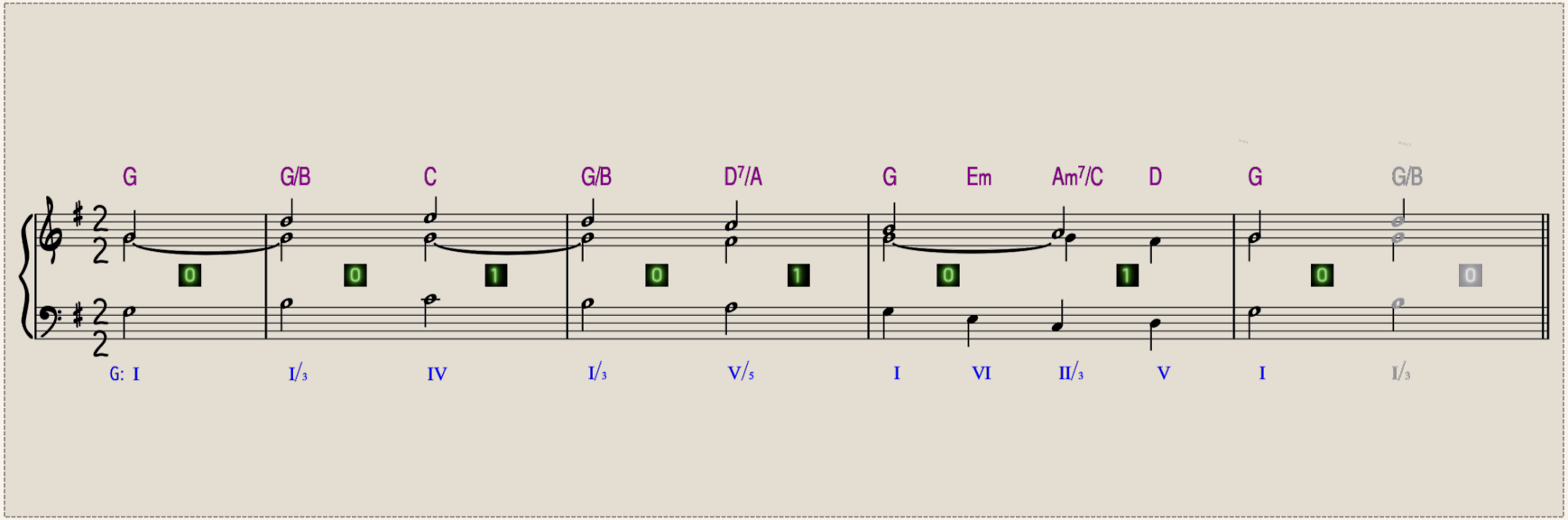


Ah, vous dirai-je, maman (France, 18th century)

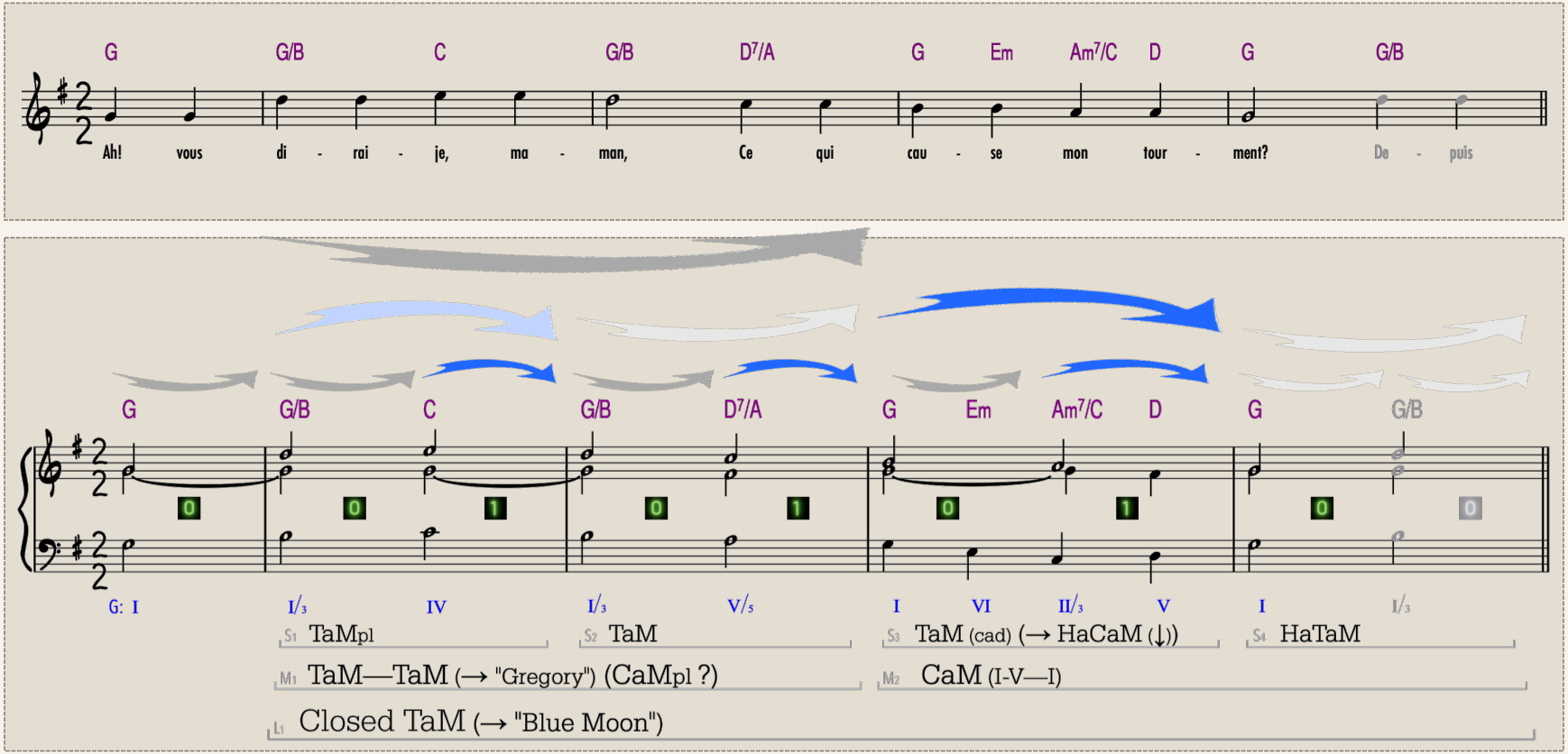


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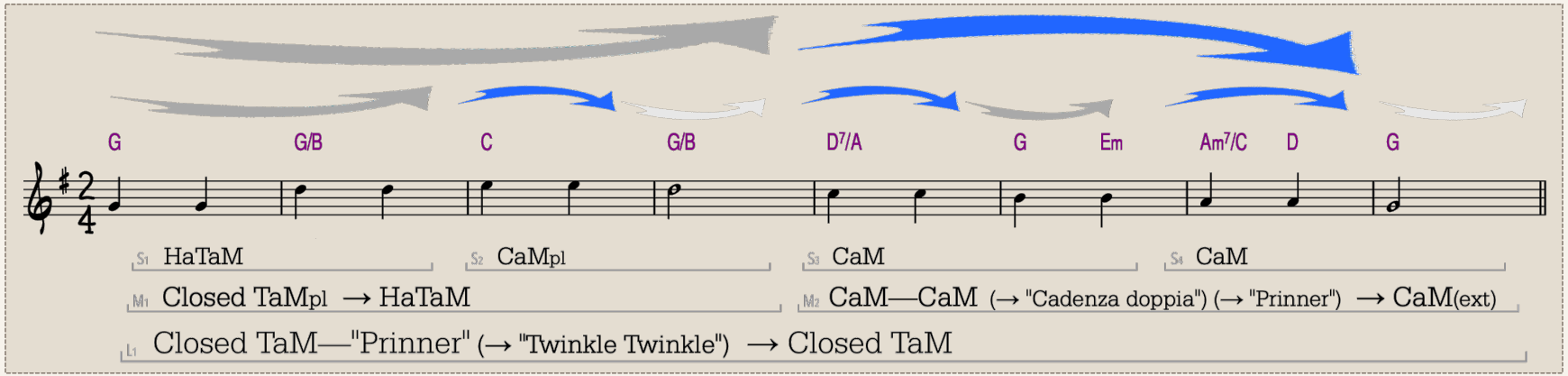


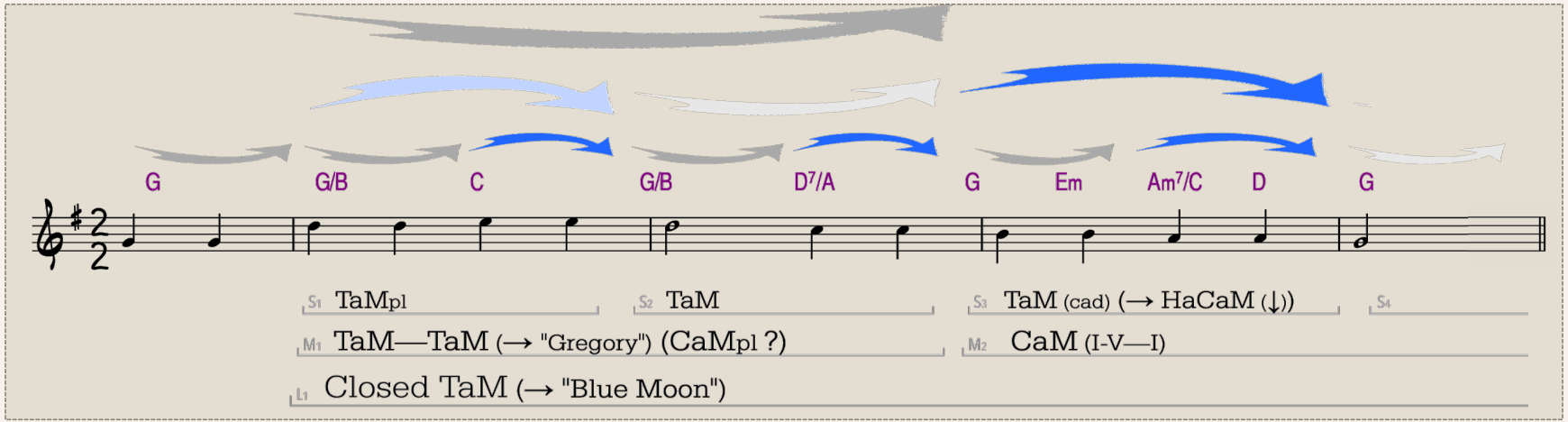


Ah, vous dirai-je, maman (France, 18th century)



One Melody — Two Metrical Orientations



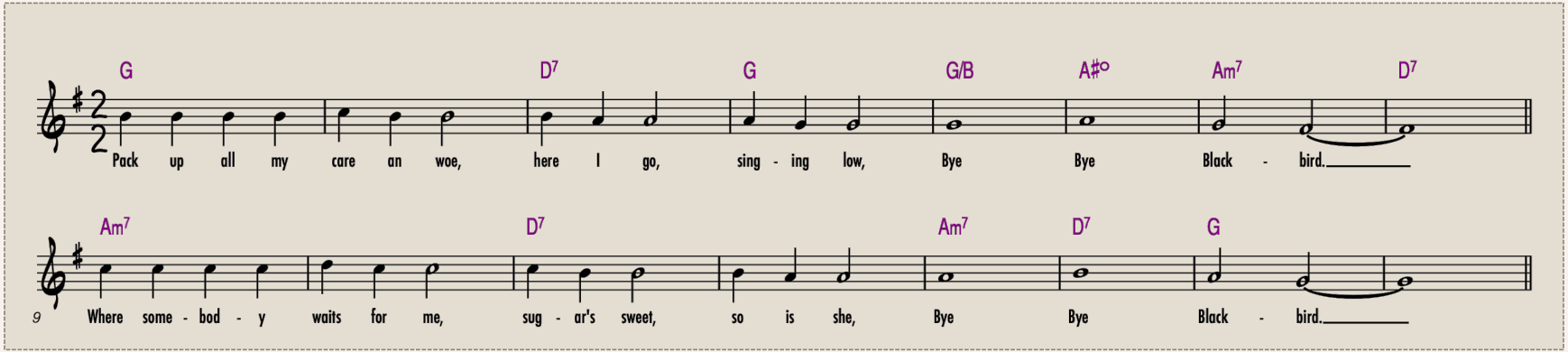


Bye Bye Blackbird

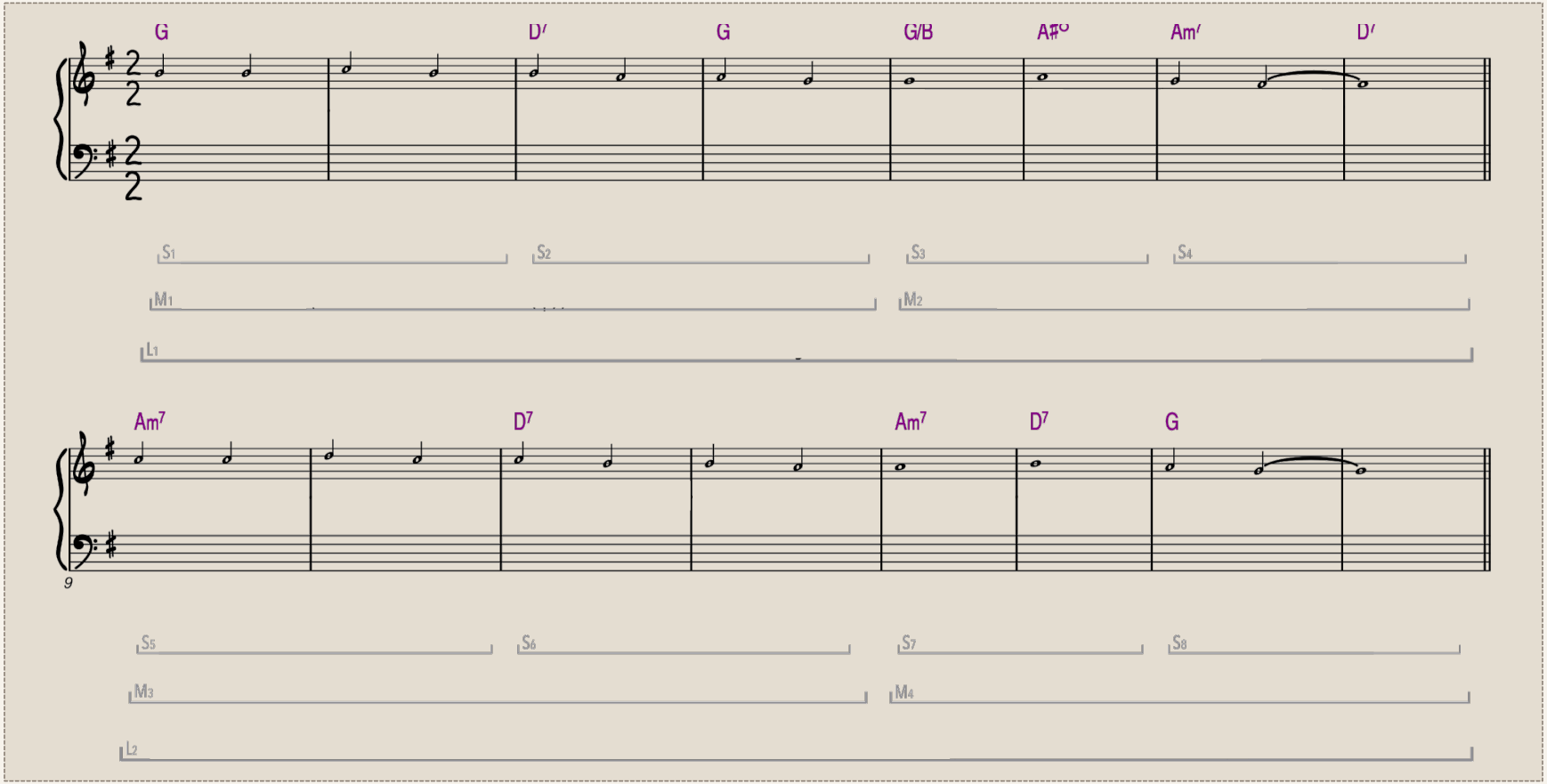
Ray Henderson (music) & Mort Dixon (lyrics), 1926

A jazz standard through the PMT lens

Bye Bye Blackbird



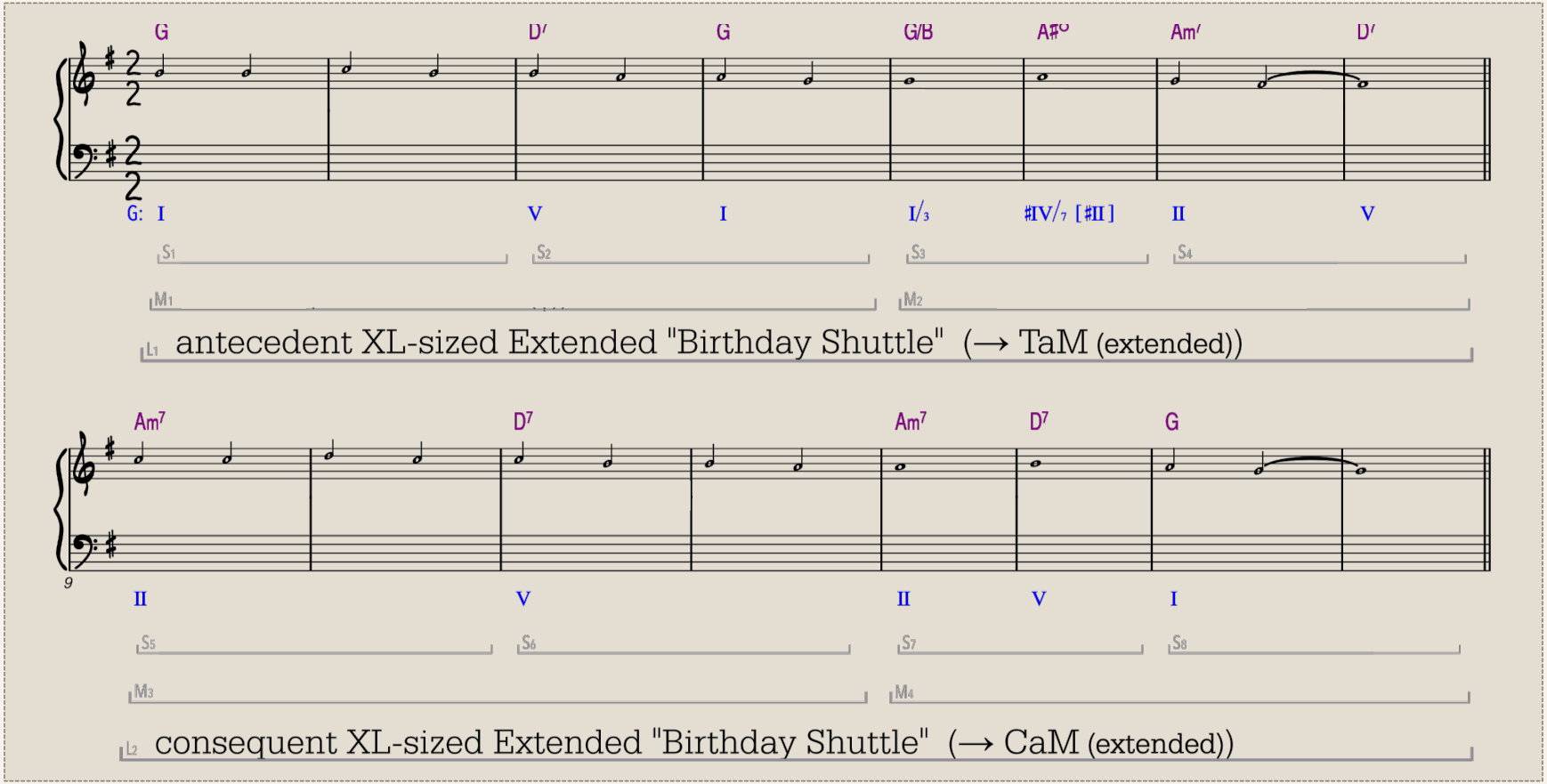
Bye Bye Blackbird



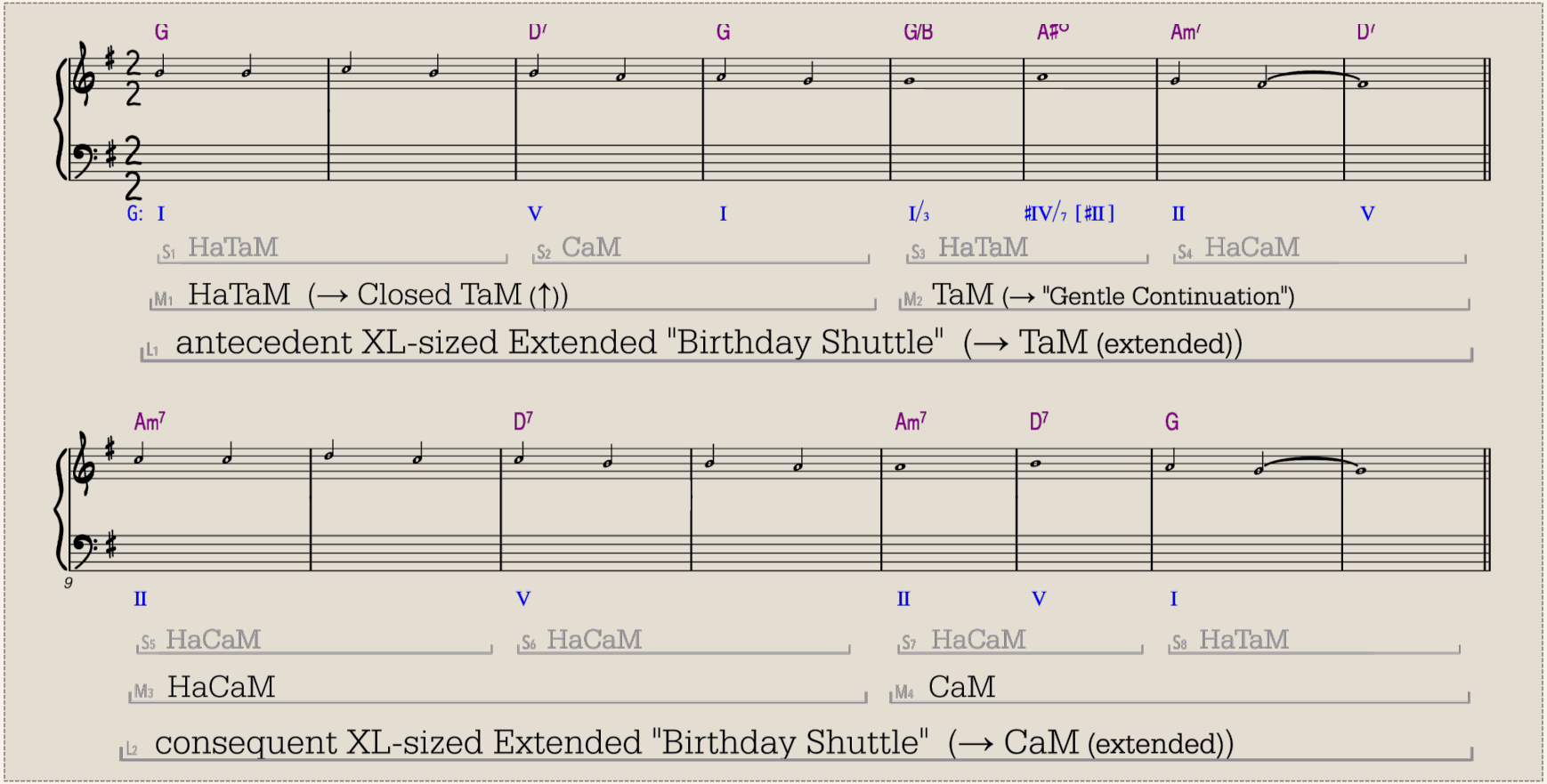
Bye Bye Blackbird



Bye Bye Blackbird



Bye Bye Blackbird



Bye Bye Blackbird



S1 HaTaM | S2 CaM | S3 HaTaM | S4 HaCaM

M1 HaTaM (→ Closed TaM (↑)) | M2 TaM (→ "Gentle Continuation")

L1 antecedent XL-sized Extended "Birthday Shuttle" (→ TaM (extended))

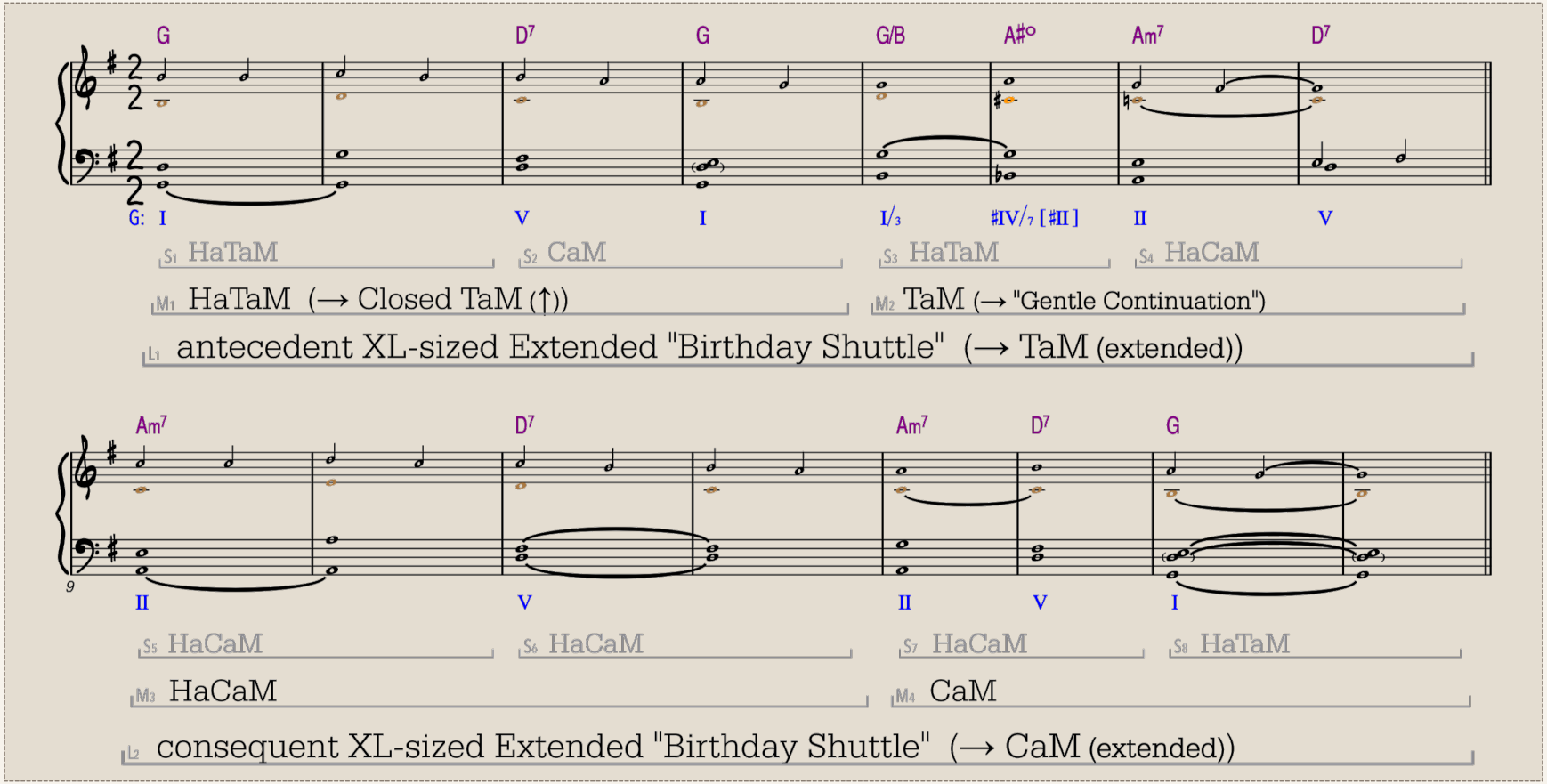


S5 HaCaM | S6 HaCaM | S7 HaCaM | S8 HaTaM

M3 HaCaM | M4 CaM

L2 consequent XL-sized Extended "Birthday Shuttle" (→ CaM (extended))

Bye Bye Blackbird



Schemas Encountered Today

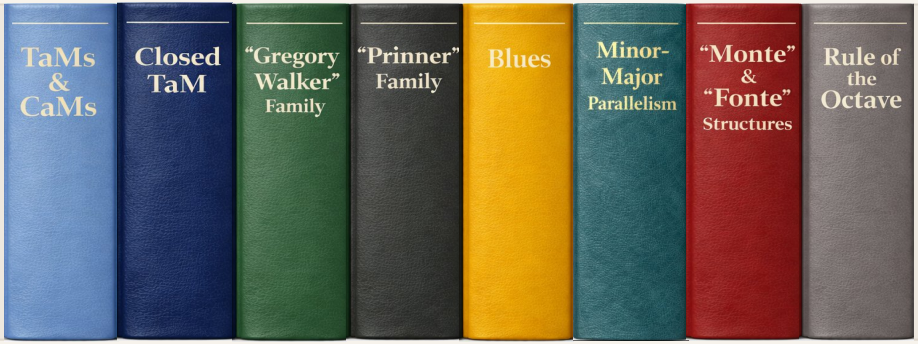
Elementary Modules

TaMs & CaMs, HaTaMs & HaCaMs, Closed TaMs, I-V—I CaMs, Extended TaMs & CaMs, etc.

Schemas

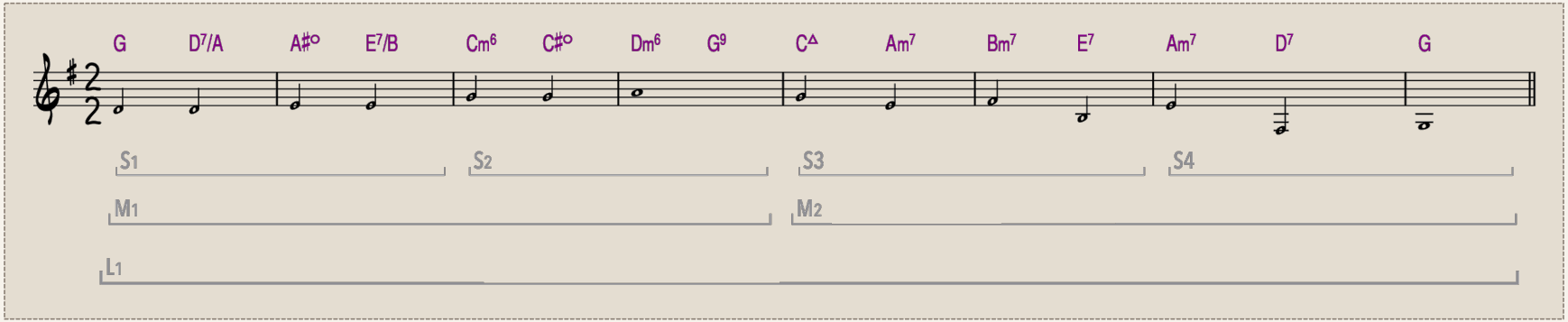
“Prinner”
“Twinkle Twinkle”
“Gregory”
“Blue Moon”
“Gentle Continuation”
Extended “Birthday Shuttle”

+ Much more to come …



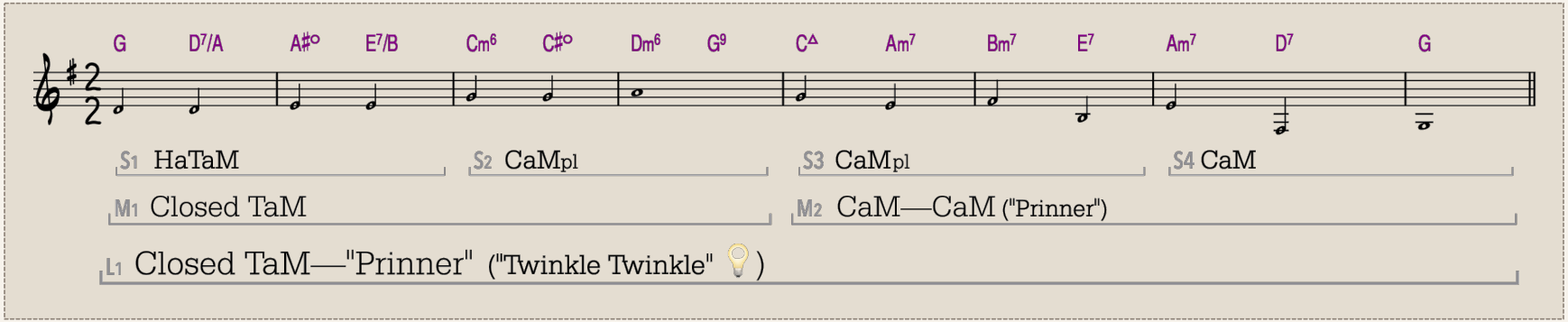
… one more


Li - za, Li - za, skies are grey, But if you'll smile on me, All the clouds will roll a - way.


G D7/A A#o E7/B Cm6 C#o Dm6 G9 CΔ Am7 Bm7 E7 Am7 D7 G
S1 S2 S3 S4
M1 M2
L1

Liza


Li - za, Li - za, skies are grey, But if you'll smile on me, All the clouds will roll a - way.


G D7/A A#° E7/B Cm6 C#° Dm6 G9 C△ Am7 Bm7 E7 Am7 D7 G
S1 HaTaM
S2 CaMpl
S3 CaMpl
S4 CaM
M1 Closed TaM
M2 CaM—CaM ("Prinner")
L1 Closed TaM—"Prinner" ("Twinkle Twinkle")