The Music of Programming

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Printemptation ▶

Critics

- **On the positive side:**
  - Beautiful
  - Easy to remember, hear it once, you got it!
  - Whistled it all day long
  - Feels like I've heard it before but...
- **On the negative side:**
  - Easy listening
  - Elevator music

On the positive side

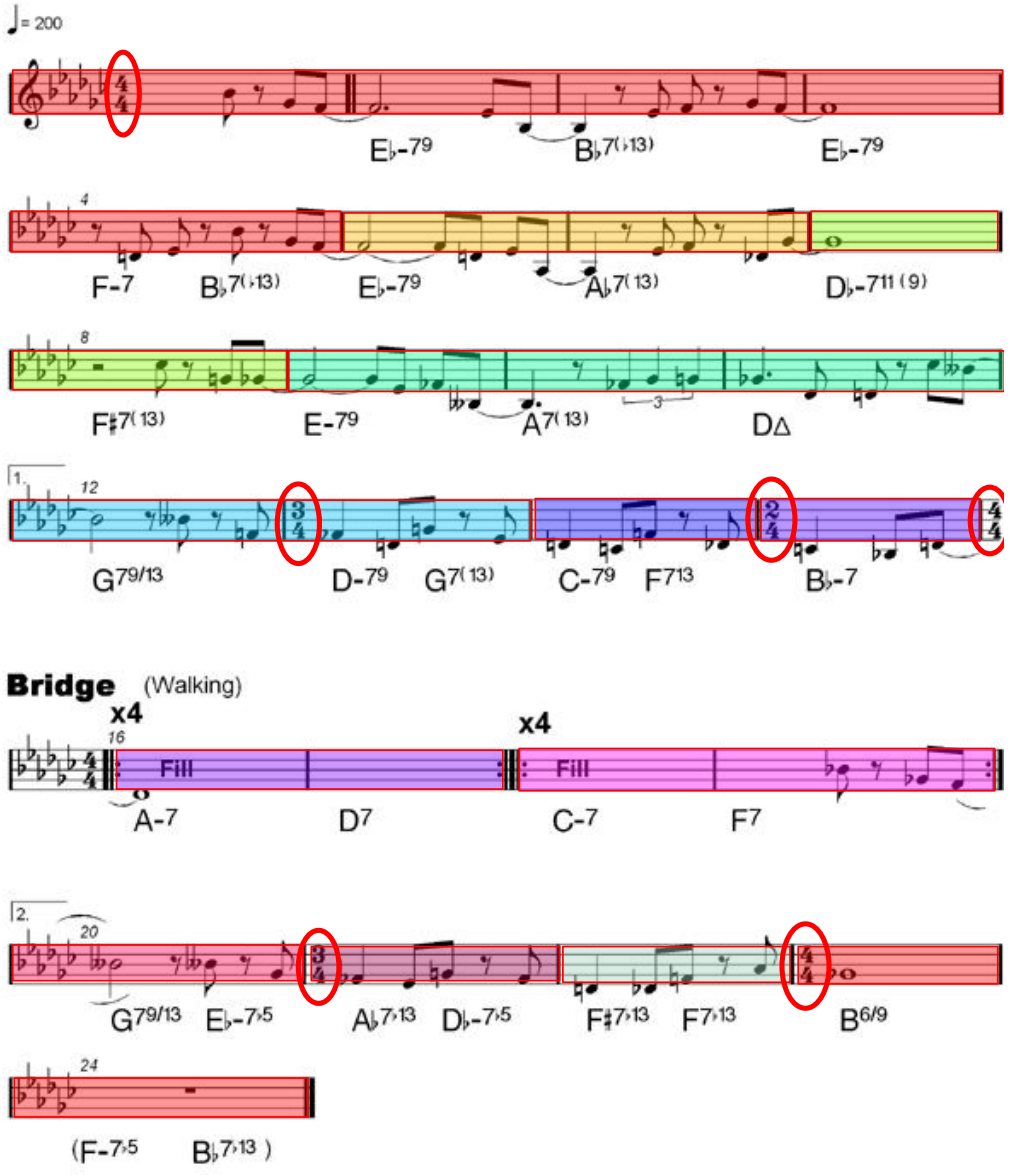
- **Beautiful:** your sense of aesthetics
- **Easy to remember:** simplicity, obviousness
- **Feels like I've heard it before:** universality

- **Why ?**
  - A simple melodic pattern
  - II V I's harmonic progression (99.999% of occidental music)

- **The music speaks your language, in simple terms**

- **Can we say as much about our programs ?**

Printemptation under the Hood ▶



On the negative side

- **Easy listening:** simplicity, no surprise
- **Elevator music:** Easy is boring

- But is this song “simple” and “easy”, really ?

- **This song expresses a complex problem, in simple terms**
- **Can we say as much about our programs ?**

Conclusion

- The purpose of a song is to be good
- The purpose of a program is to be correct
- **A bad program can still be correct**

- **Keep the music of programming in mind**

“Anyone can make the simple complicated.
Creativity is making the complicated simple.”
Charles Mingus
jazz icon