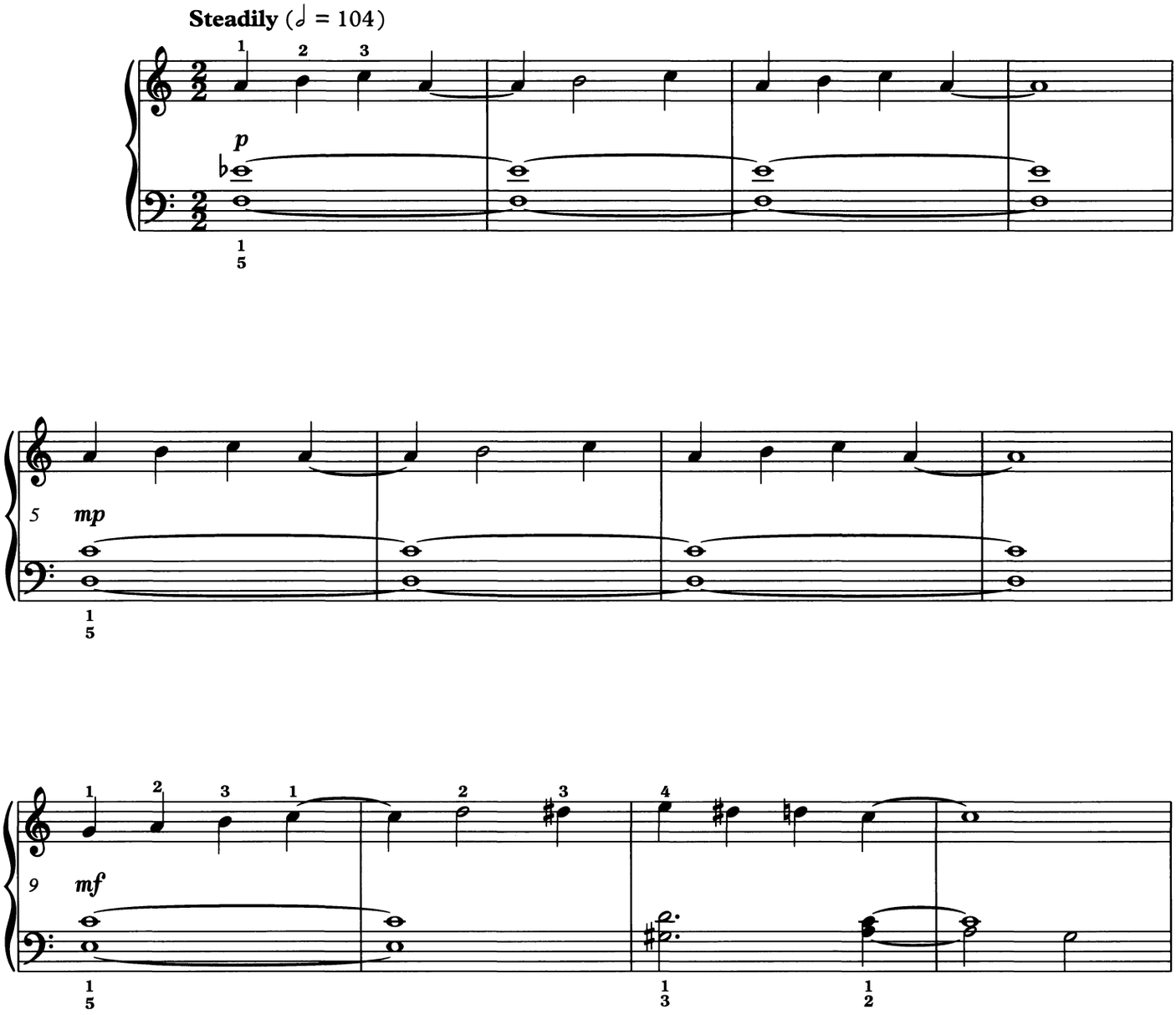
Limehouse blues

Words by Douglas Furber, Music by Philip Braham



This song gained popularity in the music-hall revue 'A to Z' (London 1921) and later became a big hit for the singer Gertrude Lawrence in her career on the New York stage. It also featured in a film made in 1945, based on the history of the *Ziegfeld Follies*, extravagant showcase productions for the star performers and popular songs of their day. The film was directed by Vincente Minnelli and starred a string of greats, including Fred Astaire, Lucille Ball, Gene Kelly and Minnelli's wife, Judy Garland.

Notice how the rhythm is repeated in four bar phrases as the tune develops. Meanwhile the dynamics build from ***p*** to ***f***, then drop down to build up a second time. The use of seventh chords nearly always suggests a blues scale.

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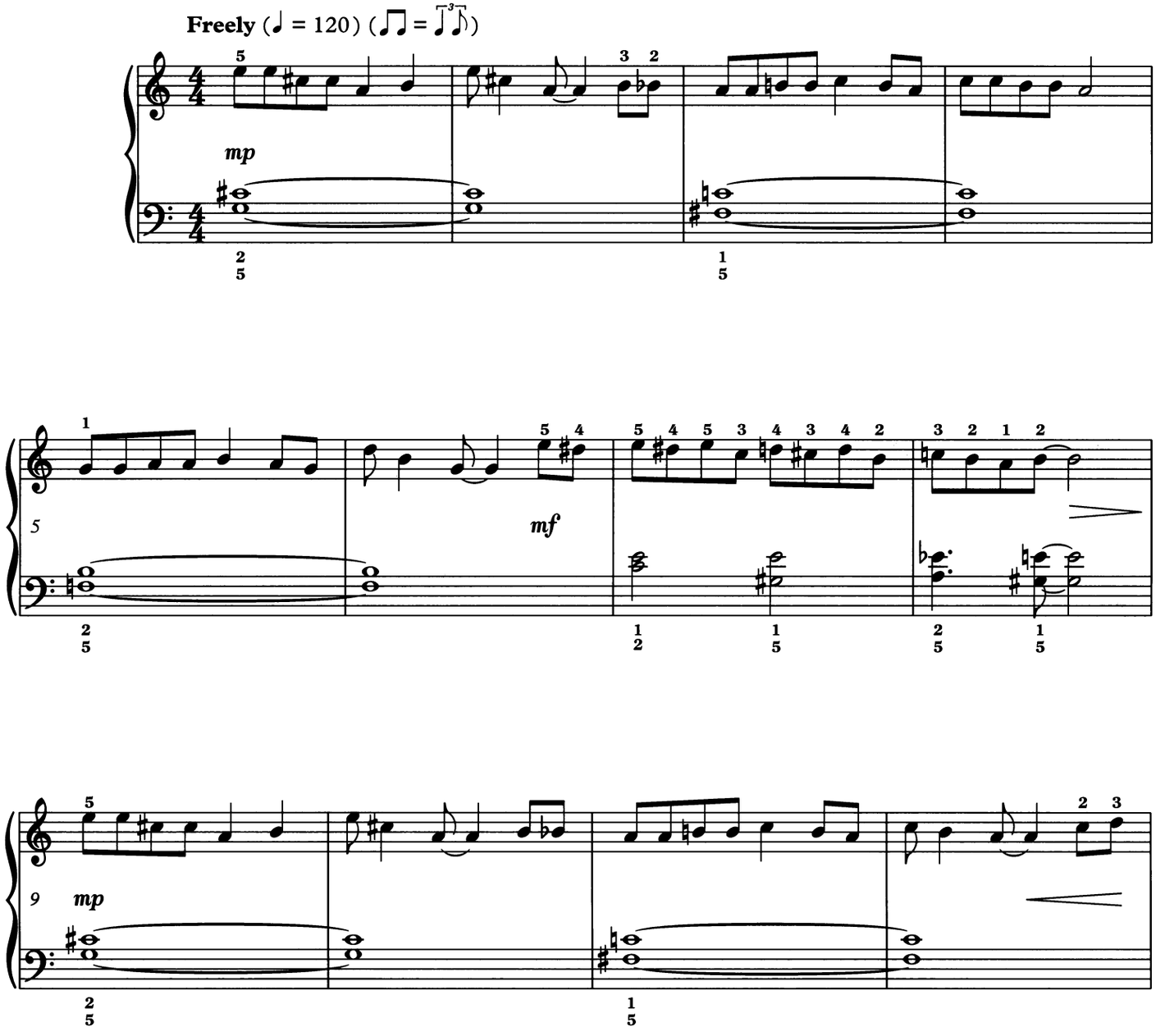
Ballin' the Jack

Words by James Burris, Music by Chris Smith



This piece can have a slightly comical feel about it. The song originally featured in the spectacular vaudeville revue *The Passing Show Of 1915* and it also appears in the film *For Me And My Gal* (1942). Vaudeville was a name which came to be used for the live variety shows that were big business in music-halls between the 1890s and 1920s.

Make sure the rhythm is very strong, really swing the quavers and imagine you are playing for a troupe of tap dancers! You must move confidently through the chromatic shifts of the chords in the left hand, so you might like to practise these separately. See if you can gradually build the speed of your left hand while tapping counts with the right hand.

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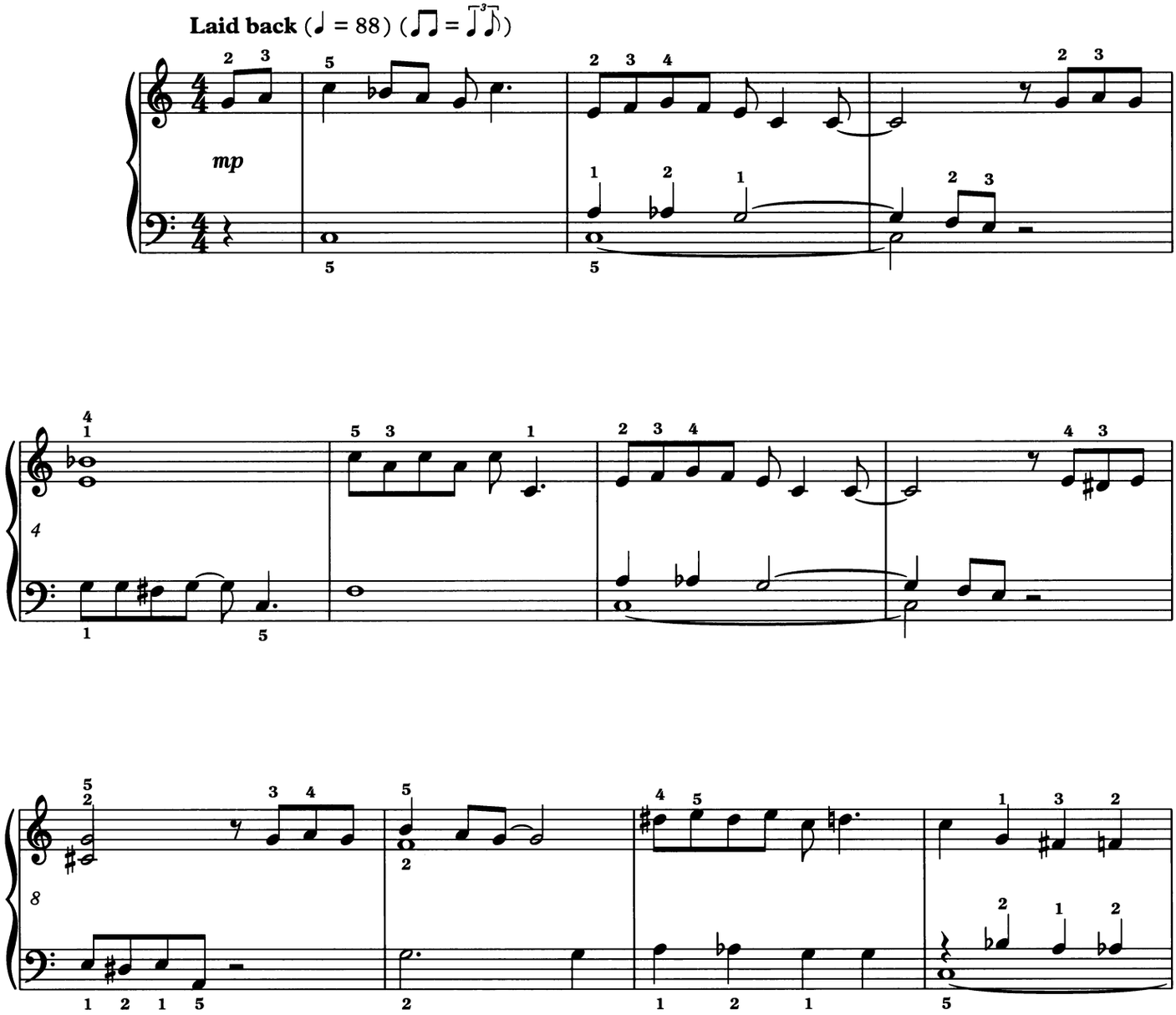
Chimes blues

Joseph Oliver



The composer, Joe Oliver, was a cornet player, born in Louisiana in 1885. As a band leader he earned the name 'King' Oliver and for a while he employed the young Louis Armstrong in the post of second trumpet!

Don't miss the opportunity to shape this piece by making a feature of the accents. Keep the quavers moving, particularly in bars 21 and 22, and during rests be sure that your left hand is preparing to play again.

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