

Careful

By James S. Hall

$\text{♩} = 76$ Even 8th note feeling

Musical notation for measures 1-2. Measure 1 starts with a repeat sign and a fermata over the first note. Measure 2 contains a slur over a series of eighth notes. Chord A7 is indicated above measure 1.

Musical notation for measures 3-4. Measure 3 has a fermata over the first note. Measure 4 has a slur over a series of eighth notes. Chord D7 is indicated above measure 4.

Musical notation for measures 5-6. Measure 5 has a slur over a series of eighth notes. Measure 6 has a slur over a series of eighth notes and a dynamic marking *sfz* above the final note.

Musical notation for measures 7-8. Measure 7 has a slur over a series of eighth notes. Measure 8 has a slur over a series of eighth notes. Chord A7 is indicated above measure 7.

Musical notation for measures 9-10. Measure 9 has a slur over a series of eighth notes. Measure 10 has a slur over a series of eighth notes.

Musical notation for measures 11-12. Measure 11 has a slur over a series of eighth notes. Measure 12 has a slur over a series of eighth notes. Chords F7 and E7 are indicated above measures 11 and 12 respectively. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in measure 12.

Musical notation for measures 13-14. Measure 13 has a slur over a series of eighth notes. Measure 14 has a slur over a series of eighth notes. Chord A7 is indicated above measure 13. A first ending bracket labeled '1.' and a second ending bracket labeled '2.' are shown above the measures.

Copyright © 1960 (Renewed 1988) by MJQ Music, Inc.
This Arrangement Copyright © 1991 by MJQ Music, Inc.
International Copyright Secured All Rights Reserved

"Careful" - Explored

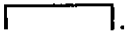
The joke I always make about this piece is that it's called "Careful" because it's a 16-bar blues and that, if you're not careful, it becomes a 12-bar blues. Actually, the first 3 notes suggested the words "Be Careful" to me:

Musical notation for the 'Be Careful' motif, showing the first three notes of the melody in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#).

"Be Care-ful..." but I never finished the lyric, or any other lyric, for that matter. I sometimes wonder whether Beethoven had a lyric in mind for his Fifth Symphony; maybe something light, like:

Musical notation for a parody lyric. The melody is in a different key signature (one flat) and includes the lyrics: "Don't make me laugh Ha - ha - ha - ha!"

Of course it would have been in German, but why not? Anyway, "Careful" was written in 1958 as a Thelonius Monk-type blues for the quartet led by my then employer and still good friend, Jim Giuffre, who played it on tenor saxophone. Since then, I have recorded it with Gary Burton and George Shearing. It has evolved into an even-8th-note (as opposed to loose-triplet-8th note), middle-eastern sounding piece. I refer to it as a "Greek blues." Years ago, there was a 16-bar blues called "Soft Winds,"* which was recorded by the Art Tatum/Tiny Grimes/Slam Stewart Trio among others. It was my harmonic model for "Careful."

The "Be Careful" motive is scattered about through the tune like this. This is denoted by the use of a .

$\text{♩} = 76$ even 8th note feeling

Musical notation for measures 1-2 of "Careful". Brackets are placed above the first three notes of measures 1 and 2, with the label "ghost note" below the bracket in measure 2.

Musical notation for measures 3-4 of "Careful". Brackets are placed above the first three notes of measures 3 and 4, with the label "sfz" above measure 4.

Musical notation for measures 5-6 of "Careful". Brackets are placed above the first three notes of measures 5 and 6, with the label "ghost note" below the bracket in measure 6.

Musical notation for measures 7-8 of "Careful". Brackets are placed above the first three notes of measures 7 and 8, with the label "ghost note" below the bracket in measure 8.