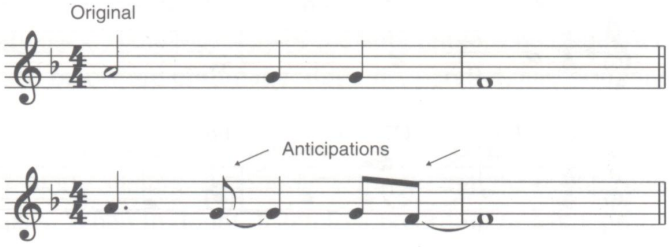
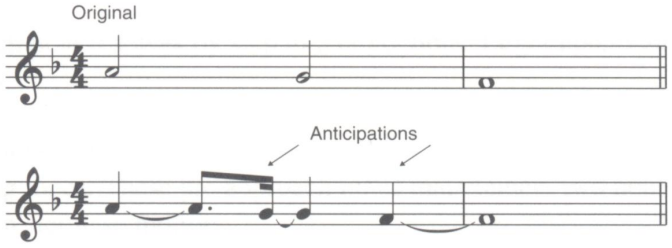
2-2 Anticipation and Delayed Attack

Anticipation

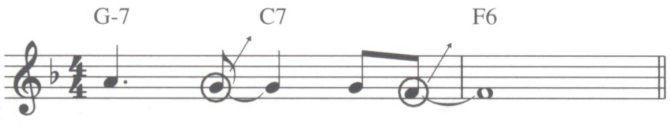
Rhythmic displacement of the melody is a useful technique for adding interest to an arrangement. A note that was originally on the beat may be attacked half a beat (an eighth note) early—creating an anticipation.

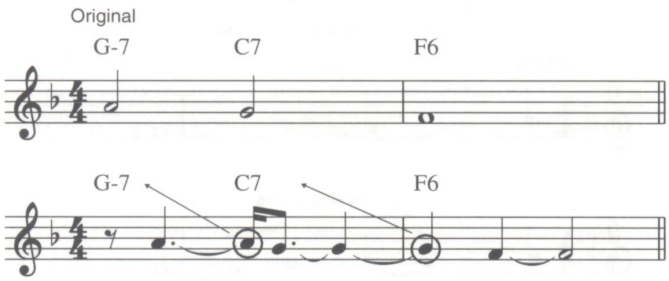


In some uses of anticipation, the note may be attacked only a quarter of a beat (a sixteenth note) early; in others, a full beat (quarter note) early.



When the anticipated melody note "belongs" to a specific change of harmony (a new chord in the chord progression), the change of harmony must also be anticipated.



Delayed Attack

An arranger may also delay the attack of a melody note—moving it from the downbeat to a quarter of a beat, a half of a beat, or a full beat later. When the attack of a melody note is delayed, and the preceding pitch is sustained, the harmony of the preceding pitch must also be sustained.