

Mack the Knife (Moritat)

Bass Clef Instruments

Kurt Weill

13 Cm7 F7 Bb6 F7

“Mack The Knife” was composed by Kurt Weill for the music drama “Die Dreigroschenoper”, or in English “The Threepenny Opera”. The tune was originally entitled “Die Moritat von Mackie Messer” and premiered in 1928 in Berlin at the Theater am Schiffbauerdamm. It was introduced in the United States by Louis Armstrong in 1956 and another hit rendition was recorded by Bobby Darin in 1958.

This tune is most commonly played in the key of Bb major with a medium-up swing feel.

Supplemental Material - Mack the Knife (Moritat)

Sample Piano Voicings

Basic 3-note voicings				Rootless voicings			
Bb ⁶	Cm ⁷	F ⁷	Gm ⁷	Bb ⁶	Cm ⁷	F ⁷	Gm ⁷
6	b7	3	b3	6	5	3	3
3	b3	b7	b7	9	b7	5	b7
1	1	1	1	3	b3	b7	5

Useful Scales

Bb Major Pentatonic	(Bb ⁶)	C Dorian	(Cm ⁷)
3	F Mixolydian	(F ⁷)	G Aeolian (Natural Minor)

Sample Bass Line

5	Bb ⁶	Cm ⁷		
9	F ⁷	Bb ⁶		
13	Gm ⁷	Cm ⁷		
17	Cm ⁷	F ⁷	Bb ⁷	F ⁷