

Mack the Knife (Moritat)

Bb Instruments

Kurt Weill

5 9 13

C⁶ Dm⁷ G⁷ C⁶ Am⁷ Dm⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷ C⁶ G⁷

“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			
C ⁶	Dm ⁷	G ⁷	Am ⁷	C ⁶	Dm ⁷	G ⁷	Am 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

C Major Pentatonic (C ⁶)	D Dorian (Dm ⁷)
G Mixolydian (G ⁷)	A Aeolian (Natural Minor) (Am ⁷)

Sample Bass Line

5	C ⁶	Dm ⁷	
9	G ⁷	C ⁶	
13	Am ⁷	Dm ⁷	
17	Dm ⁷	G ⁷	C ⁷ G ⁷