

Mack the Knife (Moritat)

C Instruments

Kurt Weill

The musical score is written for C Instruments in the key of Bb major and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and is marked with Bb6 and Cm7. The second staff starts at measure 5, marked with F7 and Bb6. The third staff starts at measure 9, marked with Gm7 and Cm7. The fourth staff starts at measure 13, marked with Cm7, F7, Bb6, and F7. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

“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	(Bb6)	C Dorian	(Cm7)
F Mixolydian	(F7)	G Aeolian (Natural Minor)	(Gm7)

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