

Mack the Knife (Moritat)

E♭ Instruments

Kurt Weill

Musical score for Eb Instruments, 4/4 time signature, key of D major. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. Chord symbols G⁶ and Am⁷ are placed above the first two measures. The second staff starts at measure 5 with a D⁷ chord symbol above the first measure and a G⁶ chord symbol above the fourth measure. The third staff starts at measure 9 with an Em⁷ chord symbol above the first measure and an Am⁷ chord symbol above the fourth measure. The fourth staff starts at measure 13 with an Am⁷ chord symbol above the first measure, a D⁷ chord symbol above the second measure, a G⁶ chord symbol above the fifth measure, and a D⁷ chord symbol above the sixth measure. The score ends 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 B♭ major with a medium-up swing feel.

Supplemental Material - Mack the Knife (Moritat)

Sample Piano Voicings

Basic 3-note voicings				Rootless voicings			
G ⁶	Am ⁷	D ⁷	Em ⁷	G ⁶	Am ⁷	D ⁷	Em 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

G Major Pentatonic	(G ⁶)	A Dorian	(Am ⁷)
3	D Mixolydian	(D ⁷)	E Aeolian (Natural Minor)

Sample Bass Line

5	G ⁶	Am ⁷			
9	D ⁷	G ⁶			
13	Em ⁷	Am ⁷			
17	Am ⁷	D ⁷	G ⁷	D ⁷	