

PERFORMANCE NOTES

This arrangement of the popular “Mack the Knife” by Kurt Weill is from his musical, *The Three Penny Opera*. The returning theme is catching as are the nonsensical words. The piece consists of six verses:

Verse 1 - unison chorus

Verse 2 - guys with ladies backup

Verse 3 - ladies with guys in different backup

Verse 4 - ladies with guys backup

Verse 5 - solo girl, solo guy with choir backup

Verse 6 - big closing with full choir

The choral director may decide to be creative with the solos and duets in this arrangement. In addition, the guy/girl solo section at measure 68 can be repeated for “scat” solos. For further instruction on scat singing, see *Let's Sing Some Jazz!* (SV9906) for SATB chorus.

Make sure you do this with a “swing” feel (triplet feel) and not a straight-eighths or a rock feel. The jazz piano part will sound fine as written, but if you have a jazz pianist, allow them to ad lib.

I hope this is a fun piece for your choir to sing! Enjoy!

Russ Robinson

MACK THE KNIFE

SAB, accompanied

English Words by MARC BLITZSTEIN
Original German Words by BERT BRECHT

Music by KURT WEILL
Arranged by RUSS ROBINSON

Fast swing feel ♩ = ca. 144 (♩ = $\overset{\sim}{\underset{\sim}{\text{J}}}$)

SOPRANO

ALTO

BARITONE

PIANO

mf ad lib. or as written

unison mf

Oh, the

Oh, the

Oh, the

Oh, the

C⁶ G⁹

5

shark has pret-ty teeth, dear, and he

shark has pret-ty teeth, dear, and he

shark has pret-ty teeth, dear, and he

C⁶ Dm⁷ G⁹

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shows them_ pearl-y white. Just a

shows them_ pearl-y white. Just a

shows them_ pearl-y white. Just a

Dm7 G13 Cmaj7 Dm7 Em7 Dm7Cmaj7

This system contains three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef and contain the lyrics 'shows them_ pearl-y white. Just a'. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef and includes chord symbols: Dm7, G13, Cmaj7, Dm7, Em7, and Dm7Cmaj7.

13 jack - knife has Mac - heath, dear, and he

jack - knife has Mac - heath, dear, and he

jack - knife has Mac - heath, dear, and he

Am9 Em7 Am Dm7

This system contains three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef and contain the lyrics 'jack - knife has Mac - heath, dear, and he'. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef and includes chord symbols: Am9, Em7, Am, and Dm7.

20

keeps it _____ out of sight.

keeps it _____ out of sight.

keeps it _____ out of sight. *mp* When the

G13 *Cmaj7* *C#dim7* *Dm7* *G13*

This system contains three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in treble clef, and the piano part is in bass clef. The lyrics are 'keeps it _____ out of sight.' repeated on three staves. The piano accompaniment features chords labeled G13, Cmaj7, C#dim7, Dm7, and G13. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the page.

mp

When the shark bites with his teeth, dear,

mp

When the shark bites with his teeth, dear,

shark bites with his teeth, dear, scar-let

C9 *Dm7* *G9*

This system contains three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in treble clef, and the piano part is in bass clef. The lyrics are 'When the shark bites with his teeth, dear,' repeated on three staves. The piano accompaniment features chords labeled C9, Dm7, and G9. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the page.

scar - let bil - lows start to spread, _____ Fan - cy

scar - let bil - lows start to spread, _____ start to spread, _____ Fan - cy

bil - lows, _____ bil - lows start to spread, _____ start to spread, _____ Fan - cy

Dm7 G13 Cmaj7 A7(#5)/C# Dm7 G13

gloves though _____ wears Mac - heath, dear, _____ so there's

gloves though _____ wears Mac - heath, dear, _____ so there's

gloves though _____ wears Mac - heath, dear, _____ so there's

Am9 Em7 Am Dm7

36 *mf*

not a _____ trace of red. _____ From a *mf*

not a _____ trace of red. _____ From a

not a _____ trace of red. _____

G13 Cmaj7 C#dim7 Dm7 N.C.

ritto

tug - boat by the riv - er, the ce -

tug - boat by the riv - er, the ce -

mp

Ba doo ba da doobop, ba doo ba da doobop.

C⁹ Dm7 G⁹

mf

44 *f*

ment bag is drop-ping down, The ce -

ment bag is drop-ping down, drop-ping down. The ce -

Oh yeah, the bag is drop-ping down, drop-ping down. The ce

Dm7 *G13* *Cmaj7* *A7(#5)/C#* *Dm7* *G13*

ment's just for the weight, dear. Bet your

ment's just for the weight, dear. Bet your

ment's just for the weight, dear. Bet your

Am9 *Em7 Am* *Dm7*

52

Mack - ie's _____ back in town. _____

Mack - ie's _____ back in town. _____

Mack - ie's _____ back in town. _____ On the

G13 Cmaj7 C#dim7 Dm7 N.C

mf

Ba doo ba da doo bop, ba doo ba da doo bop.

mf

Ba doo ba da doo bop, ba doo ba da doo bop.

side - walk Sun-day morn - in', lies a

C# Dm7 G9

f

There lies a bod - y ooz-ing life. _____ Some- one's

There lies a bod - y ooz-ing life, _____ ooz- ing life. _____ Some- one's

bod - y, bod - y ooz-ing life, _____ ooz- ing life. _____ Some- one's

Dm7 G13 Cmaj7 A7(#5)/C# Dm7 G13

sneak - ing _____ 'round the cor - ner. _____ Is that

sneak - ing _____ 'round the cor - ner. _____ Is that

sneak - ing _____ 'round the cor - ner. _____ Is that

Am9 Em7 Am Dm7

68 *Solo*

some - one _____ Mack the Knife? _____ Lou - ie

some - one _____ Mack the Knife? _____

some - one _____ Mack the Knife? _____

G13 Cmaj7 C#dim7 Dm7 N.C.

The first system of the score features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in treble clef, and the piano part is in bass clef. The lyrics are "some - one _____ Mack the Knife? _____ Lou - ie". The piano accompaniment includes chord markings: G13, Cmaj7, C#dim7, Dm7, and N.C. (No Chords). A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

Mil - ler _____ dis - ap - peared, dear, _____ af - ter

Background Vocals

Bop bop bop bop bop bop bop bop

Bop bop bop bop bop bop bop bop

C# Dm7 G9

The second system of the score features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The top vocal staff has the lyrics "Mil - ler _____ dis - ap - peared, dear, _____ af - ter". The middle two staves are for background vocals, with the lyrics "Bop bop bop bop bop bop bop bop" and "Bop bop bop bop bop bop bop bop". The piano accompaniment includes chord markings: C#, Dm7, and G9. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

draw - ing out his cash.

bop bop doo bop.

bop bop doo bop.

Solo

And. Mod.

Dm7 G13 Cmaj7 Dm7 Em7 Dm7 Cmaj7

Ah bop doo bop.

(rest of guys sing Alto down an octave)

Ah bop doo bop.

heath spends like a sail - or. Did your

Em7 Ebm7 Dm7

Did your boy do some-thing rash? — Ba dot. Su - key

(Guys sing Alto II as written)

Did your boy do some-thing rash? — Ba dot. Su - key

boy do — some-thing rash? — Su - key

G13 Cmaj7 C#dim7 Dm7 N.C.

Taw - dry! Jen - ny Div - er! Pol - ly

Taw - dry! Jen - ny Div - er! Pol - ly

Taw - dry! Jen - ny Div - er! Pol - ly

C6 Eb6 Dm7

92 *mf*

Peach-um, Pol - ly Peach-um! Lu - cy Brown! Oh, the

Peach-um, Pol - ly Peach-um! Lu - cy Brown! Oh, the

Peach-um, Pol - ly Peach-um! Lu - cy Brown! Oh, the

mf

mf

mf

Ab⁹ G¹³ Cmaj⁷ A⁷(#5)/C# Dm⁷ G¹³

f

line forms on the right, dear, now that

line forms on the right, dear,

line forms on the right, dear,

f

Am⁹ Em⁷ Am Dm⁷

mf

100

Mack-ie's, _____ now that Mack-ie's, _____ your Mack-ie's back in _____ town, _____

f now that Mack-ie's, _____ now that Mack-ie's, _____

f now that Mack-ie's, _____ now that Mack-ie's, _____

f **Dm7** **G13**

slight rit. *ff* back in town! Mack is back!

ff you know your Mack - ie's back in town! Mack is back!

ff you know your Mack - ie's back in town! Mack is back!

slight rit. *ff* **Em7** **Em7** **Dm7** **G13** **C8**

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