

# MANILOW MOOD

I thought it worth including a little chordal composition based on Barry Manilow's style because there are several devices he employs in most of his songs (or at least in his arrangements of songs)

- Very often they change key several times which creates tension and movement that wants to be 'resolved'. The keys move upwards which builds the song up in an emotional way.
- He uses a lot of slash chords. ie C/D. They will either be written as slash chords OR as 9, 11 or sus4 chords. But basically it's the formula on page 4.
- He often employs a 3 beat slash chord pattern where the vocal gets drawn out and is quite dramatic (you've heard Frank Sinatra doing it a million times) You will see this used at the start of songs and then just before certain verses or the chorus.
- Notice also the bass runs that lead onto the next chord.
- He also uses CLUSTER chords (we'll look at these later) again to create a bit of dissonance and tension

Try the next tune and see if you can spot all these devices. Then try writing your own Manilow-style song.

# MANILOW MOOD

page 1

Rhythm - Oom Pah

**D    C/E    D/F#    G middle**

4/4 time signature. Treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a bass clef. The bass staff has a treble clef. The key signature is A major (no sharps or flats). The melody consists of eighth-note chords. The bass line provides harmonic support. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some bass notes. The bass line features a 'Bass run' in the middle section.

**D    E    F#    G    D    G    D    Db**

**C**

**Am backwards**

3/4 time signature. Treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a bass clef. The bass staff has a treble clef. The key signature is A major (no sharps or flats). The melody consists of eighth-note chords. The bass line provides harmonic support. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some bass notes. The bass line features a 'Bass run' in the middle section.

**C    G    C    G    G#    A    E**

3    1    3    1    2    1    5

**C/D**

**Db/Eb**

**Ab backwards**

6/8 time signature. Treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a bass clef. The bass staff has a treble clef. The key signature is A major (no sharps or flats). The melody consists of eighth-note chords. The bass line provides harmonic support. A 'Key change' occurs at the beginning of the section, indicated by a bass note on the third beat. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some bass notes. The bass line features a 'Bass run' in the middle section.

**A    E    D    Eb    Ab    Eb**

1    5            1            3            1    4

**Db**

10/8 time signature. Treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a bass clef. The bass staff has a treble clef. The key signature is A major (no sharps or flats). The melody consists of eighth-note chords. The bass line provides harmonic support. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some bass notes. The bass line features two 'Bass run' sections.

**Ab    Eb    D    Db    Ab    Db    Ab    A**

1    4    1    2    4    1    3    2

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page 2

13 **Bbm**

13 **Bbm**

Bb 1      F 3      Bb 1      Eb 2

16 **D/E**

Key change

16 **A backwards**

Bass run

E 1      A 1      E 3      A 1      E 3      Eb 4

19 **D**

Bass run

19 **Bm**

D 1      A 3      D 1      A 3      A# 2      B 1      F# 3

22 **D/E**

Key change

22 **Eb/F**

22 **Bb**

B 1      F# 3      E 1      F 2      Bb 5