

# 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.

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page 1

Rhythm - Oom Pah

**D C/E D/F# G middle**

4 3 2 1 3 1 3 2 Bass run

D E F# G D G D Db

**C**

**Am backwards**

1 3 1 Bass run

C G C G G# A E

3 2 1 5

**C/D**

**Db/Eb**

**Ab backwards**

1 5 1 3 1 4 Key change

A E D Eb Ab Eb

1 5

**Db**

1 4 1 2 4 1 3 2 Bass run

Ab Eb D Db Ab Db Ab A

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## page 2

13 **Bbm** **Db/Eb**

Bb 1 F 3 Bb 1 Eb 2

16 **D/E** **A backwards**

Key change Bass run

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

19 **D** **Bm**

Bass run

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

22 **D/E** **Eb/F** **Bb**

Key change

B 1 F# 3 E 1 F 2 Bb 5