

Chapter 7: Major Key Signatures



Composition: Jazz Up Your Melody

Theory Focus: Major Key Signatures, Swing Rhythm


Composition Focus: Arranging a Melody in Swing Style

Composition

1. Open one of the templates from Chapter 7 or, enter *Early One Morning* in B \flat Major, the clef of your choice in 4/4 time as shown here.

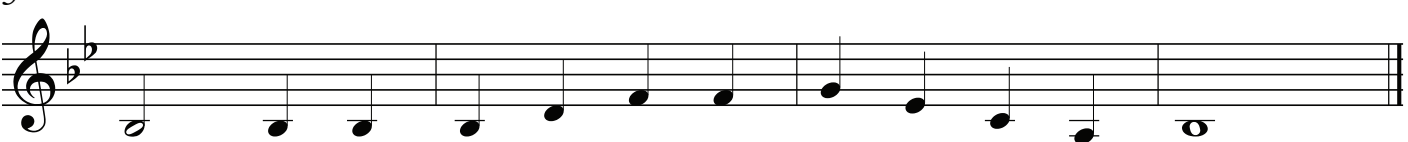
Early One Morning

Piano



5

Pno.

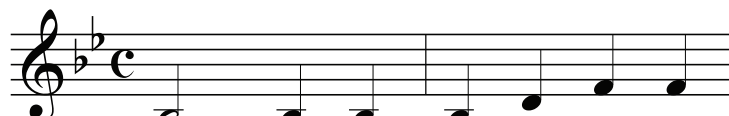


2. Exchange some quarter notes with eighth note rhythms.



3. Create syncopated figures by putting longer notes such as quarters, tied or dotted notes, on the off beats (the “+” of the beat).


No Syncopation:



1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

With Syncopation:

Possible Examples



1 + 2 3 4 1 + 2 + 3 4

Chapter 7: Major Key Signatures

4. Set your notation software to play in a **swing style**, (medium or 33%), and experiment with an upbeat tempo (MM = 120 or higher).
5. **Add a drum set staff** & enter the quarter note foundation on cymbal. Repeat it for the length of the melody.

The image shows two staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). It contains a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by a dotted quarter note, and then two eighth notes. The bottom staff is a drum set staff with a common time signature (C). It contains a cymbal foundation consisting of four quarter notes, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a cymbal sound. The label 'Drum Set' is to the left of the staff, and 'Cymbal' is to the right.

6. **Insert a double barline** at the end of the melody to mark this section.

The image shows two staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). It contains a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by a dotted quarter note, and then two eighth notes. The bottom staff is a drum set staff with a common time signature (C). It contains a cymbal foundation consisting of four quarter notes, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a cymbal sound. A double barline is placed at the end of the melody, and a red oval highlights the double barline.

7. **Copy & paste all 8 measures** of the drums & melody beginning at measure 9.
8. **Expand the drum set rhythm** in the new section:

- a. In measure 9, add a **snare drum** (or a rim shot) on beats 2 & 4 in the 3rd space of the drum part. (This will automatically be Voice or Layer 1 in your notation software.)

The image shows a drum set staff with a common time signature (C). It contains a cymbal foundation consisting of four quarter notes, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a cymbal sound. A red arrow points to the 3rd space of the staff, indicating the position for a snare drum. The label 'Snare Drum' is below the staff.

- b. Switch to Voice or Layer 2. Add **bass drum** on all 4 beats in the first space. (Being in Voice/Layer 2 will force the upper note stems to go up and the lower note stems to go down.)

The image shows a drum set staff with a common time signature (C). It contains a cymbal foundation consisting of four quarter notes, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a cymbal sound. A red arrow points to the first space of the staff, indicating the position for a bass drum. The label 'Bass Drum' is below the staff.

- c. Copy this new measure throughout the new section.

Chapter 7: Major Key Signatures

- d. Mark the end of this section with another double barline.
10. **Create your own ending:** Copy & paste the last two measures of the melody into two new measures. You can subtract some notes from the melody part if you wish, to indicate that the music is coming to an end. Instead of the quarter note rhythm, have the drum part imitate part or all of the rhythm in the melody.
- Ending - added on at measure 17.*

A musical score for the song 'The Rose Tree'. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written on a single staff, and the accompaniment is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with a final measure containing a quarter rest. The accompaniment consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with a final measure containing a quarter rest.

11. **Optional Addition:** Make the new section pop out. Change the key from B^b to E^b Major.
- Select just the melody (not the drums) and change the key to E^b Major.
 - Make sure your notation software has moved the notes up into the new key. (The first note of the melody in this section should be Eb.) You may need to use the Transposition feature to move the selected melody up a Perfect 4th.

Final Score:

My Early Morning

B^b Major

9

E^b Major

13

17

Ending