

Ode to Joy - Analysis & E Minor Swing Adaptation

Original: Ludwig van Beethoven (Symphony No. 9) **Source:** HDpiano arrangement (D major, ♩ =128) **Target:** E minor swing jazz for "Crescendo i gågata"

ORIGINAL ANALYSIS (D Major)

Melody (scale degrees):

Phrase 1:	3	3	4	5		5	4	3	2		1	1	2	3		3	2	2	-
Phrase 2:	3	3	4	5		5	4	3	2		1	1	2	3		2	1	1	-

In D major (original):

Phrase 1:	F#	F#	G	A		A	G	F#	E		D	D	E	F#		F#	E	E	-
Phrase 2:	F#	F#	G	A		A	G	F#	E		D	D	E	F#		E	D	D	-

Original chord progression (from sheet):

Part 1 – Theme:											
D	Em/D D	D/A A7	D/A A/G	D/F#	C#dim/E D	D/A	A				
D	G/D D7	Gsus G	D/G Em/G	D/A	A7 D/A	A7	D				
Bridge section:											
A	D/A	A7	D/A	A7	F#/A# F#7	Bm7	E7 A D				
G/D	D7	Gsus Em/G	D/G Em/G	D/A	A7 D/A	A7	D				
Part 2 – Quiet Variation (p):											
D	(whole notes, sparse)	D/A	A								

TRANSPOSITION TO E MINOR

Method: D major → E minor (up whole step, change to minor mode)

Using E natural minor scale: **E - F# - G - A - B - C - D**

Melody in E minor:

Phrase 1:	G	G	A	B		B	A	G	F#		E	E	F#	G		G	F#	F#	-
Phrase 2:	G	G	A	B		B	A	G	F#		E	E	F#	G		F#	E	E	-

Basic chord transposition (D → Em):

D major	E minor equivalent
D	Em

A	Bm or B7
A7	B7
G	Am or C
Em	F#m7b5 or Am
Bm	C or Cmaj7
F#	G# or G
C#dim	D#dim

SWING JAZZ REHARMONIZATION (E Minor)

Ode to Joy Theme - Swing Version:

8-bar A section:

Em9	Am7 D7	Gmaj7	B7#9	
Em9	Am7 D7	Gmaj7 C#m7b5	F#7 B7	

8-bar A' section (return):

Em9	Am7 D7	Gmaj7	B7#9	
Em9 C#m7b5	F#7 B7	Em6	Em6 (B7)	

Bridge (B section) - Contrast:

Cmaj7	Cmaj7	Bm7	E7	
Am9	Am9	F#7#9	B7sus4 B7	

Complete 32-bar AABA form:

A:	Em9	Am7 D7	Gmaj7	B7#9	Em9	Am7 D7	Gmaj7 C#m7b5	F#7 B7	
A':	Em9	Am7 D7	Gmaj7	B7#9	Em9 C#m7b5	F#7 B7	Em6	Em6 (B7)	
B:	Cmaj7	Cmaj7	Bm7	E7	Am9	Am9	F#7#9	B7sus4 B7	
A':	Em9	Am7 D7	Gmaj7	B7#9	Em9 C#m7b5	F#7 B7	Em6	Em6	

MELODY WITH CHORDS (E Minor Swing)

Phrase 1:

	Em9		Am7		D7				
	G	G	A	B	B	A	G	F#	
	Gmaj7					B7#9			
	E	E	F#	G	G	F#	F#	-	

Phrase 2:

Em9

Am7

D7

| G G A B | B A G F# |

Gmaj7

C#m7b5

F#7

B7

| E E F# G | F# E E - |

SWING STYLE ADAPTATIONS

1. Rhythmic Feel

Original: Straight, chorale-like quarter notes **Swing version:** Swing 8ths, laid-back phrasing

Original rhythm:

| ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ |

Swing rhythm (anticipate beat 1 of next bar):

| ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ |

↑ ↑

swing 8ths swing 8ths

2. Melodic Embellishments

Add grace notes, approach tones, and bebop ornaments:

Original: G G A B

Swing: G (F#)G A B (or: G G~A A~B)

↑

grace note

3. Blue Notes

Add bluesy character with b3 and b7:

- Use Bb (b5 of Em) as passing tone
- Add D natural (b7) for dominant feel on B7

4. Call and Response

Break melody into 2-bar phrases for band interaction:

Bars 1–2: Melody (vocal/sax)

Bars 3–4: Response (piano fill or horn stab)

INSTRUMENT-SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

KEYBOARD

Shell voicings for Ode to Joy section:

Em9: E + D + F# (root + 7 + 9)

Am7: A + G (root + 7)
 D7: D + C (root + 7)
 Gmaj7: G + F# (root + maj7)
 B7#9: B + A + D# (root + 7 + #9) – "Hendrix chord"
 C#m7b5: C# + B + G (root + 7 + b5)
 F#7: F# + E (root + 7)

Comping: Charleston rhythm or sparse quarter notes

BASS - Walking Line

Bars 1–2 (Em9 → Am7 D7):
 | E F# G G# | A B C C# |

Bars 3–4 (Gmaj7 → B7#9):
 | G A B C | B A# A G# |

Bars 5–6 (Em9 → Am7 D7):
 | E F# G A | A B C D |

Bars 7–8 (Gmaj7 C#m7b5 → F#7 B7):
 | G F# E C# | F# E D# D |

SAXOPHONE

Tenor (Bb): Written in F#m **Alto (Eb):** Written in C#m

Play the melody! This is the featured Beethoven quote. Add fills on the responses (bars 3–4 of each phrase).

DRUMS

Relaxed swing feel:

	1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
Ride:	X	.	X	X	X	.	X	X
Hi-hat:	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	.

On melody hits, add kick drum accents matching the rhythm.

Bridge: Can drop to brushes for contrast.

GUITAR

Em voicings (open strings work great!):

Em9: 0 2 0 0 0 2
 Am7: x 0 2 0 1 0
 D7: x x 0 2 1 2
 Gmaj7: 3 2 0 0 0 2
 B7: x 2 1 2 0 2

Four on the floor, muted strums on 2 & 4.

INTEGRATION INTO "CRESCENDO I GÅGATA"

Option 1: Ode to Joy as the CHORUS

Replace current "La la la" section with Ode to Joy melody:

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VERSE (G major feel):  
| Cmaj7 | Bm7 E7 | Am9 | D13 | Em7 A7 | Am7 D7 | Gmaj9 | G6 |  
  
CHORUS – Ode to Joy (pivot to Em):  
| Em9 | Am7 D7 | Gmaj7 | B7#9 | Em9 | Am7 D7 | Gmaj7 C#m7b5 | F#7 B7 |  
  
The "La la la" lyrics sung to Ode to Joy melody!
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Option 2: Ode to Joy as BRIDGE/INSTRUMENTAL

Keep original chorus, add Ode to Joy as featured instrumental break:

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...after Chorus 2:  
  
INSTRUMENTAL BREAK – Ode to Joy theme (8–16 bars)  
Sax plays melody, band comps  
Solo section over Ode to Joy changes
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Option 3: Full Song in E Minor

Transpose entire song to E minor for consistency:

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VERSE (Em):  
| Am7 | G#m7b5 C#7 | F#m7b5 | B7 | Em7 F#7 | F#m7b5 B7 | Em9 | Em6 |  
  
CHORUS – Ode to Joy (Em):  
| Em9 | Am7 D7 | Gmaj7 | B7#9 | Em9 | Am7 D7 | Em6 | Em6 |
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RECOMMENDED APPROACH

For "Crescendo i gågata" I recommend **Option 1** with modifications:

- 1. **Keep verses in G major** (original feel, happy vibe)
- 2. **Use Ode to Joy for chorus** ("La la la" section)
- 3. **Pivot to E minor feel** on chorus for dramatic contrast
- 4. **Return to G major** for next verse

This creates a **major/minor contrast** that's very effective in swing:

- Verses: Bright, major, optimistic
- Chorus: Darker, minor, dramatic (Beethoven!)
- Perfect for the lyric "Beethovens Niendes kor stemt opp!"

Key modulation moment:

End of verse:	Gmaj9	G6	B7	
			↑	
			pivot chord to Em	
Start of chorus:	Em9	Am7	D7	

FULL ARRANGEMENT SUGGESTION

INTRO (4 bars):	Em9 Am7 D7 Em9 B7#9 (Hint at Ode to Joy, dark intro)
VERSE 1 (G major):	"Beethovens Niendes kor stemt opp!" Standard swing feel, mf
VERSE 2:	"Utstillingsdokka i vinduet lo..."
CHORUS 1 (E minor):	ODE TO JOY MELODY "La la la..." sung to Beethoven theme Sax doubles vocal, f
VERSE 3:	"Og kjærlighet æ'kke no' spøk..."
VERSE 4:	Repeat
CHORUS 2:	Ode to Joy again, bigger
BRIDGE:	Current bridge material "Jeg ble stum som en liten kanin..." Build to climax
SAX SOLO:	Over Ode to Joy changes (8-16 bars)
VERSE 5:	"Beethovens Niendes..." FULL POWER
CHORUS 3 (Tag):	Ode to Joy, repeat and out Ritardando on final phrase End on Em6 (hold)

TEMPO CONSIDERATION

Original Ode to Joy: ♩ =128 Current Crescendo: 140-150 BPM

Recommendation: Bring tempo to **130-140 BPM** to match both:

- Still energetic for Lindy Hop
- Allows Ode to Joy melody to breathe
- Matches Vårherres Klinkekule tempo (easier for set)