

# DEAD MAN BLUES

Composed by Jelly Roll Morton  
Transcribed by David Berger

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Thunder**

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## INSTRUMENTATION

Clarinet 1  
Clarinet 2  
Clarinet 3  
Trumpet  
Trombone  
Banjo  
Piano  
Bass  
Drums

# DEAD MAN BLUES

Jelly Roll Morton  
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Speaker #1: What's that I hear twelve o'clock in the day time church bells ringing?

Speaker #2: Man, you don't hear no church bells ringing twelve o'clock in the day.

Speaker #1: Yes, indeed. Somebody must be dead.

Speaker #2: Ain't nobody dead. Somebody must be dead drunk.

Speaker #1: No, I think it's a funeral. Now, looky here; I see it is a funeral. I believe I hear that trambonephone.

**Recitation**   **A** Dirge ♩ = 66

The musical score is arranged in a grand staff format with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Reed 1:** Clarinet (treble clef, 4/4 time)
- Reed 2:** Clarinet (treble clef, 4/4 time)
- Reed 3:** Clarinet (treble clef, 4/4 time)
- Trumpet:** (treble clef, 4/4 time)
- Trombone:** (bass clef, 4/4 time)
- Banjo:** (treble clef, 4/4 time)
- Piano:** (treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time)
- Bass:** (bass clef, 4/4 time)
- Chimes:** (treble clef, 4/4 time)

The score begins with a recitation section. The instrumental parts start at the beginning of the 'A' section, marked 'Dirge' with a tempo of ♩ = 66. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The music is in 4/4 time. The first staff (Reed 1) has a melodic line starting with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4, quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F30, G30, A30, B30, 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Dead Man Blues

**B**

Medium Swing ♩ = 127

Filigree

C

C<sup>7</sup>


F<sup>7</sup>


F<sup>♯</sup>°

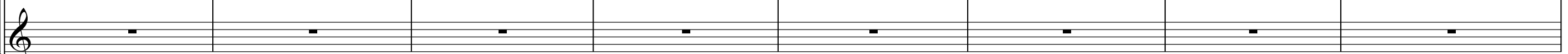
C


E<sup>7</sup>

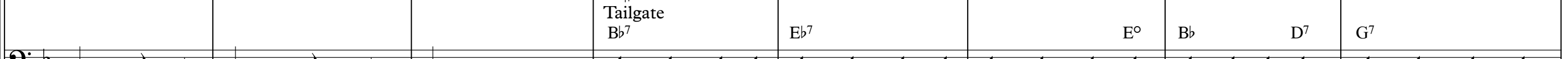
A<sup>7</sup>

Cl. 

Cl. 

Cl. 

Tpt 

Tbn 

Tailgate  
B<sup>b</sup>7

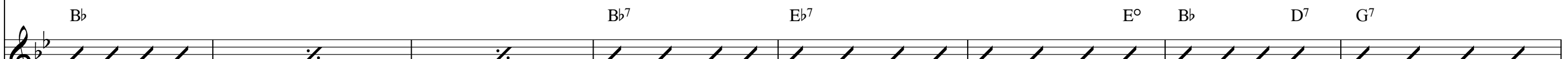
E<sup>b</sup>7

E°

B<sup>b</sup>

D<sup>7</sup>

G<sup>7</sup>

Bjo 

*mf*

B<sup>b</sup>

B<sup>b</sup>7

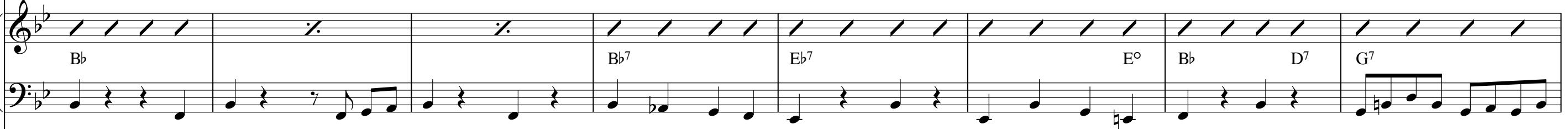
E<sup>b</sup>7

E°

B<sup>b</sup>

D<sup>7</sup>

G<sup>7</sup>

Pno 

B<sup>b</sup>

B<sup>b</sup>7

E<sup>b</sup>7

E°

B<sup>b</sup>


D<sup>7</sup>

G<sup>7</sup>

Bs 

*mf*

Drums

Dr 

*mf*

Dead Man Blues

Chord progression: D7 G7 C C7 F7 G7 C F7 G7 **C** Solo C G7 C7

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. The top staff is for Clarinet (Cl), with three staves for the instrument. The second staff is for Trumpet (Tpt) and Trombone (Tbn). The third staff is for Banjo (Bjo). The fourth staff is for Piano (Pno), with separate staves for the right and left hands. The fifth staff is for Bass (Bs). The bottom staff is for Drums (Dr). The score is divided into two systems by a double bar line. The first system contains measures 1-4, and the second system contains measures 5-8. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo and style are indicated by the 'Solo' marking above the C chord in measure 5. The drum part consists of a simple rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.