

# The Ballad of Mack The Knife

Written by Kurt Weill and Bertold Brecht, 1928, for the show *Die Dreigroschenoper* (*The Threepenny Opera*). English translation by Ralph Manheim and John Willett, 1976.

## Ballad singer:

See the **(Bm)**shark with teeth like **(Em)**razors  
All can see his open **(Bm)**face  
And Mac**(Bm7)**heath has got a **(Em)**knife but  
Not in such an obvious **(Bm)**place.

See the shark how red his **(Em)**fins are  
As he slashes at his **(Bm)**prey  
Mack the **(Bm7)**Knife wears white kid **(Em)**gloves  
Which give a minimum a**(Bm)**way.

By the Thames' turbid **(Em)**waters  
Men abruptly tumble **(Bm)**down  
Is it **(Bm7)**plague or is it **(Em)**cholera  
Or a sign Macheath's in **(Bm)**town?

On a beauti-ful blue **(Em)**Sunday  
See a corpse stretched in the **(Bm)**strand  
See a **(Bm7)**man dodge 'round the **(Em)**corner  
Mackie's friends will under**(Bm)**stand.

In the ghastly fire in **(Em)**Soho  
Seven children at one **(Bm)**go  
In the **(Bm7)**crowd stands Mack the **(Em)**Knife  
But he's not asked and doesn't **(Bm)**know.

In the **(Bm7)**crowd stands Mack the **(Em)**Knife  
But he's not asked and doesn't **(Bm)**know.

