

MANIC DEPRESSION

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

Know any other rock waltzes? Me neither. “Manic Depression” is one of Hendrix’s best-loved tunes—a powerhouse of guitar-driven ferocity—and, though seemingly simple to play, is actually difficult to pull off with the same aggressive swagger and overall on-the-edge anxiety produced by the Experience. Though rarely played live, a wild version can be heard on *Live at Winterland* (Rykodisc).

Figure 6—Introduction and Verse

The song begins with dramatic use of chromaticism, as D–D#–E, played in even quarters, is contrasted against a complex drum fill and followed by the similarly chromatic G–G#–A. The cornerstone one-measure signature riff, which commences at measure 3 of the intro, is played repeatedly and recurs throughout the piece.

The verse rhythm figure is built on single notes. Measure 8 alludes to A major pentatonic (A–B–C#–E–F#) with the use of the root (A), the third (C#), and the fifth (E). Measure 9 alludes to G major pentatonic (G–A–B–D–E), again utilizing the root (G), third (B), and fifth (D), followed by a restatement of the intro figures. In measures 16 and 17, the root-3rd-5th shape is used over E and G, followed by single-note riffs that make reference to D, C, and G. Take note of the *drive* with which the entire figure is played.

Fig. 6 **11**

Tune Down 1/2 Step:

- ① = E♭ ④ = D♭
- ② = B♭ ⑤ = A♭
- ③ = G♭ ⑥ = E♭

Intro
Moderately Fast ♩ = 152 (♩ = ♩⁵)

1 N.C. (A)

TAB
5 6 7 5 6 7 0 7 5 7 5

5 Verse N.C.(A)

TAB
0 7 5 7 5 0 7 5 7 5 5 7 9 7

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