



Movin' Out (Anthony's Song)

Billy Joel

🎵 Level 54/100 (Ambitious)

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MOVIN' OUT (ANTHONY'S SONG)

Words and Music by Billy Joel

In another of Joel's story songs, the main character Anthony is leaving home, motorcycle screeching as he tears off in search of a better life. Though the verses are written in the third person, Joel puts himself in Anthony's shoes in the chorus, personalizing the disillusionment and escapism in Anthony's struggle for independence. What is Anthony escaping? The status quo of working and living in his ethnic neighborhood for a house and a car just like all his neighbors. He asks, "Is that all you get for your money?" and follows with "It seems such a waste of time if that's what it's all about." Anthony's search for greater meaning in life is shared by most people transitioning from young, care-free teenagers into responsible adults, and the liberating roar of his motorcycle signifies a powerful—if temporary—escape from a "normal" life.

Figure 22—Intro

The song starts out with simple right-hand chords played in steady eighths on piano, as the bass line, doubled by a lightly distorted guitar, gives contrasting rhythmic movement and leads us from chord to chord.

The song is in the key of D minor, and most of the chords are diatonic. The only chromatic exception in the intro is the E+, which Joel uses to link the C to the Fmaj7. The voice leading in the right hand is very smooth throughout, and the E+ makes it even more so.

Fig. 22

Intro
Moderately ♩ = 132

1

Dm Gm7 C E+ Fmaj7

Oo,

mf

5

Dm Gm7 C E+ Fmaj7

oo, uh, huh, Mm, hmm.

8vb

32

Full Band