## Master Songwriter Module 11 of *Music: Under the Hood*

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## Outline

- Biography of Harold Arlen
- Analysis of Stormy Weather

- Harold Arlen, 1905-1986
  - Born Hyman Arluck in Buffalo, NY
    - Son of Jewish cantor
    - Loved to sing
    - Began studying piano at 9 but hated practicing
  - Formed a combo (Snappy Trio) as a teenager
    - Wrote arrangements for it.



Career

### - Wanted to be a professional singer

- But his arrangements were always more popular than his singing.
- Moved to NYC, age 22
- Met lyricist Ted Koehler
  - They wrote *Get Happy*, 1929, Arlen's first hit.
  - Wrote for Cotton Club, 1930-34.
  - Stormy Weather also a hit.

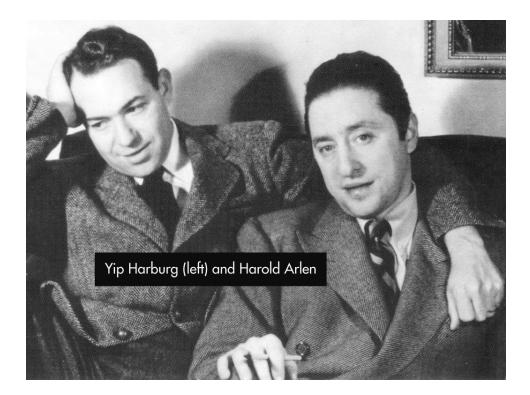
Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler



## Career

### Wizard of Oz

- Arlen teamed with lyricist Yip Harburg for the movie
- He felt the movie needed a ballad with a broad, sweeping melody.
- It came to him while driving on Sunset Blvd...



## Career

- Over the Rainbow
  - Over the Rainbow was cut from the film 3 times.
  - Associate Producer Arthur Freed, who hired Arlen, lobbied to have it restored
  - Ranked Best Song of the Century by Recording Industry Association of America.
  - Named Best Movie Song of All Time by American Film Institute.



## **Stormy Weather**

- Music by Harold Arlen, lyrics by Ted Koehler
  - A lament
    - Illustrates Arlen's gift for expressive melody
  - First performed 1933
    - by Ethel Waters at Cotton Club
    - She made first recording same year.
    - Also sung by Frank Sinatra, Lena Horne, Billie Holiday





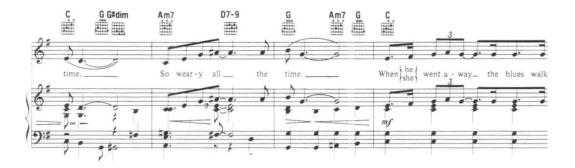
#### STORMY WEATHER (KEEPS RAININ' ALL THE TIME)

<u>Audio file</u> (first recording, by Ethel Waters)

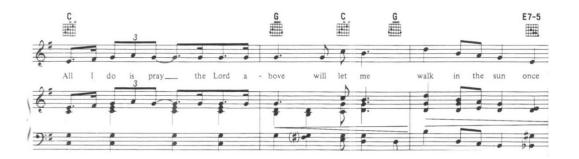


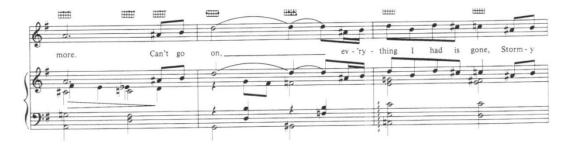


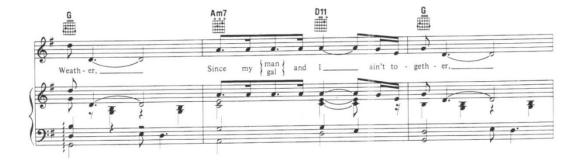


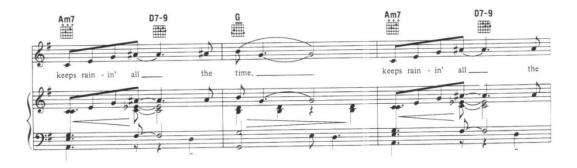


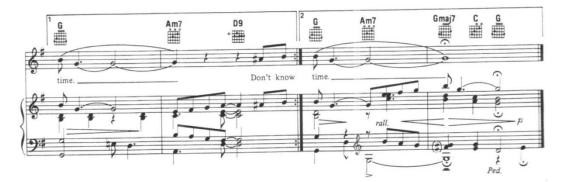




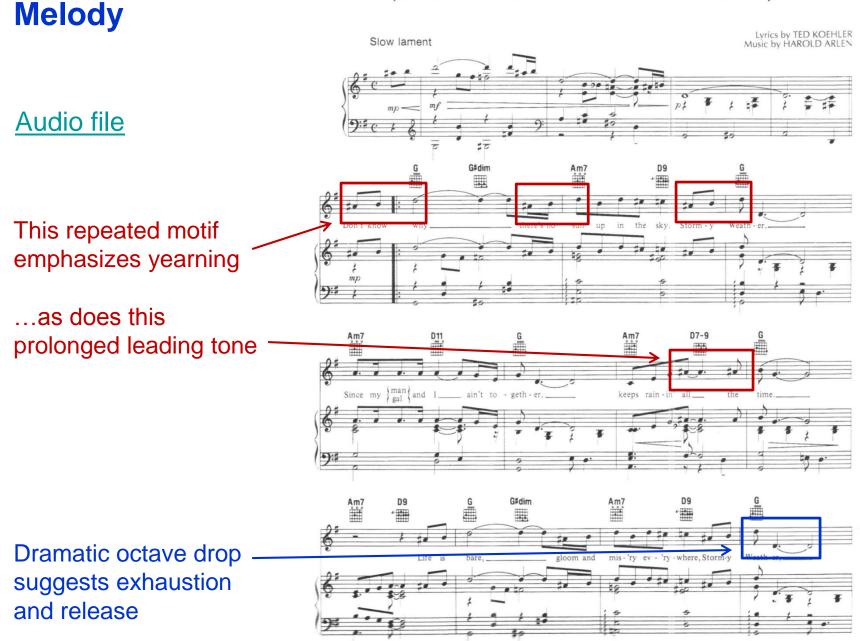


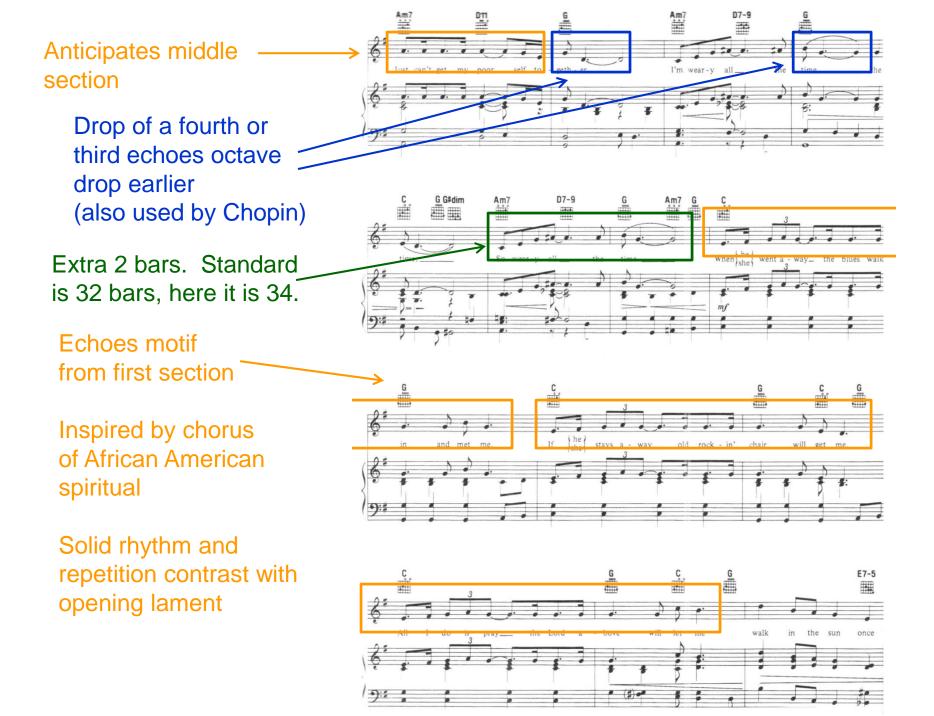




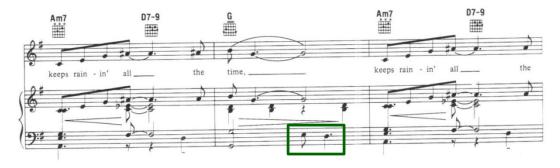


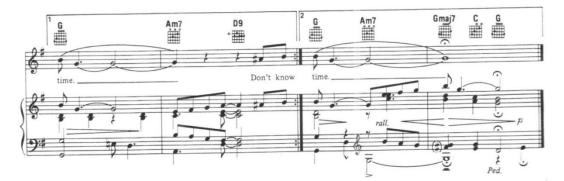
### STORMY WEATHER (KEEPS RAININ' ALL THE TIME)











### Harmony Audio file

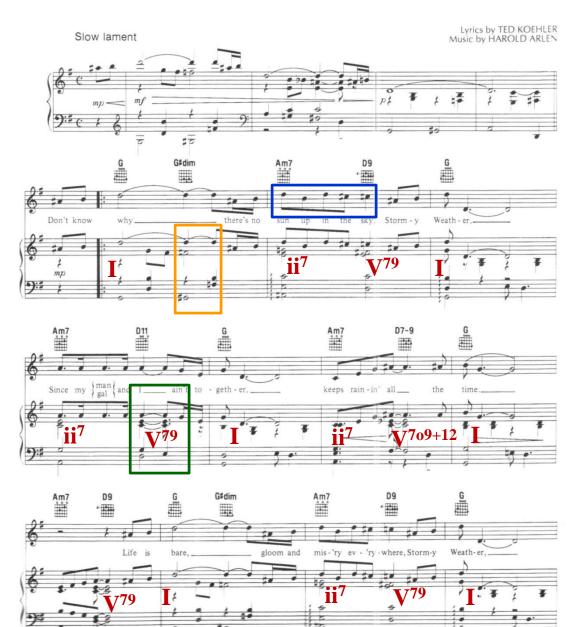
Repeated ii-V-I

Melody is suspended over ii<sup>7</sup>, resolves after chord change

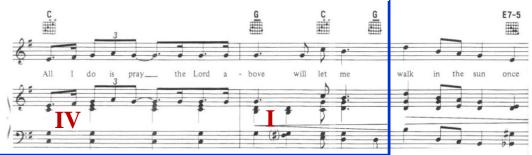
Diminished chord provides passing tones

ii<sup>7</sup> is suspended over V,resolves after chordchange

#### STORMY WEATHER (KEEPS RAININ' ALL THE TIME)







# **IV** – **I** pattern is common in spirituals

#### Dissonant 7 chord marks return to lament (we heard it in *Satin Doll*)



