SONG TITLE: 'JUMP'

ALBUM: 1984

RELEASED: 1983

LABEL: WARNER BROS.

GENRE: SYNTH ROCK/GLAM METAL

WRITTEN BY: EDDIE VAN HALEN/

ALEX VAN HALEN/

MICHAEL ANTHONY/

DAVID LEE ROTH

PRODUCED BY: TED TEMPLEMAN

UK CHART PEAK: 7



'Jump' was the first song to be released from Van Halen's sixth studio album, 1984, and is their most successful single to date. Differing in sound from their previous music, 'Jump' is very much keyboard led rather than guitar driven. Although the track still features a prominent guitar solo, the recognisable and consistent melody is played on an Oberheim OB-X synthesiser by Eddie Van Halen. The song made it to number six on the UK singles chart and topped the US chart on its release, giving the group their first UK top ten and their one and only US number 1.

Eddie Van Halen actually wrote the famous synth line in 1981, but it was rejected by the other band members who felt it wasn't heavy enough for them. In 1983, producer Ted Templeman tried to tempt singer Roth with the synth line again and asked him to listen to the part repeatedly in the hope of coming up with a melody line. Roth persevered and came up with the now famous vocal line, later dedicating the song to martial artist Benny Urquidez of whom he was a student.

Van Halen formed in 1972, with the original lineup consisting of Eddie Van Halen (guitar), David Lee Roth (vocals), Alex Van Halen (drums) and Michael Anthony (bass). Together, this line-up released six studio albums with 1984 being their most successful and selling over 12 million copies in the US alone. In 1985, singer David Lee Roth was replaced by former Montrose lead vocalist Sammy Hagar with whom the band went on to release four US number 1 albums across eleven years. In 1996 Hagar left the band and was replaced by Extreme frontman Gary Cherone, unfortunately the latest vocalist's time with the band was short as he left in 1999 following a poor reception and tour for their album *Van Halen III*.

Following Cherone's parting, Van Halen took a hiatus from the music industry until 2003 and became known for the many departures in the band with much of the media commenting on the instability. Despite the constant changes, Van Halen have remained a significant figure in the rock community and are still regarded as on of the most influential American rock bands of the 1980s. Having sold more than 80 million records worldwide they are one of the best-selling bands of all time.

Van Halen



Technical Exercises

In this section you will be required to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the groups below. The examiner will be looking for the speed of your response and will also give credit for the level of your musicality. Please see the syllabus guide for details on the marking criteria.

- Candidates must prepare **both** natural minor **and** harmonic minor scales
- Major scales, minor scales, chromatic scales and arpeggios need to be played:
 - hands together
 - ascending and descending
 - either straight or swung feel (as directed by the examiner)
 - either *legato* or *staccato* articulation (as directed by the examiner)
 - across *four* octaves (except contrary motion scales, scale in 3rds, altered scale and phrygian dominant mode, which must be played over two octaves, and extended arpeggios which are one octave only)
- Groups A, B and C (scales, arpeggios and chords) need to be played from memory. You may use your book for Group D (technical studies)

Note that Groups A and B need to be played to a click and any fingerings shown are suggestions only.

Group A: Scales

The tempo for this group is J=160 bpm.

1. C# major (four octaves, two octave example shown)



2. C# major | contrary motion



3. Cb major (four octaves, two octave example shown)



Sight Reading

In the exam, you have a choice between either a Sight Reading test or an Improvisation & Interpretation test. The examiner will ask you which one you wish to choose before commencing. Once you have decided you cannot change your mind.

In the sight reading test, the examiner will give you a 16-20 bar example in the key of either C# major or Cb major. You will first be given 90 seconds to practise, after which the examiner will play the backing track twice. The first time is for you to practise and the second time is for you to perform the final version for the exam. For each playthrough, the backing track will begin with a one bar count-in. The tempo is J = 60-130.

During the practice time, you will be given the choice of a metronome click throughout or a one bar count in at the beginning.

The backing track is continuous, so once the first playthrough has finished, the count in of the second playing will start immediately.

Sight Reading | Example 1

