

Writing's on the Wall | Sam Smith



Released: 2015
Label: Capitol

Genre: Orchestral Pop
Written by: Sam Smith and James Napier
Produced by: James Napier, Steve Fitzmaurice
and Disclosure

Background Info



'Writing's on the Wall' was the theme song for the 24th James Bond feature film, *Spectre*. Performed and co-written by British singer-songwriter Sam Smith, the track was hugely successful and topped the UK singles chart on its release. Surprisingly, this was the first ever Bond theme to reach the number one spot in the UK – a record matched by Billie Eilish's 'No Time to Die' in 2020.

Sam Smith launched his career with several successful collaborations, including his performance on Naughty Boy's 'La La La' in 2013 which topped the charts on release and gave the singer his first number 1. He has since released three solo studio albums, two of which peaked at number 1 in the UK, and as of April 2021 his global sales surpassed 30 million (streaming equivalent).

'Writing's on the Wall' gained Sam Smith the 2016 Golden Globe and Oscar for Best Original Song.

Performance Notes



This soundtrack ballad displays the very best of Sam Smith's vocal abilities and demands a strong falsetto and register management with a powerfully supported upper chest voice into the transition. To exploit the 'falsetto style' resonance in the upper head voice, it may be useful to transpose the song to a different key, depending on your own vocal range. Studying Sam Smith's original rhythmic phrasing will help you to develop a stylistic performance that sits comfortably with the orchestral backing track.

For a powerful performance, remember to display emotional conviction to support the lyrics, using strong and clear diction throughout. You should also aim to show stylistic awareness in your delivery, leaning towards musical theatre without losing the contemporary pop feel.

'Key Features to Implement at this Grade' are shown in the *Repertoire Overview* on page 6.

Audio Access

Audio for this book can be accessed via the **QR code** on the right (*requires a compatible smartphone or tablet*) or by using the **URL and download code** shown on page 5.



Writing's on the Wall

from SPECTRE

Words and Music by Sam Smith and James Napier

Sam Smith

♩ = 64 Soundtrack

Slowly

Fmadd²

A^bmaj⁷

Piano

With pedal

Note: Vocal sounds one octave lower than notated throughout

First system of piano accompaniment. Treble clef, bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Chords: Fmadd² and A^bmaj⁷. Dynamics: mf. Includes a fermata over the final chord.

Second system of piano accompaniment. Treble clef, bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Chords: Fmadd², A^bmaj⁷, and Fmadd². Includes a fermata over the final chord.

Third system of piano accompaniment. Treble clef, bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Chords: A^bmaj⁷, D^bmaj⁷, and C^{sus}⁴. Includes a fermata over the final chord.

Fourth system of piano accompaniment. Treble clef, bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Chords: D^bmaj⁷, C^{sus}⁴, and C. Includes a fermata over the final chord.

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