

# Chasing Pavements | Adele



Album: *19*  
Released: 2007  
Label: XL/Columbia

Genre: Pop/Soul  
Written by: Adele Adkins and Francis Eg White  
Produced by: Francis Eg White

## Background Info



'Chasing Pavements' was a hit single by British singer-songwriter Adele. Featuring on her debut solo album *19*, the song was released as the record's second single and peaked at number 2 in the UK singles chart. The track was met with critical acclaim and saw Adele make her mark as a songwriter, with Billboard likening her writing abilities to that of songwriting legend Carole King. 'Chasing Pavements' received three Grammy nominations at the 2009 awards ceremony and won Best Female Vocal Performance. The song has also been certified platinum in both the UK and the US.

Adele began her career after graduating from the BRIT school in 2006. She has released three UK number 1 albums and has sold more than 120 million records worldwide. She has won 15 Grammys, and in 2013 was awarded an MBE for her services to music. Her latest album *25*, broke the record for fastest-selling album in both the UK and US.

## Performance Notes



This contemporary ballad is a fun challenge for an aspiring singer, and a good starting point would be to listen to Adele's expressive performance whilst studying the score.

You may find you need to adjust the key to maintain clarity and tone on the lower notes. However, make sure you can manage the top end of your chest voice and transition when moving into the chorus. Aim to project your voice with clear articulation throughout. Notice how the time signature changes to a  $\frac{3}{4}$  bar in both verses and chorus and how this rhythmically shifts the feel of the next phrase – you need to make sure you are confident with all these entries.

When choosing to vary or develop any of the melodic details you need to show stylistic understanding within your performance – it will be helpful to explore other recordings (e.g. live versions) or songs by similar artists in this genre.

'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.



# Chasing Pavements

Words and Music by Adele Adkins and Francis Eg White

Adele

$\text{♩} = 80$  Pop  
Cm B<sup>b</sup>6

Vocals

Piano

*mp*

Pedal ad lib. throughout

Cm B<sup>b</sup>6 A<sup>b</sup>6

made up my mind,— don't need to think it o - ver; if I'm wrong I am right,— don't

G<sup>7</sup> A<sup>b</sup>6 B<sup>b</sup>6 B<sup>b</sup>7

need to look no fur - ther. This ain't lust. I know this is

E<sup>b</sup> Cm<sup>7</sup> Gm E<sup>b</sup>

love. But if I tell the world,— I'll

# Technical Exercises

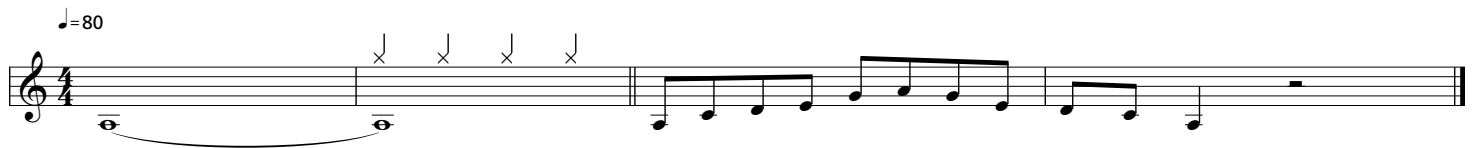
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## Group A: Scales

The minor pentatonic scale should be prepared as shown below. The example below is shown from the starting note of A3, however, you may perform it *from a starting note of your choice*. Please note: the examiner can play starting notes in the range A3–G#4, but you may sing *in any octave*.

This test is performed to a compulsory metronome click. The examiner will ask you which starting note you have chosen. You will hear the starting note followed by a one-bar (four click) count-in. You may perform this test using any vocal sound except humming or whistling. The tempo is ♩=80.

Minor pentatonic scale



## Group B: Arpeggios

In this group, the arpeggio exercise needs to be prepared as shown below.

The exercise is shown on the starting note of A3, but you may perform it *from a starting note of your choice*. Please note: the examiner can play starting notes in the range A3–G#4, but you may sing *in any octave*.

This test is performed to a compulsory metronome click. The examiner will ask you which starting note you have chosen. You will hear the starting note followed by a one-bar (four click) count-in. You may perform this test using any vocal sound except humming or whistling. The tempo is ♩=80.

Major arpeggio (on chord I) ascending, and dominant 7 arpeggio (on chord V) descending



# Improvisation & Interpretation

The examiner will give you a chord sequence in the key of either D major, B<sup>b</sup> major, E minor or D minor. At this grade, there is also an element of sight reading at the beginning of the test consisting of a two-bar section with lyrics. You will be given 30 seconds to practise, after which the examiner will play the backing track twice. The first time is for you to rehearse and the second time is for you to perform the final version for the exam. The backing track will begin with a root note and a four-beat count-in on both playthroughs. The backing track is continuous, so once the first playthrough has finished, the root note and count-in of the second playthrough will start immediately. The tempo is ♩=90–100.

During the practice time, you will be given the choice of a metronome click throughout or a count-in of four beats at the beginning. Whichever option you choose, the practice time will start with the examiner playing the root note.

**Note:** You may sing *in any octave* and perform the improvised bars using any vocal sound except humming or whistling.

♩=100 *Rock*

Take my mon - ey, take my pay.

Improvise melody

C Gm B<sup>b</sup> C Dm

*Please note: the test shown is an example. The examiner will give you a different version in the exam.*