Don't Stop the Music | Rihanna 🎧

Album: *Good Girl Gone Bad*
Released: 2007
Label: Def Jam/SRP

Genre: Dance-Pop
Written by: Tor Erik Hermansen, Frankie Storm, Mikkel Eriksen and Michael Jackson
Produced by: StarGate

Background Info 📄

'Don't Stop the Music' is a song released by singer Rihanna. The track features on her third studio album *Good Girl Gone Bad*, and proved popular worldwide. The song topped the charts in several countries, and was certified 4x platinum in the US where it sold over 4 million copies.

Rihanna started releasing music in 2003 after she was discovered in her home country of Barbados. She then auditioned and was signed to Jay-Z's record label Def Jam in 2005. Rihanna has released eight studio albums, four of which have gone on to top the UK Album Chart. The singer has collaborated with many famous artists, including Kanye West, Eminem, Paul McCartney and Jay-Z. She has received nine Grammys, and holds six Guinness World Records.

Performance Notes

This up-tempo pop song demonstrates Rihanna's ability to create a vibrant and resonant tone colour, particularly in her chest voice.

You don't have to copy her tone quality; however, you should aim for a 'forward placement' of the tone, which means to direct/create resonance that vibrates in the harder and 'brighter' parts of the vocal tract. This positioning can help to produce a more contemporary vocal sound.

Aim to be rhythmically secure throughout with a confident entry on the lyrics 'Please don't stop the music'. You could add accents (stronger attacks) on the quarter notes in the chorus for dynamic emphasis on these words. In the pre-chorus make sure the melodic detailing of the note pitches and intonation is secure.

The lyrical content of the song calls for engaged communication and some demonstration of dynamic changes, particularly between the chorus and verses.

'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.

Don't Stop the Music

Words and Music by Tor Erik Hermansen, Frankie Storm,
Mikkel Eriksen and Michael Jackson

Rihanna

♩=115 Dance-pop

N.C.

Vocals

Please don't stop the mu - sic,

Piano

Please don't stop the mu - sic.

1.

Please don't stop the

2.

It's get - tin' late,   I'm mak - in' my way o - ver to my

Technical Exercises

Group A: Scales

The major 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.

Major scale

Group B: Arpeggios

In this group, *both* of the arpeggio patterns need to be prepared as shown below. You will be asked to perform *one* of them in the exam, as chosen by the examiner. The examples are shown on the starting note of A3, but you may perform them *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.

A major arpeggio | Pattern 1

A major arpeggio | Pattern 2

Improvisation & Interpretation

The examiner will give you a four-bar chord sequence in the key of C major. You must improvise a melody over the backing track. The test will be based on chords I, IV and V and will start and finish on the root chord (C).

You will hear the backing track three times. The first and second time is for you to rehearse and the third time is for you to perform the final version for the exam. Each playthrough will begin with the root note and a four-beat count-in. The backing track is continuous throughout, so once the first playthrough has finished, the root note and count-in of the second and third playthroughs will start immediately. The tempo is ♩=70–80.

You may perform this test using any vocal sound except humming or whistling.

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