

# Halo | Beyoncé



Album: *I Am... Sasha Fierce*  
Released: 2009  
Label: Columbia

Genre: Pop/Contemporary R&B  
Written by: Beyoncé Knowles, Evan Bogart  
and Ryan Tedder  
Produced by: Ryan Tedder and Beyoncé Knowles

## Background Info



'Halo' is the fourth single from American pop icon Beyoncé's third studio album *I Am... Sasha Fierce*. The song was met with critical acclaim and received many awards, including the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance. 'Halo' charted highly globally, peaking at number five in the US Billboard 100, and gaining triple-platinum status in the UK.

Throughout her career as a performer, both as a founding member of US girl group Destiny's Child and as a solo artist, Beyoncé has sold over 100 million records worldwide. Her achievements include 28 Grammys, five of which were earned for her album and singles from *I Am... Sasha Fierce*, and in 2020 she was included in Time magazine's list of 100 women who defined the 20th century.

## Performance Notes



In this contemporary ballad, Beyoncé displays her wide range with powerful control and expression.

The melody for the first verse is written an octave higher than sung, whilst the rest is voiced where scored. When listening to the original recording, notice the clarity of the notes in the riffs and aim to maintain this level of detail in your performance. Strong breath support will be essential in order to manage the physical techniques and melodic phrasing, and you should aim to pace yourself with expressive techniques and dynamics so as not to become fatigued.

Use the backing vocals (in brackets) in the chorus to develop your lead vocal around them, and take time to prepare your own *ad lib.* parts from bar 61. For a successful performance, it is essential that you understand and convey the intensity of the lyrics, so as to perform with conviction and power.

'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.



# Halo

Words and Music by Beyoncé Knowles,  
Evan Bogart and Ryan Tedder

Beyoncé

♩ = 80 Pop

Piano

*mf*

A Bm F#m D

A Bm

5

F#m D

7

A † Bm

Re - mem - ber those walls I built? — Well, ba - by, they're tum - bl - ing down..

9

† Vocals written an octave higher than sung

F#m D

— and they did - n't e - ven put up a fight; — they did - n't e - ven make a sound..

11

# Technical Exercises

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## Group A: Scales

In this group, you will be asked to perform a blues scale. 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 ♩=100.



## Group B: Arpeggios

In this group, the arpeggio exercise needs to be prepared as shown below. The example is shown on the starting note of C4, 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 ♩=100.

C major arpeggio and C diminished arpeggio



Pop and Musical Theatre | Higher-pitched example

$\text{♩} = 100$  Pop

Now is the

time. Do-in' it ev-'ry day, feel-ing so fine.

[Vary melody – 4 bars]

[Improvise freely – 4 bars]

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

Pop and Musical Theatre | Lower-pitched example

(Vocal part sounds one octave lower than notated)

$\text{♩} = 100$  Pop

Now is the

time. Do-in' it ev-'ry day, feel-ing so fine.

[Vary melody – 4 bars]

[Improvise freely – 4 bars]

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