Razorlight

SONG TITLE: AMERICA
ALBUM: RAZORLIGHT
RELEASED: OCTOBER 2006
GENRE: INDIE ROCK

PERSONNEL: JOHNNY BORRELL (GTR+VOX)
BJORN ÅGREN (GTR)
CARL DALEMO (BASS)
ANDY BURROWS (DRUMS)

LABEL: VERTIGO/MERCURY
UK CHART PEAK: 1
US CHART PEAK: N/A

BACKGROUND INFO

'America' is the chart topping single from the second Razorlight album. This record, hot on the heels of its predecessor, *Up All Night*, (see 'V.I.C.E.' in *Hot Rock – Grade 2*) went straight into the album charts at number 1. The first single, 'In The Morning' reached number 7 but 'America' went all the way to the top.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Razorlight is a half English, half Swedish indie rock band who grew out of the same London music scene as the Libertines. Fronted by Johnny Borrell, the band achieved almost immediate success with its first recordings before releasing *Up All Night*, on the Vertigo label, including the hit single V.I.C.E. The success of *Up All Night* was consolidated with the follow up album *Razorlight* which topped the charts, going 4 times platinum (1.2 million sales plus) in the process.

NOTES

Winchester born Andy Burrows replaced original Razorlight drummer, Christian Smith-Pancorvo, for this record and all subsequent live work. He joined the band in late 2004 after a set of open auditions. Andy is not only a fine drummer but also plays guitar and has shaped the songwriting within the band, sharing writing credits for the singles 'America' and 'Before I Fall to Pieces' with frontman Johnny Borrell.

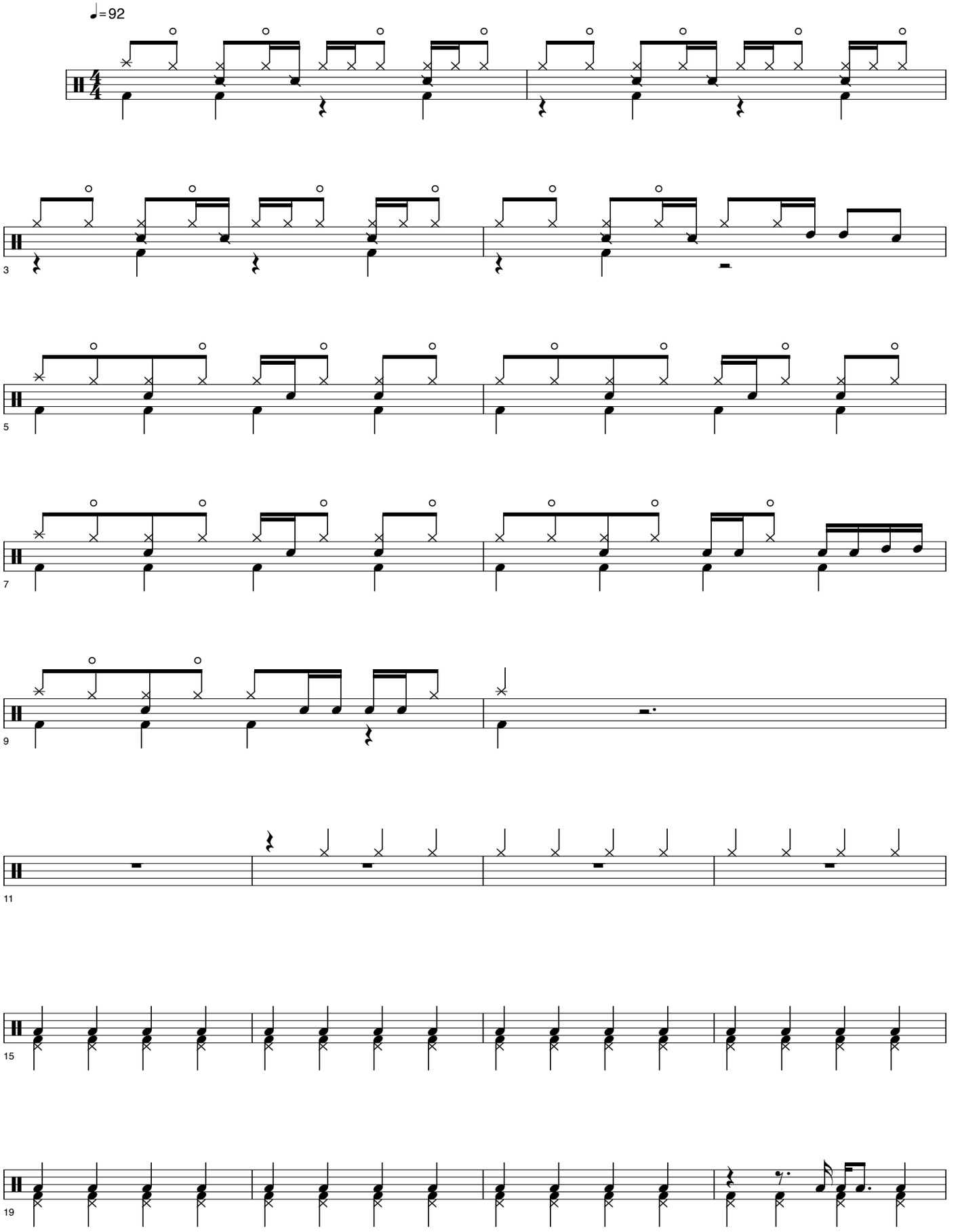
RECOMMENDED LISTENING

In addition to his work in Razorlight, Andy Burrows has released a solo album of song settings for a book of poetry in aid of a children's charity linked to his home city of Winchester. The most recent Razorlight record, *Slipway Fires*, was released in late October 2008.

America

Razorlight

Words & Music by Johnny Borrell & Andy Burrows



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The Police

SONG TITLE: ROXANNE
ALBUM: OUTLANDOS D'AMOUR
RELEASED: 1978 AND APRIL 1979
GENRE: POP/ROCK

PERSONNEL: STING (BASS+VOX)
ANDY SUMMERS (GTR)
STEWART COPELAND (DRUMS)

LABEL: A&M
UK CHART PEAK: 12
US CHART PEAK: 32

BACKGROUND INFO

'Roxanne' is one of the featured tracks on the Police's first album, *Outlandos d'Amour.* Although it took a re-release before it achieved chart status, this was the band's breakthrough single in both the UK and, more importantly, in the US, where it was the only single from the first two albums that became a hit. 'Roxanne' fuses reggae beats against urgent staccato chords in the verses, with straight ahead rock in the choruses that feature some of Sting's highest pitched vocals.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The Police were always an odd trio. The band featured a jazz-loving Geordie ex-teacher (Sting), a relic of the 1960s blues boom and ex-Soft Machine regular (Summers, who replaced original guitarist Henry Padovani in 1976), and the son of a former CIA special agent (Copeland). Stewart's brother, Miles, managed the band. Their coming together just after the high point of punk spawned two albums with weird titles (*Outlandos d'Amour* in 1978 and *Regatta de Blanc* in 1979) and a bleached blonde look courtesy of a chewing-gum commercial. The bulk of the early songs were written by Sting including memorable tracks such 'Can't Stand Losing You', and 'Message in a Bottle'.

NOTES

Stewart Copeland was born in Virginia, USA in 1952 but spent his later schooling in England. He was, prior to forming the Police, in brother Mile's band Curved Air. Copeland's drumming style is central to the band's sound and is responsible for the energy of the songs.

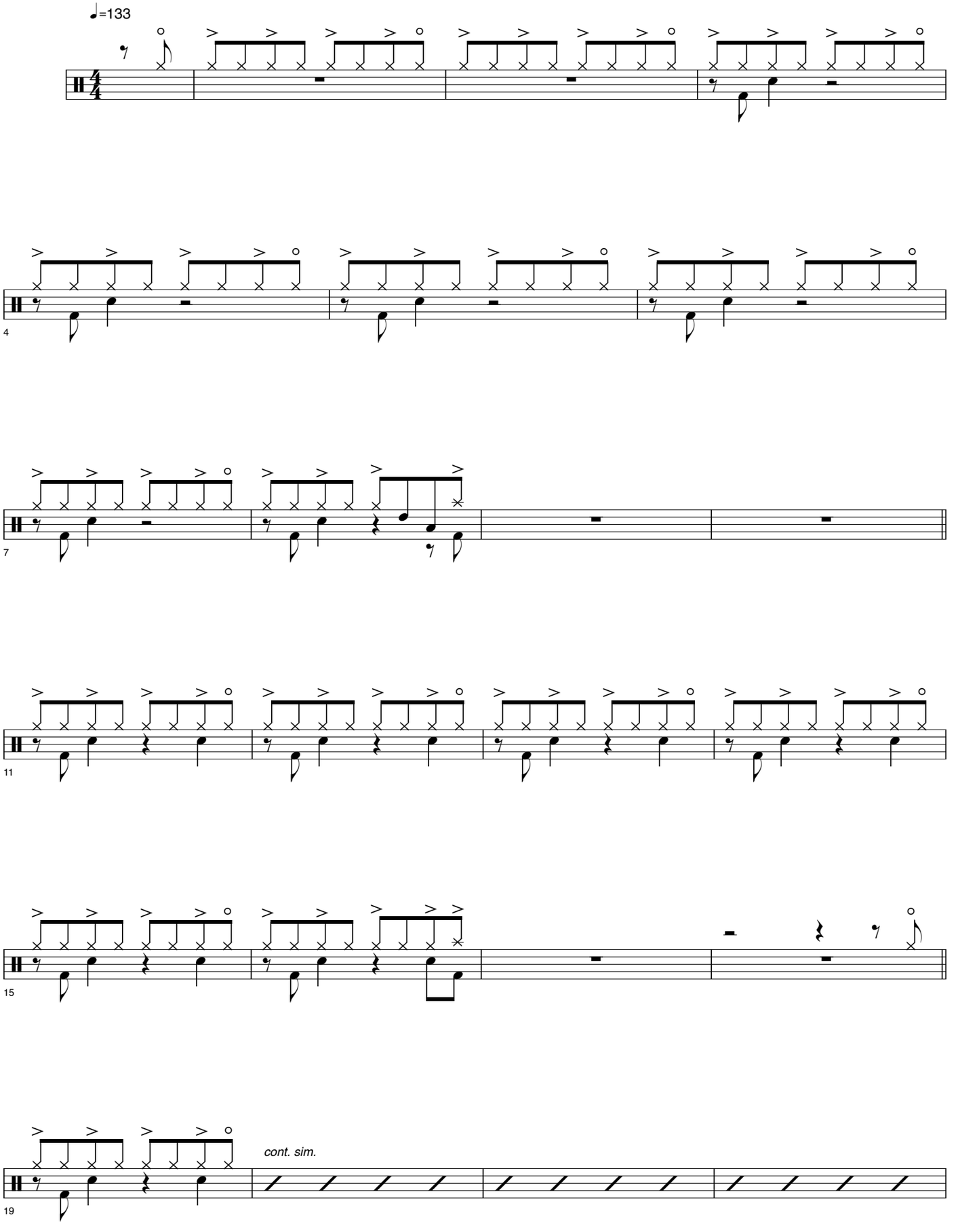
RECOMMENDED LISTENING

The Police released five studio albums from 1978 to 1983. In addition to the first two mentioned above there are *Zanyatta Mondatta* (1980), *Ghost in the Machine* (1982) and finally *Synchronicity* (1983).

Roxanne

The Police

Words & Music by Sting



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