

Sledgehammer

SONG TITLE: SLEDGEHAMMER
ALBUM: SO
LABEL: CHARISMA/GEFFEN
GENRE: DANCE / ROCK / FUNK
/ BLUE EYED SOUL
WRITTEN BY: PETER GABRIEL
PRODUCED BY: PETER GABRIEL AND
DANIEL LANOIS
UK CHART PEAK: 4

Patch 1 Upper: Synth Brass, Lower: Elec. or Synth Bass

Patch 2 Upper & Lower: Elec. Piano

♩=96 Rock/Funk

Patch 1



'Sledgehammer' was released in April 1986 and reached number 1 on the American Billboard Hot 100 chart. The song is Gabriel's only US number one to date, and took the top spot on the US charts from Genesis' 'Invisible Touch' (Genesis was Gabriel's former band).

The song has a 1960s influence primarily from the Stax label sound. Gabriel was a big fan of Stax in his teens and the song features Wayne Jackson of the Memphis Horns leading the horn section on the recording. Gabriel's unique production style blends the Stax sound with a modern approach – including a sampled Shakuhachi flute (instantly recognisable and synonymous with the track). The recording features a rhythm section consisting of Manu Katche on drums, Tony Levin on bass and David Rhodes on guitar. Backing vocals give support to Gabriel's lead, provided by P.P. Arnold, Coral Gordon and Dee Lewis. Daniel Lanois co-produced and played guitar and tambourine.

In 1977 Gabriel released the first of four albums named *Peter Gabriel*. The third record, from 1980, is regarded as a sonic and compositional masterpiece that sounds modern even by today's standards. As well as outstanding keys and vocals from Gabriel himself, this record also features great contributions from the likes of John Giblin (bass), Robert Fripp

(guitar) and drumming by Jerry Marotta and Phil Collins. Collins was Gabriel's former bandmate in Genesis who was then the lead vocalist in the band and was about to launch a hugely successful solo career. Lyrically, Gabriel opened a new avenue of political singing with flagship song such as 'Games Without Frontiers', a UK hit, and 'Biko'.

Gabriel's third solo album paved the way for a fourth successful release in 1982, featuring further sonic experimentation which utilised state of the art technology. The follow-up record was the soundtrack to the film *Birdy* by Alan Parker, and *So*, released in 1987 with 'Sledgehammer' as its lead single, turned Gabriel into a global star.

Gabriel created the WOMAD festival and the Real World Records label specialising in music from all corners of the earth. Gabriel continues to record and tour and has been instrumental in the relationship between Amnesty International and musicians worldwide.

Sledgehammer

Keys Arrangement

Peter Gabriel

Patch 1 Upper: Synth Brass, Lower: Elec. or Synth Bass

Patch 2 Upper & Lower: Elec. Piano

♩=96 Rock/Funk

Patch 1

A

N.C.

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has four flats (B-flat major/C minor) and the time signature is 4/4. The music begins with a rest in both staves, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. A first ending bracket labeled 'A' spans the final two measures, which end with a 'N.C.' (No Chord) instruction.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has four flats and the time signature is 4/4. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. A first ending bracket labeled 'A' spans the final two measures, which end with a 'N.C.' instruction. A measure number '[3]' is written below the first measure of this system.

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has four flats and the time signature is 4/4. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. A first ending bracket labeled 'A' spans the final two measures, which end with a 'N.C.' instruction. Chord symbols 'Cb' and 'Gb/Bb' are written above the upper staff. A measure number '[5]' is written below the first measure of this system.

The fourth system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has four flats and the time signature is 4/4. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. A first ending bracket labeled 'A' spans the final two measures, which end with a 'N.C.' instruction. Chord symbols 'Ab⁹sus⁴' and 'Eb⁷' are written above the upper staff. A wavy line with a double circle at the end is drawn above the upper staff, with the instruction 'w/wheel or aftertouch vibrato' written below it. A measure number '[8]' is written below the first measure of this system.

Technical Exercises

In this section you will be required to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the groups below. The examiner will be looking for the speed of your response and will also give credit for the level of your musicality. Please see the syllabus guide for details on the marking criteria.

- Candidates must prepare **both** natural minor **and** harmonic minor scales
- Major scales, minor scales, chromatic scales and arpeggios need to be played hands together, in straight or swung feel, ascending and descending, across **four** octaves (except contrary motion scales, pentatonics, lydian dominant and locrian modes, which must be played over **two** octaves, and extended arpeggios which are **one** octave only)
- Groups A, B and C (scales, arpeggios and chords) need to be played from memory. You may use your book for Group D (technical studies)

Note that Groups A and B need to be played to a click and any fingerings shown are suggestions only.

Group A: Scales

The tempo for this group is ♩=152 bpm.

1. F# major (four octaves, two octave example shown)

Musical notation for F# major scale exercise, two octave example shown. The notation is in treble and bass clefs, showing ascending and descending scales with fingerings (1-4) indicated above and below the notes.

2. F# major | contrary motion

Musical notation for F# major scale exercise, contrary motion. The notation is in treble and bass clefs, showing ascending and descending scales with fingerings (1-4) indicated above and below the notes.

3. Gb major (four octaves, two octave example shown)

Musical notation for Gb major scale exercise, two octave example shown. The notation is in treble and bass clefs, showing ascending and descending scales with fingerings (1-4) indicated above and below the notes.

Sight Reading

In the exam, you have a choice between either a Sight Reading test or an Improvisation & Interpretation test. The examiner will ask you which one you wish to choose before commencing. Once you have decided you cannot change your mind.

In the sight reading test, the examiner will give you a 12–16 bar example in the key of either G^b major or F[#] major. You will first be given 90 seconds to practise, after which the examiner will play the backing track twice. The first time is for you to practise and the second time is for you to perform the final version for the exam. For each playthrough, the backing track will begin with a one bar count-in. The tempo is ♩ = 60–130.

During the practice time, you will be given the choice of a metronome click throughout or a one bar count in at the beginning.

The backing track is continuous, so once the first playthrough has finished, the count in of the second playing will start immediately.

Sight Reading | Example 1

♩ = 86 Rock

The musical score for Example 1 is a 16-bar rock piece in G major. It is written for piano in treble and bass clefs. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 86. The piece begins with a one-bar count-in. The first four bars are marked *f* (forte). The fifth bar is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The sixth bar is marked *f*. The seventh bar is marked *mf*. The eighth bar is marked *f*. The ninth bar is marked *mf*. The tenth bar is marked *f*. The eleventh bar is marked *mf*. The twelfth bar is marked *f*. The thirteenth bar is marked *mf*. The fourteenth bar is marked *f*. The fifteenth bar is marked *mf*. The sixteenth bar is marked *f*. The piece ends with a double bar line at bar 16.

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