


I Heard It Through The Grapevine

SONG TITLE: 'I HEARD IT THROUGH
THE GRAPEVINE'
ALBUM: IN THE GROOVE
RELEASED: 1968
LABEL: TAMLA MOTOWN
GENRE: SOUL/R&B
WRITTEN BY: NORMAN WHITFIELD/
BARRETT STRONG
PRODUCED BY: NORMAN WHITFIELD
UK CHART PEAK: 1

Electric Piano

♩=118 Soul
Dm



The musical notation shows a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The melody consists of a few notes: a quarter note G2, a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note D2. There are also some rests and a final note G2.

'I Heard It Through the Grapevine' was written for Motown Records in 1966 by songwriting duo Norman Whitfield and Barrett Strong. The song was originally released by Gladys Knight & the Pips in 1967, it achieved modest success in the UK (where it peaked at number 47 in the singles chart) but was significantly better received in the US where it peaked at number 2. Marvin Gaye's version of the song was released in 1968, featuring as an album track on his eighth studio release *In the Groove*. The track caught the attention of several radio DJs and so went on to be released as an official single later that year. On its single release the song topped both the UK and US charts and for a time became the most successful Motown hit single.

Gaye's adaption of "Grapevine" has since been hailed a soul classic and in 2004 it was placed 80th on the Rolling Stone magazine's 'The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time' list. His version of the song has actually been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame for its "historical, artistic and significant" value. The single was so successful that his album *In the Groove* was actually rebranded as *I Heard It Through the Grapevine* and on its re-release peaked at number 63 on the US Billboard Album chart, Gaye's highest charting solo album up to that point.

Marvin Gaye was an American singer, songwriter and record producer who helped form the iconic sound that is Motown. He began his career with the label in the early 1960s as a session musician, later going on to release solo hits for them such as 'Ain't that Peculiar', 'How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved by You)', 'I Heard It Through the Grapevine' and 'What's Going On'. Throughout the 1970s he continued to release chart hits and became one of the first Motown artists to break away from the ties of a production company.

Before his untimely departure in 1984 he became widely known as both the 'Prince of Motown' and the 'Prince of Soul'. Posthumously, several honours and awards have been bequeathed to the inspiring singer, such as a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and induction into the Rhythm and Blues Music Hall of Fame, the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

I Heard It Through The Grapevine

Keys Arrangement

Marvin Gaye

Electric Piano

♩=118 *Soul*

Dm E⁵/D D⁵

Dm⁷ D⁵ Dm⁷ E⁵/D Dm⁷ G/D Dm⁷

G/D Dm⁷ G/D Dm⁷ G/C G/C# Dm⁷

A G/F Dm⁷ G/F Dm⁷ A⁷

A G⁷ Dm⁷ G/F Dm⁷

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 can choose to play *either* natural minor *or* harmonic minor scales. Major, natural and harmonic minor scales and arpeggios need to be played hands together, in straight or swung feel, ascending and descending, in the keys, octaves and tempos shown. Pentatonic scales are right hand only. The melodic minor scale needs to be played hands separately, and the chromatic scale on A needs to be played hands together. You may use your book for Group A and Group B. Group C exercises must be played from memory.

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

Group A: Scales

The tempo for this group is ♩ = 80 bpm.

1. E^b major scale

Musical notation for the E^b major scale, showing ascending and descending lines for both hands. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

2. A major scale

Musical notation for the A major scale, showing ascending and descending lines for both hands. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

3. C natural minor scale

Musical notation for the C natural minor scale, showing ascending and descending lines for both hands. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

4. F[#] natural minor scale

Musical notation for the F[#] natural minor scale, showing ascending and descending lines for both hands. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

Ear Tests

In this section, there are two ear tests:

- Melodic Recall
- Chord Recognition

You will find one example of each type of test printed below and you will need to perform both of them in the exam.

Test 1: Melodic Recall

The examiner will play you a two bar diatonic melody in the key of C major with a range up to a fifth. The first note will be the root note. You will hear the test twice, each time with a one bar count-in, then you will hear a further one bar count-in after which you will need to play the melody to the click. The tempo is [crotchet] = 95.

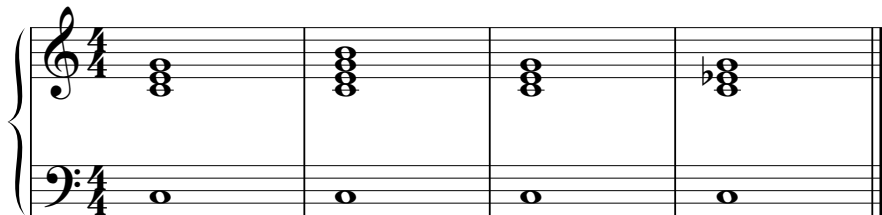
It is acceptable to play over the track as it is being played as well as practising after the second playthrough. The length of time available after the second playthrough is pre-recorded on the audio track so the count-in may begin while you are still practising.



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

Test 2: Chord Recognition

The examiner will play you a sequence of chords, each with a C root note. You will hear the chord sequence twice, each time with a one bar count-in. You will then be asked to identify the chord quality of each chord, from a choice of major, minor, diminished, augmented, dominant 7th and major 7th. The tempo is ♩ = 95 bpm.



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