

# Happy

SONG TITLE: HAPPY  
ALBUM: GIRL  
LABEL: BACK LOT MUSIC /  
I AM OTHER / COLUMBIA  
GENRE: SOUL / NEO SOUL  
WRITTEN BY: PHARRELL WILLIAMS  
PRODUCER: PHARRELL WILLIAMS  
UK CHART PEAK: 1

Electric Piano

A

♩ = 160 *Pop*

F<sup>7</sup>

The image shows a musical score for the electric piano part of the song 'Happy'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as 160 beats per minute (♩ = 160) and the genre is 'Pop'. The dynamics are marked as 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a whole note chord of F7 (F, Ab, C, Eb) and the bass staff has a whole note chord of F (F, C, F). The piece is labeled 'A' in a box.

Written, produced, and performed by American singer-songwriter and record producer Pharrell Williams, 'Happy' was the lead single from Williams' second studio album *Girl*, released in 2014.

'Happy' is a mid-tempo neo soul track on which Williams uses his distinct falsetto, which is often compared to the sound of Curtis Mayfield by a variety of music critics. The song's success was astronomical, reaching number 1 status in the US, UK, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and 19 other countries worldwide. It reached number 1 in the UK on three separate occasions, which had never previously been achieved, and it soon became the most downloaded song of all time.

Williams originally wrote the song for the singer CeeLo Green and felt Green's recording of the song was the better version. However, Green's record label (Elektra) decided against it as he was on the verge of releasing his Christmas album, CeeLo's *Magic Moment*.

Pharrell Williams is an American singer-songwriter, rapper, and record producer. Williams and his friend Chad Hugo met in high school and went on to form the record production duo The Neptunes. They have since gone on to produce contemporary hits that span the soul, hip hop and R&B genres. Williams is also the lead vocalist and drummer of the rock-funk hip hop band N\*E\*R\*D, formed with Hugo and other childhood friend, Shay Haley. N\*E\*R\*D had commercial success in the UK in 2004 with their single 'She Wants to Move', peaking at number 5. Since then, Williams has featured on 4 number 1 UK singles. These include a lead performance on 'Happy' and collaborations with Daft Punk, Robin Thicke and several others.

# Happy

Keys Arrangement

Pharrell Williams

Electric Piano

**A** ♩ = 160 *Pop*

F<sup>7</sup>

The first system of music is in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. It features a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass clef has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of chords: F7, F7, F7, F7.

The second system of music is in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. It features a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass clef has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of chords: F, Ab, Bb, C7, Bb. The first two measures are marked with a repeat sign and a [2] below.

The third system of music is in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. It features a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass clef has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of chords: F7, F, Ab, Bb, C7, Bb. The first two measures are marked with a repeat sign and a [6] below.

The fourth system of music is in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. It features a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass clef has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of chords: F7, F, Ab, Bb, C7, Bb. The first two measures are marked with a repeat sign and a [10] below.

The fifth system of music is in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. It features a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass clef has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of chords: F7, F, Ab, Bb, C7, Bb. The first two measures are marked with a repeat sign and a [14] below.

# 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.

Major scales, minor scales and arpeggios need to be played hands together, in straight feel, ascending and descending, in the keys, octaves and tempos shown. Candidates can choose to play *either* natural minor *or* harmonic minor scales in the exam. Pentatonic scales are right hand only, and the C blues scale needs to be performed hands separately. 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 ♩ = 66 bpm.

### 1. B $\flat$ major scale

Musical notation for the B $\flat$  major scale exercise. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a key signature of two flats. The exercise is divided into two parts: ascending and descending. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above the notes. The tempo is 66 bpm.

### 2. D major scale

Musical notation for the D major scale exercise. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a key signature of two sharps. The exercise is divided into two parts: ascending and descending. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes. The tempo is 66 bpm.

### 3. G natural minor scale

Musical notation for the G natural minor scale exercise. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a key signature of two flats. The exercise is divided into two parts: ascending and descending. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes. The tempo is 66 bpm.

### 4. B natural minor scale

Musical notation for the B natural minor scale exercise. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a key signature of two sharps. The exercise is divided into two parts: ascending and descending. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes. The tempo is 66 bpm.

# Sight Reading

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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 4–6 bar melody in the key of either D major or B $\flat$  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  $\text{♩} = 60\text{--}95$ .

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

Musical notation for Sight Reading Example 1, a 4-bar piece in B $\flat$  major, 4/4 time. The notation is presented in grand staff format (treble and bass clefs). The melody in the treble clef consists of: Bar 1: G $\flat$ 4, A4, B $\flat$ 4; Bar 2: C5, B $\flat$ 4, A4; Bar 3: G $\flat$ 4, F4; Bar 4: E4, D4. The bass line in the bass clef consists of: Bar 1: G $\flat$ 2; Bar 2: G $\flat$ 2; Bar 3: F2, E2; Bar 4: D2, C2.

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

## Sight Reading | Example 2

Musical notation for Sight Reading Example 2, a 4-bar piece in D major, 4/4 time. The notation is presented in grand staff format (treble and bass clefs). The melody in the treble clef consists of: Bar 1: D4, E4, F#4; Bar 2: G4, A4, B4; Bar 3: C5, B4, A4; Bar 4: G4, F#4, E4. The bass line in the bass clef consists of: Bar 1: D2; Bar 2: D2; Bar 3: C4, B3; Bar 4: A3, G3.

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