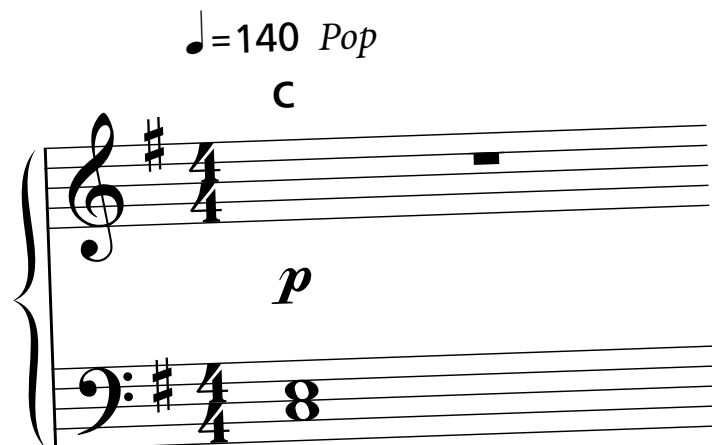


# Wildest Dreams

SONG TITLE: 'WILDEST DREAMS'  
ALBUM: 1989  
RELEASED: 2014  
LABEL: BIG MACHINE/REPUBLIC  
GENRE: DREAM POP  
WRITTEN BY: TAYLOR SWIFT/  
MAX MARTIN/SHELLBACK  
PRODUCED BY: MAX MARTIN/SHELLBACK  
UK CHART PEAK: 40



'Wildest Dreams' was a chart hit for American singer songwriter Taylor Swift and was the 5<sup>th</sup> single to be released from her popular album *1989*. The song was written by Taylor Swift, Max Martin and Johan Schuster (professionally known as Shellback), a common collaborative for Swift, with hits including three tracks on her earlier album *Red*. Together the trio created what has been described as a "dream pop power ballad" and although the song did well commercially it did receive some mixed reviews. Many felt that the sound was simply too comparable to that of Lana Del Rey, claiming that it was so similar that they couldn't tell whether the song was intended as a homage or a parody.

Nevertheless, the track went on to achieve success in the US charts where it peaked at a very respectable number 5. This gave Swift her 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive top ten single from her chart topping 3<sup>rd</sup> album, *1989*. The single was by no means her most successful in the UK, peaking at only number 40 on the UK Singles Chart. However, the album itself had great success in the UK and topped the chart on its first week of release, thus becoming her second number one album in the UK.

Taylor Swift was born and raised in Pennsylvania but moved to Nashville at the young age of 14 in search of a music career. She originated as a country

singer and honed the sounds of her then home Nashville. Swift quickly found success and was signed by Big Machine Records, making her the youngest person ever to have been signed by the Sony/ATV Music publishing house. In 2006 she released her self-titled debut album, which peaked at number 5 on the US album chart and included the track 'Our Song' – for this particular song she became the youngest ever artist to solely write and perform a number one hit for the Hot Country Songs chart.

In 2008 the crossover from country to pop began for Swift with her second album, *Fearless*. The album received rave reviews and became the highest selling US album of 2009. The album also won Swift a cool four Grammy awards, amongst which was the Album of the Year award for which she became the youngest ever winner.

Taylor Swift's repertoire has now reached an impressive six studio albums, a feat only achieved due to launching her career at such a young age. During her career she has received an impressive number of awards, including an outstanding total of 10 Grammy's (31 nominations). 'Wildest Dreams' became Swift's 13<sup>th</sup> top ten hit in the US, a clear representation of her success in the industry.

# Wildest Dreams

Taylor Swift

♩=140 *Pop*

C Em D

*p*

C Em D

[5]

A C Em D

[9]

C Em D

[13]

[17]

[21]

# Technical Exercises

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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.

All scales and arpeggios need to be played hands separately, in straight feel, ascending and descending, in the keys, octaves and tempos shown. Pentatonic scales are right hand only. You may use your book for Group A and Group B. Group C exercises must be played from memory.

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 ♩ = 60 bpm.

1. F major scale | right hand

Musical notation for the F major scale, right hand. The scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The ascending scale is: F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5. The descending scale is: F5, E5, D5, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: ascending (1-2-3-4, 1-2-3-1, 2-3-4-1, 2-3-4) and descending (2-3-4-1, 2-3-4).

2. F major scale | left hand

Musical notation for the F major scale, left hand. The scale is written on a bass clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The ascending scale is: F3, G3, A3, Bb3, C4, D4, E4, F4. The descending scale is: F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb3, A3, G3, F3. Fingerings are indicated below the notes: ascending (5-4-3-2, 1-3-2-1, 4-3-2-1, 3-2-1) and descending (4-3-2-1, 3-2-1).

3. G major scale | right hand

Musical notation for the G major scale, right hand. The scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The ascending scale is: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5. The descending scale is: G5, F#5, E5, D5, C5, B4, A4, G4. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: ascending (1-2-3-1, 2-3-4-1, 2-3-1-2, 2-3-4-5) and descending (2-3-1-2, 2-3-4-5).

4. G major scale | left hand

Musical notation for the G major scale, left hand. The scale is written on a bass clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The ascending scale is: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4. The descending scale is: G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. Fingerings are indicated below the notes: ascending (5-4-3-2, 1-3-2-1, 4-3-2-1, 3-2-1) and descending (4-3-2-1, 3-2-1).

5. D natural minor scale | right hand

Musical notation for the D natural minor scale, right hand. The scale is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The ascending scale is: D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5. The descending scale is: D5, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: ascending (1-2-3-1, 2-3-4-1, 2-3-1-2, 2-3-4-5) and descending (2-3-1-2, 2-3-4-5).

6. D natural minor scale | left hand

Musical notation for the D natural minor scale, left hand. The scale is written on a bass clef staff with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The ascending scale is: D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, Bb3, C4, D4. The descending scale is: D4, C4, Bb3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3. Fingerings are indicated below the notes: ascending (5-4-3-2, 1-3-2-1, 4-3-2-1, 3-2-1) and descending (4-3-2-1, 3-2-1).

# Improvisation & Interpretation

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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 Improvisation & Interpretation test, the examiner will give you a 4–6 bar chord progression in the key of either G 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 ♩ = 70.

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.

You are only required to improvise single note melodies, with either right or left hand. It is permissible to play chord voicings, but please note you will only be marked on melodic content.

## Improvisation & Interpretation | Example 1

♩ = 70

F B<sup>b</sup> C B<sup>b</sup>

## Improvisation & Interpretation | Example 2

♩ = 70

G C D C

Please note: The tests shown are examples: The examiner will give you a different version in the exam