

SONG TITLE: 'AFRICA'
ALBUM: TOTO IV
RELEASED: 1982
LABEL: COLUMBIA
GENRE: SOFT ROCK/JAZZ FUSION
WRITTEN BY: DAVID PAICH/
 JEFF PORCARO
PRODUCED BY: TOTO
UK CHART PEAK: 3

♩ = 93 *Rock*

A

'Africa' was the third single to be released from Toto's fourth studio album, *Toto IV*, and is their most successful hit to date. Written by founding members, David Paich and Jeff Porcaro, the single topped the US Billboard chart and peaked at number 3 in the UK, making it their first US number 1 and their first UK top 5. The song also topped the charts in Canada and made it to the top ten in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Switzerland; making it a worldwide success.

Paich was inspired to write the song after having seen a late-night documentary about the poverty and suffering in many parts of Africa. He admits that having never been to the continent his portrayal was purely based on the media, but that he was so shocked by what he had seen that he wanted to write a song about the subject. The writing duo describe the hit as 'a man's love of a continent', detailing that the main story follows a character flying in to Africa to meet a missionary. Having attending a Catholic school, Paich met several missionaries throughout his education and was inspired by their generosity and selflessness.

The song's well recognised opening is played on a Yamaha synthesiser, with Paich using a marimba sound to create an authentic sound. The recording also features six Kalimba tracks (a traditional African instrument) all created on the same Yamaha

synthesiser and playing the same rhythm but layered to create a larger sound. On recording Paich and the rest of the band worked hard to create a realistic feel, including a long percussion session which resulted in a two bar loop being chosen as the final beat. Knowing that a drum computer could have created the sound within five minutes, they took the longer option feeling that a live loop would be more effective.

In 2018 American rock band Weezer covered Toto's hit and sent 'Africa' back in to the charts. The cover gave Weezer their first Hot 100 hit since 2009 and increased popularity in Toto's original once again. Originally certified gold in 1991, the song's fame grew over the years having featured on several TV series as well as with Weezer's adaption and was re-certified 4 x Platinum in 2018.

Africa

Toto

♩=93 *Rock*

The score is written for piano in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 93 beats per minute. The key signature has four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#). The piece is divided into measures 1 through 11. Measure 1 is marked with a box 'A' and the chords Gm7 and C#m7. Measure 2 is also marked with 'A' and Gm7 C#m7. Measure 3 is marked with a box '[3]'. Measure 4 is marked with a box 'A' and the chords D#m7, G#m7, and B/F#. Measure 5 is marked with a box '[5]'. Measure 6 is marked with the chords A/E, E/F#, G#m7, and A, with the instruction 'Play 3 times C#m7'. Measure 7 is marked with a box '[7]'. Measure 8 is marked with a box 'B' and the chords D#m7, G#m7, and B/F#. Measure 9 is marked with a box '[9]'. Measure 10 is marked with a box 'A' and the chords G#m7 and C#m7. Measure 11 is marked with a box '[11]'. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings like 'mp' and 'p'.

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, two octave example shown. The notation is in treble and bass clefs, showing ascending and descending lines with fingerings (1-4) indicated above and below the notes.

2. F# major | contrary motion

Musical notation for F# major scale, contrary motion, two octave example shown. The notation is in treble and bass clefs, showing ascending and descending lines 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, two octave example shown. The notation is in treble and bass clefs, showing ascending and descending lines 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 melody in the key of either G \flat major or F \sharp 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 $\text{♩} = 60\text{--}130$.

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

$\text{♩} = 86$ Rock

[5]

[9]

[13]

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