

SONG TITLE: HIGHWAY TO HELL
 ALBUM: HIGHWAY TO HELL
 RELEASED: SEPTEMBER 1979
 LABEL: ATLANTIC
 GENRE: HARD ROCK

PERSONNEL: ANGUS YOUNG (GTR)
 MALCOLM YOUNG (GTR)
 RONALD 'BON' SCOTT (VOX)
 CLIFF WILLIAMS (BASS)
 PHIL RUDD (DRUMS)

UK CHART PEAK: 56
 US CHART PEAK: N/A



BACKGROUND INFO

This song, apparently the epitome of AC/DC's life constantly on the road, is the first track on the band's sixth album. Written as a joint collaboration between the Young brothers and singer Bon Scott, the opening riff was written by Malcolm Young. The song did fuel speculation that the band was somehow into Satanism (the album cover depicting Angus Young sporting a pair of horns didn't help) but they have always denied it. The album was the band's first million seller and the single did pretty well too. Tragically, Bon Scott died of alcohol poisoning in London less than six months later.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

AC/DC was founded by the Young brothers in 1973 in Sydney, Australia. They moved permanently to London in 1976. The band has since gone on to become one of the most famous rock bands on the planet. The Youngs were born in Scotland and their family emigrated to Australia in the early 60s. Angus played on his youthfulness by wearing a schoolboy's outfit complete with cap, tie and short trousers (his sister's idea, apparently). 35 years later, he's still playing the naughty schoolboy. The death of Bon Scott halted the band's progress only fleetingly and he

was replaced by Geordie Brian Johnson. Their most prolific years were from 1980 to 1984 (see *Rockschool Classics Grade 2* and *Grade 3*).

NOTES

Phil Rudd was recruited into AC/DC immediately on auditioning in 1975 and after 1977 was ironically the only Australian born member of the band. He played on all the key albums of the late 1970s and early 1980s until alcohol and drug problems caused his relationship with the Young brothers to deteriorate and he was sacked in 1983. He moved to New Zealand to escape the attention of fans but rejoined the band in 1994 and has been playing with AC/DC ever since.

RECOMMENDED LISTENING

If you only ever own one rock album it should be *Back in Black* (1980), the second biggest selling album of all time and full of classic numbers such as 'Back in Black' and 'You Shook Me All Night Long'. *For Those About to Rock We Salute You* (1982), is also impressive. Their latest album, *Black Ice*, (2008) went straight to number 1.

Highway To Hell

AC/DC

Words & Music by Angus Young, Malcolm Young & Bon Scott

♩=115

Drum notation for measures 1-4, showing a 4/4 time signature and a tempo marking of ♩=115. The notation consists of a single staff with eighth notes and rests.

Drum notation for measures 5-8, showing a 4/4 time signature and eighth notes with rests.

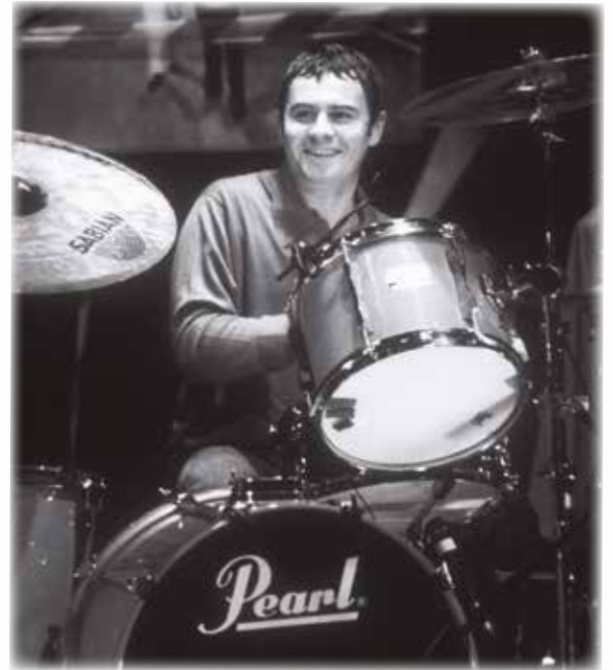
Drum notation for measures 9-12, showing a 4/4 time signature and eighth notes with rests.

Drum notation for measures 13-16, showing a 4/4 time signature and eighth notes with rests.

SONG TITLE: SUPERSONIC
 ALBUM: DEFINITELY MAYBE
 RELEASED: APRIL 1994
 LABEL: CREATION
 GENRE: BRITPOP

PERSONNEL: LIAM GALLAGHER (VOX)
 NOEL GALLAGHER (GTR+VOX)
 PAUL 'BONEHEAD' ARTHURS (GTR)
 PAUL 'GUISY' MCGUIGAN (BASS)
 TONY MCCARROLL (DRUMS)

UK CHART PEAK: 31
 US CHART PEAK: N/A



BACKGROUND INFO

'Supersonic' was Oasis's first foray into the charts in April 1994 right at the dawn of Britpop. It was a bold opening statement, full of controlled swagger and a determination that the band were going to be themselves and quite literally 'supersonic'. This is not complicated music: Tony McCarroll's almost unwavering drums and Paul McGuigan's bass propel the song relentlessly forward. And has there ever been a northern drawl on record quite like Liam's?

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The Gallagher brothers hail from Burnage in South Manchester and Oasis, initially called Rain, was very much Liam's outfit prior to brother Noel joining. The formula of Noel's compact songwriting, Liam's rockstar leer and hard hitting production values quickly became the signature sound of the mid 1990s. Noel's musical influences were the Beatles and Burt Bacharach but his songs also had something of the early 1970s about them (significantly they released a cover of Slade's 'Cum on Feel the Noize'). The dynamic of the band is fuelled by the Gallaghers' intense sibling rivalry to the point when it can sometimes seriously get in the way of the music.

NOTES

Tony McCarroll is, in many ways, the Pete Best of Oasis. Once the band gained its record contract with Creation the Gallagher brothers quickly asserted their dominance and it seemed clear that Noel in particular did not view the drummer very fondly. His last hurrah was 'Some Might Say' and then he was gone. He later tried to sue Oasis with the same lawyer who had acted for Pete Best in his dealings with The Beatles, before settling out of court.

RECOMMENDED LISTENING

The first two Oasis albums, *Definitely Maybe* (2004) and *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?* (1995) are essential listening for anyone who wants to understand what was going on musically in the UK between 1993 and 1998. 1997's *Be Here Now* sold in huge quantities but was deemed a disappointment after the hype had died down. More recent outings such as *Don't Believe the Truth* (2005) revived their flagging reputation and became their best selling record for a decade.

Supersonic

Oasis

Words & Music by Noel Gallagher

♩=102

