

Razorlight

SONG TITLE: AMERICA
ALBUM: RAZORLIGHT
RELEASED: OCTOBER 2006
GENRE: INDIE ROCK

PERSONNEL: JOHNNY BORRELL (GTR+VOX)
BJORN ÅGREN (GTR)
CARL DALEMO (BASS)
ANDY BURROWS (DRUMS)

LABEL: VERTIGO/MERCURY
UK CHART PEAK: 1
US CHART PEAK: N/A

BACKGROUND INFO

'America' is the chart topping single from the second Razorlight album. This record, hot on the heels of its predecessor, *Up All Night*, (see 'V.I.C.E.' in *Rockschool Classics – Grade 2*) went straight into the album charts at number 1. The first single, 'In The Morning' reached number 7 but 'America' went all the way to the top.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Razorlight is a half English, half Swedish indie rock band who grew out of the same London music scene as the Libertines. Fronted by Johnny Borrell, the band achieved almost immediate success with its first recordings before releasing *Up All Night*, on the Vertigo label, including the hit single V.I.C.E. The success of *Up All Night* was consolidated with the follow up album *Razorlight* which topped the charts, going 4 times platinum (1.2 million sales plus) in the process.



NOTES

Winchester born Andy Burrows replaced original Razorlight drummer, Christian Smith-Pancorvo, for this record and all subsequent live work. He joined the band in late 2004 after a set of open auditions. Andy is not only a fine drummer but also plays guitar and has shaped the songwriting within the band, sharing writing credits for the singles 'America' and 'Before I Fall to Pieces' with frontman Johnny Borrell.

RECOMMENDED LISTENING

In addition to his work in Razorlight, Andy Burrows has released a solo album of song settings for a book of poetry in aid of a children's charity linked to his home city of Winchester. The most recent Razorlight record, *Slipway Fires*, was released in late October 2008.

America

Razorlight

Words & Music by Johnny Borrell & Andy Burrows

♩ = 92

Measures 1-2 of the drum score. The notation is on a five-line staff with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It features a bass drum pattern with quarter notes and eighth notes, and a snare drum pattern with quarter notes and eighth notes. There are also some rests and a double bar line.

Measures 3-4 of the drum score. The notation continues the bass and snare drum patterns from the previous measures.

Measures 5-6 of the drum score. The notation continues the bass and snare drum patterns.

Measures 7-8 of the drum score. The notation continues the bass and snare drum patterns.

Measures 9-10 of the drum score. The notation continues the bass and snare drum patterns.

Measures 11-14 of the drum score. This section features a continuous snare drum pattern of eighth notes.

Measures 15-18 of the drum score. This section features a continuous bass drum pattern of quarter notes.

Measures 19-22 of the drum score. This section features a continuous bass drum pattern of quarter notes, ending with a final snare drum hit.

SONG TITLE: BACK IN BLACK

ALBUM: BACK IN BLACK

RELEASED: AUGUST 1980

GENRE: CLASSIC ROCK

PERSONNEL: ANGUS YOUNG (GTR)
MALCOLM YOUNG (GTR)
BRIAN JOHNSON (VOX)
CLIFF WILLIAMS (BASS)
PHIL RUDD (DRUMS)

LABEL: ATLANTIC

UK CHART PEAK: N/A

US CHART PEAK: N/A



BACKGROUND INFO

'Back in Black' is the title song from the album of the same name. This is the most successful record ever released by a band with 42 million in sales, 32 million of which were in America. Only Michael Jackson's *Thriller* album has sold more. The song and the album were recorded as a tribute to the band's late singer Bon Scott who had died of alcohol poisoning earlier in the year of the album's release. Apart from one of the most recognisable riffs in rock, the track also features a barnstorming vocal from its new frontman Brian Johnson. The riff was sampled in 2003 by rapper Jay-Z for his track '99 Problems', a featured song off his *Black Album*.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

AC/DC was founded by the Young brothers in 1973 in Sydney, Australia. The band 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 1960s. Angus always 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 their progress only fleetingly and he was replaced by Geordie Brian Johnson. Their most prolific years were from 1980 to 1984 (see *Rockschool Classics Grade 1* and *Grade 2*).

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

Apart from *Back in Black* (1980), you should also listen to its predecessor *Highway to Hell* (1979) which was their first million-seller and contains some fine songs (see *Rockschool Classics - Grade 1*). Its follow-up, *For Those About to Rock We Salute You* (1982) is also impressive. Their most recent album, *Black Ice* (2008) went straight to number 1.

Back In Black

AC/DC

Words & Music by Angus Young,
Malcolm Young & Brian Johnson

♩ = 94

Drum notation for the first measure of the song, showing a 4/4 time signature and a series of eighth notes on the snare drum.

Drum notation for measures 3-6, featuring a complex snare pattern with eighth notes and a bass drum pattern.

Drum notation for measures 7-10, including a '+' symbol above the snare pattern and an 'o' symbol above the bass drum pattern.

Drum notation for measures 11-14, showing a continuation of the snare and bass drum patterns.

Drum notation for measures 15-18, including an 'o' symbol above the snare pattern and a '+' symbol above the bass drum pattern.

Drum notation for measures 19-22, with the instruction "HH Loose" above the snare pattern.