TECHNICAL FOCUS

## TAKE ME TO CHURCH

WORDS AND MUSIC: ANDREW HOZIER-BYRNE

Irish singer-songwriter Hozier, real name Andrew Hozier-Byrne, found global success with his eponymously-titled 2014 debut album. Its opening song and lead single 'Take Me to Church' helped launch the album to No. 1 in Ireland, No. 2 in the US and No. 3 in the UK.

A slow-burning ballad that fuses blues, gospel, folk and soul, 'Take Me to Church' was originally released in September 2013 but took over a year to become a hit. Written and recorded by Hozier in the attic of his parents' home in Bray, Country Wicklow, the song was overdubbed with additional instrumentation for its release but retained the original demo vocal. Accompanied by a powerful video that helped gain the song worldwide attention, it went on to top the charts in many countries and peaked at No. 2 in several more (spending three weeks at No. 2 in the US from December 2014 and four weeks at No. 2 in the UK from February 2015). Nominated for Song of the Year at the 2015 Grammy Awards, Hozier said of its success: 'I never wrote music for the mainstream. I think I was incredibly fortunate that the song crossed over and people connected with it.'

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Two technical focus elements are featured in this song:

- Melisma
- Difference between straight and swung

This song features several **melisma** passages on the word 'Amen', for example in bars 18-21. Aim to let each note sound clearly, and try to avoid a sliding effect. You'll also notice a **difference between straight and swung** semiquavers, between the opening verse and the chorus starting on the last beat of bar 21. This is an important contrast, so stay faithful to the rhythms in the verse to allow you to create a different feel in the chorus.

MALE VOCALS

SINGLE BY

Hozier

ALBUM **Hozier** 

B-SIDE

Like Real People Do Angel of Small Death & The Codeine Scene Cherry Wine (live)

RELEASED

13 September 2013

RECORDED

2013, Bray, County Wicklow, Ireland

LABEL

Rubyworks Island Columbia

WRITER

Andrew Hozier-Byrne

PRODUCER

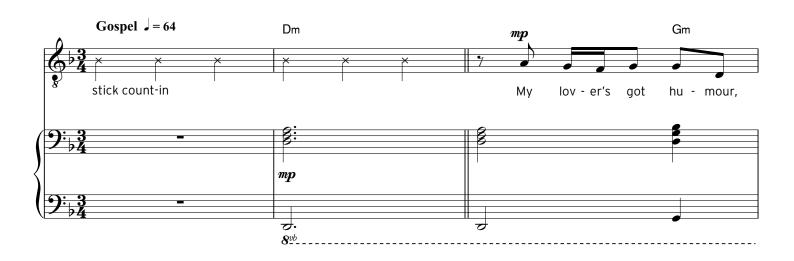
Rob Kirwan

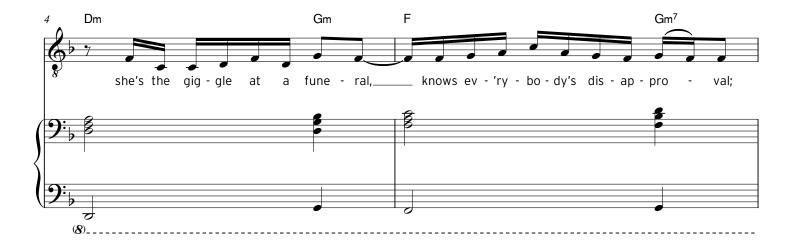
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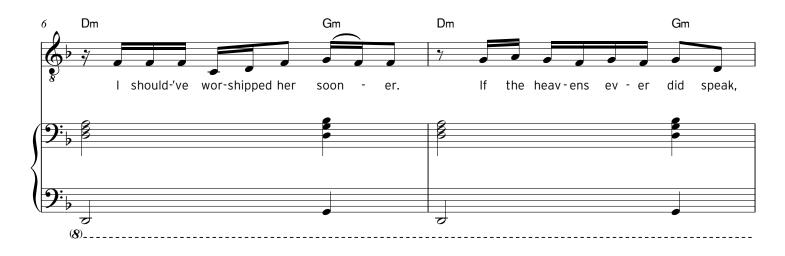
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