

TECHNICAL FOCUS

# TAKE ME TO CHURCH

# HOZIER

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, County 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.'

## TECHNICAL FOCUS

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.

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**

## TECHNICAL FOCUS

## TAKE ME TO CHURCH

WORDS AND MUSIC:  
ANDREW HOZIER-BYRNE

**Gospel** ♩ = 64

**Stick count-in**

**Chords:** Dm, Gm, F, Gm<sup>7</sup>

**Lyrics:**

My lov - er's got hu - mour,  
she's the gig - gle at a fune - ral, \_\_\_\_\_ knows ev - 'ry - bo - dy's dis - ap - pro - val;  
I should've wor-shipped her soon - er. If the heav - ens ev - er did speak,

**Performance Notes:** The score includes a stick count-in for the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords. The tempo is marked as Gospel ♩ = 64. The dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano).

MALE VOCALS GRADE 6

8 Dm Gm F Gm<sup>7</sup>

she's the last true mouth-piece. Ev - 'ry Sun-day's get - ting more bleak;—

(8).....

10 Dm Gm C<sup>sus2</sup> B<sup>b</sup>

a fresh pois - on each week. "We were born sick," you heard them say it.

(8).....

12 Dm *mf* Gm Dm Gm

My church of - fers no ab - so - lutes, she tells me, "Wor - ship in the bed - room."

(8).....

14 F Gm<sup>7</sup> Dm Gm

The on - ly heav - en I'll be sent to is when I'm a - lone with you.

(8).....

MALE VOCALS GRADE 6

16 *C*<sup>*sus*2</sup> *Gm/Bb* *Bb* *p*

I was born\_ sick, but I love\_ it. Com-mand me to be well. Ah -

(8)-----

18 *F* *mf* *Bb* *f* *F* *Bbm* *F* *Bbm* *mf*

- - A - - - men. A - men.\_ A -

21 *F* *p* *ff* *swung* *Dm*

-men.\_ Take me to church, I'll wor-ship like a dog at the shrine of your lies;

23 *A* *F* *Gm*

I'll tell you my sins\_ and you can sharp-en your knife. Of-fer me\_ that death-less death.\_ Good God,

8<sup>vb</sup>-----

MALE VOCALS GRADE 6

25a 1. Dm *straight* swung 2. Dm *straight*

— let me give you my life. Take me to church, let me give you my life.

26 Dm *f* Gm Dm Gm

If I'm a pa - gan of the good times, my — lov - er's the sun - light.

8<sup>vb</sup>

28 F Gm<sup>7</sup> Dm Gm

To keep the god - dess on my — side, she de - mands a sa - cri - fice.

(8)

30 Csus2 Gm/Bb Dm Gm

Drain the whole sea, get some - thing shi - ny, some - thing meat - y for the main course.

(8)

MALE VOCALS GRADE 6

32 Dm Gm F Gm

That's a fine - look - ing high horse, what you got in that sta - ble?\_\_

(8).....

34 Dm Gm Csus2 Bb

We've a lot of star-ving faith - ful, that looks tast - y, that looks plent - y,

36 *ff* *swung* Dm

this is hun-gry work. Take me to church,\_\_\_ I'll wor-ship like a dog at the shrine of your lies;

*f*

38 A F Gm

I'll tell you my sins\_ and you can sharp-en your knife. Of-fer me\_ that death-less death.\_Good God,

8<sup>vb</sup>.....

MALE VOCALS GRADE 6

40a 1. *Dm* *straight* *swung* 2. *Dm* *straight*

— let me give you my life. Take me to church, let me give you my life.

41 *Bb* *F* *A/E* *Dm* *Bb* *F*

*mf* No mas-ters\_\_\_ or kings when the rit - u - al be-gins. There is no sweet-er in-no-cence than\_\_\_

44 *A/E* *Dm* *Bb* *F* *f* *A/E* *Dm* *mf*

our gen - tle\_\_\_ sin. In the mad - ness and soil of that\_\_\_ sad\_earth-ly\_\_\_ scene, on-ly

47 *Bb* *F* *A/E* *Dm* *Dm/C* *Bb<sup>Δ7</sup>* *Bb* *mf*

then I\_\_\_ am\_hu-man, on - ly\_\_\_ then I am\_\_ clean. Oh.\_\_\_\_ Oh.

MALE VOCALS GRADE 6

51

F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$ m F B $\flat$ m

*ff* *f*

A - - men. A - - men. A - -

54

F Dm

*mf* *p* *ff* *swung* *8va*

- men. Take me to church, I'll wor-ship like a dog at the shrine of your lies;

56

A F Gm

I'll tell you my sins\_ and you can sharp-en your knife. Of-fer me\_ that death-less death.\_ Good God,

58a

1. Dm *straight* *8va* 2. Dm *straight* *8va*

let me give you my life. Take me to church, let me give you my life.