

Pressure

Billy Joel

♪ Level 55/100 (Ambitioniert)

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PRESSURE

Words and Music by Billy Joel

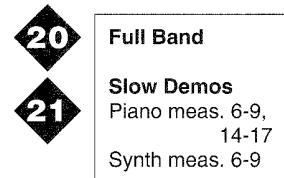
From the album *The Nylon Curtain*, released in 1982.

In "Pressure," Billy Joel writes of a situation we've probably all been in; we feel trapped by an avalanche of pressure coming at us from all sides—work, family, school, and relationships. The metallic synthesizer, chattering frantically in a constant pattern of eighth notes, captures this feeling perfectly.

Figure 13 – Intro/Verses/Chorus

The intro and chorus make prominent use of diminished and diminished 7th chords. Diminished triads and diminished 7th chords have been a standard device used to evoke tension since the days that pianists accompanied silent movies. The verse features another staple of the Billy Joel piano style—rolling octaves in an eighth-note rhythm in the left hand. This propels the music forward, while syncopated 3rds and 6ths in the right hand add rhythmic and harmonic interest.

Fig. 13



Intro
Moderately bright $\text{♩} = 148$

1 Piano Gsus2 Dsus4 1. C/D D 2. C/D D

mp *mf* *mf*

8vb loco

Synth (Brassy patch)

6 Dm E°/D C \sharp 7°/D Dm B°/D Gm/D A7/D Dm

sim.

sim.

f