



Pressure

Billy Joel

🎵 Level 55/100 (Ambitious)

Get your OKTAV Premium subscription today!

Simply buy this title or go for an OKTAV Premium subscription. This way you'll enjoy unlimited access to our entire sheet music library for a flatrate - adjusted to your skills.

[Learn more](#)

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/Verse/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.

20

Full Band

21

Slow Demos

Piano meas. 6-9,
14-17
Synth meas. 6-9

Fig. 13

Intro
Moderately bright ♩ = 148

1 Piano Gsus2 Dsus4

Synth (Brassy patch)

8vb loco

1. C/D D 2. C/D D

mf mf

6 Dm E°/D C#7°/D Dm B°/D Gm/D A7/D Dm

sim. sim.

f