



This Is The Time

Billy Joel

🎵 Level 45/100 (Ambitious)

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THIS IS THE TIME

Words and Music by Billy Joel

From the album *The Bridge*, released in 1986.

"This Is the Time" is about the difficulties of maintaining a relationship. The theme is that one should remember the good times during those periods when the relationship gets rocky.

Figure 19 – Intro/Verse/Chorus

Harmonically, the song is somewhat ambiguous. It can be heard as being either in the key of F or the key of Bb. (The song is written here in F.) The introduction features acoustic piano and a synthesizer using a marimba-like sound. The piano and synth play in unison.

Measure 9 introduces the main accompaniment figure: a syncopated riff repeated in the right hand with changing whole-note bass notes in the left. The resulting chords are Dm11, Eb6, and Fsus2. This pattern continues until the chorus, where the piano plays broken chords while the synth (now using a bright string sound) plays occasional chords. At measure 41 the synth switches to a sustained pad.

Fig. 19

30 Full Band
31 Slow Demos
Piano meas. 1-8, 9-12. 33-36

Intro
Moderately ♩=128
Piano & Synth

Chords: Bb, C/Bb, Bbmaj7, C/Bb, Bbmaj7, C/Bb, Bbmaj7, C/Bb, Bbmaj7

0:15

Chords: C/Bb, Bbmaj7, Dm11, Eb6, Fsus2

Chords: Dm11, Eb6, Fsus2