



Pressure

Billy Joel

♪ Livello 55/100 (Ambizioso)

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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/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

8vb
loco

Synth (Brassy patch)

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

6 Dm E°/D C#7°/D Dm B°/D Gm/D A7/D Dm

sim.

f

The musical score for 'Pressure' is presented in three systems. The first system covers the Intro (measures 1-5), featuring a piano part with a rolling eighth-note bass line and a synth part with a brassy patch. The second system covers measures 6-10, including the start of the verse and chorus. The piano part features syncopated chords and a bass line with eighth notes. The synth part continues with a brassy patch. The third system covers measures 11-15, continuing the verse and chorus. The piano part features syncopated chords and a bass line with eighth notes. The synth part continues with a brassy patch. Chord diagrams are provided for various chords: Gsus2, Dsus4, C/D, D, Dm, E°/D, C#7°/D, B°/D, Gm/D, and A7/D. Performance markings include dynamics (mp, mf, f), articulation (loco), and phrasing (sim.).