



# ROCK ANTHEMS OF THE 1970S & 1980S

## FEATURES

1	Lyrics	Wider subject matter than the simpler lyrics of Rock 'n' Roll with themes such as: politics, philosophy, religion and literature with darker, powerful and more serious lyrics. Powerful anthemic choruses designed to be sung loudly by the audience.
2	Tempo & Metre	Moderate to Medium Fast (Allegro Moderato) 4/4 Time Signature. Strong steady "Rock Beat"..
3	Harmony & Tonality	Early Rock uses mainly Primary Chords (I, IV & V) but later Rock uses Auxiliary Chords, Chromatic Chords, Added Sixth Chords, First and Second Inversion Chords and Altered Note Chords. Power Chords (chords which don't contain the 3rd e.g. C5) are a key feature of Rock Music and Modulations (in the Bridge section) became more common.
4	Melody	Performed by the lead singer with lyrical vocal phrases featuring repeated patterns. The lead Electric Guitar plays Strong Guitar Riffs based on short sections of the main melody.
5	Rhythm	Strong and Driving Rhythms. Incessant Drumming Patterns. Use of a heavy Bass Drum and continuation of use of Backbeat (emphasising the 2nd and 4th beats of the bar on the Snare Drum).
6	Structure	Verse-Chorus Form. Long Intros. Modulation in the Bridge (extended instrumental solo improvisation). Memorable Chorus. Rock Songs often of longer duration – some 7-8 minutes.

## B INSTRUMENTATION & TECHNOLOGY

1	Vocal Performance	Mainly male vocal lead-singer singing with a growly, raspy and husky-style of singing using very high pitch screams singing with Vibrato but not Falsetto.
2	Instrumentation	The basis of a Rock Band is a Lead Singer, Drum Kit and Trio of Guitars: Lead Electric Guitar, Rhythm Guitar and Bass Guitar. The sound of Rock Music centres upon the Electric Guitar. Sometimes a Piano, Hammond Organ, Electric Keyboard/Synthesiser or Strings may be added or other (often strange!) timbres and effects!.
3	Technology	Amplification technology developed – louder volumes. New sounds and effects: Distortion, Wah-wah, Delay, Overdrive. Multi-track recording created increasingly complex textures. Synthesizers

## C ARTISTS & VENUES

1	Artists	Queen
2	Venues	Louder amplification = increasingly larger audiences in stadiums, sports arenas and pop festivals. Performances feature special effects – light shows and pyrotechnics.