

what is this feeling wicked sheet music

What is this feeling wicked sheet music is a term that resonates with fans of musical theatre, particularly those who cherish the rich, vibrant world of the Broadway show "Wicked." The song "What Is This Feeling?" is a pivotal moment in the musical, capturing the conflicting emotions of its characters. Understanding the sheet music for this piece not only enhances the performance experience but also deepens one's appreciation of the artistry involved in its creation. This article will explore the significance of the song, its musical elements, and the aspects of the sheet music that make it both challenging and rewarding for performers.

Overview of "Wicked" and Its Significance

"Wicked," a musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and a book by Winnie Holzman, is a retelling of the story of "The Wizard of Oz" from the perspective of the witches of Oz. It premiered on Broadway in 2003 and has since become a cultural phenomenon. The character dynamics, particularly between Elphaba (the Wicked Witch of the West) and Glinda (the Good Witch), drive the narrative forward, with "What Is This Feeling?" serving as a key moment in their relationship.

Thematic Importance of "What Is This Feeling?"

The song occurs early in the musical when Elphaba and Glinda first meet at Shiz University. It encapsulates their immediate, contrasting feelings towards each other, combining both admiration and disdain. This duality is a central theme in "Wicked," exploring how people can hold conflicting feelings about one another. The lyrics capture the essence of jealousy, confusion, and unexpected camaraderie.

Musical Structure of "What Is This Feeling?"

The sheet music for "What Is This Feeling?" is rich with musical elements that contribute to its overall impact. Analyzing its structure can provide insights into why this song is so memorable.

Melody and Harmony

- Key: The song is typically set in the key of B major, which gives it a bright and lively feel that contrasts with the darker themes present in the narrative.
- Melodic Contours: The melody features a mix of stepwise motion and leaps, creating a sense of excitement

and unpredictability. This reflects the emotional rollercoaster that the characters are experiencing.

- Harmonic Progressions: The harmonic progression often includes unexpected shifts that mirror the characters' conflicting emotions.

Rhythm and Tempo

- Time Signature: The song is written in a 4/4 time signature, which is common in musical theatre, allowing for a steady and engaging flow.

- Tempo: Generally performed at a brisk tempo (around 120 BPM), the energetic pace helps convey the frenetic emotions of the characters.

- Syncopation: There are moments of syncopation that create a sense of urgency and surprise, enhancing the dialogue that occurs between Elphaba and Glinda.

Lyrics and Vocal Range

- Lyric Themes: The lyrics are witty and playful, filled with clever rhymes and wordplay. They effectively communicate the characters' internal struggles while also providing comic relief.

- Vocal Parts: The song is typically performed as a duet, requiring a strong command of harmony from both singers. Elphaba usually has a more powerful and grounded vocal line, while Glinda's part tends to be lighter and more whimsical.

- Vocal Range: Elphaba's part often requires a soprano or mezzo-soprano range, while Glinda's part is more flexible, often suited for a soprano voice.

Challenges of Performing "What Is This Feeling?"

Performing this song can be both rewarding and challenging for singers. There are several aspects to consider when tackling this piece.

Vocal Technique

- Breath Control: Given the energetic nature of the song, performers must have excellent breath control to maintain vocal quality throughout the piece.

- Characterization: Singers need to embody their characters fully, conveying the complex emotions of envy and fondness. This requires not just vocal skill but also acting ability.

- Harmonization: Since the song is a duet, singers must be adept at harmonizing with one another, which can be challenging if one singer is more experienced than the other.

Musical Interpretation

- **Dynamic Control:** The song features a wide range of dynamics, from soft, introspective moments to powerful, triumphant sections. Performers must navigate these changes smoothly.
- **Phrasing:** Understanding the phrasing of the lyrics is crucial. Each phrase should convey the emotional journey of the characters, and performers must be mindful of how to deliver the lines effectively.
- **Tempo Adjustments:** While the song has a set tempo, performers often add slight variations to enhance emotional expression, which can be tricky to coordinate in a duet.

Sheet Music Availability and Resources

For those interested in performing "What Is This Feeling?" the sheet music is widely available. Here are some resources for obtaining the music:

1. **Official Music Books:** The official "Wicked" vocal selections are available for purchase through various retailers and offer the song along with piano accompaniments and other selections from the musical.
2. **Digital Platforms:** Websites like MusicNotes and Sheet Music Plus offer downloadable versions of the sheet music, often in various keys to accommodate different vocal ranges.
3. **Libraries and Schools:** Many libraries, especially those with extensive music collections, may have copies of the sheet music available for borrowing. Additionally, many schools with music programs may have copies for student use.

Learning and Practice Tips

For those preparing to perform "What Is This Feeling?" here are some tips to facilitate learning and rehearsal:

- **Listen to Recordings:** Familiarize yourself with the original cast recording and various performances to understand different interpretations of the song.
- **Practice with a Partner:** If performing as a duet, rehearse regularly with your partner to build chemistry and synchronize your performances.
- **Break it Down:** Focus on learning the song in sections. This can make it more manageable and help with memorization.
- **Use a Piano or Accompaniment Track:** Practice with a piano or backing track to get a sense of timing and how your voice fits with the music.

Conclusion

Understanding what is this feeling wicked sheet music entails more than just reading notes on a page; it involves grasping the emotional depth and complexity of the characters and their relationships. The song "What Is This Feeling?" serves as a powerful vehicle for exploring themes of friendship and rivalry, delivered through catchy melodies and clever lyrics. Whether you are a performer, a music educator, or a fan of musical theatre, delving into this piece offers a rich and rewarding experience that highlights the brilliance of "Wicked" and its enduring impact on audiences worldwide.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the origin of the song 'What Is This Feeling?' from Wicked?

'What Is This Feeling?' is a song from the musical Wicked, which is based on the novel by Gregory Maguire. It features the characters Elphaba and Glinda expressing their conflicting emotions towards each other.

Is the sheet music for 'What Is This Feeling?' available for purchase?

Yes, the sheet music for 'What Is This Feeling?' is widely available for purchase online through various retailers that specialize in musical scores.

What instruments are commonly used in the arrangement for 'What Is This Feeling?'?

The sheet music typically includes arrangements for piano, vocal parts, and may also feature instrumental accompaniment for strings and woodwinds.

What are the main themes explored in 'What Is This Feeling?'?

The song explores themes of confusion, jealousy, and the complexity of emotions. It captures the characters' initial reactions to their unexpected feelings for one another.

Can I find free versions of 'What Is This Feeling?' sheet music online?

While some websites may offer free arrangements or simplified versions of 'What Is This Feeling?' sheet music, it's important to ensure that these versions are legally distributed and respect copyright laws.

What vocal range is required for performing 'What Is This Feeling'?

The song features two parts, one for Elphaba (typically a mezzo-soprano or soprano) and one for Glinda (usually a soprano), requiring a range that showcases both characters' vocal abilities.

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