

1426. Gonna Fly now Backgrounds Of S. Radic

„**Gonna Fly Now**“, also known as „**Theme from Rocky**“, is the theme song from the movie *Rocky*, composed by Bill Conti with lyrics by Carol Connors and Ayn Robbins, and performed by DeEtta West and Nelson Pigford. Released in February 1977 with the movie *Rocky*, the song became part of American popular culture after main character Rocky Balboa as part of his daily training regimen runs up the 72 stone steps leading to the entrance of the Philadelphia Museum of Art in Philadelphia and raises his arms in a victory pose, while the song plays. The song was written in Philadelphia. The song is often played at sporting events, especially in Philadelphia.

Reception. The song (whose lyrics are only 30 words long) was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Song in the 49th Academy Awards. The version of the song from the movie, performed by Conti with an orchestra, hit number one on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart in 1977, while a version by jazz trumpeter Maynard Ferguson hit the top 30. Disco versions by Rhythm Heritage and Current were on the chart at the same time (Conti's own version reveals some early disco influence in the orchestration). *Billboard* ranked Conti's version as the No. 21 song of 1977.^[1] Conti's single was certified Gold by the RIAA, for shipments exceeding one million in the United States. The American Film Institute placed it 58th on its AFI's 100 Years...100 Songs list.

Variations. In *Rocky II*, an alternative version of the song was used, with a children's choir singing the chorus. *Rocky III* included an updated disco influenced arrangement during the training montage on the beach. This recording is however missing from the soundtrack album, the sleeve notes of which say „All music on this album selected by Sylvester Stallone“, who instead opted to reprise the original versions of „Gonna Fly Now“ and „Reflections“ from the first film and „Conquest“ from the second installment.

Rocky IV was scored by Vince DiCola who mainly introduced new themes of his own but „Gonna Fly Now“ returned with its composer for later installments. In *Rocky V*, two different versions of the song are played: an instrumental horn version and a different orchestral version. In *Rocky Balboa*, a slightly different version of the song used more trumpets and different vocal tones. The soundtrack for that film also includes a vocal remix performed by Natalie Wilde. *Creed* samples the first few notes of the track during the film's last fight, as does its sequel, *Creed II*. Due to its original use, the song (or a soundalike of it) is used frequently in various forms of popular media where a main character is forced to train hard in order to defeat an opponent, often during a montage sequence. American politician and former Vice President Walter Mondale used „Gonna Fly Now“ as his campaign song in 1984.



Gonna Fly Now

(Theme from *Rocky*)

Words and Music by Bill Conti,
Ayn Robbins and Carol Connors
Arranged by Dan Coates

With a steady, driving beat (♩ = 90)



Disco-Reggae, T=95

Main 1

Main 2

The musical score is arranged in a system of seven staves. From top to bottom, the staves are: Brass (treble clef), Strings (bass clef), Dist.-Git (bass clef), Bass (bass clef), Bells (treble clef), Perc. (bass clef), and Drums (bass clef). The score is divided into two measures: Main 1 and Main 2. The Brass staff has a whole rest in Main 1 and a whole note in Main 2. The Strings staff has a whole rest in Main 1 and a rhythmic pattern in Main 2. The Dist.-Git staff has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in both measures. The Bass staff has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in both measures. The Bells staff has a whole rest in Main 1 and a rhythmic pattern in Main 2. The Perc. staff has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in both measures. The Drums staff has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in both measures, with a notation for 'small crash+ride-cymb.' above it. The drum symbols BD and DSD are placed below the first two notes of the Drums staff.

Programming instruction

Reggae songs are all in 4/4 time. So the tension is not in metric changes, but in the polyrhythmic adaptation of a basic beat pattern that is in itself consistent. The different instruments form "contradictory reference systems" by setting different emphasis. In newer reggae, however, it can be seen that the drums are increasingly adapted to the rock and disco drums. The basis of both mains is identical here: A reggae beat with eighths of a second of small crash with ride cymbal with basic 4 beat and quarters of a second of disco snare results in the continuous basic form. The percussion with Bongo low+high is reminiscent of Jamaica and the bass phrase is typical reggae, whereby an octave of the final phrase gives the special bass kick. The distortion guitar does not play chords, but short Grund+Quint+Oktav tones on On-Beat. In Main 2 the brass tone remains - but the strings will rhythmically play the main title phrase (Gonna Fly Now) in the B-part.