

Helicopter

SONG TITLE: HELICOPTER

GENRE: INDIE

TEMPO: 95 BPM

KEY: E MINOR

TECH FEATURES: STRUMMING
EIGHTH NOTES
CHANGING CHORDS

COMPOSER: JAMES UINGS

PERSONNEL: STUART RYAN (GTR)
DUNCAN JORDAN (GTR)
HENRY THOMAS (BASS)
NOAM LEDERMAN (DRUMS)

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Helicopter'. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as '♩=95 Indie'. The score is divided into two systems. The first system is labeled 'A' in a box and shows a G major chord (G4, B4, D5) and a D major chord (D4, F#4, A4). The second system is a guitar tablature labeled 'T A B' on the left. The fret numbers are 2, 0, 2, 0, corresponding to the notes G, B, D, G on the strings.

OVERVIEW

'Helicopter' is a slice of Britpop indie in the style of bands like Oasis, Blur and The Kaiser Chiefs. It starts with a single note verse and moves to strummed chords for the chorus. The song ends with a reprise of the verse section. The most challenging parts of this song are the eighth notes, which almost certainly need to be played using alternate picking.

STYLE FOCUS

Generally, indie guitar is very different to a lot of popular guitar based styles like rock and jazz in that it doesn't have its roots in blues guitar. One of the main ways this shows in the style is in the guitar solos, where techniques like vibrato are not used. Indie guitarists often avoid using the minor pentatonic scale as it has a very distinctive sound that is an inherent part of a blues-based guitar style.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Britpop's golden age was the mid 1990s when Oasis burst on the scene with the debut album *Definitely Maybe* (1994). Noel Gallagher's impeccable songwriting combined perfectly with brother Liam's

raspy vocals to produce the perfect blend of melody and attitude. Gallagher's regular use of the brighter sounding major pentatonic and major scales is a key part of the band's long-term appeal.

Oasis' biggest rival Blur released their debut album *Leisure* in 1991. Their best-selling album *Parklife* was released in 1994, around the same time as *Definitely Maybe*. A war of words erupted between the bands. This culminated in the 'battle of Britpop' – Blur's 'Country House' single pipped 'Roll With It' to number one. Oasis took their 'album revenge' in 1995 when *(What's The Story) Morning Glory?* beat Blur's *The Great Escape* to the top of the albums chart.

RECOMMENDED LISTENING

'Slide Away' and 'Live Forever' from *Definitely Maybe* exemplify Oasis' early material and feature Noel Gallagher's famous strumming pattern, as does 'Wonderwall' from *(What's The Story) Morning Glory?* Blur's *Parklife* featured their biggest hits, 'Girls And Boys' and 'Parklife'. The Kaiser Chiefs led the way for the second wave of Britpop a decade after its commercial peak. Heavily influenced by Oasis and particularly Blur, they burst on to the scene in 2004 with the singles 'I Predict A Riot' and 'Oh My God' from their debut album *Employment* (2005).

Helicopter

James Uings

A ♩=95 *Indie*

G D Am C G D Am C

T
A
B

D C Em D C D

T
A
B

[5]

B Em D Am D

T
A
B

[9]

C G D Am C G D Am C G

T
A
B

[13]