

Tightrope

Janelle Monae
full transcription by Tom Haydock

♩ = 168 INTRO

VERSE 1

Female backing singers

f more or less ad lib rim + snare

f bass drum + synth bass drum

The musical score is arranged in 12 staves. The top staff is for the Voice, followed by Backing vocals, Trumpet, Saxophone, Trombone, Strings (grand staff), Ukulele, Electric Guitar, Bass Guitar, Tambourine, Bongos, Snare Drum, and Drumset. The score begins with an introduction and a verse. The key signature is B-flat major. The tempo is 168 BPM. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, chords, and dynamics. The drum set part includes performance instructions like 'more or less ad lib rim + snare' and 'bass drum + synth bass drum'.

This musical score page, numbered 13, is arranged in a standard orchestral format. It includes the following parts from top to bottom:

- Vo. (Vocal):** Features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including rests and slurs.
- Backs (Drum Backs):** A staff with a double bar line, indicating a section break.
- Tpt. (Trumpet):** A staff with a double bar line, indicating a section break.
- Sax. (Saxophone):** A staff with a double bar line, indicating a section break.
- Tbn. (Tuba):** A staff with a double bar line, indicating a section break.
- St. (String):** A grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a double bar line, indicating a section break.
- Uk. (Ukulele):** A staff with a double bar line, indicating a section break.
- El. Guit. (Electric Guitar):** A staff with a double bar line, indicating a section break.
- B. Guit. (Bass Guitar):** Features a rhythmic bass line with eighth notes and slurs.
- Tamb. (Tambourine):** Features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents.
- Bon. (Bongos):** A staff with a double bar line, indicating a section break.
- S.D. (Shaker/Drum):** Features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- D. Set (Drum Set):** Features a complex rhythmic pattern with various drum sounds.

Vo.

Backs

Tpt.

Sax.

Tbn.

St.

Uk.

El. Guit.

B. Guit.

Tamb.

Bon.

S.D.

D. Set

Vo.

Backs

Tpt.

Sax.

Tbn.

St.

Uk.

El. Guit.

B. Guit.

Tamb.

Bon.

S.D.

D. Set

Vo. *Big Boi*

Backs

Tpt.

Sax.

Tbn.

St.

Uk.

El. Guit.

B. Guit.

Tamb.

Bon.

S.D.

D. Set

Gm7 C9

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a 12-measure chorus. It features a vocal line with lyrics 'Big Boi' and a melodic line. The instrumental arrangement includes a saxophone and trumpet playing sustained notes with accents, a trombone playing a similar line, and a double bass playing a walking bass line. The guitar parts consist of electric guitar chords and a bass guitar line. The percussion includes a tambourine with a steady eighth-note pattern, a snare drum with a simple backbeat, and a drum set with a consistent groove. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two systems, with the second system starting at measure 7.

61

Vo.

Backs

Tpt.

Sax.

Tbn.

St.

Uk.

El. Guit.

B. Guit.

Tamb.

Bon.

S.D.

D. Set

Fm7

Dm

Gm7

C9

Fm7

p

Big Boi raps
RAP BRIDGE(1'44)
Gm7

72

Vo. You got-ta keep your balance or you fall in - to the gap it's a challenge but I ma-nage cause I'm cau-tious with the strap do damage to your cabbage that a doc-tor can-not patch see why you don't want no

Backs

Tpt.

Sax.

Tbn.

St.

Uk.

El. Guit.

B. Guit. Gm7 C9 Fm7 Dm

Tamb.

Bon.

S.D.

D. Set

Vo. friction like the back of a match - book Daddy Fat Sax will fold you and your Mac - Book close shows shut you down be - fore we go go back wards act up and whether we're high or low we're gonna get back up like the Dow Jones and NAS-DAQ

Backs

Tpt.

Sax.

Tbn.

St.

Uk.

El. Guit.

B. Guit. Gm7 C9 Fm7

Tamb.

Bon.

S.D.

D. Set

VERSE 3 (2'06)

Vo. *sor-ta like a thong in an ass crack come on*

Backs

Tpt.

Sax. *f* *ppp*

Tbn. *f* *ppp*

St.

Uk.

El. Guit.

B. Guit. (no doubling)

Tamb.

Bon.

S.D.

D. Set

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a 12-measure section. The vocal line starts with a triplet of eighth notes and continues with a steady eighth-note pattern. The saxophone and trombone parts feature a melodic line starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic, which then drops to pianissimo (*ppp*) in the final measure. The guitar parts include a bass guitar line with a 'no doubling' instruction and an electric guitar line. The percussion section includes a snare drum (S.D.) with a steady eighth-note pattern, a tambourine (Tamb.) with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, and a double bass drum set (D. Set) with a complex rhythmic pattern.

This musical score is for a chorus/break section, starting at measure 101. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The score is arranged for a large ensemble with the following parts:

- Vo. (Vocal):** Features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some triplets and rests.
- Backs (Backing Vocals):** Provides harmonic support with chords and melodic fragments.
- Tpt. (Trumpet):** Mostly rests, with a few notes in the later measures.
- Sax. (Saxophone):** Mostly rests, with a few notes in the later measures.
- Tbn. (Tuba):** Provides a low bass line with a few notes.
- St. (Strings):** Features a complex arrangement with long, flowing lines and some melodic motifs.
- Uk. (Ukulele):** Mostly rests.
- El. Guit. (Electric Guitar):** Plays a series of chords and arpeggios.
- B. Guit. (Bass Guitar):** Provides a rhythmic bass line with eighth notes and rests.
- Tamb. (Tambourine):** Plays a consistent eighth-note pattern with accents.
- Bon. (Bongos):** Mostly rests.
- S.D. (Shaker/Drum):** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- D. Set (Drum Set):** Provides a steady drum pattern with eighth notes.

Vo.

Backs

Tpt.

Sax.

Tbn.

St.

Uk.

El. Guit.

B. Guit.

Tamb.

Bon.

S.D.

D. Set

Vo. 

Backs 

Tpt. 

Sax. 

Tbn. 

St. 

Uk. 

El. Guit. 

B. Guit. 

Tamb. 

Bon. 

S.D. 

D. Set 

Vo. _____

Backs _____

Tpt. _____

Sax. _____

Tbn. _____

St. _____

Uk. _____

El. Guit. _____

B. Guit. _____

Tamb. _____

Bon. _____

S.D. _____

D. Set _____

ppp (doubled 1 octave higher?) Gm7 C9 Fm7 Dm Gm7

mf

p

pp

p

Vo.

Backs

Tpt.

Sax.

Tbn.

St.

Uk.

El. Guit.

B. Guit.

Tamb.

Bon.

S.D.

D. Set

C9

Fm7

Dm

Gmadd9

Db

F

Not at all sure about this part!

+ claps (sometimes 2 8th notes?)

f

Vo. _____

Backs _____

Tpt. _____

Sax. _____

Tbn. _____

St. _____

Uk. *Dm* *Gmadd9* *D \flat* *F* *Dm*

El. Guit. _____

B. Guit. *Dm* *Gm7* *D \flat*

Tamb. _____

Bon. _____

S.D. _____

D. Set _____

f

Vo. 


Backs 

Tpt. 

Sax. 

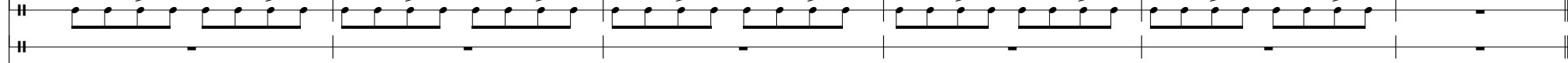
Tbn. 

St. 


Uk. 

El. Guit. 

B. Guit. 

Tamb. 

Bon. 

S.D. 

D. Set 