

PERFORMANCE NOTES: 'YOU CAN CALL ME AL'

BY ANDREW ROONEY

Wow, where do we start with this killer track!? First up that slash notation at the top of the chart. DON'T play that! That's an ensemble figure. Listen out for it and try and hit the downbeat of the 3rd bar where the drums enter. Cool?

Okay, let's look at the verse. I'm not quite as funky as Isaac Mtshali (shocking, I know). There are some parts of this song that are fairly counter intuitive for me. For example... I'd much prefer to cheat in the verse groove instead of play what is written.

MY CHEAT GROOVE SONG GROOVE

DRUM SET

I encourage my students to cheat all the time. It's fantastic to transcribe and learn from the masters but you have to still be you. If something doesn't work, you CAN change it. It's just common sense to adjust things that are out of your comfort zone until you've put the time into them. Song first, the ego (was going to say second) can take a backseat. And trust me the band and crowd won't either notice or care. They do care if the drummer isn't grooving because he's holding on for dear life.

Next bar on my cheat sheet hit list...

That slick little fill he sneaks into every 4th bar of the verses. Here is my cheat fill. SHHH DON'T TELL ANYONE!

MY CHEAT FILL SONG FILL

Dr.

See what I removed? My cheat bar removed a hi hat from the '1' and the '4'. The trade off on that one is that it makes it 10 times easier (for me at least). I don't like the 3 16ths in a row at 128 bpm deal. Too much potential for a wonky fill.

Oh well back to the pad and working those rudiments so I can nail it next time!

Please have loads of fun learning this tune. It's an 80's banger for sure.

Good luck!