

Toto: Africa

Background

- Africa is a song recorded by the American rock band Toto in 1981 for their fourth studio album entitled Toto IV. It is a soft-rock love song with features of African music.
- The song was written by band members David Paich (born June 25th 1954) and Jeff Porcaro (born April 1st 1954 and died August 5th 1992).
- Africa was released as the third single from the album on September 30th 1982 through Columbia Records. It reached number one in America for a single week on February 5th 1983. It also achieved a place in the top ten in the UK, Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand and Switzerland.
- In 2012, Africa was listed by music magazine NME in 32nd place on its list of '50 Most Explosive Choruses'.

The Music

Instrumentation: Rock Band: drum kit with additional percussion, lead and bass guitars, synthesizers, male lead vocals and male backing vocals.

Tempo: Moderately fast.

Dynamics: Most of the song is mezzo-forte whilst the choruses are forte.

Form and Structure: Verse / Chorus Form:

<i>Intro</i>	Bars 1 – 4	4 bars
<i>Verse 1</i>	Bars 5 – 39	35 bars
<i>Chorus 1</i>	Bars 40 – 57	18 bars
<i>Link 1</i>	Bars 58 – 65	8 bars
<i>Verse 2</i>	Bars 14 – 39	26 bars
<i>Chorus 2</i>	Bars 40 – 57	18 bars
<i>Link 2</i>	Bars 58 – 65	8 bars
<i>Instrumental</i>	Bars 66 – 82	17 bars
<i>Chorus 3</i>	Bars 40 – 92	22 bars
<i>Outro</i>	Bars 93 – 96	4 bars

Tonality: The majority of the song is in E major whilst the choruses are all in A major.

Harmony: Diatonic throughout.

Melody and Pitch: The melody is mostly conjunct (moving in step) and includes occasional use of the pentatonic scale. The pitch range of the vocal line is just less than two octaves on the printed score, but it is wider on the recording with the vocal improvisations towards the end of the song.

Rhythm and Metre: Ostinato rhythms, consisting almost totally of quavers, with constant use of syncopation. The time signature is 2/2 (split common time) throughout.

Texture: Homophonic (melody and accompaniment).

