SOFTWARE & TECH

What Is This Feeling Wicked Sheet Music

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Introduction

Since its Broadway debut in 2003, *Wicked* has captivated audiences with its imaginative retelling of the Land of Oz, focusing on the unlikely friendship between Glinda the Good and Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West. Among its many memorable numbers, **"What Is This Feeling?"** stands out as a comedic, energetic duet that perfectly captures the initial antipathy between the two protagonists. Musicians, singers, and theatre enthusiasts frequently search for **What Is This Feeling Wicked sheet music** to perform this iconic piece at auditions, concerts, or casual sing-alongs. This article explores the song's background, the specifics of its sheet music, where to obtain it, and tips for bringing the duet to life. Whether you are a pianist, a vocalist, or a director, understanding the nuances of this score will help you deliver a performance as sharp and delightful as the original Broadway production.

The Song in Context: Glinda and Elphaba's "Loathing" Anthem

In Act One of *Wicked*, Glinda (then Galinda) and Elphaba are forced to share a room at Shiz University. Their instant mutual dislike becomes the subject of this witty, upbeat duet. Composer Stephen Schwartz cleverly uses a waltz-like 3/4 time signature to create a lilt that contrasts with the characters' venomous lyrics. The song builds from initial polite tension to full-throated declarations of hatred, complete with a soaring key change in the final chorus. The sheet music for **What Is This Feeling** captures all these dynamic shifts, making it both a joy and a challenge to play and sing.

Musical Analysis: Key, Tempo, and Structure

The original key is B-flat major, though many published editions also offer transpositions for different voice types. The tempo is marked "Allegro" at around 132 beats per minute, giving the piece a brisk, almost giddy feel. The structure follows a typical Broadway pattern: verse, chorus, verse, chorus, bridge, and a final explosive chorus. The piano accompaniment often features ascending arpeggios and staccato chords that mimic the characters' rising irritation. Understanding these elements helps musicians interpret the sheet music more authentically.

What to Expect in the Sheet Music

When you purchase **What Is This Feeling Wicked sheet music**, you typically receive a piano/vocal score. This includes the vocal lines for both Glinda and Elphaba (often with the dialogue cues printed in italics) as well as the full piano accompaniment. Some editions also incorporate chord symbols for guitar or ukulele players. The sheet music is usually seven to nine pages long, reflecting the song's moderate length (about three minutes in performance).

Difficulty Level

For pianists, the accompaniment is rated intermediate – it requires comfortable hand coordination, quick shifts between registers, and the ability to maintain a steady waltz pulse. The vocal parts are also intermediate: the range extends from around A3 to C5 for soprano (Glinda) and from G3 to B-flat4 for mezzo-soprano (Elphaba). The harmonies in the duet sections are tight, demanding good listening skills from both singers.

Available Arrangements

- Piano/Vocal (Standard Edition) – The most common version, used for auditions and performances.
- Easy Piano – Simplified accompaniment with reduced chord voicings, ideal for beginners.
- Lead Sheet – Melody line with chord symbols only, useful for jazz or pop stylings.
- Orchestral/Full Score – Rarely sold to individuals, but available for licensing by theatre companies.
- Digital Downloads vs. Physical Books – Most online retailers offer both; digital versions are instantly printable.

Where to Find “What Is This Feeling” Sheet Music

Thanks to the popularity of *Wicked*, sheet music for this song is widely available through reputable sources. When searching for **What Is This Feeling wicked sheet music**, prioritize legitimate retailers to ensure accurate notation and to support the creators.

Trusted Online Retailers

1. Musicnotes.com – Offers transposable digital sheet music in various keys. You can preview the first page and listen to a midi playback.
2. Sheet Music Plus – Carries Hal Leonard’s official edition for piano/vocal, plus easy piano and guitar arrangements.
3. Hal Leonard – The official publisher of Wicked sheet music. Their site sells both single-song downloads and the full vocal selections book.
4. Amazon – Sells physical songbooks such as “Wicked: Vocal Selections” which includes “What Is This Feeling?” along with other hits.
5. Virtual Sheet Music – Specializes in classical and theatre scores, sometimes offering memberships for unlimited downloads.

Avoiding Pirated Copies

Illegally downloaded or photocopied sheet music often contains errors, missing measures, or incorrect lyrics. Moreover, using unauthorized copies violates copyright law and deprives composers and arrangers of fair compensation. Always purchase from licensed sources – the investment is small and guarantees a high-quality product.

Tips for Performing the Duet

To truly capture the spirit of **What Is This Feeling**, musicians must go beyond playing the correct notes. The song thrives on contrast: Glinda’s perky, high-pitched interjections versus Elphaba’s darker, more sardonic tones. Here are some performance suggestions.

For Singers

- Characterize Each Voice: Glinda should sound bright and slightly nasally in the verses, while Elphaba needs a smoother, slightly huskier quality. The sheet music provides dynamic markings, but you can add your own inflections.
- Focus on Rhythmic Precision: The waltz feel can easily become rushed. Practise with a metronome at half tempo first, ensuring the eighth-note patterns in phrases like “loathing, loathing” are crisp.
- Harmony Work: The duet sections often have close harmonies (thirds and sixths). Sing separately with a piano playing the other part before combining. Listen for the blend.
- Act the Story: This is a comedic number. Insert meaningful glances, eye-rolls, and pauses. The sheet

music includes some stage directions (e.g., “[sung with increasing intensity]”), but feel free to add your own interpretation.

For Pianists

- Maintain a Light Touch: Avoid heavy pedal in the verses; the staccato chords need to sparkle. Use the sustain pedal only at the ends of phrases or during the bridge where the music becomes more legato.
- Manage the Key Change: The modulation near the end can be tricky. Practise the transition bars (from C7 to F7 to B-flat) slowly until the shift feels natural.
- Support the Singers: The accompaniment often doubles the vocal melody, especially in the chorus. Be ready to adjust your volume to let the voices lead.
- Try the Easy Piano Version First: If you are still gaining confidence, the simplified arrangement removes some ornamentation while keeping the essential harmonies and rhythm.

The Value of Learning Musical Theatre Sheet Music

Beyond just this song, studying **What Is This Feeling Wicked sheet music** offers broader benefits for any musician. Theatre scores require versatility: you must read intricate rhythms, interpret dramatic dynamics, and collaborate with others in real time. The repetitive “loathing” motif in this piece teaches players how to build intensity through repetition and slight variation. Additionally, performing Broadway music often leads to opportunities in community theatre, school productions, or professional auditions. Mastery of a popular duet like this one can become a highlight of your repertoire.

Building a Performance Portfolio

If you are preparing for auditions or cabarets, having a polished version of “What Is This Feeling?” can showcase your ability to handle comedic timing and duet coordination. Record yourself with a partner and listen for balance. The sheet music’s transposition options allow you to select a key that best suits your vocal range – a crucial factor when auditioning for a role.

Learning Through Listening

While sheet music provides the roadmap, listening to the original Broadway cast recording (Kristin Chenoweth as Glinda and Idina Menzel as Elphaba) is invaluable. Note their phrasing, vibrato, and the way they stretch certain syllables. The sheet music cannot notate every tiny nuance, so use your ears to fill in the gaps. Many digital sheet music platforms also offer audio playback – activate it to hear how the notes should sound together.

Conclusion

What Is This Feeling Wicked sheet music opens the door to one of musical theatre’s most entertaining duets. By understanding the song’s context, choosing the right arrangement, and practising with character and precision, you can deliver a performance that captures the magic of Shiz University’s most famous roommates. Whether you are a seasoned accompanist or a singer exploring musical theatre for the first time, this piece offers a perfect blend of humour, harmony, and technical challenge. Invest in legitimate sheet music from a trusted retailer, put in the rehearsal time, and enjoy the thrill of bringing Glinda and Elphaba’s hilarious “loathing” to life. After all, as the song says – it’s not love at first sight, but it sure is unforgettable.

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