



Musical Elements - DR SMITH

Dynamics – volume

Moderately loud

Rhythm – long and short beats

Syncopated, swung, crotchets

Structure – organisation of the music

Intro, Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus, Bridge, Verse 3, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus

Melody – the tune

Narrow range, call and response

Metre – how many beats in a bar

4

Instrumentation – the instruments used

Piano, drum kit, guitar, Hammond organ, tambourine, cowbell

Texture – the layers in the music

Melody and accompaniment

Tempo – speed

Moderate, 110bpm

Tonality – key

G modulating to E

Harmony – chords

Plagal cadence, perfect cadence, bVII chord

Instrumentation

Original recording: Piano, Electric guitar, cowbell, drums – only fill is at the end of the chorus, Hammond organ – heard in the intro

Overdubs: tambourine, rhythm guitar, lead guitar, bass, extra lyrics, vocal harmonies

Melody

Narrow range – original written for Ringo to sing who had a narrow vocal range

Syncopated melody

Contains slides and melisma ('own' and 'lone' in v2)

Intro and Outro

Intro – 'Billy Shears' sung in harmony (3 consecutive major chords ascending in tones) over cheering crowd, in G modulating to E major with 2 bar guitar solo

Outro – 6 bars, sustained chords on piano, guitar and bass, repeated melody notes, final E sung by Ringo – falsetto, descending melody sung by Paul and John, final cadence bVII-I, cymbal struck on last chord

Chorus

Contains the hook

8 bars long with guitar fill and drum solo

First melody uses triplet pattern and is repeated

Third line has added vocal harmony

Used D major chord – flat vii chord common in Pop (not found in E major therefore chromatic)

Uses an added 6th chord (A,C#,E,F#)

Chorus 2 – additional upper harmonies, additional chromatic sliding

Chorus 3 – same as chorus 2

Last chorus – same as before but line 2 and 3 swapped

Verses

Melody uses first 5 notes of E major scale ascending and then descending and is repeated

Chord changes are on the first beat of the bar

Piano, guitar, bass and drums only

Verse 2 – call and response effect in vocal Ringo sings the call and John and Paul respond (higher pitched)

Verse 3 – call and response, John and Paul sing the call (higher pitched in thirds) and Ringo responds

Harmony and tonality

Starts in G → E

Verse uses a circle of 5ths progression

Perfect cadence at the end of the verse

Double plagal cadence in the chorus (IV of IV-IV-I)

Rhythm and metre

Guitar and piano mainly play straight crotchets, bass emphasises beat 1 and 3

Quavers are played swung

Triplet feel set by the guitar after intro

With A Little Help
From my Friends –
The Beatles

Use of technology

Overdubbing

Reduction mixing

Bridge

Question and answer/call and response

Question is higher pitched than the response

C#m11 and F# chords added

Longer note values make the bridge sound broader

Pitch range is larger

Second bridge has a slight change in the first few notes

Other key features

Second song on the album

Flows straight in from the first song

Billy Shears is a fictional character created for the album

Swapped lines in last chorus were apparently a mistake but stuck!