

Musical Elements - DR SMITH

Dynamics – volume

mp, f

Rhythm – long and short beats

Crotchet, quaver, dotted note

Structure – organisation of the music

Verse, chorus, pre chorus, intro, outro

Melody – the tune

Disjunct, conjunct, melisma

Metre – how many beats in a bar

Triple time, quadruple time

Instrumentation – the instruments used

Tambura, Lowrey Organ, Maracas, kick drum, snare drum, distortion

Texture – the layers in the music

Melody and accompaniment, countermelody

Tempo – speed

Double speed

Tonality – key

A, Bb, G

Harmony – chords

7 chords, 2 chords, major, minor

Instrumentation

Unusual instruments: Lowrey organ with a celeste (bell) sound, tambura (Indian instrument) and maracas

Acoustic guitar, bass, drums, piano, lead electric guitar distorted

Lowrey organ plays an ostinato first heard in the intro

Tambura plays a drone, heard first in the verse

Pitch bend on guitar in pre chorus – up a tone

Countermelody on electric guitar in chorus – ascending pattern below vocals

Intro and Outro

Intro is 4 bars long in 3 time in A major, *mp*, Lowrey organ plays an ostinato

Outro is the music from the chorus with repeated 'Ah' and harmony, fades out. Finishes on the dominant.

Pre Chorus and Chorus

Pre chorus: Bb major

Limited melody mostly sung on a single note, *mp* Cymbal and kick drum play
Musical changes on lyric 'gone'

Chorus: G major

4 beats in a bar, *forte*, tempo doubles
Full drum kit, catchy and energetic, faster rate of chord change
G, C, C2, D

Chorus 2: harmony in 3rds

Chorus 3: No pre-chorus, first line solo, others have harmony

Verses

Chord sequence:

A5, A7, F#m7, Dm/F, A5, A7, F#m7, F
Includes word painting and limited melodic range

Drum kit is heard towards the end of each line

Bass adds momentum towards end of verse

Verse 2:

Double tracked vocals, organ plays chords on beat 3 of each bar, organ melody is now on electric guitar, tambura drone heard throughout

Harmony and tonality

Written in 3 keys – A, Bb, G

Chord change is faster in the chorus than the verse

The song finishes on the dominant leaving it unresolved

Lucy in the Sky
With Diamonds
– The Beatles

Rhythm and metre

Verses and pre-chorus are in 3, chorus is in 4

Organ ostinato is mostly crotchets

Verse melody starts with 3 bars of crotchets

Use of technology

Overdubbing

Echo

Melody

Organ ostinato is disjunct

Two melodies in verse 1, limited range

Word painting 'slowly' longer notes

Melisma in the chorus – diamonds'

Countermelody on the electric guitar

Other key features

Said to be inspired by drug use, banned on the radio

Based on a picture by John Lennon's son

Classed as psychedelic pop due to the lyrics, timbre and atmosphere

Echo effect added to the recording

