

MELODY

The word setting is mainly **syllabic** throughout
The melody has a **wide range** (goes very high and very low!)
The guitar solo borrows ideas from the chorus and verse sections of the song

The backing vocals use words and **vocalisations** (like oohs and aahs!)
The melody is often conjunct, but with some wide angular **leaps**, including intervals of 6ths and octaves.
In the chorus the melody is harder to spot on its own because of the backing vocal **harmonies**

The vocal part sometimes uses **falsetto**.
The vocal part also includes **spoken text**
The vocal part contains a **slide** upwards (on the word "queen")
The length of the melodic phrases are often **uneven** (like when the extra 6/8 bar is added)
Word painting is used on the words "drive you wild". Effects are added to give

TONALITY

The main tonality for the piece is **Eb Major** (this is unusual because it's a hard key to play in on the guitar!)
The key changes (**modulates**) during the song.

The chorus is in **Bb major**
There are points where the tonality is not clear ("**tonal ambiguity**") - like in the first verse which starts with a C minor chord, making the key signature unclear.

The chord sequences move quickly through different key signatures—for example in the first half of the chorus the chord sequence moves quickly through **D minor and C major**.
The last chorus ends in Bb major, so the outro features a **repeated Eb chord** to reestablish the original key signature

HARMONY

Queen liked to use **adventurous chord sequences**
The song uses several **altered or extended chords** (such as 7ths and 11ths)

Most of the chords are in root position, but there are some **chord inversions**.
There is a **circle of 5ths chord progression** in the chorus
The modulations to different keys are shown by **perfect cadences**
The song starts with a **C minor chord**—(you can't tell that the piece is in Eb major until the chord is played half way through the verse—this is

Some parts of the chord sequence contain a **faster harmonic rhythm** (like one chord every beat on "guaranteed to blow your mind")
The chord inversions create **descending and ascending** basslines (such as the descending bassline during "built in a remedy")
In the instrumental before the second verse there is a "**vamp**" based around an F chord
There is a **pedal note** used in bars 27-30

RHYTHM and METRE

The time signature is mainly in **12/8** time
This gives the piece a **swung** feel. (it uses swung rhythms)
There is a **regular**, danceable beat with a steady tempo.

There is **syncopation** used throughout
Every verse and chorus start with an **anacrusis (upbeat)**

There are occasional extra bars of **6/8** time to extend phrase lengths
There are some use of **triplets** (bar 18)



INSTRUMENTS/SONORITY

The vocal part is sung by Freddie Mercury, who has a **high tenor** voice.
The piece uses **piano, electric guitar, bass and drum kit**.

There are overdubbed **backing vocals**.
There are **4 guitar parts** that have been overdubbed to create a richer texture
There is a slightly out of tune "**jangle**" piano recorded on top of the main piano line
The song uses studio effects like **multi track recording, EQ, flanger, distortion, reverb, wah-wah and panning**.

The guitar part uses **slides, bends, pull-offs and vibrato**



TEMPO

Moderate tempo.

A dotted crotchet is measured at 112 bpm

STRUCTURE

The piece has a **verse-chorus** structure

The full structure is:
Intro (clicks), verse 1, chorus, instrumental, verse 2, chorus, guitar solo, verse 3, chorus, outro

TEXTURE

The main texture of the piece is **homophonic**.
The texture **builds up gradually** at the start of the song with each instrument entering one at a time.

The guitar solo uses a **three part** texture.
Sounds are spread out using **panning**

The interweaving guitar and vocals parts from the second verse give the piece a polyphonic feel at times
The guitar solo uses imitation
The use of panning in the backing vocals creates an **antiphonal** feel

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This is a Glam Rock song from the band's third album.
It was released in 1974

Queen's sound is unlike many "standard" rock bands as they use **adventurous harmonies and structures**, and a **theatrical style** influenced by musical theatre and opera. They also create **complicated arrangements** of layered guitar parts and backing vocals in the recording studio using **multitrack recording**.

KEY

3 Grade 5 Grade 8 Grade

