

Jeff Buckley - 'Grace' taken from the album 'Grace'. Released 1994.

The Elements of Music

Melody



Rhythm



Texture



Instruments



Genre



Harmony & Tonality



Structure



MELODY

Vocal part has an improvised quality.
Wide range over two octaves.
Most of the vocal phrases are falling, reflecting the melancholy mood of the song.
Frequent ornamentation with glissandos between various notes.

Word setting mainly syllabic but there are some long melismas to emphasise certain words.
Vocalisation in the middle eight.
Falsetto.

Word painting:
'cries' falling fifth, sounds like crying.
'pain' and 'leave' high register that sound fraught.
'slow' is set to a long note.
Coda - thick texture is built up for 'drown my name.'

RHYTHM

The metre (time signature) is 12/8. This is unusual for the style.
Bass drum plays on beats 1 and 3. Snare drum accents beats 2 and 4.
Syncopation in the vocal melody and bass line.
Cross rhythms - (quavers against dotted quavers)

STRUCTURE

1. Introduction
Verse
Chorus
2. Link
Verse
Chorus
3. Middle eight
4. Link
Verse
Outro

The link is two main parts: A and B.

INSTRUMENTS

Vocals (Buckley)
Guitar
Bass guitar
Synthesiser
Strings
Drum kit
Guitar
Drop D tuning
Guitar whispers

Strings and synth drop out at times - used for emphasis and to vary the texture.

GENRE

Folk rock. Buckley was an American singer/songwriter. He dies prematurely in 1997.
Other tracks from the album: Lilac Wine, Last Goodbye and a cover of Hallelujah.
Grace is a rock ballad.

TEXTURE

Drums and guitars accompany throughout.
Synthesiser and strings drop in and out to vary the texture.

HARMONY AND TONALITY

In E minor, but the key is ambiguous because chords are used that don't usually belong to the key (Fm, Gm7)
Uses power chords (root and the fifth)
Not the standard chord progression - some dissonant harmonies.