

Moby - 'Why Does My Heart Feel So Bad?' taken from the album 'Play' 1999

The Elements of Music

Melody



Rhythm



Texture



Instruments



Genre



Harmony & Tonality



Structure



MELODY

Mainly provided by two samples, taken from a recording of a 1953 gospel choir.

1. Male singer 'why does my heart feel so bad?' verses.

2. Female singer 'these open doors' chorus.

Moby left in the background noises for a greater emotional impact.

Simple and repetitive as a result of the looped melodies.

String - synth countermelody.

TEXTURE & STRUCTURE

Verse chorus structure.

Intro - verse - chorus - verse - breakdown - chorus - verse.

Texture is built up as individual tracks are added in one at a time (every 8 bars)

Piano - voice enters - drums and synth-string countermelody - bass and held chords - syncopated piano chords.

After the breakdown, the texture becomes thinner.

Contrasts:

Changing the instrumentation, use of silence, static chords as well as syncopated chords.

RHYTHM

4 crotchet beats in a bar.

Steady tempo of 98bpm.

Syncopation used in the vocal, piano and synth parts.

Rhythms are varied to create contrast between sections.

Drum loop - too perfect and too in time to be performed 'live'.

INSTRUMENTS & TECHNOLOGY

Synthesisers - string, bass and piano.

Sampler - vocals and part of drum track.

Drum machine - to create the drum track.

Panning

Reverb

Delay

EQ

(all of these terms are in your glossaries in more detail)

GENRE

Club dance music.

Strong beat - 'four to the floor' drumbeat.

Short phrases.

Electronic sounds - technology became more sophisticated.

HARMONY AND TONALITY

Diatonic. Made up of three simple chord progressions, each lasting 8 beats.

Am Em G D - used for the verse (first sample)

C Am C Am - first half of the chorus

F C F C - second half of the chorus

A common exam question is to fill in the missing chords...