

Why Does My Heart Feel So Bad? MOBY

Instruments/types of instrument/

- Most of the piece is made up of samples (Moby uses two samples of gospel singers (one male, one female) and a hip-hop drum beat sample)
 - Electric Piano
 - Synthesised strings (*synth pad* or *synth strings*)
 - Synth organ (used at the end)
 - Sub bass (a bass line below 90hz) - you can only *feel* it
- You can tell the parts are electronic sounds because:*
- They sound a bit mechanical
 - The dynamics do not sound entirely natural/sounds very precise
 - The timbre of the instruments sound different (e.g. lacks some of the overtones of a live piano)

Music Technology Effects:

- Reverb (sounds like a big room)
- Echo/delay
- EQ
- Ghosting (of vocal at start)

Vocal samples

- 1) *Why does my heart feel so bad?*
- 2) *These open doors*

These haven't been altered—the background noise has been left in

N.B. in the second half of the chorus, the vocal sample is triggered more frequently and quickly than in the first half of the chorus



Purpose and Musical Style

- Dance music
- From his album 'Play' released in 1999.
- Moby is an Electronica artist and uses ideas from other types of music.
- This piece has **ambient, techno and hip-hop** influences.
- Ambient music is also known as 'chill-out music' which often used in clubs to create a relaxing atmosphere, for example to give clubbers a break from dancing.
- Hip-hop - music of the hip-hop culture with Jamaican and African-American influences.
- Techno—sounds very mechanical and electronic and has a very fast beat.

Structure

- Simple
- Based around 2 chord sequences
- In 8-bar sections
- Fairly standard pop structure.

INTRO—VERSE—CHORUS—VERSE—BREAK—CHORUS—VERSE—OUTRO.

Tonality/Harmony (i.e. chords used)

Chord sequence 1—Verse— 'Why does my heart feel so bad?'

Am x2 Em x2 Gm x2 D x2

Chord sequence 2a—Chorus (first half)—'These open doors'

C Am C Am

Chord sequence 2b—Chorus (second half)—'These open doors'

F C F C

Make sure you know the notes in each chord:

Am = ACE, **Em** = EGB, **Gm** = GBD, **D** = DF#A, **C** = CEG, **F** = FAC

Both vocal samples are in A minor but they're harmonised differently. The verse uses more minor chords and the chorus uses more major chords. It gives the whole song a 'lift' from the previous minor tonality and brightens the mood.

Three musical points about this song that I like/dislike:

Justify your points and use musical vocabulary

How are elements used?

Structure

Fairly standard verse/chorus pop structure.

INTRO—VERSE—CHORUS—VERSE—BREAK—CHORUS—VERSE—OUTRO.

Tonality & Harmony

- Whole song based on two simple chord sequences
- Piano intro and verse: Am/Em/G/D (2 bars of each chord)
- Chorus: C/Am x2 and F/C x2 (1 bar of each chord)

Timbre and Texture

- Builds up as instruments are added
- Electronic sounds (e.g. piano and kit) sound quite unnatural and mechanical
- Ends with vocal sample (+ ghosting) and synth organ
- Start of the track builds as follows:
1st = solo piano 2nd = Vocal 3rd = drums 4th = synth strings



Technology

- Reverb on piano and vocal
- Use of delay in breakdown
- Use of a filter (EQ) to treat 'answer' vocal sample
- Use of drum machine and sequencer
- Panning of layers

Melody & Pitch

- Pentatonic melody, based on two samples of gospel singers.
- Also includes vocalisation e.g. oohs and aahs

Dynamics

- Starts quietly, becomes louder in V1 when more parts enter all at once. Dynamic remains the same until the bridge.
- One bar of silence (the break)
- Volume suddenly changes in last chorus as instruments re-enter.
- Soft in the outro, just two instruments.
- Organ fades out at the end

Tempo & Rhythm

- 4/4 tempo
- Moderate tempo