

In-Depth Song Analysis - Show 11

"My Valentine", Paul McCartney

Analysis and notes by 'TuneMoose' Matt Bates

Developed for the Music Circle - "Hits and Hooks" podcast

Produced by Every One's A Star Records

HOOKS and NOTES

- This song is in A A B A form.
- This song form always presents the challenge of making the second verse (the 2nd A section) sound fresh, new and different. The change at 0:42 is subtle but elevates the complexity enough for it to be different by adding a string section.
- 0:13.... slow piano chords figure big as principal accompaniment to the lyrics
- The verse melody last for the whole section without repeat. Includes sequencing though for some repetition within the melody.
- 2:02... guitar solo. A very common device to change things after an A A B A cycle. The solo basically restates the verse melody, also very common.
- 2:30... follows the solo with a repetition of the first verse and no following chorus. A bit unusual
- Not a ton going on in the way of instrumental hooks so the lyrics can really shine through and take the spotlight. The lyrics need to really connect in this kind of scenario, and they do.
- Paul likes to use chord changes that go out of key. We saw it in his song "Yesterday" and we see it here big time. One of his favourite moves is to 'pivot' from major to minor. We see that here in the verse going from F to Fm (4 to 4m). He also steps out of key with his move to the D chord. The song is in the key of Cm, in the verse. This move to the D chord is called a secondary dominant in this case as it resolves to the G chord (the 5 chord of the key) which in turn resolves to the tonic chord, Cm. And further to all that, he goes to C major in the B section, or bridge. Altogether it's a roller coaster ride of key change.