

In-Depth Song Analysis - Show 12

"Brave", Sara Bareilles

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

- Interesting beat right out of the gate and continuing throughout, except during the short stop times between sections. The beat is very kick drum heavy and includes anticipation beats
- From 0:06... continuous piano chord stabs. Very naked piano sound in the verses but rich and full in the chorus'. Hooky at first then quickly becomes part of the song fabric, giving the record energy.
- Verse melody is two phrases that are the same but shifted for the chords they are sung over (sequencing) and followed by a 3rd statement that is different. That there are 3 phrase and not 4 already gives it some motion. Side note, this structure is used in the 12 bar blues form a lot, 2 identical statements followed by a 3rd summary statement.
- 0:21.... the verse is repeated almost identically besides the new lyrics, but also there's an intensification of the drum beat with a snare roll. Pretty subtle change, probably so the change to the chorus feels bigger.
- 0:37... entry to the chorus. The vocal gets higher in pitch and more intense in the lyric statement and the delivery.
- 0:57... backing harmonies come in echoing the main vocal but placed between main vocal statements for some independence from it. The feel of the main vocal and harmonies is like 'Yes, we're in this together. Independent but in solidarity'.
- 1:37... Some bass guitar presence is felt to raise the ante after the second verse starts in as pretty much the same energy as in verse 1.
- 2:13... the 1st chorus had pretty much gone to the max, so here she moves to a bridge, with very different harmonic and melodic structure, for a big change in the chorus
- 2:34... we get the chorus but as a stripped down version with nice cello stabs as an accent.
- 2:54... we get into a higher energy chorus than we've seen with long held notes and more vocal intensity.
- 2:54... beginning of vamping from the lead singer and the harmonies
- Harmonically Sara is using the 1,4,5 6m chords in differing orders. Of note though, the verse and chorus are the same sequence, but the harmonic rhythm is changed a bit. The sequence is 1 6m 4 5 for both. But for the verse it's 1 / 6m / 4 5 and for the chorus it's 1 6m 4 5