

In-Depth Song Analysis - Show 14

"Seven Years", Norah Jones

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

- Altogether there's not a large hook density coming from the production in this song. This lets her character really shine through, and the lyric story is important.

- The song is in a classic A A B A form

- The opening verse story is two chunks of 3 phrases, with two lines of each chunk rhyming. So the chunks based on 3, and only two parts rhyming in each chunk give the lyric story a sense of unpredictability. This contrasts the character of her vocal that is very relaxed and intimate. The story is in the present tense and we get the sense the singer is telling a story about herself with views from both inside and outside. The chunks of 3 phrases continues into the B section and final A section. The lyric story is bit hard to grasp until the end of the song when she sums it up in the repeated line.

0:00 to 0:14 Interesting opening instrumental. The statement is made twice. Four bars of one chord 1 bar of another chord in the statement, but the first chord is played over bass notes that are rising

- 0:15 Vocals come in. Sweet and intimate

- 0:15 - 0:20 Sequence over a stepwise descending bass line. There's something special, something catchy about a stepwise descending bass line. Note that the response phrase is not the same type. There, the bass root notes jump around

- 0:30 Second verse performed pretty much identically as the first. We get some strong repetition to give us a solid sense of home. Interest is maintained solely by her voice and the lyric story.

- 0:44 Short little guitar fill into the next section (B section of the A A B A form

- 0:48 Electric piano comes into the mix (Rhodes piano?) briefly, and again a few seconds later

- 0:58 Stop time

- 1:00 Return to A section, again performed pretty much exactly as the first two A sections. We get the hook of changing sections but also the cozy feeling of returning home (to A)

- 1:14 Instrumental solo, percussion comes in spread far left and right. Solo is based on the melody of A section

- 1:44 Vocals back in on the B section, with harmony this time

- 1:55 Stop time

- 1:57 Final A section with the harmonies bumped up a little

- 2:11 Repeat last line

- With 13 hooks in 2:25, it feels a little slow on the hooks side. But it's not too bad at 11 sec average between hooks. Nevertheless I wouldn't call it a song to be released as a single. It's a great character piece for the album.