

In-Depth Song Analysis - Show 17

"Bang Bang", Nancy Sinatra

Analysis and notes by 'TuneMoose' Matt Bates

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

Produced by Every One's A Star Records

- Again this week I've chosen a minimal production song. Where are the hooks? Let's dig in. What level of hook density are we hearing here?

FABRIC

- There are only three elements in the fabric of this song. Two are obvious, vocal and tremolo guitar. I would claim that in this case the reverb is also an element in the fabric of the song. As for genre, it's hard to place. It has characteristics similar to 40's Jazz Pop with its use of the A A B A song form and the dramatic vocal quality. But the guitar sound and heavy reverb are very 60's.

FUNCTIONS

- And again not that many functions going on here either, but more than you'd think. We have the vocals of course. Very dramatic and pushing around the tempo. The reverb provides a pad function. The guitar gives us the chordal harmony, but also provides a second voice function, bass function at times, fill function, solo/break function and unusual sounds function.

FORM

- This is A A B A plus an intro, and instrumental breaks. The B section is quite short, easily distinguished as where the melody goes higher and more intense. The tempo is slow so there's no repetition of the form at all. No time for that.

HOOKS

- What is keeping us engaged here? As a minimally produced song the story and vocal delivery are a huge opportunity in providing hooks. But variety in the guitar work also account for many of the hooks here. Wadawe got?

- 0:00 Very interesting tremolo guitar sound and introduction of the refrain melody

- 0:07 Slowing down of the tempo

- 0:11 Vocal enters

- 0:25, 0:27, 0:31, 0:35 'Bang bang', really engaging use of a familiar phrase, at once childish and yet very serious too

- 0:30 'Hit the ground', a particularly evocative image

- 0:35 Quite noticeable slowing of the tempo

- 0:39 Instrumental break and back to a faster tempo

- 0:50 Repetition of the verse structure, immediately recognizable, we recognize it, feel the comfort of home base and know what to expect for the coming section.
- 1:03 Repeated lyrics now giving an even deeper sense of home and we can sing along here, if even only in our heads
- 1:05 The story gets deeper with the role reversal of who shot who
- 1:06 Sliding bass string on the guitar
- 1:17 Weaker but still effect slowing of the tempo and guitar break bringing us back to tempo
- 1:28 Higher melody for this the B section
- 1:31 Guitar answers the vocal as a second voice
- 1:38 A new guitar break that slows in tempo
- 1:45 Sliding bass fill into the next section
- 0:49 Transferring the child's game metaphor to the relationship scenario
- 2:20 New meaning for the 'bang bang' lyrics
- 2:34 Brief de-tuning of the guitar
- So we have 19 hooks in 2 mins 42 sec. A hook every 8.5 sec, really quite dense