

"Where's The Hook?"

TuneMoose Matt bates

Dec 5, 2023

SHOW NOTES

... I'm TuneMoose Matt Bates and these are the notes from show #5 of "Where's The Hook?" on 91.3FM, Bluewater Radio

... If you'd like to hear a particular song or topic covered in a future show you can email me at mattb@tunemoose.ca

1) //////////////////////////////////////

Welcome and Station ID

... Good evening. And welcome! I'm TuneMoose Matt Bates. I'll be your host tonight for, "Where's The Hook?", here at 91.3FM Bluewater Radio, and here are, The Cars, to get us all revved up.

You Might Think / The Cars

Opener song comments

- You Might Think by The Cars, a happy, driving song, with the basic beat speed, or tempo, at a fast walk, and with prominent subdivision of the beat, making it feel like a fast run. No laziness around with this song.

Show ID and Liner

... You're listening to "Where's The Hook?" and I'm TuneMoose, Matt Bates
... Let's play some great songs, and take a look inside to see what makes 'em tick.

Show overview

- I have a bunch of requests to play tonight, which is always fun. We'll compare a big production song, with a minimal production song, from the same band. We're going to hear a new song from a regional artist. I want to sharpen your focus at listening to the bass, or low notes, of the songs as we go along. And I think I'll do a 'First 5 hooks' deep dive on a couple of songs, to see if they live up to the, hook every 7 second, chant. And of course we'll highlight some significant hooks that demand our attention.

REQUEST - McKinley and Breccan

- First up, I'll send this next song out to McKinley and Breccan, who have an early start with school tomorrow. Here you go, with 'Je vous trouve un charme fou' from Hoshi, which translates to, I find you crazily charming. Lots of repetition in the lyrics, nice alternation between female and male voice, and some cool,

contemporary, sounds. And your sonic challenge is, what's the bass guitar playing?

Je vous trouve un charme fou / Hoshi

BASS

- One thing we can easily identify in the bass of a song, is whether it's an 'active bass', 'beat bass', or 'minimal bass'. I call this one an active bass.

Use Me / Bill Withers

- And here's a good example of a minimal bass. That low pitch bass guitar is mostly just hitting a single note on the first beat of each little musical packet.

Reminding Me / Shawn Hook, Vanessa Hudgens

2) ////////////////////////////////// ////////////////////////////////// ////////////////////////////////// //////////////////////////////////

Station ID

... You're listening to "Where's The Hook? with me, TuneMoose Matt Bates, here on 91.3FM, Bluewater Radio. If you know someone who would like to listen in, from away, they can tune in online, at bluewaterradio.ca.

BASS Continued

- We're talkin' about bass, those low, low, low notes we hear in a song. An active bass really pushes things along, like we got somewhere to get to. A minimal bass, is more introspective, standing still and looking around. So, like, if you're playing the bass function, like your bass guitar say, when you get together with friends, for a Saturday evening jam session, you can make that choice. And for variety, you can change the bass feel for different songs. Add some spice to your jam. Here's another song with a minimal bass. It's not always a bass guitar playing the bass function. Here, in this more acoustic song we often have just the bass strings of a regular 6 string guitar, filling the bass function. And this song goes out to Terry in Durham, a regular requester. Thanks for this one Terry. From the super popular indy movie, 'Once', here's

Falling Slowly / Glen Hansard, Markéta Irglová

Stone Cold Sober / Madison Violet

LOCAL ARTIST

- And, another request now, in from Jason in Toronto, who's been listening in via the station website link. He's suggested comparing a full production song with a

minimal production song, and suggests two songs by Oasis. He also sent me a copy of his own CD. So before we get to the comparison, here's Jason Hogan, with So Mean To Me. Nice virtuosity on the guitar, I must say.

So Mean to Me / Jason Hogan

PRODUCTION COMPARISON

- She's Electric / Oasis. We have a full studio production here. I'm hearing lots of thickening vocal melodies, lots of instruments meshed together, and the whole thing is sitting on a lush blanket of indistinct, background, sound washes. No one instrument really stands out.

She's Electric / Oasis

- And, in contrast, from the same band, Oasis, I'll play a minimally produced song. A single instrument, the guitar, is prominent throughout the song. Vocals are front and centre, but, notice the lack of any backup vocals. Now, guitars are, quite good, at providing a lush full sound by themselves, but, notice, there's no indistinct carpet of sound behind the guitar. Simplicity.

Married With Children / Oasis

3) //

Station ID

... You're listening to "Where's The Hook? with TuneMoose Matt Bates on 91.3FM, Bluewater Radio

REQUEST - Geoff

- And, another request. Listener Geoff, has asked me to dig into the hooks of, Duppy Gunman by Ernie Smith. This is Reggae. And what is that, really, Reggae. A huge part of it is the off-the-main-beat guitar stabs. But let me get a little, bit, deeper on this. Ok, I know, if you're just listening to the song, a song with, great groove, this could be painful. But it's important to the feel of Reggae, if, let's say, you're trying to get that Reggae groove going, in your Saturday evening jam session. The subdivision of the main, or slow beat, is 4. And the guitar stab is in the middle of that. And what about the bass. Reggae has a bounce, to those off the beat guitar stabs. In this song, that has a lot to do with what the bass is doing. Here we have an active bass, BUT, it kindof leaves a big space on beat 1 of the main beat and comes in after it. Interesting. And before we get on with it, humour. The sliding trombone sound, supports that.

Duppy Gunman / Ernie Smith

Get Up, Stand Up / The Wailers

Kingston Town / UB40

- As promised, here's a song with stabs off the main beat, like Reggae, sort of, but it don't sound like Reggae. Why? The stabs here are provided by claps and sometimes piano chords. First of all the stabs are coming on the unstressed main beats 2 and 4, not in the subdivision, AND, the subdivision is 3, not 4, not typical Reggae feel. And the bass has an on-the-beat feel to it, not a bouncy active bass. This is not a case of good, or bad, just different. And variety is the spice of life, as my mom would always say.

Welcome Back / John Sebastian

(I'm Moving On / Hank Snow

(We Will Rock You / Queen

4) //////////////////////////////////////

2nd hour Welcome

... Good to have you with me, tonight. We're heading into the second hour, now, of, "Where's The Hook?", where we look inside the hits, to see what makes 'em tick. We're pickin' out the hooks, those things that, catch our attention, and, in doing so, draw us into the world of the song. Just like a good movie, songs give us another world to experience for a bit. We bop our heads, swing our shoulders, conjure up images in our mind, and sing along to the chorus line.

Station ID

... I'm TuneMoose Matt Bates and this is 91.3FM, Bluewater Radio

... Send me feedback, send me suggestions, send me a song request. Email me to mattb@tunemoose.ca, that's m-a-t-t-b @tunemoose.ca . I don't save email addresses so you won't get any junk mail from me.

(Announcements)

(- None)

HOOK REVIEW

- Here's David Wilcox with, Riverboat Fantasy, to get us revved up again. I'm not going to point out the backbeat, cause, I do that a lot. So, what's another good hook we can listen for? I know. What's the bass doing? It's playing a relatively fast single note beat, not minimal, and not active, in the middle. And it's very strong

on beat 1 in the musical packets. And you'll notice...., actually, you really have to focus to hear it, that dull thud of the kick drum. You'll notice that the kick drum also is strong on beat 1. Bass + Kick = Power.

Riverboat Fantasy / David Wilcox

- Camila Cabello with Liar. Wadawe got, in the way of hooks? It's got a bit of that Reggae off-the-beat stabs going on, but not all the time. And, that Reggae bouncy active bass. But, I feel this more as Latin, rather than Reggae. Where's that coming from? I think the horns in the beginning set the stage for that. There's some bongos in there too, also Latin feel. And if not bongo all the time, there's kindof a bongo groove throughout. But what hook can we pick out here. Camilo is great at flipping into her high head voice, as a hook. She doesn't use it a lot in this song, but does a little. Have a listen for that, her flip into high head voice vocal. If it was a male singer we would call that, falsetto.

Liar / Camila Cabello

Bang! / AJR

- My friend, and neighbour, Cliff, lent me a CD last week, that documents an early 1960's radio show. Very interesting. The ads were produced as if they were full songs. Cool. Besides getting some tips on DJing, I was also attracted to this song, Nadine / Chuck Berry. Thanks Cliff for lending me the CD, much appreciated.

Nadine / Chuck Berry

5) //////////////////////////////////////

Station ID

... You're listening to "Where's The Hook? with TuneMoose Matt Bates on 91.3FM, Bluewater Radio, where variety is in tune, with the pulse of our time, and the songs, are in key, with our community.

HOOK REVIEW Continued

- Country and Western music has a distinct bass groove that shows up a lot. It's like a slow beat that alternates between high, and low, notes. Easy to pick out. And in this song, for contrast, the bass shifts to, an active bass line, in the chorus. And the active bass line we'll hear, here, has a name. It's called, a walking bass, often found in the Jazz world. And what about hooks to listen for? Ok? Hmmm. Here's one, the repetition of the 'refrain line', in this case the song title, 'act naturally'.

Act Naturally / Buck Owens

- Sk8er Boi / Avril Lavigne We talked about distorted guitars last week, and how they can functionally act as a pad, or a wash of indistinct sound, underneath it all. Avril, pulls in, that function here. And Imagery, the hook. We have that here, as in most songs. We have skate-boarding in the title, baggy pants, studio, on stage, tickets to the show, punk, ballet, stuck up their nose, feeding the baby, turns on TV, and more

Sk8er Boi / Avril Lavigne

FIRST 5 HOOKS

- Let's do a couple of 'first 5 hooks'. We had some fun with that last week. Cued up is Hand in My Pocket / Alanis Morissette. The music producer mantra is 'a hook every 7 seconds'. Wadawe got? Bit of a slow start and nothing to distract from the lyrics

0 sec - cool groove

10 sec - vocals appear

12-28 sec - lyrics of opposites

31 sec - bass enters

47 sec - chorus line (just the first appearance tho)

54 sec - groove thickens

Hand in My Pocket / Alanis Morissette

- The Train Song by Watchhouse

0 sec - interesting guitar groove

7 sec - vocals enter

13 sec - jump to higher vocal pitch

19 sec - harmony vocal added

29 sec - short guitar riff break

Train Song / Watchhouse

6) //////////////////////////////////////

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FIRST 5 HOOKS Continued

- One more, of The First 5 Hooks. Road to Nowhere / Talking Heads Another slow starter, but it's a prelude to the groovier main part of the song, so I guess it's ok, it's a contrasting setup

0 sec - rich in-sync harmony

7 sec - lyric paradox presented

15 sec - unexpected harmony and harmonic rhythm

21 sec - 'children' lyric

35 sec - totally new groove

Road to Nowhere / Talking Heads

I love the acoustic virtuosity of Donovan in his singer-songwriter styled early songs

Colours / Donovan

(Victoria (2019 Remaster) / The Kinks

(Seven Years / Norah Jones

Sign off

... Thanks for joining me here tonight for "Where's The Hook".

... This is TuneMoose Matt Bates, signing off, until next week, when, at the Same time. on Same channel, it'll be the Same me. the Same you, and we'll have the Same, good times.

Final Song and Goodbye

- Taking us out, I have a Jazzy version of the Beatles song, Here Comes The Sun. Nice orchestral cello, picking up the bass line. Here's George Benson. See y'all, next, week.

Here Comes the Sun / George Benson

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Playlist

1 / You Might Think / The Cars

2 / Je vous trouve un charme fou - En duo avec Gaëtan Roussel / Hoshi, Gaëtan Roussel

3 / Use Me / Bill Withers

4 / Reminding Me / Shawn Hook, Vanessa Hudgens

5 / Falling Slowly / Glen Hansard, Markéta Irglová

6 / Stone Cold Sober / Madison Violet
7 / So Mean to Me / Jason Hogan
8 / She's Electric / Oasis
9 / Married With Children / E
10 / Duppy Gunman / Ernie Smith
11 / Get Up, Stand Up / The Wailers
12 / Kingston Town / UB40
13 / Welcome Back (Theme from Welcome Back, Kotter) / John Sebastian

16 / Riverboat Fantasy / David Wilcox
17 / Liar / Camila Cabello
18 / Bang! / AJR
19 / Nadine / Chuck Berry
20 / Act Naturally - 2006 Remastered Version / Buck Owens
21 / Sk8er Boi / Avril Lavigne
22 / Hand in My Pocket / Alanis Morissette
23 / Train Song / Watchhouse
24 / Road to Nowhere / Talking Heads
25 / Colours (Single Version) / Donovan
26 / Victoria (2019 Remaster) / The Kinks
27 / Seven Years / Norah Jones
28 / Here Comes the Sun / George Benson