

"Where's The Hook?"

TuneMoose Matt bates

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Show 17) //////////////////////////////////////

I Can See Clearly Now / Jimmy Cliff

Opener song comments

- I Can See Clearly Now / Jimmy Cliff, Ever the optimist, I thought I'd lead off with a song that is blue skies and rosy cheeks. It's the holiday season and, amongst family gatherings, visits with friends, and, in this warm weather, over-the-fence chats with neighbours, it's also a time, that for me, has always been a time of reflection. What went well last year? And how will I build on that next year?

COVER COMPARISON

Roll Over Beethoven / Chuck Berry

- The great Chuck Berry with his original song Roll Over Beethoven. I send this next song out to Jeff, a Beatles expert, who's listening in via the free Wi-Fi on the library steps. Hope it's not raining! One of the characteristics of pop music in the 60's is that the bands wrote their own songs, taking a cue from artists like Chuck Berry in the 50's. The Beatles, rarely recorded cover songs, but they picked up on this song. What's different in the recording? Is it an evolution or paying homage.

Roll Over Beethoven / The Beatles

DECADE QUIZ

- Time for a little decade quiz. What decade is the song from. Here are the hints. I'll go back as far as the 40's... 40's still some big band sounds but vocalists figure big, 50's The electric guitar starts to emerge as a new sound, blues and r&b crosses over to the white side of what was then a segregated music system 60's Back to basics with the folk movement. Authenticity rules. Pschedelics and flower power. The British Invasion and the Mo-town sound. 70's Progressive rock, extended play times, almost symphonic. Disco. And a return to the song ballad. 80's The synthesizer has arrived. Hip hop starts with rap. 90's Indie bands. Grunge. Alternative. 2000's Emergence of electro pop. Genre fusions. 2010's Hip hop is now mainstream, and electronic dance music is big. Where does this one land...

Purple Haze / Jimi Hendrix

- Solstice, New Year's, and the holiday season. Time for me to reflect on the year past and the year ahead. A lot of that is internal. But thank goodness for the explorers. Jimi Hendrix, that was my generation. Didn't get it then. I understand the genius now. Super distorted guitars on top of Jimi Hendrix blues virtuosity. Late 60's

- And what of this one...

Bang Bang (My Baby Shot Me Down) / Nancy Sinatra

- On the pop side of, music in the same decade as Jimi, Nancy Sinatra's, Bang Bang. I think it's the tempo, minimal instrumentation and folksy kind of feel that places this one also in the 60's for me. And indeed 1966.

DECADE QUIZ Continued

- We're into a decade quiz. Where does this one sit?

Worth It (feat. Kid Ink) / Fifth Harmony, Kid Ink

- What I'm hearing here is a mix of pop and hip hop. That puts in the 2010's for me. I was wondering how long hip hop could sustain itself on zero melody. By this time, we started to see a mix of pop-ey melodic sections, and lack of melody sections, hip hop style, in the same song. Smack dab in the middle of the decade, 2015.

Take on Me / a-ha

- Take on Me / a-ha, 80's. Synthesizers everywhere. Slam dunk. 1985

Kodachrome / Paul Simon

- Now this one was difficult for me Kodachrome / Paul Simon. But the production is a bit slick to be 60's, and there are no synthesizers. So I guess it's gotta be the 70's. Yep 1973.

COVER COMPARISON Cont.

- That was a nice little break, a nice cleansing of the palette. Let's go back to cover comparisons. Chuck Berry's Mabeline is said to have evolved from a popular Country dance song, Ida Red. Here's Bob Wills version.

Ida Red / Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys

Maybellene / Chuck Berry

- I was listening to Ian's Crooners And All That Jazz show Sunday night and heard Jazz version of Route 66, just as I was building my show and had that song in my lineup. Turns out this song was written, and recorded, by Bobby Troup, in 1946. And I get the sense it's a bit of a standard, amongst Jazz players.

Route 66 / Bobby Troup

- And here's the Stones' version, likely influenced more by a cover that Chuck Berry did in the 50's than Bobby's original.

Route 66 / The Rolling Stones

MULTIHOOK SINGLES

- Back looking for hooks, some songs, actually most songs, are loaded with hooks. Here's one.. Distorted guitar pads on top of a 4 on the floor beat. Nice vocal flips into head voice. Do do do vocalizations

Zombie / The Cranberries

- Nice use of vocal leaps and similar flicks into falsetto, in this next one. Vocal gymnastics. Change to lower vocal range. Subtle in-sync vocal harmony later on, in the song. Female harmony above, in the verse, and male harmony, below, in the chorus. Then onto an oo-oo vocal pad. Edgy guitar solo for contrast. All-in, harmony, backs Ed up at the end

Thinking out Loud / Ed Sheeran

(- Cued up next, **bad guy / Billie Eilish**. Another 4 on the floor beat with that kick + bass power. Cool vocoder vocal effect. Very active bass, as fills

(bad guy / Billie Eilish

GENRE QUIZ

- We had some fun with the Genre Quiz last week. Let's do that again, shall we?. What genre, or style, or type of music, would you say, this song is?

Fine Brown Frame / Nellie Lutcher

- I'm not hearing any reverb, or echo, treatment, on the vocal. It's got a jazzy drum beat going on, with an acoustic bass and piano. It's all about the vocal, so it's later than the big band era. I'd call it Jazz Pop from the 40's or 50's. Something you'd hear in a Jazz night club with the likes of Billy Holiday, Nina Simone and such.

- As we saw earlier, artists and bands we associate with certain genre's, have evolved their music out of earlier, and often different, genres.

Country Honk / The Rolling Stones

- The instruments used in the recording, place this one for me. The fiddle was used at country dance events, because it was loud, an important element back in the days before amplifiers. The acoustic guitar was more of a porch music instrument. You could pick it up, any time a friend or neighbour dropped over, and play a song together. Not that expensive and has a large range of sounds. You can strum it, or pick it, and you can carry it around, unlike a piano. There's an improvised character to the vocals in this record, giving it that kitchen jam feel. The Stones started as a Blues cover band, and were heavily influenced by country as well. I'd place this song style, as Rural Country Kitchen Jam Music.

- My kids listening in this evening, hi all, Merry Christmas, My kids will be rolling eyes on this one. Back in the day, when my house was a bustle of activity, I also worked at home. And to fill the silence of working alone during the daytime, without big distraction, I'd have this style of music on heavy rotation.

Book of Days / Enya

- New age music is for relaxation and optimism, and grew out of a combination of early electronic, or Space Music, and a later movement, away from the influence of technology, more acoustic and traditional. A union of opposites. Enya, with her piece, Book Of Days, is squarely in the New Age category.

Seven Bridges Road / Dolly Parton

- Seven Bridges Road / Dolly Parton. Rich, in-sync harmonies, train like groove, fiddles, acoustic guitars and banjos. Upbeat tempo. Country Pop.

Fireball Mail / Earl Scruggs

- Fireball Mail / Earl Scruggs. Similar to Country, is Bluegrass. But the emphasis here is on the instruments rather than a vocal. There's a revered, virtuosity, in playing fast. Train groove and train sounds. And notice that without the storyline of a vocal, a sequence of different instruments, taking turns as the lead, keeps us engaged, very similar to instrumental Jazz on that count.

MELODY

- Melody is one of the cornerstone elements of any song. It is, most times, the thing we remember about a song, a song that gets, stuck in our head, as we like to say.

- Melodies can be constructed in various ways. Repetition, is usually, part of the melody, in one way or another. Have a listen to the vocal melody in **Wouldn't It Be Nice** by The Beach Boys. Notice that the melody is a series of fairly short phrases, each repeated once before moving on, to a different phrase. Melodies are, speaking broadly, a rhythmic sequence of pitches, or notes. And, also speaking broadly, a melody's shape, is either moving up, moving down, staying flat (used a lot in modern pop), or moving up and down like a wave. The Beach Boys contrast their melodic phrases by following, a phrase of one shape, with a phrase of another basic shape. So two things to listen for.... Short phrases repeated once before moving on, and contrasting shapes of the phrases.

Wouldn't It Be Nice / The Beach Boys

- Melody fits with the layers of sound that surrounds it but, also seems to not be locked down by it. It can depart from the expected beat with anticipations, before the beat, and delays after the beat. And indeed these anticipations and delays give a melody, life, character. Nor does a melody always stick to the harmony of the surrounding sound. Vocal melody especially, can be, really, all over the place, with slides, bends, wavers, and something we call, neighbour tones, notes in the scale of the key, but not in the chord of the moment. With that in mind here's Amy Winehouse with Back to Black.

Back To Black / Amy Winehouse

- In a song with minimal instrumentation, as we saw in Folk Music last week, melody and storyline have an opportunity to, take the spotlight. And a great way to engage listeners in a

minimally produced song, is to have a melody that has lots of movement, lots of vocal leaps, that is leaps in pitch.

I And Love And You / The Avett Brothers

BEAT

- And in the world of beat, and groove, we can also see the attraction, that comes from of an anticipation, from what's expected. Listen for the strong beat, set up by the prominent kick drum, here in All That She Wants by Ace of Base. It's 4/4 time which syncs us to walking or running, but notice some of the beats are rushed. Instead of 1 2 3 4, we have 1 23 4

All That She Wants / Ace of Base

(Crash / The Primitives

(- A running beat there with the prominent, regular, guitar stabs. We've got somewhere to get to with this song. Good travelling song.

Final Song and Goodbye

- Taking us out tonight, from Randy Newman, There's A Party At My House Tonight. See y'all next week, I mean, actually, see y'all next year.

There's a Party at My House / Randy Newman

Extras

(New Age Girl / Deadeye Dick

(Parklife / Blur

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Playlist

Start

1 / I Can See Clearly Now / Jimmy Cliff

Cover Comparisons

2 / Roll Over Beethoven / Chuck Berry

3 / Roll Over Beethoven - Remastered 2009 / The Beatles

Decade Quiz

4 / Purple Haze / Jimi Hendrix

5 / Bang Bang (My Baby Shot Me Down) / Nancy Sinatra

6 / Worth It (feat. Kid Ink) / Fifth Harmony, Kid Ink

7 / Take on Me / a-ha

8 / Kodachrome / Paul Simon

Cover Comparisons cont.

9 / Ida Red / Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys

10 / Maybellene / Chuck Berry

11 / Route 66 / Bobby Troup

12 / Route 66 / The Rolling Stones

Singles Multihook

13 / Zombie / The Cranberries

14 / Thinking out Loud / Ed Sheeran

15 / bad guy / Billie Eilish

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GenreQuiz

16 / Fine Brown Frame / Nellie Lutcher

17 / Country Honk / The Rolling Stones

18 / Book of Days - 2009 Remaster / Enya

19 / Seven Bridges Road / Dolly Parton

20 / Fireball Mail / Earl Scruggs