

Music

Topic: The Beatles – Revolver – Context, structure,

sonority and melody

Year Group: 12/13



| Becrioot | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Context and structure | | | | 3. Sonority – How the instruments are used | | | 4. Key vocabulary | | | | | |
| | The Beatles | | | Barbershop singing | A type of singing with close harmonies. Used in Here, there and everywhere. | 1 | Avant- garde | New and experimental ideas and methods in music. | | | | |
| 1 | | rhythm and blues performers such as Chuck Berry, but by the time of the album Revolver they had developed their own unique style, including elements of Indian and classical music, as well as the psychedelic rock styles of the second half of the decade. | 2 | Double stopping | Playing 2 notes at the same time on a string instrument. Used in Eleanor Rigby. | | Lennon and McCartn ey | The main song writing partnership in The Beatles. | | | | |
| | Strenkia | | 3 | Double tracking | Recording on 2 separate tracks for editing individually. Used in Tomorrow never knows. | 3 | Music concret e | Music composition that uses recorded sounds that are manipulated. | | | | |
| 2 | Strophic form | A structure made up of repeated verses with different lyrics. Used in Tomorrow never knows. | | Leslie Cabinet | An amplifier and loudspeaker that projects a signal from electronic instruments and | 4 | e Psyched elic | Music created under the influence of drugs. | | | | |
| 3 | Coda | The closing section. E.g. Tomorrow never knows. | 4 | | modifies the sound. Used to make the vocals sound like monks chanting in Tomorrow never knows. Magnetic tape lopped to create repetitive patterns. Used in tomorrow never knows. | 5 | Tessitur a | The range used by a voice or instrument. | | | | |
| 4 | Refrain | A phrase/section that is repeated, is usually catchy. E.g. Eleanor Rigby | | | | 6 | Melisma | When several notes are sung to the same syllable. | | | | |
| 5 | Verse chorus | | 5 | Tape loops | | | Riff | A rhythmic, melodic or harmonic pattern repeated many times in succession. Term | | | | |
| | | bridge, instrumental, intro and outro sections across the songs. | | Sitar | A large, long-necked Indian lute with movable frets. Used in | 7 | | used for popular music. E.g. Bass guitar in Tomorrow never | | | | |
| 2. | 2. Melody | | | Character | tomorrow never knows. | | | knows. | | | | |
| 1 | Blues scale | 6 note scale made up of pentatonic scale and flattened 3 rd . Used in Tomorrow never knows. | 7 | Staccato | Play in a short and detached manner. Used in strings in Eleanor Rigby. | L | 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | Conjunct | Movement by step. One example is the scalic melody in Eleanor Rigby. | 8 | Tambura | A plucked drone instrument used in Indian music. Used in | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Pentatonic | A scale of 5 pitches to the octave. E.g. Tomorrow never knows. | | | Tomorrow never knows. | | | | | | | |

Other points of interest: What elements of Indian Classical music are apparent in the pieces studied? How were the studio techniques ground breaking? What makes these 'pop/rock' songs unconventional? The producer George Martin was a classically trained musician. How do some of the musical arrangements reflect this?





| 5. Texture | | | 7. Harmony and Tonality | | | 8. Key vocabulary | | |
|------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | Doubling Divisi | Two players on each part – used in Eleanor Rigby on the strings. When two players divide onto separate parts | 1 | Appoggi | A 'leaning' note. An expressive dissonance that moves by step to resolve | 1 | Mode | A type of scale with 7 notes that is neither major or |
| | Melody- | – used in Eleanor Rigby. Melody and accompaniment. Used in the | | atura | onto a note of the current chord. E.g. Bar 21 I want to tell you. | | | minor. Commonly used in folk music and jazz. E.g. |
| 3 | dominated homophon y | majority of the pieces. | 2 | Chromat | Notes that do not belong to the key or move by semitones. E.g. Bar 63 | 2 ne or | Mixolydi an mode | Has a characteristic major third and flattened seventh. Used in tomorrow |
| 4 | Block chords | Where all the parts play together. E.g. Strings in Eleanor Rigby. | | | Eleanor Rigby. | | | |
| 5 | Pedal | A sustained or repeated note sounded against changing harmonies. E.g. Opening of I want to tell you. | 3 | Diatonic | Notes that belong to the current key. E.g. Eleanor Rigby belongs to the Dorian mode. | | Aeolian mode | never knows. Uses a flattened sixth e.g. backing |
| 6. | 5. Tempo, metre and rhythm | | | 4 | Sounds that are not pleasant | 3 | | vocals in Eleanor Rigby. |
| 1 | rhythms | The effect produced when 2 conflicting rhythms are heard together. E.g. Tomorrow never knows in bar 4. | | Dissona nce | when played together. E.g. Viola in Eleanor Rigby, the descending chromatic line in the Viola during the refrain. | 4 | Dorian Mode | Has a flattened third and seventh – Used in Eleanor Rigby. |
| 2 | Lombardic | A dotted rhythm where the second note is longer. E.g. Instrumental solo in tomorrow never knows. | 5 | Drone | A low continuous sound, usually the 1st and 5th of a chord. Used in the Tambura | 5 | Tonal languag e | The use of tonality in a piece. In these pieces it is not straightforwardly diatonic or functional. |
| 3 | Syncopati on | Emphasising beats of the bar that are normally unaccented. E.g. Vocal phrases in Eleanor Rigby. | 6 | Harmon ic rhythm | in Tomorrow never knows. The rate at which chords change. E.g. Slow rate in Eleanor Rigby. | | | |
| 4 | Triplets | 3 notes played in the time of 2. E.g. Guitar in bars 1-4 of I want to tell you. | | | | | | |

Wider listening: Pink Floyd - Interstellar Overdrive; The Kinks - See my friends; The Beach Boys - Pet Sounds (albums); The Who - My Generation; David Bowie – Warszawa.