

PERFORMANCE – ‘Forget You’

Exploring Popular Songs and Musical Arrangement



A. Popular Song Structure

SONG STRUCTURE – How a song is made up of or divided into different sections (see below) and the order in which these sections occur. To work out the structure of a song, it’s helpful to analyse the **LYRICS** and listen to a recording for the song (for instrumental sections).

INTRO – often shortened to ‘intro’, the first section of a song which sets the mood of the song and is sometimes, but not always, an instrumental section using the song’s chord pattern.

VERSES – songs normally have several verses. Verses introduce the song’s theme and have the same melody but different lyrics for each verse which helps develop the song’s narrative and story. Songs made up entirely of verses are called **STROPHIC**.

LINK – a optional short section often used to join different parts of a song together, often instrumental, and sometimes joins verses together or appears at other points within a song.

PRE-CHORUS – an optional section of music that occurs before the **CHORUS** which helps the music move forward and “prepare” for what is to come.

CHORUS – occurs several times within a song and contains the most memorable **HOOK/RIFF**. The chorus relays the message of the song and is repeated with the same melody and lyrics each time it is heard. In popular songs, the chorus is often repeated several times towards the end of the song.

MIDDLE 8/BRIDGE – a section (often 8 bars in length) that provides contrasting musical material often featuring an instrumental or vocal solo using new musical material allowing the performer to display their technical skill on their instrument or voice.

CODA/OUTRO – The final section of a popular song which brings it to an end (Coda is Italian for “tail”!)

B. Key Words

LYRICS – The words of a song, usually consisting of **VERSES** and a **CHORUS**.

HOOK – A ‘musical hook’ is usually the ‘catchy bit’ of the song that you will remember. It is often short and used and repeated in different places throughout the piece. Hooks can be either **MELODIC, RHYTHMIC** or **VERBAL/LYRICAL**.

RIFF – A repeated musical pattern often used in the introduction and instrumental breaks in a song or piece of music. Riffs can be rhythmic, melodic or lyrical, short and repeated.

MELODY – The main tune of the song often sung by the **LEAD SINGER**.

COUNTER-MELODY – An ‘extra’ melody often performed ‘on top of’ the main melody that ‘fits’ with it a **DESCANT** or **INSTRUMENTAL SOLO**.

TEXTURE – The layers that make up a song e.g., *Melody, Counter-Melody, Hooks/Riffs, Chords, Accompaniment, Bass Line*.

C. Instruments

Guitar, Bass guitar, Drum kit, keyboards, Vocals, Brass, Strings



D. Lead Sheet and Chords

Forget You

(Chorus) I see you driving 'round town
With the girl I love and I'm like,
Forget you!
I guess the change in my pocket
Wasn't enough I'm like,
Forget you! And Forget her too!
I said, if I was richer, I'd still be with ya
Ha, now ain't that the shh...?
And although there's pain in my chest
I still wish you the best with a...
Forget you!

(Verse 1) Yeah I'm sorry, I can't afford a Ferrari,
But that don't mean I can't get you there.
I guess he's an Xbox and I'm more Atari,
But the way you play your game ain't fair.
I pity the fool that falls in love with you
(oh she's a gold digger)

Well
(just thought you should know)

I've got some news for you
Yeah go run and tell your little boyfriend

(Chorus)

(Verse 2) Now I know, that I had to borrow, ha
Beg and steal and lie and cheat.
Trying to keep ya, trying to please ya.
'Cause being in love with you ain't cheap.
I pity the fool that falls in love with you
(oh she's a gold digger)

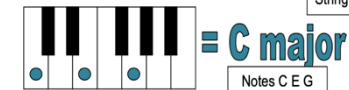
Well
(just thought you should know)
OOOh

I've got some news for you
(I really don't like this girl right now)

(Chorus)
(Chorus)

C D7 F C

Keyboard – Try an electric piano sound and play this with rhythm. If there are 2 keyboard players add a String sound.



Rock Beat

1	2	3	4
R	R	R	R
	L		L
RF		RF	

