

# Why Does My Heart Feel So Bad?

Moby

# Moby

- Real name is Richard Melville Hall.
- Born in New York, 1965.
- Played guitar in punk-style bands aged 15-20.
- Attended University of Connecticut, but dropped in 1985 to DJ and to gig/record with his band AWOL.
- Received first contract in 1989, released first single 'Mobility' in 1990.
- Released 'Play' in 1999, with 'Why Does My Heart' reaching no. 16 in UK charts.



# Dance Music

- *Music that would normally be played in nightclubs by DJs*
- Originated in 1970s, when clubs started to hire DJs instead of live bands.
- Key features include:
  - 4/4 metre and steady tempo
  - Use of electronic sounds and effects
  - Strong beat, emphasised by drums and bass
  - Short phrases; repetitive, looped sections.
- First dance music was Dub, followed by Rap, then Chicago house, followed by Garage

# Play

- Released in 1999
- First three singles received little public attention
- ‘*Why does My Heart Feel So Bad*’ was the most successful single, peaking at No. 16 in the UK, and was received with critical acclaim
- Moby’s 3<sup>rd</sup> album

# Use of Technology

- The “Why does my heart feel so bad?” sample is untidy- echoes, traffic noise etc. has been left in.
- “These open doors” is retriggered using a sequencer.
- Reverb and telephone EQ (particularly in Verse 2) make the samples sound thinner.
- Also uses delay.
- Pan has been used (e.g. at the beginning).
- The samples have been manipulated to change their meaning.
- Uses drum machine, synth, electric piano.
- A sampler is also used
- The technology used was not cutting edge

# Key Musical Elements

- Strong 4/4 beat
- Uses breakbeats (drum solos)
- Uses samples and loops
- Use of electronic sounds and effects
- Layered textures



# Instrumentation

Moby did not use the most up to date equipment:

- Multi-effects unit- To apply reverb and delay
- Drum machine
- Piano sound module
- Sub bass
- Synth strings
- Sampler

# Melody

- Consists of two samples from the 1953 *"Shining Light"* gospel choir singing *"King Jesus Will Roll All Burdens Away"*.
- These samples are looped
- They consist of short 2 -4 bar long phrases
- *"Why does my heart feel so bad"*
  - Used for the verses
  - Sung by a male singer
  - Scalic
  - Harmonised to sound minor
- *"These open doors"*
  - Used for the chorus
  - Sung by a female singer
  - Higher pitched
  - Consists of 4 pitches
  - Harmonised to sound major



# Structure

- In verse/ chorus form
- Intro > Verse 1 > Chorus > Verse 2 > Breakdown > Chorus > Verse 3 > Outro
- The chorus has two parts
- Broken into 8 bar blocks
- The verse is repeated 4 times at the beginning
- The second half of the chorus is repeated at the end

# Texture

- Homophonic (with some heterophony)
- Layers build up as piece goes on
- Strings fill out texture with long chords in the verse
- In the breakdown, only the delayed vocal sample can be heard
- During the outro, the parts break down to just the vocal sample with synth pad
- Features a call and response between the vocals and high synth
- Builds in the following way:
  1. Intro starts with just the keyboard chord sequence
  2. The vocal sample is added
  3. The drum loop and string synth is added
  4. The bass synth is added

# Harmony and Tonality

- Overall, the piece is in A minor.
- Features 3 chord sequences, which are repeated:  
Verse: **Am / Am / Em / Em / G / G / D / D**
  - This has minor chords, harmonising the sample to sound minor
- Chorus: a) **C / C / Am / Am / C / C / Am / Am**  
b) **F / F / C / C / F / F / C / C**
  - This has more major chords, making the sample sound major
- Only 6 chords used overall
- The harmony is diatonic
- Uses sus2/sus4 chords
- All chords are in the root position



# Rhythm, Metre and Tempo

- 98 bpm
- In 4/4 time
- Uses a hip-hop drum loop
- Rhythmic piano chords