

McIntyre, p.215

'Yesterday' was, and is, structurally a classic ternary (AABA) form piece, a form

typical of the pre-war popular style and favoured, as Jon Fitzgerald asserts, by

John Lennon and Paul McCartney during their early period. Lyrically it can be seen

to be a song that deals with nostalgia for a lost love or, dependent on audience

interpretation, a concomitant recognition of one's own maturation in the face of

its 'immediate nostalgia' is reinforced by the 'music's frail bewilderment'.

lost innocence. Describing the song as 'a small miracle', Wilfrid Mellers asserts that

Melodically it stays mainly in the key of F. It ventures periodically outside the

pitch. This method uses the tonalities and resonances of the guitar as they are

produced in the key of G played in first position a full step down. The song also

diatonic F major scale as the harmonic progression pivots around this tonal centre,

although the first fixed version of it is played on guitar tuned a tone below concert

utilised a string quartet for simple yet effective accompaniment capturing the

world's most recorded songs.

at the moment one expects the strings to indulgently soar, on 'a long inverted

essence of the feeling, as Mellers argues, without dipping into 'cornball' by staying,

its creation, 'Yesterday' has been valued by a large audience and proven to be

pedal thereby inducing a wide-eyed wonder, with a tinge of apprehension'. Since

enduringly popular. It has been played on US radio 6,480,000 times, averages

50,000 plays on American radio every three months and has become one of the





MARY-ANN CLAWSON

WHEN WOMEN PLAY THE BASS

have collected it?

How do we treat our data once we

Sensitively, but critically!

Mixing methods where we need to

resorting to 'show and tell'.

...to observe attentively without



(but also quantitative when required)

