

MUSC-15

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Final paper

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### Option 1

The first song I would like to analyze is “Ylang Ylang” is a 2019 track by French multi-instrumentalist and producer FKJ, or French Kiwi Juice. The song is a vibrant, groovy piece that showcases FKJ’s versatile musicianship, and is an excellent example of how different musical elements can work together to create a cohesive whole. In this analysis, we’ll explore some of the key aspects of “Ylang Ylang” and how they contribute to the song’s overall impact. Pitch is one of the most fundamental aspects of music, and “Ylang Ylang” features a variety of different pitches that create a sense of movement and progression throughout the song. The track starts with a simple, repeating piano melody that sets the tone for the rest of the piece. As the song progresses, new instruments are added that play different pitches, such as the saxophone and guitar. The pitch changes throughout the song in addition to this the saxophone and guitar solos both feature rapid vibrato and a wide dynamic range, which helps to create a sense of excitement and energy in the song. The use of these techniques throughout the song helped to keep the listener engaged and prevent the track from becoming completely monotonous.

Scales and temperament are two more technical aspects of music theory that are worth considering when analyzing “Ylang Ylang.” The song features several different scales and modes, which give it a diverse and varied sound. Furthermore, FKJ uses a modern equal temperament tuning system, which is the most common tuning system used in Western music today.

Overall, “Ylang Ylang” is an excellent example of how different musical elements can work together to create a cohesive and engaging piece of music. FKJ’s use of pitch, frequency,

amplitude, dynamics, timbre, scales, and temperament all contribute to the song's overall sound and impact. From the bright, catchy piano melody to the energetic guitar and sax solos, every element of the song is carefully crafted and placed to create a unique experience which is somewhat comparable to being transported to a quiet and serene location.

While it's difficult to say exactly where FKJ drew his inspiration from for "Ylang Ylang," it's clear that the track incorporates elements of several different musical styles and genres. FKJ is known for his eclectic style and draws on a wide range of influences in his music, from jazz and funk to hip-hop and electronic music.

One possible source of inspiration for "Ylang Ylang" could be the French house music scene, which emerged in the 1990s and is characterized by its upbeat, funky sound and heavy use of sampling. FKJ has cited French house as a major influence on his music, and "Ylang Ylang" features several elements of the genre, such as the use of chopped-up vocal samples and funky guitar riffs. Another possible influence on "Ylang Ylang" is the jazz-funk fusion of the 1970s and 80s, which combined the improvisational, soulful sound of jazz with the rhythmic grooves of funk. FKJ is a trained jazz musician and often incorporates elements of jazz into his music, such as the use of complex chord progressions and improvised solos. "Ylang Ylang" features a prominent saxophone solo, which is a common feature of jazz-funk music. We can definitely see that FKJ drew on a wide range of influences and sources of inspiration when creating "Ylang Ylang." The track showcases his versatile musicianship and ability to blend different styles and genres into a cohesive whole.

The rhythm of "Ylang Ylang" is unique because it combines elements of several different musical styles and genres to create a truly eclectic sound. The track features a steady, danceable beat that is reminiscent of electronic music, but also incorporates elements of funk, jazz, and hip-hop. This blend of styles gives the track a dynamic and constantly evolving rhythm that is both engaging and unpredictable.

One of the most distinctive aspects of the rhythm in "Ylang Ylang" is the use of syncopation, which is a rhythmic technique where emphasis is placed on off-beats rather than on the downbeat. This creates a sense of tension and unpredictability in the rhythm, and gives the track a lively, danceable feel. The use of syncopation is particularly prominent in the bassline and the guitar riffs, which play off each other to create a complex and layered rhythm.

The form of "Ylang Ylang" is unique because it blends elements of traditional song structure with more experimental and improvisational techniques. The track begins with an extended instrumental section, featuring a funky bassline, guitar riff, and keyboard melody. This section serves as an introduction to the track and sets the mood for what is to come.

Following the instrumental introduction, the track features a verse-chorus structure, with the vocals entering over a stripped-down version of the instrumental section. The verse-chorus structure is a common feature of pop music, but FKJ adds his own twist to the form by incorporating improvisational elements and unexpected changes in dynamics.

The chorus section features a prominent saxophone solo, which builds in intensity over the course of the section. This solo serves as a highlight of the track and showcases FKJ's skills as a saxophonist and improviser.

After the chorus section, the track enters into a bridge section that features chopped-up vocal samples and a more electronic sound. This section serves as a departure from the more traditional instrumental elements of the track, and adds a layer of complexity and unpredictability to the form.

At its core, the track features a thick, funky bassline that provides the backbone for the rest of the instrumentation. This bassline creates a sense of rhythmic propulsion and gives the track a strong sense of groove.

Layered on top of the bassline are a range of other instruments, including guitar, keyboards, and saxophone. These instruments play off each other to create a dynamic and constantly evolving texture. The guitar adds a sense of melodic complexity to the track, with its intricate riffs and solos providing a counterpoint to the more rhythmic elements of the bassline and drums.

The keyboards add a sense of harmonic depth to the track, with their lush chords and atmospheric textures providing a sense of atmosphere and space. The saxophone adds a sense of soulful energy to the track, with its expressive solos and melodic improvisations adding a sense of spontaneity and unpredictability to the texture.

In addition to the instrumentation, the track also incorporates a range of vocal samples that are chopped up and re-arranged to create a rhythmic, percussive texture. These vocal samples add an extra layer of complexity to the texture, creating a sense of rhythmic interplay between the various elements of the track.