

TRACKS

“Stir Fry”

Migos

2017




BEST NEW TRACK

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GENRE: Rap

LABEL: Quality Control / UMG

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Given Migos’ status as the reigning kings of the radio, a collaboration with Pharrell was probably inevitable. What’s genuinely surprising is how well it works. On “Stir Fry,” Pharrell hits the Atlanta rap trio with a curveball: a Neptunes-styled production that’s funkier and more rhythmically complex than any Migos have previously tackled. The

song's interlocking polyrhythms—bongos, cricket-like whistles, clicking trap hi-hats, and slowed-down snares sampled from the Mohawks' "Champ"—are a beauty to behold. It's a disorienting maze of sounds, a beat that's difficult to wrap your head around, let alone rap over.

And yet, Migos prove more than up to the task. As on *Culture*'s best songs, each rapper tackles the beat with a different approach, underlining their individual skills and personalities. Quavo runs at it at half-speed and turns in the sort of silky hook you'd expect from Pharrell himself. Offset delivers the rapid-fire flow Migos fans expect, as well as some of the song's best lines ("I get money, tunnel vision, through my third eye"). And Takeoff pushes into uncharacteristically melodic territory, popping out of his standard triplet flow for two bars to mimic Pharrell's vampy synth line with an impressive amount of finesse. Overall, the song is catchy, fun, and eminently danceable, a world away from the high-tempo trap the group made their name on. Migos have long since proven their ability to exist in the mainstream without compromise, but "Stir Fry" signals a much larger ambition: to reshape it.