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01.

# ARTIST / SONG BACKGROUND

Background information about Nujabes and others.



## Artist Background:

- Jun Seba was a Japanese musician and DJ born in Tokyo, Japan in 1974. His stage name, Nujabes, is an anagram of his birth name.
- With a discography dating back to the 1990s, he is widely considered a pioneer of the **lo-fi hip-hop** genre.
- Tragically, he passed away in 2010 in a car accident - but his music lives on in the genre he helped create, and inspires musicians to this day.

## Song Background

- “Feather” comes off his second album “Modal Soul” released under his own record label - Hydeout Productions - in 2005.
- The lyrics were written and sung by an American rapper called Cise Starr. This is one of many successful songs that the two collaborated on.
- One of his most well-recognized tracks, ranking at the top of his Spotify page with over 52 million plays.

02.

# SONG DESCRIPTION

How the song creates the vibe and atmosphere



## NOTABLE INSTRUMENTS:

**Instruments:** Piano, drums, bass, muted trumpet

**Piano:** Sampled from Yusef LATEEF "Love theme from The Robe" (1961)

**Drums:** Sampled from Power of Zeus "The Sorcerer of Isis (The Ritual of the Mole)"

# Pulse/Frequency

- Pulse-
  - BPM → 181bpm
  - Continuous Time sense
  - 4/4 measure
  - Repeating pattern from instruments every 2 measures
- Frequency
  - From lowest to highest frequency
    - Drums, bass, piano
  - Key- B flat minor



# Waveform / Amplitude

## Waveform

- Piano is smooth
- Drum is sharp
- Bass blends both

## Amplitude

- Studio-like, enough to hear the rich tones and beats.
- Not too loud / quiet therefore not overwhelming
- No abrupt changes except at the end of the song



# Space / Body

- Space-
  - Warm, bassy, rich, smooth texture
  - Stretches beyond a certain genre.
  - Blend of instruments creates the rich and complex sound
  - Combines both melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic elements.
- Body-
  - Energetic and calm
  - People can interpret it differently

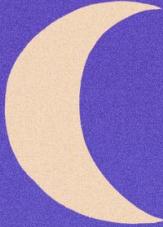
# Overall Structure

"Feather" is a beautiful and complex song that combines a variety of musical elements to create a rich and immersive experience. The blend of instruments, smooth waveform, and studio-like quality of the sound create a warm and welcoming space for the listener to escape into.



03.

## IDEAS IN “FEATHER”



# Memory

- “And I drove the Chevy to the Levy/  
But the Levy was dry, singing  
“This will be the day that I die”
- Referencing Popular Hit song  
“American Pie” by Don McLean
- Reminds the listener of a happy world

# Politics

- Political commentary throughout the song

*Seeing the headlines lined with discord/  
It's either genocide or the planet in uproar/  
Never good. The rules of paradise are never  
nice*

- Another political reference

*Watchin' propaganda six o'clock news and it's  
saying/  
Cultures clash, poor black folk and white  
trash*



04.

## FEELINGS & TAKEAWAYS

How the song makes an impression on the audience

# Feelings

- The steady tempo, simple melody, and intimate piano makes the listener feel:
  - Calmed and meditative
  - Enlightened and elevated
  - A sense of appreciation and gratitude





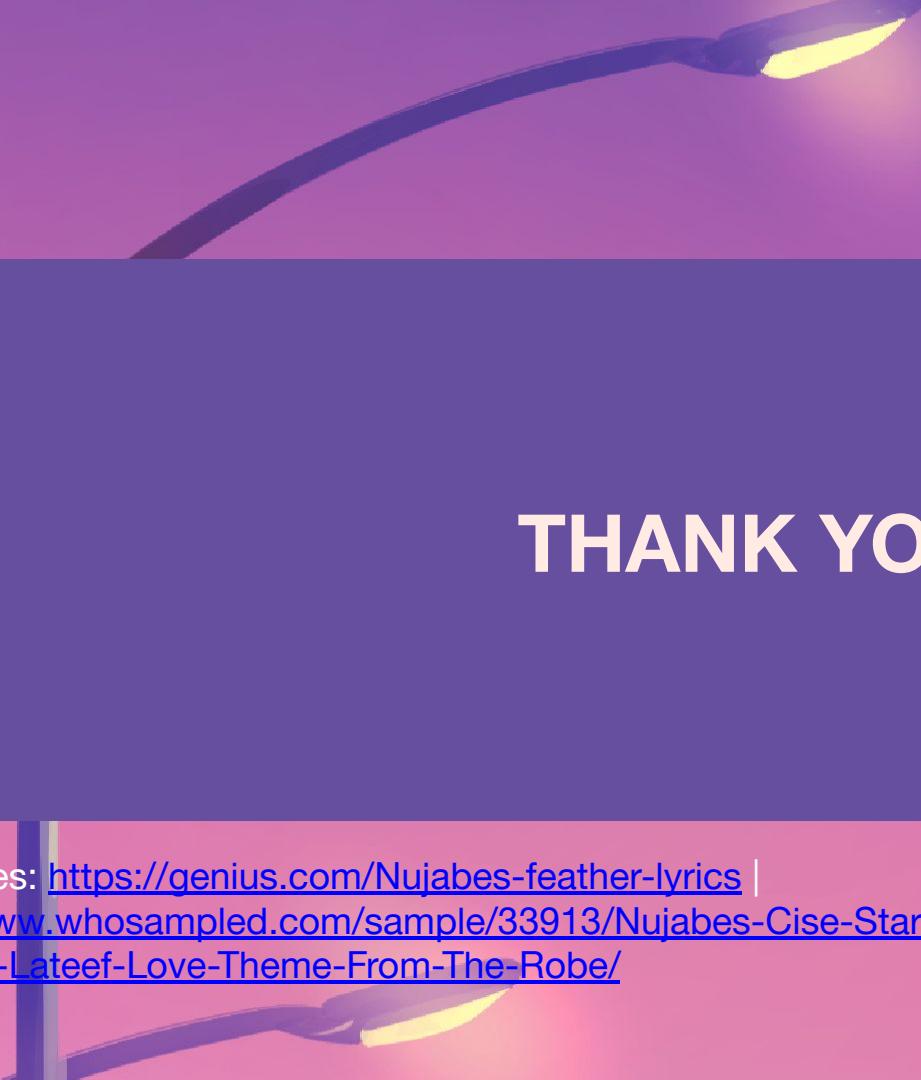
# Takeaways

*“Drifting away like a feather in air  
Letting my soul take me away from the hurt  
and despair”*

Rising above the cruelty of the world and  
accepting the things we cannot change

*“So I’m keeping it vertical forever elevator  
Riding the escalator to reach something that  
is greater”*

The further you remove yourself from the  
shackles of doubt and worry, the happier you  
will become



# THANK YOU!

References: <https://genius.com/Nujabes-feather-lyrics> |  
<https://www.whosampled.com/sample/33913/Nujabes-Cise-Starr-Akin-Feat-her-Yusef-Lateef-Love-Theme-From-The-Robe/>