



## Musical Elements - DR SMITH

### Dynamics – volume

*Moderately loud*

### Rhythm – long and short beats

*Syncopated, swung, crotchets*

### Structure – organisation of the music

*Intro, Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus, Bridge, Verse 3, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus*

### Melody – the tune

*Narrow range, call and response*

### Metre – how many beats in a bar

4

### Instrumentation – the instruments used

*Piano, drum kit, guitar, Hammond organ, tambourine, cowbell*

### Texture – the layers in the music

*Melody and accompaniment*

### Tempo – speed

*Moderate, 110bpm*

### Tonality – key

*G modulating to E*

### Harmony – chords

Plagal cadence, perfect cadence, bVII chord

### Instrumentation

Original recording: Piano, Electric guitar, cowbell, drums – only fill is at the end of the chorus, Hammond organ – heard in the intro

Overdubs: tambourine, rhythm guitar, lead guitar, bass, extra lyrics, vocal harmonies

### Melody

Narrow range – original written for Ringo to sing who had a narrow vocal range

Syncopated melody

Contains slides and melisma ('own' and 'lone' in v2)

### Intro and Outro

Intro – 'Billy Shears' sung in harmony (3 consecutive major chords ascending in tones) over cheering crowd, in G modulating to E major with 2 bar guitar solo

Outro – 6 bars, sustained chords on piano, guitar and bass, repeated melody notes, final E sung by Ringo – falsetto, descending melody sung by Paul and John, final cadence bVII-I, cymbal struck on last chord

### Chorus

Contains the hook

8 bars long with guitar fill and drum solo

First melody uses triplet pattern and is repeated

Third line has added vocal harmony

Used D major chord – flat vii chord common in Pop (not found in E major therefore chromatic)

Uses an added 6<sup>th</sup> chord (A,C#,E,F#)

**Chorus 2** – additional upper harmonies, additional chromatic sliding

**Chorus 3** – same as chorus 2

**Last chorus** – same as before but line 2 and 3 swapped

### Verses

Melody uses first 5 notes of E major scale ascending and then descending and is repeated

Chord changes are on the first beat of the bar

Piano, guitar, bass and drums only

Verse 2 – call and response effect in vocal Ringo sings the call and John and Paul respond (higher pitched)

Verse 3 – call and response, John and Paul sing the call (higher pitched in thirds) and Ringo responds

### Harmony and tonality

Starts in G → E

Verse uses a circle of 5ths progression

Perfect cadence at the end of the verse

Double plagal cadence in the chorus (IV of IV-IV-I)

### Rhythm and metre

Guitar and piano mainly play straight crotchets, bass emphasises beat 1 and 3

Quavers are played swung

Triplet feel set by the guitar after intro

With A Little Help  
From my Friends –  
The Beatles

### Use of technology

Overdubbing

Reduction mixing

### Bridge

Question and answer/call and response

Question is higher pitched than the response

C#m11 and F# chords added

Longer note values make the bridge sound broader

Pitch range is larger

Second bridge has a slight change in the first few notes

### Other key features

Second song on the album

Flows straight in from the first song

Billy Shears is a fictional character created for the album

Swapped lines in last chorus were apparently a mistake but stuck!