

Music 238
Analysis Assignment & Class Presentation

Make a linear diagram of a **SHORT** song (maximum of approx. 3 minutes for presentation purposes). It can be by someone else or an original, but don't compose something just for this assignment. Make it similar to the one below of The Beatles' *Here Comes The Sun*. The diagram should show:

- Sections (labeled with terms such as "intro", "end", "A section", "B section", "verse", "chorus" – with whatever vocabulary you find comfortable using)
- Section descriptions (they can be brief)
- Textural (if any)/dramatic activity
- Is there some kind of dramatic arc?
- Volume changes (if any)
- Any other elements you deem significant, such as observations about the lyrics

The purpose of this assignment is to put you in touch with various components of a song, how they might relate to each other and how they contribute to a its overall design. If you do not have your own song with which to do this, pick a short song by someone else instead – the main idea here is to become more comfortable with picking-apart an existing piece of music, and to be able to think/talk about it objectively.

Your diagram need not be as elaborate as the one below (and doing it by hand is fine as long as its legible); the most important things are to identify the different sections, see if you can comment on any relationships between them, and also track how/if the song follows any kind of dramatic arc.

You will be handing in this diagram as a part of the assignment (a hard copy – on paper), and emailing me a link, or small audio file. For the in-class presentation/discussion, make sure that I or you have a way to play the song over the sound system (which uses a 1/8" audio plug), and be able to put a simplified version of your diagram on the whiteboard that merely shows the different sections, like the top row of the example below.

You will have about 6 minutes to present/discuss in class. With your time being limited, try to focus on just one or two aspects of your analysis that you think are the most interesting, like how I pointed out that in "Here Comes The Sun" both the verse melody and chorus melody are very similar sounding and use mostly the same few notes, and how the arpeggio at the end of the chorus is the motif for the bridge (C section). You could also discuss the dramatic arc and/or how that relates to the lyrics (if there are any).

A linear diagram of *Here Comes The Sun* showing the sections, sectional descriptions, textural/dramatic activity and relative volumes

Intro./Chorus (A & B sections)	Verse¹ (A section)	Chorus (B section)	Verse² (A section)	Chorus (B section)	Bridge (C section)	Verse³ (A section)	Chorus (X2) + tag (B section)	Coda/Ending (C section-frag.)
Foreshadows verse (instrumental), and provides an initial chorus. A sort of overture.	First main section "A"	Second main section "B"	Repeats "A" and "B" sections, establishing continuity, but adding more layers of sound		"C" section, contrasting material; incorporates a "modal" scale for a strikingly different mood; uses irregular meters/time signatures; at the same time, the rhythmic figure is derived from the material that's at the end of the chorus, providing <i>some</i> continuity/familiarity	Another "A" section, this time with more instruments added	More "B" sections. Repeated chorus supplies and "echo" effect, using familiar material in a slightly unfamiliar way—same with the "it's all right" tag/echo at the end of the 2nd chorus	Taken from bridge, but only a fragment. Suggests a return to an earlier section, but is cut short—moving forward, but also looking back
Not full band—light texture	Full band	Similar texture as verse	Additional instruments/layers added		More instruments added; maximum density, most intense— CLIMACTIC	Additional instruments/ layers added		Only acoustic guitar—a <i>sudden</i> very light texture
Quiet	Medium loud				Loudest	Medium loud		Quiet