

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER - 'With a Little Help From My Friends' - Year 9

CHORDS - Keywords & Key Information

1. **Primary** - I, IV, V
2. **Secondary** - ii, iii, vi & vii
3. **Cadences** - formed by the 2 chords that come at the end of a musical phrase.
4. **Perfect Cadence** - uses chords V - I at the end of phrase. Sounds like a full stop.
5. **Plagal Cadence** - uses chords IV - I at the end of phrase. Sounds like A-men.

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT CHORDS in 'With a Little Help From my Friends'

6. Many earlier songs by The Beatles use the **3-chord trick** (only primary chords)
7. Chords **ii** and **vii** are introduced in 'With a Little Help From my Friends'
8. 7th chords are used - Dm7 and G7
9. **Verse** chord progression: **I - V - ii7 - V7 - I**
10. **Chorus** chord progression: **♭vii - IV - I**
11. **Bridge** chord progression: **vi - II - I - ♭vii - IV**
12. Use of **passing notes** in the melodic construction of the **bass line** in the opening bars, results in **inverted chords**.

RHYTHM

1. Tempo is **Moderato** 110/112 bpm
2. **Shuffle Beat** - essentially breaks every crotchet beat into a triplet with the first two tied.
3. **Syncopation** - off beat.
4. **Triplet** - 3 quavers played in the time of 2
5. **Fill** - a short passage of music which helps to bridge the gap between sections: there are **Guitar and Drum fills in the Chorus**.
6. In the **Intro**, the rhythm of the **2-bar guitar fill sets the triplet feel** for the rest of the song.
7. **Guitar & Piano** play mainly **straight crotchets**.

TIMBRE - Instruments

1. **VOCALS** - tell the story; mostly **syllabic** but use some **melisma's**
2. **PIANO** - used to **provide the harmonic structure** of the song and to embellish the accompaniment.
3. **GITAR** - lead guitar is the featured guitar, usually plays single-note-based lines and plays **instrumental fill passages**.
4. **BASS** - primary purpose is to **provide the bass note for each chord** and plays a role in maintaining the beat.
5. **DRUMS** - the heartbeat of the music; sets up the tempo. The **swinging syncopated rhythm** gives the song a relaxed, lilting feel.
6. **OVERDUBBING** - new sounds or music are added to the existing recording.

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT INSTRUMENTS in 'With a Little Help From my Friends'

7. Tracks 1 & 2 of the Sgt. Pepper's Album are **cross-faded** with pre-recorded applause to reinforce the idea of a live recording.

STRUCTURE

1. **Intro - Verse 1 - Chorus - Verse 2 - Chorus - Bridge - Verse 3 - Chorus - Bridge - Chorus**

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT STRUCTURE in 'With a Little Help From my Friends'

2. Words in **Verse 1** reflect a **lack of confidence** in himself as a singer; **5-note vocal range**.
3. In **Verse 2**, the tone has changed from the insecurity of Verse 1 to questions about personal **loneliness**.
4. **Chorus 2 adds vocal harmonies** and the second part of bar 6 **transitions to the Bridge**.
5. The **Bridge provides a complete contrast** to the Verse/Chorus with use of an expanded vocal range and harmonies.
6. **Call and Response** in the Verses 2, 3 and Bridge

MELODY

1. **Narrow vocal range** - Ringo sings only 5 notes.
2. **Melisma** - a group of notes sung to one syllable of text; sung on 'lone' and 'own'
3. **Passing notes** - a note between two notes of a chord, e.g. between C and E, D is a passing note.