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Lilly

Compositional Statement

My composition, 'Lilly' is a playful mellow pop song meant to convey the relationship between a pet and owner. It covers the pure joy and delight when a beloved pet has entered someone's life and has truly changed their life for the better. The lyrics are sung with joy to convey the happiness my dog 'Lilly' has brought to me. To compose this song, I applied a selection of specific musical elements that helped to express the meaning of the song effectively.

To begin the process of composing my song, I sought inspiration from Alexander 23's recent single, 'Idk You Yet.' I chose to use the same guitar plucking pattern but in a different key. My aim for this song was to create an upbeat and playful mood. This was achieved by the instruments used and rhythms incorporated in the song. Through the repetition of the guitar, I was able to create an intimate yet playful mood.

'Lilly' is written in D minor and is played on the 6th fret with a capo on the 3rd fret. Although the song was written in a minor key the song still has an upbeat, joyful mood. The introduction begins with just the acoustic guitar playing a finger-picking pattern. This helped build tension into the first verse and gave the song a steady introduction. The song is at a somewhat fast tempo of 125 beats per minute. This helped the song still feel upbeat and playful but also helped the song give a mellow, vulnerable mood as well.

The entire song was based around the compositional device of minimalism yet still keeping the song upbeat and lively. This was done with the repetitive guitar fingerpicking pattern, the rhythm of the drums as well as the melodic choices in the vocals. To make sure the message of the song was conveyed effectively, the vocals were the most dominant part of the song. In the bridge before the last chorus, the melody is sung on an 'Oh'. This was done to contain the simplicity of the song and it also gave the opportunity to mix the other instruments louder to create a subtle instrumental rather than have the vocals the loudest part of the mix. The melody of the vocals in the bridge is also played on a glockenspiel. The use of the glockenspiel in the song reminded the listeners of the playful mood and it gave the song a variation in texture. The rhythm of the drums helps keep the upbeat tempo as well as build tension into the final chorus.

If I was to record this song again or rearrange it, I would have potentially made the song more upbeat by adding more percussion and more instruments.

Overall, my composition of 'Lilly' effectively demonstrates melody, instrumentation, texture, harmony and tempo to effectively convey the meaning of the song, highlighting the relationship between a pet and its owner.

Lilly

Reflective Statement

While writing and composing my composition 'Lilly', there were several compositional techniques and strategies of best practice that I used to achieve the correct sound and mood for the song. While composing this song I sought inspiration from Alexander23's song 'IDK you Yet.' (Alexander23, 2020). While listening to this song I learnt new guitar techniques and fingerpicking patterns on an acoustic guitar I could incorporate in my song. I also used FINNEAS' song 'Die Alone' (FINNEAS, 2019) to see how he incorporated the melody of his vocals and used it in an instrument to give it variation in texture.

To begin composing this song I decided to learn the fingerpicking pattern Alexander23 used in his song IDK you Yet (2020). The guitar pattern that is played in my composition sustains an arpeggiated pattern. It has a repeated 8th note rhythm to it. I kept the same chords Alexander23 used but in a different order but kept the fingerpicking pattern that same. I then incorporated this in my song which helped give the composition a playful mood. Learning Alexander23's guitar techniques aided me to improve the guitar part of my song as well as helping me to add another dimension to the composition.

While composing my song I admired the vocal melody and I wanted to incorporate this melody using another instrument and using different textures. I used FINNEAS' song Die Alone (2019) as inspiration and analysed how he used the melody of his vocals and doubled it in piano. In the pre-chorus, he sings "or watch it all burn down together", in which the melody of his vocals is also played on the piano. After listening to this I was instantly inspired to incorporate this compositional technique to my song as well. I executed this strategy of best practice in my composition as I doubled the melody of the vocals with the glockenspiel. The melody of the vocals in the bridge is doubled with the glockenspiel. Doubling the melody in the bridge assisted the melody of the vocals to be more dominate in this particular section of the song.

To conclude, using these two strategies of best practice being, learning new guitar techniques and seeing how other artists create different texture with vocal melodies I was able to compose a song I was content with.

Reference List

- Alexander23. (2020). Idk You Yet. Single. Interscope.
FINNEAS. (2019). Die Alone. On *Blood Harmony*. AWAL.

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