

Aural Perception Challenge 'Space Oddity' by David Bowie

What?

Your challenge is to develop awareness of different harmonic concepts. Namely major seventh chords, common alterations to diatonic harmony and the ways in which intervals can be applied to establish different qualities. You will also be given the chance to describe and explain these ideas in more detail.

Why?

Sometimes we want to experiment with musical ideas that expand further than typical triads and diatonic harmony. Analysing songs in this way will allow us to know how we might do this in our own songs and arrangements.

Analysis

1. The introduction is made of the following two chords:

II: Fmaj7 | Em :II

- What is the scale spelling of Fmaj7?

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- Write the letter names of Fmaj7.

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- The key of the song is C. Which of the chords in the following progression are non-diatonic?

II: C | Em | C | Em | Am Am/ G | D/F# :II

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- During the B section, we hear the following chord progression.

II: C | E | F | Fm | C | F | Fm | C | F :II

Write the appropriate Roman Numerals above each chord.

2. Listen carefully to the vocal part.

- What is the interval between the lead and harmony vocal during the line "Ground control to Major Tom"?

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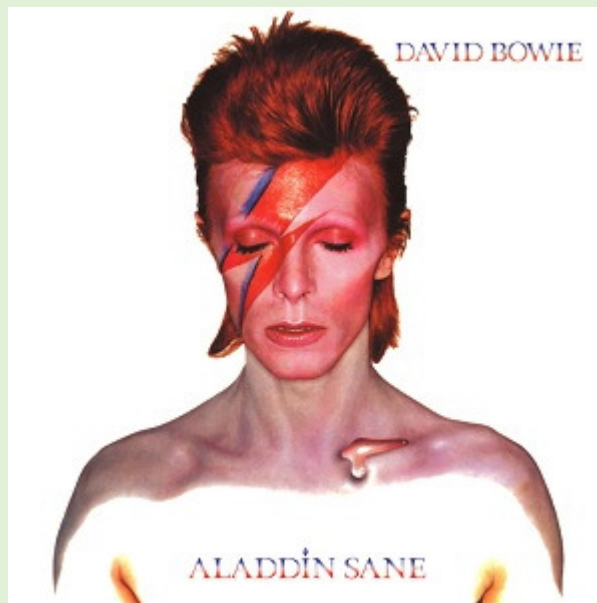
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- What notes are sung in the lead and the harmony vocal during the line “for here am I sitting in a tin can far above the world”? Notate them with the rhythm provided on the accompanying manuscript.
- Which rhythm on the attached manuscript best represents the acoustic guitar break? Circle or tick your choice.

Style File

Research the career of David Bowie. Find out:

- The genres he specialised in and identify albums or songs to support your findings.
- At least three musical collaborators he worked with.
- Another extra-musical fact about him.



Self-Directed Task

Using the information you gathered in your analysis last week, create an analytical comparison between 'Unchained Melody' by The Righteous Brothers and 'Space Oddity' by David Bowie. This should be presented as an informative poster or leaflet. You should compare any similarities and differences of:

Tonality

Chords and chord progressions

Intervals

Rhythms

DEADLINE IS:.....