



The Empowering Pop Song

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Let's try and write a song that could lift others. Not only Lockdown but for everyone who doubts themselves, young and old.

Why we are going to need this sort of non cheesy charity single

Eg Times Like These (Foo Fighter track destroyed by the celebrity culture of all taking a line each , of course Chris Martin is one !) and write a non specific Inspirational/uplifting song

Good song to lift others & YOURSELF

Genre Dance Pop

The emphasis firmly though on POP and radio/streaming NOT a house track or a club record

One that appeals to young and old and you could dance to it too

THIS IS THE KEY

SIMPLICITY

MELODY

DOES IT RELATE TO ME

Use 2 to 3 reference tracks so you can spot identifying traits and shape your own

1 reference track can lead you to picking up on the wrong things

Firework

10 million sales in US alone Grammy nominated in 2 categories

It is a dance-pop self-empowerment anthem with inspirational lyrics

Not RnB OR Rock but the power of pop with Inspirational/empowering theme.

Look at the The Writers that shaped the 3-30 simple song

- Katy Perry
- Mikkel S. Eriksen
- Tor Erik Hermansen
- Sandy Wilhelm
- Ester Dean

The skill is in making the end result seem like a simple radio friendly 4 chord pop song
These guys have millions of sales between them and approach this with a clinical and precise method. Everything is thought out..every line/syllable and transition between the sections and the simple and powerful hook.
Everything supports the title and the hook

Katy Perry Says

'Yeah, I want to put my fist up and feel proud and feel strong. But I also don't want to be cheesy, it's a fine line, and I think 'Firework' ... would be like the opus or my one song – if I had to pick a song to play – 'cause it has a great beat. But it also has a fantastic message. Many people refer to the lines 'like the 4th of July; however the original lyrics were 'like a firefly' as they reminded me of fireworks at night whenever I saw them. However the trend caught on and in live performances I now sing 4th of July, which happens to make great sense for the song name."

When watching the video look at

1.Where the melody starts and how it grows and rises to the chorus

2. Prosody in the pre chorus

2. Where the chorus hook line hits home and how the STRESS of each 1st word and the starting chorus lyric before the beat allows Firework and other stressed words to land on the beat !

4. What methods are employed to create contrast and how the 2nd person POV works plus how the title is used in the chorus.

5. where the lyrical hook lines are

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1fYh-aUk0>

Tempo/repetition/2nd person/4chords and metaphor AND simile are evident in this one song.

Anaphora Epizeuxis Anadiplosis - prosody

Muse Anaphora AND epiphora !

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqqnxEmSOB4>

the Police Anaphora

<https://youtu.be/OMOGaugKpzs?t=14>

Epizeuxis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qV5IzRHrGeg&feature=youtu.be&t=26>

OR

<https://youtu.be/ukWaogFC0O8?t=48>

Also uses Homophone

Example Jay Z

Jay-Z uses homophones

I'm not a businessman

I'm a business, man

Katy Perry

<https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/katyperry/firework.html>

Taylor Swift

<https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/taylorswift/shakeitoff.html>

Key words

INSPIRATIONAL EMPOWERING MOTIVATIONAL PERSONAL

A formula that is copied in many of these huge dance pop ANTHEMS

Title relates to Anthem!!

Where the title hook is used to great effect in the chorus

POV

2nd !!

listen to Brave and Shooting Star for the use of 2nd person POV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUQsqBqxoR4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uq8Dgcy4MDY>

What can we snatch quickly from these 2 reference tracks ? and can you see similarities
Emerging ?

Up front beat ///simple instrumentation exactly same chord progression all way through

- I-vi – IV – V G –Em – C – D
- 2nd person

Chorus carries the melodic punch

Both these use the post chorus to great effect

Katy Perry has a bridge in her song so have one in your own song

Don't Overload with sections

She introduces the 2nd strong chord of D in her bridge

That may be why she held back from using it in the verse as it really works as the 2nd
supporting chord

Tempo

120

Brand New Radicals

Roller Coaster

Fantastic driving tempo/beat

https://www.reddit.com/r/musictheory/comments/1majyc/why_is_120_bpm_such_a_standard/

Melodic Movement & Harmonic Support

Why Support ?

The relationship between vocal melody and the song key

Allows you to free form a melody without any words or chords and is an often overlooked

Starting point for song writing

Get the pitch by choosing the one chord to start the melody from (usually this is the tonic or 1st primary chord in the key)

How melody is best served as a songs starting point

Yesterday/Don't worry bout a thing/Every breath you take

<http://www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2014/10/paul-mccartneys-yesterday/>

those simple notes created one of the biggest songs ever recorded

Allows you to experiment with where you're gonna take the pre chorus and how high you can effectively go in the chorus

Put in a few key words first before harmonising PIANO

My own words to Firework verse melody written straight down no editing

Will you ever see

That your not alone

You have everything

All you need to own

When it's cold outside

And the rain set in
Embrace the world out (here re write this) take a walk outside
And feel it on your skin

Use chords in the song key. You can google how to do this

In Pop , the use of the Tonic chord and melody hitting at same place in chorus
And how the melody uses notes in the chord to connect better with listener

The last chord must be one that drops naturally back to the tonic
In blues its always the major 4th or 5th chord

Now once you have verse melody see how easier it is to drop in lyrics
USE same 4 chords throughout the song (OR just change 1 by the method above)

Melodic curve and dynamic of Firework

VERSE Close together notes repetitive melody and similar phrasing and syllable/
stress
Comes in AFTER the downbeat

PRE The melody rises starting on root and the 3rd....the last line is actually the chorus
pre emptied. Each note gently lands on 1st beat and is stressed

CHORUS
on the G note/ The G chord and the Title & Hook "FIREWORK" all land together

Melody is a whole octave higher than the verse ..the melody has been working to this
point through the whole song

BRIDGE

Pulls out the stops of repetition using melodic repetition/lyrical repetition/every
starting note of the melody starts or stops on a strong note in the supporting chord

She brings in the held back dominant major chord which is the D (the second most
important chord in a song key as it leads you straight back to the tonic)

POST CHORUS

FUN ! find one word and repeat//repeat repeat repeat repeat

Ref HSD page 13 (Hit Songs Deconstructed)

Verse she's asking them.. use of anaphora... close melody small sing song words
repetitive strong use of Simile ' Like A'

Pre she's telling then HOW...prosody in the melodic rise and strings to create a feel of
being lifted

Chorus she's showing them Why Because baby you're a

Placement and syllables of Firework
Landing on the beat
repetition in the ah aha ha
use of Metaphor

Bridge instead of Post

TASK

Apply these analysis in more depth now to BRAVE and SHOOTING STAR and use all
3 to inform your own composition.

Look at the Hit song deconstructed

Use as many of the above elements as you can !!