GCSE

Music

Appraising – ‘One Day Like This’ by Elbow (Set Work List B) – Knowledge Organiser 1

Context

- Elbow are a rock band from Bury, Greater Manchester.
- They were formed in 1990 and originally called Mr. Soft.
- Members of the band are Guy Garvey (lead vocals), Craig Potter (keyboards), Mark Potter (electric guitar), Pete Turner (bass guitar) and Richard Jupp (drum kit).
- ‘One Day Like This’ is from the album *The Seldom Seen Kid* recorded at Blueprint Studios and released on 17 March 2008 by Fiction Records (single released 2 June 2008).
- The audience plays an integral part in this song and joins in with the chorus and hook of the outro (anthemic). The song is catchy, rousing and uplifting.
- In 2009, the song won an Ivor Novello Award for Best Song Musically and Lyrically.
- The end is very improvisatory, particularly the guitar and voices.
- The single reached No. 38 in the UK Singles Charts in September 2008.
- It peaked at No. 4 in August 2012, following the band’s appearance at the closing ceremony of the London Summer Olympics.

Voices and Instrumentation

- Male lead vocal and backing vocals
- Keyboards (string/piano sound)
- Electric guitar
- Bass guitar
- Drum kit (and suspended cymbal)
- Tambourine
- Two violins, one viola and one cello (strings)

Structure

A 2-beat chord is played as an anacrusis to bar 1.

Section	Bar numbers	Duration (bars)
Introduction	1–8	8
Verse 1	9–24	16
Interlude 1	25–26	2
Verse 2	27–34	8
Chorus	35–42	8
Interlude 2	43–46	4
Verse 3	47–54	8
Chorus	55–62	8
Interlude 3	63–66	4
Outro	67–126	60

The outro forms a large portion of the song (this is the main hook).

Each section contains balanced musical phrases.

Musical elements 1

- **Melody**: Riffs, anacrusis, upper auxiliary note, repetitive material, falls, ascending/descending movement, decorations, conjunct/disjunct patterns, improvisatory passages, fills, tritone.
- **Harmony**: Mainly diatonic, with four major chords only – the tonic (chord I) is F major (one flat), the subdominant is B♭ major (chord IV) and dominant (chord V) is C major. In addition, E♭ chord is used. A pedal note can be heard at times plus plagal cadences (chord IV–I) and three-part vocal harmonisation.
- **Rhythm**: Syncopated, triplets, straight, dotted and scotch snap.
- **Texture**: Mainly homophonic (melody and accompaniment) but use of countermelody in outro (chorus added) – texture thins towards the end.

Musical elements 2

- **Genre**: British rock or alternative rock.
- **Tempo**: Moderate – constant pulse of 80 beats per minute.
- **Metre**: Four crotchet beats per bar (simple quadruple) or common time.
- **Dynamics**: Generally loud with the exception of verse 3 (quiet) and the final bars which start to fade.
- **Peformance techniques/articulation**: Strumming, glissando, accented, pizzicato, arco, staccato, sustained, raspy, belt, melisma, syllabic, improvisatory, scat.
- **Technology:** Distortion, overdrive, chorus, delay, reverb, panning.