



Context

- Featured in Act 2 of the musical *Hamilton* (based on the life of American military officer Alexander Hamilton).
- Music and lyrics written by Lin-Manuel Miranda.
- Premiered off-Broadway in New York on 17 February 2015 and on Broadway on 6 August 2015 (Miranda played Hamilton in the first run of shows in 2015).
- Miranda was born on 16 January 1980 in New York.
- First musical: *In the Heights* (written while at university, performed at his 20th birthday and premiered at the Richard Rodgers Theatre).
- In 2004, he was inspired by the biography of Hamilton written by Ron Chernow, and wrote a rap based on the story to be performed at the White House (Washington D.C., 2009).
- *Hamilton* won 11 out of 16 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book.
- Took seven years to compose – sung/rapped throughout, with a wide range of musical styles.
- The story is about the political and personal life of Hamilton (aide to President Washington) and his involvement in the American Revolution. Hamilton was married to Elizabeth Schuyler (Eliza), who sings this song.
- Other successes of Miranda include music for the *Star Wars* franchise (2015 and 2019), *Moana* (2016), *The Little Mermaid* (2023) and *Mufasa: The Lion King* (2024).

Musical elements 1

- **MELODY:** Repetitive, anacrusis, focus on 3rd, 4th, 5th and flattened 7th degrees of the scale; arpeggio; conjunct; disjunct; octaves; semitones; upper auxiliary notes; minor 3rd; ascending; descending; major 6th; countermelody.
- **HARMONY:** B minor (two sharps); modulates to D major (relative major in choruses and outro); interrupted cadence (bars 70–71); perfect cadence (bars 92–93); chordal; diatonic; dissonance; added notes; sus chords; augmented chords.
- **TEXTURE:** Homophonic/melody and accompaniment (bar 105 monophonic); call and response.
- **RHYTHM:** Straight, syncopated, dotted and scotch snap rhythms; harmonic rhythm changes; duplets.

Structure

Section	Bar numbers	Duration (bars)
Introduction	1–8	8
Verse 1	9–24	16
Verse 2	25–40	16
Chorus 1	41–48	8
Verse 3	49–64	16
Verse 4	65–80	16
Chorus 2	81–88	8
Outro/Coda	89–110	22

The song consists of balanced phrases.

Voices and instrumentation

- Solo female voice
- Two keyboards (piano and harp sounds)
- Acoustic guitar
- Bass guitar
- Drum kit and shaker
- String quartet (two violins, viola and cello)

Musical elements 2

- **GENRE:** Musical theatre – traditional style.
- **TEMPO:** *Moderato* (moderate): 65 dotted crotchet beats per minute (also use of *rit.*, a tempo, *rubato* and slower sections with pauses and slight *accel.*).
- **METRE:** Six quaver beats per bar (compound duple), with hints of simple triple at times (three crotchet beats per bar) and duplets.
- **DYNAMICS:** Significant contrast throughout, from *p* to *f*, also with sub. *p* and *fp*.
- **PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES/ARTICULATION:** Syllabic, melisma, legato, staccato, sustained, slurs, arco, rolled chords, strumming, fills, vocal embellishments.