Afro Celt Sound System: 'Release'

Intro and Verse

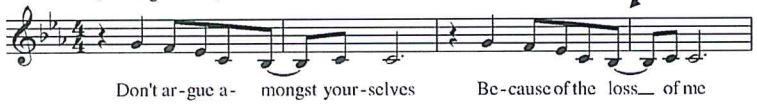
Main Drum Loop 1

STRUCTURE
The song begins with a synth drone before the first loop on bodhrán drum appears at 0.49.

RHYTHM
The rhythm uses dotted notes and rests to create syncopation and variety.

MELODY
The melody for the verses moves in stepwise motion for the most part.

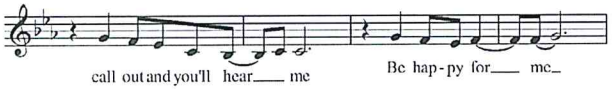
Verse 1 (starting at 1.38) - Female vox



TONALITY
The main melody is in C minor but with B flats. This suggests the Aeolian mode.

STRUCTURE
There is one verse of lyrics and no chorus. The verse is repeated in shorter versions throughout.

End of verse 1



HISTORY
'Release' was written by Afro Celt Sound System and Sinead O'Connor for the 1999 album *Volume 2: Release*.

Verse 2 & Solos

End of verse 2 - Male vox

MELODY
Verse 2 is sung by a male vocalist using the same melody but with a different middle and ending.

TONALITY
A C minor triad would be formed using the notes under the bracket.

CONTEXT
'Release' is a fusion of elements of African and Celtic musical styles mixed with electronic dance beats.

Solo 1 - Uilleann pipe - 3.51

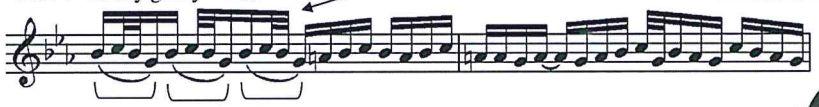
Solo 2 - Low whistle - 4.11

TERMS
A group of six notes played in the space of one beat is called a 'sextuplet'.

TERMS
The repetition of the rhythmic fragment above the brackets creates syncopation.

CONTEXT
'Release' makes extensive use of loops, with 28 different loops appearing throughout the piece.

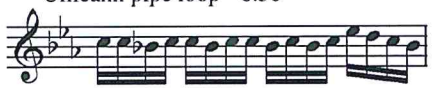
Solo 3- Hurdy gurdy - 4.35



Verse 3 & Drum Break

Synth loop - verse 3 - 4.55

Uilleann pipe loop - 6.30

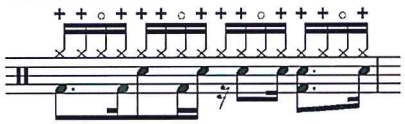


NOTATION
The second four semiquavers of the bar are a retrograde version of the first four semiquavers.

TERMS
When the fiddle plays two different notes at the same time it is called 'double stopping'.

Fiddle loop - verse 3 - 5.33

Drum break - 5.51



INSTRUMENTS
The '+' sign stands for a closed hi-hat and the 'o' stands for an open hi-hat.

NOTATION
The bass and snare drum rhythm is almost exactly the same to Main Drum Loop 1 (above).

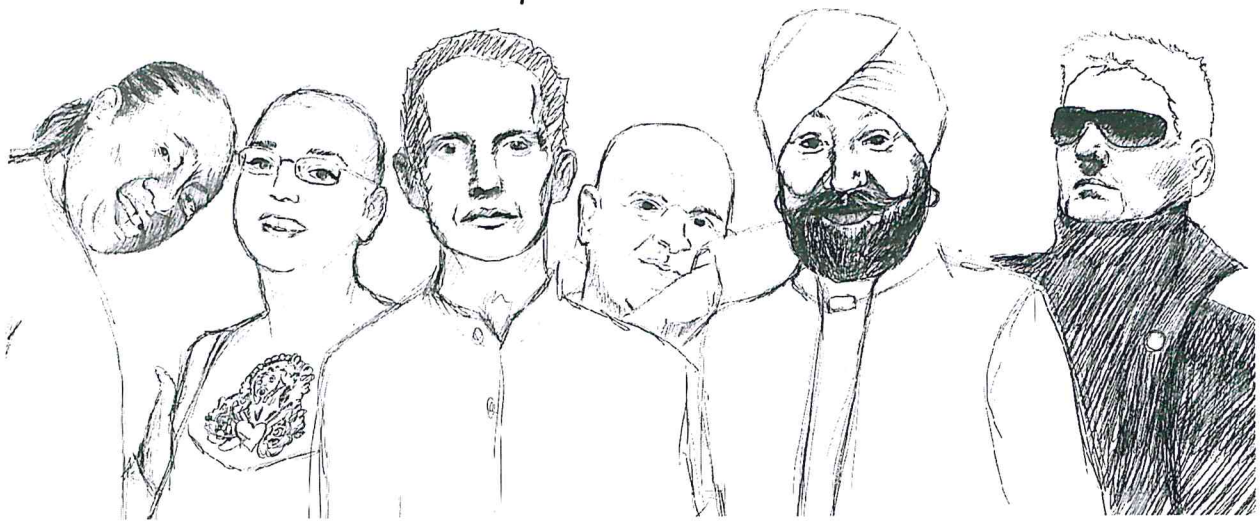
Rhythm:

Outro

STRUCTURE
The female vocalist sings the last four lines of the verse accompanied by synth, drums and fiddle loop. On the last word 'me' everything stops while the piano loops play over and over and gradually fade out.

Elec. piano loop

Elec. piano loop 2



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