

AURAL SONG STRUCTURING

Song structure by listening

1. This structuring is accomplished by LISTENING to the song and using its VISUAL STRUCTURE as an aid.
2. We are now FILLING IN THE REMAINING SECTIONS THAT COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED BY THE VISUAL STRUCTURE.
3. Examples of these sections are: INTRO, OUTRO, BREAKDOWN, SOLO, etc.

INTRO TO THE AURAL STRUCTURING METHOD:

- ★ Listen for “CHANGES” or “DIFFERENCES” in the music.
 - Listen for:
 - Rhythmic changes
 - Melodic changes
 - Harmonic changes
 - Instrumental Entrances
 - Vocal Entrances
 - Sudden Harmonies
 - Dynamics

THE AURAL STRUCTURING PROCESS: [3 STEPS]

- ★ **1ST LISTEN THROUGH**
 - Use the VISUAL STRUCTURE to help break down the song into SECTIONS.
 - Eg. Chorus – Verse – Bridge – Pre-chorus – Intro – Outro – Breakdown – Solo – ETC.
 - Write down the chronological order of the sections.
- ★ **2ND LISTEN THROUGH**
 - Count the number of phrases in each section. Write this number next to each section.
 - Eg. Verse x 4
- ★ **3RD LISTEN THROUGH**
 - Finalize the structure. Asterisk (*) or Bracket () any of the following:
 - Instrumental entrances and stops, Vocal entrances and stops, Solos, Small transitions, Unusual elements, and anything you feel is worth marking down.
 - Mark these next to each section as well (eg. “Drum enters on second phrase”)

TERMINOLOGY:

INTRO

- ★ Section that starts the song.
- ★ Can appear in the middle of the song as well.
- ★ May or may not have lyrics.
- ★ Introduces the theme of the song that can sometimes be heard in the verses and/or the choruses.
- ★ Eg. *Avenged Sevenfold- Scream*

OUTRO

- ★ Section that concludes the song.
- ★ May or may not be present.
- ★ May or may not have lyrics.
- ★ Eg. *Blink 182- Stay Together For The Kids*

CHORUS/INTRO

- ★ The lyrical theme presented in the chorus is used in the intro.
- ★ Eg. *Billy Talent- Fallen Leaves*

CHORUS/OUTRO

- ★ The lyrical theme presented in the chorus is used in the outro.
- ★ Eg. *Billy Talent - Fallen Leaves*
- ★ Eg. *Audioslave- Show Me How To Live*

BREAKDOWN

- ★ All instruments stop playing except for the percussion or bass. As they continue to play, all of the other instruments enter back in at different times. This creates a natural crescendo and “building” effect that transitions nicely into the chorus.
- ★ Eg. *Fall Out Boy (Thanks for the Memories)*

SOLO

- ★ When one of the instruments plays a melody line which either gives them the spotlight.
- ★ Eg. *Yngwie Malmsteen (Video)*
- ★ Eg. *Glass musician guy (funny video)*

DO THE VISUAL SONG STRUCTURE FIRST!!!

I dreamed I was missing
You were so scared
But no one would listen
Cause no one else cared
After my dreaming
I woke with this fear
What am I leaving
When I'm done here
So if you're asking me I want you to know

When my time comes
Forget the wrong that I've done
Help me leave behind some
Reasons to be missed
Don't resent me
And when you're feeling empty
Keep me in your memory
Leave out all the rest
Leave out all the rest

Don't be afraid
I've taking my beating
I've shared what I've made
I'm strong on the surface
Not all the way through
I've never been perfect
But neither have you
So if you're asking me I want you to know

When my time comes
Forget the wrong that I've done
Help me leave behind some
Reasons to be missed
Don't resent me
And when you're feeling empty
Keep me in your memory
Leave out all the rest
Leave out all the rest

Forgetting
All the hurt inside you learned to hide so well
Pretending
Someone else can come and save me from myself
I can't be who you are

When my time comes
Forget the wrong that I've done
Help me leave behind some
Reasons to be missed
Don't resent me
And when you're feeling empty
Keep me in your memory
Leave out all the rest
Leave out all the rest

Forgetting
All the hurt inside you learned to hide so well
Pretending
Someone else can come and save me from myself
I can't be who you are
I can't be who you are



STEP 2 BREAKDOWN: Phrasing

★ HOW DO YOU COUNT THE PHRASES IN A SECTION?

1. FIND THE PULSE OF THE SONG.

A. Bob your head to the rhythm. It usually gives away the pulse of the song.

2. EACH PHRASE USUALLY HAS EIGHT OR SIXTEEN PULSES. COUNT THE NUMBER OF EIGHT OR SIXTEEN BEAT SETS THAT OCCUR IN EACH SECTION.

a. The way you count the pulses is up to you. Make sure to be consistent.

3. WRITE DOWN THE NUMBER OF PHRASES BESIDE EACH SECTION ON THE AURAL STRUCTURE CHART LIKE SO...

a. VERSE X 4, CHORUS X 4

***THE PHRASE LENGTH IN EACH SECTION CAN AND WILL OFTEN CHANGE IN LENGTH.**

EXAMPLES:

8-COUNT PHRASES-

AND

16- COUNT PHRASES

AND

