

Don't Look Back In Anger

Noel Gallagher , recorded 1996

Oasis is a pop group formed in Manchester in 1993. Noel Gallagher was a guitar technician with a pop group called Inspirations, and gained experience travelling on tours with them. He felt he could do better so joined his vocalist brother Liam's band as writer and director. The group soon became established locally, and had their first hit within a fairly short period of time.

Don't Look Back is typical of their music, Brit / Rock-pop. The song makes use of the usual pop group combo of:- Drums / percussion, bass guitar, rhythm guitar, lead guitar and vocalist, along with keyboards, piano and organ, an additional acoustic guitar and small string section (probably violin, viola and cello)

FORM

mainly strophic in nature.

Introduction	4 bars
Verse 1	8 bars
Refrain	12 bars
Chorus	8 bars + 2 bar instrumental fill
Verse 2	8 bars
Refrain	12 bars
Chorus	8 bars
Instrumental solo	12 bars
Chorus	8 bars x 2
Coda	4 bars

MUSICAL ELEMENTS

It is in the key of C major and in Common 4:4 time throughout. The song maintains a steady beat at about 80 crotchets per minute until the coda.

The introduction comprises the piano establishing the tempo with straight eights, joined after 2 bars by the rhythm guitar.

The chord pattern for both the verse and chorus is based on four bars:-

C G Am E F G C Am G

The only variation being in the second line of the verse when the F major chord has a 7th added.

The chord pattern for the refrain is as follows

F Fm7 C F Fm7 C

F Fm7 C G G#dim

Am G F G G

The vocal is for male voices sung in unison.

(Possibly 2-3) The accompaniment for the verse is straightforward and full. Drums / percussion (inc. tambourine) maintain a steady rhythm.

Piano plays a simple repeated chord on the beat Organ plays single chords.

Rhythm guitar plays straight eights.

Acoustic guitar plays a pattern of a mixture of quavers / semi quavers.

Lead guitar a mixture of the vocal melody and fills.

The refrain remains similar with added chord from the strings and the piano, and the lead guitar playing chords on the off beat and fills for the first six bars, followed by 5 bars of straight eights, and one bar fill leading to the chorus when it has a rest!

The instrumental solo by lead guitar is straightforward and not virtuoso, it is accompanied as previously.

The final two choruses remain the same with a crescendo towards the coda, which contrasts with a sudden diminuendo and by slowing down. It has a quieter and minimum chordal accompaniment, and the rhythm guitar playing a fill before the final chord played by all.

The recording is of a good quality and would use digital techniques. There is quite a large amount of delay or echo used for the vocals. Double tracking has probably been used to thicken the sound throughout. The lead guitar has quite a large amount of reverb in the solo section.