

With A Little Help from My Friends

Information: Sang by Ringo Starr (Written by Lennon and McCartney)

Ringo was insecure about vocals but they would always write a song for him to sing (George, John and Paul very good singers)

2nd Song on album (After the Overture) but was the very last to be recorded. Recording went very late due to Ringos vocals

Segues from the overture with no pause by a three note progression (C - D - E) and the lyrics "Billy Shears" (Ringos alter-ego)

Melody

Very simple in melody (Due to Ringos insecurity of vocals)

Moves mainly in a conjunct/stepwise motion
Has a short range of notes which is comfortable for Ringos baritone voice (E-B)
All of this makes it easier to sing

Harmonies provided by John, Paul and George. Adds development and embellishes the song

Harmony

Chords used in the song

Key - E major

Verse - E(I) - F#m(ii) - B(V)

Chorus - D(bVII) - A (IV) - E(I) x 2
A(IV) - E (I) - B(V)

Imperfect cadence

(B sets up a perfect cadence back to the verse)

Bridge- C# - F# (Highlights a modulation to B)
E - D - A (Looses modulation)

Bassline info - Does not always use Root notes so adds inversions to chords. Very melodic

Structure

Verse 1 - Ringo singing Solo

Chorus 1 - Ringo singing solo. John and Paul harmonise on the 3rd time.

Only 6 Bars long (untypical of a Pop Song)

Verse 2 - Call and Response between Solo Ring and Harmonies of John and Paul

Ringo: What do I do when my love is away?

Band: Does it worry you to be alone etc...

Chorus 2 - Same as Chorus 1 but with harmonies of John and Paul

Bridge 1 - John and Paul now Call and Ringo Responds

Band: Do you need anybody?

Ringo: I need somebody to Love etc...

Verse 3 and Chorus 3 - Same as previous

Bridge - Same as Bridge 1

Chorus - 8 bars in length (More typical)

Outro - Ringo hits his highest note

Rhythm and Metre

Time signature is 4/4 throughout (Not untypical for a pop/rock song)

Accompaniment - Simple Crotchet movement

Melody - Shuffle and syncopated rhythms compliments simple melody

Texture

Melody and Accompaniment throughout