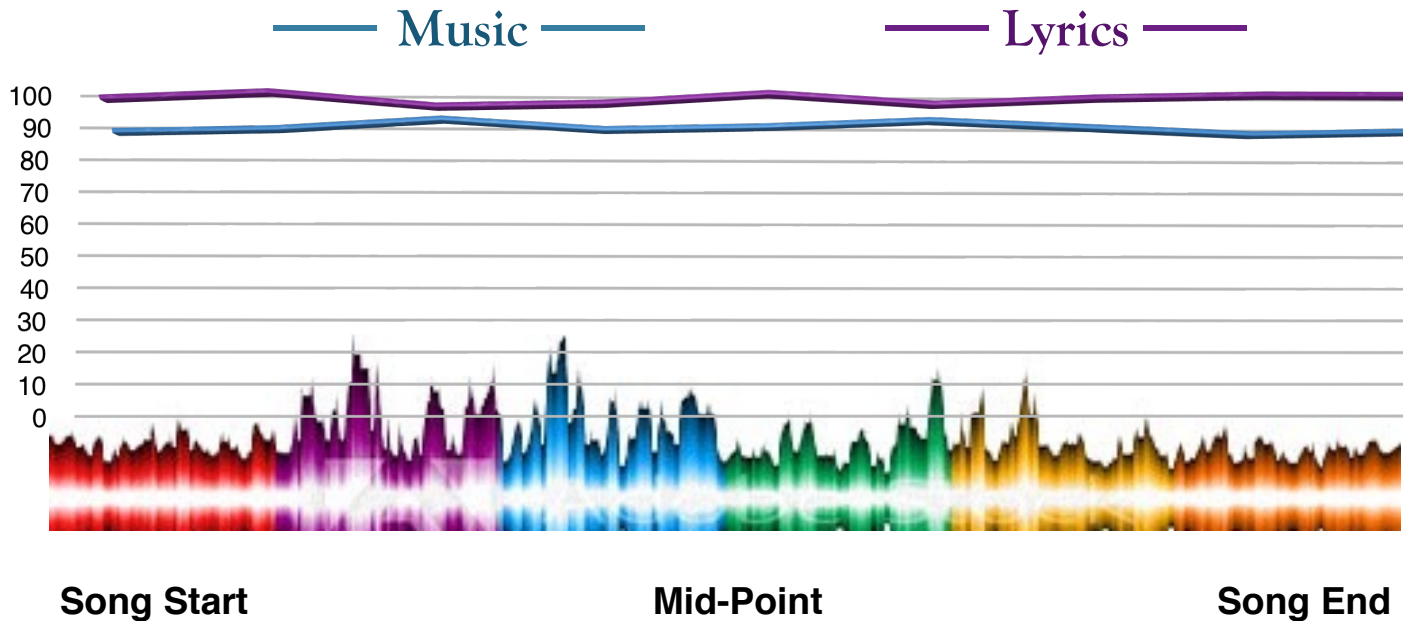


Let Them Keep Their Braids

Written By: Joanne Shaw

Attention Tracker



The “Attention Tracker” is a visual tool depicting how successful your song is at both grabbing and keeping the attention of your listener. One of the main components of a great song is its ability to catch your listener’s attention immediately and hold their interest throughout the entirety of the work.

Having higher scores in the middle of the song equates to the likeliness of the listener remaining engaged and not moving on to other songs. Having a high score near the end of the song equates to the likeliness of the listener wanting to hear more and playing the song multiple times.

Scores between 1- 25 illustrate which section of your song is not grabbing the interest of the listener. Staying below 25 for too long may result in losing a listener’s desire to completely listen to your whole song. Scores ranging from 75 - 100 show that your song is engaging at specified sections and more likely to maintain your listener’s interest.

Catchiness

Catchiness is how easy it is for one to remember a song, tune, lyric, phrasing, etc... It is often taken into account when writing songs, Alternatively, it can be defined as how difficult it is for one to forget it. A catchy song is a memorable song.

Music



Lyrics



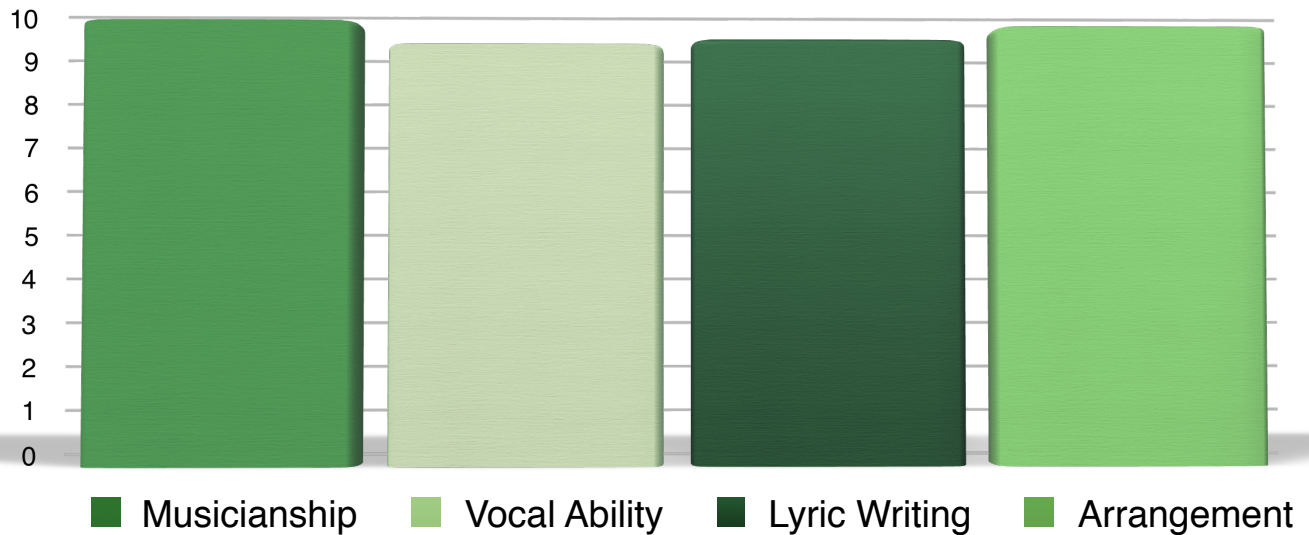
Melodies



Vocal Phrasing



Technical Evaluation



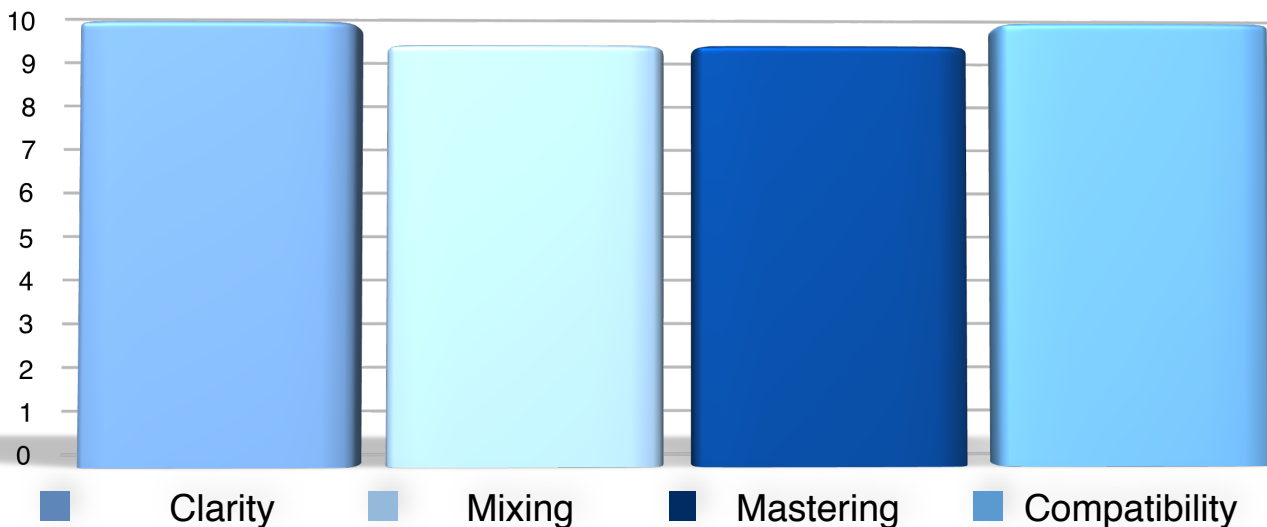
Musicianship: The musician's performance considering timing, technique, style and overall ability to play the song professionally.

Vocal Ability: The singer's performance considering timing, technique, staying in tune, tone quality, range, articulation and overall ability to sing at a professional level.

Lyric Writing: Ability to convey a message in a meaningful way by expressive word selection, flow of ideas and phrasing.

Arrangement: The effectiveness of bringing various sections of a song together to create a unified and coherent work.

Production Quality



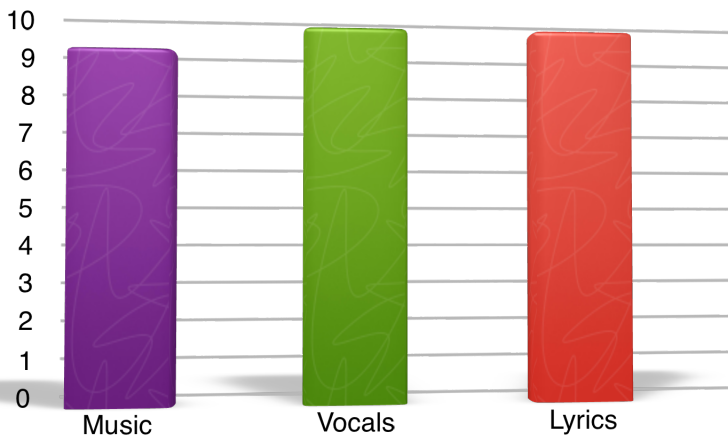
Clarity: The distinction, quality and purity of the individually recorded tracks.

Mixing: The combining of individual tracks through volume, panning, compression, effects, dynamics, frequencies etc... that place each track into it's sonic space.

Mastering: The polishing of a song's combined tracks with attention to EQ, normalization, compression and limiting.

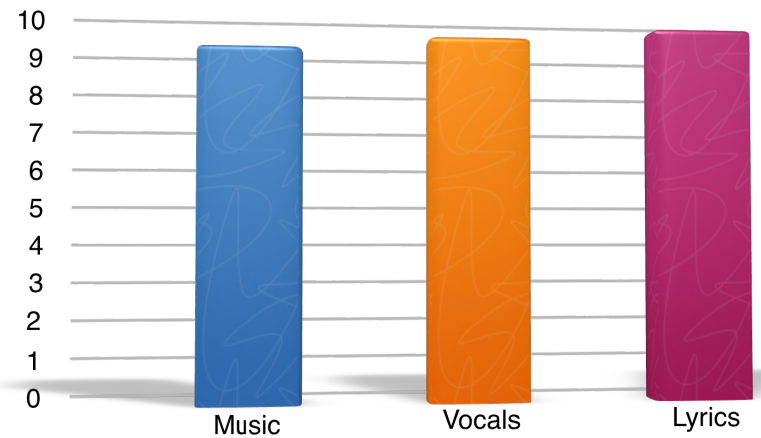
Compatibility: The degree to which the production fits the song's style. (Example: A folk song's mix may suffer if it is mixed like a hip-hop song that relies more on low-end bass and more distinction from the kick drum and snare.)

Marketability & Commercial Viability



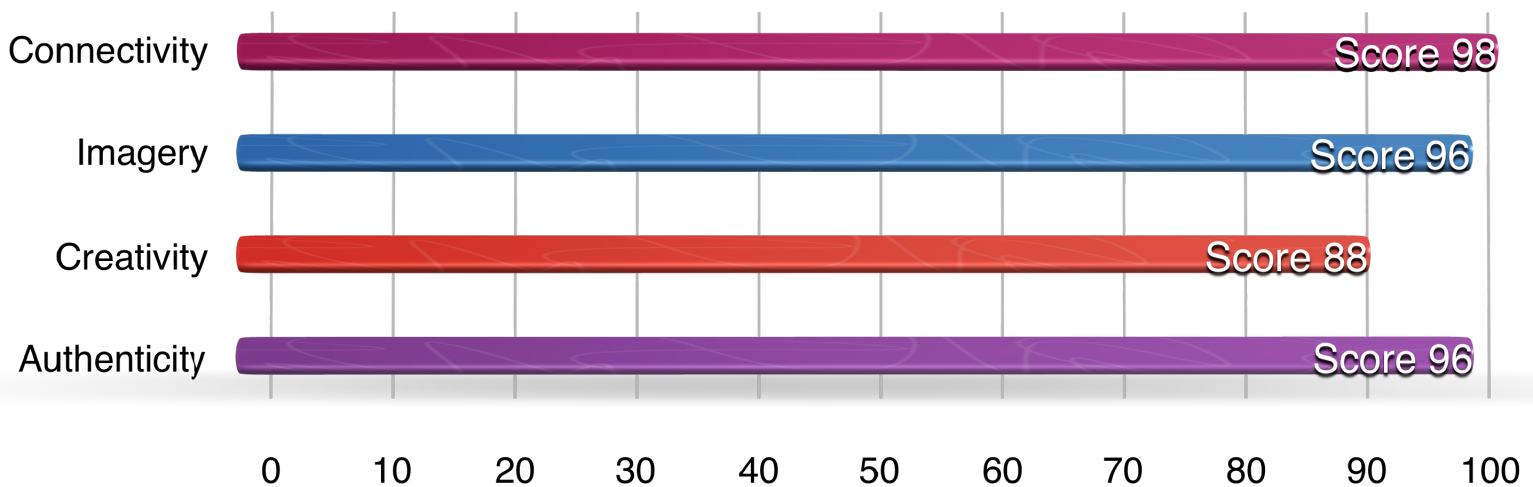
The extent to which a song and performance is compatible with current music trends while having the ability to be competitive among modern hit songs from the same genre.

Emotional Affect & Effective Delivery



The song's ability to engage and evoke an emotional response within the listener while allowing them to not only "hear" the song but to "experience" the feelings that the song conveys.

Songwriting Essentials



Connectivity: The song's ability to easily connect with the listener through subject matter and descriptive lyrics that can be commonly related to by others.

Imagery: The degree to which the song allows the listener to visualize the song and see its storyline unfolding in their mind.

Creativity: The uniqueness and originality of the song.

Authenticity: The degree to which the song comes across as believable, honest and/or sincere.

Commentary

I enjoyed the mystery of this song as I had no idea where it was going at first. I was extremely interested as to what the characters were experiencing “alcohol”, “walking the streets”, “yelling and dancing” etc..... and to what ends. You eloquently offered the song’s closure by revisiting the beginning section “... spirit, you are the earth the stars...”. This technique seems to really put the song back into prospective after taking the song’s journey.

Musically the song had good movement with the unexpected key change during the “like his ancestors” section. This is a wonderful transition that compliments the story nicely while adding character and separation from the verse.

The singer’s phrasing and vocal tone was well delivered. Some subtle instrumentation could help fill up the song and make it sound more full and polished. Both the vocals and piano sound like they were professionally recorded. I could see this song having more instrumentation with a full band (guitar, bass, drums) compared to “In Spite Of What Ive done” because this song is “moving” more to tell the various stories. The additional instrumentation can help deliver that story line. Whereas “In Spite Of What Ive done” seems like it needs the intimacy of vocal spacing without getting lost in too much instrumentation notwithstanding some possible strings. Great job on this song!