

Skye Waulking Song - Capercaillie 2000

The Elements of Music

Melody



Rhythm



Texture



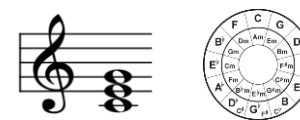
Instruments



Genre



Harmony & Tonality



Structure



MELODY

Vocal melody:
Pentatonic.
Uses a low register of the voice.
Mainly syllabic.
Alternates between Gaelic (call) and phrases that use vocables (response)
Vocables = nonsense syllables.

Instrumentalists:
Short motifs & Countermelodies based on the vocal phrases.

Instruments improvise around the melody in a folk style.
Similar melody slightly different ways = heterophonic.
Sometimes weaving a complex, weaving counterpoint around the melody.

Vocal part = sung using E minor pentatonic.

RHYTHM

12/8 (12 quavers in a bar, or 4 dotted crotchets)
Compound time is common to folk music.
Lilting feel.
Start of the song: hi-hat creates cross rhythms. Once the band enters it clearly emphasises the time signature.
Scotch Snap - short accented note before a longer one.

TEXTURE

Layered texture:
Rhythmic pattern on drum kit. Bass line on bass guitar. Chords on synthesizer and accordion.
Main melody sung by voice. Countermelodies played on other melody instruments)

INSTRUMENTS

Combination of popular and folk instruments.
Drum kit
Bass guitar
Wurlitzer piano
Synthesizer

Accordion
Violin (fiddle)
Uilleann pipes
Bouzouki
Whistle

GENRE

Celtic Fusion - Scottish folk and pop music.
Waulking song - work song. Waulking is the pounding of tweed cloth. Usually call and response - helped the women work in time.
Text is taken from a lament.

STRUCTURE

Intro: 8 bars.	Verse 5
Verse 1	Verse 6
Break	Instrumental
Verse 2	Verse 7
Verse 3	Verse 8
Verse 4	Outro

HARMONY AND TONALITY

Built around 3 main chords: G, Em and C.
Because the dominant chord is avoided, the music has a modal feel.