Style - Folk-rock

Album - 'Grace' was Buckley's debut album released in 1994.

Voice

- Vocal has a very wide range
- ***Falsetto*** – singing above normal top register
- ***Vibrato*** used extensively
- Combination of **syllabic** and **melismatic** writing
- Scoops up to notes (also known as ***portamento***)
- Screaming at points
- Vocal improvisations in the outro – showing off his soprano range and virtuosity – top G!!
- Mutli-tracked vocal harmonies in bridge – also uses **vocalise** (oohs and aahhs)
- Verse 3 vocal is an octave higher, louder, uses falsetto, growling, shouting and has a longer held note at the end
- Improvised vocals at the end

Use of electric guitar

- Plucked or picked at the start with broken chords/arpeggios
- Strumming in second part of intro and link
- Percussive sound hitting the strings in link before V3
- Mostly clean guitar sound, distortion in Verse 3 and strummed chords
- Verse 3 also has pick-scraping, sliding, glissando, palm muting, hammer-ons, pull offs,

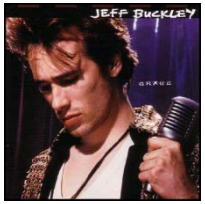
Melodic/Musical Devices

Four main riffs in the piece:

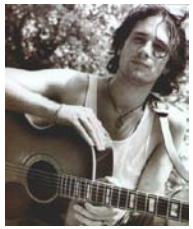
i. Made up of semiquavers – played by electric guitar in intro
ii. In the verses electric guitar plays broken chords
iii. Acoustic guitar plays rhythmic, percussive riff in verses and choruses.
iv. In final section both guitars play a fourth riff

Electronic effects

- ***Delay*** **–** creates an echo effect (repeats the note)
- ***EQ*** – on vocal line in middle 8, telephone like sound
- ***Flanger*** – added to the electric guitar in the outro. Creates a swirly sound.
- ***Distortion*** used on one guitar in Verse 3
- Effects are used most in verse 3
- Guitar '**whisper effects'** used where they can be heard



Grace
Jeff Buckley



Instruments/Ensemble

- Lead vocal and backing vocals
- Electric guitar
- Acoustic guitar
- Bass guitar
- Drum kit
- Synthesizer (heard clearly in the intro – uses a wailing sound
- Strings (added in V2, pizzicato in 2nd pre-chorus)

Structure and Tonality

Seems complicated, but can be broken down into four sections

1. Intro – Verse 1 – Pre-chorus – Chorus –
2. Link (from Intro) – Verse 2 – Pre-chorus – Chorus
3. Bridge –
4. Link – Verse 3 – Outro (same chords as chorus)

Three musical points about this piece that I like:

Justify your points and use musical vocabulary.

Three musical points about this piece that I <u>don't</u> like:

Justify your points and use musical vocabulary.

How are the elements used?

Structure

- Typical verse chorus-structure, with bridge and guitar solo towards end.
- Intro is repeated after the choruses.
- Ends with a short outro (same chords as chorus)

Tonality and Harmony

- Song is minor or modal, most sections have a tonal centre of E
- Unusual chord progressions – harmony is ***non functional***
- Plays broken chords at points (picking). At other points there is strumming
- Chords seem complex but actually simple on the guitar. Uses technique of moving the same chord shape (which is a **power chord**) up and down the fretboard, while keeping one or more strings open as a ***drone.***
- Guitar uses ***drop D tuning*** – the lower E string is tuned down to the note D to give a darker feel.
- Most sections have a tonal centre of E but Buckley uses a wide variety of chords that do not belong to one particular key.

Timbre and texture

- Main texture is melody and accompaniment
- Intro – just guitar and synth pad sound.
- Suddenly full band joins in, no vocal yet.
- Verse 1 – vocals enter
- Chorus – Backing vocals enter – very subtle. Double tracked main vocals at points.
- Strings are used from time to time
- Ends

Dynamics

- Quiet in intro
- Volume increased by bringing more instruments.

Melody & Pitch

- Wide vocal range
- ***Falsetto*** used at points
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Tempo & Rhythm

- Steady 12/8 tempo
- Unusual as most pop songs in 4/4
- It feels faster though as the guitar plays semiquaver patterns at the beginning.
- Middle 8 – longer notes from strings.