

'Bohemian Rhapsody'

Released on 31st October 1975 from their first no. 1 album 'A Night At The Opera', (Song No. 11) written by Freddie Mercury, produced by Roy Thomas Baker and Queen. A six - minute single (three - minute songs were the norm), that stayed at number 1 for nine weeks. It was accompanied by a spectacular video which inaugurated the modern age of music video. And sold over a million records. The single was re-released in the UK in December 1991 in aid of the Terrence Higgins Trust (an aids charity), and raised over a million pounds. The hit movie 'Wayne's World' featured the song and the single was re-released in America in 1992. In British music polls 'Bohemian Rhapsody' has been voted the no. 1 song of all time.

Bohemian Rhapsody is full of surprises. It pokes fun at the world of opera, makes clever use of instrumentation, many changes of mood and has sophisticated harmonic progressions. Another unusual feature is the appearance of several diverse styles from pop and classical music idioms in different sections. It deals with feelings of remorse and despair of a murderer.

The song took three weeks to record, 7 days on the 180 vocal overdubs and multiple guitar layers.. It wasn't all recorded in one go. The first section and the rock section were done first. They changed the middle section several times and added new bits depending on the vocals and some creative ideas. The quasi-operatic middle section was achieved by so many overdubs that the band was unable to perform all the parts on stage.

Freddie gave the tape of it to Kenny Everett who thought it was marvellous. Kenny played it 14 times on Capital Radio over a weekend. It shot straight up the charts to number 1 and stayed there for 9 weeks

The primary source for this study is the recording. The sheet music is a secondary source. In Western Art music, the music was composed and scored first. Performing and recording the work came later. In general the full score defines the music: instrumentation, metre, tempo, dynamics, melody, harmony lines are fully notated. In rock/ pop the sheet music is written after the studio produced recording is created. Most sheet music (especially the piano/ vocal/ guitar edition) is simplified and contains errors and discrepancies, is short on detail, instrumentation, and repeats may not be written out, lacks rhythmic and melodic accuracy. The nature of rock music with multiple syncopated, improvised tracks and mixes, does not lend itself to producing a full rock score. In 'Bohemian Rhapsody' six bars are omitted from the guitar solo, and the verse repeat is not written out.

LYRICS

Is this the real life?	Pulled my trigger, now he's dead.	Cotta leave you all behind and face the truth.
Is this just fantasy?	Mama, life had just begun,	Mama, ooh (Any way the wind
Caught in a landslide,	But now I've gone and thrown	blows)
No escape from reality.	it all away.	I don't want to die,
Open your eyes,	Mama, ooh,	I sometimes wish I'd never
Look up to the skies and see,	didn't mean to make you cry.	been born at all.
I'm just a poor boy,	If I'm not back again this time	
I need no sympathy,	tomorrow,	
Because I'm easy come, easy go	Carry on, carry on	I see a little silhouetto of a
Little high, little low,	as if nothing really matters.	man,
Any way the wind blows,	Too late, my time has come,	Scaramouche, Scaramouche,
Doesn't really matter to me, to me.	Sends shivers down my spine,	will you do the Fandango.
	body's aching all the time.	Thunderbolt and lightning,
	Goodbye, everybody, I've got	very, very frightening me
Mama, just killed a man,	to go,	Gallileo, Gallileo, Gallileo,
Put a gun against his head,		Gallileo,
		Gailileo figaro - Magnifico.

I' m just a poor boy and nobody
loves me.
He' s just a poor boy from a
poor family,
Spare him his life from this
monstrosity.
Easy come, easy go, will you
let me go,
Bismillah! No, we will not let
you go.
Let him go! Bismillah!
We will not let you go.
Let him go! Bismillah!
We will not let you go.
Let me go! Will not let you go.
Let me go!
Will not let you go. Let me go!
No, no, no, no, no, no, no.

Oh Mama mia, mama mia,
mama mia, let me go.
Beelzebub has a devil put aside
for me,
for me, for me.

So you think you can stone me
-and spit in my eye.
So you think you can love me
and leave me to die.
Oh, baby, can' t do this to me,
baby,
Just gotta get out, just gotta get
right outta here.

Nothing really matters,
Anyone can see,

Nothing really matters,
nothing really matters to me.
Any way the wind blows

Instrumentation

Electric Lead Guitar: Brian
May

Electric Bass Guitar: John
Deacon

Percussion: Roger Taylor

Piano: Freddie Mercury

Lead Vocal: Freddie

Operatic Vocals: Roger,
Brian, Freddie

Guitar Orchestra: Brian