

Sunset

Martin York/ Gigajam Interactive Music School

4 Clicks

Introduction

Vamp

Verse

Chorus

Vamp

Verse

Chorus

Middle 8

Intro vamp - bass/drums/keys

Vamp

Verse

Chorus

Fine

Understanding the chart

This song will help you to apply the skills you have learned using your seven-day keyboard course. You can download free Xtractor play-along and MP3 files at www.independent.co.uk/gigajam.

This worksheet is designed to help you learn to play a song, while following the music from a keyboard chart. A keyboard chart, or keyboard guide, is the music that session keyboardists are given to follow when they are asked to perform a tune, be it live, or in a recording session.

To do this though, you need to prepare yourself first.

Start by going through the chart, step-by-step, looking at each section. Ensure you understand what the chart is asking you to do.

Step 1

The first thing you will see is the name of the tune "Sunset" and the name of the composer.

Step 2

At the top left-hand side, before the tune starts you will see the note "4 clicks". This means that you will hear four clicks before the tune starts. This will help count you into the song.

Step 3

Next is the time signature "C", which is the sign for common time, and means there are four beats in each bar. This should be familiar territory for you.

Step 4

Now have a look at the structure of the tune and what you have to play.

The beginning of the tune is a four bar introduction and here you need only to play two note chords with the right hand. There is a whole note rhythm in the first bar, and the second bar follows the rest of the band with a quarter note, two eighth notes and a half note. Make sure you play these chords tightly with the rest of the band.

Step 5

The next section is denoted by the double bar lines at the end of bar 4, and the new section is a vamp. A vamp is where the rhythm and groove of the tune is laid down before any melody is brought in. It settles the listener into the feel of the song. You will see that there are simple whole note chords for three bars in the left hand and then there is a variation in the fourth bar (bar 8), which you need to take a closer look at.

In bar 8, while the left hand plays a two note chord for the whole bar, the right hand plays a half note followed by a quarter note and two eighth notes. These last three right hand notes lead you into (pick up) the simple melody in the first verse. It is quite common for melodies to start in this way, so this is good practice for you.

Step 6

The melody continues from bar 9 to bar 15. In the fourth bar of the melody (bar 12), the pick up bar from the vamp is repeated; taking you back into a repetition of the melody at bar 13. This continues for three bars.

Step 7

The chorus is very rhythmical and you play mixtures of quarter note and eighth note triads for eight bars. Note that there is no bass stave for these eight bars, as the left hand does not play anything.

Step 8

If you take a look at the structure of the tune so far, you will see that the vamp is now repeated for four bars and then the seven bar verse is played again. You then go on to play the chorus again. Just note that the chorus is only four bars long this time.

Step 9

The middle section of the tune is called a "middle eight" and is a very common feature of popular songs. It is called a middle eight because it is often in the middle of the song and is usually eight bars long. However, middle eights can, on occasions, vary in length.

Moving into the middle eight section you have a mixture of rhythm and melody to play. This section has what is called "a dance hall feel" and provides a dynamic change to the tune. This section has energy and excitement and you need to try to get that into your playing through this section. Note again that you play with only the right hand and that there is no bass stave for this section.

Step 10

From the excitement of the dance hall section the tune moves into a breakdown section, where there is a brief, four bar intro vamp. Note that the melody finishes on the first note in the first bar (bar 47) of the intro vamp and is held for one bar. You then have three bars of rest.

This section has fewer instruments playing and has the effect of settling the track down before it moves into the next section. This creates a bridge between two sections of the song which have very different dynamics.

Step 11

The tune continues following the structure with which you are already familiar: four bars vamp, verse and then chorus. The song finishes with a whole note triad in bar 70 and the word "Fine" to denote "the end" of the song.

Step 12

Watch and listen to the multimedia files and follow the chart through a couple of times. Once you have done that, have a go yourself. You can play with the keyboard player, or mute the keyboard track so that you can play with the band on your own.

Remember to...

1. Concentrate.
2. Count.
3. Look at the chart as you play.
4. Cycle the difficult bits and practise them.
5. Slow the tune down to a tempo you can play and read at.
6. Have fun.