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MTO 31.1 Examples: Manabe, Genre Topics in Yoasobi's "Idol" (2023)

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)

<https://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.26.32.3/mto.26.32.3.manabe.html>

Example 1. Form, texture, and topics in “Idol”

Cycle	Viewpoint		Lyric (Japanese version/ English version)	Topic	Tonal Center	Chords	Textural layers				
	Timestamp	Section					Melodic	Explicit beat	Bass	Harmonic fill	Novelty
Cycle 1	Fans										
	0:00	Rap verse 1	muteki no egao de arasu media / Couldn't beat her smile, it stirred up all the media	hip hop	G#m	G# A F#/ G# A C#	rapped, pitched up-down, G#-D# (maj 3rd-P4 apart)	TR808 kick, hi-hat (chiku-chiku); bass drum	808 bass	orchestral hit, syncopated	<i>orchestral hit</i>
	0:14	Interlude	You're my savior	dark chorus	G#m	G#m A	Large choir	kick drum, syncopated	synthesized strings	synthesized strings	
	0:17	Sung verse 1	Part 1 kyō nani tabeta? / What did you eat today?	pop	G#m	G#m -D#	Sung vocal	drum set, 4-on-the- floor	bass	electric piano, guitar (end)	<i>clavichord runs</i>
	0:29		Part 2 sō tantan to /So unconcerned,	lament bass, dark chorus	G#m	G#m -D# (chromatic descent)	Sung vocal, synthesized voice, synthesizer	drum set, galloping	bass	electric piano, synthesizer	<i>chorus</i>
	0:39	Prechorus 1	Part 1 Dare ka suki ni naru koto nante/ I don't have any idea how I could love anyone	singer- songwriter, idol pop	G#m	Emaj7-D#- G#m	Sung vocal, arpeggiated melody	Half-time; K--kk-S-; handclaps on 4		piano	shouts "hey" on beat 4
	0:45		Part 2 uso ka hontō ka shirienai / Cannot find out if it's true or it's a lie	idol pop	G#m	Emaj7-D#- G#m - C#m-D#	Sung vocal, syncopated melody	drum set, 4-on-the- floor, snare on 2; handclaps on 2 and 4	bass, busy	piano, guitar	shouts on 2 and 4, claps
	0:54	Chorus 1	Part 1 dare mo ga me o ubawarete iku / That emotion melts all hearts, all eyes on you	Eurobeat	Am	F-Em7-Am; Dm-Em-Am	Sung vocal, doubled with synthesized timbre; keyboards in countermelody	drum set, 4-on-the- floor, snare on 2; drum-machine hi- hats	bass, alternating octaves	guitar	<i>synth fills</i>
	1:06		Part 2 Ah, sono egao de aishiteru de / Ah, using that smiling face	Eurobeat	Am->A	F-Em7-Am; Dm7-Em-A	Sung vocal, doubled with synthesized timbre; synth countermelody	drum set, 4-on-the- floor, snare on 2	bass	synth, guitar chords	<i>synth fills</i>
Cycle 2	Nino, B-Komatchi										
	1:18	Rap verse 2	Part 1 hai hai ano ko wa tokubetsu desu / Right, right, we all know she's very special, yes	hip hop	Am		rapped vocal, doubled a third down in synthetic timbre	drums at beat 1; drum machine hi-hat in eighth/sixteenth notes		orchestra hit	<i>orchestra hit</i> ; swoosh at end
	1:30		Part 2 nai; sharakusai / No, it's not right	trap	Am		rapped vocal in triplets, manipulated, doubled a third down; rises in pitch through verse	drum machine hi-hat	808 bass, syncopated pattern		breaking glass; phone ringing; synth (enters and builds in last line), woosh
	1:41	Chorus 2	Part 1 dare mo ga shinji agameteru / That emotion seized all hearts worshipping you	Eurobeat	Am	F-Em7-Am; Dm-Em-Am	Sung vocal, doubled and synthesizer-enhanced; keyboards in countermelody	drum set, 4-on-the- floor, snare on 2; drum-machine hi- hats	bass, alternating octaves	guitar	<i>synth fills</i>
	1:53		Part 2 yowai toko nante misecha damedame / The gaps and shortcomings, don't show 'em	Eurobeat; idol pop	Am->A	F-Em7-Am; Dm7-Em-A	Sung vocal, doubled and synthesizer-enhanced; synth countermelody	drum set, 4-on-the- floor, snare on 2	bass, alternating octaves	synth, guitar chords	<i>synth fills</i> ; shouts on beats 2 and 4

Example 1, continued

Cycle	Viewpoint Timestamp	Section	Lyric (Japanese version/ English version)	Topic	Tonal Center	Chords	Textural layers				
							Melodic	Explicit beat	Bass	Harmonic fill	Novelty
Cycle 3	Al										
	2:05	Rap verse 3	Part 1 tokui no egao de waku media / Showing this smile, my own weapon boiling media	rap	A	A B $\flat$ G / A B $\flat$ D	Rapped vocal, same pattern as VC1, natural sounding, exaggerated pitch rise at end.	Tempo H=84 -->76; martial snare pattern in triplets (x--xxx), bass drum	808 bass	orchestral hit	<i>orchestral hit</i> ; timpani roll
	2:18		Part 2 nagareru ase mo kireina aqua / Running down, my sweat is flowing	march; dark chorus	A	A B $\flat$ G / A B $\flat$ D	Rapped vocal, spiraling higher in pitch	martial triplet snare, bass drum	808 bass	orchestral hit; chorus	<i>chorus</i> ; <i>string counter melody</i>
	2:30		synth solo	game	Am		synthesizer	bass drum	808 bass		
	2:31	Prechorus 3	Part 1 dareka ni ai saretakoto mo / I recall no one that loved me whole before	singer-songwriter	Am	Fmaj7-E- Am	Sungvocal, natural-sounding	None; Q=152->160	piano	piano	
	2:37		Part 2 son'na watashi no uso ga / Now, the lies I'm making up	singer-songwriter	G#m-->G#	Emaj7-D#- G#m - C#m-D#- G#	Sungvocal, natural-sounding; ending "shinjiteru" in responding synthesizer-enhanced voice		piano	piano	
	2:44	Chorus 3	Part 1a itsuka kitto zenbuteni ireru / One day, I will hold everything that I pursue	Eurobeat	Bbm	Gb-Fm7- Bbm ; Eb-m-Fm- Bbm	Sungvocal with parallel harmony, synthesized treatment	Q=160->168; 4-on-the-floor drums, claps	bass (at end)	piano	<i>claps</i> ; woosh
	2:51		Part 1b tōshindai de min'na no koto / So, sincerely, what I'm wishing for	Eurobeat	Bbm	Gb-Fm7- Bbm ; Eb-m-Fm- Bbm	Sungvocal with parallel harmony, synthesized treatment	4-on-the-floor, snare on backbeats	bass, alternating octaves	synthesizer chords; guitar	<i>synth fills</i>
	2:57		Part 2 kyō mo uso o tsuku no / And so, today, I lie again	Eurobeat; idol pop	Bbm-->Bb	Gb-Fm7- Bbm ; Eb-m-Fm- Bb	Sungvocal with parallel harmony, synthesized treatment	4-on-the-floor, snare on backbeats	bass, alternating octaves	synthesizer chords, guitar	<i>synth fills</i> ; shouts, beats 2 and 4
	3:08	Postchorus	Part 2 A, yatto ieta / I, I said it at last	singer-songwriter	Bbm-->Bb	Gb-Fm7- Bbm ; Eb-m-Fm- Bb	Sungvocal, natural-sounding	4-on-the-floor; out at "aishiteru"	piano	piano; single chord at "aishiteru"	woosh at end
Coda	3:15	Outro		Eurobeat	Bbm	Gb-Fm7- Bbm ; Eb-m-Fm- Bbm	Synthesizer	4-on-the-floor, snare on backbeats	bass, alternating octaves	synthesizer, guitar	shouts, beats 2 and 4, <i>synth fills</i>
	3:26	Interlude	You're my savior	dark chorus	Bbm	Bbm Cb Bbm	Large choir; synthesizer (end)	4-on-the-floor	bass, 808 bass	synthesizer; chorus	<i>synth (end)</i>

Example 2. "Idol," percussion on opening rap (0:00)

Orchestral hit

Hi-hat/roll

Drums

Hi-hat/roll

Dr.

The musical score is written for three percussion parts: Orchestral hit, Hi-hat/roll, and Drums. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Orchestral hit part begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The Hi-hat/roll and Drums parts feature a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The score is divided into two systems, each containing three staves. The first system includes staves for Orchestral hit, Hi-hat/roll, and Drums. The second system includes staves for Hi-hat/roll and Dr. The Hi-hat/roll and Drums parts feature a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Orchestral hit part begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The score is divided into two systems, each containing three staves. The first system includes staves for Orchestral hit, Hi-hat/roll, and Drums. The second system includes staves for Hi-hat/roll and Dr.

Example 3. Ghostemane, "Mercury Retrograde" (2017), percussion, 0:20–0:26

Hi-hat

Snare Drum

Cym.

S. D.

Example 4. Ghostemane, "Mercury Retrograde," rap, 0:30–0:33

♩ = 80

ASK me IF i GIVE a **F*CK** a - BOUT a CLIQUE ayy

Example 5. Kendrick Lamar, "Humble," rap, 2:09–2:12

E $\flat$

mixo-

lydian

♩ = 69

THIS that GREY Pou - PON, that E - vi - AN, that **TED** talk

Example 6. Opening rap verse, Yoasobi's "Idol," 0:00–0:15 (transcribed at ♩ = 84 for comparison with Ghostamene and Lamar examples; English is taken from Yoasobi's official English version)

♩ = 84

mu - TE - KI NO E - ga - ode a - RA - SU **ME** - di - a
 COULD-n't BEAT her SMILE it STIRRED up ALL the **ME** - di - a

shi - RI - Tai so - NO hi - MI - TSU mi - SU - **TE** - ri - as'
 SE - cret SIDE, WAN - na KNOW - it, SO mys - **TE** - ri - ous

nu - KE - TE - RU to - ko sa - E KA - no - jo no **E** - ri - a
 E - ven THAT e - LU - sive SIDE, PART of her con-TROLLED **A** - re - a

kaN - PE - KI DE u - SO - tsu - ki na **ki** - **MI** WA
 com - PLETE and PER - fect ALL you SAY's a BUNCH of **LIES**

teN - SAI TEKI na **Ai** - **doru** sa - ma
 DEAR miss GE - nius **I** - **dol** un-MATCHED

Example 7. "Idol," first pre-chorus, voice and piano, 0:40-0:47

leap

leap

Voice

Da - re - ka o su - ki ni na - ru ko - to na - n -

Piano

mf

Emaj⁷ VImaj⁷ D#m⁷ v⁷ G#m⁷ i⁷ D#⁷/G V⁶⁵ *F#m⁷(add⁶) ii⁷/VI B(add⁶) V/V

te wa - ta - shi wa - ka - ra - na - ku - te sa u - so

C#m⁷ iv⁷ D#⁷ V⁷ G#m i Go #viio *B/F# III⁴³

Example 8. "Hikōkigumo" (Vapor Trail, 1973, 0:55-1:06)

Bb⁷ V⁷ Eb I Gm⁷ iii⁷ Cm⁷ vi⁷ Gm iii *Bbm⁷ *ii⁷/IV Ab IV

leap

So-ra ni a-ko-ga-re te so-ra o ka-ke-te-yu-ku

Longing for the sky, flying across the sky

Example 9. Aiko, “Sōshisō ai” (Mutual Love, 2024, 0:00–0:21)

A I C#7 *C#7/vi F#m7 vi7 A/E I64 D9add6 IV9 A/C# I6 Bm7 ii7 D/E IV E V
 A - ta - shi wa a-na - ta ni wa na - re - nai na - re - nai
I can't be you, I can't be you

A I C#7 *C#7/vi F#m vi A/E I6 D9add6 IV9 A/C# I6 *Am/C i6 (Tacet)
 Zut - to to-o - ku ka-ra mi - te - ru mi - te - ru da-ke de
I've just been watching you, watching you from far away

Example 10. PPPH pattern

Example 11. Amuro Namie with Supermonkeys, "Try Me—Watashi o shinjite" (1995), chorus, 1:08–1:15

♩ = 144

Voice

So-o-yo Try me a-na-ta o tsu - tsu - mu
 Yes, try me A love that embraces you

Synthesizer

Electric Bass
 ♩ = 144

Hi-hat
 Snare
 Bass drum

Tr.

a-i ga ma - t - te - ru. I - ma wa
 is waiting.

Synth.

E. Bass

Dr.

Example 12. "Idol," chorus, 0:55–1:01

Music score for the first system of "Idol," chorus, 0:55–1:01. The score is in 4/4 time and features four staves: Voice, Synthesizers, Electric Bass, and Hi-hat/Snare/Bass drum.

Voice: The melody is in 4/4 time. The lyrics are "Da-re mo ga meo u - ba - wa - re - te - ku ki - mi". The English translation is "Captivating everyone,".

Synthesizers: The synthesizers play a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Electric Bass: The electric bass plays a melody in the bass clef. The dynamic is marked *f* (forte).

Hi-hat/Snare/Bass drum: The percussion consists of a Hi-hat, Snare, and Bass drum. The Hi-hat plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Snare and Bass drum play a simple pattern.

Music score for the second system of "Idol," chorus, 0:55–1:01. The score is in 4/4 time and features four staves: Voice, Synthesizers, Electric Bass, and Hi-hat/Snare/Bass drum.

Voice: The melody is in 4/4 time. The lyrics are "wa kan - peki de kyū - kyo-ku no ai - doru". The English translation is "You're the perfect and ultimate idol".

Synthesizers: The synthesizers play a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Electric Bass: The electric bass plays a melody in the bass clef.

Hi-hat/Snare/Bass drum: The percussion consists of a Hi-hat, Snare, and Bass drum. The Hi-hat plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Snare and Bass drum play a simple pattern.

Example 13. "Idol," second rap verse (1:29) (transcribed at $q = 84$ for comparison with Ghostamene and Lamar examples; English lyrics from Yoasobi's official English version of "Idol")

1 2 3 3 3 3 4 3

NAi sha - RA - KU - SAI, ne - TA - MI shi - TTO NAn - te NAI WA - ke ga
RIGHT, OUT of LINE, HOW can we NOT feel JEAL - ous WHILE BE - ing a -

1 3 3 2 1/2 3 3 3 4

NAi. ko - RE wa ne - TA ja NAI ka - RA ko - so yu - RU - SE - NAI. kaN -
ROUND, it's not a JOKE, you know, RIGHT? I CAN-not for-GIVE you for THAT. com -

11/2 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 1/2

PE - KI ja NAI ki - MI ja yu - RU - SE - NAI. ji - BUN O yu - RU - SE - NAI.
PLETE-ly de - NY im-PER-fect YOU that I SIGHT₃ my-SELF, no PAR-don₄ al-LOWED.

3 3 3 3

DA - re yo - ri mo tsu - YOI ki - MI I - gai wa mi - TO - ME - NAI.
i WON'T al - LOW A - ny - one IF it's not YOU STRONG-est of ALL.

Example 14. Snare in Ravel's *Bolero* vs. "Idol," third verse (2:05, 2:18)

Ravel, *Bolero*

3 3 3 3 3 3

Yoasobi, "Idol," v. 3

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Tokui no egao de waku media Nagareru ase mo kirei na Akua