

The Society for Music Theory Podcast

The Impact of Timbre on Perceptions of Genre in Recorded Popular Music

Stefanie Bilidas

(University of Texas at Austin)

sbilidas@utexas.edu

Grace Gollmar

(University of Texas at Austin)

gollmar@utexas.edu

SMT-Pod 3.11 (Spring 2024)

Release Date: Thursday, April 4

Permalink: <https://smt-pod.org/episodes/season03/#e3.11>

Supplemental Materials

“The Sound of Trip-Hop” playlist, compiled by The Sounds of Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2wrc23l7JdQVcpPlcDGaed>

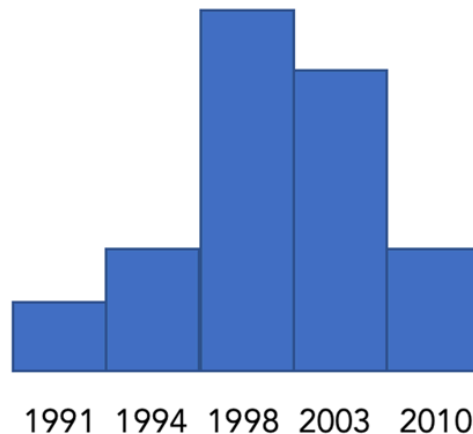


Figure 1: Distribution curve (cf. Gjerdingen 2007) of “Dissolved Girl” schema appearances in Massive Attack’s discography, 1991-2010.

List of tracks featuring “Dissolved Girl” schema, by album:

Blue Lines, 1991

- “Daydreaming” (direct juxtaposition)

Protection, 1994

- “Three” (direct juxtaposition)
- “Eurochild” (direct juxtaposition)

Mezzanine, 1998

- “Angel” (envelope - norm)
- “Risingson” (envelope – norm)
- “Inertia Creeps” (takeover)
- “Dissolved Girl” (envelope – norm)
- “Mezzanine” (envelope – norm)
- “Group Four” (takeover)

100th Window, 2003

- “Future Proof” (envelope – norm)
- “Everywhen” (envelope – norm)
- “Butterfly Caught” (direct juxtaposition)
- “A Prayer for England” (takeover)
- “Antistar” (takeover)

Heligoland, 2010

- “Babel” (envelope – norm)
- “Girl I Love You” (takeover)

Bibliography

Badarou, Wally. 2010. “Echoes/Aftermath.” Accessed September 14, 2023.

<https://www.wallybadarou.com/ZUS.F/Sub-Pages/Dis/Stories/d.WB-zEchoes.html>.

Big Bird PH. 2021. Comment on “Massive Attack - Dissolved Girl.” Youtube video, July 28, 2008. <https://youtu.be/6lcZ0redg1s>.

Brackett, David. 2016. *Categorizing Sound: Genre and Twentieth-Century Popular Music*. University of California Press.

Caitiff. 2022. “‘Heavy’ trip hop?” Reddit, August 12.

https://www.reddit.com/r/triphop/comments/wmj6n6/heavy_trip_hop/.

- Chiu, Matt and Tyler Howie. 2022. "Analytical frameworks for post(-millennial) punk: The "Twinkle" schema in the emo revival - Episode 1" *Society for Music Theory Podcast Season 1*. March 24. Podcast, 47:18.
<https://smt-pod.org/episodes/season01/#e1.11>.
- Compton, Hannah. 2018. "Restoration: The songs of Elton John and Bernie Taupin – album review." *Building Our Own Nashville*. June 28.
<https://buildingourownnashville.com/2018/06/28/restoration-the-songs-of-elton-john-and-bernie-taupin-album-review/>
- Del Naja, Robert, and Andrew Vowles. 1998. "Massive Attack: Friendly fire." Interview by Anil Prasad. *Innerviews*. <https://www.innerviews.org/inner/massive.html>.
- Easley, David. 2015. "Riff schemes, form, and the genre of early American hardcore punk (1978–83)." *Music Theory Online* 21 (1). <http://doi.org/10.30535/mto.21.1.3>.
- Echard, William. 2017. *Psychedelic Popular Music: A History through Musical Topic Theory*. Indiana University Press.
- Eidsheim, Nina Sun. 2019. *The Race of Sound: Listening Timbre & Vocality in African American Music*. Duke University Press.
- Fellezs, Kevin. 2011. *Birds of Fire: Jazz, Rock, and Funk, and the Creation of Fusion*. Duke University Press.
- Frow, John. 2006. *Genre*. Routledge.
- F.S., Eron. 2022. "Flat 2 as hotness in post-millennial pop." *SMT-V* 8 (5).
<https://www.smt-v.org/archives/volume8.html#flat-2-as-hotness-in-post-millennial-pop>.
- Gjerdingen, Robert O. 2007. *Music in the Galant Style*. Oxford University Press.
- Gjerdingen, Robert and Janet Bourne. 2015. "Schema theory as a construction grammar." *Music Theory Online* 21 (1).
https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.15.21.2/mto.15.21.2.gjerdingen_bourne.html
- Gjerdingen, Robert O. and David Perrott. 2008. "Scanning the dial: The rapid recognition of music genres." *Journal of New Music Research* 37 (2): 93-100.
<http://doi.org/10.1080/09298210802479268>.
- Heidemann, Kate. 2016. "A system for describing vocal timbre in popular song." *Music Theory Online* 22 (1). <https://doi.org/10.30535/mto.22.1.2>.
- JamersonRosenburg. 2012. "I need your help Reddit! Can anyone help me find or recommend songs that are similar to Massive Attack's Mezzanine album in terms of dark ambiance, long stringy guitar, and slow beats?" Reddit, April 13.

https://www.reddit.com/r/triphop/comments/s8iji/i_need_your_help_reddit_can_anyone_help_me_find/.

- Kronengold, Charles. 2022. *Living Genres in Late Modernity: American Music of the Long 1970s*. University of California Press.
- Mad Villain. 2021. Comment on "Massive Attack - Dissolved Girl." Youtube video, July 28, 2008. <https://youtu.be/6lcZ0redg1s>.
- Malawey, Victoria. 2020. *A Blaze of Light in Every Word: Analyzing the Popular Singing Voice*. Oxford University Press.
- Mann, Geoff. 2008. "Why does country music sound white? Race and the voice of nostalgia." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 31 (1): 73-100.
- MASTronaut. 2015. Comment on "Massive Attack - Dissolved Girl." Youtube video, July 28, 2008. <https://youtu.be/6lcZ0redg1s>.
- Mitchell Julius, 2021. Comment on "Massive Attack - Dissolved Girl." Youtube video, July 28, 2008. <https://youtu.be/6lcZ0redg1s>.
- Mitchell, Nathaniel. 2023. "Cue schemas." Paper Presented at AMS/SMT Joint Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, United States, November 9-12.
- Mrtitkins. 2018. Comment on "Massive Attack - Dissolved Girl." Youtube video, July 28, 2008. <https://youtu.be/6lcZ0redg1s>.
- Neal, Jocelyn R. 2020. "'Tennessee Whiskey' and the politics of harmony." *Journal of Popular Music Studies* 32 (2): 214-237. <https://doi.org/10.1525/jpms.2020.32.2.214>.
- Oliver John. 2012. Comment on "Massive Attack - Group Four." Youtube video, Feb 29, 2009. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HnF5T4Neuc>.
- Rockwell, Joti. 2009. "Banjo transformations and bluegrass rhythm." *Journal of Music Theory* 53 (1): 137-162, <https://doi.org/10.1215/00222909-2009-023>.
- Shapetheft, 2017. Comment on "Massive Attack - Dissolved Girl." Youtube video, July 28, 2008. <https://youtu.be/6lcZ0redg1s>.
- Tatar, Jeremy. 2022. "Curious covers: Timbre's function in the "Mimic" cover." Paper presented at AMS/SMT/SEM Joint Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States of America, November 10-13.
- Théberge, Paul. 1997. *Any Sound You Can Imagine: Making Music/Consuming Technology*. Wesleyan University Press.
- Willman, Chris, 2018. "Review: Country Elton John tribute album bests its pop counterpart." *Variety*, April 5.

<https://variety.com/2018/music/album-reviews/elton-john-tribute-albums-review-1202745157/>

Vad, Mikkel. 2021. "The Album Cover." *Journal of Popular Music Studies* 33 (3):11-15. <https://doi.org/10.1525/jpms.2021.33.3.11>.

Za Sa. 2014. Comment on "Massive Attack - Dissolved Girl." Youtube video, July 28, 2008. <https://youtu.be/6lcZ0redg1s>.

Zak, Albin. 2012. *I Don't Sound Like Nobody: Remaking Music in 1950s America*. University of Michigan Press.

Discography:

Elton John. 1995. "The Bitch Is Back." *Caribou*. The Rocket Record Company I2 28158, compact disc remaster.

Massive Attack. 1991. "Daydreaming." *Blue Lines*. Virgin Records CDV 3126, compact disc.

Massive Attack. 1994. "Karmacoma." *Protection*. Wild Bunch Records WBRCD2, compact disc.

Massive Attack. 1998. "Dissolved Girl." *Mezzanine*. Virgin Records Limited 7243 8 45599 2 2, compact disc.

Massive Attack. 1998. "Group Four." *Mezzanine*. Virgin Records Limited 7243 8 45599 2 2, compact disc.

Massive Attack. 1998. "Angel." *Mezzanine*. Virgin Records Limited 7243 8 45599 2 2, compact disc.

Portishead. 1994. "Strangers." *Dummy*. Go! Beat 828 522-2, compact disc.

Silent-skies (user). 2008. "Massive Attack - Dissolved Girl." Youtube video, July 28. <https://youtu.be/6lcZ0redg1s>.

Sneaker Pimps. 1996. "6 Underground." *Becoming X*. Clean Up Records CUP020CD, compact disc.

Turkles (user). 2009. "Massive Attack - Group Four." Youtube video, February 6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HnF5T4Neuc>.

Various Artists. 2018. "The Bitch Is Back." *Restoration: Reimagining the Songs of Elton John and Bernie Taupin*. MCA Nashville B0028066-02, 4 compact discs.

Wally Badarou. 1984. "Mambo." *Echoes*. Island Records CID 104, compact disc.