



# HOUNDS OF LOVE

Kate Bush (1985)



## POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Use of 80s technology
- The 'Concept album'.
- Personal singer-Songwriter tendencies
- Eclectic music roots
- The 'home studio'
- The pop song: conventional and unconventional elements

'CLOUDBUSTING', 'AND DREAM OF SHEEP' AND 'UNDER ICE'

## STRUCTURE:

- Main features of basic pop song structure: Verses, choruses/refrains, instrumentals/bridges, codas.
- Cloudbusting and And Dream of Sheep lack an intro.
- Under Ice is through-composed.
- Songs are part of a concept album, :
- Cloudbusting is 7 min long- longer than traditional pop song.
- And Dream of Sheep and Under Ice are short, follow one another and contain similar material.

## MELODY:

- Distinctive unpredictable melodic construction.
- Short phrases, improvisatory, repetitive and short in length
- Hook (Cloudbusting)
- Riffs used as unifying feature
- Word painting

## CONTEXT:

- Was the first British female artist to top the UK album charts, with 'Never for Ever.'
- Songs are often inspired by literary or historical sources eg. Wuthering Heights; Emily Bronte novel.
- Received training in dance and mime. Incorporates into her art.
- Eclectic music roots: progressive rock, folk, ethnic styles, electronica and classical forms.
- Hounds of Love: Composed, performed and Self produced in her home studio

## TEXTURE:

- Melody-dominated homophony
- Cloudbusting: homorhythmic strings, countermelodies in V2, polyphony in chorus.
- Pedal textures in And Dream of Sheep and Under Ice.
- Under Ice: Homorhythm and dialoguing.

## HARMONY AND TONALITY:

- Tonal language, thought not straightforwardly diatonic or functional.
- Modal minor keys
- Ambiguous endings
- Unconventional chord progressions, and few perfect cadences
- Repeated chord sequences
- Added notes, extension chords, suspensions and slash chords
- Modal chord sequences.

## SONORITY:

- Distinctive vocals
- Fairlight CMI (cutting edge technology in 80s) triggering samples
- Mostly conventional pop/rock band set up with some additions:
- Unconventional combinations: string sextet (cloudbusting), Bouzouki and whistles (And Dream of Sheep)
- Cloudbusting does not use bass or electric guitar and non-virtuosic drum beat.

## RHYTHM, METRE AND TEMPO:

- Strong sense of pulse
- Regular and planned changes of metre
- Frequent syncopation in vocal lines
- Unprepared anticipations and suspensions
- ♩ rhythm commonly used.