



## Coldplay – The Scientist

Below, is a description of the song, *'The Scientist'* by Coldplay. Listen to the music on You-tube, trying to follow the description given below.

Does what you hear match what you read? If not, try again!

What do you think of the song in comparison with the music you normally listen to?

What similarities are there and what differences with your favourite music?

Whilst the song is about a dramatic and tragic event, do you think that it is a successful song? Why? How?

Piano-led ballad (written in the aftermath of the 9-11 terrorist attack) in the following structure:

Intro
Verse 1
Chorus
Interlude
Verse 2
Chorus
Instrumental
Coda

### Description

- Opening - Piano alone
- Slow tempo, repeating quavers.
- Sad and hypnotic mood is created
- This is very repetitive in style
- Unusual chord progression: Dm7 – B flat – F – Fsus2 Played twice before the voice enters, still accompanied only by piano.
- Vocal melody opens with a *syncopated* (rhythmic device) melody, causing a suspension (held over note to the next chord) on the B-flat chord from D minor.
- This is repeated and varied to form a 4-bar phrase which is heard 4 times in the verses. This unrelenting repetition gives a feeling of 'resignation' together with the D minor chord at the start of the phrase.
- Syncopation also dominates the chorus. There are changes in the harmonic progression (the chords pattern) but little change in mood and texture.
- At the Interlude a guitar enters and then drums and bass for verse 2.
- Halfway through the verse, wordless backing vocals sing 'oo' and a quiet tambourine is played..
- The instrumental section is underplayed: Whilst the guitar is more prominent, there is no 'spotlight' big instrumental melody which might change the spell of the song.
- After a while some wordless 'falsetto' singing is introduced as the song moves towards its CODA