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Music

Music has been the cornerstone of societal transformation, inspiration, and an instigator of change. Despite the fact that music is a platform that fosters communication, this form of entertainment is also a cultural memoir that narrates the tale of a given society in light of the magnitude of the struggles that all members of that society can relate to. For instance, hip-hop and R & B songs written and performed by black Americans were the songs of hope denoting and motivating the black American population to break loose from the entanglements of discrimination and self-doubt. On the other hand, R&B music often did not portray the theme of love and relationships. Hip-hop is a genre of music that has established itself as a musical composition that tackles and sensitizes the fundamental problems of the black community in the contemporary American setup. Since the days of Shakur to the contemporary era, rap music which is a component of hip-hop has been used to rebuke injustice such as police brutality and the prevalence of ethnic discrimination in the United States. Holistically, this critical music analysis paper seeks to extensively analyze “Climax” by Ushers and elucidate vivid insight pertaining to the composition, and the motivation behind the song.

Ariel Rechtshaid, whose stage name is Usher, has been synonymous with impeccable songwriting and singing skills. Usher lived up to the billing in his single *Climax*. The song talks about a turning point in the relationship. Despite the fact that the lyrics of the song turn out to take a sexual tone, Usher maintains that the song’s primary thematic concern is to elucidate the complications of relationship. The song was released in 2012 by a production company known as the RCA Records. Usher’s fans seemed intrigued by the musical direction, impeccable composition, and delivery of the song. The song enabled Usher to win a Grammy Award in the category of the best R&B performance.

The song *Climax* was written by Diplo, Redd Stylz, and Ariel Rechtshaid. The concept of the song was introduced by Diplo who explained his past relationship. Diplo stated that he was once in a very complicated phase while in relationship. The phase as Diplo explained was commemorated to being torn between two antagonizing and staunch forces. Diplo stated that at some point in his life he was in a relationship where he felt he could do anything for the girl. Diplo’s assertion may have been a common phenomenon experienced by nearly everyone who was or is in relationship. The idea yielded and propagated the composition of the musical masterpiece, *Climax*. Holistically, the main idea of the song was a breakup. When it happens, people can feel like it is the end of life for them, but they later resurface better and stronger. Diplo alongside his fellow songwriters was torn between the sadness of the episode and the beauty of the moment.

The song was an integration of electronic music and the quiet storm. It was written in the precise key of C minor. Usher’s voice throughout the song fluctuates within the confines of B♭3 to G5. The music beat is developed within the motivation of using haunting riff which is reinforced by masterful integration with other musical accompaniments such as the drum machine. The varying pitches in the song incorporate a vast array of electronic sound effects. The most conspicuously evident effects deduced from the song include whooshes, clicks, low-frequency synth, and hisses. The musical production also involves the utilization of scattered piano codes throughout the song so as to bring out the pitch and the climax in music.

The musical structure of the song is excellent, and this has reinforced the popularity of the song from the time of its release to today. Although the song might have faded off from the entertainment domains presently, it is fundamental to note that some people still remember the song as a masterpiece in the musical landscape. The musical structure of the song compliments the postulation that Diplo’s production and directing skills are categorically understated and reserved, but still, he produces the best musical tunes for the radios and the entertainment arenas. The musical structure of *Climax* is characteristically denoted by intervals of potential breaks, but the song takes soft decrescendos contrarily. The pitch signifying the completion of each verse is identical throughout the song. The conclusion of each verse is marked by snapping nature of the song’s beat. The electronic beat slowly softens, and the occasional rippling synth is replicated throughout the song. According to Marc Hogan, a contributor of *Spin* commented that Diplo teases the audience with a full electronic beat but never goes all the way. The song bubbles into a series of waves and reaches the song-stopping crescendo. There is a clear bridge when the song becomes as quiet as it ever could be before exploding to a series of electric rhythms. The most rational elucidation of the characteristic of the song is that the beat appears to be hanging in mid-air. However, the uncharacteristic beat by Diplo gave the song a unique touch that made it not only outstanding but also emblematic of exceptionally good music that gained tremendous popularity amidst the stiff competition in the R&B musical platforms.

The tone of the song has been somewhat controversial. The elucidation of the thematic concerns that Usher talks about in the song has exhibited a degree of diversion from what Usher himself perceives the theme of song to be. The song resumes a lamenting tone where Usher is complaining about the shambolic stature of his relationship with his partner. The most conspicuous concern vividly illustrated in the song is the theme of commitment. The lyrics of the song revolve around giving a vivid description of a relationship that is in shambles. The relationship is at an episode dotted by uncertainty and tension. To clearly illustrate the theme and the tone of the song, it is imperative to review its lyrics. In the song, Usher sings “We've reached the climax, We're together, Now we're undone, Won't commit so we choose to run away, Do we separate?" The lyrics denote that the relationship has reached levels that accord each individual happiness, and it is an emblem of happiness to both partners, but the fear of commitment is tearing apart the bondі established by the two lovers. Holistically, Usher sings in an evident plaintive tone and a pleading falsetto. The pitch of the song was characteristically varied between restrained codes and occasional anguish howls. Usher later explained that the song focusses on the dynamic of relationships rather than the subject of sex. He stressed that it is imperative to let a relationship slip by after it gets to the maximum level or rather the climax of where it can ever go. However, despite the fact that the song narrates a tale of the fiasco of relationship, the sexual theme also seems to emanate from the lyrics. Ultimately, the theme of the song is ambiguous.

The song, in the context of its intended concern, is relevant to my life. I am particularly enthusiastic about Usher’s music. The fact that he tackled a fundamental human problem facing the youth in the current age nudged me to like the song even more. Relationships are dotted by individuals who may tend to hold mutual feelings when in reality they are just enjoying the moment and will pop off at any moment. Episodes of heartbreak are the stories which are as old as humanity itself. Heartbreaks tend to emanate from pretense and the lack of mutual feelings. In this accord, the people who have strong feelings towards those who do not have the same feeling tend to be led on and experience a disastrous end at the end of it. Hence, Usher is appealing for honesty, and it is important to let go if one does not hold the same feelings rather than leading the partner on. The fact that I have experienced a synonymous scenario in my life accorded the song a personal touch and correlations to my life.

In conclusion, music has been a communication tool used through from antiquity to the contemporary times. Despite the fact that the musical structure, instruments used, and the overall outlook of music has changed through time, it has always been a man’s way of expressing grievances. Usher’s song, *Climax* is not any different from the conventional outlook of music. I liked the composition of the song, the delivery was impeccable, and the theme is relevant to the contemporary issues that the youth face with.