

Golden Rain Baby, Cheryl Camm

The following characteristics all appear in "Golden Rain Baby".

The characteristics that were inspired by Central Javanese music are in green. You can see it's a mixture of Java and Cheryl!

- The title of the song is a sort of translation of Bubaran Hudan Mas. Bubaran is a type of piece. Hudan Mas means "golden rain".
- The vocal soloist has most of the lyrics in the song
- There is a seven-beat *ostinato (repeating) pattern* throughout much of the song
- The entire piece is based on a five-note mode consisting of the notes C D F G B
- There are melodic themes in the song which are based on the Central Javanese piece "Bubaran Hudan Mas"
- The accompanying melodic parts have interlocking, repeating rhythms
- The second verse has instrumental accompaniment.
- The instrumental part has a free-flowing melody and rhythms which are inspired by Sundanese music as much as anything.
- This instrumental free flowing style is in stark contract to the very rhythmic and repetitive other parts.
- There is a sort of chorus using the words "Golden Rain Baby" and the texture of this is homophonic – this is when all parts have the same rhythm at the same time, but different pitches
- There is an "opening out" chord pattern on "hey baby" which sounds a bit like resonant metallic instruments being left to ring on.
- In this and other performances the repeating patterns are taken over by actual metallic instruments at the very end.
- The instrument has an introduction and postlude and one or two interludes which sound improvised.
- The third (rainbow) verse is more dramatic and contrasting with all parts singing the words.
- The use of staccato and slurs on descending motifs in the accompaniment patterns creates a feeling of raindrops falling.
- There is slower bell-like chiming in the lowest of the accompaniment parts which replicates the low gong sounds in the Gamelan
- There are syncopated rhythms in the accompaniment
- The vocal solo and instrument sometimes play the same notes slightly out of synchronisation with each other. This is called a heterophonic texture.
- The song is a lullaby, the gentle rocking and repeating could quite easily lull you into a soporific state!