

## Style - Folk-rock

**Album** - 'Grace' was Buckley's debut album released in 1994.

### Voice

- Vocal has a very wide range
- **Falsetto** – singing above normal top register
- **Vibrato** used extensively
- Combination of **syllabic** and **melismatic** writing
- Scoops up to notes (also known as **portamento**)
- Screaming at points
- Vocal improvisations in the outro – showing off his soprano range and virtuosity – top G!!
- Multi-tracked vocal harmonies in bridge – also uses **vocalise** (oohs and aahhs)
- Verse 3 vocal is an octave higher, louder, uses falsetto, growling, shouting and has a longer held note at the end
- Improvised vocals at the end

### Use of electric guitar

- Plucked or picked at the start with broken chords/arpeggios
- Strumming in second part of intro and link
- Percussive sound hitting the strings in link before V3
- Mostly clean guitar sound, distortion in Verse 3 and strummed chords
- Verse 3 also has pick-scraping, sliding, glissando, palm muting, hammer-ons, pull offs,

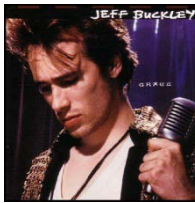
### Melodic/Musical Devices

Four main riffs in the piece:

- Made up of semiquavers – played by electric guitar in intro
- In the verses electric guitar plays broken chords
- Acoustic guitar plays rhythmic, percussive riff in verses and choruses.
- In final section both guitars play a fourth riff

### Electronic effects

- **Delay** – creates an echo effect (repeats the note)
- **EQ** – on vocal line in middle 8, telephone like sound
- **Flanger** – added to the electric guitar in the outro. Creates a swirly sound.
- **Distortion** used on one guitar in Verse 3
- Effects are used most in verse 3
- Guitar '**whisper effects**' used where they can be heard



# Grace Jeff Buckley



### Instruments/Ensemble

- Lead vocal and backing vocals
- Electric guitar
- Acoustic guitar
- Bass guitar
- Drum kit
- Synthesizer (heard clearly in the intro – uses a wailing sound)
- Strings (added in V2, pizzicato in 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-chorus)

### Structure and Tonality

Seems complicated, but can be broken down into four sections

1. Intro – Verse 1 – Pre-chorus – Chorus –
2. Link (from Intro) – Verse 2 – Pre-chorus – Chorus
3. Bridge –
4. Link – Verse 3 – Outro (same chords as chorus)

### Three musical points about this piece that I like:

*Justify your points and use musical vocabulary.*

### Three musical points about this piece that I don't like:

*Justify your points and use musical vocabulary.*

### How are the elements used?

#### Structure

- Typical verse chorus-structure, with bridge and guitar solo towards end.
- Intro is repeated after the choruses.
- Ends with a short outro (same chords as chorus)

#### Tonality and Harmony

- Song is minor or modal, most sections have a tonal centre of E
- Unusual chord progressions – harmony is **non functional**
- Plays broken chords at points (picking). At other points there is strumming
- Chords seem complex but actually simple on the guitar. Uses technique of moving the same chord shape (which is a **power chord**) up and down the fretboard, while keeping one or more strings open as a **drone**.
- Guitar uses **drop D tuning** – the lower E string is tuned down to the note D to give a darker feel.
- Most sections have a tonal centre of E but Buckley uses a wide variety of chords that do not belong to one particular key.

#### Timbre and texture

- Main texture is melody and accompaniment
- Intro – just guitar and synth pad sound.
- Suddenly full band joins in, no vocal yet.
- Verse 1 – vocals enter
- Chorus – Backing vocals enter – very subtle. Double tracked main vocals at points.
- Strings are used from time to time
- Ends

#### Dynamics

- Quiet in intro
- Volume increased by bringing more instruments.

#### Melody & Pitch

- Wide vocal range
- **Falsetto** used at points
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#### Tempo & Rhythm

- Steady 12/8 tempo
- Unusual as most pop songs in 4/4
- It feels faster though as the guitar plays semiquaver patterns at the beginning.
- Middle 8 – longer notes from strings.