

## Unit Three: Assignment 2 – RUSTY STERN

### — Lyric Analysis

#### **Analysis of Maybe They're Magic- Stephen Sondheim (see the lyrics for the strong syllable stresses and the form.**

The Form is A- A- B- A- A- B1 (an extended B)

There is motive where each line starts with two sixteenths and an eight note.

And each A has the same rhythm for each line (sometimes with a pickup that has more syllables) except for the last one which is spoken (they mostly match with the other last lines in each A). There is a rhythm to how the first 3 lines are answered but the 4<sup>th</sup> line that is different, and this happening in each A creates an expectation.

I realize that the above two paragraphs talk about the musical setting, but the question is about the lyrics themselves. So about that-

About rhymes- the first 2 A's don't have rhymes but have some of the same words that connect, like "find it" and "get it" and "regret it"

The fourth A has the rhyme of "intent" and bent"

The B sections rhyme. The first B section rhymes the first 2 lines "in between" and "intervenes" .

The B1 which is an extended B section, the rhymes create a momentum towards the ending of the piece, because they happen at the end of 4 straight lines, on the same rhyme- "lies", "size", "prize", "realize", "justifies".

I didn't mention yet "tries" because I wanted to mention it as an internal rhyme, yet it also serves as part of the sequence of the other rhymes momentum.

And what's so effective is that all these rhymes lead to the punchline which doesn't rhyme "the beans"

I see this as a Comedy song, yet it also has the element of a patter song.

#### **Analysis of Spring Will Be a Little Late This Year by Frank Loesser (see the lyrics for the strong syllable stresses and the form.**

Form can be stated with different terms, but basically in music theatre terms- it's an intro- and 2 verses. Or in terms of pop Standards- the intro can be thought of as a verse, leading to a Chorus, and then the Chorus is repeated with different lyrics but the same music. The instrumental also uses the Chorus music.

The Verse (intro)-

Rhyme Scheme has the first and 4<sup>th</sup> line rhyming (grey and way) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and third line rhyming. (crying and dying).

Other devices is January and February having the same structures one after another, my darling I;m dying isn't a strict alliteration but it still is a device.

The two Choruses-

A1- lines 1 and 2 rhyme (year, here) and lines 3 and 4 rhyme (old, cold)

A2- same rhyme scheme, lines 1 and 2 (start and heart), 3 and 4 (fear and year)

Alliterations- "a little late" happens in the hook and in the second line of the first chorus.

It's a lyric hook that starts the first chorus and ends the second chorus. The start of the second chorus has a little change in lyric but is based on the hook.

"continues cold" another alliteration.

"music it made in my heart" plays on the same beginning consonant (m).

MAYBE THEY'RE MAGIC- Stephen Sondheim

A

If you know what you want  
Then you go and you find it  
And you get it

Bate (Home)

Do we want a child or not?

And you give and you take

A

And you bid and you bargain

Or you live to regret it

(Will you please go home?)

There are rights and wrongs and in-betweens

B

No one waits when fortune intervenes

And maybe they're really magic

Who knows?

Why you do what you do

A

That's the point

All the rest of it is chatter

(Look at her, she's crying)

A

If the thing you do is pure in intent

If it's meant and it's just a little bent

Does it matter?

(Yes)

No, what matters is that everyone tells tiny lies

What's important, really, is the size

(What?)

Only three more tries and we'll have our prize

When the end's in sight you'll realize

If the end is right it justifies

The beans

B1

SPRING WILL BE A LITTLE LATE THIS YEAR- Frank Loesser

Intro  
(verse)

January and February were never so empty and grey  
Tragic'ly I feel like crying  
Without you, my darling, I'm dying  
But let's rather put it this way

A1  
(chorus)

Spring will be a little late this year  
A little late arriving in my lonely world over here  
For you have left me and where is our April of old  
You have left me and Winter continues cold

A2  
(chorus)  
same music  
different words

As if to say.....Spring will be a little slow to start  
A little slow <sup>that</sup>reviving music it made in my heart  
Yes, time heals all things, so I needn't cling to this fear  
It's merely that Spring will be a little late this year

A  
instrumental first 2 lines  
vocal return to last 2 lines of second A