**Max Martin’s Complement Chorus**

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**Form**

- Most of these tracks are a **compound AABA** form.
  - Each A section consists of a verse, prechorus, and chorus.
  - The B section is the bridge.
- The complement chorus is always introduced in the third A section, after the bridge of the song (see Example 1a and 1b).
- The cumulative chorus enters after the complement chorus is introduced.
- Sometimes a repetition of the regular chorus separates the complement and cumulative choruses (see example 1a).

**Songs Using Complement Chorus**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Month/Year of release</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“It’s Gotta Be You”</td>
<td>Backstreet Boys</td>
<td>Oct 1998</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I Want It That Way”</td>
<td>Backstreet Boys</td>
<td>Apr 1999</td>
<td>Rhythms don’t contrast as much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Don’t Want You Back”</td>
<td>Backstreet Boys</td>
<td>May 1999</td>
<td>Rhythms don’t contrast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Oops!…I Did It Again”</td>
<td>Britney Spears</td>
<td>Mar 2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“It’s Gonna Be Me”</td>
<td>*NSYNC</td>
<td>Jun 2000</td>
<td>Only partial layering in cumulative chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I’ll Never Stop”</td>
<td>*NSYNC</td>
<td>Jun 2000</td>
<td>Only partial layering in cumulative chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Shape of My Heart”</td>
<td>Backstreet Boys</td>
<td>Jul 2000</td>
<td>No cumulative chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Get Another Boyfriend”</td>
<td>Backstreet Boys</td>
<td>Jul 2000</td>
<td>Uses different lyrics than chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Lucky”</td>
<td>Britney Spears</td>
<td>Aug 2000</td>
<td>Only partial layering in cumulative chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Stronger”</td>
<td>Britney Spears</td>
<td>Nov 2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**The Complement Chorus**

The complement chorus...
- uses the same harmony, orchestration, and lyrics as the chorus.
- introduces a new melodic line that contrasts rhythmically with the chorus.

**The Cumulative Chorus**

Soon after the complement chorus is introduced, it is layered over the regular chorus, creating a cumulative chorus.

The complement chorus uses rhythms that oppose the rhythmic profile of the regular chorus, so that when they are layered, the cumulative chorus has a **quasi-contrapuntal hocket-like interplay** between the two layers (see examples 2 and 3).

**Max Martin**

Max Martin is an extremely successful producer and songwriter. He currently has twenty-one #1 hits on the Hot 100 (only George Martin has more).

Martin enjoyed particular success while writing for the Backstreet Boys, *NSYNC, and Britney Spears around the year 2000. Martin still produces music today for other pop stars such as Katy Perry and Taylor Swift.

**Selected Bibliography**

Britney Spears - "I'm Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman" (2001). Descant, not complement chorus.

Chorus
F B° Gm C F B°
I'm not a girl,
not yet a wo - man.

Complement Chorus
Gm C Gm Dm Gm Dm
I'm not a girl, don't tell me what to be lieve,______ I'm just tryin' to find the
wo - man in me,______ yeah. Oh, all I need is time that's mine

E♭ B° C B♭/D C/E F
while I'm in be - tween,______ I'm not a girl.

while I'm in be - tween,______ I'm not a girl

*NSYNC - "Bye Bye Bye" (2000)—NOT by Max Martin.

Chorus
G♭m F♭m E
Don't wan-na be a fool for you, just a-no-ther play-er in your game for two. You may hate me but it

Complement Chorus
D♯ G♭m F♭m
I don't wan-na be a fool in this game for two, so I'm

D♯ G♭m F♭m
ain't no lie, ba-by bye bye bye, Don't real-ly wan-na make it tough. I just wan-na tell you that I've had e-nough.

E
leav - ing you be - hind. I don't wan-na make it tough, but I've

E D♯
Might sound cra - zy but it ain't no lie, ba - by bye bye bye,______

D♯
had e - nough,____ and it ain't no lie, bye - bye.
*NSYNC - "No Strings Attached" (2000) - NOT by Max Martin

Ba-by you're not the on-ly one, you don't have to be a-fraid to fall in love.

If you take a chance with me I'll be ev-ery-thing you

And I know that you've hurt in the past but if you want it here's my heart no strings at-ached.

need be-cause it's our des-ti-ny
Backstreet Boys - "Don't Want You Back" (1999) - oppositions created through register

Chorus

Don't want you back 'cause you're no good for me I know that's

Complement

Chorus

Don't want you back that's all I know.

Britney Spears - "Oops!... I Did It Again" (2000)

Cm G# C#m B B/D# E E E B G#7/B#

Oops! I did it again I played with your heart got lost in the game Ooh ba-by ba-by

Oops! I did it again to your heart got lost in this game ooh ba-by ba-by.

C#m G# C#m B B/D# E E E G#

Oops! You think I'm in love that I'm sent from above I'm not that innocent.

Oops! You think that I'm sent from a bove I'm not that innocent.
Chorus

Every little thing I do
never seems enough for you.

You don't wanna lose it again, but I'm not like them.

Baby when you finally get
don't wanna lose it, but I'm not like that.

When finally

love somebody, guess what, it's gonna be me.

you get to love, guess what, guess what, guess what, guess what!

Complement

Chorus

All that I do
is not enough for you.

I will never stop until you're mine.

I can wait forever till the end

of time, 'cause my heart is in your hands.

don't you understand? I'll never stop.

of time, what is in your head?
Chorus

Loo-king back on the things I've done, I was try-ing to be some-one. I played my part, kept you in the dark; now let me ne-ver wan-na play the same old part or keep you in the dark.

Now let me show you the shape of my heart.

Chorus

Listen, I mean it, there's no-thing that he's wor-thy of. He's just a no-th-er play-a

Hear me out, you must know what it's all a-bout:

playing in the name of love. I've seen enough, this must come to an end:

he's just a play-er in love. This must come to an end:

Get another boy-friend.
Chorus

And they say, "She's so lucky," she's a star, but she cry, cry, cries in her lonely heart thin'-kin',

Complement Chorus

She is so lucky, but why does she cry?

Chorus

"If there's nothing missing in my life, then why do these tears come at night?"

Complement Chorus

If there is nothing missing in her life why do tears come at night?

Britney Spears - "Stronger" (2000)

But now I'm stronger than yesterday. Now it's nothing but my way. My

Complement Chorus

Stronger than yesterday. It's nothing but my way.

loneliness ain't killin' me no more. I, I'm stronger.

My lonliness ain't killin' me no more. I, I'm stronger.