

Music Analysis

The commonalities and differences between two versions of the song 'Oceans (Where feet may fail)' by the original artist Hillsong United and a different arrangement from the movie "Breakthrough". The song 'Oceans (Where feet may fail)' was written by Matt Crocker, Joel Houston, Salomon Ligthelm and performed by Taya Smith. They are all apart of Hillsong United, a youth worship band and a subgroup under Hillsong Church in Australia. The genre of the song is Christian and gospel. Besides that, the song was released on their 2013 album, Zion. The song made its way to number one on the billboard hot Christians songs chart and stayed on the charts for 45 consecutive weeks. Hillsong United also won 5 awards for their song 'Oceans (Where feet may fail)' at the 45th annual GMA Dove Awards. The song based its lyrics from the bible verse Matthew 14 verse 12 to 33 and it tells a story about stepping into the unknown while being in faith and trusting God. The second arrangement of the song is produced by Kirk Franklin, Max Stark and performed by Kirk Franklin and Taylor Mosby. The song was rearranged for the use in the 2018 movie, 'Breakthrough'.

For the first commonalities and differences, the tempo and the time for both arrangements are the same. Both arrangements have a tempo of 132bpm with a simple quadruple time. The difference of the song is the key it uses. The original Hillsong arrangement uses a D major key while the other uses a D flat major. The form for both songs is also different. For the original version, the form is arranged starting from Intro, verse one, chorus, interlude, verse two, chorus, interlude, breakdown, bridge, interlude, chorus and a long outro. In comparison with the Breakthrough arrangement, the form starts with the intro, verse, chorus, verse two, chorus, bridge, interlude, chorus and a short outro. The original has an interlude after the first chorus, a breakdown after the second chorus, a second interlude after the bridge with a 32 bars outro while the second arrangement only has one interlude after the bridge, no breakdowns and a four-bar outro in free time. The original arrangement also have a 100 bars bridge as it repeats itself for six times as seen in figure one while the second arrangement has a shorter bridge that repeats for only two times.

Furthermore, the similarity in instrumentation and structure for both songs are that both arrangements have pads played throughout the song. Both arrangements also have the piano playing on the downbeat of the song. The difference between the intro in the original and the new arrangement is that the original has a violin playing the bass notes and it can be heard at 0:07 of the song while the new arrangement does not have a violin. In addition, the new arrangement has a piano playing in the beginning of the intro to set the rhythm of the song while the original arrangement only has the piano coming on the 12th bar of the song. For the first verse of the original song, the instrumentation to it is simple where the pads act as a drone in the background and the piano plays the chords. The new arrangement however has more instruments added in to the first verse. For example, instruments like the claps, pads, piano, a pulse like beat in the background, Fx hits and sounds are added in to set the theme of the song which is oceans. In the second chorus of the original arrangement, the piano and the electric guitar are being the caller while the bass plays a response after it. In comparison to the second chorus in the new arrangement, only the electric guitar and the acoustic guitar has a call and response relationship. Another comparison that is found in both arrangements, is the bass lines. In the original arrangement the bass plays a simple one

note groove throughout the song with no embellishments while the new arrangement has more colorful lines added to fill the space in the song. The bass line in the new arrangement can be heard from 0:51 to 0:54. The orchestration of the last interlude is also different. The original arrangement does not have a choir in the last interlude while the new arrangement has a choir as it sings together with the lead vocalist and it can be heard from 3:08 to 3:52 of the song.

Another essential point between the two compositions is that new lyrics were added to the new arrangement. For example, in most part of the song the background singer would speak important words to highlight the main vocalist and even cue the listener before the main vocalist comes in with the next section. It is a call and response between the main and the backing vocalist. This example can be heard at 1:34 to 1:45 of the song. This however does not occur in the original song where the backing vocals are not heard prominently and there is also no call and response with the lead vocalist. The difference between the last interlude of the original arrangement and the new arrangement is that the original lead vocalist improvised more, and belt longer notes while the lead vocalist in the second arrangement added new lyrics, has a call and response with the backing vocals and does not belt as much. In addition, the deference of vocal embellishments between the original and the rearranged version has a huge difference as the lead singer in the original arrangement sings it as simple and straightforward as possible with less riffs while the lead singer in the second arrangement sing it more freely and adds embellishments like vocal runs, riffs and dynamics to her vocals. For example, the vocal riffs from the lead vocalist can be heard at 3:09 to 3:15.

In conclusion, there are many differences than similarities between both arrangements. Both songs have the same tempo, but different key was used for both arrangements. The form between two arrangements can be clearly heard as the original arrangement has a longer form because it is for a worship setting while the second arrangement has a shorter form because it is arranged for a movie. Both arrangements have different orchestration for example the piano does not start right away in the intro while the second arrangement the piano plays right away in the intro by establishing the rhythm of the song. There is also lesser call and response relationship between the instruments and vocalists in the original arrangement than the second arrangement. Besides that, most of the lyrics stayed the same on the second arrangement but new lyrics were added in the interlude to make it different. The lead vocalists in the two arrangement uses different vocal techniques like vocal embellishments. For example, in the original the vocal embellishment was kept at a minimum as the vocalist focuses on clarity while the second arrangement has more freedom with embellishments to make it sound gospel.

58

Vo. — could ev - er wan - der and my faith — will be — made strong - er in the pres -

Pno.

60

Vo. cence of — my sav - ior. Spir - it lead — me where my trust.

Pno.

62

Vo. — is with-out bor - ders let me walk — up - on the wat - ters wher-ev - er You — would call — me.

Pno.

65

Vo. Take me deep - er than — my feet — could ev - er wan - der and my faith.

Pno.

67

Vo. — will be — made strong - er in the pres - cence of — my sav - ior.

Pno.

Figure 1

