

[CLIP IN: I DARE YOU]

FORMED IN 2005, THE X-X, OR EXES, ARE KNOWN TODAY AS AN ENGLISH INDIE POP BAND. THEY AREN'T NECESSARILY THE MOST POPULAR, BUT THEY HAVE WON A FEW AWARDS AND GOTTEN NATIONAL RECOGNITIONS FOR THEIR SONGS. THE UNIQUE GROUP OF ROMY MADLEY CROFT, OLIVER SIM AND JAMIE SMITH WAS LEFT ALONE IN THEIR BEGINNINGS.

[CLIP OUT: I DARE YOU]

IT MAY NOT SOUND LIKE AN IDEAL CONDITION, BUT THIS IS PROBABLY WHAT INSPIRED THEIR ODD MUSICAL NATURE.

[BED IN: INFINITY]

THE QUIET HUMS, MINIMALIST TOUCHES, AND TRANSFORMATIONS OVER TIME DEFINITELY REVEAL THEIR OWN DEVICES AND NO ONE ELSE'S. AND FUN FACT - MOST OF THE HUMMING IN THEIR FIRST ALBUM CAME FROM THE GARAGE THEY RECORDED IN.

OVER TIME, THE GROUP GAINED AND LOST PEOPLE, BUT THEY NEVER SEEMED TO LOSE THEIR TOUCH. MOST OF THEIR SONGS KEPT WITH THE SAME SLOW, SLIGHTLY DAMPENED MOOD. YET, SO MANY PEOPLE LISTEN TO THEIR TRACKS FOR ENERGY OR SOLACE. IT'S ALMOST LIKE THEIR SONGS ARE TAILORED JUST TO YOUR CIRCUMSTANCE. ALL OF THEIR SONGS CAN BE TIED TO THEMES OF LOVE, TROUBLES, CONFUSION, AND MORE.

[BED OUT: INFINITY]

[BED IN: ON HOLD]

[BED OUT: ON HOLD]

[BED IN: ISLANDS]

I WILL SAY THAT THEIR MORE CURRENT SONGS DEFINITELY HAVE A DIFFERENT FEEL TO THEM. THEY'RE MORE QUICK, SORT OF LIKE SONGS YOU WOULD HEAR AT, LIKE, A PARTY.

[BED OUT: ISLANDS]

[BED IN: SAY SOMETHING LOVING]

SAY SOMETHING LOVING IS ONE OF THE NEWER SONGS THAT DEFINITELY IS A BIT DIFFERENT AND NOT AS MINIMAL.

[BED OUT: SAY SOMETHING LOVING]

BUT, EACH ARTIST STILL STICKS TO THEIR ROOTS.

IT'S QUITE EASY TO SEE HOW THEY'VE STAYED THE SAME OVER THE YEARS WITH A QUICK OVERLAY. TAKE VCR, FROM THEIR FIRST ALBUM, AND DANGEROUS FROM THEIR MOST RECENT.

[BED IN: MIXED SONGS]

IT STARTS WITH SMITH BRINGING LOWER FREQUENCIES OR REPETITIVE BEATS, ALONG WITH SIM ON BASS.

AS THE SONG BUILDS, ROMY COMES IN WITH VOCALS AND GUITAR, AND SIM SINGS WITH TO BALANCE.

[BED OUT: MIXED SONGS]

AND YET, THE TWO SONGS ARE SO DIFFERENT IN NATURE. IT'S ALMOST LIKE THEIR MUSIC CHANGES SHOW HOW THEIR PERSPECTIVES ON THE SAME ISSUES HAVE CHANGED.

[BED IN: VCR]

INITIALLY, IT'S A PAINED VIEW, BUT AS TIME GOES ON, THE STING OF LIFE SEEMS TO FADE. IT'S A VIEW ON HUMANITY.

THEIR SONGS HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO SO SO MANY DIFFERENT MEDIA. I'D LIKE TO THINK THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE PERSPECTIVES MENTIONED EARLIER. IT'S JUST SO EASY TO USE AND RELATE TO. IT'S EVEN BEEN USED BY OTHER BIG HIT ARTISTS LIKE RIHANNA, WHO REVAMPED THEIR SONG INTRO FROM THEIR FIRST ALBUM INTO HER OWN VERSION - DRUNK ON LOVE.

[BED OUT: VCR]

[BED IN: MIXED SONGS 2]

THE TWO DIFFERENT SONGS ARE SO ALIKE YET STILL CHANGED AND CAN BE BLENDED SEAMLESSLY.

[BED OUT: MIXED SONGS 2]

IN THIS INSTANCE, THE SONG INTRO IS USED FOR ANGST. THE JUXTAPOSITION OF THEIR LOW, SAD TONES WITH RIHANNA'S HIGH FRUSTRATION MAKES THE MESSAGE QUITE CLEAR. BUT THE EXES' TOUCH DOESN'T STOP WITH MUSIC. MOVIE DIRECTORS SEEMED TO USE IT RELIGIOUSLY FOR A TIME. TAKE MAIN CHARACTER AND ALIEN TEENAGER JOHN SMITH FROM THE 2011 FILM I AM NUMBER FOUR.

[CLIP IN: FIT IN]

[CLIP OUT: FIT IN]

DESPERATE TO FIT IN WITH HIS ENVIRONMENT FOR HIS OWN SAFETY, DIRECTOR D.J. CARUSO USES THE SONG SHELTER TO CONVEY BETTER HIS HIDING

STRUGGLE AS JOHN WALKS THROUGH AND DEFENDS A STUDENT FROM BULLIES.

[CLIP IN: BULLY]

[CLIP OUT: BULLY]

SEE? IT'S SOFT, INSTRUMENTAL NATURE MAKES IT OBVIOUS HIS EMOTIONS - MILD SADNESS, CONFUSION, BUT ALSO A SENSE OF RELIEF. THE THEME OF RELIEF IS USED IN TWO OTHER MOVIES IN SPECIFIC.

[BED IN: TOGETHER]

THE XX'S SONG TOGETHER IS USED IN THE ROLLING CREDITS OF BAZ LUHRMANN'S THE GREAT GATSBY TO CREATE CLOSURE AND PEACE.

[BED OUT: TOGETHER]

THE OTHER IS "IT'S KIND OF A FUNNY STORY" AND THIS MOVIE CIRCLES AROUND A PERFECTIONIST CHILD CRAIG. HE MANAGES TO GET BY FROM A YOUNG AGE WITH HIS ART, AND HIS CALM CREATIVITY IS SHOWN IN THE SAME SONG RIHANNA USED EARLIER- INTRO.

[CLIP IN: DRAWING]

[CLIP OUT: DRAWING]

ALL OF THESE UTILIZATIONS ARE FANTASTIC PIECES OF WORK. BUT WHERE DID THE INFLUENCE FOR ALL OF THESE TRACKS COME FROM? IT'S QUITE THE BLEND. ANYTHING FROM SOUL TO DANCE TO CLASSIC ROCK, POP, AND RAP - THE GROUP LOVES IT ALL.

[BED IN: I DARE YOU]

ITS REALLY EASY TO SEE HOW GREAT THE EXES HAVE BEEN FROM THE START.
AFTER ALL, THEIR MUSIC IS INCREDIBLY INFLUENTIAL AND VERSATILE. AND
THEIR THEMES ARE ADAPTABLE. I GUESS IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT THESE
PARTICULAR EXES ARE YOUR FRIENDS IN ANY TIME OF LIFE.
THIS HAS BEEN KATIE PIEDRA FOR WHJE. THANKS FOR LISTENING IN. FOR
INSIGHTS LIKE THIS AND MORE, GO TO WHJE.COM.

[BED OUT: I DARE YOU]