There Goes My Baby (1959)
The Drifters

LISTEN FOR

- Murky rhythmic texture
- Latin groove
- Stark string textures
- Mix of styles

CREATION

Songwriters  Benjamin Nelson, Lover Patterson, George Treadwell
Label, Record  Atlantic 2025
Musicians  Ben E. King (lead voice), Charlie Thomas, Doc Green, Elsbeary Hobbs (voice), violins, cello, timpani, bass
Arranger  Stanley Applebaum
Producers  Jerry Leiber, Mike, Stoller
Engineer  Tom Dowd
Recording  New York City; March 1959; mono
Charts  Pop 2, R&B 1

MUSIC

Genre  Soul, doo-wop
Form  Simple verse
Key  A major
Meter  4/4
## LISTENING GUIDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Lyric Cue</th>
<th>Listen For</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0:00</td>
<td>Intro 4</td>
<td>“Bom bom”</td>
<td>• Doo wop vocal riff, prominent bass voice; distant bass and timpani play Latin rhythm; “big” reverb.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Strings rush upward towards Verse downbeat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0:13</td>
<td>Verse 1</td>
<td>“There goes my baby”</td>
<td>• Lead voice; backing voices out.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verse 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Violins play legato descending sequence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0:15</td>
<td>Verse 2</td>
<td>“I broke her heart”</td>
<td>• Backing voices repeat riff from Intro.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verse 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Violins repeat descending sequence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0:30</td>
<td>Verse 3</td>
<td>“There goes my baby”</td>
<td>• Backing voices sing lyrics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verse 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lead voice answers with wordless responses.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verse 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Violins out; pizzicato cello in low register.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0:59</td>
<td>Verse 4</td>
<td>“I want to know if she”</td>
<td>• Violins and cello play marcato figure in octaves.</td>
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<td>Verse 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Backing voices out.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:14</td>
<td>Verse 5</td>
<td>“I wonder why she”</td>
<td>• Strings repeat marcato figure, adding a higher octave</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verse 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Backing voices sing sustained harmony.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:29</td>
<td>Verse 6</td>
<td>“I just want to tell her”</td>
<td>• Violins play descending sequence.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verse 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Backing voices out.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:44</td>
<td>Verse 7</td>
<td>“Where is my baby”</td>
<td>• Backing voices sing riff from Intro.</td>
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<td>Verse 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Violins play descending sequence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:59</td>
<td>Verse 8</td>
<td>“There goes my baby”</td>
<td>• Backing voices sing lyrics; lead voice answers with wordless responses.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verse 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Violins play descending sequence.</td>
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</tbody>
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LYRICS
There goes my baby
Movin’ on down the line
Wonder where, wonder where
Wonder where she is bound?

Why did she leave me
So all alone
So all alone
I was gonna tell her that I loved her

I broke her heart
And made her cry
Now I’m alone, so all alone
What can I do, what can I do?

And that I need her
Beside my side
To be my guide

I wanna know where is my (doo-doot-doo-doo-doo)
Whoa-oh-oh-oh-oh
(There goes my baby) Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
(There goes my baby) Whoa-oh-oh-oh
(There she goes) Yeah! (There she goes)

I wanna know if she loved me
Did she really love me?
Was she just playing
Me for a fool?

I wanna know where is my (doo-doot-doo-doo-doo)
Whoa-oh-oh-oh-oh
(There goes my baby)
(There goes my baby)

I wonder why she left me
I was gonna tell her that I loved her

Yeah, whoa-oh-oh
(There goes my baby)

Sources
- Albin Zak, Course Pak for A MUS-398 at the University of Albany.
- https://play.google.com/music/preview/Tux2weabuscjlicbyonci7f2uce?lyrics=1&source=google&medium=search&campaign=lyrics&pcampaignid=kp-songlyrics&u=0#