

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

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
0:00	Intro (4)	"Bom bom"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doo wop vocal riff, prominent bass voice; distant bass and timpani play Latin rhythm; "big" reverb.
0:13			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strings rush upward towards Verse downbeat.
0:15	Verse 1 (4)	"There goes my baby"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead voice; backing voices out. • Violins play legato descending sequence.
0:30	Verse 2 (4)	"I broke her heart"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backing voices repeat riff from Intro. • Violins repeat descending sequence.
0:44	Verse 3 (4)	"There goes my baby"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backing voices sing lyrics • Lead voice answers with wordless responses. • Violins out; pizzicato cello in low register.
0:59	Verse 4 (4)	"I want to know if she"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violins and cello play <i>marcato</i> figure in octaves. • Backing voices out.
1:14	Verse 5 (4)	"I wonder why she"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strings repeat <i>marcato</i> figure, adding a higher octave • Backing voices sing sustained harmony.
1:29	Verse 6 (4)	"I just want to tell her"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violins play descending sequence. • Backing voices out.
1:44	Verse 7 (4)	"Where is my baby"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backing voices sing riff from Intro. • Violins play descending sequence.
1:59	Verse 8 (4 to fade)	"There goes my baby"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backing voices sing lyrics; lead voice answers with wordless responses. • Violins play descending sequence.

LYRICS

There goes my baby
Movin' on down the line
Wonder where, wonder where
Wonder where she is bound?

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

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 wonder why she left me

Why did she leave me
So all alone
So all alone

I was gonna tell her that I loved her
And that I need her
Beside my side
To be my guide

I wanna know where is my (doo-doot-doo-doo-
doo-doo)
Where is my baby? (doo-doot-doo-doo-doo-
doo)
I want my baby (doo-doot-doo-doo-doo-doo)
I need my baby

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

SOURCES

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