

Will You Love Me Tomorrow? (1960)

The Shirelles

LISTEN FOR

- Latin rhythm
- Interplay of lead and backing voices
- String arrangement, AABA form recall Tin Pan Alley
- Harmonic intensifier on third line of each verse

CREATION

Songwriters Gerry Goffin, Carole King

Label, Record Scepter 1211

Musicians Shirelles: Shirley Owens (lead), Doris Cole, Addie “Micki” Harris, Beverly Lee; unidentified studio musicians (guitar, bass, drums, strings, percussion)

Arranger Carole King

Producer Luther Dixon

Recording Bell Sound Studios (New York City); October 1960; mono

Charts Pop 1, R&B 2

MUSIC

Genre Girl-group pop

Form AABA with partial reprise

Key C major

Meter 4/4

LISTENING GUIDE

| Time | Form | Lyric Cue | Listen For |
|------|-----------|-----------|---|
| 0:00 | Intro (4) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Latin groove in bass; “heartbeat” rhythm on snare ([1] 2 & [3] 4); sixteenth-note figure in cellos.• Background instruments reinforce the groove; single electric guitar strum on downbeat of every other bar. |

"Will You Love Me Tomorrow?" (The Shirelles, 1960)

| Time | Form | Lyric Cue | Listen For |
|------|-----------|-----------------------|--|
| 0:08 | A (16) | "Tonight you're mine" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyrics describe a situation. Harmonic intensifier (E7 chord) adds urgency; backing voices enter singing long notes; cellos switch to long notes. |
| 0:21 | | "Tonight the light" | |
| 0:28 | | Refrain | |
| 0:35 | A (16) | "Is this a lasting" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyrics shift to questioning; cellos return to rhythmic figure doubled by backing voices; violins answer lead vocal phrases. Harmonic intensifier; cellos and backing voices switch to long notes. |
| 0:49 | | "Can I believe" | |
| 0:56 | | Refrain | |
| 1:03 | B (16) | "Tonight with words" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bass moves to high register; violins become more active; mid-range texture thins; backing voices out. Harmonic intensifier (D7); backing voices in, call-and-response with lead voice. |
| 1:25 | | "When the night" | |
| 1:32 | A (16) | "I'd like to know" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyrics demand an answer; texture as in previous A. Harmonic intensifier |
| 1:46 | | "So tell me now" | |
| 1:53 | | "Will you still" | |
| 2:00 | Break (8) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violin melody |
| 2:14 | A (8) | "So tell me now" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only second half of verse; texture as in previous A. Repeat to fade. |
| 2:21 | | Refrain | |

LYRICS

Tonight you're mine completely
 You give your love so sweetly
 Tonight the light of love is in your eyes
 But will you love me tomorrow?

I'd like to know that your love
 Is love I can be sure of
 So tell me now, and I won't ask again
 Will you still love me tomorrow?

Is this a lasting treasure
 Or just a moment's pleasure?
 Can I believe the magic of your sighs?
 Will you still love me tomorrow?

So tell me now, and I won't ask again
 Will you still love me tomorrow?

Tonight with words unspoken
 You say that I'm the only one
 But will my heart be broken
 When the night meets the morning sun?

SOURCES

- Albin Zak, Course Pak for A MUS-398 at the University of Albany.
- <http://www.metrolyrics.com/will-you-love-me-tomorrow-lyrics-the-shirelles.html>