

Your name: Wons Phreely

Song name: The Time Song

First impressions (30-sec snap judgment A&R listen)

- Good vocal, some odd harmonic choices.
- I LOVE that there's a sax solo!
- Classic chorus ... that doesn't hit hard enough.
- Cool synths.
- Bass note choice in verse one is odd. The end piano might be a hook?
- Drums are a little tame.
- Chorus needs energy (I love the melody, though).
- Chorus sounds too mono. It could use some spread.

Overall thoughts on the mix

- It could use some arrangement tweaks. The song is too long.
- Vocal is hard to hear sometimes; it competes with the track. Needs some space.

Section by section thoughts

- INTRO
 - Cool synth intro. I would be curious if the piano part in the very end would fly over this.
 - The bass note choices feel weird to me. I'd probably try to re-build them into something else or lose them. Maybe 1-6-5?
- VERSES
 - The vocal has nice air on it, but the lyric is difficult to understand. You might compress it more or experiment with another EQ or something. I like the FX treatment. It would be more traditional to make it wetter, but I like it.
 - Everything being in the middle also makes the vocal hard to hear. Make space for it.
 - Throw the words at .37 ('slow suicide') and .40 ('fight, life') into delays.
 - The snare is cool: roll off the lows, and it gets more 80s. I might mute the kick for the verse and roll off the lows on the drums until the chorus. This will make the chorus pop more.

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- CHORUSES (CH)

- The chorus needs to hit more. The snare is a little boxy. I want that kick to be tight and hit my chest a bit more.
- I love the chorused guitar rake at the top of the CH.
- Spread stuff out! It's very mono.
- The bright synth arpeggio could pan out or around.
- I like the vocal here. Maybe the verse vocal could be a different lo-fi vibe, and the chorus opens up.
- Replace the post-CH turnaround with the intro chords. And maybe bring that outro piano back in there also. Or delete that turn altogether.
- CH could use some crashes. They're hard to hear and sound very mono.
- Are there BGVs?
- I'd thicken the synth and pan it wide. Or has delay it.
- I'd probably edit the drums and add my own crashes. And add perc-shaker/tambo for subdivision energy.

- BRIDGE/BREAK (BR)

- I like the turn after CH2. The solo takes off nicely, but the guitar that answers the sax is too low/doesn't speak. It needs to step out and match the sax.
- Bridge BGVs are all mono?
- Pan the sax mid-right, guitar mid-left for the solo.
- I'd add long delays to the bridge vocal at 2.20. It needs a scene change here.
- I might try adding a high octave on the last line of the sax during the solo and blend it in the background for flavor? It could be cool or awful- try it!

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- END CH/OUTRO

- The build/payoff for CH3 isn't nearly enough. Make a transition that really pops.
- Mute stuff, reverse sax and cymbals, add sweep or more sus cymbals, transition fx, etc.
- The guitar that comes in (?) in CH needs to be separated. Everything sounds like it's in the center. When the mix is mono, it makes the song feel congested and crowding in on the vocal.
- There are way too many repeats on the outro- it's too long. This song should be done by 3.40 max. Edit out some repeats and bring some vocal and instrument stuff forward. Then fade earlier.
- I'd do two repeats of the chorus, then fade. So CH3 at 2.36. Edit out 8 bars at 2.50. Fade on the section that starts 3.05 and out by 3.35. The 'whoohoo' at 3.49 might fly earlier. They're cool.
- OR move the cold ending up and mess around with the sections until it works. But still be done around 3.30.
- Some of the higher vocalizations might work in reverb behind the regular chorus — worth a try.
- I would likely add a tambo to the outro CH's. Maybe to all of them. Maybe shaker also.

What rules (things you nailed)

- CH vocal is cool, synths are cool, the sax is cool, CH melody is nice.

What does not (things we need to work on)

- Making it feel wider, making the chorus hit, editing arrangement a bit, vocal intelligibility (in verses).

Rate and focus

- VOCALS
 - Some cool, some hard to hear.
- HI/MID/LOW
 - Definitely missing some low-end. I'd swap the bass and the kick.

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- DYNAMICS
- Choruses really need to jump. The elements are there, but they don't explode.

- ENERGY/VIBE
- Good, fairly even across the board. Could go on more of a ride.

- TWISTS AND TRANSITIONS
- More transitions, better changes.

- PRODUCTION AND ARRANGEMENT
- As above, I'd mess with the arrangement a bit. Even re-playing bass notes to see if that works.

What would I reference if I was mixing this?

- 80's throwbacks. 'We Belong' by Sheppard. 'King of Wishful Thinking' by Go West.

Overall mix rating: scale of 1 - 10 (1 = remix it, 10 = Grammy time)

- 4/10

Final thoughts

- Definitely needs work. Could turn out great though with some changes.

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