**Instrumentation**
- Written in 1957 for a large show orchestra
- Requires players to ‘double up’ (play more than one instrument, e.g. clarinet in one song and saxophone in the next, then switch again in other songs).
- Includes woodwind, brass and strings
- Also uses a drum kit, 2 other percussionists, piano, acoustic guitar and electric guitar.
- The percussionists play timpani, glockenspiel, xylophone, police whistle, castanets, guiros and maracas amongst other instruments
- The latin-style percussion instruments (castanets, guiro, conga, maracas etc) represent the Puerto Rican gang
- Saxophones, guitar etc make reference to Jazz (the ‘popular’ music of the day) and represent the American gang
- This amounts to some 30 players.
- Strings sometimes play tremolo or pizzicato
- Brass players are sometimes muted
- Tony is sung by a tenor (a high male voice)

**Purpose and Musical Style**
- From a musical called *West Side Story*, which is loosely based on the story of Romeo and Juliet (Tony=Romeo) but is set in the ganglands of New York in the 1950s.
- It’s about two rival gangs, the Jets (Americans) and the Sharks (Puerto Rican immigrants).
- It has two acts, with spoken dialogue between the songs. There are solos, duets, choruses and action songs. It also has a lot of numbers that are just danced to.
- It was quite different to other musicals at the time – it had a tragic ending, lots of dance scenes and examined social problems in America.
- This is a solo song. Other types of song used in this musical are duet, trio, quartet, quintet and chorus.

**Structure**
- Starts with an intro
- Then two main sections A and B with a varied repeat of each in the order: A B B1 A1
- Ends with an outro/coda which fades into an instrumental (for a scene change)
- It sounds unresolved at the end (like Tony’s future) because it

**Tonality/Harmony (i.e. chords used)**
- D major throughout
- Jazz based harmony/dissonances
- Bi-tonal sections
- Uses extended (jazz) chords with added 7th/9th/11th
- Also conventional chords with added blue notes
- Sometimes chromatic
- Uses tritone/augmented 4th as part of chord (D major with

**How is Tony’s excitement reflected in the music?**
- Fast tempo
- Push rhythms e.g. ‘Could be…’
- Breathy singing style
- Syncopation and rests between the notes

**Three musical points about this song that I like/dislike:**
*Justify your points and use musical vocabulary*

**Jazz influences**
- Syncopation and push rhythms
- Blues notes
- Jazz chords i.e. 7ths, 9ths and 11ths added
- Use of saxophones/guitar/pizzicato bass/drumkit