
"Reckoning"

Song composition, words and music by Jonathan Cline, jcline@ieee.org.

Written as a 3-week assignment in Songwriting class.

"Reckoning" is orchestrated for a 5-piece heavy metal band. The lyrics of "Reckoning" illustrate a persona dealing with the pent-up frustrations from decades of corporate and government non-accountability. This lack fractured into overwhelming display during the writing of this composition, as March 2020 brought unprecedented changes onto the shoulders of citizens, due to a global pandemic, after a full winter of social discontent. The music is set in a rhythmically heavy Phrygian doom-sludge metal style, itself a descendent of Blues. An unrelenting, slow unison between the kick drum and rhythm, with significant use of the flat 5, is reminiscent of Black Sabbath and Crowbar. The verse section is melodically back-heavy, and disjunct, while the chorus section set as stable on the downbeat. The rhythmic breakdown after the second verse section parallels social breakdown and the upheaval of a social protest, with the lyrics insisting that, like a clock run out, "your time is up, tick tock"; as, the time will come when there will be "nowhere to hide from the reckoning," a conclusion foreshadowed by the chorus's allusion of a thundering storm and a "guillotine."

"Reckoning" Lyrics

[Verse]

(Come on!)

Where can we stay

When they cut the chord?

Where can we march

With the streets blocked off?

Are we to blame

For this corrupt state?

When will we strike

Against votes we cast?

[Chorus]

Rain, sea, wash away

Storm come break

Thundering, Hurricane

[Guitar Solo, Phrygian Minor, Locrian]

[Rhythm Breakdown]

Your time is up, Your time is up

Your time is up, Your time is up

Tick, Tock. Tick, Tock.

[Chorus]

Rain, sea, wash away

Storm come break

Thundering, Guillotine

[Verse, Truncated]

Nowhere to hide

From the reckoning

https://youtu.be/oP2bR_QqDqw

"Reckoning" (Original), Phrygian Guitar, Bass, Vocal, Lyrics, Drums. Full Score

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