

# From Sync to Hit

**HIT SONGS DECONSTRUCTED**

The #1 Source for Hit Songwriting Analysis and Trends

A photograph of Justin Timberlake in a white suit, dancing in a crowd. He is in the center, looking down with his arms outstretched. To his left, a woman in a pink and white outfit is dancing. To his right, a woman in a blue sweater and a red and white polka-dot skirt is dancing with her arms raised. The background shows other people in a crowd, some with their arms raised, in an outdoor setting with a building in the background.

# Can't Stop the Feeling

Justin Timberlake

# Can't Stop The Feeling

- ✓ Co-written and produced by Justin Timberlake, Max Martin and Shellback
- ✓ Written for the Movie *Trolls*
- ✓ Appears in the film's final climactic scene
  
- ✓ Peaked at #1 on over 30 charts in 17+ countries, including the Billboard Hot 100 in the US
- ✓ Won a Grammy for *Best Song Written for Visual Media (59<sup>th</sup> Annual Grammy Awards)*

# “Can’t Stop The Feeling”

Sync Placement: *Trolls*



# Genres & Influences

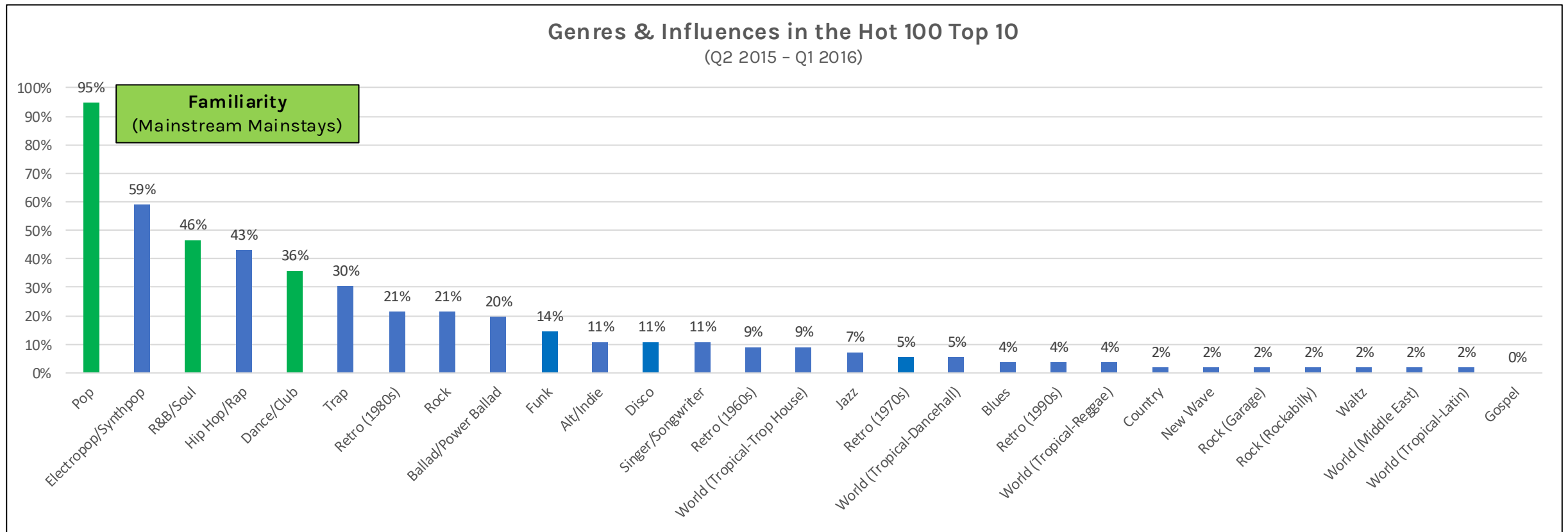
Pop, R&B/Soul, Dance, Funk, Disco, Retro 1970s, Gospel

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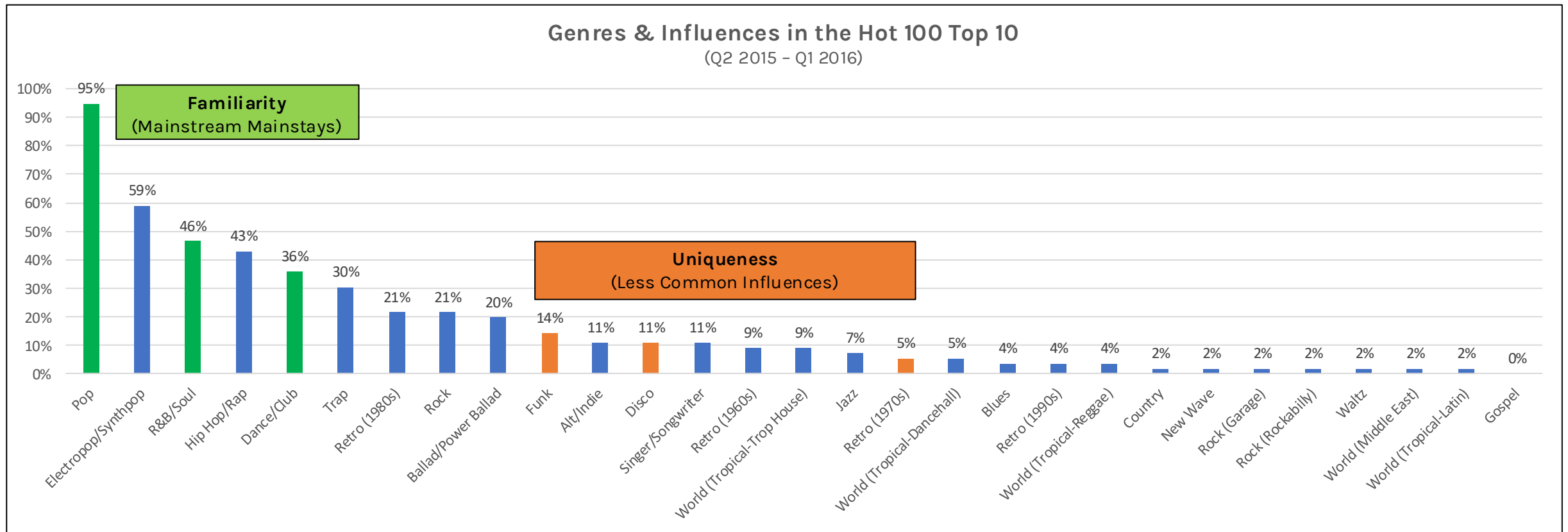
# Genres & Influences

Balance of familiar and atypical genres & influences enables the song to both blend in and stand out in the mainstream music landscape



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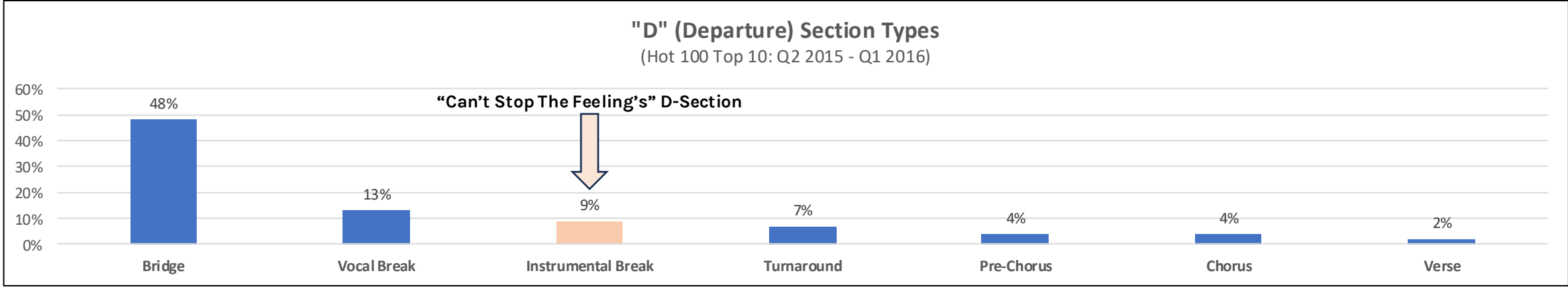
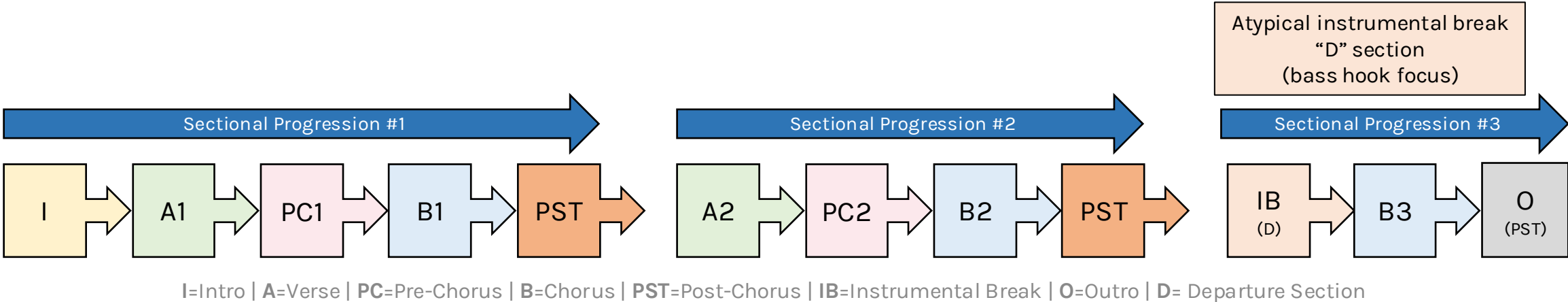
# Song Structure

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# Structure

## Common pop song form except for the "D" (departure) section



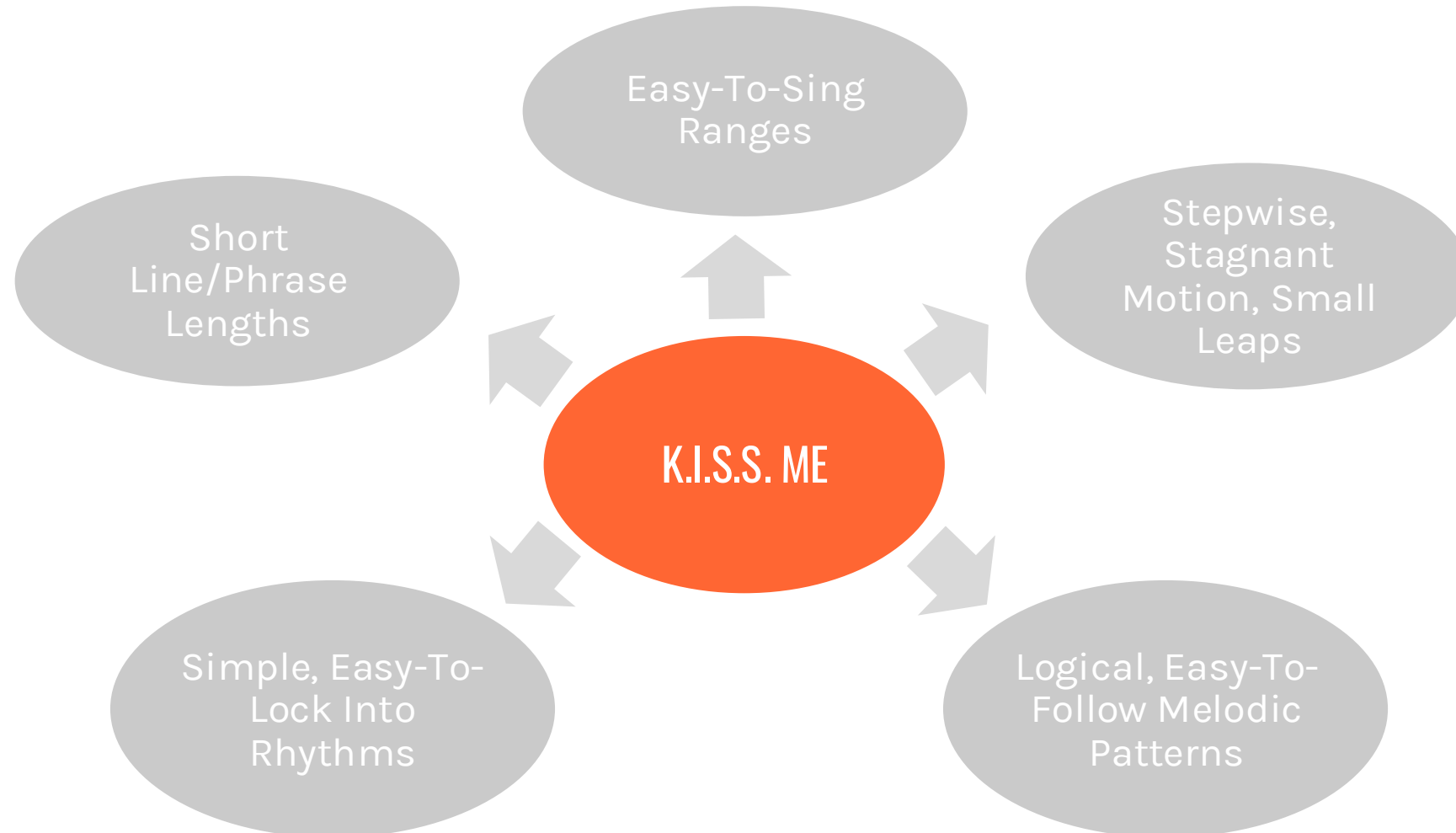
# Melody

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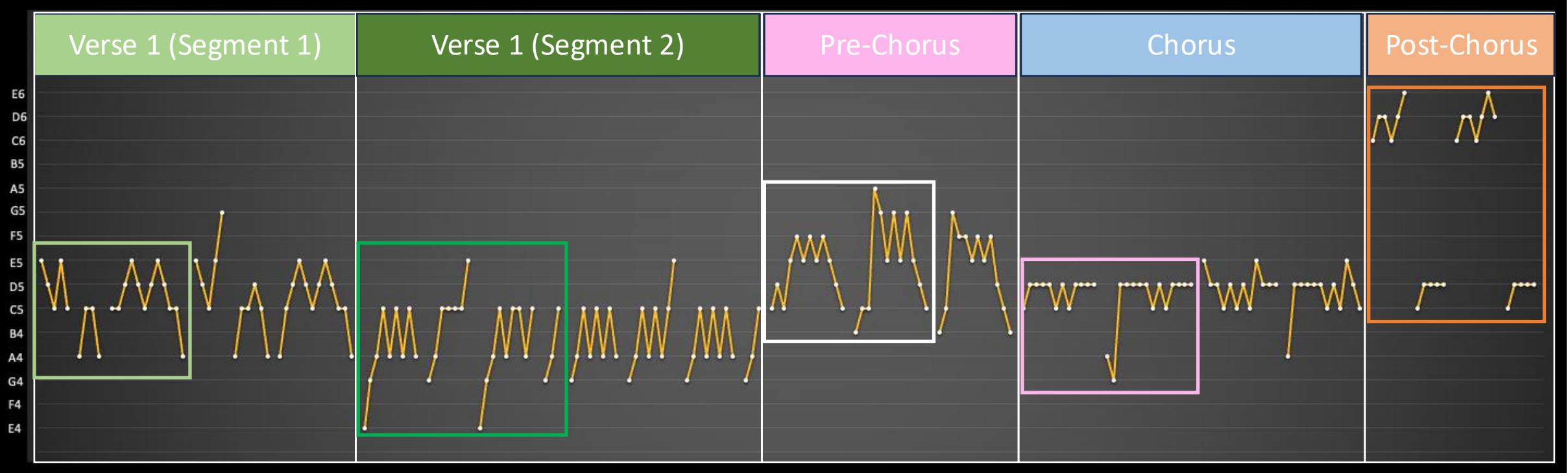
# Melody

## The K.I.S.S. ME Principle (Keep It Simple, Singable, and Memorable)



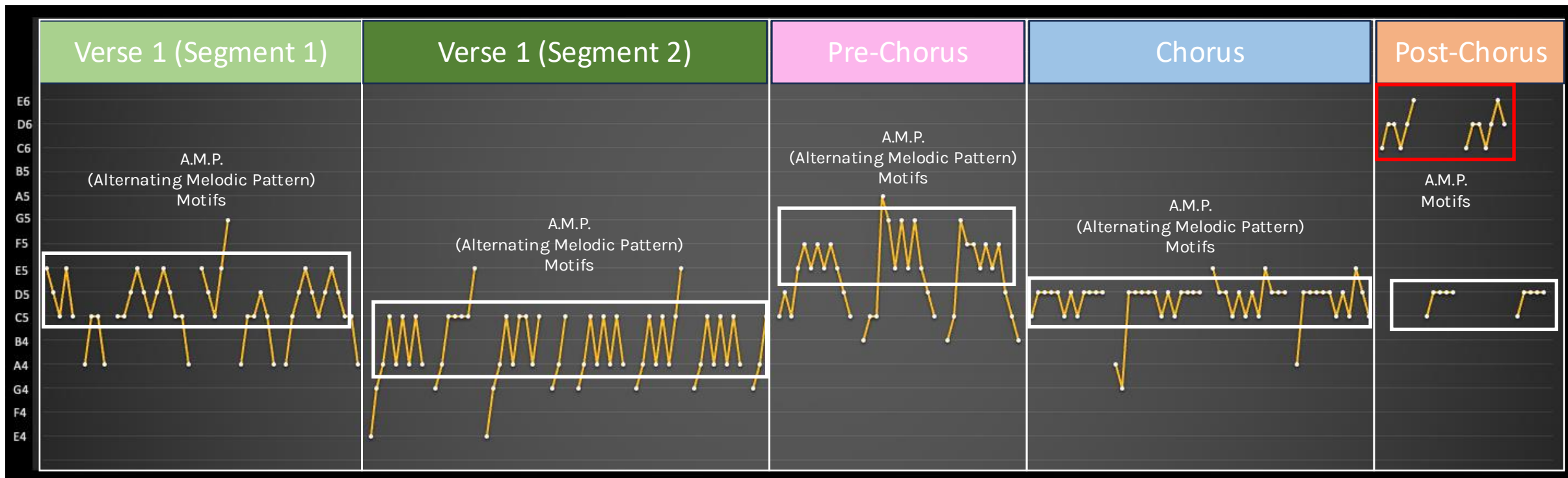
# Melody

## “Can’t Stop The Feeling’s” Melodic Patterns Across the First Four Sections



# Melody

## “Can’t Stop The Feeling’s” Melodic Patterns Across the First Four Sections



### K.I.S.S. ME Adherence

- ✓ Easy-to-sing range
- ✓ Stepwise motion and small intervallic leaps
- ✓ Logical, easy-to-follow melodic patterns
- ✓ Easy-to-lock into rhythms
- ✓ Short-to-moderate phrase lengths

### K.I.S.S. ME Deviation: Song Title Hook (Post-Chorus)

- ✓ Melodically spotlights the hook
- ✓ Bolsters its emotional impact
- ✓ Set up by the more direct chorus melody that precedes it

# Hooks

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# Hook Arrangement

## Strategic hook addition, omission, and recombination across sections

HOOK	I	A1	PC1	B1	PST1	A2	PC2	B2	PST2	IB	B3	O
INSTRUMENTAL HOOK												
<b>Foundational Bass Hook</b> Classic funk style		x		x	x	x		x	x	X	x	x
"FOCAL" VOCAL HOOKS												

I=Intro | A=Verse | PC=Pre-Chorus | B=Chorus | PST=Post-Chorus | IB=Instrumental Break | O=Outro | D= Departure Section

# Hook Arrangement

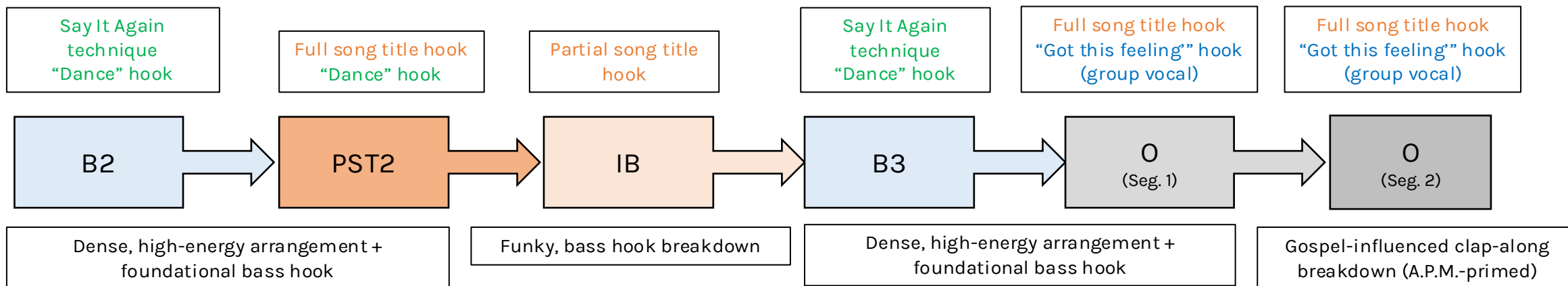
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INSTRUMENTAL HOOK												
<b>Foundational Bass Hook</b> Classic funk style		x		x	x	x		x	x	X	x	x
"FOCAL" VOCAL HOOKS												
<b>"Say It Again" (Repetition) Hook</b> "Dance, dance, dance"				3	2			3	2		3	
<b>Song Title Hook (Full and Fragments)</b> "Can't stop the feeling"					2				2	4		5
<b>Standout Statement Hook</b> "Got this feeling in my body"												5

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# Hook Arrangement

## Creative, Fresh-Yet-Familiar Call & Response Hook Pairings Across Sections



### Chorus 2

Nothing I can see but you when you  
 dance, dance, dance  
 Feeling good, good, creeping up on you  
 so just dance, dance, dance  
 All those things I should do to you, but you  
 dance, dance, dance  
 And ain't nobody leaving soon, so keep dancing

### Post Chorus 2

I can't stop the feeling  
 So just dance, dance, dance  
 I can't stop the feeling  
 So just dance, dance, dance

### Instrumental Break

Bass hook <FULL>  
 I can't stop the  
 Bass hook <SEG. 1>  
 I can't stop the  
 Bass hook <SEG. 2>  
 I can't stop the, I can't stop the

### Outro (Seg. 1)

I can't stop the feeling  
 Got this feelin' in my body  
 I can't stop the feeling  
 Got this feelin' in my body  
 I can't stop the feeling  
 Wanna see you move your body  
 I can't stop the feeling  
 Got this feelin' in my body

### Outro (Seg. 2)

Got this feelin' in my body  
 Can't stop the feeling  
 Got this feelin' in my body

# Real-World Resonance

## Outro Segment 2 A.P.M. (Audience Participation Moment)

