

The Color and the Shape



The *Foo Fighters* are a rock band formed in Seattle in 1994. The band is the brainchild of former *Nirvana* drummer Dave Grohl, originally taking the form of an anonymous solo project released under the name “Foo Fighters” following the tragic death of *Nirvana* frontman Kurt Cobain in 1994.

The Foo Fighters released their debut record “Foo Fighters” in 1995 prior to which front man Dave Grohl was the only member of Foo Fighters. As the band took shape, bassist Nate Mandel and drummer William Goldsmith, former members of the band *Sunny Day Real Estate* were recruited to the band as well as former *Nirvana* guitarist Pat Smear. As the band took shape, they began performing at gigs in Portland, Oregon. During the recording of *Colour and the Shape*, William Goldsmith and Pat Smear quit the band in short order, leaving Dave Grohl to record most of the drum sections of this album.

Colour and the Shape is Foo Fighters second album, which was released on May 20, 1997. Most of the subject matter of this album was inspired by Grohl’s divorce from his first wife Jenniffer Youngblood the previous year in 1996. The album was intended to resemble the course of events of a therapy session which Dave Grohl may have gone to, which meant splitting the album into uptempo tracks as well as ballads meant to reflect emotional conflict facing Grohl at the time.

The Albums singles: “*Monkey Wrench*”, “*Everlong*” & “*My Hero*” all reached top 10 in the United States rock radio charts, and the Album reached number 10 on the billboard top 200 chart as well as tremendous commercial success around the world.

Monkey Wrench

“*Monkey Wrench*” is the second track on the album, and is probably one of the band's more recognizable tracks. It placed 26th in the *Kerrang!* “*Greatest singles of all time*”, 48th on the “*greatest rock songs of all time*” and placed 65th on Q’s “*100 greatest songs Ever!!*”. This song combines a simplistic guitar riff with Dave Grohl’s emotionally charged lyrics. This song is written around the idea that Grohl doesn’t want to be a person who is manipulated or made a fool easily. At the end of the song, Grohl proclaims that he is free, symbolizing the freedom he felt after his divorce.

My Hero

“*My Hero*” is the seventh song on the album, and is one of the band's more commercially successful tracks. The song starts with a thundering drum solo followed by the introduction of guitar and finally Dave Grohl’s powerful yet seemingly vulnerable vocals. According to Dave Grohl, “*My Hero*” was written about “everyday people. The sentiment on this track is simple. You don’t have to be rich, famous or successful to do something good or heroic.”. Throughout the song, the guitar riff has the power to bring an emotional feeling to the listener, perhaps reminding them of their hero. “*My Hero*” was ranked #7 on the *Kerrang!* Top 20 Foo Fighters songs off all time in 2020, and additionally *American Songwriter* ranked the song number one on the list of top 10 Foo Fighters songs off all time.

See You

“*See You*” is the eighth song on the album. The song has a deceptive catchy rhythm accompanied well by acoustic guitar. The subject matter of the song carries on with the theme of the album: breakups and heartbreak. When you break up with someone, but you still have feelings for them that you can’t get over, but it still makes you feel good when you see them, which is most evident in the opening line “These letters are marked return to sender”.

Everlong

“Everlong” is the eleventh song on the album, and is probably the most commercially successful and recognizable track from the Foo Fighters. The song begins with a soft guitar riff which increases in intensity until the lyrics begin. Grohl begins with the iconic line “Hello, I’ve waited here for you... everlong.”. According to frontman Dave Grohl, the song is about “being connected to someone so much that not only do you love them physically and spiritually, but when you sing along with them, you harmonize perfectly”.



February Stars

“February Stars” is the tenth song on the album. The song is quiet in contrast to the loud power ballad style of other songs on the album. The song begins with the strumming of an acoustic guitar with Dave Grohl providing distorted vocals which sound as if they were being delivered through a phone. The chorus brings in Grohl's powerful voice ability accompanied by a powerful guitar riff. In my opinion, *“February Stars”* is a solid song, but I think it would have been better off as a bookend song as its theme of hoping that you don't fall fits the idea of the album very well and may have been even better if it was the intro to the album.