

Fink

Stranded 4 Love

About the Song

'Stranded 4 Love'

Master 2 Track

In the beginning of 2022 I was going through a pivotal moment in my relationships. I have always used making music as a diary of sorts. This song was a way to express the thoughts and feelings I was going through at that time, having conflicting about my mistakes. I have been composing and songwriting for over 15 years. My craft is comprised of theory, composition, orchestration, songwriting, recording, producing, performing, singing, and mixing and mastering. In this song I composed all the music using Ableton. The production is an emotional journey and the lyrics are complimentary to the depth within the melodies.

Production Process

Behind the Music

Version 1

Version 7

Originally this song was very different from the demo version (v1). When I began the production of this song I had no lyrical composition written. The version you are hearing (attached above) has vocals added before the first export. The production started with a piano and guitar playing a parallel melody before dropping into the emotional piano and vocal duet. I believe in the beginning I knew I enjoyed the key the song was in and the vocal idea I had, but I didn't feel the production supported the context of the lyrics. By version 7 I had reversed the piano riff and made the attack on the piano very long to sound like a Pad. Then I processed the vocals with a vocoder and the mood of the song shifted. There was a point I was trying to make musically after the chorus sections where the composition takes lead and answers the poetic declarations of the lyric. I was keen on expressing a transition from the first musical section to the second musical section. Because my background is in orchestration, I included an orchestrated section at the end of the song, before the outro. As the song began to progress from the first few versions, getting closer to its final form, I decided to remove the drums because I felt the production had more raw emotion without the drums. Several versions were made with different drum variations. Essentially the decision to remove the drums won the draw.

Vocals, Vocal Recording Process, & Lyrics

Behind the Voice

My relationship was a key focal point within the context of this song. I wanted the lyrics to have impact and the listener to be able to tune in without thinking too deep. I established an A-B rhyme scheme that assists with this. I also kept the structure of the vocal composition simple with Verse 1, Chorus 1, Verse 2, and Chorus 2. The song was recorded in Ableton with an Aston Spirit Microphone running through an Apollo Twin Duo. The vocals were mixed using third party plugins and processed with iZotopes Vocal Synth 2 plugin to achieve the vocoder effect.

Verse 1

The mistakes we make
There is blood that's shed
The words we say
That go straight to our head
I'm open up for discussion
But you got me pushing your buttons
I see this isn't something
That's stranded here for nothing

Verse 2

The water spills
And the floor lay wet
I fall toward you
In a pool of regret
I see there too much motion
When all my pride went own it
I see this isn't something
That's stranded here for nothing

Chorus I & II

You got me stranded for love
Open up your cuts
and see what I've become
I've become to you

Mixing and Mastering

Fine Tuning

The last 5 years I have spent an enormous amount of time absorbed in the mixing process. I used my knowledge base to mix and master this track. I wanted the song to compete with mixes that are played over the radio and songs that fall under the genre of Pop. In order to achieve this sonic approach I kept the vocals and the bass louder and reduced the melodies and sound effects to sit behind the vocals. I used third party production and mixing plugins ranging from software developers like Waves, iZotope, Plugin Alliance, Universal Audio, Steven Slate Audio, Slate Digital, and more. Outside of the recording process, which utilized recording through an UAD Apollo Twin, the production and mixing and mastering were done in the box.

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