

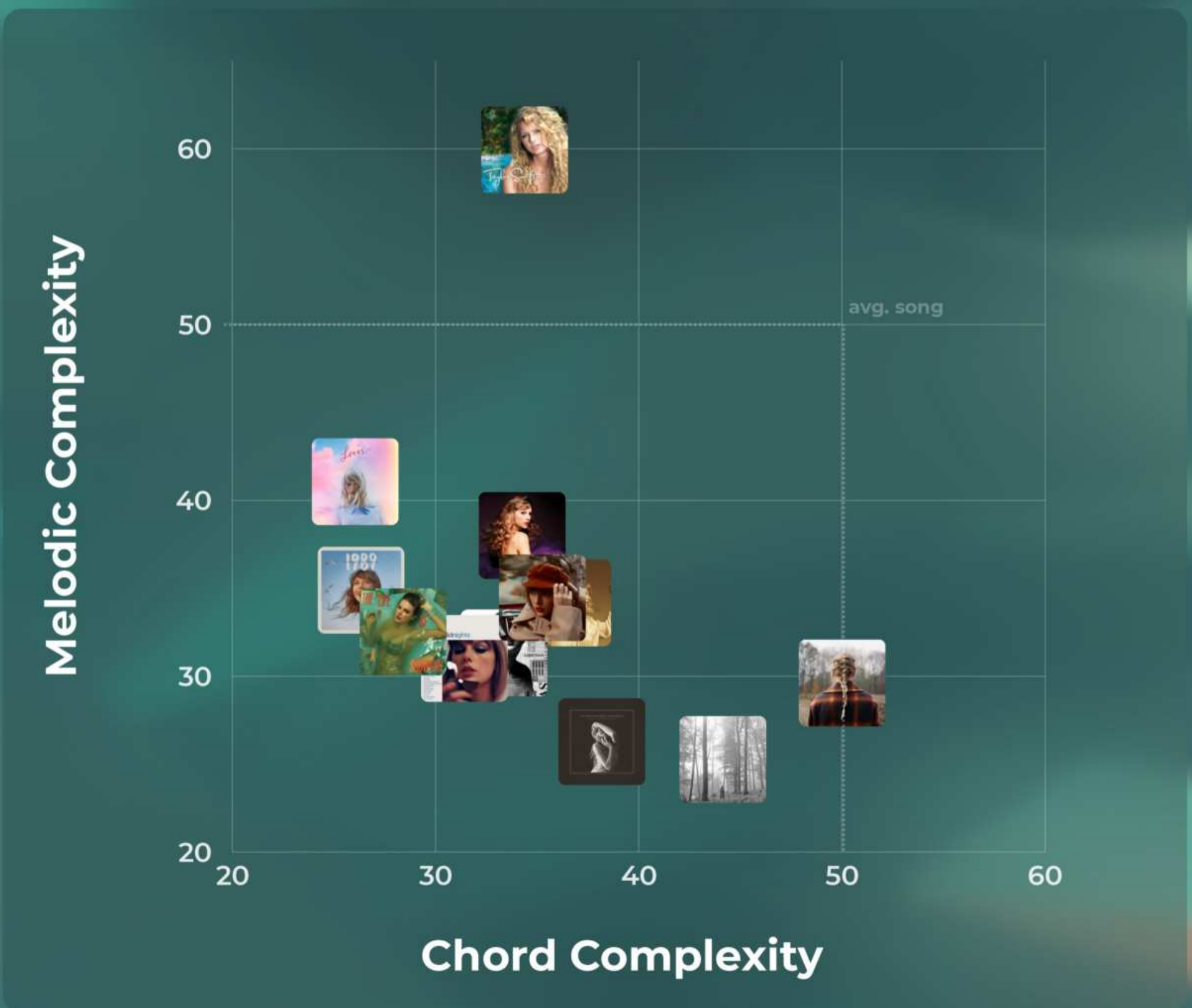
Taylor Swift

Songwriting Statistics



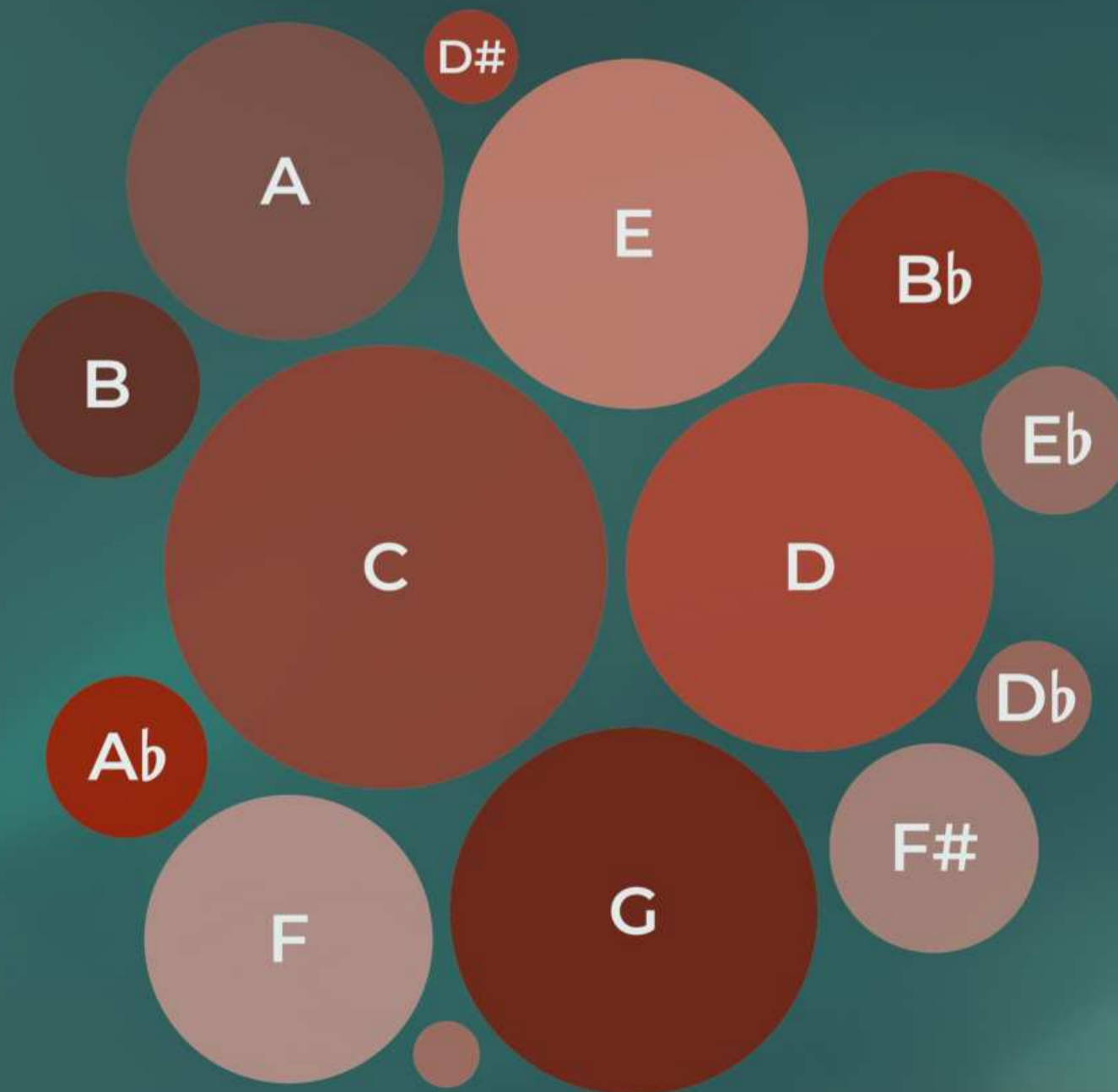
The Most Complicated Eras

In Hooktheory's data, *complexity* measures how adventurous a song's writing is. **Chord Complexity** (X) rises when progressions include added tones or chords outside the key, while **Melodic Complexity** (Y) increases when melodies venture beyond the scale or use syncopation and non-diatonic notes.



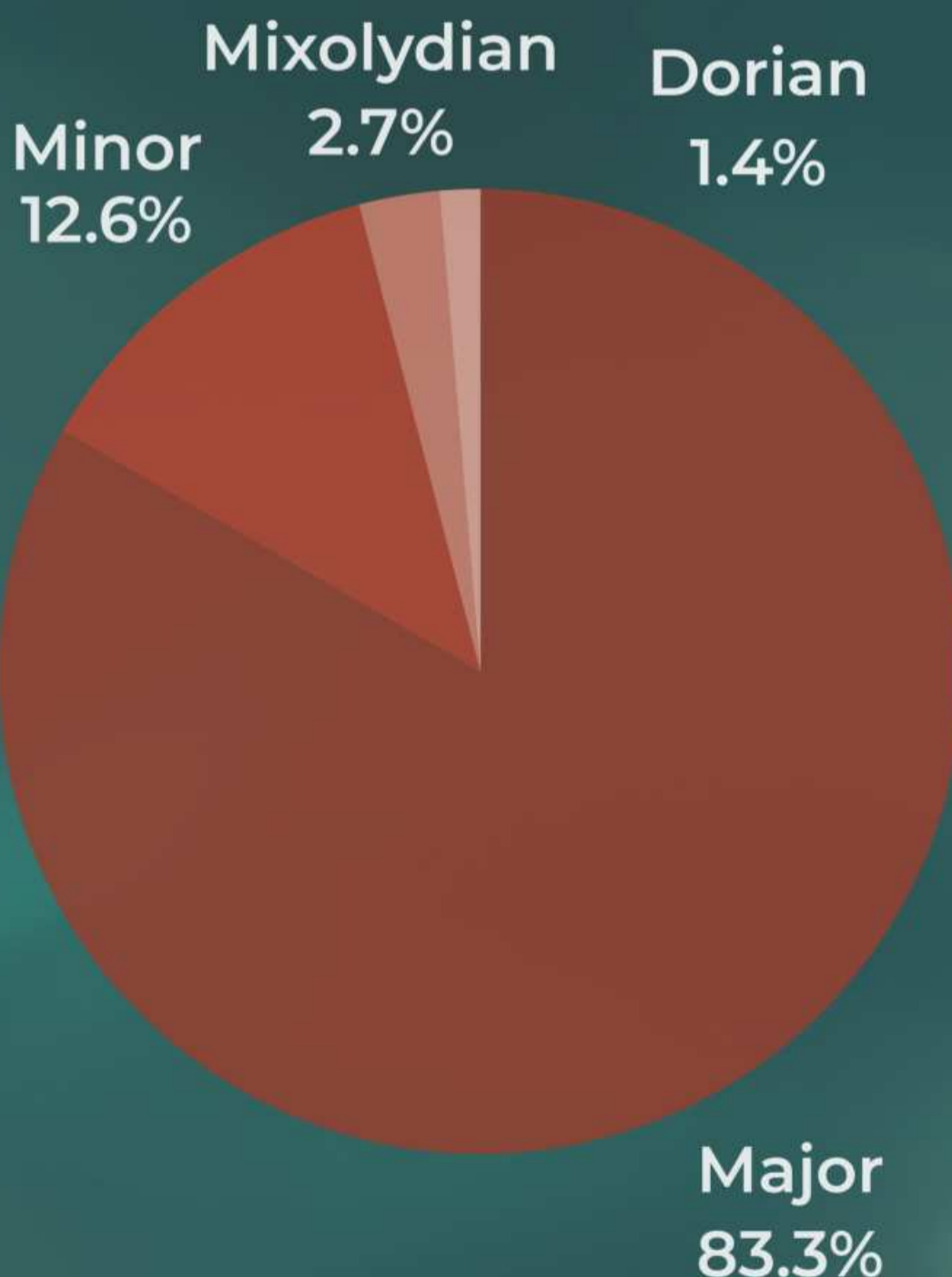
Taylor's Most Common Musical Keys

Each circle represents the root note, or tonal center, that a song is built around—regardless of mode.



Modes and Moods in Taylor's Catalogue


Modes are musical "moods" built from **variations** of the major and minor scale; this chart shows which ones appear most often.



Showgirl Look-Alikes

Song	Key	Complexity	Tension	Chord Progression	Similarity
 Ruin the Friendship	G Major	37.5	82	V III IV I	99.1%
 Clean	E Major	36	80	I V vi IV	

Song	Key	Complexity	Tension	Chord Progression	Similarity
 The Fate of Ophelia	D Minor	20	80	VI III i VII	98.7%
 Right Where You Left Me	G Minor	23.5	81	VII i III VI	

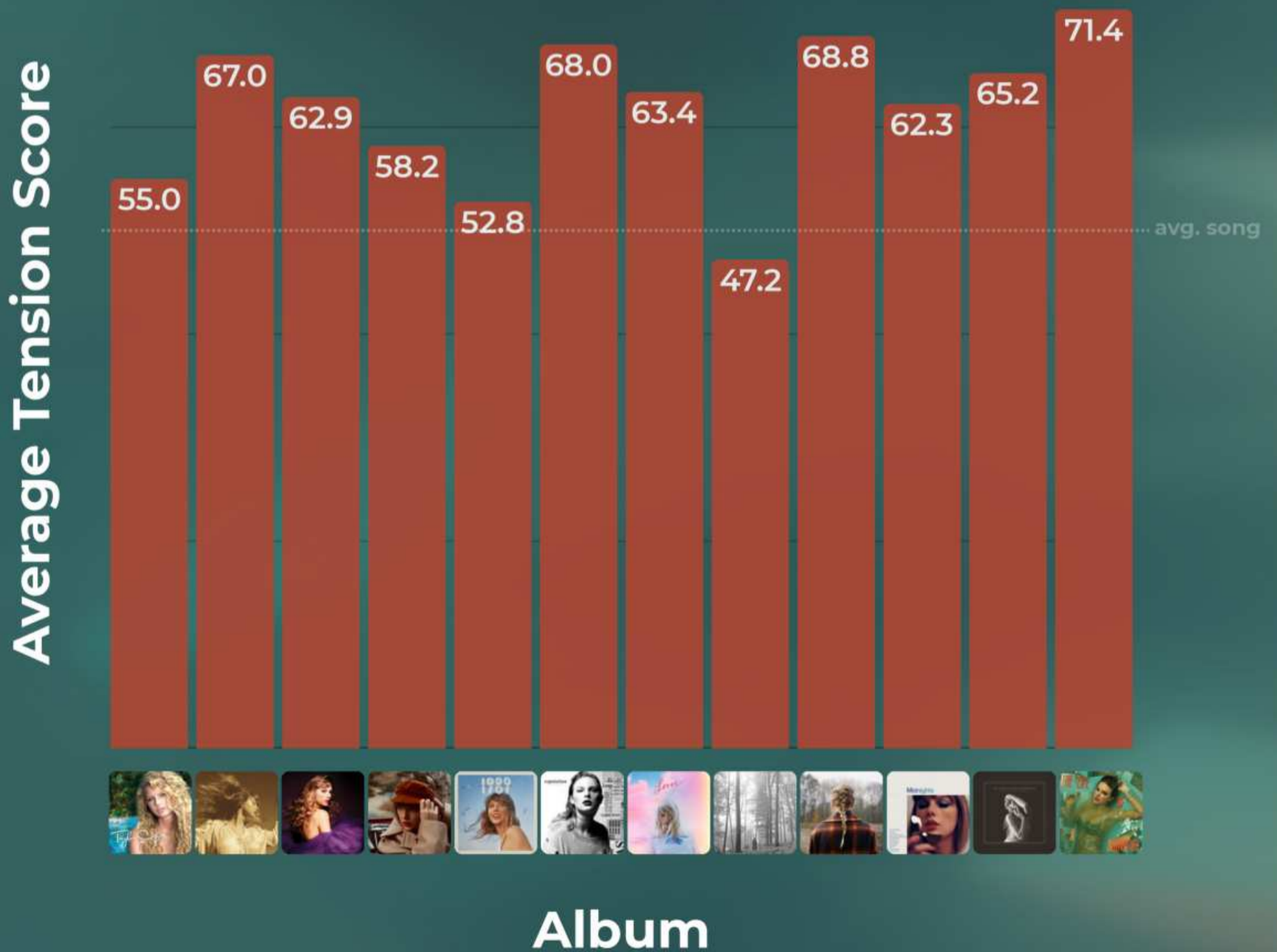
Song	Key	Complexity	Tension	Chord Progression	Similarity
 Eldest Daughter	G Major	45.5	22	ii ⁹ IV ⁷ I	97.9%
 Blank Space	F Major	48.5	23	I vi ⁷ ii ⁷ IV ^{dim}	

Song	Key	Complexity	Tension	Chord Progression	Similarity
 Actually Romantic	E Major	34	93	I vi V/vi IV	96.1%
 Picture to Burn	G Major	48.5	88	I ii ³ ₄ IV V	








Chord-Melody Tension

Chord-Melody Tension climbs whenever the melody lands on notes **outside** the current chord, adding **instability** to your song.



Most Unstable Songs

When melody and harmony line up, the sound feels stable. When melody steps **outside the chord**, it adds tension—the musical kind that keeps things interesting.

Tension Ranking	Album	Song	Tension
1		Father Figure	97
2		The Man	96
3		Elizabeth Taylor	95
4		Paper Rings	93
5		Actually Romantic	93



Spiciest Chord Progressions

Chord-Progression Novelty measures how **uncommon** a song's chord sequence is; higher scores mean rarer and **more original progressions**.

You Are In Love



I^(add9)

IV^{7(add13)}

vi^(add11)

IV^{7(add13)}

loml



I^(add11)

IV⁶₅

I⁶₄^(add11)

Hoax



ii⁷_(sus2)

I^(add6)

IV^{7(add13)}

V⁷

Dorothea



I^(add9)

V^(add11)

IV⁷

I Can Do It With a Broken Heart



I^(add9)

IV⁷_(sus2)

V^(add6)_(sus4)

Coney Island



I⁶₅

IV^(add11)

V^(add6)

vi⁷_(sus4)

IV⁷_(no5)

Illicit Affairs



I⁶_(add11)

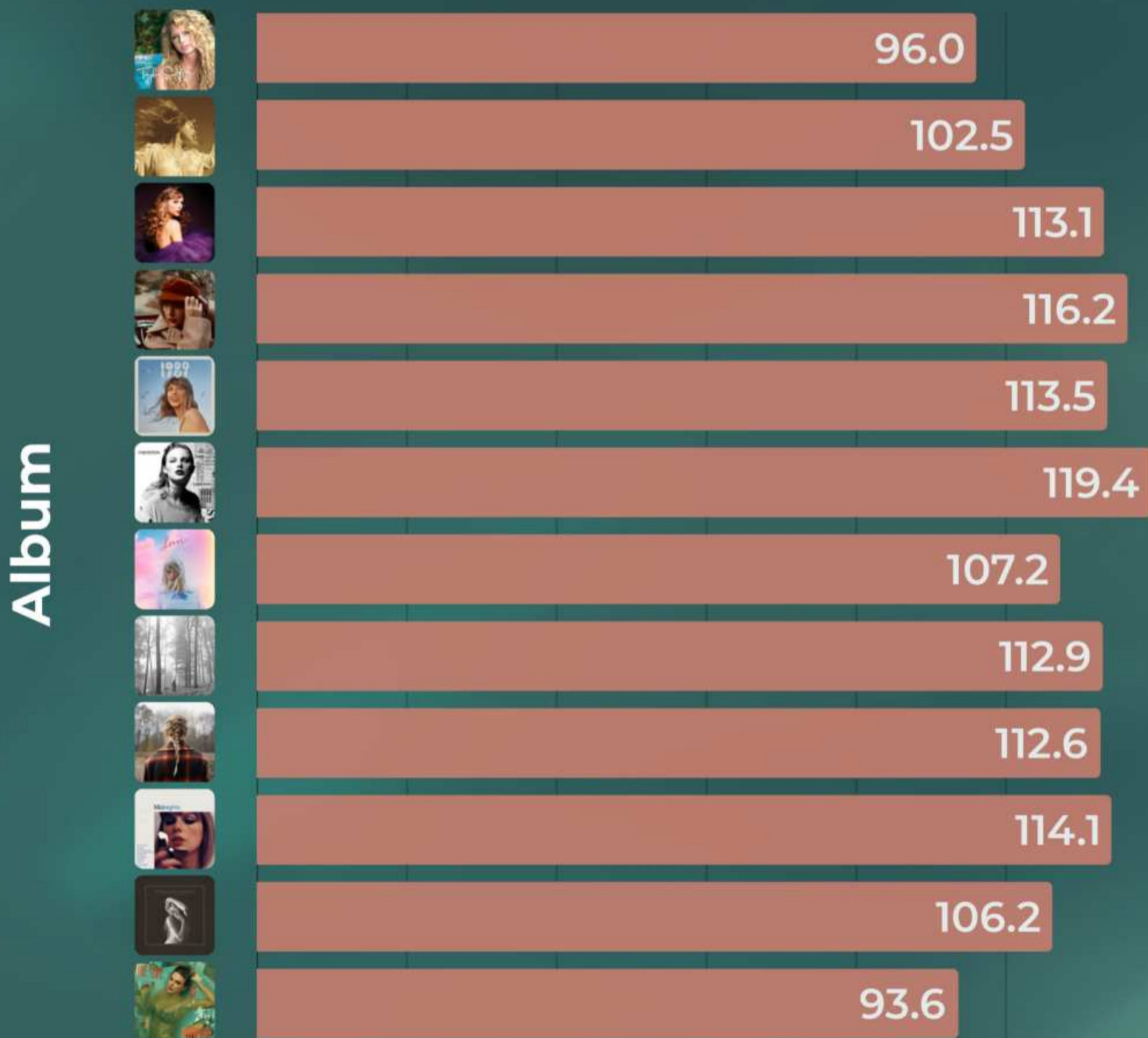
IV⁷_(sus4)

V⁷_(sus4)



Tempo Trends

Tempo defines the speed of the music and is measured by beats per minute (BPM).

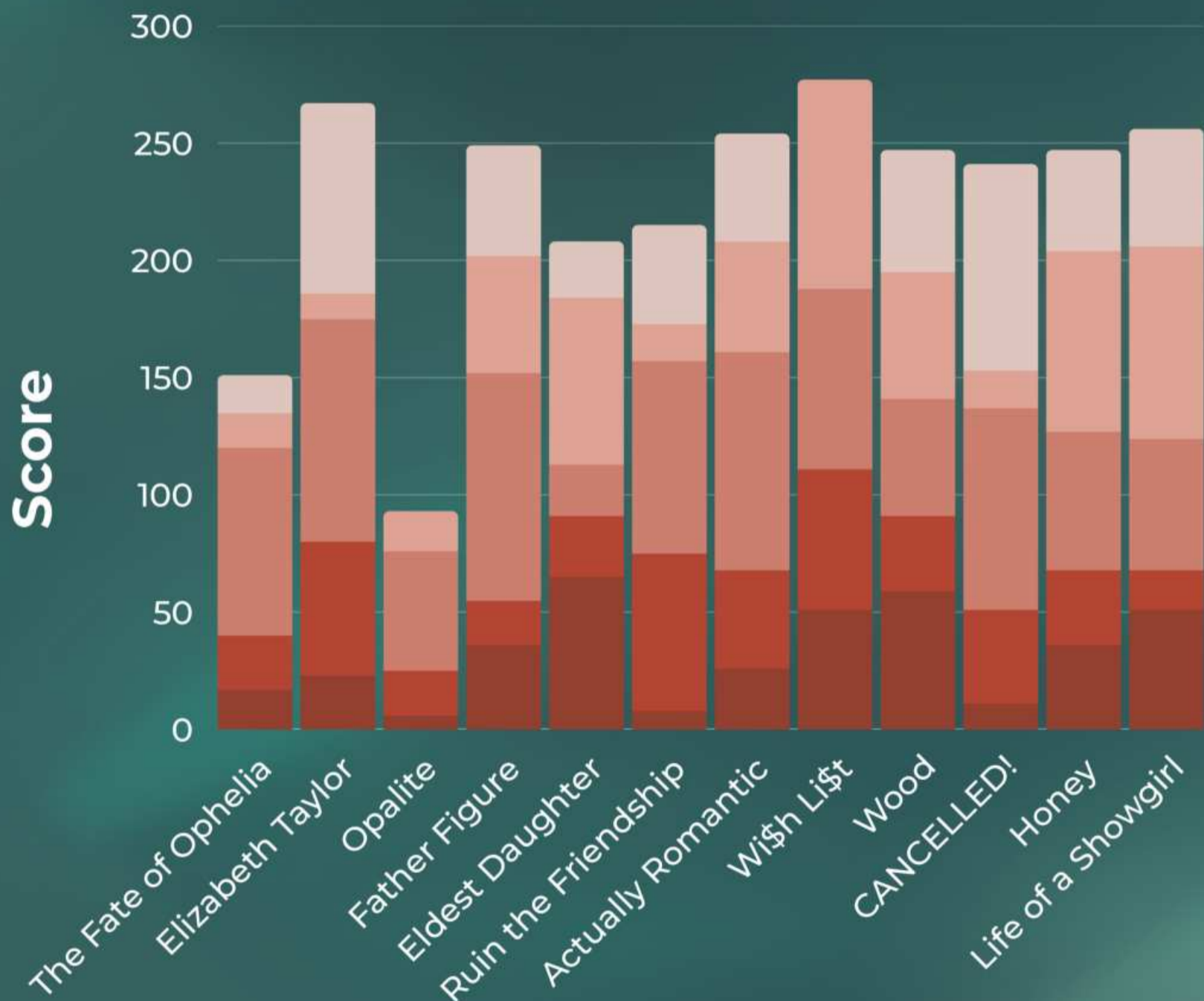


Average BPM



The Anatomy of a Showgirl Song

See how Taylor's songs layer melody, harmony, and movement; **higher scores** mean **more daring** and detailed **songwriting**.



Chord Complexity

Melodic Complexity

Chord-Melody Tension

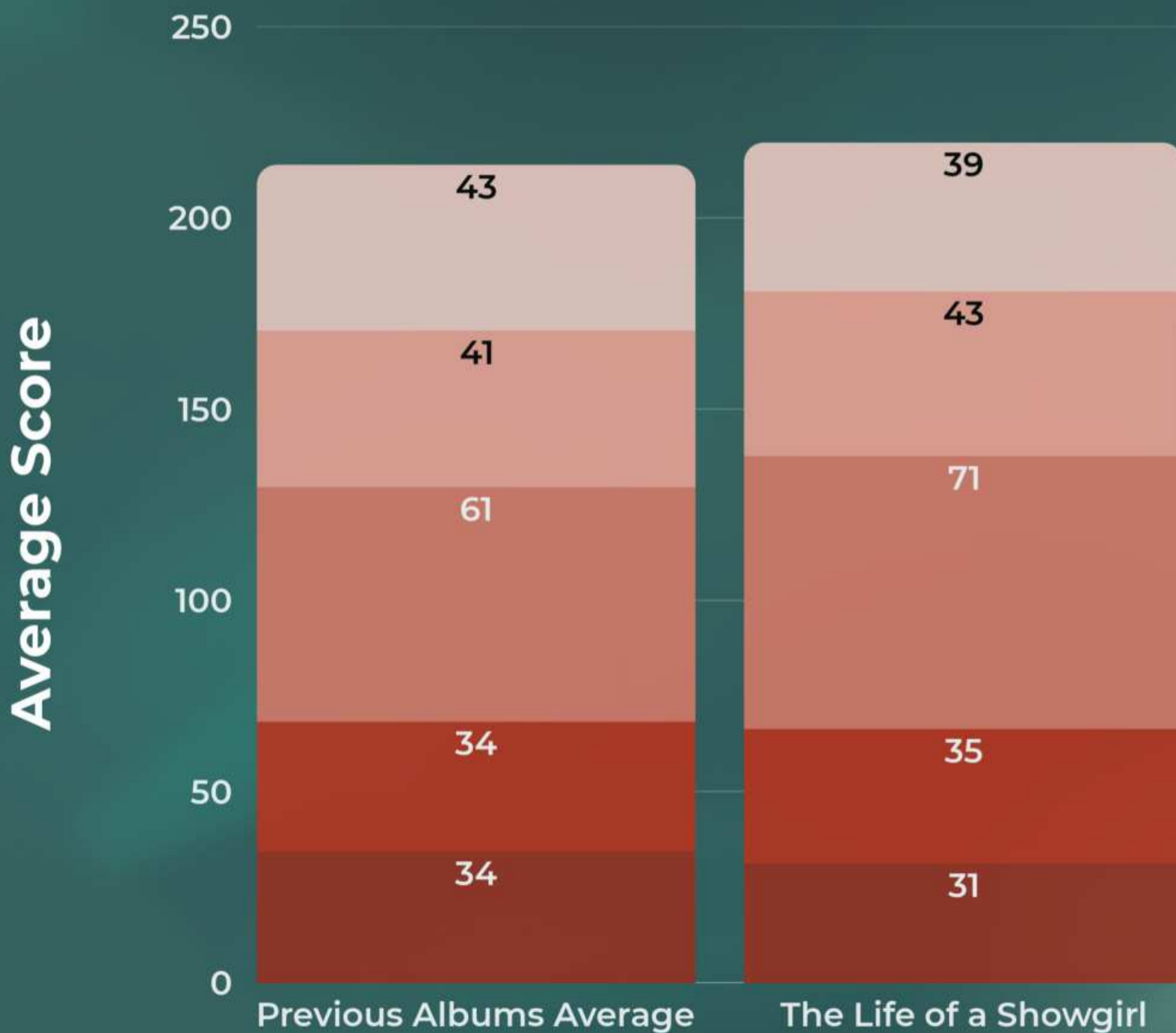
Chord Progression Novelty

Chord-Bass Melody



How Showgirl Stacks Up

Hooktheory's metrics track how songs add harmonic color, melodic twists, chord-melody tension, unusual progressions, and smooth bass motion.



Chord Complexity

Melodic Complexity

Chord-Melody Tension

Chord Progression Novelty

Chord-Bass Melody



About Our Metrics

Chord Complexity

Chord Complexity tracks when a song goes **beyond simple three-note chords**—either by adding **extra tones** (like 7ths or add9s) or by borrowing notes from **outside the key**—creating richer, more sophisticated harmonies.

Melodic Complexity

Melodic Complexity reflects two factors: the use of **notes outside the key** and **rhythmic syncopation**, together capturing how intricate or surprising a melody feels.

Chord-Melody Tension

Chord-Melody Tension quantifies how often **melody notes fall outside the current chord**, producing dissonance that creates a sense of instability

Chord Progression Novelty

Chord Progression Novelty measures how **uncommon a song's chord changes** are compared to others in the Hooktheory database, highlighting progressions that deviate from typical patterns.

Chord Bass Melody

Chord-Bass Melody evaluates how smoothly the bass moves between chords, scoring higher when it travels **step-wise, ascending or descending**, instead of jumping directly between root position chords.

