

Music for Film and Television: Exploring the Ways in which Music can Create Emotion

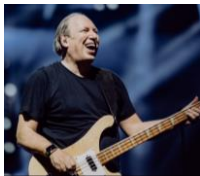
In this unit, we are going to be studying the effect that music has on a scene in a film or television programme.

There are many reasons why we have certain styles of music depicting different scenes. The music helps us to become more involved and invested in a scene. Sometimes the music may:

- frighten you;
- represent a hero or heroic deeds;
- show a romantic moment;
- make you laugh;
- help to make you cry and feel sorrow, etc.

Different words are used when talking about the background music of film and television programmes – **soundtrack**, **score**, and **incidental music**. All of these words have the same meaning when talking about music for film and television.

We are going to listen to film and television music composers. Possibly the most famous working today are:



Hans Zimmer,



John Williams,



and Danny Elfman.

Our Listening



The Circle of Life
(from The Lion King)
by Elton John, Tim
Rice and Hans
Zimmer



Main Theme
from Jurassic
Park by John
Williams



Theme from
Jaws by John
Williams



Theme from Batman
– The Animated
Series by Danny
Elfman



Theme from the
Simpsons by
Danny Elfman



Theme from
Coronation Street
by Eric Spear



Theme from The
Last of the Summer
Wine by Ronnie
Hazlehurst



The Doctor Who
Theme, Arranged
by Various



Music from Star
Wars by John
Williams

Leitmotifs

A **leitmotif** is a repeating melodic phrase, idea or melody that is used to represent a character, setting, emotion, or theme.

Lots of film and television music employ leitmotifs to help to audience identify with characters. In Star Wars, Darth Vader's entrance is always heralded by the dark 'Imperial March', in Doctor Who, the Cybermen's robotic theme is always played upon their arrival, whereas in Marvel's Avengers films, the heroic Avengers have their own uplifting leitmotif to represent their bravery and willingness to stand up to evil.



Major and Minor Keys



Major keys sound **happy**. Often you might hear them representing a hero or a happy moment in a film or television programme, e.g. Superman's theme is in a major key.



Minor keys sound **sad**. Often you might hear them representing a villain or a sad moment in a film or television programme, e.g. Darth Vader's theme is in a minor key.

Pulse and Rhythm

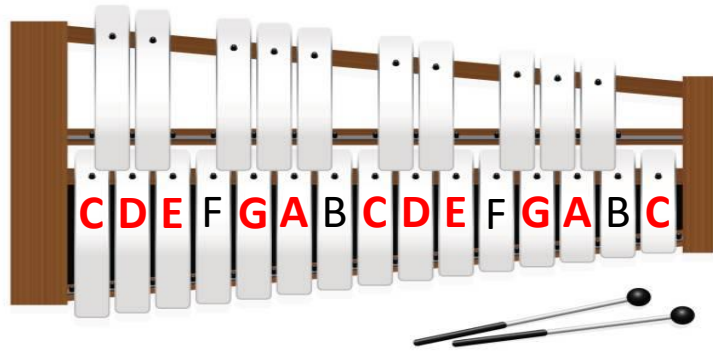


Pulse is the heartbeat of the music.



Rhythm is when long and short notes are joined together.

The Glockenspiel



Musical Notes - Duration



Crotchet = 1 beat



Crotchet rest = 1 beat of silence



Minim = 2 beats



Semibreve = 4 beats



1 quaver = $\frac{1}{2}$ beat
2 quavers = 1 full beat



Quaver rest = $\frac{1}{2}$ beat of silence



1 semiquaver = $\frac{1}{4}$ beat
4 semiquavers = 1 full beat

Texture



A **thick** texture is when **lots** of people are playing.



A **thin** texture is when only a **few** people are playing.

Dynamics



f Loud



p Quiet

Musical Notes - Pitch



B C D E F G A B C