



Topic: Film Music

Year: 8

What should I already know?

- Music is used in films to set the scene and create an effect for the viewer
- How to play keyboards and other instruments with good technique showing control
- What semitones and tones are
- What sharps and flats are
- How to draw a graphic score
- That music can help to create a mood or suggest an emotion

What will I know by the end of the unit?

I will be able to:

- understand some of the techniques used to write a soundtrack for a film
- understand some of the processes film composers need to go through to ensure their track fits the action on screen
- work with others to ensure good ensemble in my composition
- use the techniques discussed to create a suitable soundtrack for my chosen film clip

Vocabulary

soundtrack	the music that accompanies and enhances the action of the film
film theme	the music which goes with the title sequence or ending of a film
sound effect	a noise that goes with the action such as footsteps or a gunshot (not music)
juxtaposition	putting contrasting ideas together to create an uncomfortable effect
jump scare	a sudden loud chord or piece of music after a silence which fits with a sudden action on screen to make the audience 'jump'
meandering melody	a wandering tune which may gradually creep higher as the tension builds
clashing notes	notes played together that are semitones or tones apart and do not sound pleasant to the ear



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Investigate

Watch some film clips and tick the ideas you can hear.

Try these or write in your own film title.

1. Harry Potter <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITqYqMNF4R8>
2. Star Trek https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGCTD5o_eGI (first 1m 30)
3. Mission Impossible <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elpUGB9Ap1Y>

Technique	Film 1-	Film 2-	Film 3-
Jumpscare			
Chromatic notes			
raised tempo			
Clashing Notes			
Meandering melody			
High string sounds			
Short staccato notes			
Juxtapose low and high notes			
Silence			

Are there any other ideas you heard in the music which help to create a feeling of suspense?



Film composers often use a graphic score so they can work out where the important scenes and pieces of action are.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hy9I-IC93gE>

Have a look at this clip from the Night Ferry and how an artist fits images to music.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p034ppn1>

Can you draw a graphic score by listening to a piece of music?

Try this piece: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHCZejQuWmo>

Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' (just the first minute)

or choose one of your own, but say what it is (just choose a short passage).



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