

Steps through Learning Music: Film Music

Vocabulary that I will learn and use during this unit of work

Chromatics	Notes played from the chromatic scale which can make the music sound 'creepy'.
Composition	A creative work, such as a piece of music.
Evoke	To bring forth emotions.
Graphic score	A way of writing down music on the page without using traditional stave notation, instead using images to represent the music.
Imagery	Visually descriptive music.
Improvise	Making up music as it is played or performed
Major key	A tonality where the music sounds happy or bright.
Minor key	A tonality where the music sounds sad or tense.
Modulates	Changing from one key to another (eg major to minor key).
Notate	To write symbols to represent music.
Pitch	How high or low a note sounds.
Sound effects	Effects made that imitate real sounds.
Soundtrack	The background music, together with the main songs, create the soundtrack to a film.
Tremolo	A trembling effect, achieved by creating a loud and then quiet sound with a single note.
Unison	Playing or singing notes at the same pitch, at the same time.

Sticky knowledge about film music

TENSE music

- Long notes followed by short notes or pauses.
- Melody switching between two notes (think of 'Jaws').
- Useful for making the viewer think something bad is going to happen.

PURPOSEFUL music

- Military drum sounds.
- A major key (happy sounding music).
- A medium tempo.
- Useful for characters getting a job done, or planning to defeat the enemy, etc.

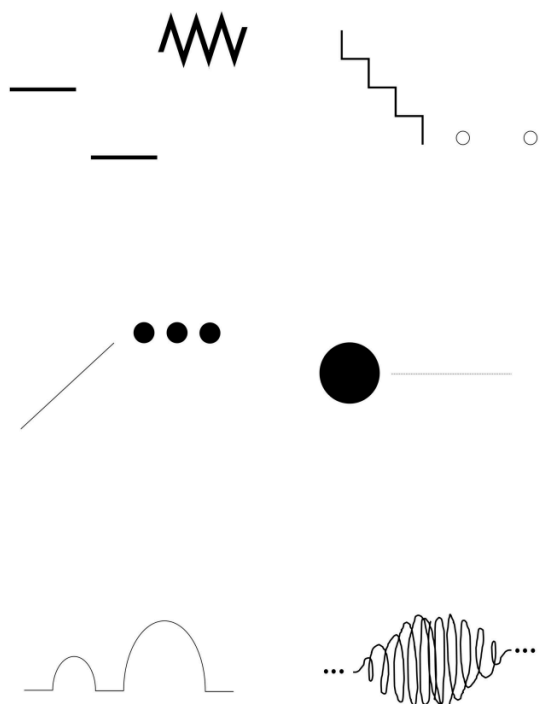
ROMANTIC music

- Slow, long notes.
- Sweeping melodies (getting higher and lower very smoothly and quickly).
- High, twinkly notes.
- Useful for showing which characters are the love interest.

DANGER music

- Getting higher and faster.
- Using lots of instruments to create a chaotic sound.
- Useful for building a sense of impending doom

- Know that a film soundtrack includes background music and any songs in a film
- 'Major' key signatures use note pitches that sound cheerful and upbeat
- 'Minor key signatures use note pitches that can suggest sadness and tension
- 'Graphic notation' means writing music down using your own choice of pictures and symbols
- 'Staff notation' means music is written down using formally on staves using the correct note names and symbols



Some examples of modern graphic scores