

FAMOUS FILM COMPOSERS



JOHN WILLIAMS

Star wars, Jaws, Jurassic Park, ET, Home Alone, Harry Potter, Indiana Jones +

HANS ZIMMER

Pirates of the Caribbean series, Interstellar, Gladiator, Inception, The Dark Knight Trilogy +



DANNY ELFMAN

Batman, Edward Scissor hands, Good Will Hunting, Men in Black, The Nightmare Before Christmas +



QUINCY JONES

In Cold Blood, The Italian Job and The Color Purple +



SHIRLEY WALKER

Memoirs of an invisible man, Batman: Mask of the Phantasm +



FILM MUSIC LISTENING



Underscore – Music heard under dialogue or a visual scene to reflect and establish a mood or theme.

Sound Track – Songs that are used in films but haven't necessarily been written for the film. They may be in the charts or been released before.

Sound Effects – A sound other than speech or music made artificially for use in a film.

Hit Point – Part of the movie of which a new musical idea needs to be presented.

Spotting – The process of determining hit points and other key moments for a film score.

Diegetic – Sound where the source is visible, or implied by a source on screen. E.g. The radio playing.

Non-Diegetic – Sound where the source isn't visible or implied by a source on screen.

Mickey Mousing – Music and Sound Effects that directly reflect the action on screen.

Leitmotif – A musical theme that recurs in a film soundtrack to reflect a character / time / place.

Cue Sheet – a planning sheet for the composer to write down their musical ideas.

Foley Artist – a person who recreates sound effects for films.

HISTORY OF FILM MUSIC

Before 1930s

Before the invention of the "talking picture," all movies were completely silent. Music was used in films to help tell the story as there was no speaking.

1930s & 1940s

Talking pictures were then invented and music had a vital role in the film industry. At first, films used Classical music, however soon composers were creating original (their own) scores.

1950s – 1970s

Up until the 1950s, film music had been entirely symphonic (written for a symphony orchestra). But in the 1950s Jazz opened the industry up to a vast and new world of possibilities. Jazz used fewer musicians than an orchestra so it was less expensive.

1980s – Current Day

The first widespread use of synthesized (computer) sounds in films occurred in the 1980s and film scoring once again underwent a major revolution. For the first time, it became possible to score an entire film with only one performer – using the synthesizer (virtual software / computer like Garageband or Mixcraft) to produce the sounds of many instrumentalists.

History of Film Music

Write down a few sentences summarising each section of the film music history timeline

Before 1930s

1930s & 1940s

1950s – 1970s

1980s – Current Day

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Famous Film Composers

Listen to the clips of Music and see if you can work out what film the Music is from and which Composer wrote it.

TOTAL / 14

	What film is the music from?	Composer
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

How to create different emotions / moods in Music

Write down the effective ways of creating the following emotions.

HORROR

SAD





HAPPY

ACTION/ADEVNETURE

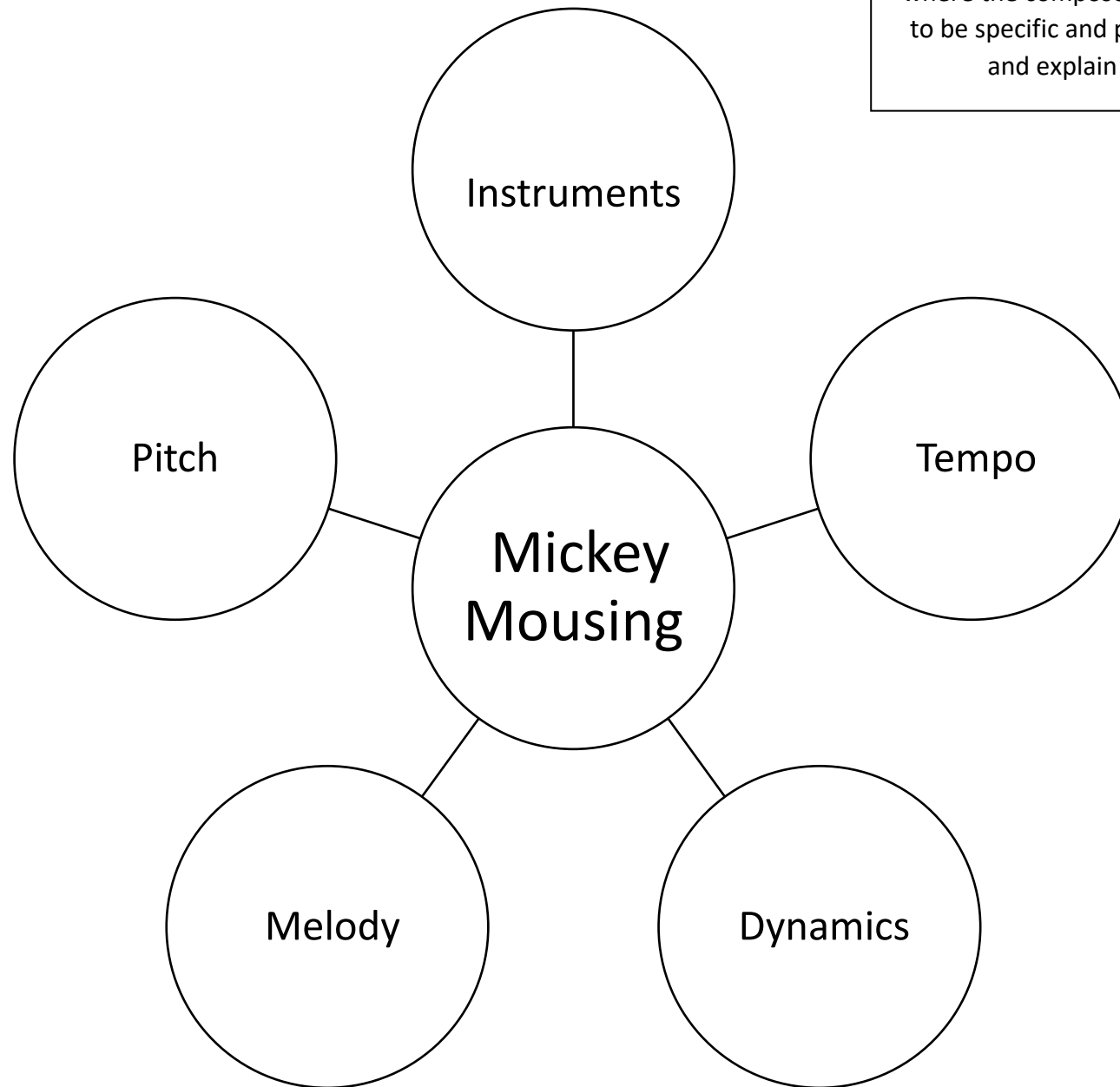
Film Music Listening

Fill in the table below with as much information as you can. Try to use Musical words.



Clip Number	Instruments used?	Describe how Texture and Dynamics are used.	Describe the Mood the music creates? How do you think the composer has achieved this?	Which characteristics of this mood are used by the composer?
1 				
2 				
3 Forrest Gump 				
4 				

Watch the clip and write down on your circle map where the composer has used Mickey Mousing. Try to be specific and pick out key points of the action and explain how the music matches.



Composing Music for a Film



GHT - HARRY POTTER LISTENING

1) What instruments can you hear in the very first battle scene between Harry and Voldemort?

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.....
.....

2) What happens to the music when the snake is killed?

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3) During the second battle, Harry is winning. How does the composer reflect this in the music?

Pitch:

Dynamics:

Texture:

4) What happens to the music when Voldemort is dying?

Texture:

Sound Effects:

GHT - MR BEAN LISTENING

1) What happens to the Music when Mr Bean gets stuck behind the old lady?

Pitch:

Tempo:

Mood:

2) What sound effects are added when Mr Bean is first stuck behind the old lady?

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3) What happens to the music when Mr Bean is running down the corridor?

Pitch:

Tempo:

Mood:

4) What happens to the music when Mr Bean is hanging from the staircase?

Instruments:

Mood:



How do you create Happy / Sad Music?

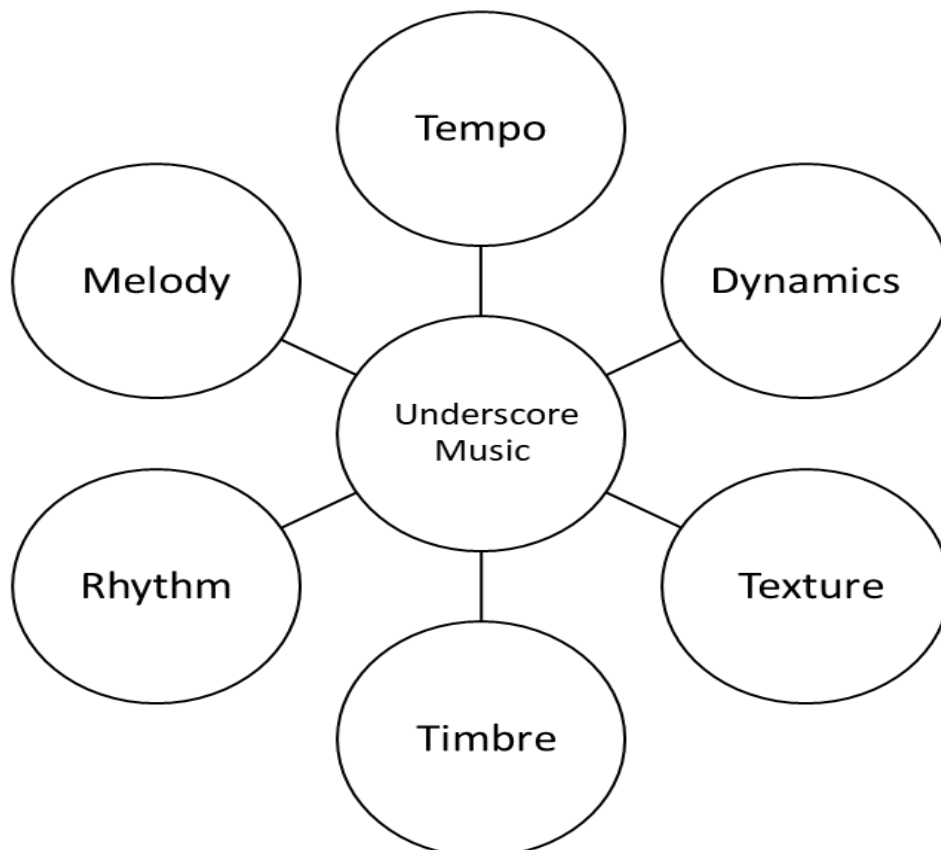
Decide whether these musical elements below would help to create a Happy piece of music or sad piece of music. Tick the correct box next to each element:

	Happy	Sad		Happy	Sad
Loud Dynamics			Fast Tempo		
Slow Tempo			Soft Dynamics		
Major Scales / Chords			Minor Scales / Chords		
Simple Rhythms: Slower moving, longer notes, uncomplicated			High Pitch: High notes		
Rising Melodies: Tunes that get higher in pitch			Bright Timbres: Bright sounds		
Low Pitch: Low notes			Descending Melodies: Tunes that get lower in pitch		
Smooth Timbres: Smooth sounds			Lively Rhythms: Energetic, jumpy, fast moving, short notes etc.		

How to compose Underscore Music?

GHT - What music would you use for a fight scene or comedy scene?

Use the bubble map below to write some ideas for each element of music.



Underscore Music

You should start by adding the underscore music throughout your film clip. This needs to portray the mood of the clip and the action on scene. You should use loops from the library as well as playing in your own ideas. Drum beats and chords / long sustained notes are usually a good place to start.

NB: Remember the background music won't necessarily stay the same throughout it needs to change with the action on screen. Refer to your cue sheet and markers.

GHT Self-Reflection - How have I created my Underscore Music?



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How to use and create Sound Effects?



What is a Foley Artist?

1) What does a Foley artist do?

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2) Why are they important for film composition?

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Sound Effects

You should now have your underscore music including your character leitmotifs. Now you can start adding any Mickey Mousing / sound effects. You need to go through your film clip and pick out the important sound effects. You then need to find an appropriate sound and place it exactly right.

NB: Look at your cue sheet to help you find the sound effects and place them correctly.

GHT Self-Reflection - How have I created my Sound Effects?



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GHT - Self Reflection:



How did you make your music match the film?

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What do you feel was the best bit about your work? Why?

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What would you have done if you had more time?

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Peer Assessment:

Peer Assessed By:.....



The best bits about the composition were...

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The music particularly matched the film when...

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They could have improved by...

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