

Year 6: Film music

In this unit we explore the music used in film to accompany the action and create atmosphere.

Examples of scenes and types of 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.

Vocabulary

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.

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.

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.

