








Year 8 – Music for Film Knowledge Organiser

Musical Context and History	Key Composers	Musical Conventions		Useful Links
<p>The first films ever made were 'silent movies'. Accompanied by a theatre pianist/organist who improvised on musical ideas. Enhanced the drama and covered up the noisy projector.</p> <p>Some movie theatres Employed an orchestra instead. Sometimes, the film may have a specially composed score performed by these orchestras.</p>  <p>In the late 1920's the soundtrack was invented. Usually added after the film is completed. Visual patterns are recorded beside the picture frames. These transform into electrical impulses that are converted into sound through loudspeakers.</p>  <p>1930's & 40's: The Golden Age of film music. Composers were employed by big film companies to write scores that usually involved large orchestras. Even popular songs were used.</p> 	<p>John Williams</p> <p>Composed music for Star Wars, Harry Potter, Jaws, Jurassic Park, E.T. and Indiana Jones.</p>  <p>Hans Zimmer</p> <p>Composed music for Pirates of the Caribbean, The Simpsons Movie and Interstellar.</p>  <p>Joe Hisaishi</p> <p>Composed music for many Studio Ghibli films, including Spirited Away, Kiki's Delivery Service and Princess Mononoke.</p> 	<p>Diegetic music is contained within the action (e.g. heard on a radio).</p> <p>Non-diegetic music is not a part of the scene, but written to match the action, character or mood.</p> <p>A leitmotif is a musical idea that is connected to a character/object/idea in the story. It can change to fit developments in the film.</p> <p>Mickey-Mousing is where the music directly reflects the action on screen, such as a descending scale and a crash to represent falling over. Used in comedies.</p> <p>Atonal Music does not have a key. It conveys a mood through tonal colour and clashing notes. Used in horror films.</p> <p>Hit Points are the music coincides with a specific event in the film.</p>	<p>Dissonance – Notes close together that clash.</p> <p>Accelerando – Speeding up the tempo of the music.</p> <p>Ostinato – a pattern that repeats.</p> <p>Drone – long held notes that do not change pitch.</p> <p>Crescendo – to gradually get louder.</p> <p>Diminuendo – to gradually get quieter.</p> <p>Minor – using notes from the minor scale.</p> <p>Chromatic – using notes that are a semi-tone away from each other.</p>	<p>Check out some amazing pieces of Film Music using these links:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26O1f-IKRpY</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDVtMYqUAYw</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsCZP3wdF4w</p> <p>Learn more about Film Music and expand your knowledge:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_8t2VlwK4w</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3dqhyc/articles/z7bphbk</p> 
	<p>Test Yourself</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What different ways can you change your music to create tension? • What is a drone? • What is the difference between diegetic and non-diegetic music? • What is a leitmotif? • What is a hit point? 	<p>Helpful GarageBand features</p> <p>Panning – moving recorded sounds to the left or right speaker.</p> <p>Split tracks – selecting sections of a track to move, delete or edit.</p> <p>Copying/looping – copy and paste a section of music.</p> <p>Balancing tracks – adjusting the volume of each track to blend well with the other tracks.</p> <p>Volume– using the volume control to alter the volume of a track throughout the composition.</p>		<p>Elements of Music</p> <p>Texture: How you control layers in your piece.</p> <p>Tempo: Controlling the speed of your piece.</p> <p>Pitch: High/low notes.</p> <p>Structure: The different sections in your piece.</p> <p>Timbre: The instrumental sound quality.</p>