



Music Virtual Learning

Music Appreciation/Introduction to Film Music

May 19, 2020



Lesson: May 19, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Students will be introduced to film music and how music impacts films.

Bell Work:

Answer the following questions as we begin our lesson.

1. What is your favorite movie of all time?
2. Can you imagine that movie without music?
3. Why do you think music is so important in films?

Watch this short video about how music can impact films. As you watch, focus on the different feelings and thoughts you are experiencing as the music changes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSkJFs7myn0>



Importance of Music

Music is an incredible force that generates emotions, can change those emotions, sets the tone for different events and continues to bring our world together by transcending language and cultural barriers. There are many amazing things in the world, but one of the greatest blessings given to humanity is music. Think about how music impacts your own life. Do you have a song you play when you are sad? How about when you are happy? Maybe you have a playlist you like when you travel. Humans are constantly exposed to music. It's literally everywhere! It's in the aisles at the grocery store, the birds in the trees, commercials, movies, youtube videos, theme parks and other public areas. There is not a day that goes by that music is not an integral part of our lives. That is a good thing! Understanding the power of music is critical to understanding its role in film music.

5 Purposes for Film Music

Let's take a look at the 5 purposes of music in films!

1. Creating the atmosphere for a time or place.
2. Creating psychological implications for characters or situations.
3. Background music.
4. Creating continuity in a film.
5. Creates a build up of action and also a sense of finality.



Creating Atmosphere for Time and Place!

You may have heard the old saying, “A picture is worth a thousand words”. That is very true, but when you add music to that picture it can create an even greater sense of what is happening in that time and place. Below is a clip of a movie trailer for the movie “Gravity”. Watch the clip twice, the first time with the sound muted and the second time with the sound on. As you watch the first time, try to imagine what the music might sound like. When you watch the second time, see if the music in your head was similar to the music they chose for the trailer. How were your emotional reactions to the trailer different the second time around?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4pcg7bXgmU>



Psychological Impacts for Characters & Situations

Music during films can also help to further the story of the character and certain situations. Music is particularly effective if there is no dialogue happening, only acting. Take a look at this clip. Note how the music helps to guide our thinking about the character's feelings and the situation even though there is no dialogue.

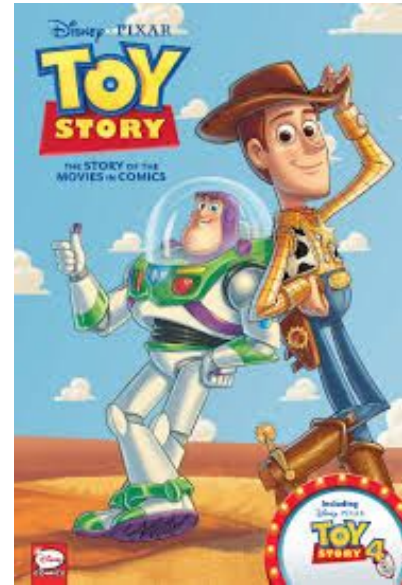
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PD7qi8VK_o



Background Music

Music is used to service the activity taking place. If you think about a wedding, there is usually music for the time directly before the service while people are seated, music that signifies the beginning of the service, and music during and after the service. Most of it is background music to the activity happening at the time. Movies are similar in that the music is used to fill up dead space and enhance the moment. It's not necessarily there to cause emotion, portray a situation or emotion with characters or even mean anything, it's just there to support what is happening at the time. Check out this clip and how the music is used to serve what is happening in the scene.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnGsXk1NHBo>



Creating Continuity



Music can be used to create continuity in films in a couple of different ways.

1. The same music can be used at different points in the film so you will associate that music with various parts of the film. In the movie “Home Alone” we hear the iconic theme song throughout the film. This clip is from the beginning, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1n7t3odhO9I> and this one is from the end. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3q26Y1729Q8>
2. Music can be used to connect and further the storyline. In this “Rocky” clip, you will hear the same song played as different days and times of his workouts are connected. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZKhpbfR-LE>

Action Building and Finality

Music is a great way to add more drama to the action going on in films as well as create a sense of finality.

Listen to how the music adds to the action of this “Spider-Man” clip.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z00fTwhmYX0&safety_mode=true&persist_safety_mode=1&safe=active

In this “Jurassic Park” ending, we hear the familiar theme played as the characters are relaxing after the threat of being eaten by dinosaurs has been extinguished.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HD5BrkdiY-E>



Extra Practice

1. Find 3 of your most favorite movie clips that contain music.
2. Watch the clips one at a time.
3. Determine the purpose for the music.
4. What does it add to the scene?



Thank You!



thank you

The word "thank you" is written in a playful, bubbly font. Each letter is a different color and has unique patterns or decorations. The 't' is pink with vertical yellow and green stripes. The 'h' is yellow with horizontal green and pink stripes. The 'a' is pink with a white spiral pattern. The 'n' is green. The 'k' is pink. The 'y' is yellow with pink hearts. The 'o' is green with white radial lines. The 'u' is pink with white dots. Above the letters are various decorative elements: a green heart above the 'h', a pink heart above the 'a', a yellow flower above the 'n', a black asterisk above the 'k', a green heart above the 'o', and a pink flower above the 'u'. There are also two white swirls above the 't' and 'h'.