# Year 8 Super Hero's: MUSIC

Composers: Alan Silvestri, John Williams, Hans Zimmer, Danny Elfman

- Superheroes have been a staple of popular culture for decades, captivating audiences with their incredible powers, thrilling adventures, and larger-than-life personalities.

- Superhero music has the ability to enhance the visual experience and add emotional depth to the characters and their stories.

- It can create a sense of tension and drama, create a sense of identity for the characters, create a sense of place or setting, and reflect the themes and messages of the story.

- From John Williams to Hans Zimmer, the work of these composers have become iconic and memorable, synonymous with the characters and stories they have
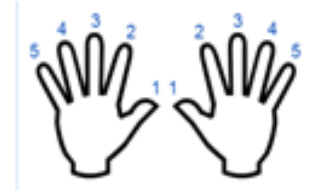
Musical Vocabulary

Tempo: The speed of the music—Fast (Allegro) Slow (Largo) Moderate (moderato)

Dynamics: The volume of the music—Loud (Forte) Quiet (Piano) Gradually getting louder (Crescendo) Gradually getting quieter (Diminuendo).

Instrumentation: What instruments are being used in the piece.

Leitmotif: Theme tune that represents a character, mood, object or emotion.

Ostinato: A repeated pattern of notes

Pedal Note: A long held bass note

Chord: More than one note played at once

Bassline: The lower part, played by the left hand

Melody: The main tune within the piece.

Major: A happy sounding key that the music is written in.

Tonality: The key the music is written in i.e. Major/ Minor

Unison: Together singing or playing the same melody line.

Time signature: Tells the performer how many beats per bar.

Crotchet: 1 beat note

Quaver: 1/2 beat note

Military influences

Music has been prominent in the military for many hundred of years.

- Brass instruments—horn was used as a war cry and represented powerful figures.

- Use of drums—**snare** and bass

- Use of marches

- Use of Fanfares

Richard Wagner:

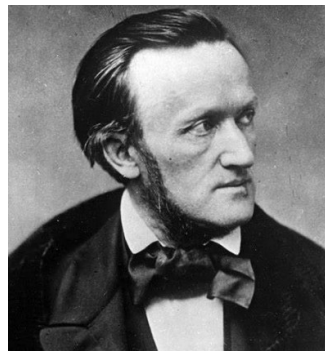Pioneer of the **Leitmotif** and it was first used in Opera.

The history of superhero music can be traced back to the early days of film and radio, with the first superhero film soundtracks appearing in the 1940s.

One of the earliest examples is the score for the 1941 film "Superman," which featured a dramatic orchestral score composed by Leo Erdody.

Composers such as John Williams, who composed the iconic theme for the 1978 "Superman" film, and Danny Elfman, who composed the theme for the 1989 "Batman" film, created music that became synonymous with the characters and helped to define the genre.

Keyboard layout

Every Good Boy Does Fine

Elvis' Guitar Broke Down Friday   Eat Good Burritos During Fiesta
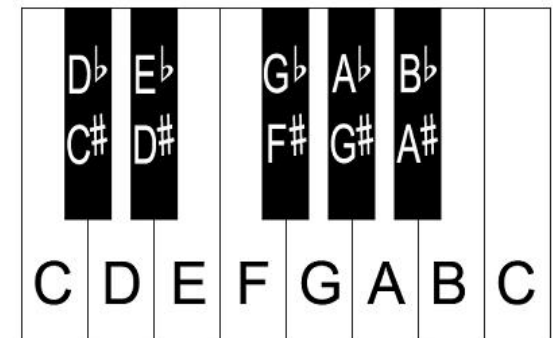
Treble clef
Line notes

E4 G4 B4 D5 F5   STAVE'N'TABS

FACE

Treble clef
Space notes

F4 A4 C5 E5   STAVE'N'TABS

Db Eb   Gb Ab Bb
C# D#   F# G# A#

C D E F G A B C

Examples of Super Hero Themes:

1. Superman - "Theme from Superman" By John Williams   Superman Theme (youtube.com)

2. Batman - "The Batman Theme" By Danny Elfman   The Batman Theme (youtube.com)

3. The Avengers - "The Avengers" By Alan Silvestri   The Avengers (From "The Avengers"/Score) (youtube.com)

4. Spider-Man - "Main Title" By Danny Elfman   Main Titles (youtube.com)

5. Captain America: The First Avenger - "Captain America" By Alan Silvestri   Captain America the First Avenger Movie Theme (Soundtrack Version) (youtube.com)

6. Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice - "Is She With You? (Wonder Woman theme)" By Hans Zimmer and Junkie XL Hans Zimmer, Junkie XL - Is She With You? (youtube.com)
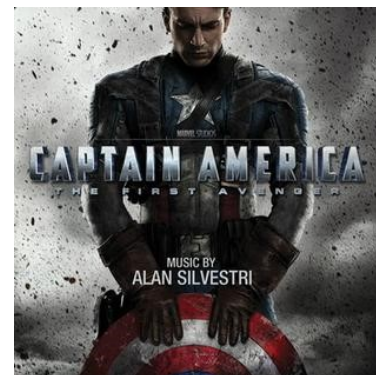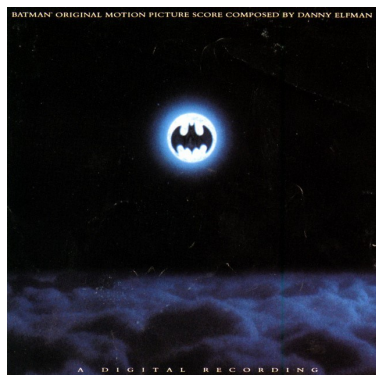
John Williams

Danny Elfman

Alan Silvestri

Hans Zimmer