

Even back in the early days of silent films, most movie theatres hired a musician or a group of musicians to provide music, mostly to drown out the sound of the film projectors and people talking. These musicians often played existing pieces of Western European classical music by composers such as Tchaikovsky and Wagner, along with folk and popular music. It was common for the same film playing in different theatres across the country to have entirely different musical accompaniments.

The right piece of music can enhance and sometimes even change a viewer’s perception of what is taking place onscreen. Just try to imagine replacing John Williams’ “Jaws” theme during the first swimming casualty in the movie with a calm piece of music. In an instant, the mood would change from inherent fear to a tranquil swim in the ocean.

Most of the time, music is used to underscore the action on screen, enhance the mood of a scene, foreshadow action that is about to take place or even convey the interior emotion of a character. While composers and filmmakers don’t usually want to overpower a film, in many instances the emotional power of the visuals would not be as great were it not for the music.

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.

Chord: More than one note played at once

Ostinato: A repeated pattern of notes

Dissonance: A cluster of notes that clash and sound uncomfortable for the listener

Melody: The main tune within the piece.

Minor: A sad 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.

Perform: To play or sing to another person/ audience.

Compose: This is when you make up a piece of music yourself.

Conflict

An active disagreement between people with opposing opinions or principles:

Fighting between two or more groups of people or countries.

A situation in which beliefs, needs, facts, etc. are very different and cannot easily exist together or both be true.

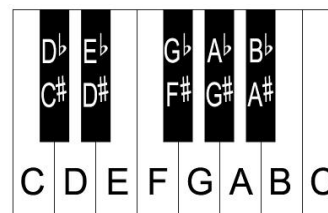
If beliefs, needs, or facts, etc. conflict, they are very different and cannot easily exist together or both be true.

Every Good Boy Does Fine

Elvis' Guitar Broke Down Friday Eat Good Berries During Fiesta



Keyboard layout



Music has been used for many hundreds of years to represent different forms of conflict.

Les Misérables **centres on the character Jean Valjean, an ex-convict in 19th-century France.** The story spans many years as it tells of Valjean's release from prison and reformation as an industrialist while being constantly pursued by the morally strict inspector Javert .

Schönberg began his career as a record producer and a singer. He composed Les Miserable.

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