

Horror Film Music Knowledge Map

Year 9 – Term 1

Key vocabulary / concepts	What knowledge is required:
<i>Ostinato</i>	<p>This is a repeated pattern of notes. An ostinato is often used in film music to increase tension; if the music is the same over and over again, the listening doesn't know what is going to happen next (e.g. The Exorcist Theme and The Halloween Theme).</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">→ REPEAT</p>
<i>Pedal Note</i>	<p>A pedal note is a long held note. This can be played on most instruments. The same note is held on OR played over and over again.</p>  <p>A pedal note in the bass line</p>
<i>Storyboard</i>	<p>A storyboard can be a series of pictures displayed in sequence; reflecting the order of events / plot in your film. A composer will often note down ideas for film music in relation to the visual picture.</p>
<i>Hit point</i>	<p>A hit point is a part of a film that requires a musical accent beyond what a film score would usually provide.</p>
<i>Cluster chord</i>	<p>A group of notes that lie close together on the keyboard. When played together, they will not sound very nice (they will clash). This can have a dramatic effect in film music.</p>
<i>Diminished chord</i>	<p>This type of musical chord provides tension in music. This is because the 3rd note of the scale and the 5th note of the scale are flattened. In our performance, we will use the notes C Eb F# and A.</p>
<i>Diagetic</i>	<p>Sound whose source is visible on the screen or whose source is implied to be present by the action of the film:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ voices of characters ○ sounds made by objects in the story ○ music represented as coming from instruments in the story space (= source music)
<i>Non Diagetic</i>	<p>Sound whose source is neither visible on the screen nor has been implied to be present in the action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ narrator's commentary ○ sound effects which is added for the dramatic effect ○ mood music