

Year 8 Music Knowledge Booklet

Topic 4 'Earth' by Hans Zimmer

Name:

Class:



Year 8 Music

‘Earth’ by Hans Zimmer

This term, we are going to combine the knowledge and skills gained in Year 8 to study a piece written by the top film composer, Hans Zimmer.

Big Questions

1. Who is Hans Zimmer and why did he write the piece ‘Earth’?
2. How can you use different instruments to create different effects?
3. How many melodies can you create from 3 pitches?
4. What is a leitmotif and how does Hans Zimmer use them?
5. How do you create effective soundtracks for film?

Homework Tasks

- 1) Listen to music from the TV series ‘Blue Planet II’ by Hans Zimmer and answer the questions in this Knowledge Booklet
Due Date: _____
- 2) Learn the key terms from the Knowledge Organiser page.
Due Date: _____
- 3) Revise for your End of Year exam.
Due Date: _____

FURTHER YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Blue Planet II: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p04tjbtX/blue-planet-ii>

Hans Zimmer’s Greatest Hits: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Utlg4dOe84>

Knowledge Organiser - 'Earth' by Hans Zimmer

KEYWORDS

Crescendo Gradually getting louder

Diminuendo Gradually getting softer

Duration The length of a note

Dynamics Terms to describe volumes

Leitmotif A short musical idea that represents a character/place/mood

Pianissimo Very soft dynamic

Tuned Percussion Percussion instruments that can play different pitches like xylophone, glockenspiel, chime bars

Untuned Percussion Percussion instruments that only play a sound rather than a pitch

Diegetic Sound/music that can be heard by the characters as well as the audience



Foley Sound effects, non-musical sounds

Mickey Mousing Opportunities for music to perfectly mimic the action as in cartoons

Atmosphere Created by music alone, sometimes called 'underscore'



Hans Florian Zimmer Man (born 12 September 1957) is a German film score composer and record producer. Zimmer's works are notable for integrating electronic music sounds with traditional orchestral arrangements. Since the 1980s, he has composed music for over 150 films. His works include The Lion King, for which he won the Academy Award for Best Original Score in 1995, the Pirates of the Caribbean series, Interstellar, Gladiator, Crimson Tide, Inception, Dunkirk, and The Dark Knight Trilogy. He has received four Grammy Awards, three Classical BRIT Awards, two Golden Globes, and an Academy Award. He was also named on the list of Top 100 Living Geniuses, published by The Daily Telegraph. Zimmer spent the early part of his career in the United Kingdom before moving to the United States. He is the head of the film music division at DreamWorks studios and works with other composers through the company that he founded, Remote Control Productions, formerly known as Media Ventures.

Shot / Visuals #1	Duration	Camera Instructions	Soundtrack	Dialogue / Story	Comment
	0.03"	WS shot ice rink from spectator's POV	Dance music /mix with skating rink ambience	No dialogue in this title sequence	Standard establishing WS to show location - happy ice rink people having fun. Establishes equilibrium (Todorov)
Shot / Visuals #2	Duration	Camera Instructions	Soundtrack	Dialogue / Story	Comment
	0.03"	Pan across rink to find Karen in LONG SHOT (LS)	Music continues and we hear Karen talking & ambient noise of rink - laughter/ice blades on ice	Karen chatting about the skating - no written dialogue	Standard establishing WS to show location - happy ice This establishes Karen as one of the main characters in the story - but what sort of story is it?
Shot / Visuals #3	Duration	Camera Instructions	Soundtrack	Dialogue / Story	Comment
	0.02"	LONG SHOT Gary	Music continues in b/g FADE UP ambient noise of rink & Karen's voice		Karen's voice attracts Gary - she is laughing

Homework Task 1

Listen to music for the TV series 'Blue Planet II' by Hans Zimmer on BBC iPlayer and write about the following Elements of Music, using full sentences.

Piece Title &
Composer

Details of the
Performer

Structure

Tempo

Instrumentation

Pitch