

Year 8 Music Knowledge Booklet

Topic 3 Music for Stage & Screen

Name:

Class:



Year 8 Music

Music for Stage & Screen

Music is part of our daily lives, not only by what we listen to on the radio or streaming, but on television and film as well. Music for Stage & Screen is an introduction to musicals, tv jingles and music written for films. We will be looking at some of the different techniques used by musicians to create music that helps heighten mood and emotions, be catchy enough to encourage us to buy a product and to help tell a story.

Big Questions

- 1.What makes a successful advert?
- 2.How can I make a 1926 advert sound modern?
- 3.What is the difference between diegetic and non-diegetic music?
- 4.What is musical theatre?
- 5.How well can I act on feedback given?
- 6.What are the different structures used in musical theatre?
- 7.How well can we perform our jingles?
- 8.What can I remember from Year 8?
- 9.How is music used in film?

Background Information

MUSICALS

Musical theatre or just musical is a theatrical performance that combines songs, spoken dialogue, acting and dance. This genre has developed from another musical form - opera - basically a play set entirely to music.

Musical theatre emerged during the 19th century at a time when going to the theatre and concerts for the general public had been around for some time and was led by the works of Gilbert & Sullivan in Britain and Harrigan & Hart in America. Since then, musicals have continued to be written, usually in the style of the music that is popular at the time.

Nowadays, musicals are more popular than ever, with new productions being created all the time. Some are original stories (Book of Mormon, Dear Evan Hansen), some are existing stories put to music (The Greatest Showman, Hamilton), some are films made into musicals (Legally Blond, Matilda) and some are stories built around the songs of famous artists (We Will Rock You, Mamma Mia, Jersey Boys).

The industry of musical theatre makes use of many different specialties - singers, dancers, actors, lighting, sound, costumes, director, producer, choreographer, musicians, artist management, advertising & PR.

Musicals are performed in theatres, with specific districts known to house theatres like the West End / Shaftesbury Avenue in London and Broadway in New York.

Every musical has a:

- ⇒ **libretto** - the overall text including the spoken and sung parts
- ⇒ **lyrics** - the words to the songs

Most songs fit into these categories:

- ⇒ **action songs** which move the plot forward
- ⇒ **character songs** which enable a character to express their feelings

Within these two formats, different song types can be found, including:

- ⇒ **ballads** which are usually slow, romantic and reflective
- ⇒ **comedy songs** which are funny, so the lyrics are very important
- ⇒ **production numbers** which involve the full company and are used to show major changes in location or plot, and often open and close acts
- ⇒ **rhythm songs** which are driven by energetic rhythm patterns

The chorus sets the repeated refrain of the lyrics and often contains the title words, usually returns several times, always with the same words and is normally the 'catchiest' part of the song.

The verse usually has different words with each repetition.

Background Information

JINGLES

It is thought that the first commercial jingle was created in New York in 1882, in the days before radio and television had been created.

The manufacturers of a pest control product, appropriately named Rough on Rats, commissioned a song which was distributed as sheet music to promote their product.

In the days before CDs or vinyl this was how music was sold to people – they bought the sheet music and played and sang the song at home.

Recorded jingles can be traced back to the 1920s, when the earliest radio advertisements in the USA began to be broadcast.

General Mills, a large manufacturer of food products including Golden Grahams and Haagen Dazs ice cream, were responsible for the world's first singing commercial.

The jingle, with the catchy name 'Have you tried Wheaties?', was first broadcast on Christmas Eve in 1926 to promote their product, Wheaties. It was written for a quartet of male singers performing in a barber-shop style. They were eventually christened the Wheaties Quartet.

FILM MUSIC

Music and moving pictures have gone together from the beginning. When films were first produced they were silent with no dialogue, so cinemas would employ a pianist or organist to perform music to go along with the film on screen, both to enhance the moods and themes of the film but also to cover up the noise of the projection machines. One of the first films to incorporate music successfully was the 1933 film *King Kong*.

Film music can be divided into two categories:

- ⇒ Music contained within the action is usually referred to as **diegetic music**. It is included in the story, eg music heard on a radio. Most film music is non-diegetic.
- ⇒ **Background music** is often referred to as **underscoring**. It adds to the **mood** of the scene, reinforcing dramatic developments and aspects of character.

Music is an important part of film. Film music serves to:

- ⇒ establish atmosphere, time and place
- ⇒ move the action forward / provide continuity across edits and scene changes
- ⇒ describe character
- ⇒ accompany scene changes
- ⇒ add to the dramatic impact

When the music is precisely synchronised with events on screen this is known as **Mickey-Mousing**, eg someone slipping on a banana skin could use a descending scale followed by a cymbal crash. **Mickey-Mousing** is often found in comedy films. In a film score, the **orchestration** (Organisation of musical instruments for an ensemble performance) and **instrumentation** (Particular type of instrument used in a music) can be very important.

Instrumental colour can suggest images, eg bagpipes evoking Scotland or muted brass suggesting something sinister.

Knowledge Organiser - Music for Stage & Screen

KEYWORDS

Musicals A staged theatrical production with songs, dialogue & dancing

Libretto The story text of a musical/play

Opera A staged play entirely set to music, most popular from 1600-1900

Action song Songs to help tell the story

Character song Songs to express feelings

Chorus song Songs sung by the whole cast

Jingle Short, catchy songs to advertise

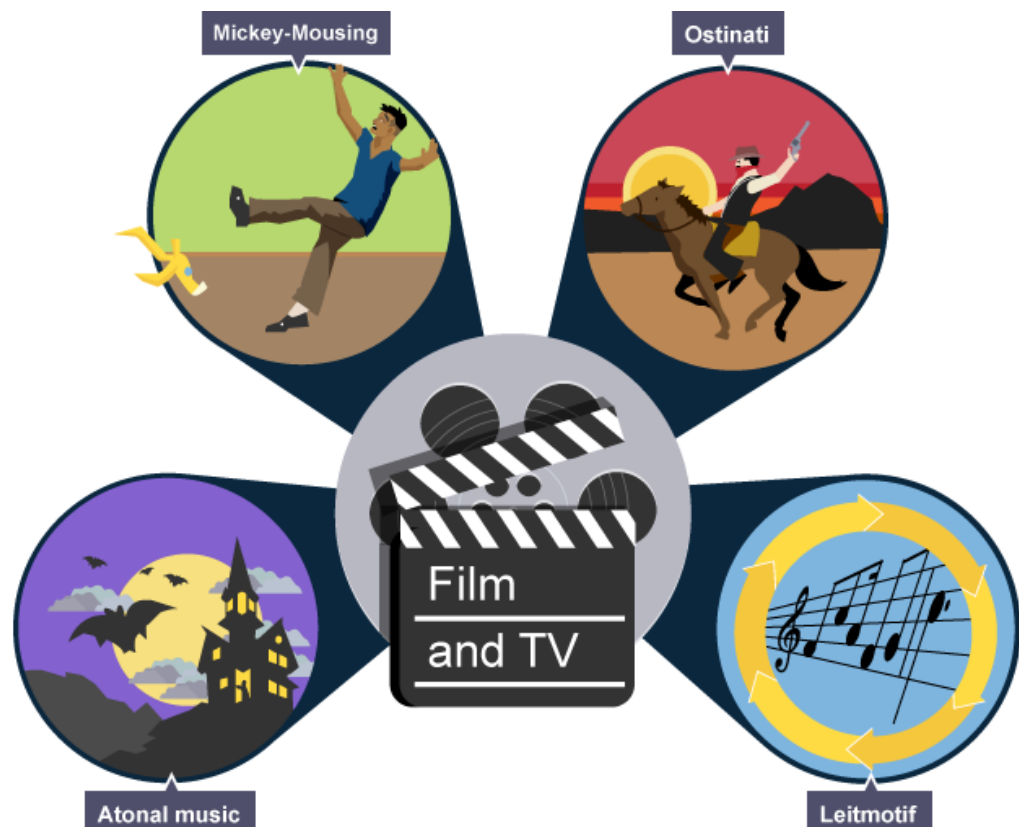
Film score Music written for films

Diegetic Music contained in the story

Non-Diegetic Music added on top of the film to enhance moods/feelings

Mickey-Mousing Music timed to match the actions on screen

Underscoring Background music



Homework Tasks

1) Programme Notes

Create a set of programme notes for a musical of your choice. These are printed and given to the audience to give them an overall idea of the storyline, relationships between characters and the history of the musical itself.

Date Due: _____

2) Key Words Revision

Revise the key words on the Knowledge Organiser page to prepared for an Engage Task quiz.

Date Due: _____

3) History of the Musical

Create a report on the history of the musical, covering the following points: What year was the first musical performed in? What was the difference between vaudeville and burlesque theatre? What are the main differences between operetta and opera-bouffe? What is the difference between Broadway and the West End? Why do you think musical theatre hasn't died out despite us now having TV and internet etc?

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Homework Task 3 - History of the Musical

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This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Sample Assessment (Written)

MUSIC FOR STAGE & SCREEN

1. What is the name given to a song used for advertising? (1)
Jingle
2. In what venue would you expect a musical to be performed? (1)
Theatre
3. What is the difference between diegetic and non-diegetic music? (2)
Diegetic music is heard on-screen
Non-diegetic music is added over the top.
4. List three famous musicals. (3)
 1. Cats / Hairspray / Matilda
 2. Hamilton / High School Musical
 3. Mamma Mia / Les Miserables
Miss Saigon / Oliver

Sample Assessment (Practical)

Wheaties Jingle

Take the lyrics of the 1926 Wheaties advert and give it a 21st century treatment to turn it into a jingle or rap.

- ⇒ Accompaniment / backing rhythm
- ⇒ Use of additional voices to accentuate different lyrics
- ⇒ Additional parts—a bass line, some chords, a melody...
- ⇒ Successful at drawing in listeners by being catchy and fun!

Further Your Understanding

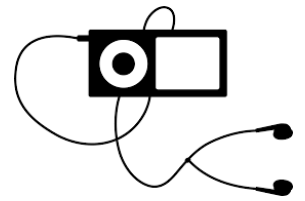
WIDER LISTENING

Guess the Movie Theme

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

John Williams Movie Themes

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfIJ1BkZ-b6Gc8K8KAhqpbbum2CsTeDMM>



WIDER WATCHING

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKuauz9tqKg>

- Try not to sing along - musicals edition

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAWJ2L1JhIQ>

- Mamma Mia (full production)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfPFFzKX2l4>

- Hamilton (full production)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VDrE1VgVLM>

- Les Miserables (full production)



WIDER READING

A History of Musicals

<https://www.musicals101.com/musical.htm>

BBC Bitesize - Musical Theatre

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z27fyrd/revision/1>

BBC Bitesize - Film Music

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwdhvp4/revision/1>

Video - Composing Music for Television and Film

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zqh7tfr>