



# At the Movies



When analyzing a film score it is important to remember that referential meaning matters just as much as musical meaning. What the audience naturally associates with a certain sound is essential.

Consider a horror film. Without its suspenseful dissonant strings and eerie sounds the audience wouldn't feel as frightened.

While the music used in a score is important, a film score goes beyond just the music utilized. Nonmusical sounds and silence are just as important to a film as music.

Consider how silence, natural sounds, and dialogue work with the score to give higher impact. The silence before a jump scare is an example of creating a heightened audience response.



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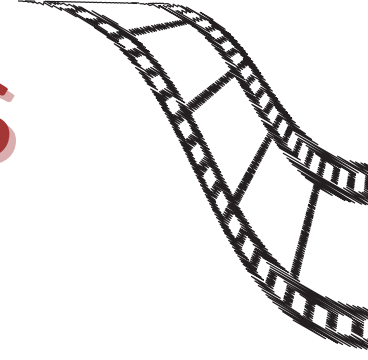
Each film genre has its own musical style that is essential to creating the desired atmosphere. Each music style has specific techniques that can help elicit the desired audience response.

Consider a popular fantasy film. What magical elements are present in the music? How does the music give a feeling of otherworldly power?

Choose a film (perhaps your favorite film) and fill out this Music in Film Guide to gain a better understanding of how the music impacts the film.



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Movie Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Composer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Genre: \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you choose this film?

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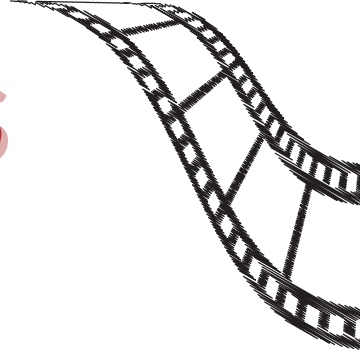
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Three main musical styles used: (if you aren't sure of names create your own!)

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Key uses of silence:

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Character Motif: (Specific music used for a character)

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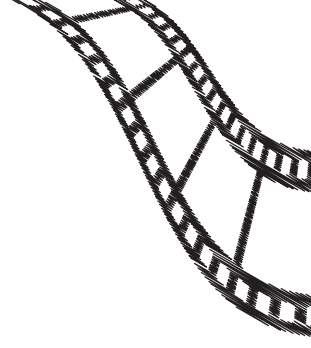
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Main Plot Points

Music

