



Year 8 Music: Get Behind the Scenes



Key Information

Incidental music is the name given to music that accompanies something else, like a play, TV show, film or video game.

Incidental music is usually used to **enhance** the action, or to make the audience **feel** a certain way.

Leitmotifs are short melodies that are easily recognised. You can change them to show character development or emotion—for example, slowing it down or playing it on a different instrument.

Composers use contrasts in **timbre**, **texture** and **harmony** to manipulate the audience's emotions.

Composers often use **orchestral** instruments. There are **four** families of instruments in the orchestra, **strings**, **woodwind**, **brass** and **percussion**.



Keyword	Meaning
Timbre	The unique sound made by individual instruments
Underscore	The music that plays at the same time as a scene
Leitmotif	A theme associated with a character, place or feeling
Dissonant	Chords that sound like a clash
Consonant	Chords that sound more pleasant and don't clash
Monophonic	One line of music played as a solo
Homophonic	A melody with chords

Analysis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUTE1CoHVM>

Watch this scene and concentrate on the music.

How does the underscore reflect the action on the screen? How does it make the audience feel? How does it change over time?

Try playing the opening chords of Mendelssohn's Midsummer Night's Dream on your own....



Now change it in some way (perhaps the articulation? Or tempo?) and see what differences you can achieve.

M	A	D	T	S	H	I	R	T
Melody	Articulation	Dynamics	Tempo	Structure	Harmony	Instruments	Rhythm	Texture
The main tune	How the music is played	The volume of the music	The speed of the music	The sections of the music and their order	The chords used	What instruments are used and the type of sound produced	The patterns of sounds with the beat	Layers of music – how many and what they're doing