

Music

Topic: Danny Elfman - Batman - Context, structure, sonority and melody

Year Group: 12/13



1. Context and structure					
1	Danny Elfman	Elfman is a self taught composer who has written music for many well known films. He has a close working relationship with the director Tim Burton. They have collaborated in a number of films: Beetlejuice, The Nightmare Before Christmas, and Planet of the Apes, among others.			
2	Through compose d	Where the music does not fall into repeated sections but changes throughout.			

2.	Melody	
1	Arpeggio	A broken chord with the added octave. Bars 1-11 Rise and fall from grace.
2	Fanfare	A celebratory piece for brass instruments often marking the opening of an important event or ceremony. Bar 53-54 Rise and fall from grace.
3	Fragment	A small section of a motif. Bar 5 and 6 BoaP 2.
4	Variation	A motif that has been changed in some way. Bar 5 and 6 BoaP 2.
5	Whole tone scale	A scale made up of 6 consecutive whole tones. Bar 43 – Batman VS the circus.

3.	Sonority – How th	ne instruments are used					
1	Accent	Place a stronger attack on note. Bar 16 BoaP 2					
2	Chord stab	Loud, detached chord. Bar 21 BoaP 2.					
3	Con arco	Bow a string instrument.					
4	Con Sordino	Play with a mute.					
5	Flurry A group of notes played in a very quick manner. Bar 21 BoaP 1.						
6	Flutter tonguing	The action of vibrating the tongue (as if rolling an r) in playing a wind instrument to produce a whirring effect. Bar 97 BoaP 1.					
7	Glissando	Slide from one note to another. Bar 25 Batman vs circus.					
8	Stopping (horn)	Place a hand firmly inside the bell to give a different sound quality.					
9	Tremolando	The continuous, rapid repetition or a pitch or alternating pitches.					

4. 1	4. Key vocabulary					
1	Leitmoti f	A musical idea that is associated with a person, object, place or emotion. Played mainly on brass – heroic.				
2	Batman Motif					
3	Penguin motif	Played mainly on organ – theatrical.				
4	Unusual Orchest ra	A large symphony orchestra with unconventional instrumental forces, such as pipe organ, harp and celesta				
5	Legato	Play in a smooth and connected manner. Pluck a string instrument.				
6	Pizzicat o					
7	Unison	More than one part playing the same melody at the same pitch. BoaP 1 Bar 22-25.				
8	Layering	Different levels of repeating patterns are placed on top of each other. Entire layers drop in or out to provide contrast. Batman VS The Circus – Bars 1-6.				

Other points of interest: The relationship between the music and on screen action. How the music reflects darkness. The comic aspect of the music. The use of Leitmotif.



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5. Texture			7. Harmony and Tonality		8.	8. Key vocabulary		
1	Contrary motion	Simultaneous melodic lines whose pitches move in opposite directions. Bar 51 Rise and fall from grace.	1	Augmen ted chord	A triad with 2 major 3rd intervals. Rise and Fall from Grace Bar 51.	1	Plagal cadence	Chord IV-I BoaP 1 Bar 1-3.
2	Counter figure	A melodic line played in counterpoint with a more prominent lead melody. BoaP 1 bar 5-6.	2	Chromat ic shift	Chords or keys moving in semitones. BoaP 2 bar 52.	2	Tertiary relationsh	Chords moving in thirds. BoaP1 Bar 7.
3	Monophony	A single line which can be played or sung by several people. Rise and fall from grace.	3	Diminish	A 4 note chord comprising of		ip	A dissonant chord
4	Polyphonic	Polyphonic When 2 or more different lines play simultaneously.		ed 7th	minor third intervals. Batman VS circus Bar 34.		Tone	that includes several
5	Subdominant pedal	A sustained or repeated note on the subdominant sounded against changing harmonies. The start of BoaP 1.	4	Dissona nce	Sounds that are not pleasant when played together. Rise and fall from grace Bar 17-19.	3	cluster	adjacent notes. Rise and Fall from Grace Bar 17-19.
6	Tutti	A passage where all instruments are playing. Bar 7 Batman VS Circus.	5	Domina nt 7th	The fifth degree of a scale with the 7th added. BoaP 1	4	Tritone	An augmented 4th interval, considered the most dissonant
6.	6. Tempo, metre and rhythm			Bar 4.			interval. Batman VS The Circus Bar 74.	
1	Augmentatio n	An increase in the note lengths of a melody, usually proportionate. Bar 7 BoaP 1.	6	False	Effect produced when the natural and chromatically altered versions of a note in		Syncopati on	Emphasising beats of the bar that are
2	Cross rhythm	The effect produced when 2 conflicting rhythms are heard together. Bar 16 BoaP 2.		relation	different parts occur either simultaneously or in close proximity. BoaP 1 Bar 13.	5	Oil	normally unaccented. Batman VS The Circus
3	Diminution	A shortening of the note lengths of a melody, usually proportionate. Bar 17 BoaP 2.	7	Inversio	A triad with the 3rd or 5th in the bass. BoaP 2 Bar 52.	6	Triple	Bar 13-25. 3 beats in a bar.
4	Rhythmic displacement	When the motif is moved to different beats in a bar, keeping the motif's rhythmic structure intact. Batman VS Circus bar 15.	8	n Open chords	A chord without the 3 rd . BoaP 2 Bar 97.		time	
5	Rhythmic ostinato	A rhythmic pattern repeated many times in succession. Batman VS Circus Bar 73.	9	9 Parallel chords	A succession of chords whose notes all move in the same direction.			
6	Sextuplet	6 notes in the time of 4. Batman VS Circus Bar 77.						
7	Triplet	3 notes played in the time of 2. BoaP Bar 16.						