

Topic: Danny Elfman - Batman – Context, structure,

sonority and melody

3. Sono

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Year Group: 12/13



		4.	Key vocabul	ary			
Sonority – How th Accent	ne instruments are used Place a stronger attack on note. Bar 16 BoaP 2	1	Leitmoti f	A musical idea that is associated with a person, object, place or emotion.			
Chord stab	Loud, detached chord. Bar 21 BoaP 2.	2	Batman Motif	Played mainly on brass – heroic.			
Con arco	Bow a string instrument.	3	Penguin motif	Played mainly on organ – theatrical.			
Con Sordino Flurry	Play with a mute. A group of notes played in a very quick manner. Bar 21 BoaP 1.	4	Unusual Orchest	A large symphony orchestra with unconventional			
Flutter tonguing	The action of vibrating the tongue (as if rolling an r) in playing a wind	5	ra Legato	instrumental forces, such as pipe organ, harp and celesta Play in a smooth and connected			
	instrument to produce a whirring effect. Bar 97 BoaP 1.		Legato	manner.			
Glissando	Slide from one note to another. Bar 25 Batman vs circus.	6	Pizzicat o	Pluck a string instrument.			
Stopping (horn)	Place a hand firmly inside the bell to give a different sound quality.	7	Unison	More than one part playing the same melody at the same pitch. BoaP 1 Bar 22-25.			
Tremolando	The continuous, rapid repetition or a pitch or alternating pitches.		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.			

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1. (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.	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.				
З	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.				

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.





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	Chords or keys moving in	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	ic shift Diminish	semitones. BoaP 2 bar 52. A 4 note chord comprising of		ір	A dissonant chord
4	Polyphonic	When 2 or more different lines play simultaneously.		ed 7th	minor third intervals. Batman VS circus Bar 34.		Tone	that includes several adjacent notes. Rise and Fall from Grace Bar 17-19.
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	
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. 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 different parts occur either simultaneously or in close proximity. BoaP 1 Bar 13.	5	Syncopati on	Emphasising beats of the bar that are normally unaccented. Batman VS The Circus
2	Cross rhythm	The effect produced when 2 conflicting rhythms are heard together. Bar 16 BoaP 2.		relation				
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.	Ľ	time	
5	Rhythmic ostinato	A rhythmic pattern repeated many times in succession. Batman VS Circus Bar 73.	9	Parallel chords	A succession of chords whose notes all move in the same			
6	Sextuplet	6 notes in the time of 4. Batman VS Circus Bar 77.			direction.			
7	Triplet	3 notes played in the time of 2. BoaP Bar 16.						

Wider listening: Elfman – Edward Scissorhands. Goldsmith – Gremlins. Ottman – X-Men. Kilar – Dracula. Williams – Superman an Star Wars. Silverstri – Back to the future.