



KEEPING SCORE

Meets National Core Arts Standards 7-9, 11

OBJECTIVES

- Perceive and analyze artistic work (*Re7*)
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work (*Re8*)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (*Re9*)
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding (*Cn11*)

MATERIALS

- Music Alive!* magazines (May 2018)
- Music Alive!* Classroom Worksheet #6: All About the Article (download at musicalive.com)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

START

Ask your students to read “Keeping Score” on pages 10-13. Then, go over the following highlighted words. [**This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.**]

AMBIENCE—the character and atmosphere of something

MYRIAD—countless or extremely great in number

INTERSTITIAL—of, forming, or occupying a small intervening space

INCIDENTAL—accompanying but not a major part of something

PRINCIPAL—first in order of importance; main

DEVELOP

1. Play Jonny Greenwood's “The Hem” from *The Phantom Thread* (Hear the Music track 5 on musicalive.com).

ASK

What instruments do you hear in this piece? (Piano, strings, harp, as well as a percussive knocking sound.)

Which composer from the Hear the Music selections of the classical article does this remind you of? (Philip Glass, who also did work in film scoring.)

How would you describe the mood of the piece? (It builds in tension.)

How is that tension created in the beginning? (The plucked note on the harp and the strings together create a dissonant harmony.)

After the first 25 seconds, the tension releases slightly—how? (The strings come in, playing a more soothing, consonant harmony.)

What would you picture people doing in a scene accompanied by this music? (Subjective.)

How would you categorize this piece of music in the context of film scoring? (Underscore.)

What genre does this music fall under? (Subjective; contemporary classical.)

2. Play Justin Hurwitz's “City of Stars” from *La La Land* (Hear the Music track 6 on musicalive.com).

ASK

What instrument do you hear on this track? (Piano.)

How would you categorize this piece of music in the context of film scoring? (Incidental music.)

What makes it incidental music? (It's music that's played in a scene, meaning the characters can hear and interact with it. In this case, the lead characters are playing the song.)

Who's singing on the track? (The actors from the film—Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone.)

What genre does this piece fall under? (Jazz.)

What mood does the song capture? (Contemplative, romantic.)

Do you like it? Why or why not? (Subjective.)

3. Play Howard Shore's “The Great River” from *The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring* (Hear the Music track 7 on musicalive.com).

ASK

What's the most prominent musical element of the song's opening? (It features a chorus.)

Aside from the chorus, what ensemble was used for this composition? (A full orchestra.)

How would you categorize this piece of music in the context of film scoring? (Underscore.)

What genre does it fall under? (Subjective. The choral arrangement and use of orchestra makes it similar to certain works of classical music, in particular, mass settings. However, the harmony used—or moods captured—in the piece make it very different, and more unique to film scoring.)

What mood does the piece capture? (Grandiosity; foreboding.)

What can you imagine characters doing during a scene that is accompanied by this music? (Subjective.)

What other instruments are heard prominently in the piece? (French horn, trumpet, strings.)

The Lord of the Rings franchise was a major commercial success. How does a film's budget play a role in the music? (A bigger budget means the filmmaker is more likely to be able to hire a full orchestra for the composer.)

CLOSE

Pass out to students copies of the All About the Article worksheet. Have them fill them out based off of their reading. Afterwards, collect their work and go over the answers with students, later checking the worksheets for accuracy.

ASSESS

Did the students read the article?

Did they discuss the three listening selections?

Did they fill out the All About the Article worksheets?