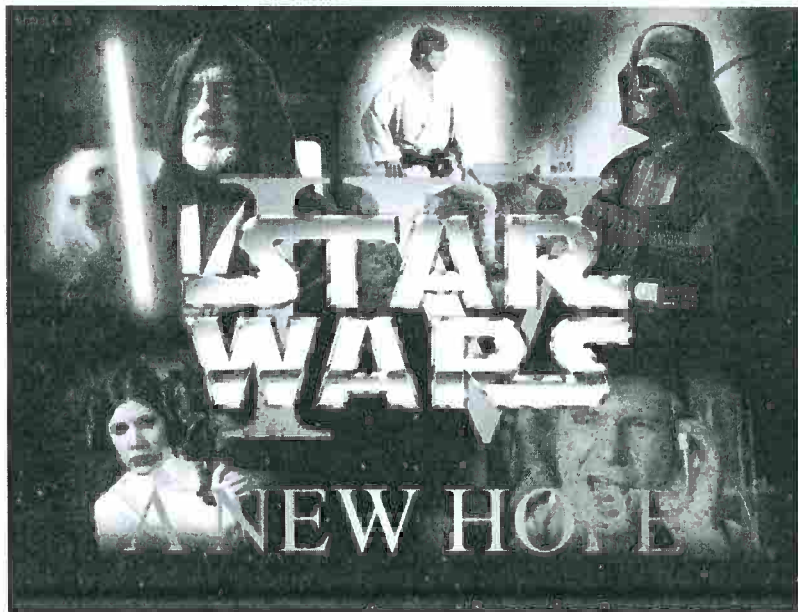


STAR WARS

*Main Title
From Episode IV
'A New Hope'*



Star Wars: Initial thoughts

Dynamics:

Rhythm and tempo:

Structure:

Melody:

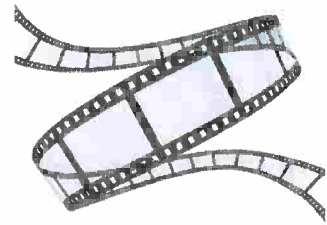
Instrumentation and
sonority:

Texture:

Harmony and tonality:



Background:



Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope (1977)

Episode IV was actually the first Star Wars film made and was released in 1977. There were two more released in the original trilogy (Episode IV-VI)

IV – *A New Hope* (1977) V – *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) VI – *Return of the Jedi* (1983)

A prequel trilogy was released between 1999-2005 (Episode I – III).

I-*The Phantom Menace*(1999) II – *Attack of the Clones* (2002) III – *Revenge of the Sith* (2005)

A sequel trilogy was released in 2015 & 2017....

VII – *The Force Awakens* (2015) VIII – *The Last Jedi* (2017)

The film 'A New Hope' tells the story of the Rebel Alliance's battle against the evil Galactic Empire led by Darth Vader. In Episode IV, you meet Luke Skywalker and follow his journey as he learns about the 'Force' and becomes part of the Rebel Alliance.

Our piece, **Main Title/Rebel Blockade Runner** is played over the opening credits of the film. The music accompanies the now iconic scrolling text that sets the scene and explains what's happening.



Music for films falls into 2 categories:

- 1) Diegetic music
- 2) Background/underscoring = non diegetic

Read page 126 of the textbook and write a paragraph below to explain the difference

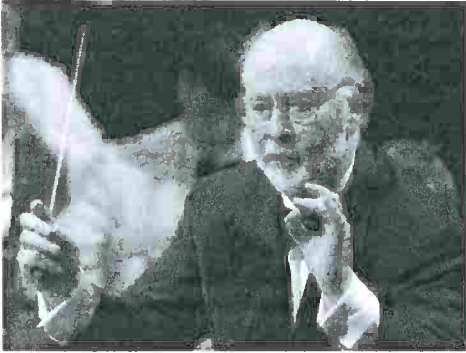
.....

.....

.....

.....

The composer - JOHN WILLIAMS (b 1932)



Read page 127 of the text book and fill in the gaps.

- ♪ John Williams is from which country?
- ♪ His film scores are some of the most recognisable melodies ever written, and he has won many awards including Oscars.
- ♪ He often writes music for the film director
- ♪ some of these include:
.....
- ♪ Other famous film music composed by him is *Superman* and the first three *Harry Potter* films (including the most famous tune 'Hedwig's Theme').
- ♪ The fact that he can write music for a variety of films and genres has shown what a versatile composer he is – he can write for tense thrillers and dramatic action films (*Jaws*, *Indiana Jones*), but also sad, reflective films (*Schindler's List*, *Saving Private Ryan*).

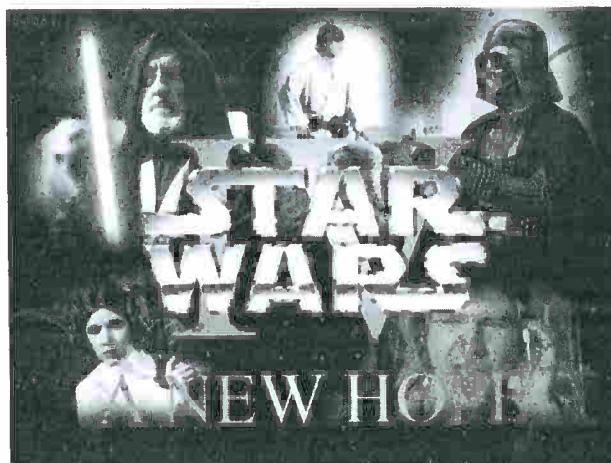
Characteristics of John Williams film scores:

1) Williams is well known for his use of L _ _ _ _ _

He uses them throughout his film scores with great effect.

2) His music is mainly written for a very large orchestra.

3) He likes to use brass fanfares and triplets.



The music starts with a heroic F _____ .
This iconic first 'leitmotif' is associated with the hero of the story...Luke Skywalker.



Give 3 ways in which this is typical fanfare.

- a)
- b)
- c)

Write down the names of other famous fanfares below:

A second leitmotif occurs towards the end (bar 52....) known as the rebel fanfare. This occurs in the other films to represent the rebel alliance spaceships.

Which 2 intervals are important in the opening theme?
.....&

How does the 'star filled sky' theme (36-38) differ to Luke's theme? (4-11)

.....
.....
.....

In which other piece have we learnt about Leitmotifs?
.....

HW RESEARCH:

Name a composer from the romantic period who also used leitmotifs?

DR SMITH analysis

DYNAMICS

What is the dynamic of the opening bars?

Draw what an 'accent' looks like? What does it mean?

What do dots under the notes mean?

The strings play smoothly in places. A good musical word to describe this style is what? L _ _ _ _ _

RHYTHM

The piece contains some complex rhythmical patterns.

Triplets: (give bars)

Groups of 6 (sextuplet)

There is a lot of SYNCOPATION meaning bars.....

Notice the metre change from 4/4 to 3/4 which occurs where?

There is some interesting use of rests.

What effect do the rests have on the music in bars 45 & 47?

.....

STRUCTURE

1 - 3	Introduction	
4 - 11	Main theme A Triplet fanfare	Text scrolls across the screen
12-20	Contrasting section B Legato strings	
21-29	Return of theme A	
30-35	Link	
36-38	Piccolo solo..mysterious	Black screen – star filled space
39-41	Link	The camera pans downwards revealing 2 planets... then a 3rd
42-50	March	A spaceship comes into view. Pursued & attacked by a much larger craft
51-end	Rebel fanfare motif	Battle continues, then fades

INSTRUMENTS

The piece is written for large orchestra. Identify the four orchestral families and list the instruments you can hear from each group playing in this piece.

The score uses abbreviations.

Trp =

trb =

hrn =

Timp =

hrp =

vln =

str =

fl =

Interesting fact:

Williams does not use any electronic instruments

eg. Synths, which were very popular in the 1970's and

especially in futuristic films.



Task

John Williams' film music is rooted in a trend in film music that began in Hollywood in the 1930s. This 'Classical Hollywood' style of film music was influenced heavily by music from the Romantic period – this is particularly obvious through the use of instruments. Use this worksheet to find out how John Williams used different instruments to create specific effects in his score for *Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope*.

Questions

- 1) One of the key features of John Williams' music, and of other famous film scores, was the use of a full symphony orchestra of around 90 musicians.

Complete the table below, to show what instruments you would expect to find in a standard symphony orchestra.

Woodwind	Brass	Percussion	Strings

- 2) The score in your anthology is a *short score*. To be able to follow this type of score, you need to be familiar with common abbreviations for different instruments.

Complete the table below to show what each of the abbreviations means.

Abbreviation	Instrument/Part
Trp.
Hrn.
Trb.
Timp.

Abbreviation	Instrument/Part
Hrp.
Vln.
Str.
Picc.



3) The symphony orchestra is arguably the most common ensemble that film music is written for. Find examples of two other extracts of film music that are written for full orchestra by composers other than John Williams.

- 1. Film Composer
- 2. Film Composer

4) a) Name the family of instruments that play the melody in the introductory fanfare of 'Main Title / Rebel Blockade Runner'.

.....

1-3

b) Describe the mood of the music at this point; how does the use of instruments help to create this mood?

.....
.....
.....

4-5

5) Describe how the instrumentation changes after bar 11.

Hint: think about what instruments have stopped playing, and which instruments are most prominent.

.....
.....

6) Evaluate how effectively John Williams has used instrumentation to create a 'mysterious' mood at the end of the set work.

The question asks specifically about the use of instruments. Think about what instruments are playing, and how this effects the mood of the music.

.....
.....
.....
.....

6-9

TEXTURE

The texture is mainly MDH...melody dominated homophony. Ie. Tune and accompaniment.

The melody is often doubled in octaves. (See section B bar 11 onwards)

Also the return of A at 21.

The use of rhythmical ostinato creates excitement in the last section.

There are frequent uses of Pedal notes:

Where is there a tonic pedal?

Where is there a dominant pedal?.....

Where is there inverted pedal?

HARMONY

Neopoliotan chord = based on the flattened 'supertonic note' (2nd note). In c major Db F Ab. For example see bar 53,

Added 6th = Eb G Bb plus added C (used a lot in jazz) see bar 12.

Quartel harmony = harmony produced by chords built on 4ths rather than 3rds. eg the chord in bar 30.....use of Bb - Eb - Ab

The first half of the piece is in 2 flats.....*the key of*

The music then becomes increasingly '**A tonal**'.....meaning no key.

Complete the pitches:-

1/8

Complete the Rhythm of the empty bars:

Exam type questions

1) How does the music of the opening immediately grab your attention?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

2) How is a sense of foreboding created in the last bit of the music?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

3) Give 2 features of John Williams' music.

a)

b)

4) Explain how John Williams creates a sense of power & might in this extract.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....





Task

In order for you to understand how John Williams' music for *Star Wars* is characteristic of film music, it will be useful for you to explore some of the similarities and differences between the music from a soundtrack written by another composer.

This worksheet will guide you in comparing features from John Williams' 'Main Title/Rebel Blockade Runner' from *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope* with Danny Elfman's 'Birth of a Penguin Part 2' from *Batman Returns*.

Questions

- 1) Listen John Williams' 'Main Title/Rebel Blockade Runner' from *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope* and Danny Elfman's 'Birth of a Penguin Part 2' from *Batman Returns*.

Complete the table below, to summarise the key musical features of John Williams' music for *Star Wars*, and Danny Elfman's music for *Batman Returns*.

Table with 3 columns: Feature, Star Wars 'Main Title/Rebel Blockade Runner', and Batman Returns 'Birth of a Penguin Part 2'. Rows include Genre/Mood of Music, Ensemble, Melody Instrument(s), Melody (e.g. stepwise/leaps/scales etc.), Tempo, Rhythm (e.g. straight/dotted/triplet/syncopated etc.), and Texture.



Task

Answer the following questions about the musical features of John Williams', 'Main Title/Rebel Blockade Runner' from *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*.

Exam Tips

Try to become familiar with the different types of questions that you may be asked in the exam.

- 'Name' questions require you to simply name or list facts or features of the extract you have been played. In some questions like the one below, one word answers may be sufficient.
- 'Describe' questions require a little more information, you will need to give an account of certain features asked in the question. Your points do not necessarily have to be linked together.
- 'Explain' questions require more depth. Each point you make must be justified by linking it back to the question and you should write in full sentences.
- Look at the number of marks available in the question, this will usually give a good indication of the number of points you must make to gain full marks.

Questions

Listen to John Williams', 'Main Title/Rebel Blockade Runner' from *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope* (0:00-1:31). (Your teacher will be able to provide/recommend an appropriate recording)

1) a) Name the woodwind instrument that plays the melody at the end of the extract.

(1 mark)

.....

b) Name the keyboard instrument heard at the end of the extract.

(1 mark)

.....

2) Which two words best describe the harmony and tonality at the beginning of the extract? Circle your answers.

(2 marks)

major minor modal quartal harmony bitonal

3) Name the instrumental technique played by the violins at the beginning.

(1 mark)

.....

4) Give three ways in which a mood of heroism and optimism is achieved in the extract.

(3 marks)

1.

2.

3.

5) Describe the dynamics at the end of the extract.

(1 mark)

.....

6) Describe the rhythm of the accompaniment at the beginning.

(3 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

Total Marks	/ 12
--------------------	------

Keywords

Diegetic music	
Background music, underscore, underscoring	
Cue	
Fanfare	
Added 6 th chord	
Compound Interval	
Ostinato	
Rit. = ritardando	
Neapolitan Chord	
Tremolo	
Pedal	Tonic dominant inverted
Glissando	
Ostinato	
Quartal harmony	
Leitmotif	
Tutti	
Accent	
Tr	
Dissonance	