

Key concepts

A film soundtrack composes of memorable songs and the background music. It is the background music that actually brings a film to life.

Low, slow notes, contrasting with higher, faster notes, usually depict something positive is happening (e.g. the demise of a baddy).

A slow, minor key with long notes and high strings, often depict passion (eg, two people saying goodbye).

Features of film music which convey a building of tension include:

- High strings (violins) playing lots of creepy-sounding notes
- Low drums (timpani) playing repetitively and urgently.
- Strings playing with a shaky sound (tremolo)

Film music can convey danger by using:

- Short, loud sounds.
- High, clashing notes playing at the same time.
- Getting faster and louder.
- Repeated urgent drumming sounds.

Composer Information

Edward Elgar (2 June 1857 – 23 February 1934) was an English composer. He was born in Lower Broadheath, near Worcester. His famous works include the Enigma Variations and the Pomp and Circumstance Marches. As a younger man, he was a musical odd-jobber, regularly accompanying local groups and choirs, as well as making early forays into composing. He loved to write letters. He regularly wrote to a friend, who he nicknamed 'Nimrod'. He later gave this name to one of his Enigma Variations.



Key Vocabulary

soundtrack	The recording of music that accompanies a film
major	A chord made up of three notes
minor	A collection of notes, defined by their starting (or base) note
Tuned percussion	A percussion instrument that can sound different notes
modulate	A change of tone, sometimes accompanied by a key change
Graphic score	Representation of music with visual symbols
notation	A system of recording notes
improvise	Create or perform spontaneously

Things to do at home

Which films did these iconic songs feature in?:

'Everything I Do, I Do it for You'.

'Truly Scrumptious'

'You Got a Friend in Me'

'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious'

'Let it Go'

'Under the Sea'

'Consider Yourself'