

Music of Hollywood - Listening In - Winterim 2025

Mr. Abraham

Room S34

nabraham@apamail.org

Course Description: Listening In focuses on learning about the music of Hollywood and how to listen to music with intent. Students will spend time learning music analysis - major keys, theme in variation, leitmotifs, and ambient sound design. Each class will involve listening to or watching a piece of media and include discussion on how the music was made and how students can truly listen to music.

Materials: Students should have access to a stereo/radio or other music listening device at home. Students should also bring a small notebook to class with a writing utensil.

Media: The class will be watching three movies to help students understand the use of soundtrack in film. The movies that will be used are as follows:

The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938) - Sir Robin of Locksley, defender of downtrodden Saxons, runs afoul of Norman authority and is forced to turn outlaw. With his band of Merry Men, he robs from the rich, gives to the poor and still has time to woo the lovely Maid Marian, and foil the cruel Sir Guy of Gisbourne, and keep the nefarious Prince John off the throne. The music of this film, written by Erich Korngold, is the foundation of the Hollywood soundtrack and has influenced the world of film since its premier. The film is rated PG for mild violence.

Star Wars (1977) - Luke Skywalker joins forces with a Jedi Knight, a cocky pilot, a Wookiee and two droids to save the galaxy from the Empire's world-destroying battle station, while also attempting to rescue Princess Leia from the mysterious Darth Vader. The music of this film, composed by John Williams, is one of the greatest examples of the Hero's Journey and Leitmotif use in film scoring. The film is rated PG for mild violence.

Interstellar (2014) - When Earth becomes uninhabitable in the future, a farmer and ex-NASA pilot, Joseph Cooper, is tasked to pilot a spacecraft, along with a team of researchers, to find a new planet for humans. This space adventure was scored by Hans Zimmer, whose work was based on two sentences of dialogue, "I'll be back" and "when". The film is rated PG-13 for mild violence and mild language.

Common Sense Media: <https://www.common sense media.org/movie-reviews/interstellar>

The class will also use clips from the *Lord of the Rings* Movies shown through the following Youtube Videos:

How Howard Shore uses Voices: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0xD7buOO20&t=163s>

How Howard Shore builds Tension: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmSxW2ExVKs&t=15s>

How Howard Shore makes us Care: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Azd7lyJ4918&t=74s>

Students interested in the class who do not receive permission to view the films are still welcome to participate! However, they will be given alternative assignments on those days. I give permission for my student to watch the above films. If not, an alternate activity will be provided.

☐ YES

☐ NO

Student Name (First and Last): _____

Student Signature (First and Last): _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature (First and Last): _____