

Area of Study 3: Film Music

Angels in America (Main Title) – Student Sheet

Taken from the film **Angels in America** Music by **Thomas Newman**

This piece employs a BINARY FORM (A B) structure:

A	11 bars	4 + 4 + 3
A1	11 bars	4 + 4 + 3
B	14 bars	2 + 2 + 3* + 3 + 4*
B1	11 bars	7 + 4

*the final bar in this phrase contains an irregular number of beats

Angels in America is a 2003 film directed by Mike Nichols and based on the play of the same name by Tony Kushner. Set in 1985, and starring Al Pacino and Meryl Streep, the film revolves around six disparate New Yorkers whose lives intersect.

Thomas Newman is an American composer best known for his many film scores. He is a member of a film-scoring dynasty in Hollywood that includes his father Alfred (winner of nine Academy Awards), brother David, sister Maria, cousin Randy and nephew Joey. Thomas Newman has been nominated for thirteen Academy Awards and three Golden Globes and has won two BAFTAs, six Grammys and an Emmy Award. Some of his many film-scores include *The Shawshank Redemption*, *American Beauty*, *Erin Brockovich* and, most recently, *Bridge of Spies*.

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1) During Section A, which of the following woodwind instruments plays the main theme? (Underline one).

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet

Bassoon

2) What type of articulation is demonstrated by this instrument during Section A?

Legato (smooth and connected)

Staccato (short and detached)

3) During Section A the soloist is accompanied by a string orchestra. How do the majority of the string instruments play?

Arco (using the bow)

Pizzicato (plucking the strings)

4) What is the time signature of this piece?

4/4 (four crotchet beats per bar)

12/8 (twelve quaver beats per bar)

3/4 (three crotchet beats per bar)

9/8 (nine quaver beats per bar)

5) How would you describe the tempo of this piece?

Allegro (Quick)

Andante (Walking Pace)

Adagio (Slow)

6) During Section A1, which instruments take the main melody from the original soloist?

Violins

Violas

Cellos

Double Basses

7) Identify the type of texture used during Section A1.

Monophonic

(a single melody line)

Homophonic

(melody and chordal accompaniment)

Polyphonic

(independent melodies)

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8) Identify the tonality of this piece.

Minor

Major

9) There is no main melody during Section B. Which of the following musical features are also NOT present during the section?

French horn played legato (smooth and connected)

Trombone glissando (sliding from one note to another)

Trumpet fanfares (short tunes or flourishes)

10) Section B1 begins with a new melody played by the trumpets and wordless voices in unison. Which statement best describes the shape of this melody?

The melody is disjunct (angular) and contains wide intervals

The melody is conjunct (stepwise) and contains narrow intervals

11) What is the harmonic rhythm (the rate of chord change) during Section B1?

There is one chord per bar most of the time

There is more than one chord per bar most of the time

12) With what type of chord does the piece end?

Minor

Major

Total / 12