

Area of Study 3: Film Music

Introduction (Titles) – Student Sheet

Taken from the film **Edward Scissorhands** Music by **Danny Elfman**

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

| | | |
|-------|---------|------------------------------------|
| Intro | 16 bars | 9 + 8 (bar 8 contains only 1 beat) |
| A | 16 bars | 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 |
| A1 | 16 bars | 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 |
| B | 8 bars | 4 + 4 |
| B1 | 8 bars | 4 + 4 |
| B2 | 8 bars | 4 + 4 |
| A2 | 16 bars | 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 |
| Outro | 6 bars | 2 + 4 |

Edward Scissorhands is a 1990 American romantic dark fantasy film directed by Tim Burton. Johnny Depp stars as the title character; an artificial man – an unfinished creation – who is taken in by a suburban family and falls in love with their teenage daughter.

The celesta – a keyboard instrument with a similar sound to a glockenspiel – features prominently on this piece of music. It represents both the innocence of the title character and the wintry setting of the film, and lends a music box style to the score that emphasises the bedtime storytelling mood.

1) What melodic device is used by the celesta during the opening bars of the piece? (Underline one).

A scale (a rising or falling pattern of notes, usually moving in step)

A glissando (sliding from one note to another)

An arpeggio (the notes of a chord played separately)

2) When the string instruments enter in the fifth bar, how are they played?

Arco (using the bow)

Pizzicato (plucking the strings)

3) Identify the tonality of this piece.

Minor

Major

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) During Section A, which statement best describes the shape of the melody?

The melody is disjunct (angular) and contains mostly wide intervals

The melody is conjunct (stepwise) and contains mostly narrow intervals

6) The main melody of Section A is performed by a group of singers. How many parts do they sing in?

2

3

4

7) During Section A1, which of the following woodwind instruments takes over the main melody from the singers?

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet

Bassoon

8) And what happens to the singers during Section A1?

They are silent

They provide a countermelody (a new melody which fits with the original melody)

9) During Sections B, B1 and B2, what happens to the texture of the music?

It gradually becomes thinner as the music progresses

It remains at the same level of thickness throughout

It gradually becomes thicker as the music progresses

10) Which section of the piece has the loudest dynamic?

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11) Which of the following percussion instruments does NOT perform during the piece?

Cymbals

Xylophone

Triangle

Timpani

12) Identify the type of cadence (chord progression) used to end the piece.

Perfect
(V – I)

Plagal
(IV – I)

Imperfect
(I/ii/IV/vi – V)

Interrupted
(V – vi)