

Area of Study 3: Film Music

Let The River Run – Teacher Sheet

Taken from the film Working Girl
Words and Music by Carly Simon

TEACHING POINTS:

Sonority (Vocal Ranges & Techniques)
Melody (Shape, Intervals, Pitch & Countermelody)
Rhythm (On-beat & Off-beat)
Form and Structure (Ostinato & Improvisation)
Texture
Harmony (Primary & Secondary chords)
Tonality
Dynamics
Musical Styles (Rock/Pop)

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

For the video which accompanies this song, here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cv-0mmVnxPA>

A consideration of the way in which this title song reflects the story of the film would be worthwhile for the students.

Working Girl is the story of a secretary who succeeds against all the odds. When one of her business ideas is stolen by her boss – who is then injured in an accident – she seizes the opportunity to steal it back by assuming her boss' identity.

This song has been described as an 'anthem to sheer determination' (David Shariatmadari, The Guardian, 27th November 2014). How do the musical elements contained within it contribute to a sense of triumph and achievement?

For extended listening or performing, a choral version of this song is available. It is performed by Conspire and conducted by Craig Hella Johnson and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OArloBORaYs>

Area of Study 3: Film Music

Let The River Run – Teacher Sheet

1) The Intro is sung by a choir consisting of Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Basses. Which statement best describes their accompaniment? (Underline one).

The choir performs with an instrumental accompaniment

The choir performs a capella (unaccompanied)

2) What type of voice sings the melody throughout this song?

Soprano (high female)

Alto (low female)

Tenor (high male)

Bass (low male)

3) During Chorus 1, which statement best describes the shape of the melody?

The melody is disjunct (angular) and contains wide intervals

The melody is conjunct (stepwise) and contains narrow intervals

4) During Chorus 1, what is the interval between the first and last note of the melody?

Major 3rd

Perfect 5th

Major 6th

Octave

5) A drum kit enters at the end of Chorus 1. Which statement best describes the drum kit part during Chorus 2?

The drum kit mostly provides a straight (on-beat) rhythmic ostinato (a repeating idea)

The drum kit mostly provides a syncopated (off-beat) rhythmic ostinato (a repeating idea)

The drum kit mostly provides a syncopated (off-beat) rhythm which changes continually

6) Backing vocalists join in for Bridge 1. Identify the type of texture used during the first three lines.

Monophonic

Homophonic

Polyphonic

(a single melody line) (melody and chordal accompaniment)

(independent melodies)

Area of Study 3: Film Music

Let The River Run – Teacher Sheet

7) Chorus 3 begins with a sudden key change. Is this new key lower or higher than before?

Lower

Higher

8) For the most part, each Chorus is harmonised using only the Primary chords (I, IV and V), all of which are major. However, there are two occurrences of a Secondary chord (vi), which is minor. During Chorus 3, identify a word of the text which is harmonised with this minor chord.

trail / dark

9) Which of the following musical features is NOT present during Bridge 2?

It begins with a minor chord

The backing vocalists accompanying the lead vocalist

The melody contains wider intervals than that of the Chorus

10) Chorus 4 is performed by an electric guitar. Which statement best describes the electric guitar part?

It plays the main Chorus melody

It provides an improvised melody

11) How does Bridge 3 compare to the earlier Bridges?

Bridge 3 has the same texture and dynamic as the previous Bridges

Bridge 3 has the same texture but a louder dynamic than the previous Bridges

Bridge 3 has a thicker texture and a louder dynamic than the previous Bridges

12) How does Chorus 5 compare to the earlier Choruses?

The lead vocalist and the backing vocalists sing the main melody in unison

The lead vocalist and the backing vocalists sing the main melody in harmony

The backing vocalists sing the main melody whilst the lead vocalist provides a counter-melody (a new melody which fits with the original melody)

Total / 12