

Year 7 Music – Knowledge Organiser – **GAWPER HORROR**

1. Key Ideas & Concepts

Purpose	Music in a film is there to set the scene, enhance the mood, tells the audience things that the visuals cannot, or manipulate their feelings. Sound effects are not music!
Tension	Tension is the slow build in the music that helps to add to unease/anxiety felt by the audience. E.g. seeing the girl walk down the long dark corridor
Revulsion	The moment the bad thing in the scene happens, bringing on a sudden feeling of horror. E.g. The scary mask appearing from the dark
Suspense	A state or feeling of excited or anxious uncertainty about what may happen.

2. Key Terms

Leitmotif	A short melody that is associated with a character or idea in a film.
Ostinato	A short repeated musical pattern
Mickey Mousing	When the music fits precisely with a specific part of the action in a film.
Underscore	Where music is played at the same time as the action or dialogue.
Drone	A note or chord that is continuously played

4. INSTRUMENTS & COMMON ASSOCIATIONS (Musical Cliché's)

Strings	High pitch, long sustained notes - eerie, suspense
Tremolo Strings	Fast repeated note, creates tension, drama
Synthesizers	Synthesizers were popular in the 1970s as they were cheap to use and could create un-natural and pulsing sounds
Theremin	Early electronic instrument, played without touching anything. The hand moves between two antennae giving out electric signals. The Theremin has an eerie and otherworldly sound.

3. Musical Elements

Dynamics	<i>Crescendo</i>	Volume gradually gets louder
	<i>Forte</i>	Loud volume
	<i>Piano</i>	Quiet Volume
	<i>Sforzando</i>	Suddenly loud/accent
Melody	<i>Stepwise</i>	Moving to notes next door e.g. A to B
	<i>Leap</i>	Moving to a note further away - can sound scarier!
	<i>Ascending</i>	A melody that goes up
	<i>Descending</i>	A melody that goes down
	<i>Chromatic</i>	A melody that uses the black and white keys (moving in semitones)
Tempo	<i>Slow</i>	Create suspense and tension
	<i>Fast</i>	Action and excitement
	<i>Accelerando</i>	Gradually getting faster
Harmony	<i>Major</i>	A happy and optimistic sound
	<i>Minor</i>	Sad and serious sound
	<i>Dissonance</i>	Scary and clashing sound

Film Composers

- James Horner (Alien)
- Charles Bernstein (Nightmare on Elm Street)
- Bernard Herrmann (Psycho)
- Ennio Morricone (The Thing)
- John Carpenter (Halloween)

TASK: Listen to one of these film themes on YouTube and identify which features of Horror Music you can hear.
E.g. What are the dynamics? What type of instruments are played?