



Analyse and Compose film music for the science fiction genre.

In preparation for this topic, the teacher will need to have prepared a suitable video clip in .avi format for use with Cakewalk Home Studio or Sonar. Video clips in .avi format are available free of charge on the Internet, and are sometimes found on the free disks that come with some computer magazines. The clip should be in the science fiction genre and should be of a scene that conveys a sense of tension. It should be no more than two or three minutes long.

It is envisaged that this unit of work would form part of a larger unit on film music as required by the AQA GCSE syllabus during which a full breadth of listening and appraising would be covered. Pupils should already be familiar with the use of Cakewalk Home Studio or Sonar, including how to change instrument sounds, add effects and change tempo and dynamics.

Teaching Activities:

- Listen together to any piece of programme music that conveys a sense of tension. Discuss how the sense of tension is created and developed - tempo, dynamics, structure, pitch, timbre, repetition, silence, etc. Find other similar pieces and compare them to build up a profile of how tension is created in music.
- Watch a clip of a science fiction movie, either on conventional video, or using a clip in .avi format, or listen to an appropriate audio clip. Discuss the features evident in the genre, particularly the use of unusual sound effects and the use of technology.
- Spend some time exploring the on-board software synths on Cakewalk Home Studio or Sonar to build up a profile of sounds and effects appropriate to music in the science fiction genre.
- Show pupils the science fiction video clip with no sound. Pupils storyboard the clip, identifying key musical moments.
- Using Cakewalk Home Studio or Sonar, pupils work individually to create the music to accompany the video clip, synchronising music to video on their computer screens.
- Pupils write an evaluation of their composition explaining how they fulfilled the twin requirements of creating tension and composing within the science fiction genre.