INSTRUMENTS OF THE ORCHESTRA
MOVIE MUSIC



The *Polar Express – Compare 2 trailers & fill in what you hear in the table below*

This is the story of a young hero boy on Christmas Eve who boards on a powerful magical train that's headed to the North Pole and Santa Claus's home. What unfolds is an adventure which follows a doubting boy, who embarks on a journey of self-discovery which shows him that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe.

	Sound effects used	Musical features/instruments	Atmosphere/Mood
Trailer 1			
Trailer 2			

THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN

1. What is the name of the composer who scored the music?

2. What should the score help us understand about the characters (2 min 06).

3. Why are the orchestra wearing headsets?

4. What is the term used for when instruments **play over pre-recorded music?** (2 min 29)

   casting over-toning overdubbing syncing

5. How many performers are in the orchestra?

6. From 4 mins, explain why the composer uses just piano or piano & solo voice in this action movie

LIVEWORKSHEETS

THE STRING SECTION

John Williams scored these two movies themes for the **string section**.

1. How many **beats per bar** are in each theme?

Clip 1 3 beats 4 beats Clip 2 3 beats 4 beats

2. What is the TONALITY of each of the themes?

Clip 1 Major Minor Clip 2 Major Minor

3. Which two **movies** are these themes from?

Clip 1 Clip 2

HOBBITS/ RIDERS OF ROHAN

Compare the 2 clips and how the composer uses the violin to convey different characters. What other instruments help to define these characters and the atmosphere/ mood

	Violin – describe the music?	Other instruments/ musical features used	Atmosphere/Mood
Clip 1			
Clip 2			

LIVEWORKSHEETS

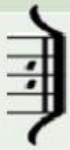
MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA/ PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

	Tempo / beats in bar	Instruments used	Atmosphere/Mood
Clip 1			
Clip 2			

JAWS

Pitch		Atmosphere / feelings created
Instruments used		
Rhythms/ Tempo		
Dynamics		

Symbol	Meaning
	
	

Symbol	Meaning
	
	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

CAN YOU TELL WHICH STRING INSTRUMENT IS PLAYING?

Extract	Instrument
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Choose from

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double bass
- Harp

NB an instrument might appear more than once!

CAN YOU TELL WHICH STRING TECHNIQUE IS HEARD?

Extract	Instrument
1	
2	
3 (double bass)	
4	
5	

Choose from

- Pizzicato
- Tremolando
- Harmonics
- Col legno
- Double stopping

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE STRING SECTION?

1. Which **instruments** are being played?
2. Which instrument **plays the melody first**?
3. What **string playing techniques** can you hear?
4. This is the **main theme** for which famous set of movies?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

THE WOODWIND SECTION

Adagio — Moderato — Allegro
Slow — Fast

	Track 1	Track 2
Tempo		
Beats per bar		
Which section of the orchestra plays after the flute solo?		
From which movie?		

THE OBOE – GRINGOTT'S BANK

1. Name any instruments you hear at the start of the clip

2. How well does the oboe reflect the character of the Goblins?

3. What sound effects and musical features/ instruments does the composer use to create a mysterious, sinister atmosphere in the rest of the clip?

Sound effects used	Musical features/instruments

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The Bassoon - Fantasia

Listen to the opening. What musical techniques does the composer use to represent the **mysterious world of the sorcerer?**

1. In total, how many bassoons are in the orchestra?
2. How does the composer make the apprentice sound hesitant at the very start?

1. Is the bassoon melody at the beginning of the video legato or staccato?
2. What string playing techniques can you see/hear?
3. Describe the tempo.
4. How many beats are in the bar?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Name the STRING instrument playing
Is it being played ARCO or PIZZICATO?

2. What WOODWIND instrument is playing the tune?
Is it being played LEGATO or STACCATO?

3. What PERCUSSION instrument is also playing?
Choose from:

Xylophone	Tubular bells
Glockenspiel	Tambourine

4. Name the instrument associated with France & Scotland

5. What FAMILY of instruments comes in here?
What PERCUSSION instrument is also playing? Choose from:

Xylophone	Tubular bells
Glockenspiel	Triangle

6. What LOW WOODWIND instrument also plays here?
Is it playing STACCATO or LEGATO?

7. Name TWO more WOODWIND instruments that you hear.
Are they playing STACCATO or LEGATO?

8. What WOODWIND instrument is heard again here?

9. Name TWO techniques that are heard in the VIOLINS here. Choose TWO from:

Pizzicato	Glissando
Trill	Muted

10. How would you describe the change in DYNAMICS here?

Crescendo	Accelerando
Diminuendo	Rallentando

11. What features in the music depict the mischievous behaviours of the rats? Think in terms of, TEMPO, ARTICULATION, INSTRUMENTS,TECHNIQUES, PITCH, etc

LIVEWORKSHEETS