
Music Design – see the PP

Time to listen to *The Rings* again.

Composer Howard Shore

- Created 10-hours of music (released!).
- Used 90 leitmotifs
- Won 2 Academy Awards

Sound Designer David Farmer

- Won 3 British Academy Awards for sound design

Before you start designing music

It is always a better plan to **plan**.

The “Sound Map”: Make a list of environments, actions, objects, adjectives, emotions, and physical or dramatic transition that should happen in the sound track in the right order. DAWs have a tool for adding markers along the basic track you are given or are starting with. For music, these points are called *cues*.

Typical Sound Track Chord Strategies

Transpose your loop

1 to 4 or 5

1 to 2 C to D or to Dm

2 to 3 Dm to Em

5ths C to G (and on to D to A etc)

Chromatic Step by step at ½ steps

Typical Sound Track Interval Strategies

Consonance and Dissonance

(½ steps) Play **two notes**.

12	Octave	Purity, peace, unity
7	Fifth	Harmony, obvious change
5	Fourth	Harmony, gentle change
4	Third	Harmony, interest
3	Flatted Third	Darker, sad
2	Second	Tension
1	Flatted Second	Discord, real problems

Famous flatted seconds:

Hitchcock's *Psycho*, *The Birds* theme

Jaws

- Hitchcock high pitch flatted 2nd fading in

More Semiotics (things that are "signs")

- Low tones Heavier, more important
- ¾ timing Graceful
- Major scale = solid and positive.
- Minor scale = bluesy, complex, countercultural.
- Little musical theme worked in whenever a certain character makes an appearance.
Jaws theme flatted second
Done a lot in many films, as in *Rings*
- Rising tones something about to happen
Or try duplicating a loop at ½ step higher.
- Minor or major 2nd uncomfortable
- Minor Third dark, sad

To Resolve or Not To Resolve?

Resolution and peace?

Or tension and leaving them hanging?

Is it done or is more-to-come?

Resolving is customary so if we don't resolve we are sending a message.

- Back to tonic (back to the C chord in C key)
Resolves tension, relaxes
- Suspended Keynote + 4 + 5
to K + 3 + 5 resolves tension
- Augmented C E G# to C E G

Notice an easy way to vary the sounds without hurting your brain is to invert the order.

Tips

- Don't have notes that sit in the same frequency range as the speaker/singer or as an important sound effect (unless they are relatively quiet). Change and/or at least change EQ to emphasize different frequencies.
- Transposing to other keys is a snap with software.
 - a semitone is a half step.
So the key of D is two semitones up from C.
 - Just select all the notes you want and transpose them up or down there.