

Sixth Form Summer Transition Work

Welcome to Arnewood Sixth Form! You are about to embark on a busy and important two years of sixth form study.

Sixth form life is very different. You are going to feel much more independent, empowered and responsible for your own learning. The expectation is that this journey is down to you. You need to commit and relish in the challenge of sixth form life; ambition, belief and commitment are essential for your success.

Below is a transition activity designed for you to complete over the late spring into summer in preparation for your chosen course. By completing the task, you will be better prepared for the start of your course. Your A level teachers will check the work in September. Your commitment starts now!

Subject	MUSIC	
Key Question	What are the key features of the soundtrack to Batman Returns and how does the music relate to the film?	
Resource List	Edexcel A Level Music Specification Pearson Notes on Batman Returns by Danny Elfmann Birth of a penguin parts 1 and 2 Batman versus the circus The rise and fall from grace	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-2016.html https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Music/2016/teaching-and-learning-materials/AS-Elfman-Batman-set-work-support-guide.pdf https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_L04BPyxYo https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4CjzMlyglw https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uL6nuZUONQE https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oz8aLIECqgM

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Your Task	<p>There are 3 parts to your Transition task:</p> <p>Task 1: Access and read the Edexcel A level music specification using the link above.</p> <p>Task 2: You need to have a sound knowledge and understanding of how Elfman uses Music to support the action in Batman returns. Listen to the key clips from YouTube which are included above, as are detailed notes from the Edexcel website. A more simplified analysis is also provided below.</p> <p>Task 3: Create a presentation on the composer Danny Elfman and the techniques he uses within the soundtrack for Batman Returns. Particularly focus on the music for Birth of a Penguin parts 1 and 2, Batman versus the Circus and The Rise and Fall from Grace. Your presentation can be done on PowerPoint, Keynote, Word, however you prefer to present it. The presentation should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background on Danny Elfman including some of his other musical works. • Research and find examples of his use of leitmotif • Research and demonstrate an understanding of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Texture ➤ Structure ➤ Melody ➤ Harmony ➤ Tempo ➤ Rhythm
Additional resources	A simplified analysis of the set work is provided below.

Summer Transition Work – Additional Resource

A Level Music Set Works Danny Elfman – Batman Returns

Background	Elfman (b.1953) is a self taught composer with a parallel career as a rock musician with the band Oingo Boingo. Elfman had a close working relationship with Tim Burton, collaborating on Beetlejuice, Nightmare Before Christmas, Planet of the Apes, Batman and Batman Returns.
Birth of a Penguin Part I	
Structure	Episodic but features leitmotifs for batman and the penguin.
Tonality	Pedal notes bars 1-2. Use of mostly minor keys throughout. Unprepared modulation of keys.
Melody	Idea 1 bar 34 staccato Cs. Leitmotifs for Batman and Penguin.
Rhythm	Augmentation bar 7.
Texture	Constantly changing. Octaves bars 22-25. Polyphonic texture and homophony used throughout.
Performers	Resources include full orchestra, choir, synth choir, celeste, accordion, piano and

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Arnewood Sixth



	fairground steam organ. Very detailed performance directions.
Harmony	Use of bare fifths bar 47. Dominant 7 th bar 45. Plagal cadence bars 2-3
Birth of a Penguin Part II	
Structure	Episodic to suit the action on screen.
Tonality	Mainly minor keys. Parallel chords
Melody	Idea 2 bar 55 C-A C-A
Rhythm	Diminution bar 27. Use of ostinato bar 14. Cross-rhythms bar 16. Triplets bar 25.
Texture	Constantly changing. Melody led homophony (77-78). Polyphonic texture and homophony used throughout.
Performers	Resources include full orchestra, choir, synth choir, celeste, accordion, piano and fairground steam organ. Very detailed performance directions.
Harmony	Parallel chords
Batman vs the Circus	
Structure	Episodic to suit the action on screen.

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Tonality	Whole tone scale bar 43. Mainly minor keys.
Melody	Circus motif accent staccato- chord staccato in bass clef. Staccato bass line bar 26
Rhythm	Changing time signatures bars 22-25. Syncopation bars 4-5. Sextuplets bar 69. Rhythmic displacement bars 92-93.
Texture	Constantly changing. Use of layering bars 1-6. Polyphonic texture and homophony used throughout.
Performers	Resources include full orchestra, choir, synth choir, celeste, accordion, piano and fairground steam organ. Very detailed performance directions.
Harmony	Tritone bar 74. Bars 10-11 tertiary relationship between keys and chords. Dim 7 th Bar 34
The Rise and Fall from Grace	
Structure	Episodic to suit the action on screen.
Tonality	Chromatic shifts. Unprepared modulations of key.
Melody	Based around Penguin leitmotif
Rhythm	Accented quavers bar 49

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Texture	Constantly changing. Rare monophony in 1 st 3 beats. Polyphonic texture and homophony used throughout.
Performers	Resources include full orchestra, choir, synth choir, celeste, accordion, piano and fairground steam organ. Very detailed performance directions.
Harmony	Parallel chords

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