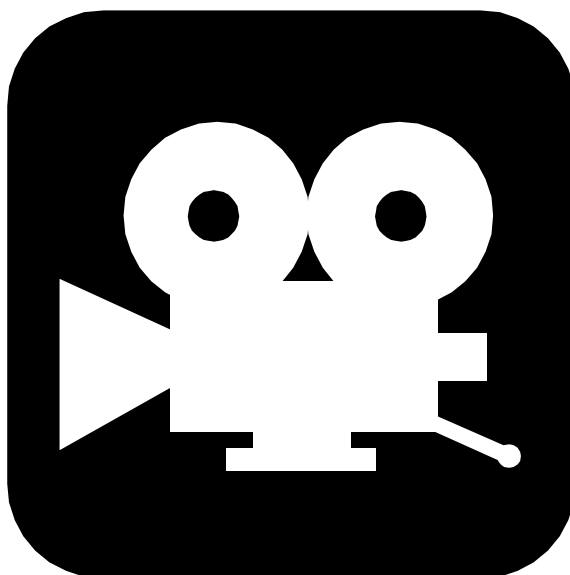


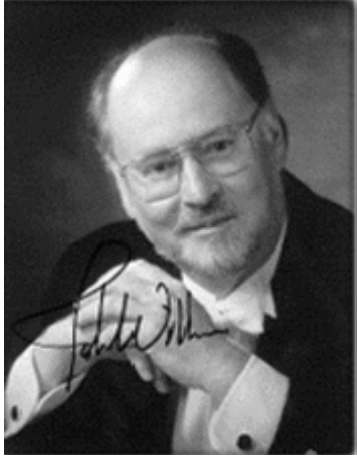


**FILM**

**MUSIC**



## Composers



**John Williams** has worked with many of the great directors, such as Stephen Spielberg, George Lucas, Ron Howard, Oliver Stone and Sydney Pollack. Apart from film music, John Williams has written music for the Olympic Games and for the concert hall. Here are some of the famous films whose soundtrack he has composed :

Jaws, Indiana Jones, The star wars trilogy, Jurassic Park, Saving Private Ryan, ET, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Hook, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.



**Gerry Goldsmith** was born in 1929 and is still composing film music. He now lives in Beverley Hills. He started his career as a typist in a film studio. His latest score is for Star Trek: Nemesis. He has written music for more films than any other composer. He first started writing for television with the Twilight Zone theme, then wrote music for Planet of the Apes, The Mummy, Mulan, Basic Instinct, Gremlins, Alien, The Omen and many more besides.



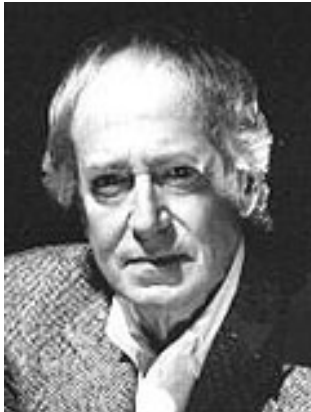
**Thomas Newman** was born in 1955 and lives in California. He comes from a family involved in the film industry. His father was a famous composer. He is famous for using unusual instruments in his music and likes to use percussion instruments such as vibraphones and xylophones in his music. He has written the music for American Beauty, The Green Mile, Meet Joe Black, The Horse Whisperer and the Shawshank Redemption.



**Howard Shore** was born in 1946 in Canada. He has recently been busy writing the music for the Lord of the Rings trilogy. His other film scores include High Fidelity, Existenz, Seven, The Client, Mrs. Doubtfire, Philadelphia and Silence of the Lambs.



**James Horner** was born in 1953 and lives in Los Angeles. He studied composition at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He has received many Oscars for films and has written the music to many films, including Aliens, Titanic, Enemy at the Gates, Deep Impact, The Perfect Storm, The mask of Zorro, Apollo 13 and Braveheart.



**John Barry** is a British film music composer from York, and has been very successful also in the USA. He had private lessons on the trumpet and piano and didn't go to university. For many years he was a professional jazz pianist, playing with the John Barry Seven. Has written music for nearly all the Bond films and also Dances with Wolves, Mercury Rising and The Specialist, Out of Africa, Born Free.



**Hans Zimmer** was born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1957 and studied music in London. His music mixes electronic and acoustic sounds. His films include Gladiator, Rain Man, The Lion King, The Thin Red Line, Pearl Harbor, Hannibal.



**Elmer Bernstein** was born in 1922 in New York. He has written many big scale orchestral scores including The Great Escape and The Magnificent Seven,

## Vocabulary

**Underscore** : Background music to a scene in a film. The music is usually not very interesting because it mustn't overpower the action on the screen.

**Opening and Closing Credits** : This is where the film music can be heard in full. Usually all the sections of the film music are brought together for the credits.

**Leitmotif** : A tune that represents a certain character in the film.

**Dissonance** : This is when notes clash with each other, such as when you play C and C# together. The effect is usually quite scary.

**Consonance** : This is when notes harmonise well, like the notes C E G played together. It is used to create peaceful or love scenes

**Glissando** : When one note slides to another either upwards or downwards.

**Ostinato** : A repeated pattern of notes or a rhythm that is repeated over and over again.

**Synchronising** : This is when the music is electronically synchronised with the action on the screen.

**Cue Sheet** : This is a sheet of paper with times on it and action so that the film composer is able to compose music to the sections.

Here is a sample of part of a cue sheet

Time	Action	Music ideas
0,00-0,13	Murderer seen creeping to victim	Violins play very quiet long note. Very quiet brush used on cymbals
0,14-0,28	Victim sees murderer before he strikes and struggles with him	Sudden 3 clashing notes played sustained on the piano loudly. Loud ostinato on cellos and violins Xylophone disjunct melody
0,29-0,37	Knife is turned towards murderer and it slowly approaches his throat	Low note on cellos followed by loud glissando on high violins 4 times until
0,38-0,45	Camera focusses on murderer's eyes as knife enters	Very low sustained note. Drum beats 3 times at death
0,46- 0,52	Knife is dropped as he is horrified what he has just done	Plucked violin notes fade out.

**Major key** : This usually has a happy and optimistic sound to it

**Minor key** : This has a sad sound generally

**Conjunct melody** : This is a tune that has notes close to each other, and is used for catchy, memorable tunes.

**Disjunct melody** : This is a tune that has notes that leap around from high to low notes and is used for fear, excitement and generally tunes that give the feeling of uneasiness.

**Chromaticism** : This is a tune that uses very close notes that aren't part of the key. It is used for feelings of tension and anxiety.

# FILM MUSIC

Name _____ Class _____
------------------------

1. Which composers wrote the music to these films? :

Star Wars \_\_\_\_\_ Jurassic Park \_\_\_\_\_

Planet of the Apes \_\_\_\_\_ Braveheart \_\_\_\_\_

Dances with Wolves \_\_\_\_\_ The Great Escape \_\_\_\_\_

Hannibal \_\_\_\_\_ The Living Daylights \_\_\_\_\_

2. Using proper vocabulary on the last page of the booklet, describe how you would compose music on each of these topics :

a) Love

---

---

---

---

b) War

---

---

---

---

c) Fear

---

---

---

---

d) Aliens

---

---

---

---

Draw a cue sheet for a 45 second scene, and write what you would do in the music to make the scene musically interesting. Look at the example on the information booklet to help you. Make sure you use proper musical vocabulary.

Time	Action	Music ideas

Finished? On a piece of plain paper, draw a GRAPHIC SCORE of your film music scene, writing a time code along the bottom of the sheet.