

YOUR NAME _____

MUS 108 ASSIGNMENT #1: "PSYCHO"

THIS IS A FILM-MUSIC SCORE ANALYSIS OF THE MOTION PICTURE "**PSYCHO**" (1960) DIRECTED BY ALFRED HITCHCOCK, SCORE BY BERNARD HERRMANN.

NO OTHER FILM BY THIS TITLE (OR ANY OTHER TITLE), INCLUDING REMAKES, SEQUELS, DOCUMENTAIRES, OR OTHERWISE, IS ACCEPTABLE FOR THIS PROJECT!

THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE IN CLASS ON MARCH 10, 2014. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

You may answer the first 6 questions on these pages if you wish, but only if you can write EXTREMELY NEATLY. If you cannot do so, please type the answers on a separate sheet of paper. Put your name on every sheet of this assignment.

Some of the starting/ending timings given here may vary by a few seconds or more depending on which format of the film you are referencing: DVD, Blue-Ray, online streaming, etc. When in doubt, always REFER TO THE ACTION described onscreen for confirmation of the correct scene listed.

1. Where exactly does the Main Title theme (0:05) ("Flight" theme) first recur, and where does it recur for the second time? Give minute/second timings from the DVD. (Formatting would look something like "cue in at 6:32, out at 7:04.")

a. _____ (action onscreen)

(in:) _____ (out:) _____ (timing: minutes/seconds)

b. _____ (action onscreen)

(in:) _____ (out:) _____ (timing: minutes/seconds)

2. The music cue that appears during the shower murder (47:14 through 47:37) appears again at what other places in the film?

a. _____ (action onscreen)

(in:) _____ (out:) _____ (timing: minutes/seconds)

b. _____ (action onscreen)

(in:) _____ (out:) _____ (timing: minutes/seconds)

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3. What is the name of the theme that is featured in the cue at 1:03:28 (detective searches hotels) and where have we heard this theme music before by describing the action onscreen and giving the timing of the previous use of this theme. (Give at least one specific example.)

REMEMBER: A theme is always associated with and **named** by a CHARACTER, a PLACE, an IDEA/CONCEPT or a SITUATION. Examples of themes and their names include "Luke's Theme" (from "Star Wars"), "Tara Theme" (from "Gone with the Wind"), "Ann in Terror" (from "King Kong"), etc. Therefore you must NAME the theme by its CHARACTER, PLACE, IDEA/CONCEPT or SITUATION. We may have discussed this theme already.

DO NOT WRITE a name such as "RELAXED THEME" or some other name based upon your feelings, opinion, or a musical style (jazz, happy, cool, etc.) Name it only according to the character, place/time, idea, or situation it represents (Daddy's Theme, Victory Theme, etc.)

_____ (name of theme)

_____ (where heard before/include timings)

4. A *short* theme (*motif*) appears at approx. 55:45 and lasts for about 5-6 seconds (just as Norman shuts door and turns the lights on)), again at 1:16:24 (just before the detective enters house 1:15:55) and again at the very end of the film (when the car is being pulled from the swamp) - 1:48:04

This theme (*motif*) has how many notes in it, and specifically which instrument(s) play this motif?

REMEMBER: a *motif* is by definition SHORT, so the correct answer CANNOT be something like "there are twenty notes in the theme." If you think you are hearing lots of notes, then you are likely listening to the wrong thing. Listen only to the MELODY.

_____ (number of) notes

_____ instrument or instruments

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5. During the rainstorm/ Marion-driving scene beginning at 25:43, which SPECIFIC action onscreen is the music tightly synchronized with? How so?

Bonus question (extra credit/optional):

6. Specifically what is **highly unusual** about the instrumentation/orchestration of this ENTIRE film-score? (in other words: each and EVERY cue in this movie shares this quality.)

Hint: this is a very simple answer that should be no longer than a few words.

ANSWER _____

Do the following analysis on additional sheets of paper. Do NOT write the following answers on this original page. The answers MUST be typewritten and stapled together with the answers for questions 1-6. Assignments that are not typed or stapled will not be accepted. Use spell check! Grammar will count toward your grade.

7. Analyze the cue that starts at 1:16:02. (Arbogast the detective enters the house and walks upstairs.) This cue ends right after the fade to black on the close-up of the knife at 1:17:08.

Use LIST FORMAT only! Do not use descriptive literary paragraph form! Your submitted analysis should look something very much like this list:

Beginning of cue

(from Arbogast entering the house until he begins to walk upstairs)

A) What exactly is the pacing of this cue? (The only acceptable answers are Slow, Medium, Fast, Medium-Slow, or Medium-Fast.) Does the pacing change? If so, exactly where and how does it change?

B) What is the instrumentation (a/k/a orchestration) of this cue? (refer to the instruments of the orchestra you learned in class, and/or the OrchPrimer document posted on Moodle.) Does the instrumentation change over the duration of this cue section? If so, exactly where and how does it change?

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C) How does the music play (or not play) the action? (Hits the Action, Plays through the Action, Phrases the Drama, Plays against the Action, or Plays the Psychological Subtext, are the ONLY acceptable answers. It is possible for the answer to shift from one technique to another.) Give specific onscreen examples and timings to back up your answer. There will be NO credit given for an answer without specific examples and timings.

D) Musical themes used, (if any)? Are any specific musical themes used? If so NAME THE THEME and exactly where is it used in this cue? (Timing/action onscreen) Where did in the film did we hear the theme(s) before?

E) What is the mood of the MUSIC here? Does only the music (NOT what is happening onscreen!) set any specific identifiable emotional moods during this cue? (Hint: close your eyes when answering this question. You should NOT be looking at the screen, but only describing the music itself). What gives the MUSIC this mood (musical style, pitch [high, low, medium], volume, instrumentation, tempo/pacing, harmony, melody etc.)

Be careful! If you answer this mood question by referencing anything visual happening onscreen, you will **not** get any credit for this answer. You should be discussing ONLY the music.

Middle of cue

(from Arbogast walking upstairs until the attack begins)

A) What is the pacing of this cue? (The only acceptable answers are Slow, Medium, Fast, Medium-Slow, or Medium-Fast.) Does the pacing change during this cue section?

B) What is the instrumentation (a/k/a orchestration) of this cue? Does the instrumentation change over the duration of this cue section? If so, exactly where and how does it change?

C) Plays the action how? (Hits the Action, Plays through the Action, Phrases the Drama, Plays against the Action, or Plays the Psychological Subtext, are the ONLY acceptable answers. It is possible for the answer to shift from one technique to another.) Give specific examples and timings.

D) Musical themes used, (if any)? Where/when does it occur in this cue? (Timing/action onscreen) NAME THE THEME! Where did we hear it before?

E) What is the mood of the MUSIC here? (Hint: close your eyes when answering this question. You should NOT be looking at the screen, but only describing the music itself). What gives the MUSIC this mood (musical style, pitch [high, low, medium], volume, instrumentation, tempo/pacing, harmony, melody etc.)

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Last part of cue

(from beginning of the attack until the scene fades to black)

- A) What is the pacing of this cue? (The only acceptable answers are Slow, Medium, Fast, Medium-Slow, or Medium-Fast) Does the pacing change during this cue section?
- B) What is the instrumentation (a/k/a orchestration) of this cue? Does the instrumentation change over the duration of this cue section? If so, exactly where and how does it change?
- C) Plays the action how? (Hits the Action, Plays through the Action, Phrases the Drama, Plays against the Action, or Plays the Psychological Subtext, are the **ONLY** acceptable answers. It is possible for the answer to shift from one technique to another.) Give specific examples and timings.
- D) Musical themes used, (if any)? Where/when does it occur in this cue? (Timing/action onscreen) NAME THE THEME! Where did we hear it before?
- E) What is the mood of the MUSIC here? (Hint: close your eyes when answering this question. You should NOT be looking at the screen, but only describing the music itself). What gives the MUSIC this mood (musical style, pitch [high, low, medium], volume, instrumentation, tempo/pacing, harmony, melody etc.)

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SPELLING AND GRAMMAR COUNTS!

SPELL CHECK ALWAYS!

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAND IN ALL YOUR PAGES STAPLED TOGETHER, WITH YOUR NAME WRITTEN ON EVERY PAGE.

UNSTAPLED WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

GOOD LUCK!