VCE Music

Mission Impossible (original TV series): Analysis at a glance  
Lalo Shiffrin 49”

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| **PITCH (melody, harmony, tonality)**   * G minor with modulation to C minor (iv) * Use of chords i, III, iv, and altered viis; use of block chords; repetition of harmonic bass; number of harmonic changes per bar; dissonance * **Melody**: main motif: medium range; short phrases; chordal; small leaps but angular; high register in flute, medium and low in brass; descending pattern; inverted for variation; repeated motif in bass in bass which is also played by brass; ornamentation (trill); descending sequence in brass used against inverted main motif acts almost like a countermelody | **DURATION (metre, rhythm, tempo)**   * 5/4 metre * Constant tempo – allegro; Slight rall at end * Use of syncopation – rhythmic vocabulary (see below) * Ostinato in claves on 2 beats of the bar * Bongoes play variety of rhythms, sometimes doubling the bass motif, sometimes crotchets and other times almost improvisatory – use of roll at conclusion * Use of strong accents, on and off beat, throughout * Polyrhythmic | **STRUCTURE**  Intro: Trill on flute  1–6 Bass motif on trombones with kit, bongoes and claves  7–10 Main motif played by flute with bass and percussion  11–12 Middle brass play bass motif  13–16 Flute plays inversion of main motif  17–20 Trombones plays main motif  21–24 Trumpets play inverted main motif against descending  syncopated sequence in trombones  Ends with tutti dissonant chord |
| **DYNAMICS**   * Dynamic level affected by the number and type of instruments e.g. softer when flute has the lead | **TONE COLOUR**   * Stage band type line up; percussion includes kit, bongoes and claves; horn section includes trumpets, horns and trombones   **ARTICULATION**   * Detached playing style; little vibrato | **TEXTURE**   * basically homophonic with use of a counter sequenceTable    Description automatically generated |
| **Performing ideas**   * play bass motif on various instruments and in various registers * improvise over bass motif using rhythms from piece and Gm scale * play main motif and inversion on various instruments * rehearse and perform class arrangement * experiment with articulation and dynamics * improvise rhythms and melodies using a metre of 5 and minor tonality * play and experiment with results of creative activities   **Responding and analysing ideas**   * research, examine and/or discuss TV themes and the music reflects the genre * compare instrumentation of various TV themes * examine how this theme reflects popular music of the late 60s and compare with current. TV themes in a similar genre * compare this version with more recent versions in 4/4 * identify, examine, discuss features of the piece – motif, riff, sequence, inversion, chromaticism, altered chords, minor tonality and harmony, 5/4, syncopation, ostinato, ornamentation, dissonance, intro/outro, rall, instrumental features such as range, playing techniques and transposition | **Creating ideas**   * improvise rhythms and melodies using a metre of 5 and minor tonality * create ostinati in a metre of 5 * experiment with rhythms in 5 using only snare and ride cymbal * experiment with chord progressions using I, III and iv and altered 7ths * experiment with very short introductions and endings using ornamentation and dissonant chords * experiment with varying riffs through use of inversion, augmentation, diminution, etc. * invent a “counter-riff * using the results of these smaller tasks, create a 50” piece for a small or class ensemble which. Includes a bass riff, short melodic motif with variations, harmony and percussion parts |
| * Schifrin used Morse Code for M.I. which is "\_ \_ .."; if a dot is one beat and a dash is one and a half beats, then this gives a bar of five beats, exactly matching the underlying rhythm * Extended version with orchestra (3’ 37”):   Lalo Schifrin – Mission Impossible (Main Theme) performed by Lalo Schifrin, James Morrison and Czech National Symphony Orchestra.  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vccYZjRvJ0M> |

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| Main motif    Bass motif | Rhythmic vocabulary |