

Superman – Extended writing

Amos Johnston & James Morrison

Melodic Features –

The opening fanfare theme consists of rising fourths which create a feeling of apprehension. Rising arpeggios are played by the trumpets in a fragmented version of the march theme. Later on, in the love theme, the oboes and clarinets continue in an ascending sequence while the violin play a countermelody which imitates parts of the melody. In the final part of the piece the fanfare and march theme are developed using a descending sequence

Tonality and Harmony –

The piece starts C Major and it features throughout. However, in the Insert, it modulates to F Major (sub dominant). Then, after the insert it modulates back into C Major to finish the piece.

The tonic pedal note played by the timpani anchors the harmony in the opening section. In the fragmented version of the march theme is mainly triads to which dissonant major sevenths are added.

Rhythmic features and Metre –

In the fanfare them, the rhythmic ostinato on low strings, bass clarinet and tuba foresee the 12/8 time of the march theme. The ostinato moves from c to f and finally to g which creates apprehension. There also features syncopation at the end which leads into a fast march section. The dotted rhythms are combined with arpeggios in a fragmented part of b.

The music is in simple quadruple time throughout mostly using 4/4 time. However, the metre changes to compound quadruple time 12/8 in March theme

Timbre –

Use of full orchestra featuring Strings, Woodwind, Brass and percussion throughout the piece. In the opening section, the fanfare theme, there is use of trumpet fanfare which is added to by the cymbal crashes and timpani rolls. When the fanfare is repeated a second time, the trombones add lower octaves. March theme is played by the trumpets and is punctuated by full orchestral chords, cymbal crashes, triangle rolls and fragments of the ostinato rhythm in lover stings and timpani. The continuation of the love theme is played by the woodwind especially the oboes and clarinets in octaves.