

## Superman Extended Writing Response

### **Hollie Beatty, Ben Fawcett and Edie McCallum**

#### **Instrumentation(Timbre)**

- Piece is scored for a Modern Orchestra (woodwind, brass, strings, percussion) additional instruments include (piccolo, bass clarinet, glockenspiel and harp).
- Piece opens with an opening fanfare theme including trumpets and horns followed up with a cymbal crash and a timpani roll.
- The fanfare then gets repeated but this time with trombones added an octave lower.
- A rhythmic ostinato comes in at bar 8 with lower strings, bass clarinet and tuba (a trumpet fanfare is then added which creates suspense).
- The march theme then breaks in with trumpets and full orchestral chords which punctuate the cymbal crashes and triangle rolls.
- The march theme is then repeated and is more developed with additions of glockenspiel and scales in woodwind.
- The love theme is then introduced in bar 58 with clear use of a violin counter melody and a strong harp arpeggio.

#### **Melody**

- There is a strong use of arpeggios in the opening theme, which creates a bare, open sound.
- There is a use of a rising 5th, going into the start of the March theme.
- In the march theme, there is a use of scalic melodies, played by the woodwind, which reappear in a fragmented version of the march theme, along with rising trumpet arpeggios.
- In the love theme, we hear an ascending sequence played in the woodwind, along with more arpeggios, this time played by the harp
- Also, in the love theme, there is a strong use of a violin counter-melody, which creates a gentle, string texture.
- When a fragmented version of the fanfare theme reappears, there is a use of a descending sequence.
- There is a descending scalic melody towards the end of the piece, played by the low orchestral instruments, which is used as a melodic ostinato.

#### **Dynamics and Articulation**

- The fanfare theme is first played moderately soft, mezzo piano, but there is a crescendo up to loud, forte
- The march theme is also played loudly, forte
- In the fanfare theme, many notes are played short and staccato to create a sense of movement.
- The love Theme has a smooth, legato melody with a gentle sound
- At the end of the piece, there is a crescendo up to very loud, fortissimo for a dramatic finish on the final chords.

## **Tonality**

- The piece starts in C major, with added F major chords at the start of the march theme.
- These F major chords are played on top of a G in the bass to create dissonance.
- Added 7th Notes on top of major chords create a colourful harmony and slight dissonance.
- In bar 45, the harmony changes suddenly to D $\flat$ -F-A $\flat$  over G $\flat$ , which creates tension.
- The piece then modulates to F major for the Love Theme(C) and then changes back to C major for a repetition of the fanfare theme.
- The Ostinato from bars 6-8 and march theme now return a tone lower in B $\flat$  for a dramatic finish.

## **Harmony**

- In the fanfare theme there is use of a C pedal.
- In the march theme there is use of a C chord and an added seventh that highlights the coloured harmony with slight dissonance.
- Between bars 40 and 49 we can hear parts of the march theme, there is also use of added major 7ths that create dissonance. Db-F-Ab over a Gb in the bass- creates tension. There is also use of a quartal chord built on 4ths G-C-F (modern/contemporary harmony).
- The Love Theme is now brought in and is in the subdominant of F major

## **Rhythmic Features and Metre**

- There is a use of triplets in the fanfare theme, as well as some syncopated rhythms to create an interesting sound.
- A rhythmic ostinato first appears in the fanfare theme but is repeated and referenced many times throughout the piece, such as towards the end of the piece.
- When a fragmented version of the fanfare theme returns, we hear syncopated rhythms and repetition.
- The love theme also contains some use of dotted notes and ostinato rhythms.
- The piece starts in simple quadruple (4/4) metre for the fanfare theme, but changes to a compound quadruple (12/8) metre for the march and love themes.

## **Tempo**

- The opening theme starts off Maestoso at a moderate tempo of  $\text{♩}=76$
- There is an accelerando at the end of the fanfare theme, leading into the march theme which is quicker with a tempo of  $\text{♩}=112$

**By: Ben, Edie, Hollie**