

Superman-extended answer

Harmony and Tonality

Major tonality is used throughout the piece and the dominant tonality in C major is where the piece starts. A tonic C pedal point is provided by a timpani roll over in the opening fanfare theme. In the second part of theme B (march theme) harmonies are mainly triads (Db, C and F) to which dissonant major sevenths have been added. In theme C (love theme) the tonality changes to F major (sub-dominant). Theme B (march theme) is used in Bb major (a tone lower than before) with a CODA to end it in a dramatic finish.

Rhythmic features and metre

In the introduction there is a simple quadruple metre. There is a syncopated rhythm leading into a faster march section. The rhythmic ostinato on lower strings, bass clarinet and tuba anticipates 12/8 time signature of the march theme B. There is a dotted rhythm from the march theme in the second part of theme B. The ostinato rhythm, first heard in the introduction, returns on the note Bb in the CODA.

Timbre

At the beginning of the piece we hear the fanfare theme (a) being played by trumpets and horns. Along with cymbal crashes and timpani rolls. Then the fanfare in theme a is repeated still in but at a lower octave by the trombones. At the beginning of the March theme (B) we hear trumpets which are punctuated with full orchestral chords followed by cymbal crashes and triangle rolls. During the love theme (theme C) we hear the horns playing a rising legato melody with a violin countermelody along with Harp arpeggios.

Melody

In the opening theme, there is a fanfare played by trumpets and horns. At the beginning of march theme B, we see that there is a rising 5th leading into the rest of the theme. There are lower auxiliary notes in the love theme © and the ostinato rhythm is still present in the string background. In the coda (after theme c) the falling seconds which were part of theme a and b, are developed using syncopation, repetition and descending sequence.

By Keri Elliott, Chloe Morrow and Ella McFarland.