



BATMAN RETURNS

Danny Elfman (1992)



POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The relationship between the music and the on screen action
- How the music reflects 'darkness'.
- The '(dark) Superhero' element
- The chaotic nature of the music
- The comic aspect of the music
- Leitmotifs

BIRTH OF A PENGUIN PT 1, BIRTH OF A PENGUIN PT 2, BATMAN VS THE CIRCUS, THE RISE AND FALL FROM GRACE

STRUCTURE:

- All through composed pieces
- Direction of music reflects on screen action

TEXTURE:

- Constantly changing
- Layering
- Octaves
- Rare monophony
- Melody driven homophony
- Polyphonic texture.

MELODY:

- Development of 2 leitmotifs:
- Batman: Low brass, leaps and semitones
- Penguin: semitone steps, theatrical, uses organ
- 4 different melodic ideas

CONTEXT:

- Elfman: Self taught composer and rock musician in band 'Oingo Boingo'
- Close working relationship with director Tim Burton- Have often collaborated: Beetlejuice, The Nightmare Before Christmas, Planet of the Apes.
- Scores much of his music around leitmotifs.
- Film is sequel to 'Batman' (1989)
- A darker adaptation of the superhero, with almost a dual personality- the potential to be hero and villain.

RHYTHM, METRE AND TEMPO:

- Augmentation and diminution
- Constant time signature changes
- Rhythmic ostinati
- Cross-rhythms
- Syncopation
- Triplets
- Sextuplets
- Rhythmic displacement

HARMONY AND TONALITY:

- Minor keys
- Pedal notes
- Whole-tone scale
- Open chords/bare fifths
- Diminished 7th
- Dominant 7th)
- Chromatic shifts
- Unprepared modulations
- Parallel chords
- Tertiary relationship between keys and chords
- Tritone

SONORITY:

- Strong resemblance to classic film scoring
- large orchestral score including unconventional instrumental forces: Pipe organ, harp, celeste, accordion, vibraphone, temple blocks, tubular bells, sleigh bells, xylophone, marimba, piano, fairground steam organ, synth choir and choir.
- Large range of playing techniques:
 - Arco
 - Pizzicato
 - Tremolando bowing
 - Glissando
 - Con Sord
 - Oboe extreme vibrato
 - Horns stopped
 - Trumpet extreme lip trill
 - Cymbal and timpani roll
 - Flutter tonging
 - Snare drum with snares off
 - Percussion rolls.